

Solons Launch \$432 Million Postal Rate Increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Post Office Committee Tuesday approved a \$432,000,000 increase in postal rates which Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey says may well be the difference between a balanced and an unbalanced federal budget.

The committee voted behind closed doors to boost the present letter rate to four cents and like the air mail charge from 6 cents an ounce to 7 cents.

Postmaster General Summerfield has estimated the higher letter rate would cost the average family 12 to 13 cents a month.

Bigger increases were approved for second class mail — chiefly magazines and newspapers — and for third class advertising matter.

Rejected was an Eisenhower Administration proposal that rate-setting authority be transferred from Congress to a postal rate commission.

The committee reportedly voted 12-3 for the postal rate bill, which apparently has drawn increasing support since it was advanced by the Administration early in the session.

Increased Rates

However, some Congress members have held out slight hope for increased postal rates in this election year, and the measure has not been listed by House leaders as "must" legislation.

The Administration's big argument has been that the boosts are needed to offset the Post Office Department's operating deficit, which is running nearly 500 million dollars a year.

An estimated \$432,000,000 in additional revenue a year would be produced by the committee-approved increases.

Seeks Early Action

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, urging early action on the proposal, told the committee last month:

"Failure to enact this bill, on the basis of simple arithmetic, would to all practical purpose eliminate the very thin 400 million dollar surplus which the President's January budget message envisioned for fiscal 1957."

The Administration already has said that this estimated surplus likely would be offset by higher military spending in the bookkeeping year that begins July 1.

Larger Than Requests

Approved increases in second class rates were even larger than the Administration requested. President Eisenhower asked for a 30 per cent boost. But the committee voted for progressive increases over a five-year period that would average about 75 per cent at the end of that time.

Sections of newspapers and magazines devoted to advertising would be subject to an increase of about 120 per cent while the rate for reading matter would go up about 30 per cent. Publishers have long been required to report the percentage of advertising in each issue sent through the mails.

The second class increases would apply to items addressed for delivery outside the county of publication. The minimum charge would be upped from 1/4 cent to 1/2 cent per item.

The increase in third class rates would be 30 per cent, the figure proposed by the Administration.

In another action, the committee adopted a policy statement calling on the treasury to reimburse the Post Office Department for its public service activities. Under this system, Congress would from time to time define the department's public services.

The sand of Bermuda's beaches is pink-tinted ground coral.

Senate Okels Wapinitia Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional action was completed Monday on a bill to authorize construction of the Juniper Division of the Wapinitia Federal Reclamation Project in Oregon.

The Senate passed and sent to the White House a bill authorizing the Reclamation Bureau to build the \$553,000 Wasco Dam which would add water to 2,108 present irrigated acres in Juniper Flat, Wasco County.

Husband of Missing Socialite Reported Seen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—L. Ewing Scott, husband of a missing socialite, and himself the object of a widespread search, has been reported seen at Bishop, 300 miles north of here.

John Preku, Bishop's police chief, informed the sheriff's office here Monday that a man answering Scott's description had been registered for three days at a motel there, while his car was being repaired.

Scott disappeared May 1. The man answering his description was said to have stayed at Bishop May 2, 3 and 4. Bishop is on the main highway between Los Angeles and Reno.

Mrs. Evelyn T. Scott vanished under mysterious circumstances a year ago. Scott, who steadfastly denied knowledge of her whereabouts, was indicted by the county grand jury on grand theft and forgery charges in connection with administration of her estate. He forfeited \$25,000 bail last week when he failed to appear to plead to these charges.

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Diary Says Morgenthau Blocked 'Red'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Monday made public documents showing that former Treasury Secretary Morgenthau blocked a reported move by Harry Dexter White and V. Frank Coe to stop the delivery in 1945 of 200 million dollars in gold promised the Chinese Nationalists.

Previously unpublished portions of Morgenthau's 90-million word diary are being put into the committee's record in conjunction with testimony pertaining to charges of espionage concerning the two former Morgenthau aides.

The subcommittee has described White, now dead, as a communist agent.

Coe has denied to the committee that he ever spied but has refused to say whether he ever has been a communist.

The subcommittee made public a protest Morgenthau voiced in a 1945 staff meeting that this country was not giving the Chinese Nationalists "anything that they really need to help them in the way of fighting."

This was a stenographic recording of the staff meeting — contained in his voluminous diary — in which Morgenthau vetoed a reported move by White and Coe to block the delivery of 200 million in gold that had been promised the Nationalists.

The entry, dated May 15, 1945, described Morgenthau as ordering them to call back a memorandum they had prepared for transmission to the White House, advising the President to declare that China should "withdraw for the time being her request for immediate heavy shipment of gold."

Like Vacation in Colorado Not Favored

WASHINGTON (AP)—The President's personal physician — Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder — said Monday he "would not be in favor" of President Eisenhower vacationing in Colorado this summer.

"The President suffered a heart attack in the high altitude city of Denver last September. However, Snyder added that no one — including Eisenhower — had mentioned to him the possibility of a Colorado vacation for the President this year.

"Dr. Paul Dudley White, Boston heart specialist who was chief consultant during the President's recovery, said at the time of the attack he did not think the altitude was a factor.

"Snyder said Monday that some factors "think high altitude is bad, and some don't."

The altitude at Denver, where the President has vacationed for the last four years, is about 5,900 feet.

DEAD JAPS SOUGHT

TOKYO (AP)—An official government party will leave by ship next month for islands in the South Pacific to collect the remains of 80,000 Japanese soldiers killed in World War II.

FISHING PIRATES EYED

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The navy department is considering using light planes and helicopters to chase fishing pirates from Mexico's waters. Mexico claims authority over waters nine miles from shore.

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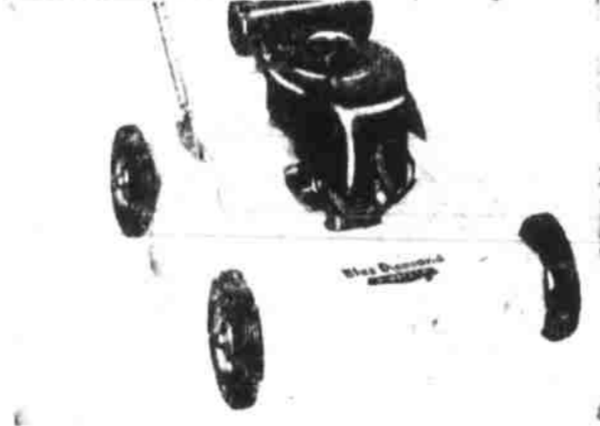
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