

Expansion of Urban Renewal Programs Trowned by House

Salem —(U.P.)— Expansion of urban renewal programs throughout Oregon was voted down in the House Tuesday by a whopping 42-17 margin.

The renewal bill would have permitted any Oregon city to set up redevelopment programs whereby slums could be cleared and blighted areas repaired with the aid of federal funds.

Under the current redevelopment act of 1949, renewal was limited to cities of 70,000 or more and to clearance programs only.

Rep. Richard Eymann, Mohawk Democrat and a sponsor of the bill, said it would bring the state's renewal program up to date and in line with other states. He added that it was of special interest to Portland, Arlington and the Eugene-Springfield area.

Opposition to the bill centered on the belief that it would give too much power to city and county officials and to development commissions to decide on land use, zoning and to condemn property.

Under the bill, land could be

condemned up to 10 miles outside limits of cities of 10,000 or more to further a renewal project.

Rep. Wayne Giesy, Monroe Republican, referred to the bill as a "gigantic real estate gamble." He said it gave state broad powers to local agencies that it might be unconstitutional.

Other Highlights
Taxes: Discussion of a tax program started in the House Taxation committee with Republican members Wayne Giesy and Fayette Bristol plumping for a sales tax as the best answer to the state's financial headaches. Democrats are opposed to the sales tax.

Judgments: Passed by the House was a bill authorizing summary judgments to reduce court clog when no issue of material fact is involved. The bill was backed by the state bar.

Vets: Also passing the House was a bill liberalizing length of service requirements so that an additional 400 Korean veterans might receive state educational aid benefits.



WORLD IN HER FINGERS—Joy Harmon displays a few reasons why she was chosen to be official hostess at the Scandinavian countries exhibit at the United States World Trade Fair to be held in the New York Coliseum April 14-27. The fair will feature 3000 displays from 59 countries of Europe, Asia, South America and Africa.

Chemical Plant Blast Levels Building; Five Killed, Four Injured

Charleston, W. Va. — (U.P.) — An explosion at a Monsanto Chemical Co. plant near here leveled a three-story building Tuesday, killing five workmen, injuring four others and unleashing chlorine fumes which forced 1,200 persons to leave their homes.

The blast, of undetermined origin, "blew apart" the building, known as "shells," at the sprawling Monsanto installation of Nitro, W. Va., 15 miles from here. The building was reduced to rubble.

Some of the injured were in "very critical" condition at the Memorial hospital and the fifth was listed as serious.

State police ordered more than 1,500 persons to leave their homes when the chlorine fumes

spread from the wrecked building after the blast. Company firemen quickly halted the escape of the gas and the residents later were allowed to return to their homes.

Plant manager John McClain said he believed the fumes were "non-toxic," but ordered tests made "to make sure."

Those killed in the blast were building foreman Elmer Priddy Sr., 56, Jack Vintrox, 47, Joe Johnson, 33, and Lacy Gilbert, 47, all of Nitro, and Mansford Qualls, 34, of Hurricane, W. Va. Gilbert and Qualls died in hospitals hours after the blast.

The injured were Paul Martin, 31, Poca, W. Va., Tom Miller, 41, Bancroft, W. Va., and Tom Smith, 33, Eleanor, W. Va., all "very critical," and Lionel Jones, 41, Poca.

Trotsky's Widow Continues Crusade To Clear His Name

Mexico City — (U.P.) — Leon Trotsky's widow continues a personal crusade to clear her assassinated husband's name of spy and traitor charges made by Russia's dictators.

There have been frame-up attempts. She has been shot at. But Natalia Trotsky has never given up the fight to have her husband's name restored to the Kremlin's hall of fame.

Trotsky was murdered by a man who gained his confidence, won the freedom of his home, and then drove an alpenstock into his head while he was reading.

His 74-year-old widow claims her husband was killed that August in 1940 on orders of Josef Stalin.

The assassin claims it was a personal argument.

But investigators believe, and the killer's statement at the time of the murder indicated, that the founder of the Red army died as the result of a cunningly planned crime.

They say it was more than coincidence that several months earlier the killer sought out and became intimate with a plain Brooklyn girl in Paris who was the sister of Trotsky's secretary. The friendship allowed him to make Trotsky's acquaintance when he came to Mexico.

Soon after he struck the blow, the man who calls himself Jacques Mornard told Trotsky's infuriated bodyguards, "They made me do it! They have my mother in prison!"

Though Mornard, later identified as Ramon Mercader del Rio, still denies it from his comfortable Mexico prison cell, Natalia Trotsky says "they" were the Russian secret police.

In 1950, her theory was partially substantiated when a Mexican criminologist, Dr. Alfonso Quiroz, uncovered a fingerprint card in Madrid's police files that matched the classification of Jacques Mornard.

The card bore the name of Ramon Mercader del Rio, arrested in 1935 for taking part in a clandestine Communist meeting. Del Rio's mother was a well known GPU agent in Spain and was in prison at the time of Trotsky's murder.

Before the assassination, Natalia nearly died when 25 men disguised as soldiers and police sought to machine-gun the couple in their bedroom. They saved themselves by lying on the floor.

Not long ago a poorly executed attempt was made to frame Trotsky's widow and his followers for plotting Mornard's death in the event he received an expected parole. But she never has been silenced by fear.

"The Kremlin's maneuvers to picture murdered Bolshevik leaders as ideological enemies are their usual method to quiet protests and discontent of the Russian people," she said recently.

She also sent telegrams to the Supreme Soviet asking her husband's restoration to his place in Communism's hall of fame.

"If Stalin had not had him killed," she says, "Trotsky would be one of Russia's top leaders today."

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Brixham, England—Capt. Alan Villiers on his ship, the Mayflower II, after its sea trials:
 "She is a lovely ship, a sturdy ship and she handles magnificently."

Chicago—U.S. Attorney Frank McGarr on Bessie Roth, 49, spinster bank bookkeeper who allegedly embezzled \$467,333:
 "Apparently she just did the thing out of the goodness of her heart. She didn't keep a dime."

Washington—Rep. Clare E. Hoffman (R-Mich.) accusing the U.S. Information agency of slighting the rest of the country by distributing abroad free copies of two New York newspapers, the Times and Herald Tribune:
 "It isn't fair to spend the money of all the people to tell people abroad just what the people of New York and Brooklyn think."

Washington—Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, on the restoration of mail service:
 "Every effort I can assure you, will be made to continue to the public the best possible mail service, to keep postal employees on the job, and to operate as economically as we can."

Help for Eastern Oregon Farmers Urged

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Wayne Morse, Richard Neuberger and Rep. All Ullman, all Oregon Democrats, asked Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson Tuesday night for urgent action to help "flood-struck" farmers in eastern Oregon.

They pointed out that an emergency money bill providing funds for the department has been tied up in a House-Senate conference committee for the past six weeks.

In view of the delay they asked Benson to recommend to President Eisenhower that he advance money from the emergency fund to be repaid when the emergency bill is approved.

They said they have been advised from the area that inaction on their request will result in a lost crop this year.

The Department of Agriculture says 11.5 million children are getting their lunch at half price under the national school lunch program.

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