

**THE WEATHER**

PARTLY CLOUDY tonight and Friday. Little change in temperature. Lowest tonight near 32 degrees, highest Friday near 62 degrees.

## Claim Truckers Bill Eliminates Competition

Measure Places Floor On Minimum Railroad Rates

**By JAMES D. OLSON**  
Placement of a floor on minimum railroad freight rates, as provided in Senate Bill 319, sponsored by the big truckers, would eliminate competition in higher rates to shippers.

This prediction was made by Both Roy Shields and Frank McCulloch, appearing before the senate utilities and commerce committee in a three-hour hearing.

When the hearing opened Sen. Phil Brady, retired head of the Teamsters' union in Oregon, announced that an amended bill would be introduced bringing both the truckers and water transportation under the terms of the bill. Shortly thereafter Robert Knipe, representing the truck interests, passed out the amended bill.

**Morgan Rejected**  
One of the highlights of the hearing, however, was the repudiation of testimony by Howard Morgan in favor of the bill by M. S. Shrock, who has been a prominent figure in grange activities for 50 years.

Morgan, who purported to represent the Oregon State grange as an economic adviser, declared that the grange favored the bill because it was in the "public interest."  
Shrock declared that he did not agree with Morgan because in the first place the Oregon state grange had taken no stand on the issue but had always favored lower freight rates.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 5)

## Patterson for Security Plan

Gov. Paul L. Patterson endorsed Thursday a plan that would enable the state to join its retirement plan with the federal social security system.  
The plan, which might be adopted by the current Legislature, would increase public employees' benefits at least 50 per cent, and also would decrease the cost to the employees by about 22 per cent.

The governor gave his views to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. It will require much study, he said.  
If the plan is approved, state employees and teachers automatically would come under it. Employees of cities and other local governments would be allowed to come under it on the same terms.

The committee had virtually decided to have a two-year study of the problem, and leave it to the 1955 Legislature.  
But with the new proposal, the committee hopes it can act at this session.

## Jobless Doles To Be Extended

Labor's proposal to extend unemployment insurance to employees of little businesses apparently will go to the senate floor without employer opposition.  
At the first hearing before the senate labor and industries committee on the CIO-AFL bill to extend coverage to businesses with fewer than four employees, the spokesmen for the employers said they wouldn't oppose the extension of the coverages to little businesses.

However, the employers argued strongly against another section of the bill which would increase the employers' payroll taxes 20 per cent.

James T. Marr, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, said the tax increase is needed to keep the unemployment trust fund solvent. The fund totals 74 million dollars, or about the same as two years ago.  
James Cellars, employer representative, answered that the fund is in good shape, and that "this is no time to put more taxes on business. An increased tax would put us at a disadvantage with employers in other states."

**Weather Details**  
Maximum yesterday, 61; minimum today, 38. Total 24-hour precipitation: none for month; 81; normal, 72. Reason for forecast, 31.76; normal, 26.02. River stage, 1 foot. (Report by U.S. Weather Service.)

## Price Controls Lifted on Long List of Products

Major Household Appliances, Bread, Autos Included

**Washington (AP)**—The government Thursday lifted price controls from major household appliances, bread and bakery products, automobiles and laundry services.

Price Chief Joseph H. Freehill estimated that the annual sales volume of items removed from control by the action is 25 billion dollars.

It was the fifth major step in lifting controls since President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union message, called for an end to price curbs by April 30.

These are the major items from which the controls were removed Thursday:

**All Bakery Products**  
All bakery products, including bread, rolls, pies and so forth, estimated to have an annual volume of 3½ billion dollars.

All major household appliances, including home refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges, clothes washers, driers and ironers, and home and farm freezers.

(Concluded on Page 5, Column 4)

## Senate Passes Justices' Bill

The Senate passed 16 to 13 Thursday and sent to the Governor a bill to remove justices of the peace from partisan politics.

The action came after Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, Portland Democrat, took a sip at "threats" by members of the House.

Neuberger, urging passage of the House bill, told the Senate that several representatives appeared before his elections committee Wednesday and "made threats" about what would happen to certain Senate bills if the Senate Elections Committee acted unfavorably on some House proposals.

He said Rep. E. H. Mann, Medford, chairman of the House Elections Committee and author of the justice of the peace bill, made "improper statements."

"There has been a great deal of vindictiveness in the House over sponsorship of some Senate bills," Neuberger said. "I want to give notice that their bills are likely to get the same treatment in the Senate if this continues."

## Strike Holds Up Sailing of Liner

**San Francisco (AP)**—CIO ship radio operators refused to sign on the Matson luxury liner Lurline, scheduled to leave for Honolulu Wednesday, and the vessel was still at her pier Thursday morning.

Some 750 passengers were feted on board Wednesday night as though the ship were at sea. The radio operators, asking a 9.5 per cent wage boost, acted as individuals in refusing to sign the ship's articles. The CIO American Radio Association earlier had said it would not attempt to tie up the Lurline.

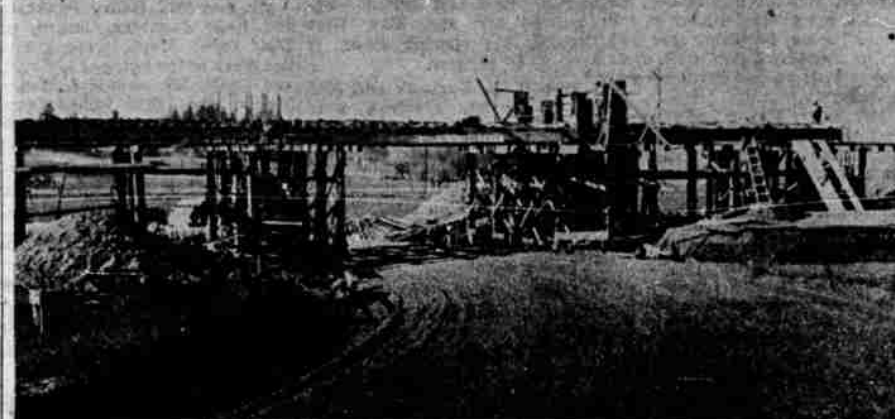
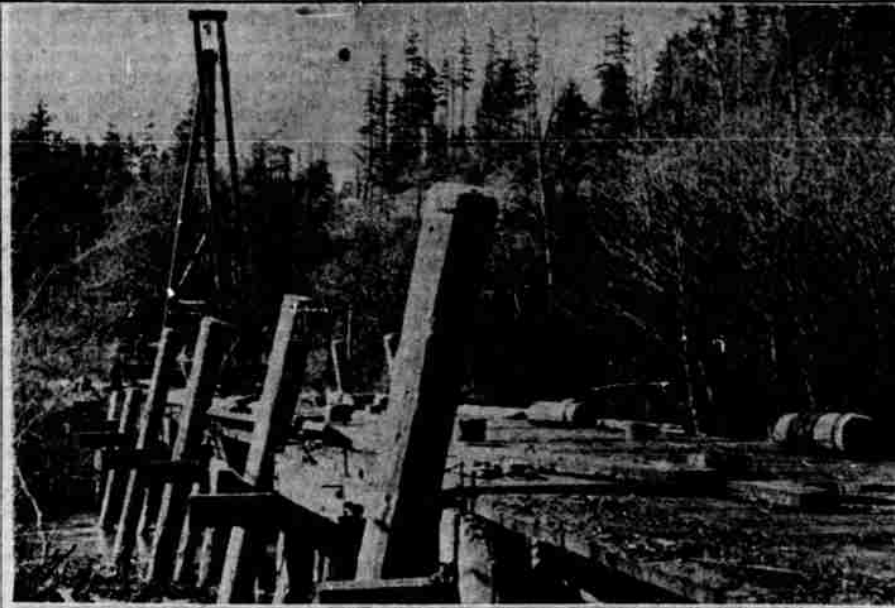
Superior Judge Preston Devine declined to issue a restraining order against the union. He spoke with Matson officials by telephone and met with union officials at his home Wednesday night, but could not arrange a settlement.

## Bonneville Council Gets McKay Statement

**One of Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay's first major statements on power policies was made public today at the Bonneville regional council area meeting being held in the Camellia room at the Senator hotel.**

The council, made up of utility, business, farm and educational leaders, meets quarterly to discuss power needs and problems of the area.

McKay's statement, made in a letter to the Northwest Public Power association, was presented by Gus Norwood, executive secretary, as part of his committee report. The secretary pledged to use the influence and energies of the department to encourage and assist in unifying a 11 possible agencies to achieve a maximum



Spring Weather Favors Road Construction—Top: New Battle Creek road bridge spanning Mill creek immediately west of Turner is a Marion county job 180 feet long and with a 24 foot deck. This bridge will be completed and the road reopened in about 12 days. Lower: One of four overpass structures for the bypass route east of Salem under contract by Tom Lillebo and now progressing over market road 56.

## Orgy of Fiery Destruction Hits N. Korea

**Seoul (AP)**—Allied warplanes unleashed an orgy of fiery destruction over North Korea today. It included a record 1,000-mile round trip fighter-bomber smash within 50 miles of Russia's Siberian border.

The U.S. Fifth Air Force used 18 F84 Thunderjets, flying from bases in South Korea, plastered industrial targets near Chongjin, 140 miles from Vladivostok, in the longest fighter-bomber strike of the war.

Other fighter-bombers pounded communist positions along the quiet, 155-mile battlefield. Thunderjets followed up the Chongjin strike with an attack on a munitions plant near Suncheon, north of Ploongyang North Korean capital.

## Seek Discount On Club Liquor

**Hotel, restaurant and club operators said Wednesday night that bootlegging would be increased unless they get a 15 per cent discount on liquor bought from the State Liquor Commission.**

Testifying before the senate alcohol committee on house-passed liquor by the drink bill that now doesn't provide for a discount, they said bootlegging already has reached alarming proportion in Oregon.

The senate committee gave a special invitation to church and prohibition groups to say what they think of the bill. Several were present, but none talked.  
George Amato, Portland night club operator, pleaded for a 15 per cent discount because liquor by the drink then could be sold more cheaply.

He also criticized the fact that dispensers could have bottle club licenses or liquor by the drink licenses, or both. He advocated a single liquor by the drink license.

**development of the hydroelectric potential of the Northwest.**  
"More specifically," he said, "it is my purpose to: 1. Recognize and sustain the right of the people of the local and state communities to decide whether they prefer distribution of electric power by investor-owned enterprise or by publicly-owned agencies and their right to control, at the state level, the development and regulation of non-federal power generation and distribution."  
"2. Urge that the people of the region utilize their full resources of private and public effort to achieve for themselves a maximum development to the full limit of their capacity."  
(Concluded on Page 5, Column 4)

## Construction Resumed On Public Projects

**Pleasant spring weather has enabled Marion county and state highway construction to be resumed with vigor in this locality. Now a county crew under supervision of Joe Roble is building a new bridge over Mill creek on Battle Creek road and Tom Lillebo, with a crew of eight men, is pushing construction of an overpass for the new bypass route east of Salem that will span market road 56.**

## Churchill Asks Record Budget

**London (AP)**—Prime Minister Churchill Thursday asked the House of Commons to approve a record peacetime defense budget of over 4½ million dollars. This is an increase of more than 12½ percent over the 1952-53 figure. The British expect the United States to cover about one tenth of the total.

The budget calls for spending of £1,636,760,000, \$4,563,728,000 for the year ending March, 1954.

Churchill emphasized that the heavy defense spending was absolutely essential in this "testing time for a free world." But, he added:

"Any further substantial diversion of our resources from civil to military production would gravely imperil our economic foundations and with that our ability to continue the rearmament program."  
He said Britain had strained her economy to the maximum in her rearmament drive.

## Survey Urges Lower Tariffs

**Washington (AP)**—A special White House survey urging sweeping changes in American trade policies strengthened the hand Thursday of a British delegation here for dollar talks with top American officials.

The report, drafted by 13 American business, labor and farm leaders, strongly appealed for lowering of tariffs and other barriers now restricting foreign exports to the U.S.

The recommendations coincided almost exactly with what British and other Allied officials have been hoping this country would do.  
Britain's Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Chancellor of the Exchequer Richard Butler were expected to cite the survey's conclusion as they arranged new meetings with Secretary of State Dulles and other U.S. officials.

**LOT OF GAS IN CANADA**  
Washington (AP)—Some 20 natural gas fields in Western Canada's Peace River country contain reserves exceeding 2½ trillion cubic feet, a geologist told the Federal Power Commission Wednesday.

## Stalin's Life Ebbing Away Report Heart Steadily Fails

### Ike Willing to Meet Stalin's Successor

Attaches Same Conditions He Stipulated Week Ago

**Washington (AP)**—President Eisenhower expressed willingness Thursday to go half way to Moscow to meet whoever succeeds the dying Joseph Stalin in Russia's seat of power. He attached the same conditions he set out a week ago for a possible meeting with Stalin.

In a news conference statement the president said he did not know what might come from the impending shifts in Russia and described the United States' attitude of the moment as very definite watchfulness.

He said this country's basic aim would be, as it has been, to seek progress toward peace.  
(Concluded on Page 5, Column 6)

### Munitions Short Says Van Fleet

**Washington (AP)**—Gen. James A. Van Fleet told senators Thursday there was a "serious shortage of ammunition" the whole time he was in Korea, and Sen. Byrd (D-Va.) promptly called on the Pentagon to punish those responsible for this "criminal inefficiency."

Byrd came out of a closed door session of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he had heard Van Fleet, and fired off a burning letter to Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson.  
Asserting that in 20 years in the Senate he had "never been more shocked" than he was at Van Fleet's testimony Byrd told Wilson:

"General Van Fleet testified this shortage has been continuous since he took command and that almost daily he had reported it officially and through channels."  
Byrd told a reporter Van Fleet testified there was a shortage of all types of ammunition, including hand grenades.

### 60,000 East Germans Flee

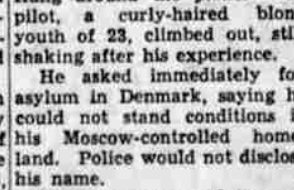
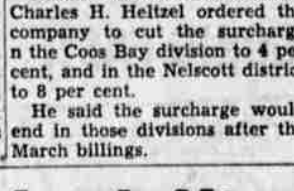
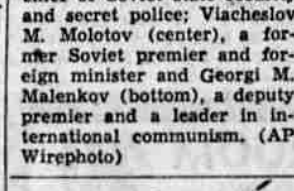
**Berlin (AP)**—Mayor Ernst Reuter said Thursday between 50,000 and 60,000 East Germans are expected to seek asylum in this island city in March and renewed his appeal for international aid.

"Berlin and the federal republic cannot bear the load alone," he told the city assembly. "What Germany needs is international support and not just international sympathy."  
He said negotiations are under way with three allied commercial airlines serving Berlin to fly 1,500 refugees out of West Germany daily to ease the city's burden.

### NAM to Oppose All Controls

**Washington (AP)**—A standby system of wage-price-rent controls would violate President Eisenhower's blueprint for a free economy, the National Association of Manufacturers NAM told Congress Thursday.

Charles R. Sligh Jr., NAM president, said in testimony prepared for the Senate Banking Committee:  
"The association's views on price and wage controls, as well as on the need and desirability of standby controls, parallel those of President Eisenhower—the free enterprise system should be given a free rein."  
The committee is conducting public hearings on a variety of controls measures, including extension of authority for present economic controls which soon expire, as well as proposals for standby powers through which the President could freeze prices, wages and rents in the event of war or economic emergency.



### Red Dictator Still In Coma, State His Physicians

**Moscow (AP)**—Joseph Stalin's heart is faltering, the latest bulletin from his physicians discloses, and the announcement of his death may be only a matter of hours away.

A medical bulletin Thursday night for the first time mentions a failure of the Prime Minister's heart. Previous reports had centered around a brain hemorrhage stroke and disturbances in breathing and blood circulation.

The latest bulletin—the third from the 10 doctors since a stroke felled Stalin in the Kremlin Sunday night—acknowledged that his condition had deteriorated. It called his status "exceedingly grave."

**Third Bulletin**  
It was perhaps noteworthy that this third bulletin was issued only 12 hours after bulletin No. 2. A full 24 hours passed between the first and second bulletins.

This third bulletin was issued at 8:30 p.m., and reported Stalin's condition up to 4 p.m., 5 a.m., (PST). It described signs of heart failure.

"The bulletin read: 'The treatment is at present directed mainly toward combating the irregularities in breathing and blood circulation, in particular of the coronary one.'"

This would mean the circulation of blood through the heart. A leading medical authority said the bulletin meant Stalin soon would be dead, if he was not already so, and said it was in effect a description of fatal heart failure.

**Grows Exceedingly Pale**  
The physician's bulletin described Stalin's blood pressure as having decreased as he grew increasingly pale.  
(Continued on Page 5 Column 4)

### Caution Rules In Washington

**Washington (AP)**—The United States will be supercautious to avoid sudden changes in military policy which might alarm either the Soviets or U.S. allies during any transition in the Russian regime.

This became apparent today as the Pentagon weighed each bit of information about Joseph Stalin and consulted frequently with the State Department.

Potentially dangerous situations were seen if the U.S. military, for any reason, should make major changes in armed force strength or disposition of troops at this time:

If the U.S. should start an abrupt buildup of strength on the belief the danger of war was increasing because of Russia's internal situation, a new and inexperienced regime in Russia might seize upon this as a pretext for launching "preventive" war.

### United Nations Marking Time

**United Nations, N. Y. (AP)**—Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zorubkin said Thursday Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky will fly to Moscow Friday.

United Nations, N. Y. (AP)—United Nations diplomats anxiously pondered today over news of Russia's stricken Prime Minister Stalin. They held little hope that any resulting events in the Kremlin would break the current deadlock in their debate on Korea.

Western delegates wondered if Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky would stay on to argue for his program—doomed in advance to overwhelming defeat. There were unconfirmed rumors that he was trying to get back to Moscow as quickly as possible.

The proposals of the communist bloc were scheduled to be voiced today by Czechoslovakia's Foreign Minister Vaclav David, listed as the first speaker in the Assembly's Political Committee.  
Vishinsky's policies were echoed yesterday by Polish Foreign Minister Stanislaw Skrzyszewski, who made no mention of Stalin's illness.