

Suggested Compromise Eases Tension in Short Creek Polygamy Incident

Angry Neighbors Defy Officials On State Visit

Short Creek, Utah—(U.P.)—A suggested compromise between state law and religious belief today eased tensions in this desert village when angry neighbors defied welfare workers sent to take custody of eight children of a polygamous family.

Husky members of the "Fundamentalist" cult, which advocates polygamy, stood shoulder to shoulder Tuesday and turned back a sheriff and welfare workers sent to take custody of eight children of Leonard Black and Vera, one of his three wives.

The children, ranging in age from 4 to 19, started to cry after the sheriff arrived to take them from their unpainted cinder block and stone home. All were dressed in their best clothing. Six-year-old Wilford Marshall Black wailed, "I'm not going, mommy, I'm not going."

Ten-year-old Eslie clung to the family cat and declared she would take it with her. Neighbors blocked Sheriff Roy Renouf of Washington county had been instructed not to use force and he left empty handed.

State officials decried the incident as "open defiance" of Utah law and said they would not drop the case.

Atty. Gen. E. R. Callister said, "We can't stand idly by and permit the Blacks to defy the law." The case was started in 1954 as a test to determine who should have custody of children belonging to parents arrested in a polygamy raid in Short Creek in 1953. Leonard Black, among those arrested, pleaded guilty to conspiring to live in polygamy and was placed on probation.

Refused To Sign Affidavits The Black children were surrendered to authorities after their parents refused to sign affidavits promising not to practice or preach polygamy. They were returned to their parents when a court test began. The Utah Supreme court ruled against the Blacks and the U.S. Supreme court refused to review.

Possibility of compromise was reported to V. Pershing Nelson, Washington county attorney, who would be responsible for the next legal move by the state. Nelson said he was informed indirectly of a proposal to modify the affidavit to make it more palatable for the "Fundamentalists," many of whom are excommunicated from the recognized Latter Day Saints church, which disavowed polygamy in 1890.

He said he "will wait and see" what develops before continuing court action to take the youngsters.

Midwestern Solons Rap Farm Program

Washington—(U.P.)—A bloc of Midwestern Republican congressmen have sent word to President Eisenhower that they are unhappy about his farm program.

They said they want more immediate relief for hard-pressed farmers.

The farm-state congressmen said the administration's program built around a "soil bank" is fine for the long run. But they pointed out the voters will go to the polls this November.

Some of the congressmen urged easier credit for farmers. Others proposed more federal meat buying to hold up cattle and hog prices.

The Midwesterners dumped their complaints on House Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin Jr., Tuesday at a secret meeting. The complaints were expected to be passed to the White House.

Ironwood, Mich., is farther west than St. Louis, Mo., while Port Huron, Mich., is farther east than Greenville, S.C.

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CRIPPLED OVER OCEAN, this four-engine Globemaster lands safely at Hickham Air Force Base, Honolulu, with two engines dead. Ten men were aboard world's largest land-based plane, piloted by Major Joseph C. Parton, Salt Lake City. (International)

Transportation Funds Approved By Non-High Board

The non-high school board recently approved payment of transportation costs for the first school quarter, reviewed attendance problems and explored the possibility that federal funds might be available to the district.

The board approved payment of \$7,405.12 to high school districts from those districts which have no high schools to a high school.

Largest Payment The largest payment of \$1,808 was made to Medford high district. Eagle Point received \$1,575 and Grants Pass, \$1,533.

The board reviewed seven requests from students for release from the state attendance laws and discussed attendance problems.

The board decided to further study the possibility that districts in the board's jurisdiction might be eligible for federal funds under a law that provides some aid to districts where there is federal property.

Non-High Districts The board also discussed a law passed by the 1955 state legislature which provides for elimination of non-high districts by July, 1958. The law requires that all school districts without high schools by that date must directly provide high school tuition.

At present tuition is paid by the non-high district, which includes 13 other districts in Jackson county.

County School Superintendent Alf B. Mekvold said that the non-high board here has functioned very well and he felt the law was designed to handle situations in other parts of the state.

Reference Service At Library Starts

A special reference service has been set up at the Medford Public Library for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, between 4 and 9 p.m. The appointment of Mrs. Joyce Fuller, Ashland, to the library staff on a part-time basis makes the service available, Miss Helen Webster, librarian, said.

Mrs. Fuller is a graduate of the University of Washington library school and attended Southern Oregon College and the University of Oregon. She has had library experience in the Pierce College rural library, the Mid-Columbia regional library, and the library of Southern Oregon college.

Residents wishing reference are urged to inquire between 4 and 9 p.m., when they can be answered by a librarian free from interruptions.

Two other assistants have been added to the staff on a part-time and substitute basis. Mrs. Wilma Eubanks recently moved to Medford from Empire, Ore., where she was employed in a branch of the Coos county library. The experience of Mrs. Elaine Miller has been chiefly in college libraries.

HARVARD MONEY Cambridge, Mass. — (U.P.) — Harvard university's endowment fund now totals \$442,000,000, the largest in its 300-year history.

About 41 per cent of North Dakota farm families had home food freezers in 1954.

John Day Hearings Scheduled Jan. 19

Portland — (U.P.) — A second hearing to consider a corps of engineers report recommending storage modifications at the proposed John Day dam will be held in Washington, D. C., Jan. 19, according to Brig. Gen. L. H. Foote, North Pacific division engineer.

Lower Storage Capacity The report, previously considered last September, recommends a lower dam pool elevation than that contained in the original report. Originally, the John Day plan provided for 2,000,000 acre feet of flood control storage between normal pool elevation 255 and elevation 292 feet. The modified plan would provide for a normal operating pool level of about 262 elevation, but not to exceed 265 feet, with a storage capacity of 500,000 acre feet.

The revision came out of a public hearing at Arlington, Ore., in September, 1953, at which opponents to the larger pool said it would make industrial development infeasible or impossible in that area.

Handicap To Facilities Witnesses at the hearing also claimed a large fluctuation in the pool would handicap the operation of port facilities, grain elevators and Columbia River barge traffic.

The Corps of Engineers said the original John Day storage was included in its "308" report regarding the comprehensive development of the Columbia basin, which proposed storage facilities capable of controlling a flood of the magnitude of the 1894 disaster.

Oregon Man Held In Sacramento for Extortion Attempt

Sacramento, Calif. — (U.P.) — A jobless Oregon man was arrested here last night in an attempted \$100,000 extortion of a wealthy lumberman.

Police said William Jesse Ellis, 27, Hillsboro, Ore., claimed he needed money to feed his three children. Officers quoted him as saying he had been in Sacramento for three months and had been unable to get work.

Ellis was arrested after he took bundles purported to hold \$10,000 from a Greyhound bus depot locker.

The packages, placed in the locker by George Steiner, co-owner of a lumber company that had refused a job to Ellis, contained clipped newspapers with dollar bills on the ends.

Warning by Telephone Steiner said he first received a telephone call from a man who identified himself as "Martin." He said he was told during that and subsequent telephone calls that his "children would be without parents" if he did not produce \$100,000.

Steiner said he told the caller that he could raise only \$10,000 cash. Arrangements were then made to put the money in a locker and place the locker key behind the coin slot in a specified telephone booth.

Police plainclothesmen watched Ellis retrieve the key and take the packages from the locker. He was arrested as he left the depot.

London Columnists Tire of Kelly Romance London—(U.P.)—Two London newspaper columnists said today the Kelly-Rainier romance is a bore.

"I wish they would live happily ever after and come to the end of a story that is giving me an increasingly agonizing pain in the neck," the tabloid Daily Sketch's columnist Candidus wrote.

The Daily Mirror's columnist Cassandra said that "of all the great boring romances of the 20th century, the Kelly-Rainier contest threatens to be the most formidable."

Ike's Lieutenants Secretly Informed More Immediate Help Needed On Midwest Farms

Washington — (U.P.) — Some Midwest Republicans have secretly insisted to President Eisenhower's congressional lieutenants that Midwest farmers need

more immediate help than is provided in the administration's new farm program.

They generally agreed the administration's program is fine for the long run but complained it does not provide enough immediate relief.

Several urged more government meat buying to bolster sagging prices for hard-pressed farmers having trouble meeting payments on bank loans.

Three-Hour Meeting These and other suggestions were put forward, largely by Mid-westerners, at a secret, three hour meeting late Tuesday attended by about 30 House Republican strategists and farm experts from all sections of the country.

House Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin Jr., (Mass.), invited to the meeting the House Republican Policy committee and all Republicans on the House Agriculture committee and the House Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee.

Martin apparently wanted to insure support of Republican farm specialists for the President's program in advance of calling all House GOP members behind closed doors today to discuss it.

'Soil Bank' Main Feature The main feature of the administration's many-faceted farm program is a "soil bank." It would provide payments to farmers to take land out of production with the ultimate goal of eliminating price-depressing crop surpluses.

Martin told a reporter he thought all of the members generally approved the President's program.

The decline in hog prices has worried Midwest Republicans more than anything else. Farm prices for hogs averaged \$10.60 per hundred pounds in mid-December compared with \$17 a year earlier.

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Peter S. Petko, switched license plates, \$25.
Betty Lee Eccleston, failure to regard warning signal, \$5.
Roy Clyde Price, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Vernon C. Baldwin, violation of basic rule, \$10.
James Wallace Spradling, no driver's license, \$5.
Ellsworth Johns Hallenbeck, failure to stop at a stop sign, \$5.

DISTRICT COURT
Willard Wilson Summer, failure to signal for turn, \$6.
Lloyd Phell Black, no operator's license, \$10 (bail forfeiture).
John Henry Mallow, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Wilbur White Lull, inadequate muffler, \$15.
Raleigh Mathews, failure to stop at a stop sign, \$10.

CIRCUIT COURT
Hillet A. Anderson vs. Ila Mae Anderson, divorce decree.
Linnea J. Matthews vs. Glenn Thomas Matthews, divorce decree.
Dale Harris vs. Lorraine Harris, divorce decree.
Odessa Davis vs. George Davis, divorce decree.
Frank Woods vs. June Woods, divorce decree.
Janice L. Metz vs. Henry E. Metz Jr., divorce decree.
James L. Foster vs. Jeanetta M. Foster, divorce decree.
Peggy Ann Bennett vs. Fred L. Bennett, divorce decree.
Carol Marie Dyer vs. Lloyd Edmus Dyer, divorce decree.
Virginia LaVonne McDonald vs. Edward Gilbert McDonald, divorce decree.
Earl L. Hess vs. Leona May Hess, marriage annulment complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION
Lendel Carl Buttram, 18, Shady Cove, and Janet Anne Stuart, 18, Shady Cove.

SNAKE GETS JOLT
Brisbane, Australia — (U.P.) — A snake blacked out 14 Brisbane suburbs Tuesday night. Officials said the four-foot snake crawled into a powerhouse transformer and got a 19,000-volt jolt.



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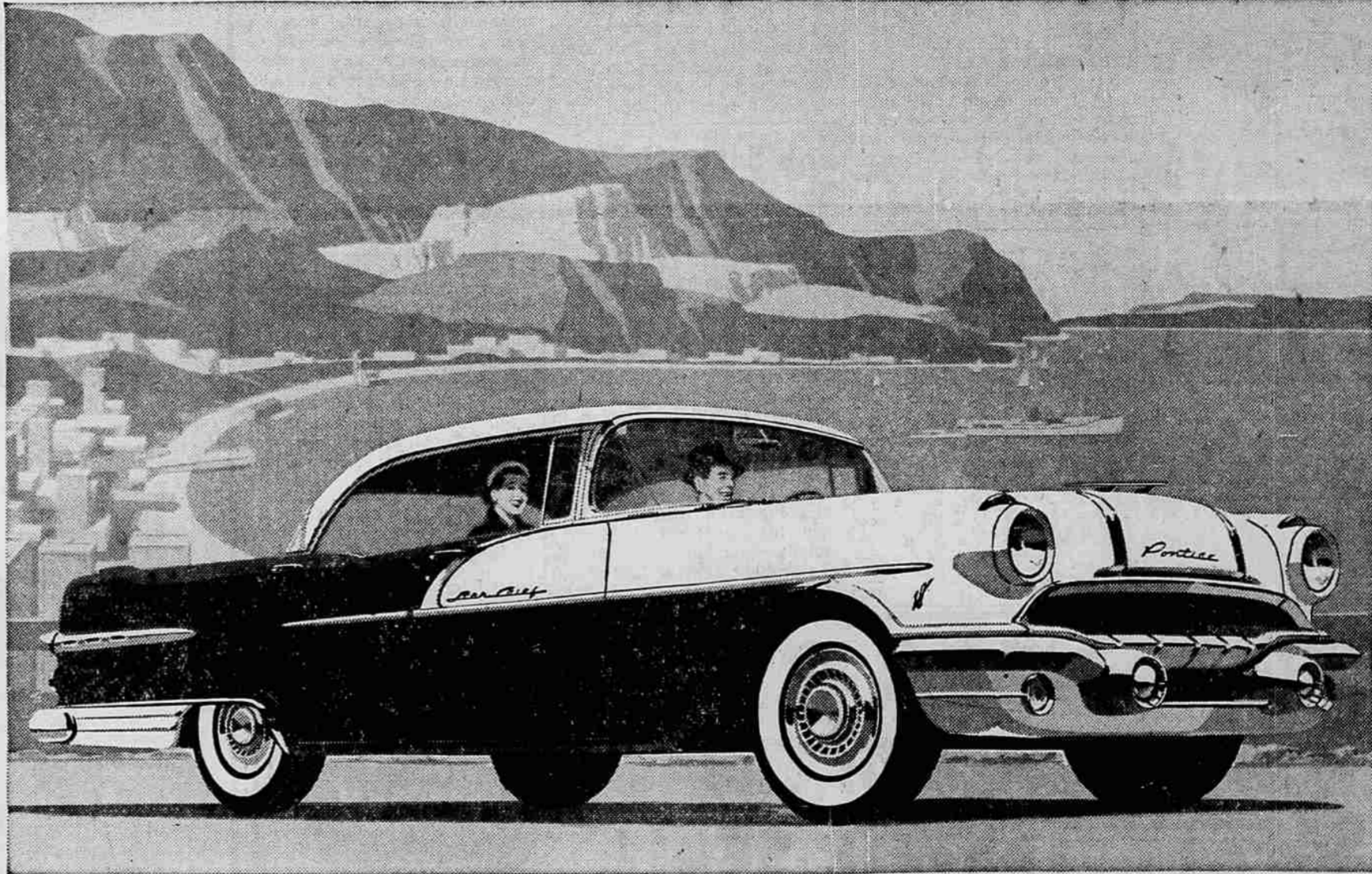
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