

THE WEATHER

FAIR TONIGHT and tomorrow with little temperature change. Low tonight, 28 to 30; high Sunday, 65 to 67.

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Hottest Battle Of Session Over Big Truck Rates

Harvey Admits Previous Testimony on Hiked Rates Erroneous

By JAMES D. OLSON The battle over the big truck rates—one of the most controversial issues in the present legislative session—was climaxed Friday when A. F. Harvey, of the public utilities commission admitted that previous testimony he had given the committee that the proposed rate schedule would increase the cost to small truckers was erroneous.

Harvey had asserted before the committee Thursday that the rate schedule in House bill 465 would increase the rates of small carriers in some classifications as high as 80 per cent instead of reducing the small truckers' rates as indicated in a schedule submitted by the state highway department.

Reduces Small Truck Fees

At the meeting Friday Harvey said that at the Thursday session he had not been given time enough to complete his statement, which he said would have been the effect of two other highway rates bills, when figured together with H. B. 495, would actually reduce the small truckers' fees. He also admitted that the highway schedule covering the effect of rates on all classes of trucks was substantially correct.

The complete face-about on the part of Harvey, who is in charge of the transportation division of the public utilities commission, virtually silenced the opponents to the bill—Senators Jack Bain, Phil Brady, both of Portland and Russell Gardner of Newport, all democrats, who had

5 Firms to Bid On Courthouse

Five contractors will file bids for the Marion county courthouse construction job.

Pre-qualification statements for the courthouse project were required by state statute. They consist of a financial statement of the contracting company, the number of men available for construction work, type of equipment used by the contractors, etc.

Making such filings were Viesko and Post, Salem; C. M. Corkum Co., Portland; Ross B. Hammond Co., Portland; L. H. Hoffman, Portland; and J. G. Watts Construction Co., Portland and Seattle.

Each of the five contracting firms will submit bids on the courthouse construction project between now and April 27.

The sealed bids will be opened on April 27, and the construction job awarded to the lowest bidder providing the courthouse commission approves that company's pre-qualification statement.

Estimated cost of the structure is \$1,380,000.

Longest Dry Spell in April

April 1951 goes in the weather records with the longest dry spell for the month in the history of weather bureau reports here.

Salem has had no rain for 22 days, the last precipitation being the .06 of an inch measured on March 30. Only comparable period for the spring "drought" was in 1934. On April 2 of that year, .43 was measured, then only a trace was recorded for April 16 and 21, intermittent rain for the remainder of the month coming after that date.

The minimum of 26.4 degrees Saturday morning here, more than five below freezing, is the coldest mark ever recorded here for so late in the spring. In April of 1935, the mercury slid to 24 degrees, but on April 3.

Frost was very noticeable in many sections of the county this morning, with some damage most certain for some tender new crops and fruit trees.

Saturday was another sunny day here with indication the good weather will hold over Sunday.

Weather Details

Maximum yesterday, 61; minimum today, 28.4. Total 24-hour precipitation: 0.7 for month; 9.7 normal; 1.35 excess precipitation; 46.25; normal, 53.18. (Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.)

Senate Votes 2 Years' Probe Of Liquor Board

Interim Committee Also to Study Laws And Enforcement

By PAUL W. HARVEY, JR. The Oregon senate called today for a two-year legislative investigation of the state liquor commission and a study of state liquor laws. The resolution goes to the house.

The investigation would be made by an interim committee of three senators and four representatives, who would report to the 1953 legislature.

The committee would "make a careful and comprehensive study of the laws relating to alcoholic beverages, with special reference to the manner in which they are enforced."

It also would report "upon the relation of crime to the sale and consumption of liquor."

Hilton Sponsors Bill

Sen. Frank H. Hilton, Portland, chairman of the senate alcoholic traffic committee which sponsored the resolution, said he feels a legislative investigation is needed because the recommendations of the Multnomah county grand jury have not been carried out.

That grand jury asked for the firing of Liquor Administrator William H. Hammond; better enforcement; and a paid liquor commission.

No senator spoke against the measure, but these senators voted against it: President Paul Patterson, Hillsboro; Dean H. Walker, Independence; Howard C. Belton, Canby; and Rex Ellis, Pendleton.

Education Act

Members of the committee would be appointed by the presiding officer of each house.

The senate sent to the house a bill to ratify the western states regional compact for higher education.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

Bulgaria to Free Vogeler

Budapest, Hungary, April 21 (AP)—The Hungarian government has agreed to release Robert E. Vogeler, American businessman held in prison here on charges of espionage.

A brief communique from the Hungarian foreign ministry said merely that negotiations between the Hungarian government and the U.S. legation here were successful.

A spokesman for the foreign ministry declined to say whether Vogeler has been released or still is in prison.

Vogeler, now 39, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a Hungarian court on Feb. 21, 1950, after having been arrested in November 1949, on charges of being a spy. He was in Hungary as assistant vice president and central European representative of International Telephone and Telegraph company.

Arrested with him was Edgar Sanders, a Briton with the same firm. Sanders also was accused of spying and got a 13-year sentence. Both confessed in court.

Damaging Frost Hits Northwestern Orchards

(By the Associated Press) Damaging frost hit Pacific northwest fruit regions again last night, but heavy smudging may have saved much of the crop.

The frost struck for the second consecutive night in the Wenatchee-Okanogan area of north-central Washington. It spread to the big "soft fruit" producing areas of Washington's Yakima valley and the Hood River valley of Oregon.

Yakima valley growers, warned by reports of Thursday night's damage in the northern valleys, engaged in a tremendous smudging operation. They rushed to buy old tires, wood, sawdust and fuel oil.

The resulting smoke blanketed the valley until 8:30 a.m. Yakima orchardists said they believed the smudging averted major damage, although the temperature dropped to 21 degrees in the city and 18 in some districts near Yakima.

The Hood River valley was reported hard hit. First reports said pears and cherries were damaged to an uncertain extent. Apples are just blossoming in the Hood River area, and it was not immediately determined whether they suffered damage.

The temperature ranged from 16 to 24 above in the Hood River area. Most orchardists there were



17 Seamen Dead And 22 Missing

New Orleans, April 21 (AP)—Seventeen seamen were known dead and 22 others were missing and presumed dead today in the collision of two tankers that set both ablaze in the Gulf of Mexico 200 miles south of Morgan City, La.

Marine records indicate it is the greatest disaster off the U.S. coast since 84 lives were lost in the collision of an American tanker and freighter off the Atlantic coast on June 6, 1943.

In yesterday's pre-dawn collision during heavy fog, the 10,000-ton Esso Greensboro and the 26,500-ton super tanker Esso Suez crashed, exploded and burst into flames.

Only one man among the 44 man crew of the Esso Suez was killed in the collision but another, unidentified, died of burns. Three other men on the Suez were burned.

All the other dead were aboard the flaming Greensboro, carrying 42 men. The bodies of 15 men from the Greensboro were recovered and five survivors from the Greensboro were picked up.

Four of these nine—two from the Greensboro and two from the Suez—were flown to Corpus Christi, Tex., for medical attention.

Storekeeper LeRoy E. Fay, of Baltimore, Md., a survivor from the Greensboro, said he was lying on his bunk when the ship "exploded."

He was severely burned when flames roared through the port hole.

2,260,000 Executed Taipei, April 21 (AP)—The Free China Reds have executed 2,260,000 persons in mass purges.

MacArthur Pays Visit To Herbert Hoover

New York, April 21 (AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur interrupted his first full day of rest since his return to the United States to visit with former President Herbert Hoover, his "old chief," today.

Accompanied by his aide, Maj. Gen. Courtney Whitney, he went from his 37th floor suite in the Waldorf towers to the one occupied by Mr. Hoover on the 31st for what Whitney said was "just a friendly call."

Gen. MacArthur and Mr. Hoover talked for 20 minutes. Whitney declined to say what they talked about but added that "no politics were discussed."

MacArthur returned to his suite after the meeting.

Mrs. MacArthur remained in their luxurious "Presidential suite," resting from the tumultuous welcome given the famous family by some 7,500,000 New Yorkers yesterday. The couple's 13-year-old son, Arthur, was enjoying himself at his first major league baseball game.

A special committee from Wisconsin announced that the general had accepted an invitation from Milwaukee to receive that city's welcome next Friday.

Otherwise, there was no official word of MacArthur's future activities, although it was reported he would be in Chicago for that city's welcome on Thursday. However, Whitney said it hadn't been decided definitely and wouldn't be until at least tomorrow.

Milwaukee is the general's legal home. Whitney was asked about an offer to the general to become an executive of the Remington-Rand company at a reported salary of \$100,000 a year. Whitney replied emphatically there had been no decision on such future plans.

3 States Flooded By Mississippi

(By the Associated Press) The mighty Mississippi, on a spring rampage in the upper valley area, today threatened serious floods to river towns in three midwest states.

"Old Man River," fed by rains and heavy runoffs, spilled out over midwest lowlands and forced thousands to flee their homes. The Red Cross estimated nearly 3,000 persons have been evacuated in the flood-stricken area.

Other hundreds were threatened with evacuation over the week-end or early next week.

A state of emergency has been declared in some Iowa communities as the big stream's crest inched to near record levels.

There was feverish activity in some of the cities along the river southward from Wisconsin into Iowa and Illinois. Levees were being strengthened. Bulldozers were put into operation in building earthen dikes.

Record of Wake Island Meeting Kept

MacArthur's Aide Denies Story About Truman Conference

New York, April 21 (AP)—An aide to General Douglas MacArthur said today no stenographic notes were taken when the general and President Truman conferred on Wake Island and part of the time the two talked alone.

The statement was made by Maj. Gen. Courtney Whitney when queried about a New York Times story which said administration records showed that at the conference MacArthur was so sure of victory in Korea he offered his best troops for Europe, apologized for embarrassing the president on the Formosa issue and predicted Chinese communists would not enter the conflict.

Whitney's Statement

General Whitney said: "The conference at Wake Island was held in mid-October, over a month before the formal intervention of Red China. The danger of intervention by Red China was inherent in the original decision as General MacArthur has publicly pointed out to give military support to the government of Korea."

"The question was basically a political one, involving decisions made in Peiping and quite beyond the reach of General MacArthur's military field intelligence."

"At the time of the Wake Island conference as far as I know, no one had the slightest idea that such a decision of intervention would be made by Red China."

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

New Board to Curtail Wages

Washington, April 21 (AP)—President Truman today created a new 18-member wage stabilization board with power to recommend settlement of a wide variety of labor management disputes affecting the defense program.

The members are expected to be named in a few days. George W. Taylor, University of Pennsylvania professor of industry, has already agreed to serve as chairman until the board is organized.

The new public will comprise six members each from industry, labor and the public. It will replace a smaller board which broke up two months ago when organized labor withdrew from all defense agencies, charging big business was running the show.

The executive order today followed the recommendation of the national advisory board on mobilization policy. This board has voted for the new agency in a 12 to four decision, with industry members dissenting. Management wants the board restricted to consideration of strictly economic disputes such as those over pay.

The president's order said the new board is empowered to take jurisdiction of any labor dispute not resolved by collective bargaining or by prior full use of the government's machinery.

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Lumber Strike Held Averted

Portland, April 21 (AP)—The lumbermen's industrial relations committee, representing employers of some 15,000 workers in Oregon and Washington, reached a contract agreement yesterday with the CIO International Woodworkers of America.

James A. Fading, union president, said the agreement is the same as reached earlier with three other employer groups and calls for a 12 1/2 cent hourly pay boost, three additional paid holidays and other contract improvements.

An earlier offer from the LIRC was rejected because, Fading said, there were too many strings attached.

The union is still negotiating with the pine operators in the Klamath Falls and Spokane areas. It has no agreement, either with Oregon coast operators, and the Timber Operators association. A meeting with the timber operators is scheduled Tuesday at Aberdeen.

Vatican Organ Again Critical Of MacArthur

Vatican City, April 21 (AP)—L'Osservatore Romano said today "the war against communism" of which Gen. MacArthur spoke before congress cannot be won with ammunition.

Today's criticism of MacArthur—the second since his dismissal—was written by Count Giuseppe Dalla Torre, managing editor of the Vatican newspaper.

Just a week ago, another Osservatore writer described President Truman's dismissal of MacArthur as a "decisive act" that proclaimed a "desire for peace."

"The pagan motto: 'If you wish peace, prepare for war,' may still hold, but to it should be added 'If you wish peace, prepare for peace,'" said Dalla Torre.

Soviet Comment On Mac's Speech

Moscow, April 21 (AP)—The Literary Gazette, in the first Soviet comment on General MacArthur's address to congress, said today the program MacArthur proposes in the Far East is exactly the program being carried out there by President Truman.

On MacArthur's first point—that Formosa must never fall to (communist) domination—the publication asked: "But was the order on the seizure of Formosa, that indivisible part of China, really signed by MacArthur and not by Truman?"

Concerning MacArthur's proposal for intensified economic blockade of communist China, the Literary Gazette commented that it was Mr. Truman who demanded extension of the blockade to Hong Kong and, at the beginning of this year, proposed economic sanctions against China.

On MacArthur's proposal for naval blockade of the Chinese mainland, the publication asked whether American navy vessels were moving along Chinese shores without the knowledge of the president.

Truman Cruises Over Week-end

Washington, April 21 (AP)—A drawbridge added itself last night to the republicans, southern democrats, General MacArthur and boogie baseball fans disturbing the even tenor of Mr. Truman's presidential life.

Mr. Truman set out at 8:30 p.m. (EST) for a quiet week-end cruise in his yacht Williamsburg.

The president boarded the Williamsburg at the naval gun factory in Washington on the Anacostia river, tributary to the Potomac. The Williamsburg headed down the Anacostia.

The South Capitol street drawbridge started to open for the presidential yacht. Partly up, it stuck.

The Williamsburg and the president turned back to the naval gun factory and didn't get into the Potomac until two hours later, when workmen got the recalcitrant bridge to work.

39 Nations Sign Pact Cutting World Tariffs

Torquay, Eng., April 21 (AP)—Thirty-nine nations today signed agreement to the principle of lowering world trade barriers and cutting international tariffs. They successfully completed numerous agreements with each other under these principles.

The signing ceremony ended seven months of negotiations in the third international conference on world trade since the end of the war. Although details of the numerous agreements were between the various countries remained a secret, an official announcement said a "substantial list of concessions" was made. Each country may make public the details of its agreement after May 9.

The United States successfully negotiated new tariff agreements with 17 key nations. Five of these were the first since the war ended. They included western Germany, Austria, South Korea, Peru and Turkey. U.S. accords also were reached with Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

The United States failed to reach agreement with Great Britain and four of the big Commonwealth countries—Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India. Despite secrecy, it was clear this failure was caused by Britain's insistence that her system of preferential tariffs for the Empire remain intact. The system was built up in 1932 as Britain's effort to protect the Empire during the depression.

The United States regards the preferential tariff as a form of trade discrimination and wants every nation to have an even break in selling its goods to Empire countries.

Allied Troops Continue Drive Upon Chorwon

Encounter Heavy Red Resistance but Force Enemy to Flee

Tokyo April 21 (AP)—Allied troops slammed against heavy resistance today in their drive on the Red Korean bastion of Chorwon.

A U.S. eighth army communique said Chinese forces were stubbornly defending hill positions south and southwest of the transport hub. Chorwon is 18 miles north of the border in west central Korea.

Allied artillery overshoot the front and spread explosive death among several large groups of Reds moving south to reinforce or replace battered communist elements north of the Hwachon reservoir.

The big guns killed an estimated 275 Reds in day-long sharpshooting with ponderous missiles.

Reds Flee in Panic Several other Red troop concentrations were spotted fleeing north in panic.

Allied warplanes pounded other Red units north of the reservoir. The planes flew 48 sorties. They met some communist anti-aircraft fire.

Allied troops drove north through the town of Wuchon, at the western end of the reservoir, without meeting a single enemy soldier.

The allies straightened their line from Hwachon due west. They made substantial gains against almost no opposition.

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Military Aid For Formosa

Taipei, Formosa, April 21 (AP)—Nationalist China today formally approved appointment of a U.S. military assistance advisory group in Formosa.

The approval was a mere formality. Negotiations have been under way for several months. Foreign Minister George Yeh said the mission—to be known as MAAG—probably will start operating early next month.

It will operate as part of the U.S. embassy under Minister Karl L. Rankin.

Rankin called on Yeh shortly before noon today to make the formal announcement of the mission's appointment. Yeh accepted for Chiang Kai-Shek's government.

The news was received with obvious joy by the public. Newspapers printed extra editions which were bought up as fast as they hit the street.

The move brought new hope and heart to nationalist China. While its purpose ostensibly is to assist in safeguarding Formosa, no one here ignores the possibility that the arms being furnished may be used eventually for an invasion of the communist mainland.

Liquor Board Increases Staff

Portland, April 21 (AP)—The state liquor control commission decided yesterday to seek an increase in its law enforcement staff in the wake of criticism by a Multnomah county grand jury.

The commission instructed Administrator William Hammond to try to get back personnel released two years ago when the commission's budget was cut by the state legislature.

"In view of the added work in enforcement, it seemed not wise to have cut off enforcement personnel and every effort should be made to have them reinstated," Chairman Carl Hogg, Salem, said.

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