

Benson Given Rough Handling

Farm Secretary Peppered With Hostile Questions

Honesty Needed, Humphrey Asserts

Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson, long the butt of congressional disquiet with administration farm policy, got a rough going-over today when he presented President Eisenhower's new farm program to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The mild-mannered secretary was accused at one point of "false advertising."

"You would be a lot more enlightening if your statement were just honest," Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) told the embattled secretary.

Republicans and Democrats joined in peppering him with hostile questioning. They interrupted him so frequently that he was able to get through only two pages of his prepared statement in his first hour at the witness table.

A Democrat, Sen. Spessard Holland of Florida, finally came to the secretary's defense.

Reading Interrupted

Holland complained to his quizzing colleagues that their procedure "violates all rules of fair play." Holland said Benson should be permitted to read his 24-page statement before he was questioned on it.

At one point in the often hot-tempered hearing, Sen. John J. Williams (R-Del.) told Benson "I left the hearing an hour ago and you were at the end of page two of your testimony. Could you tell me where you are now?"

Benson replied that he had reached the end of page three. There was a burst of laughter. At that point, Benson began reading again, but finished only two sentences before questions started flying again.

Benson went before the group to ask prompt approval of the administration program for reducing farmer dependence on the federal government through lower price supports.

He said he must be given "administrative discretion" to reduce price supports on basic crops—cotton, corn, wheat, peanuts, rice, tobacco—as well as dairy products as low as 60 per cent of parity.

But before Benson reached page three of his statement, Chairman Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) accused him of presenting a misleading picture of the farm economy. Humphrey followed with his charge that "you would be a lot more enlightening if your statement were just honest."

"There's nothing false about it at all," Benson countered, pursuing his lips slightly.

Much of the sharp comment was evoked by Benson's statement that the "realized loss under programs primarily for the support of farm prices and incomes was \$3,250,000,000 in the 1957 fiscal year, far above the \$1,900,000,000 cost in 1956."

Argue Over Figures

Ellender contended that the \$3,250,000,000 figure included 14 items described as "price support losses" but actually involving other programs including school lunches and disaster relief. He said actual losses suffered by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the principal price support agency, were — by Benson's own figures — \$1,299,000,000 and the secretary "should not try to inflate it."

"Or Maybe You'd Rather Put In A New Floor"



Council Calls for Bids on Sewer Work

The Medford city council last night called for bids on storm sewer laterals to connect with the recently completed 10th st. storm sewer. Bids will be opened at 11 a. m., Jan. 31.

Estimated cost of the project is \$13,250, and will be financed from bonds approved by voters last November. The work is part of the city's six-year program to improve storm sewer facilities. The city will furnish pipe, and the contractor will install it.

Laterals are planned along 11th and 12th sts., and in an alley between Grape and Fir sts. from 12th st. to connect with the present 10th st. storm sewer. Catch basins in the area now drain into the sanitary sewer system, and during heavy rains water stands at intersections in the area.

Contract Approved

A contract was approved with Howland, Hayes and Merryfield, engineering firm of Corvallis to prepare plans and specifications for a sanitary sewer system in the Berrydale area. The district was annexed last year. The firm

Gas Leak Found, Fixed Thursday

Crews of the California-Pacific Utilities company early yesterday afternoon found and repaired an explosion-causing gas line leak at Canon ave. and Eighth st., company officials have announced.

Early yesterday morning at least four storm sewer covers on Eighth st. were blown off and others were disturbed after an explosion which city officials said was caused from an accumulation of domestic gas in the recently completed sewer line.

One window was reported broken, but there were no injuries.

Gas company officials said a one-inch line at Eighth st. and Canon ave. was broken at a pipe coupling. They said apparently it was damaged when the storm sewer was installed and was not noticed at the time.

The principal blast occurred about 3:20 a. m. yesterday, and was followed by a series of smaller explosions when sewer covers were blown off along the sewer line.

WEATHER FORECAST: Foggy in valleys with some clearing during afternoon hours through Saturday. Variable cloudiness above fog. Low tonight 35, High Saturday 45.

Our Skies Tonight Sunrise 7:38 a.m. Sunset 5:06 p.m. Moonrise Saturday 6:25 a.m. New Moon Sunday

Sen. Morse Sees Ike's Message as Farmer Squeeze

Greater Surplus Seen as Result

Washington — Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) said today "the farm message of the Eisenhower administration reflects a policy of destroying the ability of the small farmers to continue on the land."

After the President's farm message was read to the Senate Thursday, Morse commented, "the administration's theory is to force small farmers, by an economic squeeze, into a congested urban area where they will join the ranks of unemployed and unskilled labor."

Big Business Philosophy

Morse accused the President of "faithfully carrying out the big business philosophy which seeks to transform our family farms, traditionally the backbone of American agriculture, into 'factories in the fields.'"

Increased Production Seen

Morse said "the administration farm message promises to work diligently for power price supports for the farmer. This means lower prices at the farm gate for the unit of food or fiber sold. With lower prices to get the same cash income, it forces increased production."

Morse also accused the President of attempting to force the REA co-ops "to swallow the sugar coated strychnine pill of private financing" which he said would cause them to "die by the scores as a result of interest rate increases and skyrocketing overhead charges."

Camp Adair SAGE Work Slated Soon

Washington — The Air Force today advised Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) that it has released \$1,826,000 for construction of "support facilities" at the SAGE installation on the old Camp Adair site near Corvallis, Ore.

Norblad said construction should proceed during the coming spring and summer months and would include all facilities normal to an active military base. Due for construction would be dispensaries, post exchanges, headquarters barracks, mess halls, gymnasiums, motor pool, warehouse and service buildings.

The SAGE installation would be part of the national air defense and detection network.

Revenue from O&C Land Is Estimated

President Eisenhower in his budget message to Congress Monday reported that an estimated \$11,065,000 would be distributed by the federal government to counties in western Oregon for revenue from timber sales on O&C lands.

County Treasurer Karl Janouch reported that Jackson county receives 15.67 per cent of the total O&C land revenue each year. The approximate amount to be received by the county for the fiscal year, based on the president's budget message, would be \$1,733,885, an increase of \$196,357, Janouch said.

Lumbermen's Group Protests Rate Hike

Washington — The West Coast Lumbermen's Association, with headquarters in Portland, today joined the list of protestants against proposed two per cent increases in railroad freight rates for lumber scheduled to be effective Feb. 1.

The Association asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to suspend the increase and to substitute a two-cent "hold-down" so that the increase would be in line with the dollars-and-cents increase affecting southern mills.

Portland — Dewey Short, assistant Army secretary, will be here next Tuesday and Wednesday to inspect Portland-area installations.

Envoy To Moscow Called Home For Consultations

Radar Outposts To Detect Soviet Missiles OK'd

15-Minute Warning Would Be Provided

Washington — The United States plans to build three secret overseas outposts equipped with radar that could pick up Russian missiles minutes after they left the ground, it was disclosed today.

The outposts could give the Strategic Air Command at least 15 minutes warning of a Soviet missile attack and enable SAC to launch a retaliatory attack.

In Emergency Bill

Authority to begin construction of a \$189 million ballistic missile detection system was contained in an emergency bill passed by the House Wednesday and now before the Senate.

A few details on the top secret project were revealed with publication today of heavily censored Air Force testimony last Monday before the House Armed Services Committee.

Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.), apparently referring to previous closed door testimony, said three detection centers would be built abroad to "furnish the information when a ballistic missile leaves the ground from enemy territory."

Support Merger

In other defense developments: —Chairman Donald W. Douglas of the missile-building Douglas Aircraft Co. called for "more guts and less gobblegook" in defense planning, and said his company is ready to build an anti-missile missile whenever it gets a go-ahead.

—The Air Force Association recommended that Congress order a gradual merger of the armed services into a single military service. Its president, Peter J. Schenk, Santa Barbara, Calif., cautioned against any "drastic" shake-up on grounds "this is not the time to rock the boat."

Hamburger Rulings Set Up By Department

Salem — The State Agriculture Department Thursday declared hamburger and ground beef to be the same thing and announced a regulation setting up standards of identity for the product.

The order said "hamburger or ground beef shall consist of chopped fresh beef (with or without the addition of beef fat as such) and shall not contain more than 30 per cent analysable beef fat."

Agreement Made For Disarmament

Washington — Budget Director Percival F. Brundage said today agreement with Russia even on preliminary steps toward disarmament could open the way for a substantial tax cut.

But in the absence of such an agreement, he said, existing tax rates must be continued.

He added that "the fullest cooperation" of Congress in cutting non-essentials will be needed to foot bills for defense and domestic programs without an increase in taxes.

Brundage and Treasury Secretary Robert B. Anderson appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee to appeal for a \$5 billion increase in the statutory limit on the national debt.

They said the increase from \$275 to \$280 billion is necessary to give the government a little more elbow room in its fiscal maneuvering.

Anderson said the government since last summer has had "little or no margin" to meet "contingencies might develop in a world filled with uncertainties."

On several occasions, he said, the Treasury had a cash balance sufficient only to pay operating expenses for five days.

Brundage, in his discussion of taxes, ran through steps ordered by the President to hold down non-defense spending where possible.

"We will need the fullest cooperation and assistance of the Congress if we are to do what is required for our defense and domestic programs without an increase in tax rates," the budget director said.

Possible Tax Cut

"If we can reach some satisfactory agreement with the Soviet Union containing even early steps toward disarmament which are accompanied by inspection to assure compliance, then we can consider tax reductions and savings that would be indeed worthwhile."

It appeared that the administration, adopting a more flexible economic policy, has added tax reductions to its arsenal of possible weapons to be used to avoid a serious recession.

Laborers, Area Contractors Work To Agreement

Negotiations are under way between the Laborers' union local 1400 here and the Contractors' Association of Southern Oregon, according to Fred Morlan of the Industry Council of Southern Oregon.

The laborer's local is seeking 20 cents an hour increase for 1958, plus 15 cents an hour increase for 1959 and 15 cents an hour more in 1960, plus a travel time increase, Morlan said.

Contract negotiations are expected to be settled within the next 10 days, Morlan predicted.

Reach Agreement

Carpenters' local 2067 here reached an agreement with the association on Jan. 7. The contract is effective as of Jan. 1. According to the contract journeymen receive a basic wage scale of \$3 per hour and a cost of living increase of 10 cents per hour making the total scale \$3.10 per hour for cement workers. The agreement is in force for a two-year period, Morlan said.

Agreement Made For Disarmament

Washington — Llewellyn E. Thompson Jr., U. S. ambassador to Moscow, is being called home for "consultations" soon on a possible new summit conference with Russia.

Thompson, who knows the Russians well, will confer with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and may meet with President Eisenhower.

Officials disclosed that the U. S. is now working on detailed proposals which, if Russia agreed, would put outer space under international control for peace. So far, they said, the Russians have dodged repeated American efforts to work jointly on the project.

Thompson is expected to leave Moscow about Jan. 23. Diplomats said there are no plans for him to confer with top Soviet officials before coming home.

But on his return to Moscow in early February, he would be expected to take up the summit issue through regular diplomatic channels. Presumably he would suggest a foreign ministers meeting to do preparatory work that Eisenhower and Dulles have said would be essential to a new summit parley.

It was understood here that Thompson is not entirely pessimistic about the possibility of getting some limited agreements with Russia on disarmament and other subjects.

His reports to the State Department are understood to follow the line that some agreement may be possible this year since the Russians are expected to turn their attention more and more to industrial and agricultural problems.

Treasurer Gets Four State Checks

Four checks totaling \$137,650.41 were received this week by County Treasurer Karl Janouch from the Oregon department of state.

Largest of the checks was for \$129,959.49, the county's share of motor vehicle registration, motor fuel tax, motor carrier fees, and fines of motor vehicle laws. The amount received by the county depends on motor vehicle registration in the county. The amount, according to Treasurer Janouch, will go into the county general fund.

Smallest check received was for \$9.56 for moneys received from amusement device tax accounts. This money is added to the county relief fund and is considerably lower than the \$2,059.06 received for the same quarter in 1956.

Also received were checks from revenue collected on the tax on alcoholic beverages. The amount received, based on county population, was in two checks. One for \$6,617.63 will go into the county relief fund, and the other, for \$1,063.73, added to the general county fund. The smaller check is the county's share of expenditures for enforcing liquor laws.

Committee Votes Debt Limit Boost

Washington — The House Ways and Means Committee voted 20 to 3 today to increase temporarily the national debt limit by \$5 billion.

The legislation, requested by the administration, would boost the debt ceiling to \$280 billion through June 30, 1959.

Approval came after Budget Director Percival F. Brundage told the committee a substantial tax cut might be possible if agreement could be reached with Russia even on preliminary steps toward disarmament.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES New York — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 444.12, off 1.11; 20 railroads 107.10, up 2.97; 15 utilities 71.38, up 0.02, and 65 stocks 151.41, up 0.59. Sales today were about 2,200,000 shares compared with 3,950,000 shares Thursday.

Procedure Said Damaging To Public Welfare

Log Hauling Rates Would Be Increased

Salem — Gov. Robert D. Holmes Thursday called for a Congressional investigation into what he termed "possibly illegal" action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in handling of new railroad freight rate proposals which would cost Oregon shippers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Procedures of the ICC, barring adequate arguments against the rate increases, and the resignation of ICC Chairman Owen Clarke to take a top position with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad were principal bases for Holmes' actions.

"It is my opinion that the Commission handling of the present railroad freight rate increase procedure, while Clarke was chairman of the Commission, has been extremely damaging to the public welfare including that of the State of Oregon," Holmes said.

Included in the rate proposals, which he said gave the Oregon Public Utility Commission only six days to study and prepare opposition, was a flat 10 per cent increase in log hauling rates, discriminating against west coast shippers.

Southern shippers, the only other major lumber producing section of the U.S., is excluded from the increase, the governor pointed out.

"This is the grossest kind of discrimination," he said. In addition, Holmes charged, the proposed two per cent increase on lumber and lumber products is discriminatory against Oregon and other western states.

"This will give southern lumber producers added advantages and cost Oregon lumber industries hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The request for investigation, included in letters to Oregon's Congressional delegation, said, "My principal concern at the moment is with the crude, arrogant and I believe unethical and very possibly illegal behavior of the ICC and its former chairman (who had already announced his resignation and knew where he was going) in setting so important a matter for public hearing and disposition on such short notice as to deprive the shipping public of its rights."

"It is my opinion that in addition to violation of accepted ethical behavior by the chairman, the commission has by this procedure violated the policy and spirit of the Interstate Commerce Act and the Administrative Procedures Act," Holmes said.

Holmes said many letters and telephone calls had been received from shippers throughout the state asking what they must do to defend their interests because they had heard of the proceedings only this week. "Uniformly they told the same story and that is that they do not even have time to get together data and people in their organizations and prepare them to make any showing in this proceeding in defense of their businesses and industries," the governor added.

"It is a shocking travesty of our U.S. ideals of fair treatment for all when the Oregon lumber industry, already undercut by unsound money policies of the administration, is knifed from behind by another federal agency."

Public answers are required by Jan. 20 in the ICC procedure, Holmes said he had been advised that no Pacific Coast commission had received the order on hearings prior to Jan. 6 or 7. The order was issued Dec. 27 while Clarke was still chairman, the governor said.

The notice of hearing and the exhibits of the railroads were only sent out to public service commissions and parties appearing in past hearings. Many of the selective rate increases in this case will affect business and industries in this state which have not been seriously affected before and therefore have not been parties to past proceedings, and so were not notified, the governor pointed out.

The procedures act under which the rate increase proposal is being processed calls for a minimum of 30 days notice unless an emergency is involved. No such emergency appears to exist, and the procedures act makes it unlawful to proceed otherwise, the governor said.

Medford Youth on Burton Island in Antarctic Tells of Operation There

(Editor's note: Charles A. Langston, a Navy storekeeper aboard the USS Burton Island, is now in the Antarctic, and in the following article he discusses the South Pole and the purpose of the Navy's visit. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Langston, 256 Beatty st., Medford.)

By CHUCK LANGSTON The USS Burton Island AGB-1, a Navy ice breaker, is now weathering the westerly gales that tear through the Roaring Forties and Screaming Fifties.

We are at the bottom of the world, the Antarctic continent which is perhaps 5,000,000 square miles in size, and on this continent is a plateau which rises to 10,000 feet and in the middle of this barren waste is the South Pole, just a compass point, but it has fascinated man since he first thought about the shape of the world he lived on.

The first men to venture into the Antarctic seas were whalers and sealers, such as Captain James Weddell, after whom the Weddell sea is named. In 1840 the first expedition was sent to explore this vast continent, after

ing as much as 15 months in the ice without any contact with the outside world other than the planes bringing in the mail.

The reasons for these expeditions are many, one being long range weather observations. Another of course being the defense of our country.

This ice breaker, Burton Island, is breaking passage for the Pvt. John R. Towle, a cargo ship bringing provisions down for the wintering over personnel, and the USS Nespelem, an oiler bringing fuel down for the operation of equipment which is to be used for the building of runways and buildings.

After safely delivering her men and the ships to McMurdo Sound at the base of Mt. Erebus the Burton Island will start making her way home to Seattle via Sydney, Australia, and Wellington, New Zealand, arriving in Seattle about April 1.

There are quite a few Oregonians taking part in this expedition, another which is from Medford. His name is Dewey E. Keys, fireman, USN, also of the Burton Island.



CHARLES LANGSTON Writes From Antarctic

which many great men have followed.

Today the continent is divided between many countries, all of which are sending expeditions each year to their sections of this land. The U.S. government's Operation Deep Freeze III for the international geophysical year 1957-59 includes many men, some of whom will be spending

Friend of Dave Johnson