

# House Gets Pleas for Astoria Bridge, Bonds To Finish Coast Route

## Hearing Aims To Ease Bottleneck

By HECTOR L. FOX  
Associated Press Writer

Traffic "bottlenecks" at both ends of the Oregon coast brought before the Oregon Legislature Wednesday strong support for a bridge across the Columbia River at Astoria and a demand for a \$4.5 million dollar bond issue to improve Highway 101 in Curry County.

There was no opposition to the highway bridge proposal, sponsored by Rep. W. H. Holmstrom (D), Gearhart, at a two-hour hearing of the House Highway Committee.

There was, however, considerable dissent voiced by representatives of coastal county courts and development groups over the condition of Highway 101 between Gold Beach and Brookings.

The Highway 101 delegation unanimously approved drafting a bill calling for the bond issue after hearing State Engineer W. C. Williams tell them why only a small part of the revenue from an \$8 million dollar bond issue now before the Legislature would be available for the coastal road.

The Astoria-Megler bridge plan—a 25-year vision—has been in a planning stage for several years, Williams told the Highway Committee. Several groups in Oregon and Washington shared the cost of a \$150,000 survey to determine feasibility of the project three years ago, he said.

The survey envisioned a two-lane highway bridge 4.3 miles long and costing \$5.5 million dollars. The cost, Williams said, is five times greater than it would have been in the early 1930's, when support first gained impetus.

Losing \$85,000 a Year

Williams said the state is losing \$85,000 a year on its ferries between Astoria and Megler. He said it was impracticable to replace or buy new equipment because of decreasing traffic.

Williams said traffic surveys indicated a bridge would be accommodating one million vehicles by 1968—28 years after completion. He estimated first-year travel at 413,000 vehicles, netting \$770,000 in revenue from tolls.

The engineer said the revenue wouldn't be sufficient to meet the bonded indebtedness for the first several years, and Oregon and Washington probably would have to make up a deficit of about \$500,000 yearly until traffic increased.

The "bottleneck" on Highway 101 caused by rebuilding south of Gold Beach brought an irate delegation to Salem. It besieged Williams and other Highway Department officials with questions on road fund allocations, construction delays, bonding, and federal aid.

**Will Take 6 Years**

Williams told the delegations it took six years to build the Portland-Dallas Highway, and it would take as long to rebuild the Gold Beach-Brookings section if the state had funds to do the work without interruption.

The engineer reminded the delegation that Highway 101 is not an interstate road and only some of the federal road funds the state receives can be used on it.

Williams said the state's highway bond indebtedness now is \$7 million dollars. The Highway Commission is asking the Legislature to approve another \$1 million dollar bond issue so that it can participate in the federal aid highway program with matching funds for construction in Oregon for the next 2½ years.

## MEET THE LEGISLATORS



REP. EDDIE AHRENS

Popular Eddie Ahrens is back in the House this session after serving in 1955 as one of the four Marion county judges. He has the dubious honor of being the first member to vote, but the experience gained in that role last session will aid him in this.

Rep. Ahrens is a farmer and sheep breeder who with his brother operate the Ahrens Farms near Turner. They breed registered Romney and Suffolk sheep and grow seed crops.

He is past president of the American Romney Breeders, the Oregon Sheep Breeders, Pacific and Oregon Livestock association, and was county fair board chairman for some years. He also has been chairman of Turner lamb show and is regional director for Oregon Farm Bureau and director of Farmers Union cooperative.

Rep. Ahrens was born June 13, 1889 in Wayne, Neb., and came to Oregon in 1910. He is a graduate of Salem High school. He is a Mason and Lutheran church member. His hobby has been rearing and training of sheep dogs.

He has served effectively on agriculture and livestock committees. On bills dealing with agriculture, his advice is often sought by other members.



REP. EDWIN BENEDICT

Rep. Edwin E. Benedict, (D), Portland, is one of three Democrats elected to Oregon House from the East Multnomah county sub-district. He operates a nursery in southeast Portland under firm name of Ederia Gardens which specializes in growing dahlias.

Rep. Benedict has long record in union labor. He was director of organization of International Ladies Garment Workers union in Los Angeles; represented IWA-CIO on manpower problems 1943-44; served on advisory body of the War Production Board and was on 12th regional War Labor Board.

He has worked in logging, sawmills and hardwood plants in Oregon and Washington and has lived variously at Tacoma, Seattle, Long Beach, Calif., Swishmore and Coos Bay. He lived in Portland 1942-46 and returned again in 1952.

Rep. Benedict was born in Winlock, Wash., September 14, 1908. He attended Western Washington College of Education and the University of Washington. He is a member of Dell's court community club, has been precinct committeeman for Democrats and held other party committee jobs. He is a member of the State Board of Oregon Farmers Union.

# U.S. Commies 'Break Away' From Kremlin

## Leadership Taken Over By 11-Man Team in 'Titoist' Move

By JAMES DEVLIN  
NEW YORK (AP)—The American Communist party, declaring itself no longer a Moscow satellite, set out on an independent course today with a "team" leadership.

The terms of William Z. Foster, national chairman, and Eugene Dennis, general secretary, expired automatically during the convention concluded yesterday.

The convention overwhelmingly approved a recommendation submitted by Dennis that the party leadership for the foreseeable future be taken over by a "team" of an 11-member "national administrative committee."

The party avowedly broke with the strict Kremlin line by adopting a resolution declaring that henceforth it would do its own interpreting of Marxist-Leninist principles.

Max Weiss, the party's national education chairman, who submitted the resolution, said it was an "explicit declaration of the independent and equal status of our party in relation to the world Communist movement."

This was a step akin to "Titoism" although the American Communists did not use the term.

The 298 delegates at the convention approved the resolution overwhelmingly. A spokesman said 12 or 15 voted against it in the show of hands and that about 5 did not vote.

The convention, meanwhile, decided that its general governing body, the national committee, henceforth would have 60 members instead of 13.

It elected 20 committee members at large, with the other 40 to be elected regionally at state conventions by March 31, if possible.

The 20 elected at-large delegates then selected 11 of their number to serve as the national administrative committee.

They are Foster, Dennis, John Gates, George Blake Charney, Benjamin Davis, Earl Durham, Fred Fine, James E. Jackson, Charles Loman, Sidney Stein and Doxey Wilkerson.

All reside in New York. They were chosen largely because this would permit them to meet on short notice. The convention stipulated, however, that all 20 at-large delegates be consulted on any major policy decision.

# Truman Steps Up to Speak at Dinner



MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—Harry S. Truman, former president, steps up to the microphone to speak on the Middle East situation at the Combined Jewish Appeal dinner here tonight. At left is Carl Weinkle, dinner chairman, and at right is Col. Jacob M. Arvey of Chicago, who introduced Truman. (AP Wirephoto)

# Strong Defense More Important Than Balanced Budget—Truman

By MERCER BAILEY  
MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A strong defense is more important to this country than a balanced budget, Harry S. Truman said last night.

Combined with a foreign policy which insists on justice and freedom for all nations, this strength ultimately will bring world peace, the former President said.

Expressing distrust of Russian promises of friendship, Truman said an adequate defense will cost heavily, "but it is the price of freedom."

Although he made no concrete proposals, he told a combined

Jewish Appeal fund-raising dinner that the unrest in the Middle East can be eased. He said it is the duty of this nation to see that the Israel-Arab disputes are settled peacefully.

"And I hope that our policy will be as firm on this point as it is possible to be," he added.

"We should keep our defenses up until we have more from the Russians than smiles and kind words and promises of friendship."

He departed from his prepared text at this point and said, "When you make agreements with Russia you must have the strength to enforce them."

Truman warned against "political budget cutters" and "people who belittle the dangers to the security of the free world and use the smiles of the Russians to justify slashing our defense."

Earlier, at a brief news conference, Truman described President Eisenhower's domestic policy as "the usual Republican line of helping those who don't need help and letting the rest of us take care of ourselves as best we can."

Artist Norman Rockwell has a pair of trifolious glasses. Reading portions are for his palette, intermediate for his canvas and distance portions for his model.

# GOP Busies Itself With Own Hassles In Lincoln Dinners

## Demos Come Out Only Scratched From Barbs

By JACK BELL  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats came off today with only a few political scratches from Republicans who busied themselves discussing their own party's differences in annual Lincoln Day feasts.

Traditionally, the observance of Lincoln's Birthday has been a time for GOP speakers to lambast the opposition party. Instead, some of the GOP's top leaders spent yesterday discussing President Eisenhower's program of "modern Republicanism."

With the air of giving assurance to party conservatives, National Chairman Meade Alcorn said he and Eisenhower are only "modernizing the superstructure" of the GOP.

"We aren't changing the fundamental beliefs that were enunciated in Lincoln's day and continue to live today," Alcorn told a Pittsburgh audience.

Not to let the Democrats go unscathed, Alcorn said they were "visionless victims of the past... barren of new ideas."

At Cincinnati, Chairman Simpson (Pa) of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee said that "irrespective of any new labels placed on Republican party activities I have been unable to detect anything that is wrong with the Republicanism of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft."

Taft was defeated by Eisenhower for the GOP nomination in 1952 but remains a symbol for the party's conservatives. Cincinnati was Taft's home town.

"No one needs to go searching in the political underbrush for a new label for the GOP," Simpson declared. "What we need is an all-out effort to elect a Republican Congress in 1958 that will return control of the nation's progress to the men and women who laid down their political lives in an effort to keep the nation from bankruptcy, socialism and war."

"The modern Republicanism in which I believe is the Republicanism of Lincoln and Taft."

The contention that Eisenhower's

proposed \$71,800,000,000 budget was heading the nation toward "bankruptcy" was one of the themes at a meeting of party conservatives in Chicago last Saturday. Senators McCarthy (R-Wis.) and Jenner (R-Ind) were among the principal speakers.

Daniel J. Riesner, president of the National Republican Club of New York City, had a reply for this group.

Addressing a Lincoln Day dinner in New York, he said "We disagree most emphatically" with conservatives he said were "critical of certain key policies of this administration and leveled an attack at the proponents of modern Republicanism, contrasting it unfavorably with the principles of so-called real Republicanism."

**Imprison U. S. Spies**

BERLIN (AP)—The East German press said Wednesday three German men at Dresden have been sentenced on charges of conducting espionage for the United States. Sentences ranged from 5 to 10 years. The trio was accused of recruiting potential spies in Berlin.

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# Baptism Row Fatal to Five

JALAPA, Mexico (AP)—An argument over the name of a first-born son led to a baptism-day brawl fatal to five persons. Seven others were injured.

Reports reaching here today from Ayahuahualco said Salvador Perez and his wife Rosa could not agree on a name for their son. Salvador set a date for the baptism and invited two godparents. Rosa also named two godparents who agreed to back her choice of a name.

Disagreement during the ceremony turned into an open fight. Two friends of Rosa and two friends of Salvador and his brother were killed.

# Dollar Company Buys Ply Co-op

PORTLAND (AP)—The Robert Dollar Lumber Co. of Glendale has bought the Multnomah Plywood Corp.'s southern Oregon veneer plant at Glendale, the Portland firm announced Tuesday.

But officials of Multnomah, a cooperative, said some 50 million board feet of timber it owns in the Glendale area were not included in the deal. They announced plans to increase production of veneer at their Portland plant.

The land surface of the earth is about 52,500,000 square miles.

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# Demos Won't Charter Plane

PORTLAND (AP)—About 30 Oregon Democrats will attend the Democratic national committee meeting in San Francisco next weekend, but not in the chartered plane they had hoped for.

C. Girard Davidson, Democratic national committeeman for Oregon, said scheduling difficulties made it impracticable to charter the plane.

Davidson said Gov. Robert D. Holmes and other new Democratic governors will be honored at the conference.

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Comfort	Torsion-Air suspension	Yes	No	No
	Legroom, front (in.)	45.9	44.7	43.2
	Legroom, rear (in.)	41.5	39.8	40.7
	Hiproom, front (in.)	63.0	62.1	60.0
	Hiproom, rear (in.)	62.7	63.0	60.1
Safety	Gross weight (4-door sedan)	3475	3279	3452
	Total-Contact Brakes	Yes	No	No
	Brake lining area (sq. in.)	184	157	180
	Front wheel brake cylinders	4	2	2
	Styling	Flight-Sweep Styling	Yes	No
Double-header lights		Yes	No	No
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