

Smiles Replace Tension at End of Mid-Valley Spelling Contest



Defense bonds, honor certificates and brief cases were presented the three pupils shown here for their top performance in the Grand Finals of The Statesman-KSLM Mid-Valley Spelling Contest on the stage of Parrish Junior High on Thursday night. Getting ready to hand 13-year-old Joan Picha her first-place \$100 bond is Charles A. Sprague, editor and publisher of The Statesman, while Glenn McCormick, owner of KSLM, has awards waiting for the other winners. Looking at Joan is the second-place speller, Michael Mills of Clear Lake who took the \$50 bond, and in the rear is Lonnie Kilmer, Perrydale, who walked off with the \$25 bond as winner of third place among 20 school-champion contestants. All three students are 8th-graders. (All photos by John Ericksen, Statesman staff photographer.)



The 20 Grand Finalists in the spelling contest, with their teachers, and the judges were guests of the sponsoring organizations at a dinner at Parrish Junior High just before the climax of the two-months-long event Thursday night. Dave Hoss (left), KSLM, and Wendell Webb, Statesman, are at the microphone at the left. Hoss was master of ceremonies at the contest; Webb called the words.



These teachers have real cause for smiles. Their pupils won top three places in The Statesman-KSLM Spelling Contest Grand Finals. They are (left to right) Mrs. Emma Schroder, whose 8th-grade Willard student, Joan Picha, took first place; Grace R. Klampe, Clear Lake, teacher of Michael Mills, second-place winner, and Mrs. Frank Watson, Perrydale, whose Lonnie Kilmer copped third.

Solon Urges Navy Intercept Finnish Ship

WASHINGTON (UP)—Senate Republican Leader William F. Knowland said Saturday that, if other means fail, the U.S. Seventh Fleet should intercept a Finnish ship carrying jet fuel for Red China.

Knowland told reporters he believes the Nationalist Chinese are capable of intercepting the ship or that it can be stopped by diplomatic means.

But the important thing, he said, is to stop it.

Fuel From Romania

Knowland referred to the Finnish tanker Aruba, now reported in the Indian Ocean enroute to Red China with fuel from the Romanian a grave dereliction to permit a oil fields. U.S. Air Force officers in Formosa said it is carrying enough fuel to supply 5000 jet missions against Nationalist-held Formosa.

"I hope it is intercepted and that all others carrying jet fuel for a Communist buildup would be intercepted," Knowland said.

Knowland was asked if he meant interception by the Chinese Nationalists.

Cites Truce Violations

He replied that he thinks "it ought to be intercepted period," but that he believes Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces are capable of stopping the ship.

"If he isn't, and as long as the truce in Korea is being violated and American prisoners are being held, it would be the height of folly to permit the supplying of jet fuel which might be used against us," Knowland said. "It would be a grave dereliction to permit a buildup of jet aviation fuel on the mainland."

Asked specifically if he means that the Seventh Fleet should intercept the Finnish ship if Chiang could not, he replied, "yes."

He added that this would assume that the ship could not be stopped by diplomatic action or that it did not stop at some intermediate point where its cargo could be bought by friendly commercial interests as was done in one previous case.

"If it can be done by diplomatic means, fine: If it can be done by commercial firms, fine," Knowland said.

No Comment

The State Department declined comment on Knowland's proposal. This government has known about the Aruba, its cargo and destination for some time. The problem—described by the State Department as "a matter of grave concern" to the United States—has been taken up with the Finnish government.

The tanker is chartered to an official Chinese Communist shipping agency.

Although Finland is not a member of the United Nations, the State Department has pointed out that a May, 1951, resolution called on member nations "and other nations" to embargo shipments of strategic materials to the Chinese Communists. The department has said this resolution has "seemingly been disregarded by the owners of the Aruba."

'World Disapproval'

Department spokesman Henry

U. S. to Continue To Use Mexico Labor Supply

WASHINGTON (UP)—Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell believes the federal program for recruiting Mexicans to work on American farms should be continued for at least two more years.

But the department has decided to abandon recruiting at the U.S.-Mexican border. Instead, it said, it will recruit the workers at Hermosillo in the interior of Mexico.

The program operates under an agreement with Mexico which is scheduled to expire next Dec. 31. Legislation is necessary to authorize the United States to negotiate a new agreement.

Mitchell told a House Appropriations Subcommittee, in testimony made public Saturday, that the administration will seek legislation to extend the agreement but hasn't yet decided for how long. "I think it would be at least two years," he said.

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The tension was over for both of them. They are Joan Picha, 13, in Willard School's 8th grade and first-place winner in the spelling contest's Grand Finals, and her mother, Mrs. Burt Picha of Route 5, Box 400 Salem.

MUSICAL DEFLATION

DES MOINES (P)—With a drop in the price of bassoons, the Des Moines School Board has voted to take bids on six instruments to replace the old hand-me-downs and war surplus ones some students have been tooting.

HOTTEST BUICK IN HISTORY

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Gov. Williams 'Willing to Run For President'

LOS ANGELES (UP)—Governor G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams, of Michigan, flexing his political muscles in the Republican state of California, says he would consider the 1956 Democratic presidential nomination if party leader Adlai Stevenson were not available.

"Naturally, I would be proud to accept," he said here Friday at a press conference. "If President Eisenhower is the Republican Party candidate in 1956, he'll have a lot of trouble. People are fed up with his record of broken promises."

The Michigan governor, who left last night for a political address at San Mateo, Calif., backed up National Democratic Chairman Paul M. Butler's recent comments about the health of Mrs. Eisenhower.

"From what I know of the case," Williams said, "I believe Mr. Butler had ample grounds for his observations."

"It's important to be healthy," chimed in Mrs. Nancy Williams, 44, the governor's wife.

Comedian Does Special 'Show' On Radar Screen

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UP)—Jerry Colonna, mustachioed star of stage, screen, radio and television, appeared on radar Friday night—police speed-check radar.

Colonna, trying to reach a night club for his 10:30 p.m. opening show, was clocked at 10:20 p.m. by city police radar doing 38 miles per hour in his car in a 25 mph zone.

Colonna posted \$200 bond before Police Magistrate William D. Conway and resumed his trip to the night club. He told his audience: "One thing for sure, Springfield police are on the ball."

Eugene Man Guilty Of Income Tax Evasion

PORTLAND (UP)—Clyde L. Metcalf, 34-year-old employee of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, was placed on two years probation by U. S. District Judge Gus J. Solomon Friday for violation of federal income tax laws.

Metcalf pleaded guilty to failing to file an income tax return for 1951. He was ordered to pay an assessment of 1384 to make up the 1951 tax.

Rancher Guilty Of Burglary

KLAMATH FALLS (P)—Wesley Bryan Baker, a rancher, pleaded guilty to burglary Saturday in the theft of a safe from a Merrill tavern.

Circuit Judge Ralph Holman of Oregon City, sitting here, ordered a pre-sentence investigation and released Baker on \$3,500 bail.

In the Merrill theft a safe containing \$2,000 was stolen and dragged four miles behind a truck before it was dumped, empty.

TITANIUM PLANT PLAN

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (P)—A titanium ore extraction plant, described as the largest of its kind in the world, is scheduled to begin operations this spring. The plant site is 65 miles south of here at Cove Point on Chesapeake Bay.

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