

J.L. Franzen Opposes Central Accounting Plan for City Now

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE
City Editor, The Statesman

A central accounting office for the City of Salem would be "not now feasible" and a central storeroom wouldn't save money, City Manager J. L. Franzen declared Wednesday.

Franzen's comments came in a written report in response to a list of suggestions for changes in city bookkeeping methods advanced by Bowers, Davis & Hoffman, accounting firm, in connection with an annual audit of city books.

In releasing the Franzen report, Mayor Alfred Loucks said it would be considered by the City Council Monday.

The accountants recommended moving water offices to City Hall and combining all accounting functions. Franzen replied that this would require as many employees as now do accounting and that space is not available in City Hall for a combined accounting office.

Regarding central storeroom, Franzen said he and department heads after study of the possibility had concluded it would cost more to maintain such an office than could be saved through its operation.

Central Purchasing
The manager said central purchasing, as also recommended, is now being done except for water

department which handles its own.

The city purchasing agent (Charles Barclay) already has started an equipment ledger, as proposed by the auditors, said Franzen. Because the purchasing agent has been relieved of

Honored



Shown above are R. L. Elstrom Sr. of Salem, (top) and Pat McLaughlin, Woodburn, who were two of the four men presented scouting's Silver Beaver during ceremonies Wednesday night.

4 Men Given Silver Beaver Scout Awards

Four men, two of them from Salem, one Albany and one Woodburn, were presented the Silver Beaver, scouting's highest award given for outstanding work with boys, during special ceremonies at the Marion Hotel Wednesday night.

Recipients of the honor were R. L. Elstrom Sr. and Wesley Goodrich, both Salem; Pat McLaughlin, Woodburn, and Russell Harrison, Albany. All the men were present at the dinner attended by about 400.

The awards, a guarded secret by heads of the council, were presented as a highlight of the evening by L. A. White, long a leader in scouting himself.

Gilmore introduced the recipients of each of the recipients as follows:

Elstrom received the award for his outstanding contributions to the community which included his selection as First Citizen in 1952. He is a past president of the scout council (twice); a member of the state legislature, the father of an Eagle Scout and a lay member and officer of the Presbyterian Church. Harrison, who is scoutmaster of Troop 22 in Albany, received the award on the basis of his service as jamboree scoutmaster, a prominent Albany citizen, his work in the church and the father of a Life Scout.

Service Traced
Goodrich, who is the father of a Cub Scout, is a member of the executive board, past chairman of the Cherry City district, and a council leadership chairman. McLaughlin, from Woodburn, is vice-president of the scout council in which he's served three different terms, the father of a Life Scout, a 10-year member of the executive board, a prominent Rotarian and outstanding civic leader in his community.

Other awards made during the dinner included the Wood Badge Award, presented for successful completion of schooling and correspondence courses in scouting methods which went to George Stroetz Sr., Ted Boehme and Russell Harrison, all of whom completed the courses last year. The award includes a certificate and special neckerchief. Four veteran awards were presented for long-term service to scouting and 20 scouting or training awards, including special keys to scoutmasters. Speaker at the function was T. Byron Hunt, scout executive from the Seattle Area Council.

2 Men Accuse Each Other in Assault Case

(Story also on Page 1)

Two men are in City Jail charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, following an attempted robbery at J & D Mobilgas service station, 2605 S. Commercial St., early Wednesday.

The accused are Wilbert W. Korhonen, 34, Vancouver, Wash., and Charles Edward Shropshire, Portland, 26.

Arrested by city police with them was a 17-year-old married woman who was turned over to juvenile authorities.

In signed statements to the police, both men accused each other of striking service station attendant Victor L. Jackson and of planning a robbery but Korhonen later admitted he struck Jackson.

Basically their two stories was this:

They had met in a tavern near Vancouver, Wash., sometime Tuesday night. They decided to take a trip to Coos Bay and on the suggestion of one of them, the girl, a friend who had been baby-sitting in a nearby motor court, was taken along. As the three arrived at Salem early Wednesday morning they ran out of gas and hailed a cab to help them bring gas back to the auto.

In the girl's statement to city police she implicated the two men as plotting a robbery sometime early in their trip, but the men said the act was spontaneous and each blames the other. After they'd put enough gas in the car, she said they drove to the J and D Mobilgas station on South Commercial Street and the men decided this looked like "a good place," she said. She was told by them to look straight ahead and after a few minutes she told police she heard a "thud and a groan" and looked up to see the attendant running from the station.

The two men then jumped back into the car and sped away from the scene. A passerby driver, Norval Cruzen, 225 E. Browning St., saw the car leave the area and followed it along its entire route until the trio was stopped at Liberty and State Streets by a city officer who recognized the car from a radioed description. The officer said in his report that he first recognized the auto at Ferry and Liberty Streets and followed it until State Street when he pulled it over and asked the occupants to step out.

The two are charged in a Marion County District Court warrant and will probably appear in court sometime this week.

House Passes \$5 Billion Bill For Agencies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House passed Wednesday a bill carrying \$5,566,188,763 to finance various independent government agencies during the year starting July 1.

The figure, the exact amount recommended by its Appropriations Committee, is \$353,604,837, or 6.2 per cent, below the amount President Eisenhower had asked for the agencies.

Major efforts to change the money total were made on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Its supporters sought primarily to provide money for new steam generating plants in the TVA system, but they were outvoted.

The TVA ended up with an appropriation of \$103,582,000 for the fiscal year, a figure \$38,218,000 less than Eisenhower had asked and 84 millions below the current appropriation.

The greatest single allotment went to the Veterans Administration. That agency was voted \$3,779,432,800, or more than two-thirds of the bill's total.

The Atomic Energy Commission's share was \$1,189,960,700, mainly for its weapons program. This is \$132,177,700 more than the AEC was given for the current year but \$152,039,300 less than the President requested. Most of the cut, however, was a matter of bookkeeping. The House ordered the AEC to use some funds it already has for construction work, instead of voting new money for the purpose.

The remaining \$493,143,263 is to be shared by 25 other federal agencies.

'Pile It On, Judge' Remark Brings 60-Year Term

PORTLAND (AP)—Kenneth J. Nelson, 41, pleaded guilty to two charges of assault and armed robbery Wednesday and the district attorney recommended 30 years in prison.

Circuit Judge James R. Bain twice asked Nelson if he had anything to say in his behalf. Each time Nelson replied, "Go ahead and pile it on, and see if I care."

The judge sentenced Nelson to 60 years.

British Parliament To Debate H-Tests

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill Wednesday yielded to Laborite pressure and scheduled a debate in Parliament on the H-bomb. He hoped thereby to provide a safety valve for mounting pressure of British public concern over the awesome weapon.

The Laborite opposition had demanded a complete airing of the subject. The demands were fanned by calls in a wide section of the press for a new British initiative in international diplomacy to end the threat of nuclear warfare.

Churchill set the debate for next Monday and said "I propose to make a further statement myself and describe first of all the position which this country occupies and secondly the circumstances we are adopting in those circumstances."

Churchill is expected to hammer again at this theme—that the H-bomb in the hands of the Americans now shields the free world from the threat of Communist-provoked total war.

Among the 80 million Britons

crowded in this island kingdom there exists the fear that nuclear warfare could obliterate them entirely.

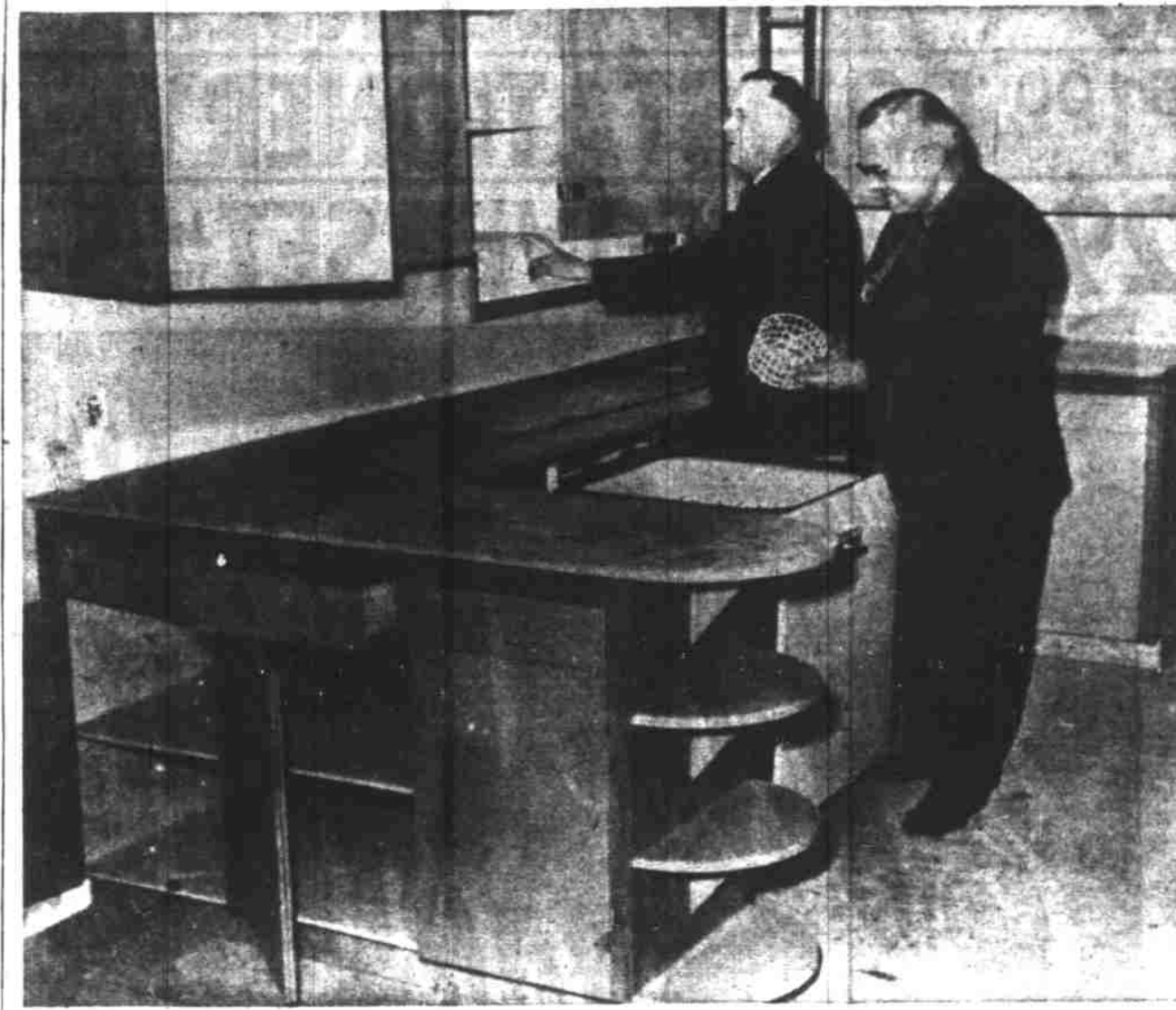
Churchill has sensed this mood. That is why he agreed to Monday's debate, even though a statement he read to the House Tuesday showed he felt it would be better if Britain held her tongue on the subject now.

Churchill declared there were signs in Washington now of a more favorable attitude toward the exchange of American secrets with Britain.

He said great harm would be done if Britain pressed the United States for information about the hydrogen bomb and received a "blunt refusal."

Finally Churchill asserted he did not feel this was the opportune time to expend what he considered the world's diplomatic ace-in-the-hole—a meeting at some unspecified time of himself, President Eisenhower and Premier Malenkov.

Deciding What New Kitchen Needs



What does a new kitchen need? Here are Robert M. Fischer Jr., (left) and Harry Scott looking for thoughts to go into the new Salem Home and Garden Show which Salem Lions Club will sponsor April 29-May 1 at the State Fairgrounds. The free show featuring exhibits by some 80 local businesses is designed to attract a Willamette Valley crowd to see what Salem offers in home furnishings, equipment, appliances; construction materials, garden and other items. Fischer is space sales chairman and Scott is secretary. (Statesman photo.)

Accuracy of Church Data Questioned

NEW YORK (AP)—A Roman Catholic editor—priest Wednesday questioned the accuracy of a recent magazine survey indicating that 4,144,366 Catholics were converted to Protestantism in the last 10 years.

Conductors of the survey promptly defended it as sound.

The criticism came from the Rev. Thomas J. M. Burke, religion editor of the Catholic weekly, "America." He said the survey by the Protestant interdenominational magazine, "Christian Herald," ignored scientific standards.

In an article, the priest challenged the survey's use of the figure 181,000 as the total of American Protestant ministers for 1953. Minus Catholic and Jewish clergymen, he said, the total would be only 165,369.

"This is 20,429 shy of 181,000 already," he writes. He adds that statistics show there were even fewer pastors at the start of the 10-year period in question.

Kenneth L. Wilson, managing editor of the Christian Herald, said the 181,000 is a "reasonable figure," since the National Council's yearbook includes only 196 of the nation's more than 250 denominations.

"A large body of ministers and churches are not included in the 'yearbook' figure," he said. "The 181,000 is not far off, and in fact, is probably on the conservative side."

He said that if even 150,000 were used as the total, the number of conversions shown would have been about 3 1/2 million. He said the magazine put the total somewhere between 2 and 5 million in allowing for possible error in the statistical tabulation showing 4,144,366.

Ike Accepts RFC Chief's Resignation

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower Wednesday accepted the resignation of Kenton R. Cravens as administrator of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), effective Wednesday.

The White House, announcing the resignation, made public an exchange of letters in which Eisenhower said he was accepting the resignation reluctantly.

Cravens said he wished to return to a St. Louis bank, from which he took leave last April to join the RFC. He said he had already over-stayed his leave considerably. The date of his letter was not given.

8-Cent Drop in Butter Planned

PORTLAND (AP)—Butter distributors announced an 8-cent drop in the price of a pound of butter Wednesday.

The decrease will go into effect Thursday, when government support prices drop 9 1/2 cents on the affected grades. Those are grades A and AA, which have been selling to retailers at 72 cents a pound.

BOMB BURST KILLS 40

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—Reports reaching here Thursday said a bomb being carried by police to Lucknow for examination exploded on a crowded railway train near Gorakhpur and killed at least 40 persons.

Eggs Tend to Overload Bridge

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Gertie and the three eggs she laid on a piling near the Wisconsin Avenue bridge in downtown Milwaukee were served with an eviction notice Wednesday.

The lady mallard and her unhatched offspring will be moved to the city zoo—the eggs for certain and Gertie if workers can catch her in a net. Marshall Findley, city bridge supervisor, said that if she stayed people watching the family would overload the bridge.

Iraq Floods Spread South

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Iraq's floods, the worst in centuries, spread southward Wednesday and threatened the oil center of Basrah. The Hammar Marshes, 20 miles to the north of the city, were reported filling up.

Another place threatened is Qurna, legendary site of the Garden of Eden, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet.

OSC Elections Honor Three From Salem

CORVALLIS (AP)—Three Oregon State college students from Salem were honored by recent elections.

Arlene Anderson, junior in education, was chosen secretary-treasurer of Heather Rae, women's cooperative house. Five women's co-ops are maintained in which residents share all household responsibilities except meal preparation.

Evel Tarem, sophomore in education, was chosen social chairman for the Co-Resident Women's council, governing body of women's cooperative houses, and vice president of the Women's Recreation Association, women's physical education interest organization.

Norman McDonald, sophomore in engineering, was chosen sergeant-at-arms for Delta Sigma Phi, national social fraternity. The 30 fraternities at OSC house about 1,200 of the 3,313 men enrolled.

Business in Portland Rises

PORTLAND (AP)—Business in Portland increased this month, but fell short of the pace set a year ago.

Bank clearings were up 132 million dollars from February, but were 89 million short of the level reached in March, 1953. The total this month was 680 million.

Building permits totaled in value nearly four million dollars. This was almost double the February figure, but was a million short of last March.

Trans-Continental Air Mark Falls

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Debona set a trans-continental speed record for piston-engined planes Wednesday by flashing an F51 Mustang fighter from Los Angeles to New York in 4 hours, 24 minutes and 17 seconds.

The old record of 4 hours, 52 minutes and 53 seconds was set in 1950 by Paul Mantz. Debona fell short of his goal of also smashing the jet plane record of 4 hours, 8 minutes and 5 seconds.

Natural Gas Decision Due Before July 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—The long-awaited decision on which firm will deliver the first natural gas to the Pacific Northwest may be handed down before July 1.

The Federal Power Commission Wednesday set June 1 as the date for oral argument on competing applications by Westcoast Transmission Corp., Trans-Northwest Gas Co., Pacific Northwest Pipeline Co., and Northwest Natural Gas Co.

Attorneys said they felt a decision would be possible within three weeks. Rep. Westland (R-Wash.), after conferring with Commission Chairman Jerome Kuykendall, said he expects a ruling by July 1.

Barring legal complications, attorneys said, a June decision might make possible the start of deliveries in the Northwest during the 1955-1956 heating season. Whether this could be accomplished would depend primarily on the weather and its effect on construction.

April 26 Deadline
In other actions Wednesday, the commission gave applicants until April 26 to file affirmative briefs supporting their case.

To keep to this schedule, the commission waived an intermediate decision by examiner Daniel J. Kelly.

The examiner formally closed the hearing record Wednesday.

The hearings broke all commission records for amount of testimony. Since it began in June, 1952, it produced more than 28,000 pages of testimony.

French Repel Red Hordes at Dien Bien Phu

HANOI, Indochina (AP)—The French laid down curtains of fire from big guns and every available war plane in Northern Indochina Wednesday and hurled back wave on wave of screaming Vietminh assault troops.

The rebels' second big try to overwhelm the dustbowl fortress of Dien Bien Phu seemed to be failing as night closed in.

At dusk the French announced they had killed 1,350.

It looked as if the Red Vietnamese leader, Ho Chi Minh, was playing his last big card in an attempt to wipe out the French fortress and improve his bargaining position at the Geneva conference opening April 26.

Third A-Sub, New Carrier Scheduled

WASHINGTON (AP)—A third atomic submarine and a third 65,000-ton aircraft carrier of the Forrestal class are included among 30 ships the Navy will start building during the year starting July 1.

Rear Adm. B. E. Manseau, acting chief of the Bureau of Ships, outlined the construction plans to the House Armed Services Committee. He said the new construction all will be done by private shipyards because the Navy wants to keep "a nucleus of private yards skilled in the construction of large combatant types."

The nation's first atomic submarine, the "nautilus" which was launched early this year, should be completed soon, Manseau said. A second, the "Sea Wolf," is under construction.

Other new craft to be started during the year, he said, will include two attack submarines and five destroyers.

The Navy plans to start conversion of 17 existing craft to various types of vessels, including four aircraft carriers, a guided missile submarine and one assault helicopter transport.

A 1950 law authorizing a total building program of 41 ships and 99 smaller craft covers all the Navy's plans except 16,000 tons. The law specified an overall ceiling of 350 million dollars.

The committee Wednesday approved authorization of the additional 16,000 tons and agreed to raise the cost ceiling to 500 million dollars, because of increased construction costs.

Grand Jury Given Record of Slot Machine Seizures

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP)—Records of slot machine seizures by state police in Lincoln County were laid before the grand jury investigating charges of corruption Wednesday.

The records had been requested by Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton who is participating in the grand jury investigation along with Dist. Atty. William Hollen of Lincoln County.

Capt. Ray Howard of the state police brought the requested records.

Also testifying were Capt. Max Alfred of the state police; Lester Fultz, Taft school teacher who is chairman of the North Lincoln chapter of the Better Government League, and Otto Cahill, former justice of the peace in northern Lincoln County.

ITALY RESTRICTS REDS

ROME (AP)—Premier Mario Scelba Wednesday began his announced crackdown on the Italian Communist Party. He ordered playes and forbade use of government offices for union "or other" meetings.

FRENCH TEACHERS STRIKE

PARIS (AP)—Almost 90 per cent of France's public elementary, secondary and technical school teachers were absent from their classrooms for a 24-hour strike Wednesday. They want more pay.

Strauss Says H-Bomb Tests Necessary

(Story also on Page One)

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lewis Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, told newsmen Wednesday both the March 1 and March 26 hydrogen "shots" were successful; that no test is made without a definite purpose of improving military strength and readiness and that "there are no idle or wanton tests."

Of the March 1 blast, which flung fission ashes far outside the then established safety zone around the Marshall Islands proving grounds in the Pacific, Strauss insisted that reports of this explosion going out of control were exaggerated and mistaken. He commented:

"I would not wish to minimize it. It was a stupendous blast in the megaton range, but at no time was the testing out of control."

(A megaton is energy equaling that produced from an explosion of a million tons of standard TNT. The first atomic bomb was measured as 20 kilotons, or 20,000 tons.)

Above Estimate
Strauss said "the misapprehension seems to have arisen due to two facts: First, that the yield was about double that of the calculated estimate—a margin of error which, I submit, is not incompatible with a totally new weapon." Error in estimates on the first atomic bomb was even greater, he said. The second cause of misapprehension, said the chairman, arose from reports of the extent of the "fall out" of radio active material.

Strauss said if he were to describe the power of a bomb specifically it would translate "into the number of megatons involved" which he commented is a matter of military secrecy.

16 Million Tons
However, he previously had stated the March 1 shot was about double the estimates made for it. On the basis of this and other available information there seemed reason to believe that blast equalled about 16 million tons of energy.

The AEC chairman said the results which the AEC scientists at the Los Alamos, N. M., and Livermore, Calif., laboratories had hoped to obtain from the March 1 and March 26 tests "were fully realized and enormous potential has been added, in consequence, to our military posture from what we have learned."

Never asked nor answered at the White House news conference was the question whether the hydrogen explosive device now is available in package form for carrying and dropping by planes.

But previously others, including some Congress members, had said that hydrogen weapons now exist which can be dropped from planes.

2 Union Officials File Defamation Of Character Suit

EUGENE (AP)—Two labor union officials filed a \$20,000 defamation of character suit against the manager of the Lane County Employers' Assn. Wednesday.

The plaintiffs, Joe Willis, business agent of Local 6, Bricklayers, Masons and Carpenters Union (AFL), and Jens Horstrup, a negotiator for the union, named Alfred (Pat) Blair in the action.

The suit is based on a letter Willis and Horstrup said Blair wrote to the Department of Labor in Washington during negotiations with Eugene General Contractors last fall. It contained defamatory and untrue statements, they charged.

JUKEBOX PROVES USEFUL

RALEIGH, N. C. (AP)—An unofficial burglar alarm gave police notice of a restaurant robbery. When thieves looted a juke box the machine began to play.

BROOKINGS CHILD DROWNS

BROOKINGS (AP)—The 16-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walt Thompson drowned in a pool while playing with other children at Harbor, near here, Tuesday.