

Demos May Support Larger Program For Colorado Basin

Washington — (U.P.) — The Democratic House majority in the new Congress may endorse a more generous plan for development of the Upper Colorado River Basin than proposed by Republicans, Rep. Clair Engle, (D-Calif.), said Saturday.

Engle is slated to be chairman of the House Interior Committee which will handle a bill to authorize the Upper Colorado project. It would cost eventually more than \$1,000,000.

Engle voted in committee for an authorization bill earlier this year. He said he doesn't know if the Democrats in Congress will put the Upper Colorado project, which includes controversial Echo Park dam, on their legislative program.

Political Decision

But he said that if the project is included it can hardly call for fewer works than endorsed by the Republican administration earlier this year under what he called a "political decision made in the White House."

"My hunch is that the Democrats will trump their ace if they get in the card game at all," he said.

President Eisenhower this year asked, unsuccessfully, for authorization of two main dams in the big project, Echo Park and Glen Canyon on the Colorado, and for conditional authorization of some eight other dams and 11 "participating" irrigation and other water supply projects.

Additional Dams

The House committee added another dam, Curecanti on the Gunnison river in Colorado, to the administration bill before reporting it to the House. The Senate committee added three more, Flaming Gorge and Cross Mountain in Colorado and Navajo in New Mexico.

The bill for the Senate committee version of the bill would be just under \$1,500,000.

Engle earlier said he is seeking a compromise with Southern California interests who opposed the project. Los Angeles and other Southern California areas draw their major water supply from the Lower Colorado and fear it may be jeopardized by the Upper Basin project.

The congressman refused to predict whether an authorization bill actually will be passed by the new congress. Backers of the project, facing hurdles of both committee and floor votes in both houses.



FINAL INSTRUCTIONS to jury trying Dr. Sam Sheppard for slaying of wife, Marilyn, will be given Cleveland, O., court by Judge Edward Blythin, who presided over trial. (International)

Laughead Part of Strange Cult of Fellow Believers

Chicago — (U.P.) — Dr. Charles Laughead's prophecies of earthquakes, floods and the end of the known world have brought to light a strange cult of fellow believers.

The 44-year-old doctor, ousted from a Michigan State College post because of his dire predictions, is apparently not alone in believing that space creatures in flying saucers are watching us all the time.

Seeks New Job

He is currently living with the high priestess of the cult, a frail suburban housewife, as he searches for a new job.

His hostess, 53-year-old grandmother Mrs. Dorothy Martin, says she receives extra sensory messages from the creatures in outer space.

She said they have told her that Chicago can expect a tidal wave next Tuesday, along with "cataclysmic" events elsewhere in the country. Even worse disasters, including a worldwide flood, are likely for 1955, she said.

A University of Iowa student, Darold Powers, 19, meanwhile revealed that he and others meet every month to discuss Mrs. Martin's messages from the creatures she calls "connoiters."

Other Similar Groups

There are several similar groups elsewhere in the country, Powers said.

Laughead meanwhile stuck to his predictions and found time to attend a meeting of 100 Chicago flying saucer enthusiasts.

"Some sound tapes were run off" he said. "Nobody understood them but it was obvious that an organized attempt at communication with the earth had been captured on the tape."

"Confirmation of the existence of flying saucers and creatures in outer space is constantly coming in," the tall doctor said. "Most people don't recognize the evidence but they'll find out."

Hilton's Condition Said Still Critical

Long Beach, Calif. — (U.P.) — Author James Hilton, 54, remained in critical condition and near death Saturday from an unidentified infection which hospitalized him almost a month ago.

A Seaside Memorial hospital spokesman said the novelist still was in an oxygen tent and in a semi-conscious state. He was hospitalized Nov. 21. Specialists have been unable to determine the exact nature of the infection.

Bad Weather Receives Blame for Fatal Auto Accidents Across US

By UNITED PRESS

Bad weather and slippery roads were blamed Saturday for many fatal automobile accidents, writing a grim close to this week in which the nation observed Safe Driving Day on Wednesday.

Stormy weather over much of the nation caused at least 28 deaths after 6 a.m. Friday, a United Press survey showed.

Eight of the deaths were in Illinois, five in Indiana, three in Texas and Nebraska, two each in Michigan and Iowa, and one each in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, and Ohio.

Dust Causes Crash

Blowing dust was blamed for the death of three high school students whose car crashed into a freight train near Paducah, Tex. Police said the dust apparently obscured their vision.

Light snow and freezing rain made many highways slippery in a belt from Pennsylvania to Oregon.

Four students from Pennsylvania and New York were killed in a single accident at Crisman, Ill., last night when their car skidded into a halted truck.

A similar accident earlier in the day killed four workmen on a slick road in Indiana.

The snow came down through the night on practically all the Midwest, ranging from three to

six inches in northern Illinois and Indiana and most of Iowa.

In New England, a nasty combination of sleet and freezing rain raked Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

Icy Highways

The weather turned Midwest roads into icy runways and was blamed for at least seven highway fatalities.

Near Jasper, Ind., four construction workers were killed when their auto crashed into a truck on a bridge. Two men were killed when their car hit a truck on an icy road near Hazleton, Iowa, and a two-car collision on a snow-packed highway near Preston, Minn., killed one man and injured three others.

At South Bend, Ind., police and neighbors searched for five hours before finding the body of a five-year-old girl who had crashed through ice and drowned in a lagoon.

In the Southwest high winds returned to stir up choking dust clouds in Kansas and eastern Colorado.

IMPORT JUKE BOXES

Bonn, Germany — (U.P.) — West Germany is importing \$1,000,000 worth of juke boxes from the United States this year, the economic minister announced Friday.

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1954 Fifth Biggest Production Year For Nation's Farms

Washington — (U.P.) — The nation's farmers had their fifth largest production year in history in 1954 despite drought in the South, heavy rust damage in Dakota wheat fields and widespread surplus-reducing federal crop controls.

An annual Agriculture Department summary Friday showed output of corn and wheat — put under control program this year — were down from last year. But stepped-up production of some crops and uniformly high yields on others helped to swell the total output.

The total production was topped only by the record year of 1948 and by harvests in 1949, 1952 and 1953.

Four New Marks

Only soybean, rice, sugar beets and orange crops set new records this year. But farmers harvested near-record crops of oats, barley, sorghum grain, cranberries and commercial fresh-market vegetables and above-average crops of 13 other commodities.

The report estimated the size of this year's corn crop at 2,964,639,000 bushels, down 7 per cent from last year and under the 3,000,000,000 bushel mark for the only fifth time in the past 12 years.

Crop planners hoped that a 17 per cent acreage cut-back program in the commercial-producing corn area would hold total output to about 2,645,000,000 bushels.

Forfeit Price Supports

Many commercial area farmers violated allotments and forfeited price supports because they feed the key livestock grain to their own livestock. Output in the Corn Belt alone, heart of the commercial corn area, was down only 6 per cent from last year.

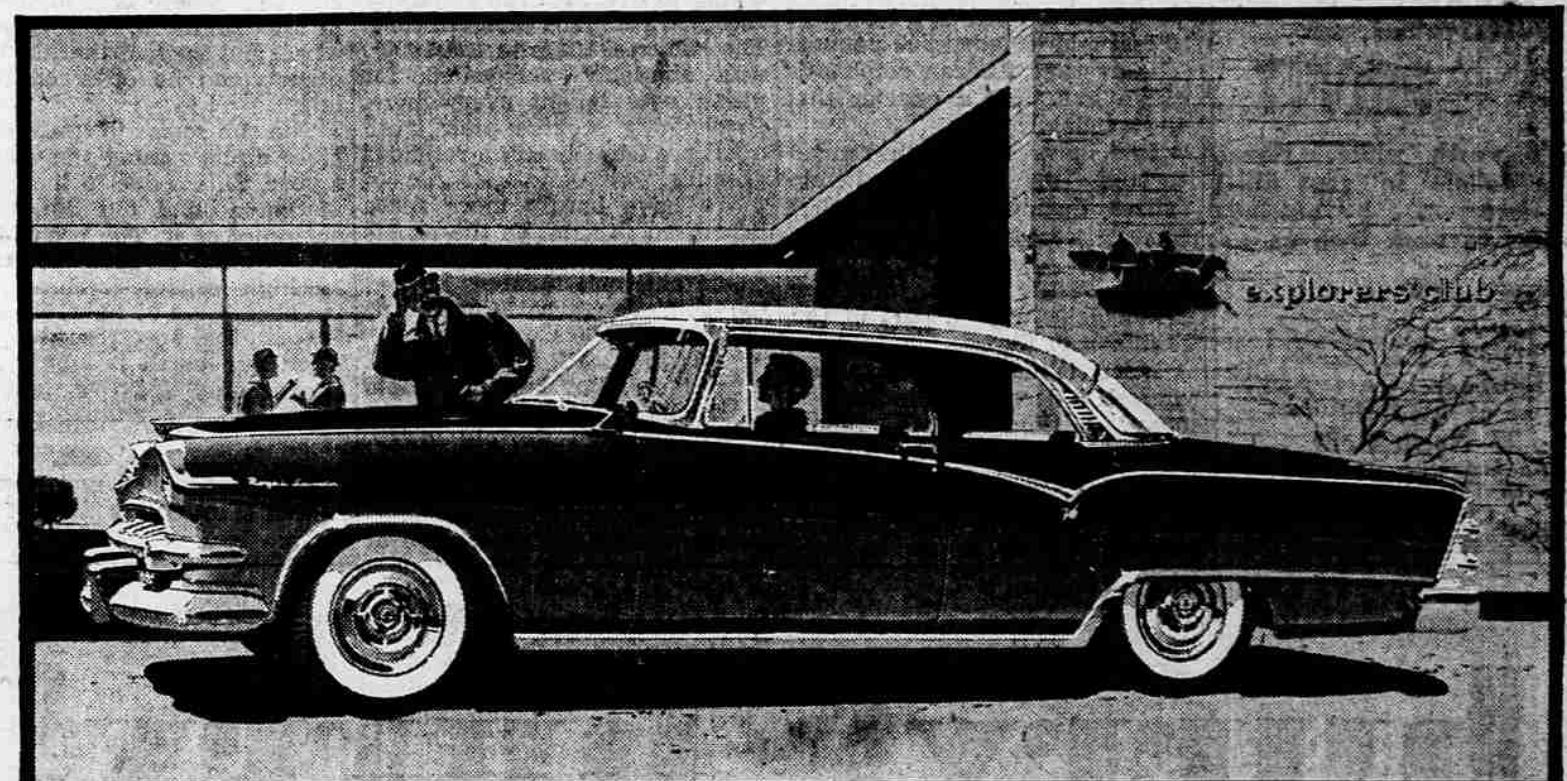
Nevertheless, hot, dry weather that seared much of the Southwestern corn crop helped hold output below last year and fairly close to hoped for production.

The crops reporting board figured this year's wheat crop totaled 969,781,000 bushels. That is down 17 per cent from last year.

WEATHER By United Press

Northern California: Fair except fog in Central valley; little change in temperature; variable winds near coast mostly easterly 8-18 mph.

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