

SENTENCE IS COMMUTED

Jensen to Serve 99-Year Term in State Penitentiary

Holmes Acts in Line With Inaugural Talk

Salem — Gov. Robert D. Holmes, acting in line with his bid to abolish capital punishment in Oregon, Wednesday afternoon commuted the death sentence of James Norman Jensen to 99 years in the state penitentiary.

Under terms of the commutation, following eight days before the 28-year-old Jensen was scheduled to die in the prison gas chamber, the prisoner cannot become eligible for parole for 33 years.

Fixed Term

Governor Holmes said he was commuting to the fixed term to insure that Jensen, who was convicted of the 1954 murder of Medford housewife Mrs. Fern Hile, could not go free. If the sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment, Jensen could conceivably be paroled after serving seven years.

The governor said he was taking the step to spare Jensen's life because he was opposed to capital punishment, and because legislation which he had requested to abolish it was now progressing through the legislature. Also, he said, "It has been established that the imposition of capital punishment does not prevent the commission of murder."

A resolution which would refer the capital punishment question to a vote of the people has already passed the house by a substantial margin and is now being considered by the Senate's committee on state and federal affairs.

End to Penalty

An end to the death penalty was called by Governor Holmes in his inaugural address because he said "... it is my feeling that state government has an obligation to be civilized, even in the exercise of its obligation to protect society and I find nothing in enlightened religion or the ethics of modern civilization that justifies capital punishment."

Jensen's commutation was the second of a death penalty since any convicted murderer has been executed at the prison here. The late Gov. Paul L. Patterson commuted the sentence of Donald Dwayne Imlah, killer of his foster parent Bruce Houck at Hood River, to life imprisonment August 6, 1955, 12 days before he was scheduled to die.

Patterson said he based his decision to commute the sentence on some doubt as to the unanimity of opinion by the jury though they returned a unanimous verdict of guilty in the first degree. "I do not feel that society should exact the highest penalty if there be any doubt that the required conditions for that penalty exist," Patterson had said.

Consideration for Parole

Imlah, as a result of the commutation to life imprisonment, will be eligible for consideration for parole in 1960. He had been sentenced to die August 18, 1953, for the murder which occurred in 1953.

Jensen, termed a psychopathic criminal, was convicted at Medford of the April 24, 1954 hatchet slaying of Mrs. Hile while she lay sleeping in the bedroom of her home there. The murder occurred just five days after Jensen had been released from San Quentin where he had been serving a sentence for car theft.

Governor Holmes noted that Jensen's record indicated he had spent most of his life in penal or mental institutions in California after being placed in a boys home by his widowed mother at the age of 13. Though his record showed a long history of mental illness, he was declared sane under Oregon's criminal insanity statutes at the time of his trial in October, 1954.

10-Day Trial

Jensen was sentenced to death at the end of a 10-day trial, but appeals of the Jackson county circuit court action have delayed the execution date. His case was appealed to the State Supreme Court which ruled he had had a fair and impartial trial. The U.S. Supreme Court twice refused to review the decision on the basis it had no grounds to do so.

Edward C. Kelly, Medford attorney for Jensen, filed an application for commutation with

Homicide Charge Is Dismissed Because Of Lack of Evidence

Charges of negligent homicide were dismissed against Lawrence Alvis Workman, 25, Seattle, Wednesday afternoon in district court by Judge Rawles Moore.

Three witnesses for the state testified during the preliminary hearing.

Workman was being held by police as the driver of a vehicle which struck Jack Everett Engler, 25, Seattle, as Engler was pushing his stalled vehicle north on Highway 99 at Talent Sunday evening. Engler died 3 1/2 hours later in a local hospital.

Witnesses called by the state were Mrs. Engler, Samuel A. Edwards of Sams Valley, and State Police Officer Maynard Schoen.

According to Judge Moore insufficient evidence was given to justify Workman being bound over to the grand jury on the negligent homicide charge.

According to the district attorney's office further action by the state against Workman is under consideration. District attorney deputies pointed out that Workman may still be indicted by the grand jury.

Workman was released by authorities yesterday following the hearing. He was served with an order and summons, subpoena and complaint prior to the hearing in connection with a civil suit filed with the county clerk yesterday.

Complaint Filed
The complaint, filed by Robert R. Dickey, administrator of the estate of John E. Engler, asks for \$20,000 damages. Workman was scheduled to appear in circuit court at 2 p.m. today.

Workman is represented by James Main with Manville M. Heisel, attorney for the Engler estate. Alan Franke, deputy district attorney, presented the state's case at the hearing yesterday.

MacLeod Named Manager of KYJC; Replaces Dunlevy

Tom MacLeod, 200 Sunrise ave., Medford, has been named manager of radio station KYJC, succeeding James Dunlevy.

MacLeod joined the radio station staff in June, 1950, as sports director. A year later, he assumed the additional duties of commercial manager.

A native of Denver, Colo., he was active in athletics at Denver's South High school. He is a Marine Corps combat veteran of World War II in the South Pacific, and a 1949 graduate of the Pasadena Institute of Radio and Television. He graduated from Colorado A&M college in 1947.

MacLeod is a member of the Elks lodge, Rogue Valley Country club and a member of the PAL club board of directors. His wife, Evadyn, is a dietitian at Rogue Valley hospital.

Dunlevy, who has been manager of KYJC for the past seven years, will become manager of the Rogue Valley Country club on Monday, April 1. He succeeds George Harrington, who has been manager of the club for 11 years and recently resigned to become manager of the Arizona Country club, Phoenix, Ariz. Harrington is leaving Medford tomorrow.

Judge Overrules Demurrers in Case

Demurrers in the cases of two tavern operators and two bartenders arrested in a raid March 15 by Medford police and sheriff's deputies in connection with alleged pinball machine pay offs have been overruled by District Court Judge Rawles Moore, 11

The demurrers, filed by attorney Edward Kelly, were argued in district court March 20. The demurrers each named three points of alleged fault in the charges.

Charged with the violations are Joseph Edward Stratman, bartender at the Medford hotel lounge, charged with operating a game of chance; Lloyd Keller, operator of The Tavern, charged with possessing and operating a game of chance; Sam Prough, operator of the Talent club, charged with possessing, operating and displaying a game of chance; and Charles Will Gleim, bartender at the Talent club, charged with operating a game of chance.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES
New York — (U.P.) — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 475.01, up 1.29; 20 railroads 144.43, up 0.26; 15 utilities 71.58, up 0.33, and 65 stocks 168.19, up 0.61. Salest day were about 1,930,000 shares compared with 1,710,000 shares Wednesday.

Earthquake Shakes San Diego Area Today
San Diego — (U.P.) — A "fairly sharp" earthquake shook the San Diego area at 1:09:33 a.m. PST today, according to amateur seismologist Fred Robinson. However, authorities said they had received no reports of damage.

Robinson said he believed the quake, which lasted three-quarters of a minute, was local in origin.

Jury May Get Cramer Case Today
Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — The Guy Earl Cramer murder case was expected to go to the circuit court jury here today after the defense, in a surprise maneuver, waived its right to make a closing argument.

Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg was expected to charge the jurors about noon before turning the case over to them to decide whether Cramer is guilty of the first degree murder of Klamath County Welfare Commission Chairman Fred Peterson or innocent by reason of insanity.

District Attorney Richard Beesley made a brief closing argument before the jury today after the state rested its case yesterday. But Defense Counsel Donald Piper this morning waived the right to make an argument, thus denying the prosecution a chance to expand its argu-

ments in a rebuttal.

Final state witness was Dr. John W. Evans, a Portland psychiatrist who was a spectator at the trial.

In reply to a question posed by Charles E. Raymond, Portland attorney who is serving as special prosecutor in the case, Dr. Evans said Cramer's action on Jan. 4 when he fatally shot a welfare official were "deliberate, premeditated, with great malice and purposeful, allowing for his sick mind."

Cramer is on trial for the fatal shooting of Klamath County Welfare Commission Chairman Fred Peterson during the course of a welfare meeting in the court house here. Two other officials were seriously wounded.

The defense has admitted the shooting but contended that Cramer is innocent by reason of insanity. He has repeatedly said



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New KYJC Manager

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16 Die, 235 Hurt In Mexico Blast

Mexico City — (U.P.) — Local and federal police tried to pin responsibility today for the storing of 20 tons of high explosives that blew up in a densely populated area Wednesday — spreading death, destruction and injury for a quarter of a mile.

Rescue workers ended their search for bodies early this morning and said the final death toll probably would remain at 16. At least 235 persons were injured, many of them seriously.

Earlier, Dr. Roberto Gomez of the Mexican Red Cross said that because bodies were blown into small pieces the death count may rise as high as 50.

There were two explosions. They demolished the warehouse in which explosives were stored, left a block-wide crater and leveled every building and one-story adobe shacks in the congested area for 200 yards.

Most of the casualties occurred in the second explosion. It came as spectators rushed to the scene following the first blast. Seven firemen were among the dead.

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Two New Proposals Into Fund Handling Slated

Military Planes Join Search for American Woman

Bandits Kidnaped Mrs. Carroll Sunday

Tehran, Iran — (U.P.) — Three U.S. military mission planes joined Iranian troops and police today in a desperate air and ground operation to rescue a pretty American woman kidnaped by bandits who killed her husband and another American man. There were indications she is still alive.

Vague and fragmentary reports reaching Tehran, 800 miles northwest of the town of Iran-sahr where the attack took place, said the kidnaped American woman left a trail of torn bits of paper. American officials said they believed the bandits would hold her for ransom.

There also were indications that the attack by desperadoes in the remote and arid region of Baluchistan in southeastern Iran was directed against this country's new close ties to the United States in the Baghdad pact.

The attack took place Sunday. Kevin M. Carroll, 37, Issaquah, Wash., and Brewster A. Wilson, 35, Portland, officials working on U.S. Point 4 aid programs for Iran, were killed. Carroll's wife, Anita, was kidnaped. Two Iranian drivers also were killed.

The three planes attached to the U.S. military mission in Tehran joined the hunt for the bandit gang after the Shah of Iran personally ordered full mobilization of police resources to rescue Mrs. Carroll and capture the killers.

Soldiers and policemen poured into lonely Baluchistan by truck and camel to press the search in the barren, remote area where the Middle East meets Central Asia.

At first it was believed the bandits attacked the American party because they had mistaken their jeep for police vehicles. The bandits in this region hate the police who have been very active in the area in cleanup operations in recent weeks.

But observers said the ambush also possibly had political implications.

It coincided with the visit to Iran of U.S. Ambassador James P. Richards on a mission explaining President Eisenhower's new doctrine for the Middle East and the announcement that the United States was joining the military committee of the Baghdad pact.

There are many opponents to Iran's close relations with the United States. It was pointed out in Tehran that this would not be the first time such methods were used to attack a political measure in this country.

Attempts to Open Safe Unsuccessful

Attempts to open a safe at the Blake Moffitt and Towne warehouse, 227 North Fir st., Medford, were unsuccessful last night. Police believe several "juvenile safecrackers" were responsible.

A combination dial to the safe was pried off and the outer door opened, police said. An attempt to open an inner door failed, they added.

A window in the rear of the building was broken, officers reported. The attempted burglary occurred sometime between 6 p.m. Wednesday and 7:45 a.m. today, they said, adding that nothing of value was taken. Donald Oliver Tesdal, warehouse superintendent, reported the attempt.

Verdict Returned Against Trail Man

Jay Lesley Goodman, box 250, Trail, was fined \$100 and his driver's license was suspended 90 days after he was found guilty of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor following a municipal court trial Tuesday.

Execution of the fine and suspension has been delayed pending possible appeal of the case. City Attorney E. R. Bashaw reported. Warren Lesseg, Goodman's attorney, gave oral notice of appeal after Municipal Judge Noreen Kelly handed down the court's verdict.

Goodman, who was arrested on the driving charge by city police Feb. 27, pleaded innocent. Arthur Morton Curtis Sr., Medford, was fined \$100 in municipal court last Saturday on a charge of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Salem — (U.P.) — The House today passed a bill which places a limit of 10 per cent per year on finance charges in automobile installment contracts.

"Rock-a-Bye Baby, In The Tree Top— Let's Make Believe The Fallout Will Stop"



Senate Committee Hears Arguments on Empowering Proposal

Salem — (U.P.) — A proposal to empower the Oregon public utilities commissioner to suspend proposed reductions in intrastate rail transportation rates was argued pro and con for more than two hours late yesterday before the Senate committee on commerce and utilities.

And with 11 persons still waiting to testify, Sen. G. D. Gleason of Portland, committee chairman, called a recess until 1 p.m. Tuesday.

William P. Ellis, Portland attorney representing the Oregon Trucking association, said Senate bill 301 sponsored by Sen. Philip Lowry of Medford and others, would give the public utilities commissioner power to suspend minimum rates as well as maximum, pending public hearing.

Under present law, he said, the courts have held that the PUC did not have power to suspend minimum rates. The rail company proposing them could put them into immediate effect and it would then be up to the PUC to go to court in an effort to have his suspension order upheld.

Under Senate bill 301, he said, it would be the other way around. The PUC could suspend the new rates, which then could not go into effect until a public hearing was held. If the PUC then rejected the proposed rates, the old rates would remain in effect until the company went to court and succeeded in having the PUC order reversed.

Paul Follett of Portland, representing Tidewater-Shaver Barge Lines and Albany Barge Lines, Inc., said that after the organization of Albany Barge Lines in August, 1952, with a storage capacity of 6 miles north of Albany of 1,300,000 gallons of petroleum, rail rates on petroleum were reduced to the point of threatening operation of the large lines.

Reasonable Profit
Roy Shields, Portland attorney representing the Oregon Railroads association, said the

public health physician emphasized the remaining vaccine should be limited to children who have not yet received their first shot. Those who have received one shot can wait one to four months before their second is needed, he said.

Dr. Merkel said those who have received two shots in the three-shot series can wait as long as eight months before taking the final Salk vaccination. He added he did not know when another shipment of the vaccine would arrive.

Many private physicians in the Medford area have said their supply of the vaccine is gone but that the vaccine may still be available at some drug stores. Others reported their supply was limited but that shipments were expected sometime in April.

Bank Debits Show Decline Last Month

Eugene — Bank debits for February in the southern Oregon area showed a decrease of 14.9 per cent from the previous month and a decrease of 11.2 per cent from February of last year. Total bank debits for the area were \$50,035,493 with eight banks reporting.

Bank debits for the entire state, totalling \$1,417,083,347 with 166 banks reporting indicated a drop of 17.7 per cent from January, 1957, but showed a gain of 5.6 per cent over February of a year ago.

Bank debits, regarded as good indicators of business activity, represent the dollar value of checks drawn against the deposit accounts of individuals and business firms. The bureau of municipal research collects bank debits monthly.

Investigations Announced in Wake Of Senate Hearings

Committee Calls Temporary Recess

Washington — (U.P.) — Two new investigations into handling of union funds were launched today in the wake of Senate exposure of alleged misuse of Teamsters' Union money.

The new investigations, announced while the Senate Racket committee hearings are in temporary recess, will be carried out by:

—The House Labor committee, whose chairman, Rep. Graham A. Barden (D-N.C.) said some union welfare funds are being "pillaged." He said hearings will start "at a pretty early date."

—The labor department. Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell said his department will study legislation that may be needed to protect the funds of union workers.

The Senate committee called a temporary recess after teamsters boss Dave Beck refused on grounds of possible self incrimination to answer charges that he "may have misappropriated" more than \$322,000 in union money.

Beck said in refusing to testify that he expects to be indicted on income tax charges and will reserve his testimony until then. His attorney said the indictment may come soon.

In Chicago on his way back home to Seattle, Beck told newsmen the Senate investigation was "strictly a one-way street." He said the union will appropriate \$1 million to open a publicity office in Washington "to tell the true story to our members and to the nation."

The Senate group, meanwhile, said it will investigate possible strike-breaking and collusion with management by Beck's union.

Committee counsel Robert F. Kennedy said the committee also will delve into "another very serious business transaction" between a union and a business concern in which he said Beck is believed to have an interest.

Kennedy would give no further details except to say the company made profits of \$50,000 a year and "still has business dealings of some magnitude with the union."

Barden said the House inquiry will be no mere sideshow to the Senate investigation. He said that in some states union welfare funds, totaling nearly \$35 billion, are not adequately policed.

Barden said legislation is needed to protect such money. He said some persons "are pilaging and stealing it. You know it and I know it."

Mitchell disclosed his plans at a news conference in which he branded Beck's activities "reprehensible."

"Mitchell said labor should be allowed to 'clean its own house.'" He said union leaders are "moving in that direction" and should be "commended."

But, he added, "they may need some help from the government."

(See story on Page 10)

Joy Dahl Reported In 'Fair' Condition

The condition of Joy Dahl, 19, Jacksonville, who was apparently accidentally shot while babysitting in Medford Friday, was reported "fair" today at Rogue Valley hospital.

Miss Dahl's condition was listed as "poor" earlier this week. She was shot through the abdomen with a bullet from a 30-30 caliber rifle at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Deen, 415 Edwards st., Medford. She told police she was dusting furniture in a bedroom when the gun, which was kept in the same room, discharged.

Weather

FORECAST: Generally cloudy with chance of occasional light rain through Friday. Continued mild. Low tonight 45. High Friday 63.

Highest Yesterday 60:01
Lowest This Morning 45:56
Prec. to 10 a.m. Today .12

Our Skies Tonight
Sunset 6:01 a.m.
Moonrise Friday 4:56 a.m.
New Moon March 31

PROMINENT STAR
Antares, rises 12:29 a.m.
VISIBLE PLANETS
Jupiter, high in south-
west 9:33 p.m.
Saturn, rises 12:24 a.m.
north of Antares.