

# Coon Wants Interior Committee Job 'To Best Serve East Oregon'

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune Correspondent  
Washington—(U.P.)—Rep. Sam Coon (R-Ore.) of Baker is going after a seat on the House Interior committee, which is expected to be the scene of stormy hearings this coming year on the Hells Canyon dam controversy.

Coon, who as a freshman in the 83rd Congress gained a place on the House Appropriations committee, will very likely be bumped from that group when the Democrats organize the House this week and take control of the committees. This is simply because the majority party is allowed 30 seats and the minority only 20 on the Appropriations committee, and Coon is not among the 20 most senior Republicans who will hang onto the minority positions in the new Congress.

**Prospects Considered Good**  
The prospects of Coon picking up a seat on the Interior committee are considered good, for a number of the Republicans on that group won't be back on it this year—such as Senator-elect George Bender of Ohio, Wesley D'Ewart of Montana who failed to unseat Sen. James E. Murray, and William H. Harrison of Wyoming who failed in his contest for the Senate with Senator-elect Joseph O'Mahoney.

Coon explained that he wants on the Interior committee because it deals with public lands issues, and eastern Oregon is therefore better served by his being on that committee than many others. The big public land issue of the last Congress involved grazing lands, with bills designed to give stockmen greater control over public domain and forest grazing lands failing to gain enactment. The bills were sponsored by Republicans in the House.

Hells Canyon, instead, is likely to be the biggest issue in that committee this year, in the wake of an agreement reached between Chairman Clair Engle and his counterpart in the Senate, Senator Murray, to push an omnibus reclamation bill that would include the Snake river project.

**Has No Preference**  
Coon, who was returned to the House this year after his first reelection bid, defeated an opponent Albert Ullman of Baker, whose major issue against Coon was the Hells Canyon

matter. Ullman favors the high federal dam as opposed to the plan of Idaho Power Co. to build three low head dams there. Coon says he has no preference for either the high dam or the low dams, but thinks the Federal Power Commission should decide which scheme is preferable.

"I still have confidence that they will do that," Coon said. He declined to suggest what his attitude would be if the committee opens hearings on the Hells Canyon matter before the FPC renders its decision.

Oregon's other veteran representatives, Rep. Walt Norblad and Rep. Harris Ellsworth, are expected to maintain their present committees—Norblad on Armed Services and Ellsworth on Rules.

**Edith Green Silent**  
Congresswoman-elect Edith Green of Portland, the Democrat who takes over the seat of

ex-Rep. Homer Angell, won't say what committee she prefers. Her assignment is up to the Democratic members of the House Ways and Means committee, who shuffle the assignments of their colleagues until the senior members are content and the junior members have filled the vacancies.

On the Senate side, assignments of both Oregon senators, Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger, must await the decision of the Democratic Steering committee, which is expected to take a week at least. Neuberger has told his seniors he wants Agriculture or Interior, and it is certain only that he will get at least one major committee. Morse says he hasn't told the Democrats formally what he wants, but publicly he has said Foreign Relations, Interior, Judiciary or Appropriations would be his preferences along with his old seat on Armed services.

## Gulf Holds Fate Of Missing Airmen

Lake Charles, La. — (U.P.) — Hope waned today for four airmen missing after two B47 Stratofortresses collided at 15,000 feet over the Gulf of Mexico.

A giant armada of planes and ships, which converged on the area 30 miles off the coastal town of Cameron, La., after the crash last night, has failed to uncover any trace of the missing airmen.

One of the Stratofortresses crashed into the water and burned, while the other limped back to the Lake Charles Air Force Base here. One crewman of the damaged plane bailed out after the collision. Three airmen were in the Stratofortjet that crashed.

## MAY RUN AGAIN

Portland — (U.P.) — Portland's Mayor Fred Peterson told a luncheon meeting of advertising men here yesterday that he "just might" run for reelection in 1936. Peterson, who will be 60 next year, said, "God knows if I'm able to run then, but if I'm able, I just might do it."

## QUICK WORK

Chicago — (U.P.) — A fast-working thief stole the 1935 license plate from the front of Willis Wells' auto while Wells was fastening the rear plate in place.

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Simone Silva, British actress who posed for a photograph in France with actor Robert Mitchum while wearing only a scanty hula skirt, will be allowed to stay in this country as long as she keeps working.

## Fishing Crew Saved In Stormy Atlantic

Hamilton, Bermuda — (U.P.) — The luxury liner Queen of Bermuda rescued all 10 men of the crew of the sinking fishing vessel Student Prince yesterday in stormy seas that piled up waves as high as a three-story building.

The Coast Guard Air Station here confirmed that the 10 men who had taken to a life boat had been plucked from the raging Atlantic in seething gale winds that hit a steady 45 miles an hour.

The Queen of Bermuda, on a gay holiday cruise to this famed vacation island, was routed off course when it received word that the 282-ton fishing vessel was breaking up about 200 miles north-northeast of here.

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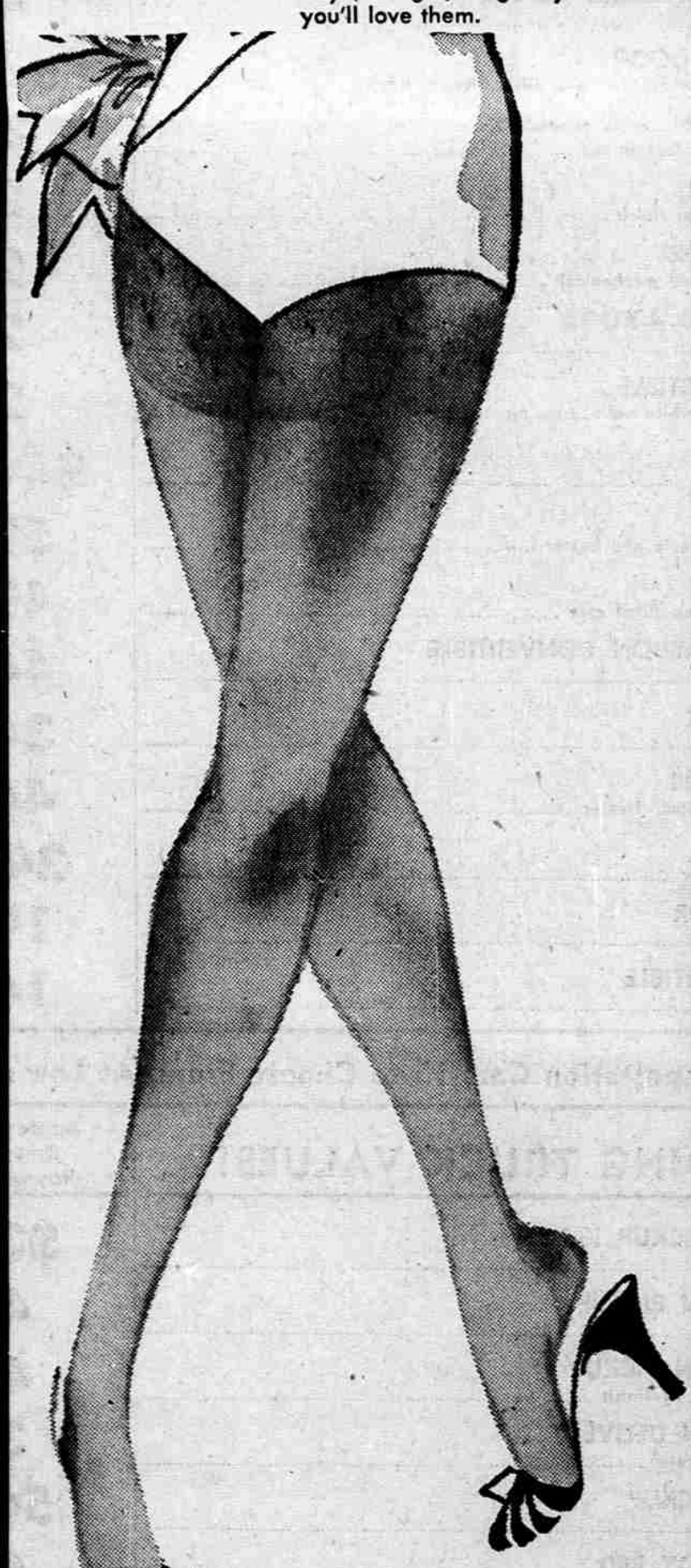
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## Joe Stalin's Son Believed To Be Dead

Washington — (U.P.) — There is strong evidence Josef Stalin's hard drinking son, Vasily, was swept up in the same purge that cost Russian Police Chief Lavrenti P. Beria his life. Vasily, too, may be dead.

Young Stalin's fate has been a matter of lively speculation here and in other free world capitals ever since his last public appearance March 9, 1933, when he was a pall bearer at his father's funeral.

American agencies were said to have no confirmation of Vienna reports that young Stalin had died recently in a Siberian prison camp. These same reports said that his sister, Svetlana, had been banished from Moscow by Malenkov and his new Red regime.

## Light Attacks End Lull on China Coast

Taipei, Formosa — (U.P.) — Light artillery fire and ineffective Communist air attacks yesterday ended a week-long lull along the South China coast, the Chinese Nationalist Defense Ministry announced today.

A communique said Yichangshan and Quemoy islands, at opposite ends of the Nationalist "outpost line," were subjected to "almost insignificant" artillery bombardment. Red planes approached the northerly Tachen Islands twice but both times were driven off by anti-aircraft fire.

## MANAGER TO RETIRE

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Wallace D. Vanderbilt, northwest manager for Pacific Coast operations of Grace and Company with headquarters in Seattle, will retire on Feb. 1 after more than 40 years of service. Donald E. Kbkjer, assistant manager in the Seattle office, will succeed Vanderbilt.

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