

Sprague Asks Compensation Law Change

Present Plane Plants Enough To Supply U. S.

DR Says Only Drawback To Defense Plan Lies In Lack Of Skilled Men

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—President Roosevelt expressed the belief today sufficient plants existed to build new planes for the defense. Some plants, he added, may have to work two or three shifts.

The president told a press conference the only lag or bottleneck lay in obtaining a sufficient number of skilled plane factory workers.

Mr. Roosevelt estimated 15 per cent of the labor needed for the new building job would have to be skilled in the aircraft arts. He said the other 85 per cent could be developed rapidly by utilizing labor from automobile and other industries.

Some plants, the president asserted, probably would have to be expanded. All the new planes, he added, would be constructed in private industry.

The chief executive said new plants would be made in government plants as in the past and he believed sufficient capacity existed for building all guns required.

Asked whether new roads would have to be constructed to move the mobile anti-aircraft and other equipment, the president said a vast deal of conversation and interest was being displayed by congress in building transcontinental north and south highways.

Would U. S. labor might be available in larger quantities for such highway construction, if when they are approved, before most local improvements, such as sewage and other city projects, had been taken care of by state and current work relief programs.

Referring to conferences he had with Charles Edison, assistant secretary of the navy, on efforts to speed up ship building, Mr. Roosevelt said the government was doing all it could to eliminate any lags.

He said there were no labor difficulties, but there had been a general effort by many navy yards to keep employment going at an even rate throughout the year, and he had a tendency to slow up the rate of time to build a war vessel.

Naval plans for immediate fortification of the islands of Guam, Iwo Jima, and Midway, as a possible point for a future congressional debate over the president's plan.

U. S. Fleet Begins Passage Of Panama

BALBOA, C. Z., Jan. 13.—(AP)—The United States fleet today began passing through the Panama canal from the Pacific, headed for the Caribbean sea for the greatest concentration of ships in the navy's history.

By the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, 40 units of the Pacific fleet began the transit of the canal at 1:30 a. m. PST.

The last vessel will be the Admiral C. B. Bloch's flagship, the USS Pennsylvania, which is scheduled to start through at 10 a. m. tomorrow, but may wait at anchor until Monday. The Pennsylvania was tied up at the docks and her personnel will be the only one allowed shore leave on the Pacific side.



FOLLOWING Felix Frankfurter's testimony before a senate judiciary sub-committee in Washington, which was considering his nomination to the supreme court, the committee crowded around the Harvard law professor eager to shake his hand. Left to right: Sen. W. E. Borah (R-Ida); Sen. T. Connally (D-Tex); Sen. M. M. Nelly (behind Frankfurter) (D-W. Va.), chairman, and Frankfurter. The sub-committee approved his appointment.

Hopkins Says Senate Made "Big Mistake"

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Harry L. Hopkins, former head of the Works Progress Administration, said today the senate made "a great mistake" last year in rejecting a proposal to outlaw politics in relief.

Hopkins, testifying before the senate commerce committee in defense of his nomination to be secretary of commerce, admitted that some WPA officials and employees in various states had engaged in political activity.

"Personally," he said, "I have no feeling of a sense of guilt. I did the best job I could."

The hearing on Hopkins was concluded before noon and the senate committee agreed to vote next Wednesday on his nomination.

Another new cabinet member, Attorney General Frank Murphy, appears later today to tell about his handling of sit-down strikes in Michigan.

Hopkins named Pennsylvania specifically as a state where local political leaders "put the pressure" on WPA forces.

Early Blooming Crocus Forerunner Of Spring

The calendar may say January 13, but it seems to be spring in Eugene. From E. C. Cole, 430 Fifteenth avenue east, comes a crocus in full bloom, which was grown out-of-doors.

NEW DEAL SLAPPED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The Roosevelt administration took a beating today in its first legislative test of the new congress when a rebellious house refused to approve the \$875,000,000 President Roosevelt requested to keep WPA operating until June 30.

French Reveal Italians Passing African Force

LIBOUBI, French Somaliland, Jan. 13.—(AP)—French advisers on the border today reported concentrations of Italian troops in Italian Ethiopia near the border of French and British Somaliland. Similar reports were received last month, but fresh disclosures gave specific locations at the border of French and British Somaliland, and at Sardo, further north, opposite the heart of French Somaliland.

Moody To Continue "Goon" Drive Work

SALEM, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Governor Charles A. Sprague said today that Ralph M. Moody, who co-ordinated the prosecution of labor terrorism cases in behalf of former Gov. Charles H. Martin, would be continued in his present job until he disposes of the Rosser, Estabrook and Reynolds cases.

Sprague added that the remuneration and title of Moody, who was attorney for the state police, had not been determined.

Albert E. Rosser, former secretary of AFL teamsters in Oregon, has appealed to the supreme court from a 12-year sentence for arson in connection with burning the Salem box factory. The high court now is considering a state motion to dismiss the appeal on grounds that the defense did not file its transcript of testimony within the required time.

Jack Estabrook, former business agent for Portland teamsters, has appealed from conviction on a charge of bombing a beer tavern in Washington county.

The supreme court already has heard the appeal of Hugh Reynolds, former secretary of Eugene teamsters who was sentenced to a year for breaking windows in a non-union Eugene barber shop. The court has not yet handed down its decision on this case.

One hundred and twenty persons were arrested in the state's drive on labor terrorism, 65 persons pleading guilty and 11 others being convicted.

1,000 FOR ONE YEAR

PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The Oregon Church Committee for China Relief accepted \$12,000 in contributions yesterday and estimated the sum was sufficient to save the lives of 1,000 refugees in the war-torn Orient for a year.

SEEK KIDNAPED MINER

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Federal troops sought a clue today to the fate of M. L. Webb of Phoenix, Ariz., who apparently was kidnapped by bandits at Mt. San Nicholas. Webb is manager of the Amparo Mining company.

Vivien Leigh to Be "Scarlett" in "Gone with Wind"; Search Ends

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN (Copyright 1939 by United Press)

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—(AP)—David O. Selznick, ended a two-year search for a Scarlett O'Hara today by deciding upon Vivien Leigh, young British actress, as the screen heroine of "Gone With the Wind."

U. S. Prisoners Fail In Attempt To Flee "Rock"

Desperate Try Made In Fog; Freedom Near When Guards Foil Plot

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Five hardened convicts, including the notorious Arthur (Doc) Barker, made a desperate attempt to escape from fog-shrouded Alcatraz island early today and reached the water's edge before guards shot and wounded two of them and captured the others.

Barker, 40, serving a life term for the Edward G. Bremer kidnapping, was shot through the head and leg when he refused to obey a command to halt, and was wounded critically.

Dale Stampf, 27, serving life for kidnapping Dr. Fred Myers of Leedy, Okla., was shot through both legs.

William Martin, 25, a negro, was scratched and bruised when he slid down the rocky side of the island in frantic efforts to reach the water.

Rufus McCain, 36, under a 99-year sentence for kidnapping bank employees of the Isabel National bank of Isabel, Okla., and Henri Young, 28, who robbed the First National bank of Lind, Wash., surrendered quickly when guards trained their rifles on them.

The men evidently were following the same plan of escape as that of Ted Cole and Ralph Roe, who disappeared from the 12-acre island Dec. 16, 1937.

Cut Cell Bars

Through mysterious means, the five convicts had obtained saws, which they used to cut through the steel bars of their individual cells on the lower tier.

They managed to flee from the cell building, supposedly "escape proof," and make their way down the steep slopes of the island to the shore.

A guard discovered the empty cells and the siren on "Devil's Island" screamed the alarm. Hurried calls were sent to the coast guard and the San Francisco police department.

Prison guards ringed the island and finally sighted the five men, who were in the thickest fog in many years.

The convicts stripped their prison clothes and hid in the brush.

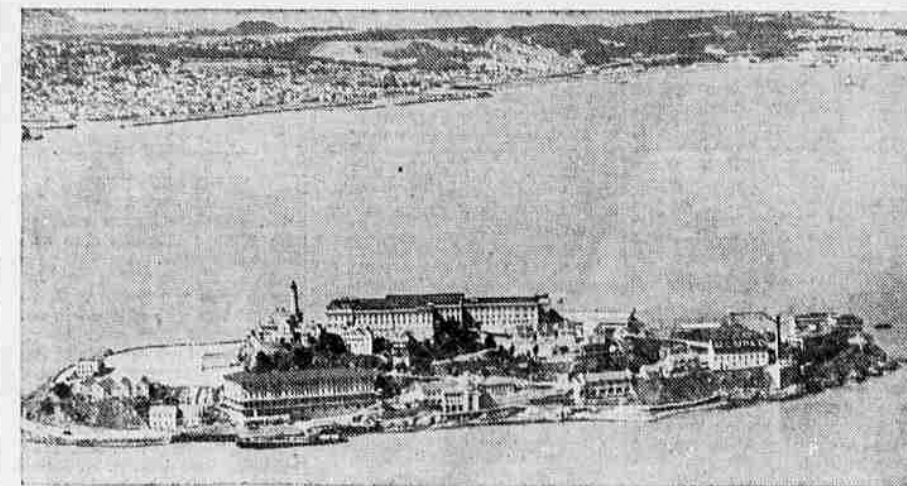
SEE 5 CONVICTS STORY PAGE 2

Portland, Multnomah Argue Over Who Pays For Mosquito Control

PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Mayor Joseph Carson of Portland informed the city council yesterday he didn't care whether the county or city handled the mosquito problem this year, but he insisted that one of them handle it.

The mosquitoes, he reminded, bite both the city and county with remarkable impartiality.

He reminded the council that both city and county had appropriated \$5000 for mosquito control. Last year mosquito control was abandoned and the insects feasted on Portlanders and Multnomah county folks elsewhere—scratched.



THAT grim rock of an island known as Alcatraz (above) which houses the federal government's most escape-proof penitentiary, was the scene early Friday morning of an attempted "break" as five inmates—taking advantage of a soupy fog—scaled the walls and tried to reach the waters of San Francisco Bay. Guards wounded two as the quintet was recaptured.

Highway Safety Important Problem

Predicting a ten per cent decrease in traffic fatalities during the year 1939 and 100 less injuries per month, Ray Conway, secretary-manager of the Oregon State Motor association, emphasized the need for highway safety programs in the state and urged the Eugene chamber of commerce to join other groups in the state in combating this danger.

He spoke at the public affairs luncheon of the chamber at the Osburn hotel Friday noon.

Tracing the development of highways and automobiles since the early part of the century, Mr. Conway declared that the greatest problem on the highways today was that of safety.

"Roads of today are engineered for speeds of 70, 80 and sometimes a hundred miles an hour," the speaker said. "The speed of today has brought the element of safety to the forefront as the most important problem on our highways."

In commenting on the Oregon highway system, Mr. Conway said the state now had roughly 4600 miles of primary highways and 2100 miles of secondary roads upon which approximately \$250,000,000 had been spent since 1917.

The state highway system of Oregon is comparable with any system in the world today, he said.

Two developments in highway matters, originating in Oregon, have been copied throughout the world and have contributed greatly to highway advancement everywhere, Conway said. These developments are the method of financing highway construction by a tax on gasoline, originated by the late Louis Brand, and the construction of bituminous macadam roads.

The speaker quoted from a book written by J. L. McAdam, father of macadam roads, in 1820, wherein the Scotch roadbuilder declared roads with high "crown" were not suitable. Only recently have road builders heeded this advice, Conway pointed out.

Wheeler County Best In Traffic Safety

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Wheeler county led the state in traffic safety, according to figures released by Secretary of State Earl Snell. No fatal accident has occurred there in 1935 days. On a population basis, Multnomah county leads with Bepton second.

PLANES ON WAY

SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Eight Grumman navy planes en route from San Diego, Cal., to Miami, Fla., and Guantanamo, Cuba, arrived at Barksdale field today from Dallas, Tex.

SALEM, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Kenneth Moody, Bend clothier, yesterday was appointed to the state game commission by Gov. Charles Sprague. He succeeded C. E. Riley, Klamath Falls, resigned.

Moody had the endorsement of numerous sportsmen's associations, including the Deschutes County Sportsmen's association, the Redmond-Sisters group, the Jefferson County Rod and Gun club and the Crook County Game Protection association.

Riley withdrew from the commission to care for business interests in California.

Chamberlain Tells Duce Britain, France As Strong As Italy, Nazis

Nazis Deny U. S. Jews Any Discrimination

BERLIN, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The German government disclosed today it had declined to assure the United States all American citizens in Germany would be treated alike regardless of race or religion but said it had offered to seek amicable solution of individual cases.

The issue was raised by Washington's request for assurances the Nazi anti-Jewish decrees of November would not affect Jews holding American citizenship.

DNB, the official news agency, declared the United States, replying January 11 to a German note of December 30, held to its viewpoint but declared itself willing "to clarify through consultation individual cases at issue."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The United States is standing pat on its position of refusing to recognize Germany's right to discriminate against American Jews.

This was disclosed today in an exchange of notes between the two governments.

A United States note of Jan. 11, the state department said, expressed gratification Germany in a note on December 30 had said it would respect the rights of American citizens as guaranteed by the existing United States-German treaties.

The American note, delivered in Berlin by the American charge d'affaires, Prentiss B. Gilbert, said the American embassy would submit to the German foreign office cases of American citizens allegedly discriminated against. Germany, in her note, expressed willingness to examine specific cases.

SEC Accuses Utility Of Setting Records Ahead \$170,000,000

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The securities commission accused Associated Gas and Electric company today of setting up its records in a way which resulted in an overstatement of its property assets in 1934 by about \$170,000,000.

The company, which has gross assets of more than \$1,000,000,000, was charged by the commission with making "false and misleading statements with respect to material facts."

It has subsidiary properties in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia.

Furor Caused by Oregon Cities League in Salem Said Blunder

SALEM, January 13.—(Special)—The legislative tiff over the League of Oregon Cities has just about died down until some time in the future when and if the LOC bill to divert highway revenue to maintenance of city streets is introduced.

The league may introduce its bill. In fact, Representative Earl Hill, Cushman, who heads the all-important roads and highways committee, would not be surprised if such a bill makes its appearance.

Would Alter Act To Fit U. S. Request

SALEM, Jan. 13.—(AP)—The legislature will be asked Monday to amend the state unemployment compensation law and to rephrase its definitions of strikes and lockouts.

Governor Charles A. Sprague said last night he would make the request. The definitions, he asserted, would not affect the anti-picketing law, which labor groups contend conflict with the unemployment law. Unions asked the social security board at Washington not to certify Oregon's unemployment law because of the alleged discrepancy.

T. Morris Dunne, chairman of the unemployment compensation commission, received a call from Washington that "remedial legislation would be helpful to enable the board to certify Oregon's act," Sprague revealed.

The AFL and CIO told the social security board recently that the new labor control law would force unemployed workers to accept jobs vacated by strikers. Sprague said he believed his proposed definitions, which would apply only to the unemployment compensation law, would make Oregon eligible for federal unemployment assistance.

Ends First Week

The legislature finished its first week yesterday and adjourned until Monday. Nine bills were introduced in the house and 40 in the senate so far. The only bill passed appropriated \$50,000 for legislative salaries and expenses.

The better-pension steering committee, comprising Townsend clubs and other liberal pension groups, announced yesterday it would introduce a gross income tax measure with 70 per cent of the proceeds to be used for pensions, 20 for reduction of the property tax and 10 per cent for schools.

A bill to increase liquor prices 10 per cent to raise \$1,250,000 a biennium for pensions was introduced.

Governor Sprague was preparing legislation to provide budget reforms, consolidate the tax on invested wealth with the income tax, and empower the state to take possession of cut-over lands from counties and private owners.

The senate will act Monday on confirmation of Edgar Smith, appointed to the board of higher education by ex-Governor Martin.

Veteran legislators viewed the start of the session as one of the slowest in their experience.

Reapportionment Stated

A bill was introduced in the house which would reapportion membership of both the house and senate in 1940. It would allot one representative to each of the 36 counties with another 24 to be divided on a basis of population. At present the division is entirely by population.

The senate confirmed the interim appointments of ex-Senator Walter E. Pearson and Willard Marks as members of the board of higher education.

Members of the commission to arrange an exhibit at the world's fair in San Francisco will go before a sub-committee Monday to consider a budget for the project.

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Objection Of Unions To Anti-Picket Law Causes Kick-Back On Jobless

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DIES OF INJURIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—(AP)—Clifford Weatherwax, 60, of Burlingame, Cal., who suffered a fractured skull when attacked by thugs 10 days ago, died today in Mt. Sinai hospital.

Weather News

OREGON: Cloudy tonight and Saturday; valley fogs west portion; little change in temperature; light variable wind off the coast.

AIRPORT BUREAU RECORD: Minimum temperature, 24-hour period ending at 4:30 a. m. Friday, 31.3 degrees; for 12-hour period ending same time, also 31.3 degrees; maximum temperature, 24-hour period, ending at 4:30 a. m. Friday, 48.8 degrees; and for 12-hour period, ending same time, 45.4 degrees; wind, at late morning, Friday calm.

RIVER BUREAU RECORD: Stage of Willamette river in Eugene at 7 a. m. Friday, 1 of a foot.

High 7:20 a. m. 5:32 a. m. Low 1:09 a. m. 2:33 p. m. Sunday 8:25 a. m. 9:41 p. m. High 8:25 a. m. 3:32 p. m.