

Laos Peril Spurs U.S. Into Action

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy launched an urgent diplomatic salvage operation Saturday to save neutral Laos from collapsing under Red pressure.

Kennedy held a strategy session of the National Security Council on Laos amid reports that militarily superior Communist forces are wiping out positions held by neutralist Gen. Kong Le.

Kennedy set a followup meeting of the top U.S. strategy group for Monday, when the admittedly grave Laos situation will be considered again.

House Okays Anti-Pollution Enforcement

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously Saturday to give the State Sanitary Authority the power to stop pollution of water and air.

The bill goes to Gov. Mark O. Hatfield, who strongly urged the Legislature to pass it.

Under the bill, the Sanitary Authority gets the right to bring suits in court to stop threatened or existing water and air pollution. A court hearing would be given.

Rep. James A. Redden, D-Medford, called the bill one of the most important in the Legislature and said:

"Oregon has come to the point where we have to stop poisoning our streams and our air."

But Rep. Richard Kennedy, D-Eugene, objected that the anti-pollution laws don't apply to farmers.

"In the Eugene-Springfield area," he said, "there is smog at certain times of the year because of agricultural burning. Business and industry are spending millions of dollars to stop pollution, yet we exempt the farmers."

"We should do something about this next session."

Saturday was the 97th day of the Legislature, and it was the first Saturday session.

House Speaker Clarence Barton, a Democrat, said it was necessary to allow consideration of the 26 bills on the calendar.

But Republicans said the real reason was to enable the Democrats to attend a statewide workshop sponsored here by their party.

This Figures

By JOHN O. KOEHLER Of the Associated Press

BERLIN — How do you congratulate your wife on her birthday? With an especially thoughtful kiss in the morning? With a bouquet of roses? With a new dress?

If you have been married for at least 25 years, one can assume that you like your wife and you'd do at least one of these.

But East Germany's Communist Party boss, Walter Ulbricht, does it better. His wife, Lotte, turned 60 Friday and got a present that was out of this (Western) world—the Fatherland's Medal of Merit in gold.

And, of course, her spade-bearded husband congratulated her, too. But not in person. He sent her a letter, delivered by State Council Secretary Otto Gotsche.

"When you were 18 you became a member of the Communist Party of Germany," the letter said. "Youth organization and party gave you responsible tasks because of your untrusting and active work."

It said she had been one of those "activists" who brought life back to the German people after Hitler's defeat.

"You, Dear Comrade Lotte, have since been busy in many leading functions of the party full of optimism and enthusiasm," Ulbricht told his wife. "Because of your rich experience and because of your devotion, you have helped to establish the first workers and peasants state in the history of our people."

The East German newspapers gave much space to the text of this letter. The Berliner Zeitung's story was probably the most revealing as to the Communists' division of family and state.

The newspaper said Mrs. Ulbricht was congratulated by the "First secretary of the Socialist (Communist) Unity Party and the chairman of the State Council, Walter Ulbricht." There was no mention of the fact that he also is her husband.

INSIDE TODAY

Table listing various news items and their page numbers: Editorials 10A, Sports 6B, Books 6B, Classified 6C, Theaters 2D, TV Previews 4D, Births 5D, Arts 2, 9E, Women's News 3, 4E, Drama 7E, Camera 8E, Home and Garden 10, 11E

Fires Sweep Dry East



Nixon Writes A Postscript

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard M. Nixon wrote a postscript Saturday to last November's embittered farewell news conference in which he criticized the press and said he was no longer available to be kicked around.

He told the American Society of Newspaper Editors that he had spent 16 years in the political arena, enjoyed his contacts with newsmen, never complained about a story or canceled a newspaper subscription.

However, he said he had always agreed with former President Truman's remark, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." He said he was "out of the kitchen" as a result of his defeat in the California gubernatorial election Nov. 7 and had decided to "return some of the heat."

Nixon added that he had meant what he said but now wanted to add to his remarks. He said he had written dispatches for newspapers and a book since his 1960 presidential election defeat and had learned that "nothing equals the pressure of having to meet a deadline."

If he were proposing a toast, he said, he would offer it to "the working press, the most underpaid, skilled craftsmen in America."

ACADEMIC GARB — President Kennedy wore a cap and gown Saturday as he took part in the Centennial Convocation of Boston College.

JFK Lauds Encyclical

NEWTON, Mass. (AP) — President Kennedy said Saturday Pope John XXIII's encyclical, "Peace on Earth" in its closeness to statements of men of other faiths. "shows we are learning to talk a language of progress and peace across the barriers of sect and creed."

The President, in his first public comment on the Pope's message, said that "As a Catholic I am proud of it and as an American I have learned from it."

Kennedy spoke in his home state at a centennial convocation at Boston College. As a freshman U.S. senator, he had received an honorary degree from the school.

"In its penetrating analysis of today's great problems—of social welfare and human rights—of disarmament, international order and peace—that document surely shows that on the basis of one great faith and its tradition there can be developed counsel on public affairs that is of value to all men and women of good will," he said.

Kennedy said it adds to the impact of the document that "it closely matches notable expressions of conviction and aspiration from churchmen of other faiths—as in recent documents of the World Council of Churches—and from outstanding world citizens with no ecclesiastical standing."



WANTS A DECISION — Richard Nixon called Saturday for a "command decision" by President Kennedy to force the Soviets to abandon their Cuban beachhead.

G-P Move Called No Surprise

Men in the Lane County industry said last week they were not surprised by the announcement of Georgia-Pacific Corp. that it will permanently close its Springfield sawmill.

They described this mill as fitting a category that appears to be among the most vulnerable under the conditions of today's lumber market.

They predicted that in the future other sawmills in this area will be shutting their doors. But they accompanied this by expectations of continued successful operation of a core of modern, efficient mills meeting market conditions and of further growth in the production of plywood and other kinds of wood products.

No one yet has precise information on how many of the 214 sawmill employees will move to other G-P operations, or how difficult it will be for the remaining men to find work elsewhere.

Elaboration of these points is made on page 5A.

Picket Action Called Unjust

Pickets across the nation and in Canada on Saturday marched in front of stores in a demonstration against the segregated operation in Birmingham, Ala., of variety stores by four national chains.

The number of pickets ranged from a few in some areas to as many as 1,200 in New York City. Comments on the demonstration by the chain officials varied from protests that the action was unjust to claims the pickets in Canada were "making fools of themselves."

Picketed were the retail outlets of the F. W. Woolworth, S. H. Kress, H. L. Green and J. J. Newberry stores.

There were no reports of incidents at any of the picketing sites and police said no moves were made anywhere to stop customers from entering stores.

Hundreds Homeless All Along Coast

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fires in a windswept, rain-shy belt from Maine to Virginia left hundreds of persons homeless Saturday and caused damage running into the millions of dollars.

New Jersey state officials still have not confirmed a death.

Known injuries generally were minor and confined mostly to the men fighting the hundreds of blazes fanned by high winds which began to ease off during the night.

Early assessments of the fiery toll showed over 100 houses destroyed in New Jersey, 100 buildings burned on Staten Island, N.Y., and half a square mile of the Maine textile city of Biddeford in ashes.

The winds, acting as bellows, turned a series of grass fires into uncontrollable conflagrations on Staten Island, taxing the abilities of the New York City Fire Department.

After 12 hours of multiple blazes, as the wind tossed embers from one fire to start another, city officials declared the situation "pretty much under control."

About 75 Staten Island families lost their homes.

The Biddeford fire threatened to destroy the entire northern section of the city before the combined efforts of 13 fire departments fought the flames to a standstill. Behind, in ashes, were nine of the 10 buildings of a lumber and building materials plant where the fire broke out, 18 tenement houses and one business building.

Saved Cat, Pies — Marjorie Ganong described the rapid spread of the flames: "I was getting ready to get lunch when a man yelled, 'Get out! I just grabbed my coat and out I went.' She and her four sons managed to save only a pet cat and two freshly baked pies."

Biddeford Asst. Fire Chief Paul Garipey estimated the damage would well exceed \$1 million.

New Jersey's fires, concentrated mostly in shore area counties, burned thousands of acres of woods and grasslands, as well as over 100 homes and industrial sites.

Soldiers from Ft. Dix and sailors from Lakehurst Naval Air Station, with bulldozers, fought a blaze along a 10-mile front in Ocean County.

One of the most destructive of the fires roaring through the tinder-box forests in Virginia burned over 2,500 acres in King George County. Military personnel and civilian volunteers helped in the fight.

At least nine separate brush fires, some destroying and threatening homes, plagued Long Island firemen throughout the day and night.

Unable to Respond — Staten Island called upon New Jersey for assistance also, but the state was unable to respond because of its own fires. And New York City sent two fireboats to Bayonne, N.J., to battle flames in a waterfront plastics factory.

Meantime, firemen in Brooklyn fought a plant fire in which exploding oxygen tanks and wind gusts rocketed the flames to every structure in a two-block area. The plant and 10 other buildings burned down.

Maryland authorities reported that forest and brush fires were burning in all 23 counties except Allegany and Garrett. Near the Friendship International Airport, about 10 miles south of Baltimore, 15 fires were reported.

Government In Jordan Collapses

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Prime Minister Samir Rifai resigned Saturday night in the midst of violent popular demonstrations demanding that Jordan join the budding union of Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

King Hussein accepted the resignation and asked Rifai to continue in office on a caretaker basis until a new government is formed.

The fall of Rifai's government was sealed in a parliamentary debate in which 32 members in the 80-seat body rose and attacked his policies. Most of those opposing Rifai spoke in favor of Jordan's joining the proposed expanded version of President Gamal Abdel Nasser's United Arab Republic.

King Hussein named Rifai's government less than a month ago in a move seen as making Jordan more favorably disposed toward the currents of Arab unity sweeping out of the Cairo talks of Egypt, Syria and Iraq. But speaker after speaker declared Rifai's government was ill equipped to deal with the problems of Arab unity.

Troops ringed the Parliament Building during the debate. The government had called out desert troops and police earlier in the day and ordered an emergency curfew in Jerusalem to quell the pro-Nasser demonstrations.

Rifai told Parliament Israel was massing troops at the frontier line in the Jerusalem area, raising Jordanian fears that Israel might try to take advantage of any revolt inside Jordan. However, an Israeli spokesman called the reports of Israeli troops massing wholly unfounded.

Numerous Obstacles — Jordan borders Iraq and Syria, two of the three regions set to make up the new Cairo-led federation expected to come into being sometime this summer. But there are numerous obstacles to Jordan's participation in the new federation under its present government.

Cairo Radio often has exhorted Jordanians to overthrow their monarchy, and Hussein would be expected to be less than warm toward the Iraqi leaders who helped overthrow and kill his cousin, King Faisal II, in 1958.

Sunday Last Circus Day

Final performance of this year's Ken Jensen Optimist Club circus will be today at 2 p.m. at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Tickets for the two-hour show will go on sale at the fairgrounds an hour before the show begins. Adult admission is \$1.50, and high school student admission, \$1. Children 14 and younger will be admitted for 50 cents. There are no reserved seats.

Seven Ponies Electrocuted

Seven Shetland ponies, belonging to the Ken Jensen Circus Company, were electrocuted Saturday evening at the Lane County fairgrounds.

Firemen said the ponies, being used at the Optimist Club-sponsored shows, were chained in puddles of water and chained to a large trailer containing an elephant. The trailer had a 110-volt wire plugged in and it apparently shorted across the metal trailer and grounded through the ponies.

An eighth pony, standing on dry hay, did not die. Firemen answered the call at 7:20 p.m.

King Released After Eight Days

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was released from city jail Saturday, eight days after he was arrested while leading a desegregation march in this racially troubled city.

King and another Negro integration leader, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, were released at 12:30 p.m., about an hour after 18 Negroes were arrested in downtown racial demonstrations.

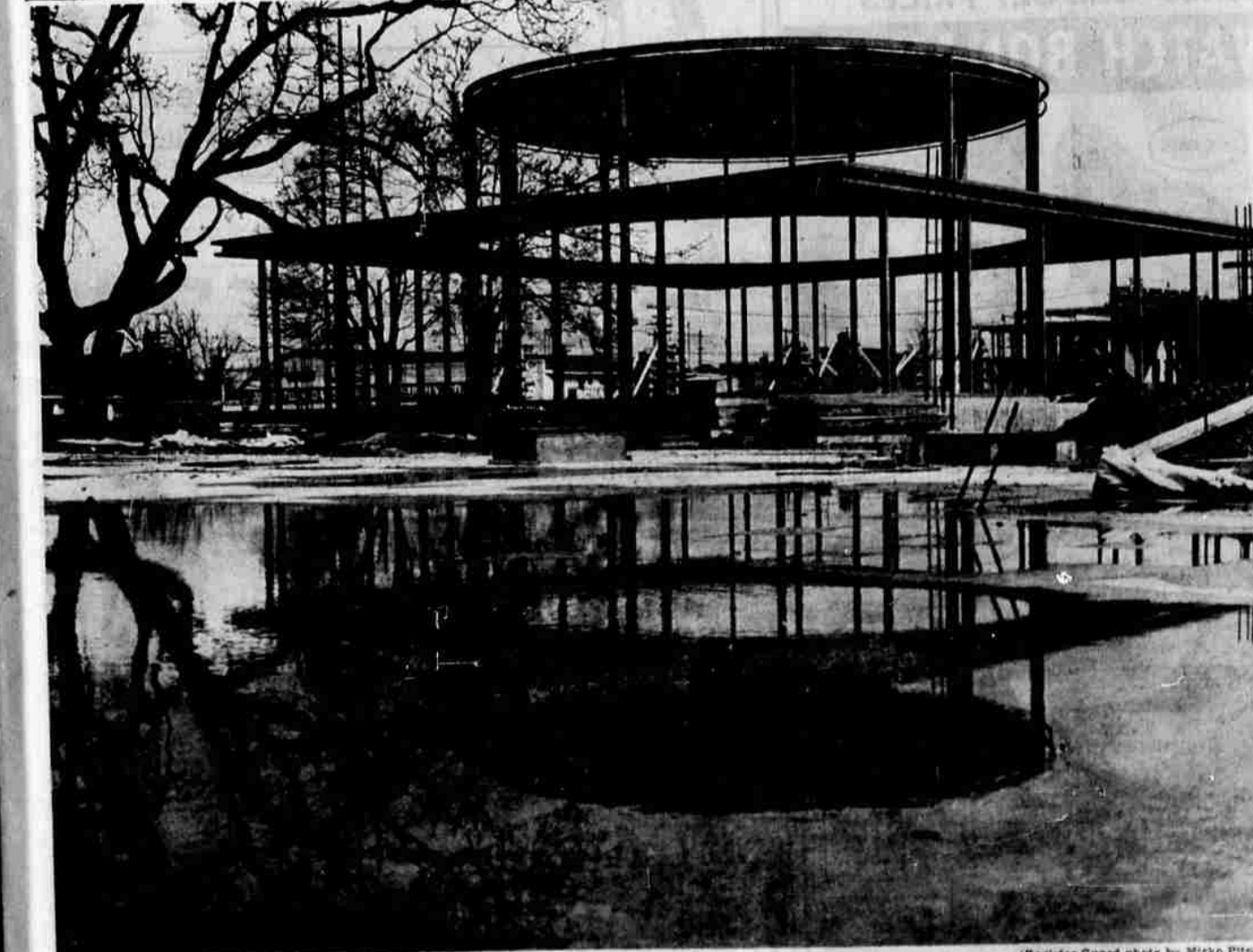
Bethel Water District Vote On Annexation Set Monday

Residents of the Bethel Water District and of the area directly north will vote at two locations Monday on an annexation proposal that would add about three square miles to the district.

Polling places at the Bethel fire station and the Irving fire station will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., according to district board Chairman Kenneth Kohonen.

Proposed for annexation is a largely industrial area which presently depends on wells for its water supply. It includes about a quarter of the Irving Fire District, which would be combined with the Bethel Fire District if annexation is approved.

King and another Negro integration leader, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, were released at 12:30 p.m., about an hour after 18 Negroes were arrested in downtown racial demonstrations.



(Register-Guard photo by Mirko Pittner)

Rain Mirror

Reflections on the Eugene scene these days show steady progress toward completion of the new \$2.4 million city hall, with the circular steel framework of the future council

chambers rising above the tons of concrete going into the major civic project. The building is to be completed early in 1964.