

Britain Backs Down On Non-Aggression Pact

Russia Cuts Armed Strength

West Challenged To Match Soviet 'Act of Good Will'

East Germany Cutback Planned

Moscow — The Soviet government announced a cut of 300,000 men from its armed forces tonight and challenged the Western Big Three to match "this act of good will."

A government communiqué said the cutbacks will include withdrawal of 41,000 men from East Germany and 17,000 from Hungary. Cut No Surprise

The reduction was no surprise to Western observers. Last month the Supreme Soviet "recommended" that the Soviet government consider reductions in view of the improved international situation.

Soviet Communist party boss Nikita Khrushchev indicated later that the suggestion was receiving favorable consideration because of the December Paris NATO summit conference's assurances of peace.

The reductions were nothing more than a token. Western intelligence estimates the Soviet armed forces total about 425,000 men in Eastern Europe alone. Of these barely one-seventh would be pulled back to the Soviet Union.

Account for Reduction

It was believed in the West that reorganization of the Red army for atomic tactics would justify about account for the overall cut of 300,000 men—just as U.S. forces are streamlined.

This was Russia's third claimed cutback in recent years. It announced a cut of 640,000 in 1955 and 1,200,000 in 1956.

At no time in reporting these force reductions has Russia indicated overall strength.

But this is estimated in the West at "slightly below" four million men on active duty, not including the satellite forces.

175 Divisions

NATO sources put the Communist strength at about 175 divisions, about 30 of them on the front line in East Germany.

The last previous Russian cutback came in the midst of last year's disarmament conference in London.

The Western answer then was that Western forces had been cut back to almost nothing right after World War II, while the Soviet Union maintained its vast military machine in fighting form.

Dave Epps Elected To Succeed Boyer

Portland — Dave Epps, Sweet Home, was elected chairman of the Oregon State Democratic Central Committee Sunday at a meeting here.

The 30-year-old furniture dealer succeeds Robert Boyer of Medford, who resigned.

Epps won on the first ballot and drew 36 of 69 votes cast by members of the committee to defeat Richard Croener, state representative from Milwaukie, and Pat Davis, Baker, and employee of Union Pacific.

Epps has been an Oregon delegate to the Democratic national convention twice and in 1946 was Democratic nominee for the office of secretary of state.

Three Mothers in Canton En Route To Visit Sons

Canton, China (By telephone to Hong Kong). Three American mothers reached this Communist China city today en route to see their sons who have been held in red jails for five years as American "spies."



BURN TREES — About 1,200 Christmas trees, collected in several Jackson county communities in the Moose lodge 178's "Tree Lift," were burned yesterday about 6 p.m. near the junction of Antelope rd. and Crater Lake highway at Camp White. Keeping warm as they watch the trees go up in flames, are left to right, Ronald Knechtel of Phoenix, Richard Lacasse, Darryl Summerfield and Tommy Gibbons of Central Point. All of the boys except four-year-old Tommy were active in collecting trees in their communities. A total of \$317.94 was raised by the project, which has already been turned over to the March of Dimes, according to general chairman John Keener. Medford Mayor John Snider was on hand to see the trees ablaze. Of the amount collected, \$270.17 came from Medford; \$18.18 from Jacksonville, \$57.38 from Central Point; \$18.80 from Phoenix, and \$6.70 from Ashland and Talent.

Reports Satisfactory On Sno-Cat Tractors Used In Antarctic

Medford-built Sno-Cats now being used in the Antarctic for work in connection with the International Geophysical Year are "operating very satisfactorily," according to unofficial reports received here by the Tucker Sno-Cat corporation.

J. M. Tucker, general manager, said he does not know if any of the snow tractors are being used by Sid Edmund Hillary's New Zealand group now at the South Pole. England bought four of the big freighter models and may have given some to Hillary, Tucker said. The unofficial reports are based on radiograms relayed through ham operators, the general manager said.

The freighter models are equivalent to 12-passenger machines in size, Tucker said. France and Belgium are using the freighter model also, he added.

The general manager estimated 51 Sno-Cats are now being used in the Antarctic in connection with the international scientific work. The United States has 40 of the machines—20 of the freighter models and 20 of the standard four-drive model used in work close to the base. The latter is equivalent to a six-passenger machine in size, he explained.

The Sno-Cats shipped this summer for the work now being carried on in the Antarctic have improvements made as the result of a previous two years' use in the frozen north, Tucker added.

Hillary had remarked Sunday after his race to the South Pole ended Saturday that his trek proved tractor trains to the South Pole are practical. The New Zealander had left his dog teams behind in the race to the South Pole which started Dec. 27. The fast march ended Saturday when the five-man team pulled into the U.S. Navy base.

Snow tractors proved superior to dog teams except when crossing treacherous crevasses, Hillary said. Dogs can cross crevasses without breaking through. Heavy tractors cannot, the explorer said.

Hillary estimated he and his party traveled 1300 miles since leaving New Zealand's Scott base near McMurdo sound Nov. 13. Coldest weather encountered was 32 below zero and near zero temperature the warmest to date.

Hillary's job was to set up supply dumps along a route from Scott to Station 700 and meet Fuchs there. However Fuchs was delayed and Hillary abandoned the original plans and pushed to the South Pole in tractors.

Other officers elected during Friday's meeting were Mrs. Kenneth G. Demman, Medford, vice chairman; Otto A. Ewaldson, Medford, alternate vice chairman; Ed H. Singmaster, Ashland, secretary; and E. A. Piazza, Medford, treasurer.

D. H. Barber, Trail, and Mrs. Edward Bolt, Gold Hill were named national committeeman and committeewoman. These officers will serve until after the primary election in May, it was explained.

His announcement leaves the race for sheriff "wide open" in both primary and general elections. No one has announced his candidacy as yet, although political gossip has mentioned several men as potential candidates.

Security Council, Eisenhower Talk Cold War Strategy

Stassen's Future Could Be Decided

Washington — President Eisenhower met with the National Security Council today to map cold war strategy and discuss military aspects of the State of the Union Message he will deliver to Congress Thursday.

There was advance speculation that the meeting would decide the future in the government of Harold E. Stassen, the President's disarmament advisor. Stassen's associates said he might seek a showdown today on his policy disagreements with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who opposes further concessions or new U.S. moves to reopen talks with Russia on checking the arms race.

The issue was raised by discussion of the President's proposed reply to Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin's bids for new East-West truce talks and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's endorsement of a favorable Soviet proposal—a non-aggression pact between the Communist and Western blocs.

The President opened the meeting immediately after returning to the White House from his Gettysburg farm where he had spent most of the past two weeks.

Eisenhower arose at 6 a.m. and left his 190-acre estate before dawn on the two-hour drive back to Washington.

Thieves broke into the rear storeroom door of the OK Market between midnight and about 6 a.m., police said. They said the theft was discovered by Albert E. Eitemiller, 3705 Roberts rd., when he arrived to open the store Sunday morning.

The safe, which was in the produce section of the market, had been moved to the rear of the building behind several counters, police said. The safe hinges and the dial had been tampered with but the thieves finally "peeled" the safe door and forced the latch, using the same tools as they did to enter the building.

Several checks, also in the safe, were found on the floor, police said. Although the office desk had been ransacked, nothing was missing, they added.

Medford police also reported the United Radio Supply Inc., 301 South Front st., was broken into during Saturday evening.

The front door had been forced with a pry bar and about \$10 in small change taken from the cash register, police said. Police explained the \$165 was overlooked because the thieves apparently became of their haste.

An attempt to break into the Anderson Super Thrift Market, 711 South Central ave., was reported by police after an officer saw too many lights in the building early Sunday. Police reported a 50-gallon drum of molasses had been spilled in the parking lot and the fence to the storeroom had been cut.

A check of the storeroom and main building failed to produce evidence thieves had gained entrance, police said.

Columbia Gorge Gets Strong East Winds

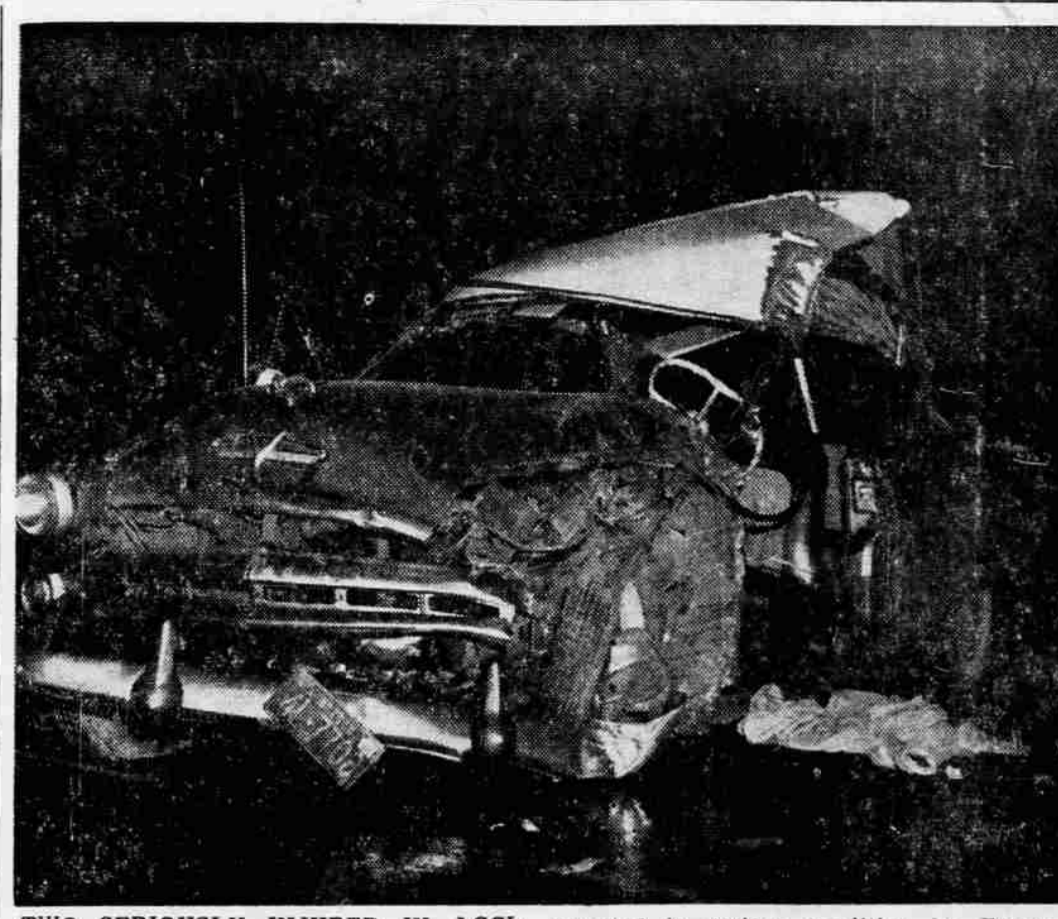
Portland — Strong east winds buffeted the Columbia gorge and the Portland area today and power outages were reported.

Wind was blamed for an outage which affected Parkrose and Russellville customers of Pacific Power & Light Company for an hour to 90 minutes. A \$7,000-volt line failed.

Our Skies Tonight

Forecast — Cloudy through Tuesday with slight chance of light rain late Tuesday. Valley fog tonight and until about noon Tuesday. Low tonight 27. High Tuesday 38. Highest Yesterday 32. Lowest This Morning 26.

Safe Robbed Of \$1,500 In Cash At O.K. Market



TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED IN ACCIDENT—Eta Irene Phillips, 36, of 1257 Siskiyou blvd., and her passenger, LaVerne Barger, 39, of 195 Skidmore st., both of Ashland, were seriously injured Saturday about 9 p.m. when their car (above) struck the second light pole in the northbound lane of the Bear Creek intersection of Highway 99, according to state police. Sacred Heart hospital authorities reported Mrs. Barger in satisfactory condition this morning suffering from head injuries and lacerations. Mrs. Phillips, driver of the car, was reported in serious condition by Rogue Valley hospital officials this morning. She suffered a fractured skull, jaw and left arm, and multiple cuts and bruises, officials said. Police said the Phillips car was apparently traveling at high speed in the fog when the accident took place. Northbound traffic was limited to one lane for a short period until wreckage was cleared, police said. They added the car traveled about 100 feet after the impact which tore off the left front fender and door.

Economic, Defense Problems To Face Congress Session

Washington — Congress headed back to work today with one wary eye on domestic economic troubles while it prepared to tackle more pressing problems involving missiles and national defense.

The gavels will bang at noon Tuesday in the House and Senate to signal the start of the 1958 session. The atmosphere will contrast like black against white from the economy mood of the session which adjourned four months ago because the Soviet Union has since launched two Sputniks.

Now the mood is for a bigger budget, particularly to provide more money for missile development.

Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson told reporters it was "important to realize the necessity of maintaining a prosperous economy" to support the defense program. While pointing to defense and foreign policy as the chief problems facing Congress, he said gains made by the American people should not be destroyed "in the name of missiles."

Johnson said he expects Congress to pass legislation this year dealing with small business, farm, housing and other economic problems.

Many returning members have shown some restiveness over the economic outlook because farmers still seem to be in trouble and there is rising unemployment in the cities.

GOP Sees Business Upswing

The administration and Republican line is that a business pickup by midyear will correct the situation and brighten the picture.

But the Democrats, who form the majorities in the House and Senate, have long given much attention to bread-and-butter issues which affect the voters' pocketbook.

Because the once powerful farm bloc has split into pieces there is still some doubt about passage of a general farm bloc has split into pieces, some Democrats want to wait and watch — to see if increased military spending and gathering momentum in the highway program will give the economy a shot in the arm.

House Trailer Fire Burns Man

A house trailer and its contents were a total loss in a blaze at 1380 Sweet rd. Saturday evening, city firemen reported.

They said the trailer belonged to William A. Gifford, who had been residing at 515 Boardman ave.

Firemen said Boardman told them he had been burned on the face and left hand about 6 p.m. by an explosion of butane gas. A leak in the fuel line at the rear of the stove had caused the explosion. Gifford said he waited around for about a half hour to be sure there was no fire. He then went to have his burns dressed at a hospital.

Macmillan Plan Meets Opposition From Partners

Pact Could Only Be Part of Package

London — Britain backed down today on Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's plan for an East-West non-aggression pact in the face of strong opposition from its allies.

The chief spokesman of the Foreign Office told newsmen that the pact suggested Saturday by Macmillan could only be part of a "package deal" including agreement on "concrete issues such as disarmament."

Sharp Turnabout

In his radio address Saturday, the Prime Minister suggested at the time that "we could start by a solemn pact of non-aggression," as proposed by Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin in a letter to Macmillan last month.

The Macmillan plan ran into immediate heavy weather. It was a sharp turnabout on past Western policy and observers said it could cause a serious break between Britain and the U.S. Washington apparently told London so over the week end. The European allies, too, were concerned because Macmillan spoke without consultation.

Cabinet Meetings Held

After two special Cabinet meetings Sunday night, Macmillan authorized an official "commentary" on a speech which the Foreign Office released today. "This passage in the Prime Minister's speech should be read as a whole," the commentary said.

"It is the relationship between words and deeds which he was seeking to bring out."

"What he was really saying was that we must continue to work for agreement which would be followed by deeds, the fulfillment of which will be proved by actions taken."

"If it would assist in arriving at such agreements to have a non-aggression pact, then her majesty's government would feel that such a pact, to complement the agreements, might do some good."

Thus the door was left open for a non-aggression pact as the first step toward a new East-West accord.

But the Foreign Office spokesman went on to underline that Macmillan's suggestion was "for a package deal including a non-aggression pact together with agreements on concrete issues such as disarmament."

The spokesman emphasized that "nothing basically new" was intended in the Macmillan speech.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister had struck a sympathetic note in most West European capitals where sentiment was growing daily in favor of early summit talks with the Russians.

Montgomery Ward Clerks Go on Strike

Washington — AFL-CIO Retail Clerks went on strike today against an undisclosed number of Montgomery Ward stores to enforce their demands for shorter hours and higher pay.

The union had demanded a general increase of 10 cents an hour, a five-day, 40-hour work week, and other benefits.

There is no evidence of a strike at the Montgomery Ward store in Medford, it was indicated today.



DONALD L. STATHOS Heads County Republicans

Donald L. Stathos, Medford, was elected chairman of the Jackson County Republican Central committee at a recent executive board meeting, a spokesman announced.

He fills the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Mrs. Frank C. Bash, also of Medford. Stathos was chairman of the Jackson County Youth for Eisenhower-Nixon organization during the last election.

Ashland Company Has Safe Robbery

Ashland — City police reported the Ashland Lumber company's safe was drilled some time around 4:30 a.m. today and \$186 in small currency was taken.

Police there said they are still puzzling over how the burglars broke into the building located at 384 Oak st., Ashland. All doors were locked when Manager Charles Hodges discovered the safe door open at 8 a.m. today.

"It was a neat professional job with drills and other tools from the lumber yard used," police said. "Nothing else was disturbed."

The safe had been punched on April 1, 1956 and little money has been kept in the company safe since then, police said. Owners of the lumber yard are John, Neil and Grace Collins, Medford.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 442.56, off 2.00; 20 railroads 102.39, off 1.14; 15 utilities 69.32, off 0.14; and 65 stocks 148.94, off 0.78. Sales today were about 2,500,000 shares compared with 2,440,000 shares Friday.



"Don't You Ever Have Anything Fresh?"