

20 INJURED IN BLAST

Explosion Wrecks Apartment House; No Known Deaths

Dry Boiler Blows Up; Gas Main Ruptured

Seattle, Wash., Apr. 26—(U.P.) Twenty persons were injured when an explosion wrecked a modernistic, four-story suburban apartment building early today but a search revealed no dead.

Fire Chief William Fitzgerald said the blast resulted when a dry boiler blew up and ruptured a gas main causing it to explode. Two distinct explosions were reported by residents.

Damage Extensive Mrs. Oren Diamond, owner of the apartment house, Linnea court, said damage would exceed \$275,000. She said approximately 100 persons were living in the building.

Police Captain Richard Mahoney said 20 persons were injured. Eight of them were hospitalized. Three were treated at hospitals and released. Nine others were given first aid by ambulance crews.

Mrs. Sylvia Jones, whose apartment was directly over the boiler room, suffered a severed spinal cord. Her husband also was in "unsatisfactory" condition with both legs broken. Their three-year-old daughter, Kathleen, was hospitalized with burns but attendants said her condition was "satisfactory."

Coroner's deputies said no one was known dead.

Search Halted

A search of the ruins was halted for five hours when illuminating gas threatened a second explosion. Later firemen wearing gas masks went into the building to look for possible victims.

The force of the blast blew a wooden door through the brick side of the building. Windows were broken in other dwellings four blocks away.

The rear of the U-shaped 34-unit apartment was buckled. Bed covers flapped in the breeze out of rear rooms, laid bare by the crumbling walls.

Draft Law Extension Will Be Requested

Washington, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—Chairman Carl Vinson of the house armed services committee said today that in view of worsening world conditions he will ask congress to extend the present draft law without change for two years.

The George democratic, a key figure in congressional defenses matters, said he will lay the proposal before his armed services committee next week.

He said the committee's previous plans to let the draft die but continue registration and classification now must be abandoned. The committee never had approved the registration plan formally, but sentiment had been overwhelmingly for it. The present draft law expires June 24. Nobody has been drafted since January, 1949.

Siskiyou County Gets New Prices on Milk

Sacramento, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—New minimum retail prices for milk will go into effect in Siskiyou county May 1, but they won't change the prices already being paid, the state bureau of milk control announced today. The new minimums were 20 cents a quart for milk testing 3.5 to 3.8 per cent butterfat, the most common in the area; 21 cents for 3.8 to 4.2 milk, and 22 cents for milk testing over 4.2 per cent. Prices would be the same in stores or delivered.

Austrian President Quits Because of Health Reasons

Budapest, Hungary, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—Arpad Szakasits, 63, chairman of the communist-dominated workers party, has resigned as president of Hungary because of his health, it was announced today. All morning papers published a government announcement saying that Szakasits' letter of resignation, containing a single sentence, was presented to the speaker of the Hungarian parliament under last Monday's date. The letter mentioned only "reasons of health" as the basis for the president's resignation. The announcement said that Sandor Rónai, minister of foreign trade and member of the politburo of the workers party, will be proposed as Szakasits' successor by the communist-dominated people's front group of parties.



PRESIDENT VIEWS LATEST WAR MACHINES - Secretary of Army Frank Pace (right) presents to President Truman a miniature tank shortly after the President's arrival at Ft. Benning, Ga., to view some of the nation's latest war machines in action.

Committee Votes Cut On Admission Taxes

Washington, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—House tax writer tentatively agreed today to cut movie, theater and sporting events admissions taxes from the present 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

The house ways and means committee, considering President Truman's tax revision program, also reconsidered an earlier decision and tentatively voted to cut the tax on luggage from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

These and all other decisions which the committee has made to date are subject to final approval later. As of the moment, the committee has approved cuts totaling \$375 million, which is about \$385 million more than the cuts recommended by President Truman for the specific items considered.

Committee staff experts said reduction in admission taxes would cost the government \$189 million in revenue.

The president had asked that the admission tax be left unchanged.

The tax the government collects from persons who go to the movies, football games and other such events is one of the largest excise tax producers on the statute books.

The federal government now collects an estimated \$295 million a year from this source. Charity Events Exempt

The committee voted to exempt from admission taxes most events sponsored by non-profit educational and religious organizations. But this would not include college and university football games and other collegiate sports events.

In other tentative decisions today the committee:

1. Cut the rate of tax on matches from two cents per thousand to one cent per thousand.

2. Exempted electric air space heaters from the 10 per cent tax on electrical appliances.

3. Decided to make commodities sold at auction subject to the regular excise taxes except where the auction is conducted by the legal guardians or executors of an estate.

4. Exempted photographic apparatus and films used for business purposes from the excise tax, which the committee has voted to fix at 10 per cent.

Gebhard Indictment Found Faulty by Court

Enterprise, Ore., April 26—(U.P.)—The manslaughter indictment filed here against Allen Gebhard, Medford cabinet worker, was successfully attacked by defense attorneys in court here this week.

Edward C. Kelly, Medford lawyer, who with S. H. Bunleigh, LaGrande, is representing Gebhard, contended that the indictment failed to include a specific allegation of negligence on the part of Gebhard in the elk-hunting accident which resulted in the death of Reed Wade last December.

District Attorney Keith Wilson of Walla Walla county said the indictment will have to be rewritten and resubmitted to the grand jury. Gebhard was slated to go on trial Tuesday, but the hearing has been postponed until the redrawn indictment can be presented.

SMUDGING MODERATE

The temperature dipped to 27 degrees in the coldest spots here last night but County Agent C. B. Cordy said there was probably no additional damage to the valley's fruit crop other than that sustained in some unheated orchards Monday morning. There was moderate general smudging last night.

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Owen Lattimore Witnesses Fail To Attend Hearing

Financial 'Angel' To Testify Friday

Washington, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—Three witnesses in the Owen Lattimore case failed to appear today before a senate subcommittee investigating charges of communism in the state department.

A fourth, Frederick Vanderbilt Field—alleged financial "angel" for pro-communist causes—accepted a subpoena and will testify Friday.

Hearing Cancelled After the scheduled witnesses failed to appear, senators canceled today's scheduled public hearing on Sen. Joseph McCarthy's charges that Lattimore is a communist spy.

Here's how it happened:

1. John J. Huber, who failed to show up last night, despite a subpoena, telephoned his wife at Mt. Vernon, N.Y., reporting that he had "blacked out" in Washington and had returned to New York.

2. Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Joseph C. Duke reported that he had been unable to serve a subpoena on Earl Browder, ex-boss of American communists. The committee wanted to question Browder today.

3. An attorney for Jack Stachel, convicted communist party leader, telephoned the committee that Stachel would be unable to accept a subpoena because he is confined to his home with a heart attack.

Committee Counsel Edward P. Morgan told reporters that members would meet later today to consider what to do about Huber, a former informant who reported on communist party activities.

Huber disappeared from Washington's swank Carlton hotel yesterday. There had been some speculation that he might have been the victim of "four play," Morgan said Huber technically was "in contempt of the senate committee" and that steps might be considered to force his presence.

'Teenicide' Leads To Arrest of Boys

Salem, Ore., Apr. 26—(U.P.)—The kind of reckless driving that has been described as "teenicide" caused the arrest of two 14-year-old boys here Tuesday.

The officer who spotted the youths, gave this graphic description:

"One was driving and the other was in the back seat. The driver opened the door on the right side of the car, climbed on the running board and got into the back seat. At the same time the boy in back opened the left hand back door, walked on the running board to the front door and took over the driving."

"It was a continuous merry-go-round, one change after the other, and all at a speed of about 30 miles an hour."

The officer followed the boys to another street, where they skidded around a corner and almost crashed head-on into an auto operated by an elderly woman.

Suffering Mounts In Flooded Region

Grandforks, N.D., Apr. 26—(U.P.)—Suffering and property damage mounted in the North Dakota-Minnesota flood zone today, and a fresh blanket of snow threatened to prolong the Red river's disastrous rampage.

Flood conditions spread southward through the Midwest. Serious flooding was reported along the Missouri river between Nebraska and Iowa, and minor flood conditions cropped up in Indiana and Illinois.

The number of persons affected by flooding in North Dakota and Minnesota rose to 25,000, the Red Cross reported. About 14,000 were driven from their homes or inconvenienced in North Dakota, and nearly 11,000 in Minnesota.

Hundreds of others were routed or isolated by the Red river in the Canadian province of Manitoba. Damage estimates ran into the millions of dollars.

YOUNG DEMOS TO MEET

Young democrats are invited to meet today at 7:30 p.m. on the mezzanine floor of the Medford hotel for the purpose of reviving their Jackson county organization. The meeting, at which James J. Boyle will act as temporary chairman, is open to all democrats aged 14 to 40 years, according to Boyle, who especially welcomes war veterans.

MEDIATOR DUE

Guy V. Lintner, a mediation officer with the Portland office of the national labor relations board, was expected to arrive in Medford early this afternoon to assist in wage negotiations between two Medford bakeries and members of the Bakers and Confectioners union.



(Acme Telephoto) Mrs. Belva L. Farster, 65, of 41 Rose avenue, apparently took her own life by hanging in the closet of her home yesterday.

Coroner Carlos Morris said in a report that she had been in ill health for many years.

According to a police report the woman was found by her husband, Ord P. Farster, who had been away from the home for a short while. A doctor unsuccessfully applied artificial respiration.

Services Friday

The body was taken to Burns today by the Conger-Morris funeral home for services and interment there Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Farster was born in Coridon, Ind., Feb. 23, 1885, and moved to Medford from Burns last August.

Other survivors are five children, Mrs. Athelda Bradshaw, Stratton, Colo.; Mrs. Thelma Halverson, Medford; Burdette, Burns; Baxter, Medford and Bruce, Hines, Ore.; six grandchildren, and one brother, Curry McMonigle, New Albany, Ill.

Woman Takes Own Life; Had Been Ill

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Air Defense Area Stated in Northwest

Boise, Ida., Apr. 26—(U.P.)—The air force today gave notice that it has activated an air defense area in the northwest under the United States effective May 5, and that pilots failing to follow certain procedures may be intercepted by fighter planes.

H. M. Bray, chief communicator of the Boise civil aeronautics radio station, announced that he had received warning from the CAA's regional office in Seattle that the area would be established.

The northwestern air defense zone will further cloak the huge atomic installation at Hanford with a zone in which U. S. fighter planes may intercept and in an extreme situation force down unidentified aircraft.

Fire Hungry Douks Start Blaze in House

Krestova, B. C., Apr. 26—(U.P.)—Fire hungry Doukhobors spread out today for the first time in the current nude arson raids and set ablaze a large house in nearby Shoreacres.

Shoreacres was the scene of a six weeks radical Sons of Freedom fire and nude demonstrations in 1947 when half of it was destroyed. The town of an estimated 500 Doukhobors is three and a half miles from Krestova. The fire was blamed by police on radicals who were sneaking through a police cordon around Krestova at night.

Fifteen buildings have now been gutted since last Wednesday.

House Committee Approves Millions In Defense Funds

Money To Be Used For More Warplanes

Washington, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—The house appropriations committee today approved \$350 million in extra defense funds to be used mainly for buying more warplanes.

The committee acted barely two hours after Defense Secretary Louis Johnson told subcommittee members that the extra money is necessary at this critical world period.

Johnson also warned that the world situation will require additional defense spending in future years.

Didn't Get All The new money includes \$200 million for air force planes, \$100 million for navy aircraft and \$50 million to convert naval vessels for anti-submarine warfare.

Johnson didn't get immediately all he asked for this morning. Johnson asked for \$553 million. The other \$203 million would have restored a cut previously made in the defense department appropriation by the committee.

Chairman Clarence Cannon said the committee will consider later whether to put back any or all of that amount.

Would Raise Total

The \$350 million addition approved by the committee would raise the defense establishment's total for 12 months starting July 1 to \$14,261,127,300.

Of the new amounts the aircraft procurement funds are in contract authority and the anti-submarine fund is in new cash. Johnson also asked for diversion of \$24 million from other money to build tanks.

Cannon said "it is hoped" that the extra money will be made up by savings elsewhere.

Two Additional Recall Petitions Filed Here

Two additional recall petitions, making six filed so far, have been left at the county clerk's office by the Ashland city recorder as part of the current recall movement directed against Mayor Thomas Williams and Councilman Elmer Sheldon of Ashland.

The recall committee has already filed petitions with 687 valid signatures against the mayor and 694 against the councilman. Only 493 are needed to force a recall election against the two. Approximately 25 signatures may be validated on each of the two papers filed today.

Ashland City Recorder John Austin said yesterday that the two officials now have five days in which to resign, but both men have stated they will stand on the results of the recall election, expected to be called May 19 to coincide with the primary election.

Effort Being Made To Find Man's Body

Grants Pass, Ore., Apr. 26—(U.P.)—An all-out effort to recover the body of Walter Crouse Sr. from the Rogue river will be made tomorrow. Grants Pass Irrigation District Manager Ted Hon said today.

Hon asked all residents who can spare the time to line the banks of the river from Grants Pass to Savage Rapids dam to look for Crouse's body. Crouse was believed drowned in a boating accident April 18.

Hon said the pond above the dam will be lowered to provide downstream flushing which is hoped will bring Crouse's body to the surface.

Bullet-Marked Airplane Wheel Found In Baltic Offers Clue to Missing Plane

Stockholm, Sweden, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—A bullet-marked airplane landing wheel fished up in a Baltic sea salmon net west of Latvia offered American authorities a new clue today to the fate of an American navy Privateer believed shot down by the Russians.

The wheel was described by customs authorities on the Swedish island of Gotland as about a yard in diameter, possibly the size of a tail wheel on the type of plane which disappeared April 8 with its 10-man crew.

The wheel was equipped with a Firestone tire. It bore an English language inspection plate on the shock absorber dated March, 1949.

Maragon Declared Guilty of Lying; Faces Prison Term

Washington, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—A federal court jury today convicted John Maragon on two of three counts of lying to a senate investigating committee.

Maragon, who used to make himself at home in Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn's White House office, was found innocent on the third count.

The jury deliberated one hour and 36 minutes before returning its verdict. Maragon faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment. The penalty for each count is two to 10 years.

No date was set for sentencing. Federal Judge Jennings Bailey immediately committed Maragon to jail after denying a defense request that the 56-year-old defendant be freed on bail.

The jury found Maragon guilty of lying when he told senators investigating "five per centers" that:

1. He had only one bank account—that in a Washington bank in 1945 or 1946.

2. That he had quit his job with the Chicago perfume company when he undertook a mission to Greece for the state department in 1945 and 1946.

He was acquitted of lying when he said that from 1945 to 1949 he negotiated no government business for private firms and received no fees for such business.

The one-time Kansas City bootblack who was described by his attorney as a "peanut vendor among princes," was tried for perjury in connection with testimony he gave at a secret session of the senate "five per center" investigating committee last July 28. The committee was investigating influence-peddlers in Washington—persons who promise to get government contracts for a fee.

Defense Attorney Irvin Goldstein first announced he would file a motion for a new trial within 14 days. Later, however, he said he would submit the motion sooner because Maragon now is in jail.

Officials of CWA division 10, representing 21,000 long line workers, said it has reached agreement "regarding principles involved" but AT&T denied that any settlement had been made.

Negotiations between division 10 officials and the company were to resume in New York this afternoon and a federal mediator said the situation could provide a "basis for agreement" on settling disputes between AT&T and 24 other divisions of the union.

New Negotiations

In the railroad's dispute with the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen, the national railway mediation board will open new negotiations tomorrow at Chicago in an attempt to settle the union's demand for an additional fireman on multiple-unit diesel engines. The firemen had been poised to strike seven railroads today but postponed the walkout at the board's request.

At Detroit, meanwhile, the CIO United Auto Workers strike against Chrysler corporation entered its 14th week and the union asked its 700,000 members to continue a \$1 weekly strike fund contribution "for as long as necessary." Talks for settlement of the strike continued despite a stalemate on issues.

Lockout Charged In Oil Refineries

Denver, Apr. 26—(U.P.)—The Oil Workers International union (CIO) charged today that Texas Oil company officials "locked out" 6,000 workers at refineries in Casper, Wyo., and Port Neches and Port Arthur, Tex., when they attempted to return to work early this morning.

O. A. Knight, Oil Workers president, said the men were requested to return to work in "an effort to achieve more effective bargaining" in the strike of 8,000 refinery workers at five Texas company plants.

The president said he could give no reason for the company action in refusing the men to enter the plants and resume work at the three refineries.

Vehicles Damaged in 3 Separate Accidents

Three collisions in which vehicles were considerably damaged today and yesterday were reported by city police or in accident reports filed with police.

A panel truck operated by Mylo E. Turner, 1817 North Riverside avenue, and a coupe driven by Louis G. Lemire, 10 Laurel street, collided at Ninth street and Central avenue about 9:30 a.m. today.

Trucks driven by Eugene Frazier, route 3, box 218, and Ray E. Turner, 1817 North Riverside avenue, were in a collision yesterday morning at Eighth street and Riverside avenue. Cars operated by James Vernon Landers, 1212 West 10th street, and Lloyd James Christian, 844 West Jackson street, were in a wreck at Main and Fir streets last night.

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