

# Senators Ask PUC To Order Rail Service

A formal complaint, asking the Oregon public utilities commission to prevent the proposed discontinuance of Southern Pacific passenger service between Ashland and Portland, has been prepared by three state senators.

The document, drawn up in Grants Pass yesterday, also asks Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel to investigate, and to order "reasonably adequate service."

Senators Philip B. Lowry, Medford, Gene L. Brown, Grants Pass, and Paul E. Geddes, Roseburg, formulated the complaint in Brown's office after discussing the railroad's proposal with John McCullough, chief counsel for the PUC. The complaint probably will be filed early next week.

**People Should Be Heard**  
Lowry said the action was not taken by the senators as such, but as representatives of the people, believing the people should be heard through a public hearing.

McCullough pointed out that Southern Pacific has denied the PUC has jurisdiction, but added the commission would conduct an investigation if a complaint is filed.

"The main concern," he said, "is whether or not the commissioner has power to suspend schedules for elimination of service."

If the PUC orders the SP to continue service after Aug. 7, the railroad can then file for a writ of prohibition, which, if granted, would make the PUC's order ineffective. The courts then would decide if the commissioner has authority to issue such an order.

**Can Order Service**  
McCullough said the commissioner has power to order service after it has been suspended by reason of inadequacy, but that there appear to be no statutes giving authority to continue service.

Whether or not mail and railway express service would also be discontinued was discussed. Some 60 per cent of revenue from the present passenger trains is from mail, McCullough said the records show.

The complaint, if the commissioner is found to have jurisdiction, will be followed with public hearings and a complete investigation, McCullough said. Senator Lowry declared that "What we need to do is get this thing started."

The complaint alleges that present passenger service is slow and is a "combination of rail passenger service and freight service, and trains have many stop-overs." It alleges that present service is inadequate because it is a night-time schedule and does not "reasonably accommodate" residents.

**Out-Moded Equipment**  
"For the most part," it adds, the equipment provided is "old, out-moded and uncomfortable." Some of the expense of the run is due to the use of Pullman accommodations, it said.

It adds that discontinuance will adversely and unfavorably affect Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, Curry and part of Lane counties, representing a population of substantially 200,000 persons.

The area affected "comprises a substantial portion of the industrial, commercial and economic life" of Oregon, the complaint states, and providing adequate rail passenger service is "of vital importance to the continued prosperity" of the area.

The proposed suspension of service "will adversely affect, retard and deter the anticipated development" of the area, and "businesses and enterprises of various character will be reluctant to locate themselves" in the area.

**Fog Problem Cited**  
The complaint also alleges that at certain times of the year it is impossible to travel by automobile, bus or plane because of a heavy blanket of fog.

The complaint asks that if an investigation reveals inadequate service, the commissioner order "reasonably adequate service" which should be required to include "reasonable daytime schedules, reasonable speedy service, reasonable connection with other train schedules, reasonable comfortable and adequate equipment, and such other additional adequate service as may be justified upon investigation and determination."

**Mrs. R. H. Parsons Dies Here During Visit to Daughter**  
Mrs. Maude Bemis Parsons, 81, widow of the late Reginald H. Parsons, died this morning at her Hillcrest orchard home east of Medford.

Mr. Parsons, Seattle industrialist, financier, philanthropist and civic worker, died June 9 in Seattle.

Mrs. Parsons arrived in Medford July 7 to visit her daughter, Mrs. John Day, and although under a strain as the result of her husband's death, had not appeared particularly ill until this morning when a doctor was called.

**Born in Massachusetts**  
The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Judson Bemis, Mrs. Parsons was born in Newton, Mass. A former resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., she had lived in Seattle for many years.

She was married to Mr. Parsons in 1901. In addition to Mrs. Day, she is survived by another daughter, Mrs. Howard A. Frame, Los Altos, Calif., two sons, Reginald B. Parsons, Los Angeles, and George Parsons, Seattle, and several grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were long active in a wide range of civic enterprises, and historical and international welfare groups.

**Parttime Medford Residents**  
They were parttime residents of Medford for many years. Mr. Parsons was owner of Hillcrest orchards and was the founder of Pineapple Packing company, in which he held a substantial interest at the time of his death.

Funeral services for Mrs. Parsons are pending, with Perli funeral home in charge of local arrangements. Interment is expected to be at Seattle.

**Casper Overross Found Innocent of Murder**  
Salem—(U.P.)—Casper Overross, Silvertown carpenter, yesterday was acquitted in Marion County Circuit Court of the murder of Ervin Kaser, a prominent hop grower who lived near him.

The jury announced its unanimous verdict of innocent at 5:26 p.m., just 30 minutes short of 24 hours after deliberations began.

As Overross left the courtroom, a free man, he was flanked by his two teenaged daughters, who had stood by him through the lengthy trial, Colleen, 19, and Karen, 14.

Kaser was shot from ambush last Feb. 17 while he sat in his car, parked in the driveway of his home.

The state's case had hinged on a .30-30 caliber rifle found in the Pudding river some time after the slaying.

The trial lasted 22 days with more than 60 witnesses called.

**Weather**  
FORECAST: Fair tonight. Partly cloudy Saturday. A few afternoon or evening showers or thunderstorms in mountains. A little cooler. Low tonight near 58. High Saturday 68.

**Bulletin**  
Kansas City, Mo.—(U.P.)—The FBI cleared Audrey Earl Brandt of suspicion today in the sex slaying of Donna Sue Davis.

Special Agent Percy Wylie said an FBI check on Brandt's movements between June 24 and July 12 ruled out the possibility that Brandt committed the crime.

## Equalization Board Orders Assessor To Add Tree Values Tax Commission's Figures To Be Used

The Jackson county board of equalization yesterday ordered County Assessor Robert Fowler to place on county tax rolls the appraised values of orchard trees as determined by state tax commission appraisers.

The order followed a recommendation from Assistant District Attorney Gene Piazza that the board comply with the commission's order that trees values be placed on tax rolls prior to Aug. 15.

The board ordered Fowler "to place on the tax rolls the appraised values as determined by the state tax commission appraisers to be the true cash value."

**Doesn't Know Value**  
Fowler said today he did not know what the total appraised value is, and had not received tax rolls from the board. (The value has been unofficially estimated at between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.)

Fowler pointed out that shade trees, according to tax commission officials, were considered in recent reappraisals of property, and are already on tax rolls. Yesterday's order by the board will be on orchard trees only.

**Earlier Order**  
The tax commission earlier ordered the equalization of taxes on trees, but the board notified the commission it would be impossible to carry out the order before June 15, the previous deadline. The commission extended the deadline until Aug. 15 and discussed with county officials three means of assessing trees, including the use of the commission's appraiser figures.

The commission values are indicated on cards sent to orchardists notifying them of the reappraisal.

## Polls Close at 5 In Water Elections

Polls remain open until 5 p.m. today for votes in the Medford and Rogue River Valley irrigation districts. The election will determine whether the districts shall enter into a rehabilitation contract with the U.S. government.

Yesterday it was announced that an initial appropriation of \$350,000 for the irrigation improvement projects had been approved by congress. Construction and repair work will begin immediately if water users give their consent today.

Polling places for the Medford district include, Precinct 1, Hillcrest orchard house, Precinct 2, Phoenix Grade school gym, Precinct 3, Oak Grove school.

Rogue River Valley district poll is located at the district office on Merriman rd., beyond Howard school, near Gilman's dairy.

Salem—(U.P.)—Gov. Paul L. Patterson has appointed Harold W. Laurence of La Grande as a member of the State Board of Examiners in Watchmaking and Clockmaking.

## Trial Recesses; Medical History Heard

The first degree murder trial of Bernice Hampton (Tex) White was recessed at 10 a.m. today, only half an hour after the start of the morning session.

Cause of the delay was the fact that a Medford doctor called as a witness for the defense was unable to be present until this afternoon.

# Bulganin Declares Russia Has No Intention To Fight

## Dr. Robert Sleeter Dies While on Trip

Dr. Robert Sleeter, one of Jackson county's best-known physicians, died suddenly in Arco, Ida., early yesterday afternoon, apparently from a heart attack. He was 44.

Dr. Sleeter, an obstetrician and gynecologist with the Medford clinic in the Medical Center building, left Medford Tuesday with Mrs. Sleeter and their oldest daughter, Roberta, 14, for a 10-day trip to Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Yellowstone and Glacier National parks.

**Death Sudden**  
Friends said today his death was sudden and totally unexpected. His brother, Dr. Richard Sleeter, formerly in practice here and now a member of the faculty of the University of Ore-



DR. ROBERT (BOB) SLEETER Physician Dies Suddenly (Brainner photo)

## Today Is Deadline For Filing Budgets

Today is the last day Jackson county cities and special tax districts may file 1955-56 fiscal year budgets in the Jackson county assessor's office.

Assessor Robert Fowler said most budgets have been filed, and all but Phoenix' budget were expected to be filed before the office closed. Phoenix was granted an extension until July 22 to allow 20 days posting time.

Fowler said Medford had not filed its budget at noon today, but it was expected this afternoon. Medford's budget was adopted Wednesday night after deleting \$66,510 over the 6 per cent limitation. Butte Fall's budget was expected this afternoon, he said.

**Plywood Workers Reject M & M Offer**  
Portland—(U.P.)—AFL plywood workers at five M and M Wood Working Company plants in Oregon and northern California have rejected a back-to-work proposal, union officials said today.

Claude McCulley, executive of the plywood local here, said workers at plants at Portland, Albany, Lyons and Idanha in Oregon and Eureka in California had turned down the proposal by a 706-493 vote yesterday.

The union official said the strike, which began July 1 over contract difficulties, would continue, but that union representatives were willing to meet with M and M officials at any time.

## Ike Voices Hope For Solution of Major Problems President Aware Of Opportunities

Washington—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower declared the hope today that next week's Big Four conference will "open new vistas" leading toward solution of major East-West problems.

Mr. Eisenhower voiced this hope only a matter of hours before his scheduled departure tonight for the Geneva meeting with the leaders of Russia, Britain, and France.

"We are in a period of great flux in international affairs," he said. "There are signs that the world may be entering a new phase in international relationships."

The President cited the Big Four meeting as an example of this "new phase." He said he hopes he and his fellow statesmen at Geneva will "be able to identify the outstanding decisive issues and develop methods to try to solve them."

Mr. Eisenhower expressed these views and hopes in a letter transmitting to Congress a bulky report on U. S. participation in the United Nations during 1954.

Mr. Eisenhower told Congress that "if for one will enter these (Geneva) discussions with a full awareness of the opportunities offered by the United Nations to contribute to the peace of the world."

"If these meetings reach useful areas of agreement in the handling of international problems," the President said, "then they will open new vistas looking toward further agreement. This can only mean that the United Nations will have new and wider opportunities to build upon the foundations this laid."

In the letter, Mr. Eisenhower also:

1. Expressed hope that through patient diplomatic effort Communist China will be convinced that it should end "the wrongful detention" of U. N. Korean War prisoners. He said "the prolonged anguish of these men and their nearest kin arouses the sympathies of the civilized world."

2. Said Russia has given "the appearance" of accepting "at least some principles" of an agreed list of topics and details of these topics for the conference, and there is agreement on the substance of these points.

3. Reported "dramatic" progress in the U.S. effort to turn the atom to peaceful purposes. There are grounds "for real hope for participation by the Soviet Union in his world atoms for peace plan. But "we will not slow the wheels of progress if some do not choose to join us."

## Delegates Pledged To Seek End To Cold War

Moscow—(U.P.)—Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin declared today that the struggle between East and West "cannot be solved by war."

The Soviet Premier pledged the Soviet delegation at the Geneva "summit" conference will seek "a common language" to end the cold war.

Bulganin spoke at a press conference, the first ever held by a Soviet Premier.

It took place in a handsome conference room in the Cabinet Ministers' Building, inside the Kremlin walls.

Bulganin told Soviet and foreign newsmen that the chiefs of government at Geneva would not be able "to settle all international differences."

But he said their objective will be to "point the way" to solutions.

"The Soviet delegation, for its part, will make such an effort," Bulganin said.

The Soviet Premier said some of the urgent international questions will persist. But he reiterated that the aim of the Geneva conference will be to resolve them.

**Russians Have No Intentions To Attack**  
Bulganin said there had been considerable talk in the West of "the menace allegedly emanating from the Soviet Union."

He added solemnly: "We have never had and do not now have the intention of attacking anybody."

The press conference and the general improvement in East-West relations led to speculation here that Bulganin and President Eisenhower might exchange state visits as an aftermath of the Geneva conference.

Before the press conference started, there were rumors that success in the summit talks in Geneva might lead to wholesale exchanges of visits by Soviet and Western statesmen.

This prospect was one of the more sensational possible by-products of Geneva discussed in Western quarters in Moscow.

The reports were based on a series of recent casual conversations by Bulganin and Communist Party Leader Nikita Khrushchev with Moscow diplomats of the United States, Britain and France.

Mr. Eisenhower visited Moscow as a victorious comrade-in-arms at the end of World War II. But he has never been here as president.

The possibility of an exchange of visits between Soviet and Western statesmen is fortified by the recent trip to Belgrade by the Russian leaders and their acceptance of an invitation to call on Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi.

## West Ready With Vague But United Front for Meeting

Paris—(U.P.)—The Big Three foreign ministers met today to put the final touches on the West's strategy plan for the Geneva conference.

Diplomatic informants said the West was ready with a vague but "agreed-upon" united front to cover the questions of German unity, European security and world disarmament.

**No Hard Line**  
The Allied blueprint was hammered out here during the past week, but no hard line was to be formed by the West until the Soviet Union firms up its stand for Geneva.

U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, British Foreign Secretary Harold MacMillan and French Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay scheduled one meeting early today to discuss their plans.

Following a press conference in Moscow by Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, which is expected to disclose the Kremlin policy line, the foreign ministers likely will meet again later today to consider any indicated modifications of their views.

**Agreed List of Topics**  
An American spokesman announced after Dulles arrived here Thursday that "there is an agreed list of topics and details of these topics for the conference, and there is agreement on the substance of these points."

Informed sources said the United States, Britain and France would not put forth any detailed plans until they get an idea of the Russian program. But they have agreed on these three main objectives:

1. The reunification of Germany.
2. A security arrangement for Europe that would meet any legitimate Soviet fears. This is said to include an offer to limit a unified Germany's armed forces to 12 divisions to further reassure Moscow.
3. A disarmament program.

**Points To Be Pushed**  
Despite a spate of supplementary suggestions, these points remain the principal points of the agreed Allied program to be pushed when President Eisenhower, French Premier Edgar Mauer and British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden sit down Monday with Bulganin and the Soviet delegation.

That Kremlin delegation will be the strongest bargaining team ever sent to the West by Russia. It will contain all the major Soviet strong men nominally headed by Bulganin, and including Communist Party Head Nikita Khrushchev, in his role as a member of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and Defense Minister G. K. Zhukov.

Diplomats in London interpreted this as an indication Russia means to talk business and wants to be able to make big decisions on the spot.

Portland—(U.P.)—Appointment of Hollis M. Dole, Portland, to be director of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has been announced here.

## Baseball

**NATIONAL**  
St. Louis ..... 3 8 4  
Brooklyn ..... 12 16 8  
Poholsky, Schmidt (3), Lawrence (6), LaPalme (6), Wright (8) and Burbrink; Newcombe and Campanella.

Chicago ..... 3 8 1  
New York ..... 5 11 2  
Jones, Perkowski (7) and McCullough; Hears and Westrum.

Cincinnati ..... 9 13 9  
Pittsburgh ..... 1 6 1  
Nuxhall, Freeman (7) and Burgess; Law and Peterson, Shepard (7).