

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

CHICAGO—Arrival of three issues of The Statesman of last week (deliveries of second class mail are quite irregular) has enabled me to catch up on Salem and Oregon news. The big story, of course, was the arrest of a Silverton man charged with the murder of Ervin Kaser in the Evergreen district. (The charge later was dismissed.) How long has it been since a murder sprung from deliberate intent to kill has occurred in Marion county? The last murder case, as I recall, was where a man bludgeoned a woman to death while robbing her home. Other murders doubtless have occurred in brawls or in commission of other crimes. But how long has it been since the whole crime was murder, first-degree murder, murder on purpose? I do not recall any in my residence of over 25 years in the county; but my memory may be faulty.

I notice Sen. Mark Hatfield's pronouncement that Oregon Democrats will try to have Sen. Wayne Morse named as their party's vice presidential nominee. Hardly, unless they would run him for Senator at the same time. With the margin of control of the Senate so thin, (one vote now), the Democrats are not going to pull Morse out of the Oregon Senate race to use him as a running-mate to Adlai Stevenson in a very hazardous race against the probable Eisenhower-Nixon ticket. Also, Democrats over the country may not be as ready to advance the newest convert so fast in party honors.

The proposal of the Oregon Motor Court Association to increase the number on the state highway commission to five from the present three does not impress me favorably. The commission is well distributed now as far as (Continued on editorial page, 6)

Army Device Warns of Germ War Attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army said Wednesday it has a device which can give instant warning of a germ warfare attack. Called an aeroscope, it can count germs, dust and moisture particles in the air. It was developed at the Army's biological warfare center at Camp Detrick, Md.

The gadget can count microscopic particles—germs, dust, radioactive particles—at the rate of 100 per second. Particles ranging in size from one micron (forty millionths of an inch) to 64 millionths of an inch can be counted and measured "one thousand times faster than by the ordinary method of collecting them in a medium or on a suitable surface and examining them through a microscope." Concentrations of airborne particles up to 15,000 per millimeter are drawn through the instrument.

Bridgeport Girl Wins Spelling Contest; Pedee Boy Second

FALLS CITY—Poised, sure-spelling Carol Nelson of Bridgeport School topped off her efforts with "efficiency" and then spelled "poisonous" Wednesday night to win the semi-finals of The Statesman-KSLM Contest here. The 12-year-old 8th-grader outlasted Harry Cummins, 13, in the 8th grade of Pedee School who placed a good second. Carol and Harry will participate in the Grand Finals of the contest next Thursday night, March 10, at Parrish Junior High in Salem. Carol, who was fifth in the semi-finals last year, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Nelson, Route 2, Box 131, Dallas. Her teacher is Principal Alice Lund. Harry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Cummins II of Pedee. His teacher is Principal Alice E. Murphy. His brother, Dewey, was in the Grand Finals two years in a row.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

BY WARREN GOODRICH



"I'd like to leave a call for April 15th."

Stocks Probe Ready

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Fulbright cautioned stock market traders Wednesday night not to get trigger-happy over an investigation of the market, starting Thursday.

People who jump to conclusions on the basis of one day's testimony may find the next day that they "suffered from an excess of haste," said the Arkansas Democrat.

He is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, which opens a three-week probe into the Wall Street boom. First witness will be G. Keith Funston, president of the New York Stock Exchange.

Stock prices started zooming back in September, 1953, and have recently been rising to new highs. But Fulbright said: "The basic issue x x x before this committee is not whether stock prices are too high, whether they can safely go higher, or whether they should be driven down." He said the aim is to determine "whether the public interest is being safely and wisely served" by the exchanges.

Fulbright said the question was being asked everywhere "whether the wheel of history was about to make a full turn: whether a new stock market collapse on the 1929 model lay directly ahead."

"This committee is not in any present position to answer that question either in an encouraging or warning voice," he said in a statement prepared for opening of the hearings but released in advance.

"Nor would I, for one, even consider commenting on it until a long and careful survey of the facts is completed—if then."

Regular gasoline prices dropped to 21 cents per gallon in many Salem stations Wednesday in the latest round of the spreading gasoline price war. Some steadfastly hung to pre-war prices like 31 cents, whereas middle-of-the-roaders, directly across the street from 21-cent men, maintained big posters proclaiming theirs at 25 cents a gallon. Some compromised on 23 cents.

The operator of one near-town, two-pump station put his customers to work filling their own tanks while he coped with four cars at once. Midway through an after-supper, he telephoned home for a helper.

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Committee Room Crowded as Sales Tax Discussed



An overflow crowd of nearly 200 took in the sales tax hearing before the House tax committee Wednesday afternoon at the Oregon Capitol. Reading a prepared statement in favor of a sales tax as he faced the committee (in picture above) is R. E. Kerr, Lane County filbert grower who represented the statewide Oregon Farm Bureau Federation. (Statesman photo.) (Picture also on page 7, sec. 3.)

Farmers Call for Sales Tax to Relieve Burden on Property

Withholding Tax Hike Wins Vote

By ROBERT E. GANGWARE, City Editor, The Statesman

Twenty Oregon citizens appealed to the House tax committee Wednesday for a general retail sales tax. Most of them were farmers who said such a tax would relieve the burden of property taxes.

Foes of the sales tax, also including several farmers, replied that these citizens just didn't realize what they were asking.

While familiar pros and cons of the sales tax issue which appears at every Legislature held the attention of some 200 persons packed in the committee room at the Capitol, it was actually the income tax which received major attention Wednesday from the committee.

Recommending passage of a bill to double the state withholding tax, the House tax group added weight to the growing indications that higher income taxes are being eyed as the prime source of additional state revenue.

This tax committee faces the task of finding new revenue to pay an estimated \$45 million operating deficit and to finance essential state construction in the next two years.

The withholding tax bill which the committee stamped "do pass" at a morning session would mean that 2 per cent of wages or salary would be withheld against the wage earner's annual state income tax bill. Present withholding is 1 per cent.

Agricultural Employes

A major feature of the withholding bill is inclusion for the first time of agricultural employment.

If higher income taxes are enacted, the 2 per cent withholding would come closer than 1 per cent to make the income tax "pay as you go."

A Democratic tax program calls for a 30 per cent increase of income tax, by a surcharge. A labor program also calls for higher income tax rates.

The afternoon sales tax hearing centered on House Bill 413, proposed by Rep. Earl Hill (R).

Cushman, as a 3 per cent tax on all retail sales with but few exceptions, including feed, fertilizer, gasoline (already taxed at consumer level) and food animals.

The tax which would raise an estimated \$60 million would be earmarked for support of local schools in an effort to reduce local property levies and avoid a state property tax.

All Should Share

"All people, not just few, should share the burden of school costs," declared sponsor Hill at the hearing. He was the only legislator to speak, among a dozen or more representatives sitting in on the hearing.

Opponents declared the sales tax would be a heavy burden on low income groups and emphasized also that businesses like saw-

mills and banks would be spared property tax under the plan but wouldn't have much reason to be paying the sales tax in return.

Will Take Week

The House tax committee took no action on the sales tax bill and Rep. Loran Stewart (R), Cottage Grove, its chairman, said it would probably be a week before the committee reviews the bill.

Other legislative action Wednesday, final approval was voted by the Senate on bond issues for college housing construction, committee endorsement went to a plan for constitutional convention and employer and employee groups renewed arguments over unemployment compensation at a hearing.

(Additional details and other legislative news on page 6, 7, sec. 3 and page 2, sec. 1.)

THURSDAY HEARING

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Angry Arabs In Wild Riots At Palestine

GAZA, Egypt-Held Palestine (AP)—Hundreds of Arab refugees from Palestine rioted in this coastal Palestine city Wednesday. Officials said the refugees, embittered by their fate as homeless persons for more than six years, were expressing wrath against the United Nations and Israel.

At least seven persons were wounded as police and Egyptian troops fired on the stone-throwing mob.

Reports from Khanyounis, Gaza, center 15 miles south of Gaza, said a mob burned a U.N. store. The food destroyed would have fed for a month 50,000 refugees in the area.

Tuesday's rioting, climaxed by a prolonged attack with stones on U.N. truce observers' headquarters here, erupted after a clash between Egyptian and Israeli troops Monday night near their armistice demarcation border.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—The Security Council will meet in urgent session Friday to discuss Egypt's charges of aggression by Israel near Gaza in the frontier zone.

Ike Says U.S. In Atomic Lead

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower said Wednesday the Western world still leads Russia in atomic and hydrogen weapons. But he said it is problematic "how long that lead can be sustained."

Eisenhower also told a new conference: "There comes a time, possibly, when a lead is not significant in the defensive arrangements of a country. If you get enough of a particular type of weapon, I doubt that it is particularly important to have a lot more of it."

(Additional news conference stories on pages 4, 5 of sec. 1.)

Partly Cloudy Day Forecast

Snow continued to fall in many sections of Oregon Wednesday as some sections of Salem got a little early-morning snow, which did not stick, and late-morning downtown sleet.

Today is to be partly cloudy with a few scattered showers, say weathermen. Fair weather is predicted for tonight.

Travel was hazardous Wednesday on state mountain highways, the highway commission reported. Chains are required at Government Camp, Timberline, Sunset Summit, Santiam Pass and Austin.

Ice spots were reported at Siskiyou, Bly, Lakeview, Brothers and Lapine.

Plows were operating at Government Camp, Timberline, Green Springs, Santiam Pass, Willamette Pass and Wilson River Summit.

Probation Officer Tackles Prisoner

PORTLAND (AP)—A speedy probation officer foiled an escape attempt by a federal prisoner here Wednesday.

John Gregg ran after Donald W. Rogers, 20, Wenatchee, when he made a break for freedom and overhauled him in the federal courthouse after Rogers had pleaded guilty to a charge of driving a stolen car from Wenatchee to The Dalles. Gregg brought down Rogers with a flying tackle.

High Soviet Shakeup Deposits Ministers of Coal, Agriculture

By STANLEY JOHNSON

MOSCOW (AP)—The Supreme Soviet Wednesday fired two ministers for inefficiency and switched a third to a new post.

The shakeup affected coal and agriculture. It underscored recent widespread criticism by officials and in the press of lags in the economy.

The Presidium's announcement was broadcast by Moscow radio. It said the changes were made on the recommendation of Premier Nikolai Bulganin. The Presidium under the constitution is the top state authority when the Supreme Soviet, Russia's parliament, is not in session.

The announcement said the Presidium had decided to release A.S. Zasyadko as minister of the coal

industry "because of unsatisfactory work." A.N. Zademidko was named to succeed him.

The presidium also released "Comrade A.I. Kozlov" as minister of state farms "because he failed to cope with the work." To succeed him, "Comrade I.A. Beneditov" was "released from the duties of U.S.S.R. minister of agriculture." No successor to Beneditov was announced.

Western diplomats here have been expecting the shakeup in agriculture ever since the Communist Party's denunciations of the country's farming methods have been publicized. These expectations increased after Georgi M. Malenkov took the blame for agricultural failure on his own shoulders when he resigned as premier Feb. 2.

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Walton-Brown Building Sold To Milk Firm

Sale of the Walton-Brown Electric Co. plant in southeast Salem to Damascus Milk Co. of Portland for use as a milk distribution center, was announced Wednesday.

New owners will take possession of the property, located at Simpson and Ford streets, about April 1. Purchase price was about \$40,000.

James Walton, owner and president of the electrical firm, said his firm would "remain in operation." New business site for electrical company will be announced later, he said.

The sale transaction was made through Grabenhorst Bros., Salem real estate firm, which describes the property as consisting of six lots with a frontage of 300 feet on Simpson and 124 of Ford street.

Three buildings are on the property. The include space for storage, warehousing and the Walton-Brown modern offices.

None of the buildings built in recent years will be removed, according to Alden H. Schwabauer, assistant sales manager for the company, who will be Salem branch manager.

The Damascus company will use the offices, and will make considerable alterations, including addition of refrigeration, he said.

The milk firm purchases a great deal of its milk from dairy farms in Marion County, said Schwabauer, and location of the branch distribution center here is "for the most adequate service to the community."

Operating in Salem for the past two years the Damascus company has had temporary offices in the Pacific Building. Schwabauer has been here since Jan. 1.

Meat Marketing Demonstration Friday Morning

Salem and other Marion County meat consumers are invited to the first meat marketing demonstration held in this area in a long time. The event will be held Friday at the Senator Hotel starting at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the Marion County Livestock Association.

Bill Ward, Senator chef, is preparing a buffet luncheon from the economical cuts, and this will be served in the Cave Room for those attending the demonstration. During the afternoon, new methods of preparing and cooking meat will be shown. (Additional details on Farm Pages 4 and 5, sec. 2.)

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Louis E. Wolfson, 43-year-old Miami financier, is trying to wrest control of the big mail order house from the 81-year-old Avery, board chairman and head of the firm for 23 years.

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New Volcano Erupts From Hawaii Field

By ROY ESSOYAN

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—A new volcano split a half mile crack in a cane field on Hawaii's tormented eastern tip Wednesday and exploded a 200-foot high fountain of red-hot rock only 200 yards from 12 plantation workers. All escaped unhurt.

Fountains of molten lava spewed all along the fissure and two boiling streams burned paths through the sugar cane.

National Guard trucks fanned out northeast and southeast from Pahoa to evacuate about 100 more persons whose escape routes were in danger of being cut off by the newest eruption.

400 Removed

Four hundred persons were removed earlier from villages and farm homes on the rich sugar cane and coffee lands of Hawaii Island's eastern slope.

The National Guard plane which spotted the newest eruption ran out of gas and made an emergency landing north of Kapoho, an abandoned village near Hawaii's easternmost tip.

The plane landed on a small airstrip less than a mile from the advancing river of molten rock. The pilot obtained gasoline and flew out.

The newest eruption came in mid-afternoon, about four or five miles northeast of the cane field where Hawaii's underground fires burst open a new crater Monday morning.

Smoke Shoots

Shaking like a leaf, Shunji Ikeda, 29, told of the newest eruption.

"I was working in the field and the first thing I noticed was smoke shooting up next to my house," Ikeda said. "I thought the house was burning. I dropped everything and ran and then I saw this lava shooting up right next to my house."

"I didn't know what to do. My friends were working behind me. My house and all the things I have were in danger but my friends were more important."

"I turned around and ran to warn my friends."

"The last I saw the fountain was shooting high over my house but I think the flow was going the other way."

Earth Rumbles

Throughout the day the tortured earth groaned and rumbled. Huge cracks opened, splitting fields and roads. Steam hissed out of the ground.

A string of long dead craters curves down the eastern slope of Mauna Loa, a massive volcanic mountain, from its famed Kilauea crater to the sea.

The new craters have burst like fiery blossoms in cane fields. The first one Monday erupted close to the old Puulena Crater.

All are part of the Kilauea volcano system, a volcanologist on the scene said.

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Details of plans for the lot were not available Tuesday, but a portion of it will be used for additional parking. The purchase now gives Erickson's a full block frontage on S. Commercial St. between Alice and Hansen Avenues.

Powell, who said the consideration for the property was \$32,500, said his family would move soon to a new home at 2360 Bluff St.

The transaction for the two-story, four-bedroom home built in 1941 by Virgil T. Golden was handled by Grabenhorst Bros., realtors of Salem.

Oregon Efforts Against Pelton 'Encroaching'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Oregon efforts to prevent construction of Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River were described to the Supreme Court Wednesday as "unauthorized encroachment" on federal property.

The assertion was made by Willard W. Gatchell, general counsel of the Federal Power Commission.

He argued that the court should overturn a lower court decision that cancelled an FPC license to Portland General Electric Co. for construction of the dam.

The cancellation was ordered by the Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco after Oregon and its fish and game commissions had objected that the dam would injure fishery resources.

The Deschutes River flows in part through federal lands, and at the Pelton site one bank is on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Gatchell told the court it would have to decide whether flowing has rights to water flowing across federally owned land.

Arthur C. Higgs, assistant attorney general of Oregon, argued that in the 1877 Desert Lands Act Congress irrevocably surrendered to the states all regulatory power over non-navigable waters on arid or semi-arid lands in public domain.

The Circuit Court said federal ownership of land at the Pelton site did not give the federal government power to use Deschutes water "contrary to Oregon law."

Gatchell insisted the project would provide new pool facilities and "will not interfere with, invade or encroach upon any rights to the use of water in the stream."

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