

# Eisenhower Has Date In Eight Weeks To Reveal Presidential Intentions

## Another Banner Year Expected For Construction

New York—(U.P.)—The booming construction industry is headed for another banner year in 1956.

And industry spokesmen jubilantly see a steady growth over the next 10 years.

New construction expenditures are expected to rise to more than \$44,000,000,000 next year, about \$2,000,000,000 above the record 1955 figure.

Alterations and maintenance of existing structures will add on another \$21,000,000,000 bringing total construction volume in 1956 to a new high of \$65,500,000,000, according to the experts.

They look for a new record despite a decline in new housing starts, resulting in part from a tightening of credit terms in the latter part of 1955.

They said a sharp rise in non-residential construction — mainly public works and a big increase in industrial expansion — will more than offset the decline in new housing starts.

Industry spokesmen expect around 1,200,000 new housing starts in 1956.

The optimism for 1956 is not shared by all, however. Some 201 economists surveyed by F. W. Dodge Corp. predict new construction in 1956 will drop \$1,000,000,000 from the 1955 high to \$41,000,000,000.

They said this dip will reflect an easing off in the nation's economy as a whole in the second half of 1956.

However, the economists look for new construction to reach \$50,000,000,000 by 1965, assuming a gross national product of \$500,000,000,000.

With construction riding along in the crest of a boom industry spokesmen see no end in sight.

Harold R. Berlin, vice-president of Johns-Manville Corp., said, "The building boom, in long range terms has just begun to hit its stride."

"Population growth and technological advances are forcing a volume of construction beyond anything the U. S. has ever known."



**A HAPPY IKE**—After putting Mamie aboard his plane, Columbine (background) for her return to Washington, President Eisenhower enjoys a hearty laugh with his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, at Boca Chica Naval Air Base in Florida.

## Reporters Told One Year Ago of Statement Plan

By LYLE C. WILSON  
 United Press Correspondent  
 Washington — (U.P.) — The year during which President Eisenhower suggested newsmen cease pestering him about a second term is almost up. He has a date now with the reporters to tell all on next March 2, which is eight weeks from Friday.

Considering all the old and new circumstances relating to his likely political activity, Mar. 2 seems to be about the time the nation may expect to hear from Mr. Eisenhower on his 1956 plans. If he delays much beyond that time, the President may fairly be accused of stalling. Some of his White House associates favor a stall.

They have in mind a "holding action" in which various friendly favorite son stooges would obtain control of state delegations and rack the convention votes up for last-minute delivery either to Mr. Eisenhower or a candidate of his choice at San Francisco next August. There is no evidence yet that the President will buy that one.

It seems more likely that he will make more or less good on his promise of March 2, 1955 to his news conference that day. Pressed for information on second term prospects, Mr. Eisenhower said:

"I will tell you, if we can have a complete moratorium on it, I might make a date, let's say, a year from today."

There would be solid precedent for it if the President has done considerable pondering of the second term problem during his Key West vacation from which he will return next week. Former President Truman made his big political decision while vacationing there in December, 1951.

William D. Hassett, then a White House secretary, recalls that the boss sprang the bad news at a Key West dinner party in the first week of December. To his 14 guests Mr. Truman confided that he would not seek another White House term.

Hassett remarked to Rear Admiral Robert L. Dennison, the naval aide, that two couldn't keep a secret, much less 14. Mr. Truman's was well kept, however, until the following March when he announced his retirement at a Jefferson dinner speech here.

**Exempt From Amendment**  
 The Constitution had been amended some time earlier to limit presidential tenure, but Mr. Truman was exempted from that.

President Coolidge also chose a vacation spot to make his greatest political decision. Mr. Eisenhower's heart attack was scarcely a greater jolt to the Republican Party than the statement which came from Mr. Coolidge in the Black Hills of South Dakota in August, 1927. Scrawled on slips of paper, Mr. Coolidge had passed it to reporters: "I do not choose to run for president in 1928."

The quaint phraseology started a great debate to which Mr. Coolidge contributed not a single word. The debate raged over the question: Does he mean it? A great many Republican leaders, especially the old guard men who opposed nomination of Herbert Hoover, believed Mr. Coolidge merely had indicated a disinclination to run. They were confident he would accept a draft nomination.

The draft never came. When the 1928 Republican Convention met in Kansas City, big Pennsylvania switched to Mr. Hoover. He won going away.



**FOLDS HIS WINGS**—Landing at San Francisco from Hawaii, United Airlines Capt. Ralph J. Johnson hangs up earphones for the last time winding up a 38-year flying career. 28 of them with United. Johnson, of Los Altos, Cal., is one of few pilots in the nation to continue flying to retirement age of 60.

## Aircraft Control Moving To Mt. Hebo

Portland — (U.P.) — The 689th aircraft control and warning squadron is moving from Portland to Mt. Hebo, a 3120-foot peak in the Coast range near Tillamook, according to an Air Force announcement.

The radar station will house some 200 officers and men in special buildings which have been prepared to withstand strong winds often reaching 100 miles per hour.

The Air Force said a pack of German shepherds, trained for military duty, would be used as sentries.

A survey of nearby towns is being made to determine what recreation arrangements can be made. Some 30 prefab units will be constructed halfway down the mountain for families of married men.

The station at present has a nucleus force of some 25 men and officers.

**FAIR WARNING**  
 Tomahawk, Wis. — (U.P.) — A sign on a fencepost beside a highway in this northern Wisconsin resort area has this message for passing motorists: "This is God's country—don't drive through it like Hell!"

## Area Stockmen Oppose Subsidies; Suggest Changes In Land Bank

Jackson county stockmen voiced opposition to government subsidies and offered possible improvements in the proposed soil bank plan at a meeting of the stockmen's association board of directors recently.

County Agent Ben Tucker, secretary of the group, said the organization has notified congressmen and secretaries of agriculture and interior asking that land diverted from surplus crops be devoted to non-competitive agricultural enterprises.

The group also asked there be no further depression of livestock prices through diversion of land to grazing with government subsidies, he said.

The association suggested diverted acres to be used for wildlife development, such as seed crops for wild birds or feeding other wildlife, with use of the land supervised to protect the owners.

Other suggestions included seeding land to grass for erosion prevention or for improving the soil.

The group, which represents an industry operating without subsidies, emphasized its wish that all government subsidies be dropped from agricultural commodities and prices be allowed to seek their own levels.

Annual meeting of the association will be held Monday, Feb. 13, at the Central Point Grange hall. Interested persons are invited to the all-day affair, according to James C. Miller Jr., Medford, president. Warren Bayliss, Crater Lake highway, is program chairman.

The federal program for eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle was reported to be favored in this area with the majority of stockmen taking advantage of federal assistance in checking and vaccinating animals.

The group discussed the tax status of forest and grazing lands. Miller reminded cattlemen that lands used for grazing which are now classified as forest lands can be re-classified for lower taxation.

Acres classified as forest lands are subject to fire protection taxation which is not applicable to grazing land, he said. Persons who wish to have land reclassified may obtain applications from members of the county land classification committee.

Members are A. A. Lausmann, chairman; Jim Miller, secretary; G. E. Dunn, Ashland, and Homer

## Railroad Line Cleared of Slide

Portland — (U.P.) — Union Pacific's main line to the east was cleared today following a big slide that halted a 123-car freight train last night at Multnomah Falls, derailing five cars.

Crews worked throughout the night to clear the slide.

Engineer Leo Tracy said he hit the brakes just as the train entered the slide "then we all dived for the bulkheads and let her ride through." The train ripped up ties and traveled about half a mile before it came to a stop.

"I don't know what stopped us from going on our side," said Tracy.

The slide missed catching the UP's eastbound streamliner from Portland by half an hour.

The freight was en route from The Dalles to Portland at the time of the slide. Earlier yesterday three UP westbound trains were delayed more than an hour by a slide at Rooster rock.

**GETS RAIL POST**  
 Portland — (U.P.) — D. F. Wengert was appointed yesterday to be new general manager for Union Pacific's Northwestern district with headquarters here.

## Dispute Rages Over Water at Oceanlake

Portland — (U.P.) — The State Board of Health and Oceanlake were involved in a dispute today over the Lincoln county community's water supply.

The health board announced plans to take legal action against Oceanlake unless it chlorinates its water supply before May 1. Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, said repeated surveys have shown the city's water to be "subject to contamination."

Robert McClain, Oceanlake city councilman, said that it was decided at the last council meeting to turn the matter of chlorination over to the city engineer. "It's pretty definite that equipment will be in," he said. McClain added that the last seven

samples sent to the state came back perfect and the "last one was submitted two weeks ago."

## Bridge Damaged; 99 Traffic Detoured

Vancouver, Wash. — (U.P.) — Traffic between Portland and Seattle on Highway 99 was being detoured today after roaring waters of Salmon creek undermined a 200-foot bridge six miles north of here last night.

The state patrol said northbound traffic was being detoured via the Manor highway and that southbound traffic over the Sara road and south on it.

The state patrol said that the bridge was reported to have dropped 3½ feet last night.

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