

State GOP Head Criticizes County Organizations

Portland—James F. Short, state Republican chairman, today criticized most of the county GOP organizations for failing to respond to a finance plea.

Short said only three counties, Deschutes, Marion and Benton, had answered an appeal for funds which he made April 11. He said his letter asked county chairmen to send state headquarters a minimum of \$100 each month in April and May with more populous counties giving up to \$250.

"The appeal for funds was largely a test of the counties, as far as I was concerned," Short said.

He said "If I had been in the place of any one of the chairmen I would have got on the phone and got 10 people to raise \$10 each."

He said a moderate amount of money was needed now to pay current costs and moving the state office to Salem.

Short announced appointment of Otto J. Wilson, Salem, as treasurer of the state central committee.

British Steamship Line May Enter U.S. Market

London—Britain's Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announced Tuesday it will send the 23,000-ton liner Himalaya on a voyage from Australia to San Francisco next spring to test the possibilities of entering the North American passenger market. The line has carried passengers from Britain to the Far East for more than 50 years.

French Socialists Beat Pflimlin Move

Paris—The important Socialist Party voted overwhelmingly today against backing Pierre Pflimlin as France's new premier. The move doomed his bid to end the country's 15-day-old government crisis.

After two days of stalling and hedging, the Socialist steering committee decided by a 74 to 22 vote at a special session this morning not to join any cabinet formed by Pflimlin.

Pflimlin was expected to inform President Rene Coty immediately that his attempt to set up a new government had failed. Coty was reported considering Senator Jean Berthoin of the Radical Party as his next choice for premier-designate.

Fair Trial Assured For American Soldier From Japanese Courts

Washington—Administration officials assured angry congressmen and relatives of GI William S. Girard today he will get a "completely fair" trial from Japanese courts.

They rejected demands from some lawmakers for abrogation of the agreement with Japan under which Girard was surrendered to Japanese justice for killing a Japanese woman on a U. S. firing range.

Both State and Defense Department spokesmen said this and other "status of forces" treaties with foreign nations are essential if the United States wants to keep its troops on their soil.

Some Lawmakers Agree This view was echoed by some members of Congress who said the nation must "weigh the risk" involved in protecting the

rights of U. S. troops abroad without jeopardizing U. S. security needs of their being there. President Eisenhower was expected to give further assurance Girard will get a fair trial from Japan, with every protection for his rights his government can provide.

Tuesday's decision to turn the Army Specialist 3-c over to the Japanese courts touched off a storm of protest in this country.

Investigations were ordered in both House and Senate. A two-man Senate armed services subcommittee called defense officials to explain behind closed doors today. Sen. Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vt.), one of the members, called the Girard decision "outrageous." He told a reporter a "very serious error" was made in the Pentagon "and we want to see who actually made it."

Earlier Decision Confirmed The announcement of the final U. S. decision said an earlier agreement to turn Girard over to Japan had been "authorized" and this country could not re-

voke its agreement now. It did not say who authorized the earlier move.

Military officials pointed out that under Girard's indictment by the Japanese for causing death by wounding—the most lenient homicide charge in the Japanese criminal code—Girard would be liable to a sentence of 2-15 years in prison.

They said a U. S. court-martial sentence would be three years. They were not clear whether this would be the minimum sentence that could be imposed, and indicated the possible penalty might be higher.

Parachute Jumps For Smokejumpers To Start Thursday

Cave Junction—First training parachute jumps for smokejumpers at the Siskiyou Aerial project will be Thursday and Friday of this week about 8 a.m. at Seat's field near the Redwood highway.

A total of 13 returnees will start their week's refresher course June 6 and 7, and will be ready for fire calls by June 17. Thirty new men and four more experienced men will check in at the project. Then, first call of the season came last week from Six Rivers National Forest, but no jumpers were available from this district.

New Project The new aerial project at Redding will draw three local smokejumpers as squad leaders for the 24 men who will be stationed there under Fred Barnowsky, foreman. Phil Clark will leave for Redding June 14, and Orville Looper will move to his new location July 17. Both have been year around squad leaders here for several years. Warren Webb, a summer man, will also go to Redding as the third leader.

Training Plans All of the Redding crew, including Barnowsky, who is now at the Siskiyou aerial project, will receive specialized smoke-jumper training here. According to James Allen, foreman of the local project, 53 men will be trained at the Illinois Valley airport, but only 28 will remain here as the Siskiyou district summer crew.

From June 17, when the new men start to arrive, until late July, practice jumps from the new steel tower and training jumps from the U. S. Forest service plane, piloted by Ed Scholtz will go on almost continuously. Meanwhile the previously trained men will be on call for fire duty in remote areas that can only be reached by jumpers.

Vehicle Travel In Oregon Declines

Salem—A 1 1/2 per cent travel so far this year was reported today by the Oregon Traffic Safety commission.

Latest month to show a drop was April when travel fell off about 12 million miles from that recorded for April a year ago.

So far this year, January has been the only month to show an increase in total motor vehicle mileage.

The rather low travel figure for April of 589,990,150 miles was matched by a drop in traffic deaths with 31 reported for that month. The state's death rate was 5.3 persons killed in each 100 million miles of travel. This compared with a 6.5 death rate for April in 1956.

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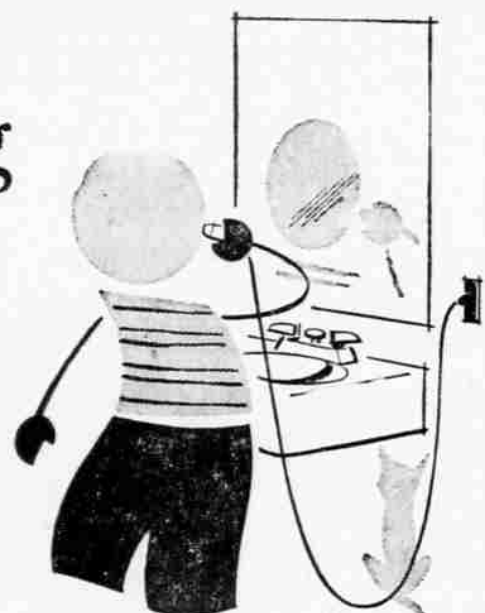
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