

TORNADOES KILL ESTIMATED 90

Red China Asked To Discuss Detention Of American Fliers

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Radio Peiping broadcast today that Red China had sentenced three Chinese "U. S. airdropped spies" to death and sentenced a fourth to 10 years imprisonment.

The broadcast, monitored by United Press in Tokyo, said the sentences followed a recent "public trial" by a Hunan Province Peoples Court.

Peiping said that all four were sent to Red China under the direction of "American espionage agencies." The broadcast said the four "confessed" during their trial that they joined American espionage agencies in Hong Kong in 1950.

Washington — (U.P.) — The United States has asked Red China for a new meeting at Geneva to discuss the "unwarranted detention" of Americans in Chinese jails, official sources said today.

U. N. Secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld is understood to be hopeful that Red China would release some, if not all, of the 15 American airmen the Communists held.

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Official sources said the American request for a new meeting on the prisoner problem was delivered recently at Geneva by U. S. Consul General Franklin C. Gowen. He and other consular officials have held about a dozen meetings at Geneva, primarily on the American civilians held in Red China, with Red Chinese officials stationed in the Swiss city. The Chinese replied, it was said, that they would have to get further instructions from Peiping before a conference could be set up.

State Department Silent
The State Department would

not comment officially on the request for a meeting or Hammarskjöld's reported optimism that some of the jailed American airmen might be freed in less than a month.

The Red Chinese hold 25 American civilians in jails, three are under confinement in homes and about 12 more have not been able to get permission to leave Red China.

Eleven of the 15 American airmen were sentenced to prison terms last November by the Chinese Reds. The four who are believed most likely to be released first have not been sentenced.

Sen. Wayne Morse Appeals for Funds For Talent Project

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), was to appear before the Senate subcommittee this morning to request the appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the start of work on the Talent reclamation irrigation project.

In a telegram to The Mail Tribune, he pointed out that this is the same amount that he requested recently in an appearance before the House appropriations subcommittee. He is asking that the funds be made available for the fiscal year 1956, which starts July 1.

He added:
Asks Rehabilitation Money
"I am also asking the Senate subcommittee to approve a \$350,000 item for fiscal 1956 for Medford-Rogue River Valley Irrigation district rehabilitation project. I appreciate the great importance of both of these projects, and will do everything possible in support of them."

The \$22,000,000 Talent project, which would provide supplemental irrigation water for the Talent and Medford Irrigation districts, was authorized by Congress last year, but was not included in the budget for 1956. Senators Morse and Richard Neuberger and Congressman Harris Ellsworth of this district all have expressed their strong support of the proposal.

Should Maintain Heaters
Rogers and Berry are advising orchardists to leave heaters in their orchards for the time being.

Frost damage to the valley's pear crop has been minor so far, Berry said, and he added that on the basis of present conditions, this year's pear crop will be among the valley's largest.

Reduction of the crop has been less than average, and "ringing" of fruit by frost has been about average, according to the county agent.

Polio Shot Rate Here Still 50 Per Cent

The number of Jackson county youngsters receiving Salk anti-polio vaccinations is still running at about 50 per cent of those originally signed up for the program, county health department officials said this morning.

Inoculations were given this morning at Washington school in Medford.

No date has been set for the second in the series of shots, health department officials said.

Boxcar Shortage, Trucker Strike Puts Crimp in Movement of Oregon Products

Portland — (U.P.) — A 10 per cent shortage of common boxcars, coupled with a strike against three major truck lines on the west coast, today was reported putting a crimp in movements of Oregon products to market areas.

Other Roads Less Hard Hit
Southern Pacific lines reported it would have only 80 per cent of required box cars available for shippers but other roads were reported less hard hit by the national shortage of serviceable rolling stock for the peaking summer demand. Southern Pacific officials announced they would issue an equalizing

order between its eight operating divisions to ease the shortage in the Portland area at least.

Heavy demands for rail shipping space were created by a tieup of truck freight outlets in a coast-wide labor dispute.

Emergency Order Planned
Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel said an emergency order, similar to one issued in 1950, would be written to enforce equitable distribution of available freight cars. He added, however, that the order would be held back until next week to observe the effects of the SP steps to alleviate the shortage.

The West Coast Lumbermen's association announced it had invoked a long-prepared plan to ease the shortage by urging all shippers to load every available car to its maximum capacity and to speed loading and turnaround.

Wasteful Practice
B. L. Nutting, Medford, chairman of the association's special car supply committee, said railroads had been asked to cut down the wasteful practice of delayed routings of transit cars of lumber.

Nutting declared that the shortage would last all summer.

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Patterson Signs

Special Election Possibility Seen On Revenue Plan

Tobacco Industry May Seek Signatures

Salem—(U.P.)—Gov. Paul Patterson today signed House bill 539 to put a tax of three cents a pack on cigarettes, one of the main revenue-raising measures passed by the 1955 session to meet an anticipated deficit of more than \$60,000,000 in the next biennium.

The main revenue-raising measure, putting a 45 per cent surtax on personal income taxes, was signed by the governor May 18.

It is estimated to raise \$50,000,000—if it is not referred.

The cigarette tax, which the tobacco industry has already indicated will be referred if it can get the needed signatures on petitions, is estimated to bring in another \$10,000,000 for the biennium.

November Vote Possible
Should the surtax on personal income tax be referred, the legislature has provided that a special election be held next Nov. 8.

If the cigarette tax should also be referred, it will appear on the same ballot. But if only the cigarette tax is referred, it will not be voted on until the next general election, in November, 1956.

For either measure to be referred, petitions bearing the signatures of 20,047 registered voters must be filed with the secretary of state's election bureau by Aug. 2.

Should both the surtax on income tax and the cigarette tax be referred, several legislators here speculated before the close of the 1955 session May 4 that a special session of the Legislature would be a virtual necessity, to try once more to work out a method of financing the state's affairs without recourse to a real property tax at the state level.

Governor Works Late
For several years the state has used its personal income tax as an offset against property tax, thus leaving that source of revenue to local and county governments.

In a last-hour flurry to act on all bills before him by noon, Gov. Patterson worked with his legislative counsel Hugh Barzee of Portland late last night and all this morning, and had signed some 80 bills by 10 a.m.

Ashland Market Destroyed by Fire

Ashland — (U.P.) — Fire today destroyed all but the concrete block walls of Sween's market and variety store on Highway 66 at the east side of Ashland.

Mrs. Don Sween said the loss would run into thousands of dollars but she could give no accurate estimate. Only the building itself and furnishings of a three-room apartment were covered by insurance.

Intense heat melted or burned all the stock in the store itself, although firemen kept the flames away. The blaze started in a closet of the apartment at the rear of the store, firemen said.

Hobby Resignation Report Brings Denial

Washington—(U.P.)—The White House denied categorically today published reports that Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby has submitted her resignation as secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty issued the denial after talking with President Eisenhower and with Mrs. Hobby, who is in Texas with her ailing husband.

"We have had no resignation submitted but his (Hobby's) condition is critical and I can't tell you at this time whether that illness will force Mrs. Hobby to leave the government," Hagerty said.

Jury Trial Under Way On Dentistry Charge

A jury trial for Lee Poirier, Jacksonville, got under way in district court this morning before Judge Rawles Moore. Poirier is charged with practicing dentistry without a license.

The first complaint in the case was filed July 14, 1954. It later was dismissed and a new complaint was filed Jan. 24 of this year.

Medford Attorney O. H. Bengtson is representing Poirier, and District Attorney Walter Nunley is representing the state.



RETURNING TO WASHINGTON after eight months absence due to surgical treatment of war injury, Senator John F. Kennedy (D, Mass.), walks in sun with wife outside Capitol (International)

B-36 Crashes in Texas With 14 Men Aboard

Sterling City, Tex. — (U.P.) — A B-36 atomic super bomber apparently ran into a tornado and crashed in flames 35 miles south of here today. Fourteen men were believed killed.

"There weren't any survivors," said Collin Brennan, on whose ranch the plane fell. "The left wing was on fire when it fell."

From Walker Air Base
The plane was from Walker Air Force Base at Roswell, N.M. Maj. A. K. Barnes of Roswell said "we have an aircraft overdue in that vicinity." He said it had 14 men aboard.

"There was an awful noise," Brennan said.

He said few of the bodies were burned, since the high winds that were blowing blew the flames away from the fuselage and it did not burn. The wreckage fell over some 25 acres and burned for about an hour, he said.

Maj. Robert Nelson, public information officer at Biggs Air Force Base, El Paso, Tex., said the \$3,500,000 plane spun to the ground in a pasture.

Barnes said Walker AFB was sending another aircraft to Sterling City to make definite identification of the crashed aircraft.

The B36 from Walker, attached to the Sixth Bomb Wing of the 15th Air Force, took off from Roswell yesterday afternoon on a training mission.

Nelson said he understood the B36 which crashed flew into a tornado. There were several in the West Texas area during the night.

Lt. Steven P. Meyers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyers, 181 Black Oak dr., was the regular pilot of the plane which crashed in Texas last night. His father said this morning that he was removed from yesterday's flight at the last minute to prepare for special schooling. The plane was manned by the crew with which Lt. Meyers regularly flew.

School Patrol Dinner Slated Friday Evening

The annual Medford school safety patrol dinner, when individual awards will be presented members of the school safety patrols will be held at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Jackson hotel Pioneer room.

James Byerly, state supervisor of school patrols from the office of Earl Newby, secretary of state, will be principal speaker. Mayor Earl Miller will make the awards.

Bud Palmer, vice-chairman of the Medford Safety council, will preside. Entertainment will be furnished by the St. Mary's High school boys glee club. Approximately 100 students from the four Medford elementary schools, St. Mary's school and Oak Grove school will participate.

Damage Suit To Start In Court Tomorrow

A \$21,500 damage suit, pending since Jan. 29, 1951, has been set for trial on Friday and Saturday in circuit court, according to the court docket.

The suit, charging slander, was instituted by Mrs. Barbara Helms Phelan, Ashland, against Lottie and Sarah Bewick, sisters, of Valley View.

The original complaint in the suit was filed on June 29, 1951, and amended complaints were filed Aug. 21, 1951, and Dec. 17, 1951.

William Briggs, Ashland, is attorney for the plaintiff, and the Medford law firm of Roberts, Kellington and Branchfield is counsel for the defendants.

Brattleboro, Vt. — (U.P.) — Federal Judge Ernest W. Gibson has reserved decision on a motion to dismiss charges against Manuel Miller, charged with assaulting federal officers who sought to take his wife to a mental hospital.

Weather

FORECAST: Generally cloudy with occasional light rain through Friday. Mild temperatures. Low tonight 48. High Friday 70. Temp. Highest Yesterday 62. Lowest this Morning 48. Prec. to 4:30 a.m. Today .01

Udall, Kan., Texas Count Dead In Wake of Storm

Hundreds Injured On 200-Mile Path

Udall, Kan. — (U.P.) — Killer tornadoes left a trail of death and ruin today in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Shattered communications made an accurate count of the dead impossible, but it appeared that about 90 were killed in the three-state area. Hundreds were injured.

The tornadoes, spawned by a violent storm front, struck last night along a 200-mile path from the Texas Panhandle to South-eastern Kansas.

One twister turned this village of 610 persons into a giant scrap heap within 60 seconds. Not a building was left undamaged and the mounting death toll already was the worst in Kansas history.

Estimates of Deaths
This was the best estimate of the dead:

Udall and vicinity: 53 or 54 dead, 200 injured.

Blackwell, Okla.: 16 to 21 dead, at least 150 injured.

Cheyenne, Okla.: 2 dead.

Sterling City, Tex.: 14 dead in the crash of a bomber believed struck by a tornado.

The destruction here was all but indescribable. Torn fragments of roofing were found a mile from town. In the center of town, a two-story frame building was twisted completely around on its foundation and its roof was torn off.

Twenty-five or 30 automobiles were demolished along the main street.

The Red Cross set up headquarters in a battered bank building. Four companies of national guardsmen totaling 270 men moved into town.

Uprooted trees blocked the streets. Some still standing on the outskirts were sheared at the top as if by a giant pair of scissors.

At Blackwell, Okla., United Press Staff Correspondent Leroy A. Hammann reported a similar scene.

The body of one elderly man was found lying against a fence, where he had been blown 250 feet from his demolished house.

Weather Bureau experts said reports indicated that at least 10 tornadoes struck during the night in Oklahoma along a path nearly 200 miles long.

The storm line extended in almost a straight line from Shamrock, Tex., where the first storm hit, on through Cheyenne, Camargo and Blackwell, Okla., and on to Udall, Rock, Derby and Gueda Springs, Kan.

The "Udall twister" struck about 10:30 p.m.

"I had just gotten up," said Mayor Rowe. "I'm a night worker. I was standing at the front door in my boots. There was a little rain. Then it hit."

"My house just floated away. I don't know where it is."

Rowe's wife and three children survived, but one of the children was hurt.

Henry Harvey, news editor of radio station KFBI at Wichita, Kan., hastened to the scene and reported destruction beyond description. Clocks had stopped at 10:30 p.m., but communications were shattered and it was after midnight before word got out that the town had been leveled.

Hospitals Overflow
Residents had no time to think or calling for help, anyway, Harvey reported. They were busy freeing themselves from the debris, rescuing the wounded and searching for their scattered families.

Later, when communications were set up and rescuers moved in, some surrounding hospitals were forced to turn away ambulances loaded with the injured because they were filled to overflowing.

The twister hit Blackwell a short time earlier. One resident said it "sounded like a freight train coming by my house."

The eastern half of the town, about two and a half square miles, was flattened, and the Riverside Osteopathic Hospital and the Hazel Atlas Glass Co. were demolished.

Two Men Bound Over To Grand Jury Hearing

Two men were bound over to the Jackson county grand jury yesterday following appearances in district court.

Clifford Quentin Gee, 29, Harlan, Ore., received a preliminary hearing on a charge of concealing stolen property. He is expected to appear in circuit court tomorrow.

Wayne Harding, 19, of 229½ Chestnut st., was arraigned on a charge of forgery, according to records in the sheriff's office.

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