

Rail Union Officials Set Meeting Friday

CLEVELAND, Ohio (UPI)—Representatives of the five railroad operating unions will meet here Friday to decide what to do about railroad plans to dismiss 13,000 firemen, it was announced Wednesday.

The railroads announced in Chicago Tuesday they would dismiss the firemen Aug. 16 in line with recommendations of a presidential commission which studied railroad manpower needs and work rules.

200,000 Affected

President Henry Gilbert of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, speaking for the unions, said the chief executives of the brotherhoods would meet to discuss the railroads' decision "to unilaterally place into effect its demands on 200,000 railroad operating employees."

The unions could call a strike of the 210,000 railroad workers the day the new rules become effective. However, President Kennedy could appoint a fact-finding board to study the situation, a move that would delay a walkout for 60 days.

Gilbert told a news conference the "public interest is directly involved." He said the railroads could have the "attend-

ant effects of less safe, less efficient railroads but at the same time, high profit for financial interests."

The unions involved are the Brotherhoods of Locomotive Engineers, Firemen and Engineers, Railway Trainmen, Conductors, and Switchmen.

Gilbert declined to say if a nation-wide railroad strike was in the making but he said the unions would be "prepared to defend the interests" of the members.

Layoffs in November

James E. Wolfe, chief negotiator for the railroads at work rules talks in Chicago, said Tuesday the 13,000 firemen, all with less than 10 years' seniority, would lose their jobs in the next year. The first group would be laid off Nov. 16, with a second group due for layoffs next February and the final group on Aug. 16, 1963.

The decision on revision of work rules came little more than a day after the National Mediation Board (NMB) pulled out of the work rules talks, which began last spring.

Wolfe accused the unions of blocking agreement on work rules changes to eliminate "featherbedding" by choosing

"propaganda over responsibility and procrastination over progress."

He said he expected the unions to "resist" the change but "I sincerely hope" there will be no strike. Wolfe said the railroads would make "adjustments" within the presidential commission work rules recommendations if the unions will negotiate.

10-Year Period

The commission recommended elimination of the jobs of 40,000 firemen over a 10-year period; broadening of seniority to protect older employees; moving expenses for displaced employees; a five-day work guarantee for regular employees; binding arbitration of disputes; and housing away from home for traveling employees.

Wolfe said the remaining 27,000 firemen whose jobs would remain them "subject only to natural attrition." He said that when the 27,000 quit, retire or die they would not be replaced.

Wolfe estimated that the railroads would save \$110 million a year by terminating the jobs of 13,000 firemen. He estimated it would cost the railroads \$216 million annually to keep those with more than 10 years' seniority, "for which the 27,000 will do nothing."

Firemen who lose their jobs will receive 60 per cent of their average earnings for up to 36 months and will be given a chance to retrain for other jobs.

Wolfe said the commission also recommended that pay raises be given 75 per cent of the remaining railroad on-train employees and these pay hikes would begin Aug. 16.

Reservists End 10-Month Cruise

PORTLAND (UPI)—The Navy destroyer escort USS McGinty and its crew returned to Portland Tuesday afternoon to the delighted cheers of hundreds of wives, children and relatives.

The ship has completed 10 months of active duty with the Seventh Fleet in the South Pacific. Most of the crew of 180 were Portland-area reservists who were called to active duty during the 1961 Berlin crisis.

Most of the crew will assume reserve status again on Aug. 1. The ship will return to Swan Island as a naval training ship.



(Register-Guard photo)

Store Blaze

Owner Chester A. Esgate of the Park Avenue Market and Frozen Food Lockers at 1777 Park Ave., Eugene, cleans debris from his store counter following a blaze that destroyed the store Tuesday afternoon.

Park Avenue Market Burns; Loss Set Above \$20,000

By JERRY UHRHAMMER
Of the Register-Guard

An apparent short circuit in the wiring of a neon window sign touched off a blaze which destroyed a neighborhood grocery store in the River Road district Tuesday afternoon.

Losses to the Park Avenue Market and Frozen Food Lockers, 1777 Park Ave., will exceed \$20,000, according to Eugene Fire Chief E. L. Smith.

The blaze broke out at 4:27 p.m., daylight, in the front of the store among displays of plastic toys and toiletries.

"I was on the other side, stocking shelves . . . I just smelled it and heard it snap," said store owner Chester A. Esgate, who was alone in the store at the time except for one customer, a small boy.

Esgate, holding his hands about 18 inches apart, said "it was just a blaze about yea big, and I ran to the back and got the fire extinguisher. But by then it was going right up the wall . . . I couldn't touch it with the fire extinguisher."

Flames were boiling out the front and top of the store when fire trucks arrived. Firemen were successful, however, in

preventing spread of the fire to Esgate's adjoining living quarters and another apartment at the rear occupied by the Allen Engelmann family. Both apartments were damaged by smoke and water.

Although the walls and roof remained standing, the store was regarded as a total loss. Esgate said his inventory was worth between \$8,000 and \$9,000 and cost of replacing equipment alone would be from \$15,000 to \$17,000. He said he was partially covered by insurance.

Agency Awards Grant For Civic Projects

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Urban Renewal Administration Tuesday awarded a grant of \$29,000 to aid Josephine County and six Oregon cities prepare plans for economic growth.

The cities are Hillsboro, Hood River, Ontario, Salem, Sandy and Woodburn.

The grant, which will be supplemented by local funds, will be administered by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

In Springfield

Councilmen Argue Sewer Assessment

By MARVIN TIMS
Of the Register-Guard

Springfield councilmen, meeting in informal session Tuesday evening, failed to agree on an assessment policy for financing sanitary sewers in a 500-lot area between 32nd and 42nd Streets.

At issue is whether residential lots involved, many of which are odd-shaped or undeveloped, should be assessed on a frontage-foot basis or a square-foot formula.

Frank Smiley, city manager, presented an assessment recommendation Tuesday evening calling for a square-foot plan, utilizing a sliding scale.

Based on Depths

The plan, developed by Smiley and City Engineer Lem Elson, is based primarily on lot depths. Lots more than 160 feet deep would be assessed at a rate of two cents a square foot. For lots 125 to 160 feet deep, the rate per square foot would be 2.2 cents. For depths of 115 to 125 feet, the rate would be 2.4 cents. For lots less than 115 feet deep, the rate would be 2.6 cents per square foot.

But Councilman L. H. Wojcik opposed the area assessment plan Tuesday evening, claiming a frontage-foot formula would be fairer. He said owners of smaller lots would have to pay more on an area assessment than on a frontage-foot assessment.

Mayor B. J. Rogers, however, said the frontage-foot plan would be somewhat unfair to owners of larger lots.

Said Smiley: "Our recommendation is a combination of both the frontage-foot and area plans. It is impossible to develop a plan that is ideal for everyone."

Cost Estimate: \$144,000

It is estimated the sewer project will cost \$144,000, but exact assessment costs for each property owner can not be determined until the city has received bids for the sewer work.

After more discussion, the council agreed to meet again Friday evening at 6:30 standard, 7:30 daylight, to decide which assessment plan will be used to finance the sewer program.

Wojcik asked the engineering department to present figures Friday evening showing assessment costs if a frontage-foot formula were used.

In another matter, the council discussed informally the need, if any, for changing certain provisions of the city's subdivision ordinance.

Possible changes suggested were:

- Permit the engineering and building departments to give approval for minor subdivisions (dividing a lot into no more than three parcels) if basic requirements of city regulations are met. Now approval is given by the city planning commission.

- Change the definition of a minor subdivision, possibly permitting a parcel to be subdivided into as many as six parcels instead of three.

At present, if a person subdivides property into more than three parcels, he has created a major subdivision. Under city regulation, a major subdivision also requires a paved street, curbs and gutters.

Smiley told councilmen Tuesday evening this provision can work a hardship on the owner of a relatively small tract who wants to develop a few lots. Councilmen agreed the matter needs study.

Rogers suggested the feasibility of establishing an "intermediate subdivision" classification.

This category, he said, could cover the subdivision of three to ten lots without requiring paved streets, curbs and gutters.

Bancroft Rights Discussed

The council also discussed the right of land developers to bancroft improvements within their subdivisions. City Atty. Robert Carmichael said a developer who petitioned for street paving, for example, would have the legal right to bancroft (pay costs over a period of time).

Carmichael said, however, the council could require that the developer's petition be filed in order with other improvement petitions.

The city's present policy is that developers can't bancroft any of his public improvements even when he is willing to pay all the costs.

Councilmen will discuss this question in more detail Friday evening.

Alsea Man Killed In Logging Accident

WALDFORD (UPI)—A logging accident near Waldport Tuesday killed Albert Stone, 50, Alsea.

Stone was killed outright when a tree he was felling struck another tree and crashed back into him.

He is survived by his widow and four children.

British Turn Down Escaped Spy's Plea

LONDON (UPI)—Britain's High Court Wednesday rejected Dr. Robert F. Soblen's plea to be set free in England to avoid return to the United States and a life term in prison as a convicted Soviet spy.

Soblen's attorneys immediately announced they would appeal, and the three-justice High Court gave them 14 days to do it.

A Home Office spokesman said the appeal procedure and Soblen's request for political asylum could delay his return to the United States for up to six weeks.

"It all depends on two things," the spokesman said. "First, we are waiting to see what happens to his appeal. And, secondly, we are waiting to consider his application for political asylum."

Lord Chief Justice Parker

turned down Soblen's plea for freedom here "or in some other country of my choice" in a habeas corpus hearing.

Soblen contended in an affidavit filed Tuesday that he had received implied permission to land in Britain July 1 and therefore was being held illegally in jail here.

He said he had cut his wrists and wounded himself in the abdomen with a knife solely for the purpose of landing in Britain, and not to commit suicide, while aboard an airplane taking him from Tel Aviv, Israel, to New York after his ouster from Israel. He had fled to Israel and sought asylum after jumping \$100,000 bail in the United States.

The court rejected this argument on the ground that he was allowed to land and taken to a hospital merely to save his life.

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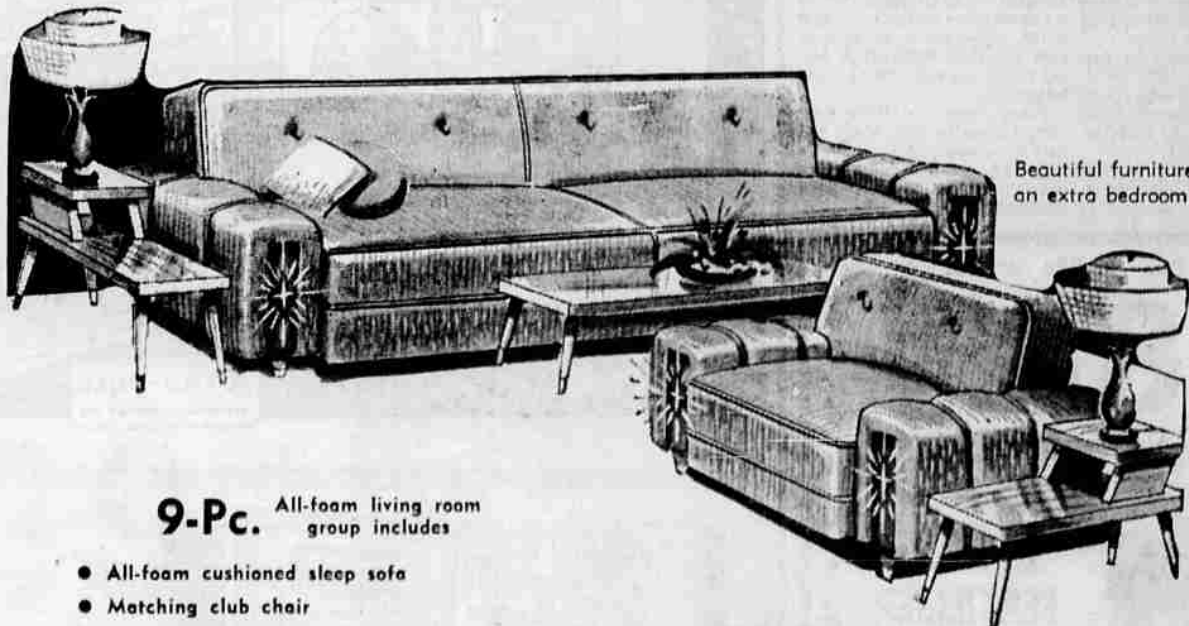
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