

Some Relief In Sight For Shivering Pacific Northwest Region

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

United Press—Full Lease Wire

44th Year

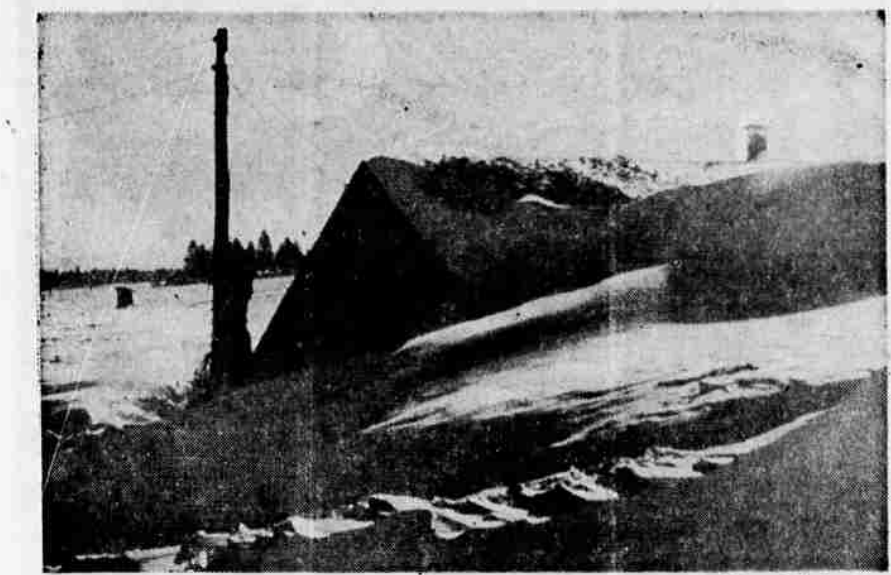
18 Pages

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1950

United Press—Full Lease Wire

J. 265

COAL PARLEY BREAKS UP



YEAR OF THE BIG SNOW—Drifting snow almost engulfs a house and creates a Sahara like scene on the outskirts of Portland, Ore., after a frigid wind whipped the area. Drifting snow blocked over 300 miles of roads in and about Portland.

Russian Submarines Believed In Pacific

Tokyo, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Russia has 60 to 70 submarines operating at present in the western Pacific, Adm. Forrest P. Sherman, U. S. chief of naval operations, said today, shortly after disclosing the United States plans to build up its naval strength in that area.

"Russia has 270 to 280 submarines, and about one fourth of them are in the Pacific, we believe," Sherman told a navy press conference.

The Russians recently have been reported building up a Far East submarine fleet, Japanese prisoners of war being repatriated from Soviet areas have placed the number of subs at about 18.

Asked to comment on reports the Russians were shipping parts overland and assembling the subs at Vladivostok, Sherman replied, "It is possible."

Earlier, at a press conference held by all four members of the U. S. joint chiefs of staff, Sherman said the history of two world wars shows the submarine threat is "very real."

U. S. Plans Increase

At this conference, Sherman said the United States planned to increase the number of carriers in the western Pacific to two and to divert a "half dozen" destroyers from the Atlantic.

At present, the carrier Boxer is the only carrier in that area.

Commie 'Flip-Flops' Discussed At Hearing

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Government attorneys dwelt at length on "flip-flops" in the communist party line today in an effort to break down a Catholic priest's testimony that Harry Bridges is a truthful, honest and upright man who never has been a communist.

The Rev. Paul Meinecke, who has a small parish in Eureka, Nev., admitted under cross-examination that he had never discussed "flip-flops" in communist party policy with the CIO longshore leader.

He was questioned at length about the change in communist policy in 1939 when the Soviet-Nazi non-aggression pact was signed and asked if Bridges didn't alter his own beliefs to match the communist policy change.

"It was a pretty big bundle," he replied, "and I can't recall his being for or against these matters."

Portland Clock Change Scheduled April 30

Portland, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Daylight saving time will begin in Portland at 2:01 a.m. April 30 and end at 1:59 a.m. September 24.

The city council made the clock shifting time official yesterday, conforming with time changes in the east to end confusion involving airline, radio and train schedules.

STYLES APPOINTED

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—President Truman today announced the appointment of Paul L. Styles as a member of the national labor relations board.

Oleomargarine Tax Repealer Bill Due For Closing Round

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—The long battle over repealing federal taxes on oleomargarine moved into the next to last round in the house today.

Both houses have passed the repealer, but in slightly different forms. After these differences are ironed out, another vote is necessary to put the measure on the president's desk.

Consent Blocked

Rep. August H. Andresen, (R. Minn.) blocked the usually routine house consent to send the bill to conference. He then asked the rules committee to bottle it up because, he said, it would "help liquidate the dairy industry."

But the rules group, acting at the request of administration leaders, sent it out for action today.

Approval seemed certain, but the dairy state congressmen are expected to use every weapon they have against the proposal.

Telephone Strike Plans Pushed Ahead

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—While government mediators began intensive efforts today to forestall a threatened nationwide telephone strike, union officials pushed ahead with plans for crippling service.

The strike, by 100,000 CIO communication workers, is scheduled for next Wednesday. The union wants shorter hours and higher wages.

Union President Joseph A. Beirne said the strikers will have picket lines at nearly every telephone exchange in the country. He believed the picket lines would keep about 200,000 additional telephone workers from reporting to their jobs.

Federal Mediation Director Cyrus S. Ching met for several hours yesterday with Beirne in what he called a "general discussion" of the dispute.

Governor Asks Early Emergency Board Meet

Salem, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Gov. Douglas McKay today asked for an early meeting of the state emergency board to act on state purchase of a Summer street property that is in the capitol zone.

The property is owned by Robert T. Conner of Portland, who had proposed to build a \$350,000 seven-story apartment building on the site.

Six Military Hospitals to Close; Others Curtailed

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Defense Secretary Louis Johnson has ordered six military hospitals closed down and activities at 10 others curtailed as part of his economy program.

In announcing the order yesterday, Johnson estimated that the move would save about \$25,000,000 annually. The cutback will reduce the number of hospital beds by 8,000 and will permit reassignment of 400 doctors.

Closure Planned

Scheduled to be closed during the next five months are four army and two navy hospitals. They are:

Army—Murphy General hospital, Waltham, Mass.; Valley Forge General hospital, Phoenixville, Pa.; Oliver General hospital, Augusta, Ga.; and Percy Jones General hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.

Navy—Mare Island, Cal., naval hospital and Long Beach, Cal. general hospital.

Hospitals to operate at a reduced scale include Madigan General hospital, Ft. Lewis, Wash., first to be reduced to 850 beds and eventually to 500.

Navy—Portsmouth, N. H. Hampshire naval hospital, to be reduced to 35 beds; Jacksonville Fla., naval hospital to be reduced to 180 beds; Memphis, Tenn., naval hospital to be reduced to 150 beds; Corpus Christi, Tex., naval hospital to be reduced to 100 beds.

Air force—Lowry hospital, Denver, Colo., to be reduced to a dispensary.

Additional Beds

In connection with the closing of the Mare Island hospital the navy was allocated 50 additional beds at the Mare Island shipyard medical facility.

Weak Radio Signal Twice Intercepted By Search Plane

Anchorage, Alaska, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—A "weak but clear keyed radio signal" on the distress frequency was intercepted twice in the same place near the Wrangell mountains by a U. S. air force B-17 radio operator this week, a 10th air force rescue squadron officer reported today.

Officers here said the report was "encouraging and could very well be" from a transport missing in the area since last Thursday with 44 persons aboard.

From Same Place

Both signals "apparently came from some place in the Wrangell mountains south of Snag on the western border of the Yukon Territory," said Capt. Sam Sloan, public information officer at Elmendorf field.

The last position reported by the missing C-54 was over Snag. The pilot of the B-17, 1st Lt. Lloyd Castro, said the first time the signal was intercepted was at 9:30 a.m. (PST) Monday. At that time, Castro was en route to Whitehorse, Y. T., to participate in the two-nation search for the lost transport.

The second time the signal was intercepted was at 5:30 p.m. yesterday while Castro was returning to Elmendorf field here.

Took Beam

"We were in the same position both times we picked up the signals," Castro said, "and each time we took a beam. Monday's and Wednesday's signal appeared to be coming from the Wrangell mountains."

Castro said "both signals were weak but clear and sounded like they were coming from an emergency automatic Gibson girl type transmitter."

Captain Sloan thought the likelihood of the signals coming from a vessel in the Gulf of Alaska was slim "because the signal would have had to clear the Wrangell mountains."

Truman Seeks Vote On FEP Legislation

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—President Truman said today that he has been prodding Speaker Sam Rayburn for weeks to get a house vote on fair employment practices legislation.

Mr. Truman said at his news conference that he has been urging Rayburn for FEPC action regularly every Monday. The president holds White House legislative conferences with congressional leaders each Monday.

The FEPC measure is the most controversial bill in the administration's civil rights program. Southern democratic opponents of the program have succeeded so far in blocking a house vote on the fair employment bill.

Salem Family Escapes Path Of Espee Train

Salem, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Five members of a Salem family scrambled to safety Wednesday night just before their stalled auto was demolished by a south-bound Southern Pacific passenger train at Chemawa crossing five miles north of here.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Van Cleave and their three children were in their car. It slowed down as it approached the rail crossing and the engine stalled as the tires touched the first track.

While Van Cleave was trying to start the car his 11-year-old daughter said: "Daddy, the train's coming."

Mr. and Mrs. Van Cleave kicked open the doors, which stuck for an instant from ice formed on the outside. Lois and Nancy, 8, and Mrs. Van Cleave hurried from the car. Van Cleave snatched 3-year-old Loretta from the car just before the train struck.

Medford's Shivering Groundhog Confused By Cold, Sun and Moon

Medford's groundhog was a shivering and confused little rodent this morning—February 2.

He poked his head through the two inches of icy snow crystals, sniffed the 7-degree air, shuddered briefly and looked around. The sun was just climbing over the slope of Roxy Ann as the groundhog stood up. In the western sky a bright full moon was fading rapidly.

As a rime of frost formed on his whiskers, the groundhog looked to his left and saw a faint moonshadow. He wriggled. Then he looked to his right. There was a strong shadow cast by the sun, climbing into the cloudless sky.

The groundhog snorted. And dove for his burrow.

The old wives say a groundhog's shadow on February 2 means six more weeks of winter. Wonder what two shadows mean?

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Bill Introduced To Protect Tenants In Housing Projects

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Rep. Brooks Hays (D. Ark.) has introduced a bill to protect tenants of government-owned veterans housing projects from eviction under provisions of the Lamm act.

The act, under which most veterans housing projects were built, provides that "all temporary housing shall be removed by Jan. 1, 1951."

Hays said, however, that practically all the projects are now "100 per cent occupied" and added that in many places there is no other housing available into which tenants can move.

Orderly Disposition

He said his bill would provide for "orderly disposition" of such government-owned housing projects to fit in with "new construction and population shifts in a community."

"Congress cannot insist upon any action which would cause these moderate income families to be put into the street without other places to live," he said.

Under his bill, the housing administrator would be permitted to transfer temporary housing units to cities and other local bodies. Permanent housing projects could be transferred to local public housing agencies to meet the needs of low income families.

Royal Dutch Plane Crashes In Flames

Amsterdam, Netherlands, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—A Royal Dutch airlines (KLM) mail freight plane crashed in flames early today in the North Sea. Company officials said it was certain that all seven crew members aboard were killed.

The plane, a twin-engine C-47 Dakota, was on a routine night flight between Amsterdam and London. The crew of five was supplemented by two extra co-pilots being ferried to London for instruction in the landing system at London airport.

Six of those aboard were Dutch and the seventh, a co-pilot, was an Englishman. Among the crew was one woman, Kathleen Lamers, 26-year-old stewardess.

Coldest Spot

Portland, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—The state highway department said today that Seneca, in southern Grant county, recorded a low of 40 degrees below zero this morning and probably was the coldest spot in Oregon.

Operators Accept Truman Proposal For 70-Day Truce

Washington, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Northern and western soft coal operators broke off contract talks with John L. Lewis today, but accepted President Truman's proposal for a 70-day mining truce beginning Monday.

There will be no truce, however, unless Lewis also accepts. If he doesn't, Mr. Truman apparently will be forced to seek a Taft-Hartley 80-day injunction. Has Until Saturday

Lewis has until 5 p.m. (EST), Saturday to reply to Mr. Truman's proposal that "normal production"—a five-day week—be resumed Monday for 70 days while a special presidential board studies the dispute and makes recommendations.

Lewis gave no hint of his next move. But he angrily accused the mine owners of "wrecking" the contract talks in the hope that "the government may move in through the courts and the Taft-Hartley slave law to beat the mine workers to a condition of servility."

The operators walked out on Lewis less than an hour after Mr. Truman told a news conference he would invoke the Taft-Hartley law in the coal situation when an emergency develops. But he still didn't say that there is an emergency now.

Each Blames Other

Each side blamed the other for today's breakdown in the new negotiations which began yesterday.

George H. Love, spokesman for the northern and western operators, said the owners broke off negotiations because the union "still clings to its desire to control production and to deprecate how many days mines may work regardless of market demands."

Lewis charged the operators with bad faith bargaining. He said they refused to negotiate unless the union agreed in advance to drop several of its contract demands.

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The president told a news conference that the American delegation to the UN has been urging international control of atomic weapons almost every week. It has been doing so, he said, at his direction.

Without replying directly to the Vandenberg proposal, Mr. Truman said he therefore saw no necessity for notifying the UN.

Vandenberg's proposal has been endorsed by 14 members of the congressional atomic energy committee, including at least five democrats.

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3 Degrees Below Zero Breaks Portland Mark

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Portland had a record-breaking three degrees below zero early today, one degree below Tuesday's mark which tied a 62-year-old temperature set in 1888. The new low was recorded at the Portland airport, official weather bureau station, while the mercury downtown dipped to seven degrees above zero.

Salem, Oregon's capital city, recorded three degrees below, making it the coldest February day there since 1899.

Other below zero temperatures in Oregon included minus 24 at Baker, 20 at The Dalles, 19 at Bend and Ontario, 18 at Pendleton and La Grande and 12 at Burns.

Spokane, Wash., had 19 below and Seattle 9 above.

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Flooded Streams Isolate Towns In West Virginia

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Flooded streams burst their banks today in West Virginia and Kentucky, driving hundreds of families from their homes. Three persons drowned.

Small towns were isolated, their business districts flooded. As the rampaging flood waters covered thousands of acres, property damage began to mount.

Heavy Rains

Heavy rains have fallen for five days. More rain was forecast today.

The business districts of Barboursville and Caltensburg in Kentucky were under water. State police said the rains had caused several mudslides around Middlesboro, Ky., blocking two roads.

The state highway department was trying to get trucks through to Middlesboro to move out families from there and from nearby towns in Campbell county.

Town Isolated

Hamlin, W. Va., was isolated by waters which covered all roads leading into the town. Plans were made to bring in supplies by boat.

A state of emergency was declared in Paintsville, Ky., on the Big Sandy river.

"If the rain doesn't stop soon we'll have the worst flood in our history," Paintsville Mayor John B. Wells Jr. said.

"The water station pumps are under 14 feet of water and we'll have to start rationing water at noon today," he said. The river stood at 35 feet, rising early today. Flood stage was 29 feet.

Portland Doctor Defense Witness

Portland, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Dr. John H. Besson of Portland testified today that he quit the industrial hospital association because he felt he owed greater allegiance to the Multnomah county medical society.

Dr. Besson testified as a defense witness in the federal government's anti-trust suit against eight Oregon doctors, eight medical societies and the Oregon State Medical society.

The Portland doctor said he was called before the Multnomah county medical society board of censors to explain his work with the industrial hospital association, a lay medical group.

"I felt and agreed with the board of censors that my allegiance to the medical society was more important than continuing with the association and I volunteered to sever by connections with them, which I did," Dr. Besson said on direct examination by Philip Marcus, head counsel for the government.

Cold, Ice Choke Off Fishing In Columbia

Astoria, Ore., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—For the second straight year winter cold and ice have choked off the livelihood of thousands of Columbia river fishermen.

Only a handful of boats have attempted to fish since the salmon and steelhead commercial seasons opened last Sunday, and most of these have returned either with frozen nets or nets not laid out. Packers say that fishing will have to wait until the ice is gone from the river.

The Smelt Fishermen's association said that smelt fishermen had been immobilized from Clifton and Puget Sound to Rainier. The smelt are "there"—but the cold has driven them too deep to be reached.

Ohio Printers Out; Union Head Resigns

Lorain, O., Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Printers on the Lorain Journal went on strike today, but without the leadership of their local president who resigned in protest over the walkout.

Frank Rander, president of the International Typographical union, local 409, submitted his resignation today, almost at the time the strike began. In a statement, Rander blamed International Representative E. A. Siming for enforcing the strike "against the wishes of the members under the threat of lifting the charter of the local union."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the paper indicated a 24-page edition would be published to day with a small force of printers.

Road Conditions

State police reported roads over Greenspring and Siskiyou, Reared highway and Sexton mountain were open with pack snow sanded. Cars were having no trouble on either.

Roseburg reported spots of ice as did Grants Pass, according to United Press. Klamath Falls and Keno had bare exposed areas on their roads while Willamette pass reported packed snow sanded.

Los Angeles, Feb. 2.—(U.P.)—Cafe Man Peter Insull reported today that a housebreaker stole his piggy bank containing \$300.

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WEATHER	
FORECAST: Fair and slightly warmer tonight. Cloudy Friday. Occasional gusty south winds this evening.	Temp.
Highest Yesterday	33
Lowest This Morning	3