

Reno Blasts, Blaze Destroy 5 Buildings; 2 Dead, 41 Hurt

Loss Estimated at \$2 Million; 5 Missing

RENO, Nev.—Two persons were killed and 41 injured in a series of explosions and a fire which destroyed five buildings along Sierra Street in mid-Reno yesterday.

Damage was estimated in excess of two million dollars. Five persons were reported missing.

But for a clothing store employee's quick reaction when he smelled gas, said Fire Chief Karl Evans, the death toll "could have been a hundred."

Evans and other officials still sought the cause and place of the leak which freed the propane-air gas into at least three buildings in which it exploded.

The first of the series of blasts occurred at 1:03 p.m., short minutes after an employee in the Paterson men's clothing store reported smelling gas in the basement.

A crew of trouble shooters from the Sierra Pacific Power Co. and a Fire Department rescue squad were rushed to the scene.

Major credit was given to Orville Owen, power company trouble shooter who sensed the danger. He warned all in the Paterson store, then rushed along the street warning people to "get out."

The firemen arrived as the first blast went off. They evacuated those in the Gray Reid department store, Reno's largest, and the Elks Club, both on the east side of Sierra Street.

Neither of those known killed was inside the buildings. Mrs. John DuPrat, about 60, socially prominent wife of a retired grocer, was struck by falling debris.

Reno Blaze at Its Height



RENO, Nev.—Here is a general view of the explosion-caused fire at its height which destroyed five Reno buildings yesterday and damaged eight others in the First and Sierra St. area. (AP Wirephoto)

West Europe Nears Pooled Market Pact

BRUSSELS — Officials of six Western European nations hope to wind up their work on agreements setting up a common market and atomic pool by Feb. 19.

At that target date is reached, Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium said, the treaties probably will be signed March 10.

"Everything is settled, or practically so," said Spaak, the conference chairman.

The six nations are France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. If the project is carried through successfully, it will knock out tariff barriers between the members countries and set up a U.S.-type market of some 160 million persons.

The six also are planning to pool their programs of atomic research and production.

Spaak said final agreement was reached on internal prices for agricultural products, transport prices and the voting strength of a parliamentary assembly to legislate for the new community.

Through With Reds, Italy's Nenni Vows

Socialism Ranks May Unite at Sessions

VENICE — Pietro Nenni came here for his Italian Socialist party congress today declaring he is through playing with the Communists.

Four of international Socialism's top men are sitting in on the weeklong sessions of the Italian party to judge how clean a break

A clean break from the Communist alliance and support of NATO was the price set by Vice Premier Giuseppe Saragat for a reunion of his Social Democrats and Nenni's Socialist party. They split 10 years ago.

A united Socialist party might go into the 1958 national elections as the second strongest in Italy. If it pulled dissidents away from Palmiro Togliatti's recently shamed Communist ranks, and gained some support from left-wingers of the Christian Democratic party, the Socialists might wind up running the government.

The Christian Democrats now head a four-party government coalition with the Social Democrats, Liberals and Republicans. It musters only a thin majority.

3 Unions Face 90-Day Purge, Ouster Orders

AFL-CIO Talks Forced Mergers in Closing Miami Session

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — AFL-CIO leaders today considered steps to force mergers of still-feuding, separate state organizations in a windup of their 10-day winter meetings.

Only 20 states have so far completed merging rival AFL and CIO state organizations.

The parent federation has set a deadline for next December for the remaining states — those most heavily industrialized — and encouraged voluntary amalgamations instead of forced mergers after the deadline.

Determined to Clean House

The powerful AFL-CIO Executive Council neared an end of a busy session which has been marked by an express determination to clean organized labor's ranks of corrupt influences.

Besides adopting strict new rules forbidding shady and dishonest union practices, the council yesterday cracked down on three unions—the Laundry, Distillery and Allied Industrial Workers.

It ordered suspension and eventual expulsion of the unions within 90 days unless they toss out certain officers and adopt decency standards.

Claim Evidence Today

The three unions contend the council acted without evidence to hold them guilty of being "dominated, controlled and substantially influenced by corrupt influences."

MEET THE LEGISLATORS



SEN. LEE V. OHMART

Senator Lee V. Ohmart (R., Marion) is considered one of the best versed legislators on tax matters and has been a member of the interim tax study committee appointed in 1951, 1953 and 1955 and served on senate committee of taxation and assessment in 1955 session.

He is past president of the Oregon Association of Real Estate boards and a short time ago was named vice president of National Association of Real Estate boards.

Sen. Ohmart served in the house in 1951 and 1953 and was elected state senator to serve in 1955 and 1957. For two years he was in the Marion county tax department, four years clerk of the circuit court, two years as acting county clerk and for two years was with Union Title company. In 1944 he joined with Rudy Calaba in the real estate business.

He was born in Salem and attended Salem public schools. He served in the U.S. army in Hawaii, 1932-1934. Sen. Ohmart is married and has a son and daughter in Salem schools. Sen. Ohmart is a director of Salem Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Marion County Tuberculosis and Health association, the Elks, Lions and Methodist church.

Ohmart was slated for speaker during his last term in the house but decided to run for senate where he is recognized as one of the strong men, not alone on taxation but other subjects as well.

SEN. A. J. NATERLIN

Although this is the first time Senator Andrew J. Naterlin (D., Lincoln) has been a member of the legislature, he is no stranger in the legislative halls. In many past sessions he had been on hand working in behalf of various fish bills.

Sen. Naterlin defeated Warren McMinimee, Republican of Tillamook by 121 votes, after the scant majority was confirmed by a recount. He was mayor of Newport for six years and on the city council. He was chosen as first citizen of Newport a few years ago and very active in civic affairs notwithstanding loss of eyesight in 1932.

Long a director of the Central Lincoln PUD, Sen Naterlin managed New England Fish company Yaquina Bay plant after organizing his own Newport Fish Company. He now is in the general insurance business.

Sen. Naterlin was born in Oregon City Sept. 29, 1889, and once taught school. He attended Behrke Walker Business college, University of Oregon and University of Idaho.

He has been president of Newport Chamber of Commerce and is a director of Pacific Northwest Public Power association. The senator was once grand knight and is a past state advocate of Knights of Columbus; is a member of Newport Lions club, Elks and Newport Boosters. For 10 years he was executive secretary of Commercial Fisheries association, was chairman of the famous Crab Festival for four years, and also was president of Lincoln County Cancer association.

Senator Naterlin married Dorothy Schroth and they have a daughter, 16 years old.

House Group Favors Passage of Highway Bonds Issuance Bill

\$8 Million Needed To Carry Plans Beyond '58

By a unanimous vote, the Oregon house committee on highways Tuesday approved a bill authorizing the state highway commission to issue \$8 million of bonds.

The \$8 million bond money, W. C. Williams, state highway engineer told the committee, was needed to meet expenses of the federal highway program after July 1, 1958. Inasmuch as planning for work during the next two years must be made now, a portion of this money is needed immediately.

"We have our highway construction planned to the point of calling for bids on projects up to July 1, 1958, but cannot go beyond that point without further funds."

For Matching Funds

Williams explained that the money would be used largely to meet the matching funds required on primary roads where the state must put up 40 per cent of the cost and the government 60 per cent.

He said that on interstate highways 99 and 30 the state is only required to match 10 per cent of the costs, with the government bearing the 90 per cent.

Members of the committee discussed a bill presented by the traffic division of the highway department regarding the commission power to ban fishing from bridges. Some members of the committee did not like the bill, claiming it was depriving counties of home rule.

But Rep. Ole W. Grobb (D-Deschutes) came up with an idea, that of amending the bill so that fishing would be allowed from certain portions of the bridges, such as piers or sections of the bridges that are not traveled.

Measure Favored

With this amendment inserted, the committee approved the bill with a "do pass" recommendation.

Unit to House 200 Requested For MacLaren

The Board of Control's advisory committee on state training schools recommended Tuesday immediate construction of temporary barracks at MacLaren School for Boys at Woodburn.

It would house 200 younger boys. The committee and James Lamb, school superintendent, also advocated that a second training school for boys be built in a few years, rather than expand the present school.

They suggested that the Board of Control recommend to the Legislature that it submit a measure to the people to build the second school outside Marion County. No state institution can be located outside of Marion County without approval at an election.

Walter Foster, Polk County district attorney and chairman of the advisory committee, said MacLaren School faces an acute emergency because of overcrowding. In order to keep the school population within bounds, boys have to be paroled before they are ready.

The 200-boy unit would cost \$378,000. With it, the school would have a capacity of 825 boys.

One member would be the labor commissioner. The other six, to be appointed by the governor, would include two general contractors, one specialty contractor, one member of the building trades craft, one architect, and one member from other groups in the industry.

Bill Asks Impounding Of Topsy Driver's Car

A measure to authorize a judge to impound the motor vehicle owned by anyone convicted of driving while drunk or under the influence of narcotics was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Sen. Jean Lewis of Portland.

The measure would authorize a judge to impound such a vehicle for not more than 90 days for the first conviction or more than one year for the second or subsequent convictions.

Sen. Lewis said that the suspension of driver's license has not always proved effective in curbing drunken driving. She said several offenders have been found to be driving at a time when their licenses were suspended.

Another Senate measure introduced yesterday, by Sen. Andrew J. Naterlin of Newport, would increase the size of the State Highway Commission from three members to five.

Under terms of the measure, not more than two of the members would be from any one congressional district in Oregon. Under present law, there are three members, not more than one of whom shall be from any one congressional district.

Bill to License Contractors up In Ore. Senate

A bill to license building contractors and to set up standards for building construction was introduced in the Senate Tuesday.

5 Years a Queen

LONDON — Royal guns boomed a salute Wednesday to the fifth anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the British throne.

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2 Private Schools Will Consolidate

PORTLAND — Two long-established private schools—Gable Country Day School and Catlin-Hillsdale—will be consolidated for the start of next fall's term.

The merger, approved by the boards of directors, calls for continued operation, at least next year, at both sites. Catlin school was founded in 1911 and Gable is an outgrowth of the old Portland Academy.

Land Returned

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — The U.S. armed forces Wednesday reported they returned 69,296 acres of land and building area to Japan in 1956. The services still hold 288,737 acres.

Hatfield Backs Lee For Supreme Court

PORTLAND — Appointment of Mrs. Dorothy McCullough Lee, former Portland mayor and now chairman of the federal Subversives Control Board, to the Supreme Court was proposed Tuesday by Secretary of State Mark Hatfield.

He said he had sent a telegram to President Eisenhower suggesting her appointment to the current vacancy on the high court.

Envoy Sees Gronchi

ROME — James D. Zellerbach, new U.S. ambassador to Italy, presented his credentials to President Gronchi Wednesday. The brief ceremony took place in Quirinale Palace, official residence of the Italian president.

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Rites Set Thursday For William Haycox

PORTLAND — Funeral services for William James Haycox, 80, will be held here Thursday, Feb. 6, at his home Sunday.

A resident of this area since 1890, he had been a lumberman and steamboatman and in World War II was in charge of the emergency farm labor office here.

He was the father of the late Ernest Haycox, writer of Western stories.

His widow survives.

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