

House Turns Down Urban Renewal Bill

By PAUL W. HARVEY, JR., Associated Press Writer

Legislation to give cities broad authority to carry on urban redevelopment projects went down to defeat Tuesday in Oregon's House of Representatives.

The vote was 42-17, with opponents objecting to the unlimited power it would give to issue bonds and undermine zoning standards. The bill would have extended the cities' power to do away with blighted areas to 10 miles out of town.

The Senate Labor and Industries Committee, obeying instructions from the Senate, voted to provide separate three-member commissions to administer the unemployment compensation and industrial accident laws. The same commission now runs both agencies.

Vote Controls Shift Rejected By Committee

The House Elections Committee voted Tuesday night to permit the secretary of state to continue to supervise elections.

The committee turned down proposals that the supervision be placed in the hands of an independent officer who would be appointed by the governor or the Board of Control.

The action came during a review of the 160-page election reform bill.

Another action of the committee was to accept amendments by the county clerks that would remove a provision that the secretary of state would have power to make rules and regulations that would be binding upon the county clerks.

However, these amendments permit the secretary of state to issue instructions to the county clerks.

The committee also deleted from the bill a section which would create a state board of elections, consisting of the governor, treasurer, attorney general and labor commissioner. This board would handle appeals from decisions of the secretary of state.

By this action, the committee decided to permit appeals to the circuit courts.

The committee also deleted a provision that county clerks must mail sample ballots to every voter. Instead, the committee decided that the sample ballots should be advertised in newspapers.

The bill was prepared by an interim committee which studied the election laws. It represents the first attempt in more than 40 years to give the laws an overhauling.

Quake Rocks Florence

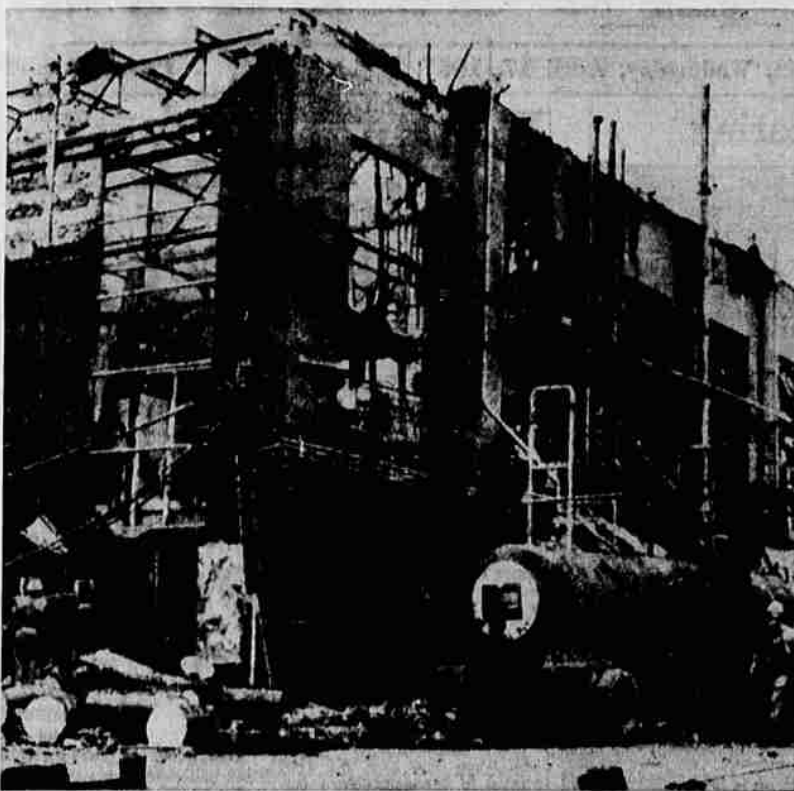
FLORENCE, Italy (AP)—An earthquake rocked the Florence area Wednesday, causing slight damage to some houses in villages around the city. No casualties were reported.

2,000 Marine Bombs Stolen

EL TORO, Calif. (AP)—The FBI says 2,000 miniature aircraft bombs—some "extremely dangerous"—have been stolen from a practice bombing range near the El Toro Marine Corps Air Base.

An all-points bulletin was issued last night warning law officers throughout southern California to be on the alert for the bombs.

Chemical Plant Explosion



CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Five workers were killed and six injured in a terrific explosion Tuesday at the Nitro plant of Monsanto Chemical Co., 15 miles west of Charleston. (AP Wirephoto)

Mother and 2 Children Dead In N.Y. Blast

BINGHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—A mother and her two children were killed Wednesday when an explosion and fire ripped open their home.

The father, Woodrow Matthews, about 40, suffered severe burns and critical injuries from flying fragments from the explosion.

Killed when the blast blew their house apart were Mrs. Ella Matthews, her daughter, Alina, 14, and son, Carl, 10.

Two neighboring houses in the northside residential district were damaged extensively by the early-morning fire.

Police found Matthews, wearing only shorts, under a rear porch of his two-story, frame home.

Dr. Judson Griffin said Matthews, an industrial painter, suffered multiple puncture wounds in the chest and stomach from flying fragments. He said a three-inch piece of wire was removed from his neck. Matthews was burned badly about the legs and neck.

The cause of the explosion was unknown.

Fire Toll Reaches 17

MONTREAL (AP)—Three more bodies have been found in the wreckage of a suburban home for the aged, raising the death toll in Saturday's fire to 17.

Top Teamsters Support Beck, Snub Hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Teamsters Union moves to delay or talk their way out of a showdown on AFL-CIO corruption charges.

Staff members conversant with the state game code pointed out today that Norton's appointment by Gov. Robert Holmes Tuesday was probably illegal because of a requirement for wide geographical representation on the commission.

The code requires two members to be appointed from east of the Cascades and two from west of the divide, with a fifth serving the state at large.

Norton was appointed to succeed the late Elmer H. Balsiger of Klamath Falls but the appointment gave the bulk of commission seats to western Oregonians.

Other members are J. H. Van Winkle of Oregon City; Don M. Mitchell of Taft, Delbert Gildersleeve of Baker, and Kenneth Denman of Medford.

Gov. Holmes commented that he would take up the appointment with his legal staff "and if there is anything wrong we will correct it at once."

Norton Appointment To Game Job Illegal

PORTLAND (UP)—Marcus E. Norton of Phoenix may serve a record short term on the Oregon Game Commission.

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Martini Host Collins

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP)—Tom Collins of New Palts was the guest of honor recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Martini. It was a cocktail party.

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Explosion Kills 5 In Chemical Plant

NITRO, W. Va. (AP)—A thunderous explosion at a big chemical plant late Tuesday killed five workers, injured four and turned a three-story building into rubble.

Mushrooming chemical vapors from fire ignited by the blast drifted over this highly industrialized valley, bringing watery eyes and sore throats to scores of residents. No serious effects from the fumes, however, were reported.

Cause of the explosion at the sprawling Monsanto Chemical Co. plant has not been established. Unofficial opinions placed the probable cause on a chlorinator, a sealed vessel containing liquid chlorine.

The Monsanto plant manufactures industrial chemicals in this Kanawha Valley town of 3,500 persons about 15 miles west of Charleston.

Dead were James R. (Jack) Vintoux, 43, Elmer Priddy, Sr., 56, Joseph Johnson, 38, Manford Qualls, 34, and Lucy Gilbert, 47, all of whom lived nearby.

Three of the 12 men in the building escaped without injury.

Big 3 Protest Military Drill In East Berlin

BONN, Germany (AP)—The Western Big Three today protested to Russia against "provocative" military activities in the Soviet sector of Berlin.

They said maneuvers by several thousand armed factory workers in East Berlin last Saturday were of a "dangerous nature" and constituted an infringement of the four-power status of Berlin.

In similar letters to Georgi M. Pushkin, Soviet ambassador to East Germany, the Bonn ambassadors of United States, France and Britain said they did not regard the maneuvers "as necessary for the maintenance of public order."

They added: "There can be no justification for such provocative measures, especially in a city with the four-power status of Berlin."

In Berlin, still occupied by the victor nations of World War II, postwar antimilitarism regulations still apply.

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