

FIRE DESTROYS PINNACLE PLANT

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Morse Sees War If U.S. Follows Knowland Lead

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—The Congress of Industrial Organizations was to elect officers today in the wake of Sen. Wayne Morse's charge that the United States could be plunged into war by following the lead of Sen. William F. Knowland.

Retail Sales Tax Gets Attention at State Conference

Corvallis—(U.P.)—A retail sales tax came in for a good deal of attention yesterday at opening of the second biennial Oregon state tax conference.

Dr. James K. Hall, professor of economics at University of Washington, told some 120 persons attending the conference here, that Oregon's state government as a picture of "financial desperation" brought on mainly by increasing needs after a period of complacency encouraged by wartime treasury surpluses.

A sales tax was one answer to budgetary deficits, Hall said. He said that while there was some validity to arguments against such a tax, it also had great virtue. He also said that higher state income taxes could be had at the expense of the federal treasury.

C of C Elects New Directors At Meeting

Nine persons who will become members of the board of directors of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce in January were announced today, following completion of the tabulation of votes of the recent chamber election.

Those elected are Eric Allen Jr., N. B. Bender, W. B. Brill, Hugh Coleman, George Flanagan, Ronald Gaudet, Mrs. Bert Pree, John Snider and Frank Van Dyke. All but Bender were named for one-year terms. He will serve a three-year term.

Hold-over members of the board include W. A. Barker, Frank Bash, L. W. Bates, H. D. Christensen, John G. Crawford, J. H. Creager, E. B. DeVoe, Otto Ewaldsen, Everett Faber, Otto Frohnmayer, Mark Goldy, Dwight Houghton, Joe Naumes, John Pletsch and R. B. Thierolf.

Bing Crosby Agrees To Settle Damage Suit

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Three persons hurt in an auto collision with Bing Crosby a year ago won a \$100,000 settlement of their \$1,000,000 damage suit against the crooner today.

(See story on Page 8)

will conclude the CIO's five-day 16th annual Constitutional Convention.

The Oregon independent, who bolted the Republican Party, warned in his blistering attack on the California Republican yesterday that "impatience and impetuous action" could plunge the world into a global hydrogen bomb war.

"Of this we can be sure—and there is no more fitting place to say it than California—hot heads will not thaw out the cold war," he thundered. "If the United States follows the lead of the senior Senator from California (Knowland), we may very well find ourselves in a hot war."

Morse declared it was easy to lose patience and he agreed that the Russians and Chinese Communists have given "ample and repeated provocation," but he cautioned that there was no quick solution for dissolving the iron curtain.

"We must sweat out a long haul," he advised. The Oregon Senator said the cold war probably will last at least two generations and warned the struggle could be lost "if we permit ourselves to become so weak and divided as to invite the Kremlin to gamble upon a military adventure."

Then, turning to the administration, he declared that the cold war could not be won by rattling the atomic bomb one moment and cutting defense expenditures the next.

Warns Humphrey
"Let me say to Treasury Secretary George Humphrey, who is opposing a new economic aid program for Asia, that human life and hope cannot be subordinated to a balance sheet."

The economic programs of President Eisenhower, Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks and Humphrey are devoted to "pulling plums out of the national pie for big business," Morse charged.

He termed the President's Council of Economic Advisers the "silver lining council" and added that with a Democratic 84th Congress it no longer would be a case of "the blind leading the blind."

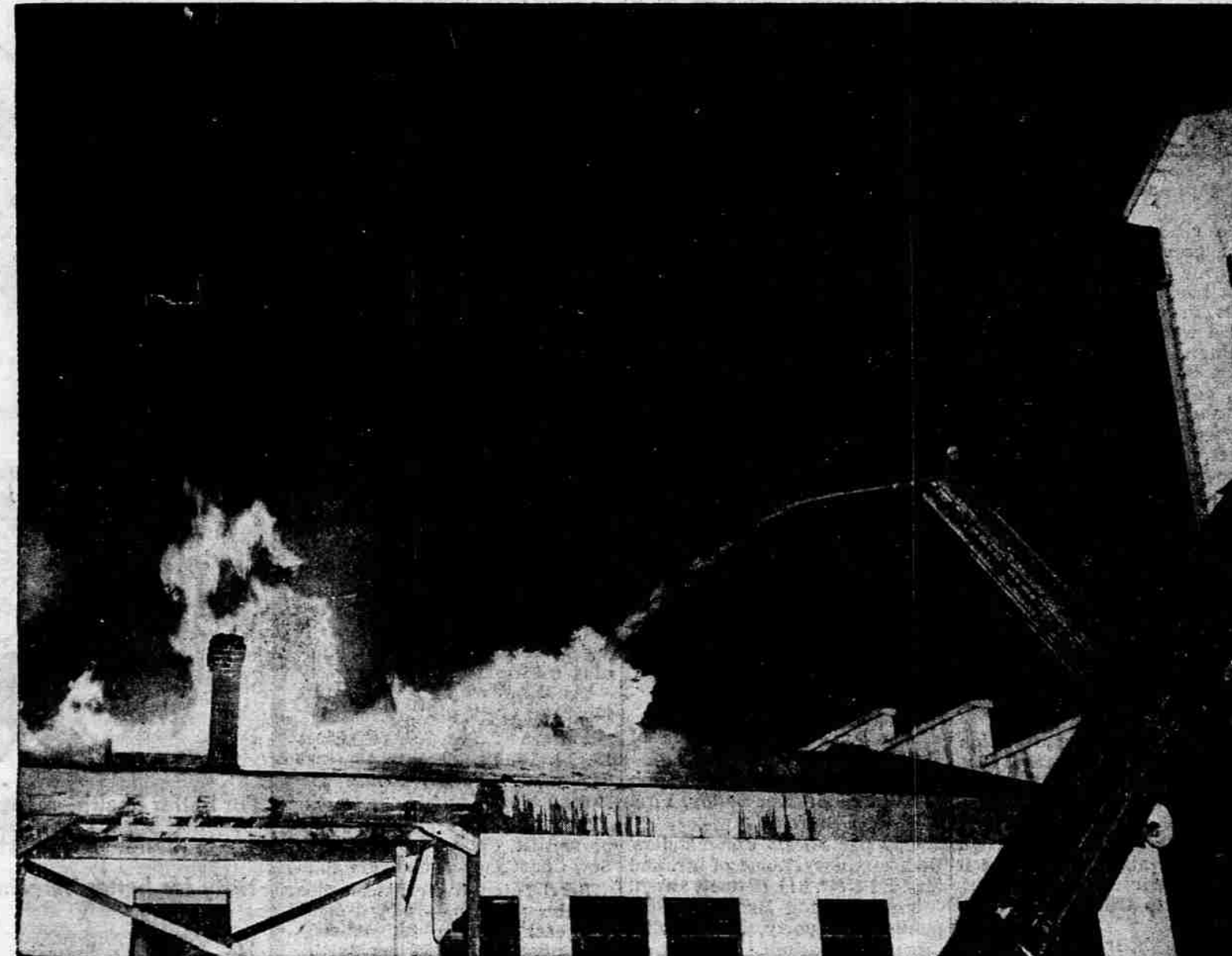
Morse then said it was not too soon to begin laying plans to get such Republican leaders out of office in 1956.

Woman Slashes Arm, Tells of it by Mail

Mary Elizabeth Ward, 86, of 1728 South Peach st., was taken to Community hospital this morning by Perl ambulance for treatment of a deep cut on one arm, according to ambulance attendants. Mrs. Ward lost a considerable amount of blood. Sheriff Howard Gault said.

Gault sent two deputies to Mrs. Ward's home this morning when he received a letter stating "Please send coroner or someone to 1728 S. Peach," the sheriff said. The letter was signed "Mrs. Ward."

Mrs. Ward told the deputies she placed the letter in her mailbox at the front of her house yesterday morning and then slashed her arm, the sheriff stated. He added that she told the deputies she was able to get up this morning and start a fire.



AERIAL LADDER TRUCK IN USE—The Medford fire department's big aerial ladder truck came in handy last night in combatting the fire which destroyed the Pinnacle packing house and office on South Fir st. The view above was taken from north of the building and shows flames bursting through the ceiling of the building, and the flow of water directed down on the fire from the truck's ladder extension. The flames were spread throughout the top floor and basement when firemen arrived. They are credited with confining it to the one building, although others were threatened for a time.

—(Landis-Shangle photo)

Eight Men Appear In Circuit Court; 4 Given Sentences

Eight men appeared in circuit court here this morning, and four of them were sentenced to terms in Oregon state prison. Two others received suspended sentences and the other two cases were continued.

The stiffest sentence went to Frank LeRoy Rector, 38, Columbus, Ohio, who received a four-year term on a charge of uttering and publishing a false check.

For Stabbing Charge
Samuel Gene Bell, 22, Ashland, was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary on a charge of probation. The revocation involved a knife attack on Bell's former wife.

Also receiving a three-year sentence was Clark D. Freeman, 22, Oklahoma City, Okla. Freeman was charged with burglary. William Newton Elhart, 32, Doris, Calif., was sentenced to two years in prison on a sex crime charge.

Donald William Coggins, 19, of 27 Newtown st., and Leo Carl Neal, 19, Walnut Grove, Calif., each received a two-year suspended sentence. Coggins was charged with larceny from a building, and Neal was charged with concealing stolen property.

Waives Indictment
Jesse David Carter, 24, Ashland, appeared in court, where he waived indictment and was given until Wednesday to enter a plea. He is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a 16-year-old Ashland girl.

Floyd Raymond Hanscom, 36, Eagle Point, pleaded guilty to a charge of grand larceny and his case was continued pending receipt of records from the FBI.

Salem—(U.P.)—The Civil Aeronautics Administration said that instrument landing signals have been restored to full operation at Salem's McNary airport.



BLAZE GUTS BUILDING—The photo above shows the south wall of the Pinnacle packing plant during the height of the fire which early this morning destroyed the building. The picture, with firemen in the dark foreground was taken only seconds before the wall collapsed outward, narrowly missing the firemen. Six other firemen escaped from the main part of the building when the fire "blew out," spreading from the attic and basement into the main floor.

—(Landis-Shangle photo)

35 Chinese Refused Return To Homeland

Washington—(U.P.)—The United States has barred 35 Chinese scholars trained in this country from going home to make their skills available to the Chinese Communist regime, American officials reported today.

Officials said the question of allowing the Chinese to leave this country is under "continuous study" by the State, Defense and Justice Departments.

They reported that the 35 are the remainder of some 67 Chinese students who had expressed a desire to return to their homeland. Eighteen have arrived in Red China. Nine more are expected to arrive in Hong Kong within the next few days.

There was some doubt that the list of 35 would shrink much more in the near future because of Red China's high-handed action in sentencing 11 American fliers to long prison terms, and holding other Americans against their will.

The 35 Chinese, who are free to travel throughout this country, approximate the total of 28 American civilians in jail in Red

China and three priests who are under house arrest. Eleven other American civilians have been unable to get permission to leave the China mainland although they are not technically under arrest.

The United States has turned thumbs down on any "deal" with the Reds to swap the remaining Chinese students in this country for the Americans or the unfreezing of about \$130,000,000 in Chinese assets in this country. State Department officials said there is nothing officials to back up the rumors heard here yesterday. But they went out of their way to reject the idea that a swap could be arranged.

Weather

FORECAST: Foggy tonight and Saturday morning. Partly cloudy Saturday afternoon. Little temperature change. Low tonight 28. High Saturday 45.

	Temp.
Highest Yesterday	45
Lowest This Morning	30
Prev. to 4:30 a.m. Today	32

Notice of Appeal To Stay Execution

A notice of appeal for James Norman Jensen, 25, Larkspur, Calif., was filed in circuit court today by Jensen's attorney, Edward Kelly.

The notice is formal certification that Kelly will appeal to the state supreme court the conviction of Jensen on a first degree murder charge. Jensen has been sentenced to die Jan. 7 in the state lethal gas chamber for the April 24 hatchet murder of Mrs. Fern Hill.

The notice of appeal acts as an automatic stay of execution. Jensen was convicted after a 10-day trial in Jackson county circuit court.

Donald Chesley, 19, Coos Bay, second defendant, in the Hill murder case, has been sentenced to life in the state prison on a second degree murder charge.

Cause Unknown; Office, Packing Area Total Loss

Fire swept through the offices and packing plant of Pinnacle Orchard and Packing company at 445 South Fir st. early today. The building and most of its contents appeared to be a total loss.

No dollars and cents estimate of the loss was expected to be available for several days. The packing plant was loaded with Christmas gift box materials, including fancy pears, jams and jellies.

The building was owned by Parsons Warehouse company. Cause of the blaze is unknown.

A total of 42 Medford firemen, including 37 regulars and 5 volunteers, responded to the alarm. Equipment included five pumps, the city's aerial ladder truck, an Ashland truck, and a Central Point city pumper which stood by during the fire.

The blaze was reported at about 1:12 a.m. by a state police officer who lives in the neighborhood. Several other calls came in in short order from a taxi driver and others driving in the area. By the time firemen arrived, the entire basement and attic of the building were enveloped in flames. Fire Chief Gordon Barker said this morning, "It was the only fire I ever saw in which a hot fire was burning in the attic and basement, and not on the main floor."

Apparently Started in Basement
The blaze apparently started in the basement, firemen said, and was carried to the attic by three large air ducts.

Firemen apparently had started to control the first at about 1:45 a.m., when the fire "blew out," and spread quickly throughout the main floor. Six firemen were in the building at the time, and Barker said he was not sure for several minutes that they all got out safely.

When the fire "blew out," flames roared through the roof of the front of the building and spread rapidly. Six other firemen narrowly escaped when a wall of the building toppled into 11th st., seconds after they had moved out of range of the falling bricks and wood. They stepped back after a civilian bystander warned them that the wall was beginning to lean toward the street.

Yeoman work by the fire department, and a concrete partition in the basement and a firewall, prevented the blaze from spreading into the Faber's Farmer Supply company building. All of the valuables, and a small black and white calf, were removed from the Faber building. For some time it appeared certain that the Faber building would burn.

Flames Threaten Conveyor Chain
Flames roared into an enclosed conveyor chain between the Pinnacle plant on Fir st. and the Pinnacle plant No. 4 at 11th and Front sts., and for a time firemen feared that smoke carried across the railroad tracks in the conveyor tunnel might cause it to ignite.

If the fire had been carried across the tracks by the conveyor, it might well have ignited the No. 4 plant, which was gutted by a spectacular fire five or six years ago, firemen said. Hoses were spread across the railroad tracks, and it was necessary to delay a freight train temporarily.

Early during the blaze a power pole burned out, showering the railroad tracks with blue sparks. A two-man California Oregon Power company crew disconnected other wires to prevent live wires from falling to the ground, had the fire spread. Flames roared high into the air during most of the early part of the fire, and smoke and large sparks blew over a wide area. A crowd of more than 100, including women and children in nightgowns and robes, watched firemen battling the blaze.

Still on Scene
Firemen were still on the scene this morning, wetting down bundles of smoking box material and heavy timbers, some of which were charred several inches deep by what firemen called a "terrifically hot fire."

The basement of the building contained about three feet of water this morning. The building was of frame wood interior construction with masonry walls.

The post office was counting on use of the building as a temporary annex for handling Pinnacle's gift package mailing during the Christmas rush. Postmaster Moore Hamilton said this morning. He added, however, that other arrangements are being made and only a brief delay in mailing is expected.

Company officials said this morning that the building was being used chiefly for packing, and most of the firm's finished gift boxes have been stored in another warehouse. They added that if records stored in a safe have not been seriously damaged, they will be able to fill orders about on schedule.

Chief Barker indicated that every effort was made to save the safe by playing a stream of water on it, and he said he hopes its contents will be intact.

Salvation Army Brings Coffee
Salvation Army workers served coffee and doughnuts to firemen during the time they were at the blaze, and representatives of the Red Cross stood by to furnish emergency aid to residents of nearby homes should they catch fire, as appeared possible for a time.

Two other fires this morning kept weary firemen on the jump. Firemen said that Sam Gilbert, manager of Brophy's Jewelers, suffered minor burns on his face in a flashback of a furnace at the store. They reported that an accumulation of coal gas was the apparent cause and they listed no damage. Firemen were called about 9:50 a.m.

Kitchen cabinets, a wall and the ceiling were damaged by fire about 10:10 a.m. at the residence of Mrs. Cora Lee Turner, 828 West 13th st. The blaze spread from behind a tin flue stop, according to firemen. Upper kitchen cabinets were listed as a total loss. There was considerable smoke damage, firemen stated.

Washington's Patrol Chief To Visit Safety Group Here

An organizational meeting of the "Oregon Highway Lifesavers Committee of Jackson County Citizens" will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Jackson hotel, with James A. Pryde, chief of the Washington state patrol as special guest.

Chief Pryde, one of the nation's top experts on traffic safety, will then address the Medford Rotary club, according to Jennings Pierce, president of the Lifesavers committee.

On Monday evening, Chief Pryde will be speaker for the Rogue Valley Knife and Fork club.

Pierce said that the new committee would work closely with such groups as the Medford Safety council in promoting safe driving on the highways and the reduction of traffic accidents.

Bulletin

United Nations, N.Y.—(U.P.)—The U.N. General Assembly voted 45 to 5 today to demand the release of 11 American airmen jailed by Red China on trumped-up spy charges.

Hillsboro Girls' Story of Finding Boy's Name in Bottle Declared Hoax

Hillsboro, Ore.—(U.P.)—A 13-year-old Hillsboro girl's tale of finding a boy's name in a bottle which had floated all the way from West Virginia to Oregon has turned out to be a hoax.

The girl's mother said today her daughter had made up the story as a means of introducing herself to a prospective "pen pal."

to trace ocean currents which might have taken the bottle some 48,000 miles.

The mother said her daughter wanted to find some new pen pals and an aunt who was visiting them at Hillsboro last month gave the girl the name of a friend she had known in West Virginia. The friend was "Sparky" Young of Midway, W. Va. However, the aunt cautioned her niece not to tell where she got the boy's name. So, the girl

made up the bottle story as a means of introduction.

The story got out and caused quite a stir in West Virginia and other parts of the country, especially among the oceanographers. The story was given some credence because Sparky had actually thrown some bottles with his name in them in a river in West Virginia.

"The tale began as an innocent bit of fun," the girl's mother said. "But the joke got out of control."