

Communists Tightening Economic Grip on West Berlin

Officials Doubt Reds To Attempt To Isolate City

Berlin — (U.P.) — The Communists are tightening their grip on West Berlin in a series of moves like those which led to their blockade of 1948-1949.

West German and Allied officials are watching developments closely. But they doubt, as things are now, that the Reds will try again to isolate the western part of the city completely.

The new Communist crackdown was launched at midnight March 31.

At that time the Reds imposed what was called a "pocketbook blockade" of the American, British and French sectors of the city.

The "blockade" took the form of exorbitant tolls on the trucks which roll over the 110-mile superhighway linking Berlin to Western Germany.

West Berliners are ever mindful of that 110 miles of territory, occupied by the Russians, which lies between them and free West Germany, for Berlin is an island in the Red zone.

In their crackdown the Communists increased truck tolls about 1100 per cent. A truck which had paid a tax of \$5 to move over the highway was assessed \$55.

A wave of alarm swept through the western part of the city, because nearly half of the city's supplies are brought by road from West Germany. Berliners did not need to be reminded of the cost of the first blockade which started at the end of March, 1948.

That first blockade was in retaliation for the Allies' reform of West Germany currency, and to prevent the formation of a West German federal republic.

The United States and Britain organized a historic airlift to supply West Berlin's 2,200,000 people.

The blockade ended May 12, 1949. It had failed utterly, but at a considerable cost to the Allies.

The airlift was continued, as a precaution in order to build up a permanent supply reserve, until Sept. 30, 1949.

In all Allied planes carried 2,343,315 tons of supplies to Berlin. Thirty-one Americans and 30 Britons were killed. The cost to the American taxpayer was more than \$150,000,000.

The Reds latest harassing move, the increase in highway tolls, ostensibly was undertaken by the East German government as a highway maintenance measure. Everybody knows that behind the East Germans were the Russians.

Apparently the Reds decided on the move first as a retaliation for the ratification of the treaties to arm West Germany, secondly as a means of forcing East-West negotiations on a neutralized Germany, and thirdly to force recognition of the East German puppet government.

Nevada Boy Wins FFA Speech Contest

Litchfield Park, Ariz.—(U.P.)—A Bunkerville, Nev. boy defeated 10 other Future Farmers of America in a speech contest among contestants of Western states last night.

Clark Reber's speech was based on the topic of farm organizations as an answer to farm problems. He won the right to represent the Western District in the national speech finals of the FFA, scheduled for Kansas City, Oct. 10. In second place was David Schuy, Kent, Wash.; third, Wayne Gomes, Stanford, Calif., and fourth, Harvey Pace, Coalville, Utah.

Close Vote Expected On Flexible Support

Washington — (U.P.)—Democratic Whip Carl Albert of Oklahoma today forecast a "close vote" in the House on a Democratic bill to junk the administration's flexible farm program.

"I will be very surprised if it is decided either way by more than 10 votes," Albert told a reporter.

The measure, on which House action is expected this week or next, would restore rigid high price supports for wheat, corn, peanuts, rice and cotton. It also would boost price supports for some dairy products.

Eugene Man's Auto Found in Willamette

Springfield, Ore.—(U.P.)—A car owned by Clifford W. Knowlton, 37, Eugene, was found Sunday by state police in the Willamette river near Jasper about 10 miles upstream from here.

Knowlton was missing and presumed drowned.

The car was found about 155 feet downstream from where it apparently left the road, by a McKenzie Flying Service pilot flying over the scene.

Raking Winds Wreak Havoc in California, Nevada

By UNITED PRESS
High winds swept from Northern California into the Southwest Dust Bowl today, ripping up 100 tents at the Nevada atomic site and postponing a major A-blast along the way.

The raking winds played havoc in the San Francisco Bay region, swept over mountains to the accompaniment of heavy snows, and threatened new dust storms in drought-plagued Oklahoma today.

The storm also granted a brief respite to Survival Town, U.S.A., the model community on Nevada's Yucca Flat which is doomed to go up in an atomic explosion.

The blast had been scheduled

to go off today, but government scientists postponed it at least 24 hours when winds up to 75 miles per hour were forecast.

Tents Blown Down
But the winds showed no mercy on the Civilian Defense experts who came to watch the explosion as gusts up to 50 miles per hour flattened more than 100 of the 300 tents at Camp Desert Rock.

Many of the tent city's 500 occupants were sleeping when the tents gave in and a dozen of them received treatment for dust particles blown in their eyes.

The high winds also promised to provide a dramatic demonstration for Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson, who headed into the heart of the Colorado-Kansas drought area today.

Benson's purpose was to find ways of stopping the very crippling dust storms which threatened the area again.

At Delta, Utah, yesterday, the swirling dust cut visibility to zero at times and sheepmen in the state were warned of skidding temperatures, snow and rain today.

Gales in Bay Area
Dust warnings were issued for other parts of the Southwest and in Texas a 200-mile wide belt of dust left by a Saturday storm stretched from Corpus Christi to the Panhandle.

Northern California, meanwhile, hoped for clearing weather in the wake of gale force winds which reached peaks of 75 miles per hour yesterday.

The blasts forced a Navy blimp to return to the Alameda Naval Air Station and a ground crew of 80 men, 50 more than normal worked nearly two hours to mow it.

On San Francisco Bay the

winds halted work on the unfinished San Rafael-Richmond Bridge and power lines were ripped down in the area. A fire-charged building in San Francisco collapsed, but no one was injured.

Snows accompanied the winds in the Sierra Nevada, closing Highway 40. Mt. Shasta got five inches of snow, while the two additional inches at Blue Canyon raised the snow level to 18 inches.

Joint Committee Approves Entire Building Program

Salem — (U.P.)—The joint ways and means committee today cleared its desk of some of the biggest money issues of the legislative session by approving the entire \$14,900,000 proposed building program, raising the statutory salaries of 10 state officials, and appropriating \$1,300,000 for adjustments of salaries for both classified and unclassified state workers.

OII Fund Opposed

The building program was approved unanimously with the exception of an appropriation for Oregon Technical Institute which was opposed by Sen. Charles Bingner (R-La Grande).

Included was the first unit of the Portland mental hospital, a new intermediate penal institution, and new classroom quarters for Portland State College, Oregon State College, University of Oregon and Southern Oregon College.

All bills embodying the program now go to the House for floor action.

Requests Turned Down

The joint committee turned down requests for salary increases for Supreme Court and Circuit Court judges and for district attorneys and their deputies.

Statutory increases included: Superintendent of the state hospital, \$9500 to \$12,000; assistant attorney general, \$8500 to \$9000; liquor administrator, \$9000 to \$11,000; director of geology and mineral industries, \$7200 to \$9000; secretary to governor, \$7200 to \$7800; director of veterans affairs, \$7200 to \$8000; assistant director of veterans affairs, \$6000 to \$6600; secretary of Board of Control, \$7,200 to \$8000; and an increase to \$3600 in the governor's expense allowance.

REGULATIONS APPROVED

Salem — (U.P.)—A bill regulating nursing homes was passed by the House yesterday and sent to the Senate. It would put nursing homes under the State Board of Health. It is a substitute for a similar measure passed by the Senate.

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