

'Made a Mistake' On Estes—Freeman

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman conceded Thursday there had been "errors and shortcomings" in his department's dealings with Billie Sol Estes but firmly insisted that no tax money had been lost and no favors were shown.

Freeman, testifying before the Senate investigations subcommittee, urged Congress not to let the "misdeeds of one man" destroy government farm programs.

As for the Estes case, Freeman declared that "I, as Secretary of Agriculture, must assume responsibility" for mistakes that were made. Steps since have been taken, he said, to tighten up the department's operations.

He bluntly said the department "made a mistake" when Undersecretary Charles S. Murphy decided to appoint Estes to the government's Cotton Advisory

Committee at a time when the Texas was involved in a dispute over the transfer of cotton allotments.

The secretary said he "cannot escape the conclusion" that the transfers of the cotton allotments should "never have been approved in the first instance. . . . They would not have been, he said, except for the "very confused situation that prevailed in 1960 and 1961."

Estes was able to expand his cotton operations through a scheme by which small farmers transferred their growing allotments to him in return for money.

Freeman insisted that the Agriculture Department had given Estes "no special benefits."

Saying he was worried about the effects of Estes' affairs on the U.S. farm problem, he said no constructive purpose would be served "by using one episode, such as the Estes case, as a weapon on which to indiscriminately attack programs to help the farmers of this nation, or to cast reflections and aspersions upon the millions of farmers who benefit from these programs."

Freeman stressed that the department already has acted to "tighten up management and increase efficiency." He pledged full cooperation in correcting "any faults that may be discovered" in the Senate investigations subcommittee's inquiry into Estes' tangled affairs.

Freeman made the statement in testimony prepared for the McClellan investigations subcommittee.

In addition to his assertion that the government has lost no money in its dealings with Estes, Freeman stressed these points:

- "No official or employee now in the employ of the department is known or can reasonably be believed to have improperly accepted gifts or other favors from Estes."
- "Estes received no special benefits as a result of favored treatment from the Department of Agriculture."

Tanker Pilot Ex-Resident

The pilot of that jet tanker which made the low-altitude practice runs over Mahlon Sweet Field a couple of weeks back is an ex-resident.

He's Capt. M. L. Tone, a Eugene High School graduate and former student at the University of Oregon, now stationed at Larson Air Force Base, Wash. Tone's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Tone, live at 650 Rosewood Ave. in Eugene.

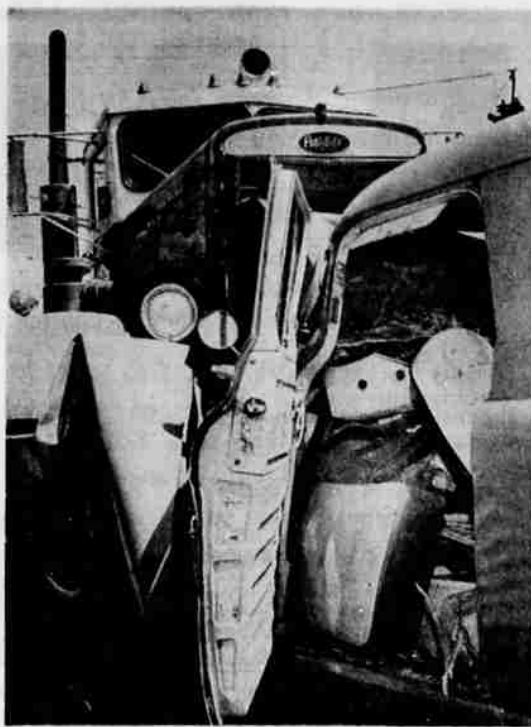
Mr. and Mrs. Tone sent their son a clipping of the Register-Guard story telling of the minor stir the practice runs caused. Captain Tone, a former Register-Guard carrier and classified advertising manager, in turn sent a letter to a friend on the paper, saying in part, "We are required so many approaches each year so I practiced mine where I could see the home town."

Satellite Launched

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — The Air Force says a satellite employing a Thor Agena-B booster combination was launched from this missile base Wednesday. The combination usually lifts a Discoverer. Further details were not announced.

Financier Indicted

NEW YORK (AP) — Edward M. Gilbert, the Wall Street financier who ran away to Brazil after the recent stock market crash, was indicted Thursday on a charge of stealing \$1,953,000 of his company's funds.



(Register-Guard photo) Sheridan Morris Hills, 33, of 2265 D St., Springfield, was killed when the panel truck in which he was riding collided with a diesel tanker on Highway 58, about 15 miles east of Eugene Wednesday afternoon. Kenneth Gibson, 42, of 2542 Emerald St., Eugene suffered multiple fractures and was in "fairly good" condition Thursday at Sacred Heart Hospital. The diesel driver, Ramon E. King, 42, of Antioch, Calif., was not injured. Story, Page One

Fatal Crash

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Prison Officials Cut Water To Force Cons From Tower

PITTSBURGH (UPI)—Time was running out Thursday for 11 rebellious convicts who are perched, without food or water, on the catwalk of a water tower 80 feet above ground at Western Pennsylvania Correctional Institution.

Two convicts cracked under the strain Wednesday night and descended the superstructure amid the jeers of the holdouts.

While guards have taken no direct action to force the other prisoners to leave the tower, one move was certain to cut short their demonstration. Prison officials discovered Wednesday the convicts were using a tap on the side of the tank to obtain water. The tank was drained.

The demonstration started Monday afternoon by Robert Payne, 28, Washington, D.C.

Payne broke away from guards when he was being returned to the prison's maximum detention area from the hospital. He climbed over the 10-foot fence at the bottom of the tower and clambered up to the catwalk.

Tuesday evening, 12 other prisoners broke away from guards after dinner and joined Payne.

U.N. Debates Rhodesian Resolution

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP) — Britain Thursday rejected any U.N. intervention in the affairs of Southern Rhodesia and announced it would not take part in a General Assembly vote on a resolution demanding constitutional changes there.

Sir Patrick Dean, summing up for Great Britain after nearly three weeks of debate, voiced unqualified opposition to the resolution sponsored by 38 African and Asian countries and backed solidly by the Soviet bloc. Sponsors of the measure predicted beforehand they would receive at least 65 votes, far over the necessary two-thirds majority needed.

Authority Challenged

The resolution seeks to have Britain repeal the December 1961 constitution, branded by its foes as designed to perpetuate white rule. It seeks a constitutional convention in which African political leaders would wield power equal to that of whites.

Dean contended the assembly had no authority to intervene in the affairs of a self-governing territory, that Britain cannot force Southern Rhodesia to repeal the constitution, and that his government had "gone more than halfway to cooperate with the United Nations in dealing with the whole range of the questions affecting dependent territories for which the United Kingdom still has responsibilities."

'Double-Think'

Lashing back at Soviet bloc accusations during the debate, Dean said "my country has been accused here of falsely claiming to have granted freedom to a number of our colonial territories. It appears that, according to certain doctrinaire political theories, colonial emancipation should have been—and therefore by a process of 'double-think' was—in all cases achieved through bitter revolutionary struggle."

Algeria Quiet; Vote Set Sunday

ALGIERS (AP)—French army headquarters said Thursday calm had returned to the west Algerian capital of Oran after a rampage of destruction by diehard European terrorists defying cease-fire orders from the Secret Army Organization.

Eight plastic bomb explosions damaged schools and public buildings Wednesday while sporadic shooting in several areas of the city pitted Europeans against Europeans.

The army said radio reports from its Oran headquarters indicated there had been no violence since 4 p.m. Wednesday. Demonstrations of joy were reported from Oran's Moslem areas, separated from the European sectors of the city by barbed wire.

Secret army leaders in Oran as well as Algiers ordered an end to resistance and urged the European population to join the Moslem majority in rebuilding the ravaged territory.

The quiet came three days before the self-determination referendum that will vote Algeria independent.

"Take heart, peace reigns from Oran to Bone," declared a secret army broadcast Wednesday night from Algiers by Jean-Jacques Susini, who negotiated the peace pact with the Moslem nationalists that ended terrorism in Algiers 11 days ago.

Susini called on the Europeans who fled Algeria to return and help the Moslems build a new nation out of the ruins of the secret army's last-ditch scorched earth campaign to keep the territory French.

Authorities were encouraged by reports that the nominal secret army head, ex-Gen. Paul Gaudy had fled Oran to Spain with his closest collaborators.

Steelworkers Sign Pacts With 5 Aluminum Firms

NEW YORK (AP) — The United Steelworkers of America announced Thursday new two-year agreements with five major aluminum companies covering 20,000 union members. The agreements, effective Aug. 1, do not provide for any wage increase.

Union President David J. McDonald said the agreements were reached "without government intervention or pressure from any outside source."

They provide for improvements in vacations and pensions and supplemental unemployment benefits.

A new supplemental vacation plan could provide as much as a week's additional time off a year for every employee, union sources said.

The agreements were reached with the Aluminum Co. of America, Reynolds Metals Co., Kaiser Aluminum Corp., Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp., and Ormet Inc.

The pacts also call for continuing a present 23-cent an hour cost-of-living allowance.

The settlement was announced at a news conference by McDonald and John S. Harrison, Alcoa vice president in charge of personnel and industrial relations.

They said a contract had been signed with Alcoa and that pacts with the other four companies would be signed later Thursday.

The agreements were reached more than a month before the expiration of present contracts. This is the earliest this has been accomplished in 25 years of negotiations with the union, McDonald and Harrison said.

Estes Trial Set in Tyler

PECOS, Tex. (AP) — District Judge J. H. Starley upheld a defense argument Wednesday that Billie Sol Estes couldn't get a fair trial in his home town and said he will transfer the case to Tyler, 529 miles east of Pecos.

Attorneys representing Estes, 37, unexpectedly asked Monday for immediate trial of the promoter on one count of an eight-count indictment returned in April by the Reeves County grand jury. He asked for trial specifically on the charge that he bilked farmer Thomas A. Bell of \$162,144 in a purchase agreement involving liquid fertilizer tanks.

Estes also is under federal indictment on fraud charges and congressional investigation. The West Texas financier's farming and business empire is in receivership.

District Judge Otis T. Dunagan told reporters in Tyler Wednesday night he had talked to Starley and would accept the case. No date will be set until the Pecos judge signs a formal order, and he said that will be done July 23.

With selection of a jury still incomplete, defense lawyer John Cofer asked Tuesday night for indefinite delay. He said it was obvious that newspaper, magazine and broadcast accounts about the Estes case had influenced the veniremen.

Dist. Atty. R. B. McGowan expressed a view that Estes could receive a fair trial in Pecos now and said he did not join in the motion for postponement. He conceded, however, that "the law is on the side of the defense in asking a first continuance."

County grand jurors indicted Estes on charges of obtaining \$828,576 illegally from six Reeves County farmers, including Bell, through purchase contracts for fertilizer tanks.

Women Back Amendment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The General Federation of Women's Clubs voted Thursday to work for a constitutional amendment to allow voluntary non-denominational religious observances in schools.

The action came by voice vote, with only a few noes heard among the 1,285 delegates to the convention.

The women turned down an amendment to the religious observance resolution which would have protested this week's decision of the Supreme Court against official prayers in public schools.

Mrs. Gerald E. Northrop, Castleton, Vt., chairman of the resolutions committee, said she thought all the women were emotionally upset by the court's decision. But she said the committee felt the court could not have made any other decision. She added that the court was deciding on a legal point.

Labor Council Denies Request

CORVALLIS (UPI)—Corvallis carpenters have been denied permission to ignore the Iron Workers strike and return to their jobs, it was announced Thursday.

The Coast-Willamette district council of carpenters Wednesday night turned down the Corvallis local's request, Council President Lawrence F. Wilson, Lebanon, said.

The council met at Corvallis and discussed the request with the carpenters. The vote was four to one to deny the request.

The council is composed of representatives of the Carpenters locals at Salem, Albany, Eugene, Newport and Corvallis.

It was not known whether the Corvallis group would carry their appeal to the international headquarters.

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