

Suspect in Bryan Murder Satisfied With Jury Panel

Oakland, Calif. —(U.P.)—Burton W. Abbott said today he would be satisfied with almost any 12 jurors who might be picked to decide whether he kidnapped and murdered a 14-year-old school-girl.

Abbott indicated the endless process of choosing a jury is beginning to bother him. His trial is now in its fourth day.

"I feel completely detached about this whole business," he said. "This is my trial and these are the people who are going to judge me. Yet I can't see any reason for challenging anyone on this panel, except perhaps someone who had a deep conviction against inflicting the death penalty."

May Be Excused
Under California law, a juror may be excused if he says he would refuse to inflict the death penalty in a murder case.

Abbott, 27, a tubercular accounting student, is accused of murdering Stephanie Bryan of Berkeley last April 28. Some of her belongings were found in the basement of his Alameda home in July. A few days later, her body was found in a shallow grave near his mountain cabin. The frail defendant appeared more at ease yesterday than he did on Tuesday. He sat in his chair at the defense table, his hands clasped loosely, as his attorneys questioned the veniremen.

The jury selection resumed today. So far, 31 members of the first panel of 60 have been excused. Another 65-member panel is standing by.

Prosecution and defense showed intense interest yesterday in how much, if at all, the prospective jurors have been influenced by newspaper accounts of the case, one of the most sensational in recent California history.

Attorney Rebutted

Defense Attorney Harold Hove was rebuked by Superior Judge Charles Wade Snook when he tried to question the panel about reports that Abbott's family had called police when they found Stephanie's purse in the basement of their home.

"Mr. Hove, I believe I have ruled on that before," Snook said. "I don't want you to pursue that line of questioning."

"But," Hove started to reply. "Mr. Hove, you have nothing to say to me any more. I have already ruled."

West Germany Issues Optimistic Budget

Bonn, Germany —(U.P.)—The West German Government today published a "strongly optimistic" budget for fiscal 1956-57 with an estimated six per cent increase in revenues despite some tax reductions as its main feature.

The Finance Ministry said it expects higher revenues despite tax cuts due to the continued economic expansion of the booming nation.



SITTING AT COUNSEL TABLE, Burton W. Abbott discusses strategy with attorneys as his trial for kidnap-murder of Stephanie Bryan, 14, gets under way in Oakland. From left: Harold Hove (profile to camera); John Hansen, Abbott and Stanley Whitney. (International)

CIO Officials Praise New Packard Contract

Detroit —(U.P.)—CIO United Auto Workers officials said today their new three-year contract with Packard Division of Studebaker-Packard Corp., which includes a guaranteed wage plan, is "the best in the auto industry."

Company and union negotiators reached agreement Wednesday on the pact covering some 9,000 Packard workers in the Detroit area. A UAW spokesman said the contract "fully meets the pattern" of contracts between the union and Ford Motor Co. and General Motors and Chrysler Corporations.

Plans Improved
UAW Vice-President Norman Matthews said although the guaranteed wage plan provides the same economic terms as other contracts, it is the "best in the auto industry" because of several improvements on plans agreed upon with other major auto producers.

UAW officials also stated Ohio voters' decision to defeat a guaranteed wage proposal in Tuesday's election did not endanger plans affecting Ford and GM workers in other states.

To be effective, the plans specified that states in which 67 per cent of workers affected live must change or interpret their laws to permit laid-off workers to receive both state unemployment compensation and supplemental payments from the companies.

The UAW said favorable rulings already have been handed down in Michigan, Delaware, New York and Massachusetts. The union pointed out these rulings already have been handed down in Michigan, Delaware, New York and Massachusetts. The union pointed out these rulings covered "more than 60 per cent of Ford and GM workers—leaving only seven per cent to go."

Packard employees will receive a six-cent hourly wage increase or a 2 1/2 per cent pay boost, whichever is greater, for each of the three years. Wage increases are retroactive to Aug. 28, the date the old contract expired.

Escalator Clause
Skilled workers will receive an additional eight-cent hourly

increase and an adjusted "cost-of-living escalator clause" will provide all hourly rated workers with an added one-cent boost retroactive to Sept. 1.

The contract also included improved pension, insurance, vacation and holiday provisions. Salaried workers represented by the union received a full union shop and a three per cent annual improvement factor.

Company and union officials said now that a Packard settlement has been reached, they will concentrate efforts on negotiating a contract for some 9,000 Studebaker division workers at South Bend, Ind.

Striking Workers Rap .. Westinghouse Company
Pittsburgh —(U.P.)—The CIO International Union of Electrical Workers, on strike against Westinghouse Electric Corp. since Oct. 17, charged the company today with "wanton disregard for human lives and fortunes."

The union, representing 55,000 Westinghouse employees, said company negotiators were insisting on "bankers' hours, leisurely lunches and long recesses" during negotiations aimed at ending the 25-day walk-out.

Ike Expected To Get Big 'Welcome Home'
Washington —(U.P.)—Officials today predicted 200,000 Washingtonians will give President Eisenhower the warmest reception since his inauguration when he returns home tomorrow.

The chief executive will see a huge "Welcome Home Ike" banner unfurled over an archway of fire ladders and bunting as he drives over Memorial Bridge across the Potomac in a plastic-topped car from National Airport to the White House.

MORE SNAKES

Medora, N.D. —(U.P.)—James Barnhardt picked up a rattlesnake and put it in a glass cage for display in his bar as a "curiosity." When he opened up the next morning, he found eight little "curiosities" had arrived.

Chilean Government Grants Firm's Request

Santiago, Chile —(U.P.)—The government was reported Wednesday night to have granted the petition of the Anaconda and Kennecott copper companies to increase from 200 to 300 pesos the rate of exchange it pays for dollars returned by them to Chile for their copper exports.

Informed sources said that in return for the increase, the companies had agreed to advance the government \$15,000,000 to cover the deficit in Chile's dollar exchange budget for 1955.

Most failures of farm sewage disposal systems can be traced to the final disposal field.

Blind Broom Makers Return To Job; Lions Club Helps

Portland —(U.P.)—Twenty-one blind broom-makers were to return today to jobs they lost Tuesday at the Oregon State Blind Commission workshop here.

The workshop was closed by Commission Administrator Clifford Stocker after Attorney General Robert V. Thornton ruled its employees were not eligible for state industrial accident coverage.

Members of the Northwest Lions club have offered to pay one-month premiums for private insurance coverage for the handicapped workers, however, and Stocker said he hoped to have the insurance transfer completed in time for the workers to return tomorrow.

Another encouraging announcement came from Salem, where Thornton said he would "make every effort to work out a proper and legal method" of solving the blind workers' insurance problems.

The blind workers involved met yesterday and cancelled a "march" on the state capitol.

Pyle Doubts Ike Will Pick Candidate
Pasadena, Calif. —(U.P.)—Howard Pyle, deputy assistant to President Eisenhower, says he does not believe the President will "pick anybody" to be his successor if he decides not to run for reelection.

"It is presumptuous to discuss the matter because I still think there is a 50-50 chance that the President will be a candidate," the former Arizona governor told the Annual Conference of the Council of Profit Sharing Industries last night.

One of their two 18-year-old buses couldn't make it up a hill and had to be towed. The other broke down twice.

Last Tributes Paid To Peter Gruening

Sydney, Australia —(U.P.)—Press, radio and diplomatic colleagues paid their last tributes to Peter Gruening, late United Press manager for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, at brief funeral services today.

Gruening's brother, Hunt, was the chief mourner, representing his parents and family. He flew to Sydney from Alaska to help in the search for Peter, who had been missing since Oct. 28. His body was found last Saturday.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is The Community's Biggest Marketplace at noon Saturday.

Camels, yak, goats, water buffalo, ewes and reindeer are used as a source of milk in some parts of the world today.

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