

# Nationwide Phone Strike Threatened

## Long Distance Walkout Looms After Midnight

### Negotiators Seek Contract Settlement

New York — Negotiators worked today to head off a nationwide long distance telephone strike at midnight. Representatives of the American Telephone and Telegraph company and the Communications Workers of America resumed negotiations in an effort to work out a new contract for 25,500 AT&T employees.

Elaine Gleason, national director of the long lines division of the CWA, said the possibility of a strike any time after the union's current contract expires at midnight "is very promising."

Nearly complete returns on a strike ballot taken Thursday indicated that the union membership was "overwhelmingly" in favor of striking, she said.

A company spokesman noted, however, that the union in the previous three years had agreed to work beyond the contract expiration date while negotiations continued.

Both sides reported that some progress was made during daylong talks Thursday. The company spokesman said wage agreements had been reached in more than 50 percent of the geographical areas affected by the contract. Miss Gleason, however, gave a more pessimistic report.

No-Strike Clause  
She said the company was asking for a no-strike clause, elimination of a maintenance of union dues clause, and an increase of working hours for administrative workers in 24 cities. She said AT&T wanted these employees to increase their weekly work load from 35 and 37 1/2 hours to 40 hours.

"Things do not look good," Miss Gleason commented. The union is seeking a \$3-a-week increase for operators and \$3 to \$5 for plant workers at company installations in all states except New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, South Dakota, Montana, and Nevada, where the union is not represented. Plants workers earn \$43.50 to \$119 a week and operators earn \$43 to \$70.50, with wage scales varying in different sections of the country.

**Embarrassed Bankers Turn To Rival Firm**  
Santa Paula, Calif. — Embarrassed officials of the Bank of America branch here turned to a rival firm Thursday for money to stay in business when they couldn't get their vault open.

When the chief clerk set the time clock before leaving Dec. 31, he forgot that the New Year's holiday was only for one day and not a week end.

The result was that bank manager Paul Keith ran out of money and was forced to go hat in hand to a competitor for funds. The bank couldn't open its vault until late Thursday afternoon.

**Loyalists Guard Palace After Venezuela Revolt**  
Caracas, Venezuela — Loyal forces guarded the presidential palace today although the government of President Marcos Perez Jimenez appeared in firm control of revolutionary elements.

Perez Jimenez announced in a nationwide broadcast Thursday that the New Year's Day uprising by Venezuelan air force and army units had been crushed.

**Minimum of Losses**  
Perez Jimenez said the revolt was put down by local government troops "with a minimum of losses."

There was as yet no official announcement on the number of casualties either in the fighting or in the sporadic air



**MOD TREASURER** — Glen Rader, above, has been named treasurer of the March of Dimes. It has been announced by R. L. Palmer, Medford chairman. Rader, with his wife and three children, resides at 1428 Crown ave. He is assistant operations officer at the United States National Bank, Medford branch, a member of Roxy Ann Grange and assistant scoutmaster of Troop 14. (Photo by Landis studio).

## Appointments Are Made; Two New Committees Set

Medford Mayor John Snider extended all one-year committee appointments made when he took office Jan. 1, 1957, created two new committees and appointed several members to committees at last night's city council meeting.

A parks and recreation committee and a parking and related problems committee were announced by the mayor. He said he is still considering members for the new committees and will announce them in the next few weeks.

New appointments included Carl Brophy, attorney, army advisory board, one year; former Mayor Earl Miller, 617 Park st., city planning commission, four years; Gene Thomas, 45 South Central ave., library board, four years; Mrs. Dwight Houghton, 512 Dakota ave., Nick Gier, Parsons motors, and Carl Dawson, 932 South Holly st., budget committee, three years; George Polski, Fluhrer building, and Seth Bullis, 216 West Main st., appointed to one year on the union commission.

Bullis was appointed to fill a one-year term vacancy created when Paul Rynning resigned. (See Story on Page Two)

## Warning System in City To Be Studied

An informal discussion and study will be made by the city council and a representative from the Public Utilities commissioner's office on the railroad track crossing warning system in Medford, Tuesday, Jan. 7, according to city manager Robert A. Duff.

He said it would be the first step in complying with recent PUC orders resulting from a hearing in Medford last August regarding the speed of trains at crossings. The commission ordered improvements in lighting, improvements in the warning system and ordered studies to be made of several crossings and of the warning systems.

The study will concern both main and side track warning systems and their length of operation, Duff said. Improvement of the systems will be made upon completion of the study, he added.

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## New Civil Rights Body Begins Task After Ceremony

### Group To Assure Minority Rights

Washington — The historic new Civil Rights Commission today began its task of insuring the voting rights of American Negroes and other minorities.

The six-man commission, headed by President John A. Hannah of Michigan State University, was sworn in at a White House ceremony presided over by President Eisenhower.

Administration officials said Eisenhower would take a hands-off attitude toward the commission and its work and the members would be on their own from the start.

The President selected three northern and three southern commission members to implement a section of the Civil Rights act passed by Congress last year.

The panel's job is to investigate alleged violations of voting and of other civil rights and to propose whatever legislation it believes is needed to safeguard those rights.

It will report to the President and Congress by Sept. 9, 1959, two years after the 1957 civil rights bill became law. Then it will pass out of existence.

Hannah was appointed Dec. 23 to succeed former Supreme Court justice Stanley F. Reed as chairman, who quit to avoid possible involvement as a still active jurist.

**Members Named**  
Besides Hannah, the group includes former Florida Gov. Doyle E. Carlton; former Virginia Gov. John S. Battle; the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame university; Assistant Secretary of Labor J. Ernest Wilkins, a Negro; and Robert G. Storey, dean of the law school of Southern Methodist university, Dallas, Tex.

**Christmas Tree Burn Set Sunday**  
A Christmas tree burn at 8 p.m. Sunday on the Antelope rd. in the Camp White area will climax the county Christmas tree lift, being sponsored by Medford Moose Lodge 178.

Residents in Medford, Central Point, Ashland, Talent, Jacksonville and Phoenix are asked to place Christmas trees on either the front porch or lawn before noon Sunday with a donation to the March of Dimes in an envelope tied to the tree. All contributions will be credited to the Jackson county polio fund campaign, according to John Keener, general chairman of the tree lift.

Members of the Moose lodge will meet at the lodge hall, 11 South Newtown st., at noon Sunday to begin the pickup. They will be assisted by members of the Medford High school sophomore class's Teens-Against-Polio group. Pickup trucks will be donated by Medford car dealers and big vehicles to haul the trees to the burn site are being donated by Moore Steel company and Pierce Freight Lines.

The public is invited to attend the burn, Keener said.

## Bandits Get \$1,200 In Portland 'Jobs'

Portland — Bandits got some \$1,200 from three Portland establishments late Thursday and early today.

A patron who told the barmaid he was hungry rifled the cash register at a Southeast Hawthorne boulevard tavern and left with \$200.

## Cabinet Given Review of Ike's Union Message

### Proposed Budget Briefly Discussed

Washington — President Eisenhower reviewed his State of the Union Message and briefly discussed his proposed \$74 billion budget with members of the Cabinet today.

Afterward he presided at swearing in ceremonies for members of the new Civil Rights Commission and discussed their duties with them at the commission's first official meeting.

**Furnished Draft**  
White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said Cabinet members were furnished a draft of the State of the Union Message before they went to the White House. He said no major changes were made at the Cabinet meeting, which lasted more than two hours.

Hagerty told reporters the new budget, which he said will be balanced, came up at the meeting "just in passing." He said he believes its final dollars and cents figures has been "virtually decided."

In round numbers it will be about \$74 billion. Officials said the huge spending program, a peacetime record, is complete except for some minor adjustments in defense items. It contains about \$40 billion for defense to meet Russia's missile threat.

**Nixon At Meeting**  
All members of the Cabinet and Vice President Richard M. Nixon attended the meeting in the White House Cabinet Room.

In presiding at the Cabinet and Civil Rights Commission meetings the President was winding up a 26-hour visit to the capital before returning to his Gettysburg farm.

Hagerty said he does not expect any official callers at the farm this week end. He said the chief executive will continue to work on the final wording of his State of the Union Message.

## Motion Filed To Resubmit Cases

A motion has been filed in Jackson county circuit court by the district attorney's office to resubmit to the grand jury the cases of Leonard E. Steege, Darrell Johnson and Larry William Irvin, all charged with rape, according to District Attorney Tom Reeder.

Steege, 24, lives at 401 East 12th st., Irvin, 26, at 215 Wilamette ave., and Johnson 26, at 619 Palm st., Medford. All three are free on bail.

Reeder said his office requested the order to have the cases reconsidered and is submitting the indictment now on file on the basis of new evidence and new witnesses pertinent to the case, Reeder said.

All three had entered pleas of innocent to the charges when arraigned on the indictment Sept. 6. Trial dates were set for January then continued, according to the county clerk's office.

## Bitter Cold Wave Grips Eastern Nation

The bitterest cold wave of the winter gripped most of the nation east of the Rocky mountains today and the Weather Bureau promised little relief.

Below freezing temperatures were reported along a line from the Carolina coast into Southern Alabama and Mississippi and northwestward into the Texas panhandle.

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## Six Russian Soldiers Desert East Germany

Berlin — Russian refugee groups reported today that six Soviet soldiers deserted in Communist East Germany New Year's Eve and four of them beat their way to the West through a ring of Soviet troops.

The emigre said one deserter was shot and captured and another was still at liberty.

The escape plot, coming while the communists were celebrating their biggest holiday, touched off unprecedented activity by Soviet troops on the borders of Berlin.

The Soviet troops rushed to border posts Wednesday night and conducted an intensive manhunt in the Soviet sector of Berlin. They kept it up until about noon today when they turned the posts back to the East German Communist guards.

**Great Importance**  
The display of force, the greatest by the Red army in Berlin since the workers' revolts of June, 1953, indicated the Soviets attached the greatest importance to the deserters. There was wide speculation one was a general.

The Russian emigre Truchnovich Committee in Berlin first reported the defections another Russian emigre group, the Soviet Resistance Organization, in Frankfurt, known as N.T.S., backed it up. The N.T.S. said the quick action by the Soviet army blocked the flight of deserters on an even larger scale.

## Six-Year-Old Hurt When Hit By Car

Six-year-old Thomas Eugene Neely, of 31 North Columbus ave., was reported in fair condition this morning after he was injured Thursday afternoon when he apparently fell from a car backing from the driveway of his home.

The boy was taken to Sacred Heart hospital by Medford Ambulance service. He suffered internal chest injuries, according to hospital officials. Police said the accident took place about 3:25 p.m. Thursday.

The car, operated by the boy's mother, Mrs. Betty May Finlay, 32, said she stopped at once when she realized the boy was under the car, according to Medford police.

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## Russian Offensive Claimed Subverting Free Governments

Washington — A government report warned today that Russia's new economic offensive has made considerable headway toward subverting free governments and underdeveloped countries.

The report, prepared by the State Department, estimated that in the past three years Russia and her Communist satellites have given these countries nearly \$1,900,000,000 in economic aid.

This aid has been designed to promote Russia's "expansionist aims of international Communism," the study said. It added that many of the countries accepting Soviet help have failed to see the dangers of Russian infiltration and subversion.

A copy of the report was made available to the United Press by non-administration source.

The study said that Russia has been faced in recent years "with unfavorable prospects for conquest in Europe" and has been "frustrated in its reliance on direct subversion to expand its influence over other areas."

Therefore, it said, the Communist bloc turned to economic penetration of independent countries it wished to subvert.

Major emphasis has been given by Russia to the new nations in Asia and Africa "struggling for national identification and economic improvement."

## Council Postpones Ordinance Action

The Medford city council last night postponed action on the proposed subdivision ordinance until a planning consultant from the League of Oregon Cities examines it.

The motion, made by Councilman James Dunlevy, was supported by all councilmen. Dunlevy said he had examined the ordinance and although he did not question the judgment of Hahn, Wise and Associates, who drafted the original ordinance, he did want someone else's opinion.

The consultant, Lloyd Anderson, is scheduled to arrive in Medford later this month. Anderson will work on the city's urban renewal program while in Medford.

Mark Boyden, Medford, surveyor, told the council he had more than 40 suggested changes for the ordinance. Robert McIntyre, Rogue Valley land company, also said he had several suggested changes for the subdivision ordinance. Mayor John Snider suggested the men submit the suggestions in writing and to discuss the changes at an informal council meeting. No meeting date was set.

## Safety Feared For Bend Family

Bend — Fear was felt today for the safety of a family of three who have not been seen since about 4:15 p.m. on New Year's day.

Missing were Mr. and Mrs. James R. Thompson and their daughter, Juanita, 2. Fear was expressed that they may have met with an accident in snow-covered hills not far from Bend.

The family was seen driving away from their home less than two hours before a New Year's night dinner engagement. Friends said the family may have decided to take a short drive to some nearby butte for a sunset picture. Thompson has an interest in photography.

Searchers said it was possible the family car might have stalled in snow in the Cascades.

The Thompsons came here in August from Boise, Idaho. He is an office supply worker here.

ore William B. Nichol, 85, Thursday on the occasion of his 50th anniversary as a daily commuter on the Central's Croton local-express line.

## Benson Payments Target of Suit Filed by Democrat

Washington — Whether or not he wins his "friendly type" lawsuit against Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson, Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) believes he already has set a considerable precedent.

He said he is the first congressman ever to sue a Cabinet officer to restrain an "illegal" action. He assumes the reason it hasn't been done before is that never before has a Cabinet officer so "flagrantly flouted" the law.

**Contrary View**  
Benson has a contrary view of this. Their differences presumably will be mediated shortly in U.S. District Court here. Reuss asked the court Thursday to block Benson from paying farm operators more than \$3,000 each in soil bank subsidies for taking land out of production.

Reuss said he himself proposed the limitation, which was written into law, to stop a practice under which he said Benson paid one big farm corporation \$278,000 in subsidies, another \$209,000, and 67 others more than \$50,000 each.

"Benson," said Reuss, "is acting as a sort of Robin Hood in reverse. He is taking from the poor to give to the rich."

"There apparently was no other way to stop him," Reuss explained. "Unless I am able to get a judicial determination against it, Benson will be able to pay out millions of dollars illegally."

He said he hopes Benson will "look on this as a friendly type suit" that will determine the issue judicially.

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## New Zealanders Have Close Call As Fuel Runs Low

Tired Adventurers Pitch Camp on Spot  
Wellington, New Zealand — Sir Edmund Hillary, 38, the man who climbed to the top of the world on Mt. Everest, reached the bottom of the earth at the South Pole today.

In doing so, he won a double race. He beat a rival British team and he did it with less than 20 miles of fuel remaining.

Hillary and four other New Zealanders thus became the first men to reach the South Pole overland since Britain's Capt. Robert F. Scott in 1912. Scott perished on the return journey.

It was a close call for Hillary and his men. They had only one drum of gasoline left aboard their Sno-cat tractor after a 24-hour forced march that covered 70 miles. The remaining drum was good for barely 20 miles.

The five were so bushed that the instant their sextant reading indicated the pole, they camped on the spot.

**Near American Base**  
They spurned the comfort of the relatively luxurious American polar base two miles away and bedded down as soon as they radioed their success.

"Steering by the sun from earlier fixes, we came bang on base," Hillary radioed to New Zealand's Scott Base at McMurdo Sound.

"We are all very tired, but well and very pleased to have arrived."

As for the fuel supply—"It was sufficient for 20 miles, we were cutting it very fine."

He had ordered the rest of their fuel jettisoned to speed the expedition's trek over piled-up ice and snow.

It was a desperate gamble, but it paid off.

The New Zealanders' rivals, British Dr. Vivian Fuchs, 50, and a dozen men, were 20 miles on the other side of the Pole.

The latest word from Fuchs was a message dated Thursday. In it he gave his position as 87 degrees south—some 20 miles from the Pole.

The message indicated some of the tremendous difficulties still facing Fuchs. It said his party was now "at 5,800 feet after a punishing 10 miles of sastrugi (high humps of pointed ice)."

The Hillary team reached the geographic bottom of the globe at 8 p.m. New Zealand time (midnight PST). In the Antarctic midnight sun the American base, where warmth and food awaited, was a dark blob on the snowy horizon. Saturday, Hillary will trek the remaining two miles to a hero's welcome.

**Sends Congratulations**  
Back in New Zealand, Prime Minister Walter Nash immediately radioed his congratulations.

"Nothing can give me greater pleasure than to convey the delighted congratulations of all New Zealanders to Sir Edmund Hillary and his small but very gallant team," Nash said. "Sir Edmund has now achieved a double feat of endurance and courage that must rank extremely high in the history of human endeavor."

Salem — The State Industrial Accident Commission has named Roy G. Green to the new post of executive secretary.

**WEATHER**  
FORECAST: Fog or low overcast in the valley tonight and Saturday morning. Above fog clear tonight; increasing and lowering cloudiness Saturday. Rain likely Saturday night. Low tonight 32. High Saturday 45. Temp. Highest yesterday 53. Lowest this morning 31. Prec. to 10 a.m. Today Trace.

**Our Skies Tonight**  
Sunrise 7:41 a.m. Sunset 4:51 p.m. The Earth is in Perihelion (at its least distance from the sun) today. Perihelion distance this year is 91,342,000 miles. The Moon, riding high in the constellation Taurus, sets Saturday 6:22 a.m. and will be full Sunday afternoon.

## 1957 Traffic Deaths in State Unofficially 462

Salem — Oregon's official traffic death toll for 1957 has been set at 462 by the Motor Vehicle Department's Traffic Safety division.

That is the second highest toll ever recorded and an increase of slightly more than nine per cent over the 423 deaths reported in 1956. The all-time high was 482 deaths in 1946.

It will be about six weeks before statistics on the number of accidents and persons injured will be completed.

Decrease Recorded  
However, through November the state had recorded about a 12 per cent decrease in accidents and slightly more than a seven per cent decrease in persons injured over the same period a year ago.

The department said 53,473 accidents and 14,394 injuries were reported for the first 11 months of the year.