

# Aviation Officials Planning Greatly Increased Control of Planes in Air

## Concern Voiced About Congestion At Air Traffic

Washington — (U.P.) — Aviation officials in government and private industry today told of plans and ideas for greatly increased control of planes in flight to prevent collisions in the air.

Investigators seeking the cause of Saturday's fatal double crash in Grand Canyon have made no official finding, but the circumstances pointed to the possibility that the two airliners ran into each other.

Many air-conscious people have been voicing concern for several years about current air traffic congestion and the likelihood of critical congestion in the future when there are more and faster planes. There was some feeling today that last week end's tragedy in Arizona would have ironically beneficial results in bringing more energies to bear on solution of the problem.

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## Programs Started

Long before the latest catastrophe, plans and programs were being started.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration has a \$265,000,000 five-year plan or multiplying its ground installations for air navigation and traffic control—radio signals and ground-to-air communications. Congress recently voted \$40,000,000 for the first year's work.

The Air Transport association, made up of the nation's 47 scheduled airlines, decided only last week to make a big push in their search for a device to warn pilots when they are on a collision course with another plane nearby.

The CAA and the military are working on the possibility of using U. S. defense radar installations in the control of non-military aviation as well as military. These units are parts of the SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment) system for detecting an enemy air attack and guiding U. S. fighter planes to the invaders.

Complete SAGE-type system for the whole country, with radar augmented by computers to direct planes in the air, would be expensive, but some quarters feel such complete, full-time control is necessary, or soon will be. The several government and industry air safety programs are working in that direction.

The CAA's five-year plan envisions 46 more airport surveillance radar installations. There are 34 now operating. The plan also would increase long-range radar installations — two now operating and two more authorized — by adding 87 more. It would add 459 new omni-directional radio ranges to the 418 now installed on the nation's air-planes.

There are no comparable figures for the planned increase of ground-to-air communications. The aim is to eliminate many of the time-consuming relays of messages from one air route control station to another and thence to a plane in the air, by giving more of the stations direct communication with planes.

## Meyers Named to Zilka Office Here

Paul Meyers has been appointed assistant manager of the Zilka, Smither and company, incorporated office at 14 South Central ave., according to Vice President James H. Zilka, Portland home office.

Since the World War II, Meyers has operated his own accounting service in Medford. He was a lieutenant in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. Before the war Meyers was employed with the First National Bank, and was assistant manager of the Sixth and Morrison st. branch in Portland. He worked for some time in the bank's Medford branch.

Richard E. Watson is manager of the Medford office of the investment securities firm.

Boston — (U.P.) — Massachusetts is the only state in the union in which single girls outnumber single men. There are 514,774 unmarried girls and 512,784 unmarried men.

## News Editors Demand Sweeping Modernization of Air Regulations

By UNITED PRESS

Newspapers across the country demanded editorially today that the government follow up the tragic crash of two airliners in Grand Canyon, apparently after a collision, with a sweeping modernization of air traffic regulations.

The Dallas Times Herald in a front page editorial, called the crash a "shocking reminder that the problem of safety in air travel is far from being solved." It "called for a thorough investigation by all the agencies that supervise air services" and said "public interest demands that Congress review all the laws and regulations that apply to aviation."

In Denver, the Scripps-Howard Rocky Mountain News said "We have been made tragically aware of the mounting danger of collisions. This is developing naturally from the great increase in air traffic and plane speeds, perhaps leaping dangerously ahead of the nation's traffic control system."

## Youngsters Nominated For Bravery Medals

Salem — (U.P.) — Youngsters from La Grande, Lebanon and Garibaldi have been nominated by Gov. Elmo Smith for bravery medals by the Young Americans Medals committee of the U. S. Department of Justice. Nominations are for bravery during 1955.

Nominees include Jim Whitman, 14, of La Grande, who saved a 17-year-old friend from the Grande Ronde river; Lynn Pettit, 12, Lebanon, who saved a six-year-old boy from drowning at the Lebanon community swimming pool; and Donna Wempole, 12, Garibaldi, who rescued six children from a burning home in rural Tillamook county.

The Chicago Tribune said today's flying regulations are "devised for a stage of civil aviation . . . that is already in the past." The Tribune said the crash should "hasten development of a new, precise system for controlling all plane traffic on domestic airways."

The New York Times said "whether or not the two passenger planes that now lie at the bottom of the Grand Canyon collided in midair, the need for better aerial traffic control has long been apparent." It said "considering the statistics, it is evident that the rules for the regulation of air traffic need not only revision but closer integration with communications systems on the ground and in the air."

The New York Herald Tribune called for "searching investigation" into the crash and urged special emphasis on "flight plans that would avoid such dangerous proximity and on the use of radar—a must on any commercial plane."

## Freed Priests To Leave Shanghai

Hong Kong — (U.P.) — Two Roman Catholic priests from San Francisco who served three years in Communist China's prisons will leave Shanghai tonight by ship for Hong Kong, it was reported today.

The Revs. John W. Clifford and Thomas L. Phillips, were released from Shanghai's notorious Ward Road Jail last June 16. Both were convicted by a Red Chinese court on charges of espionage and anti-state activities.

Bishop James Walsh told the United Press by telephone from Shanghai that the two priests had informed him they will sail aboard the steamer Hamburg tonight. The ship is scheduled to arrive here Saturday.

Walsh said the two priests, Jesuit missionaries, "had received instructions from their superior to leave China."

The priests had said on their release that they would await a decision from their superiors before deciding whether to remain in China or return to the West. Walsh said Phillips and Clifford were "well physically." He said they have "just been taking a rest since their release from prison."

The bishop said that the two priests have been "free to see their Chinese friends here."

The release of the two priests left 11 other U. S. citizens still in Red Chinese jails.

the obsolescence and inadequacy of the present methods of air traffic control." It said "The Grand Canyon catastrophe suggests that the possibility of collision in midflight can no longer be ignored anywhere."

The San Francisco Chronicle said "The ingenuity and technical proficiency of the nation must now be directed toward evolving a traffic control system fitting the needs of the day."



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**Justice Douglas in Hospital at Portland**

Portland — (U.P.) — Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas was hospitalized here today with an ailing hip.

Douglas said he expected to continue to his summer home at Forks, Wash., "in a couple of days" and later planned a flat-boat trip down the middle fork of the Salmon river in Idaho.

**State Police Arrest Road Gang Escapees**

State police last night arrested George James Cochran, 21, Rosedale, Calif., and Richard James Packard, 25, Olympia, Wash., who were listed as escapees from a county prisoner road gang in Bakersfield, Calif. They were lodged in the Jackson county jail waiting extradition to California.

They were arrested on the Jacksonville highway when state police stopped to make a routine check on a parked car.

A 13-year-old juvenile from North Hollywood, Calif., who was with the men, was turned over to juvenile authorities here. Caroline N. Abernathy, 21, of Pacoima, Calif., owner of the car, was not held, police said.

Cochran and Packard escaped from the road gang June 25.

**HEAVY MONEY**

Scituate, R.I. — (U.P.) — Burglars who lugged away a half-ton safe from a general store here must have been miffed to discover that it contained a mere \$15.

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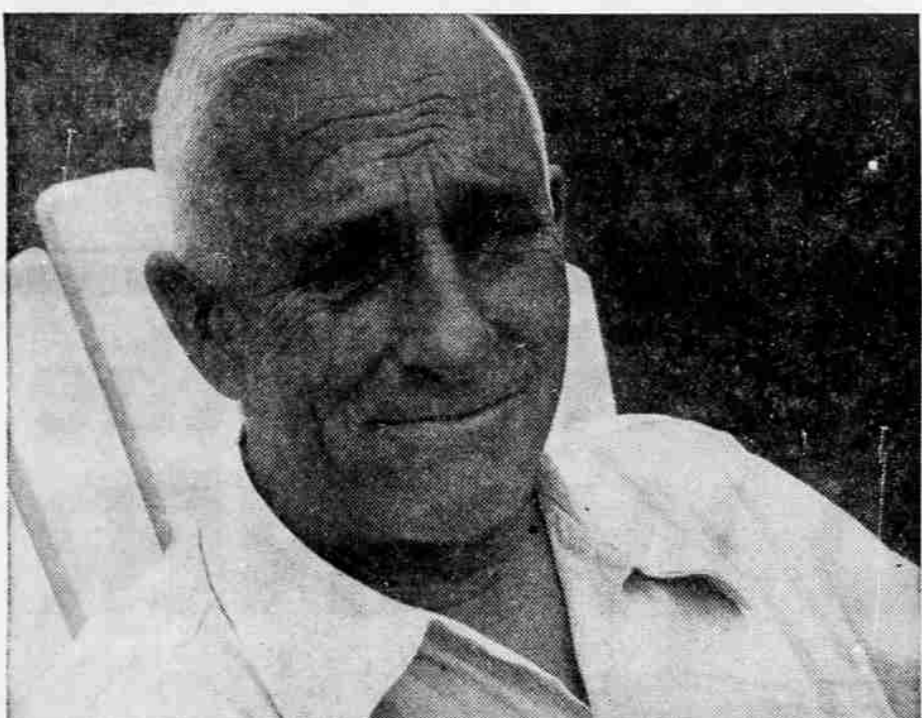
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Wherever he may have been when the thought came to him is of little consequence.

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