

Ike Comes To Benson's Defense

52nd Year
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Cabinet Members To Be Retained, President Says

National Committee Given Shot in Arm

Washington—President Eisenhower today spiked any move by Republican strategists to dump Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson as a "liability" in this election year. The President told members of the Republican National Committee during a breakfast "pep talk" that he has complete confidence in each of his Cabinet officers, thinks all are doing a "fine job," and has no intention of replacing any of them.

Eisenhower also made a strong defense of Benson's flexible price-support program, saying it is an "honest, forthright and sensible" attempt to solve the problem of surplus crops that have farmers caught in a "vicious circle."

"I think that most farmers," he said, "deep in their hearts, recognize the administration proposals as a courageous move to break this vicious circle."

The breakfast was held behind closed doors at a downtown hotel, but portions of the President's prepared text were published by the White House.

Eisenhower, in his formal remarks, called on Republicans to join in a 1958 campaign to win control of Congress by enlisting good candidates, showing faith in their cause—and working hard.

The President spoke shortly before leaving for Augusta, Ga., for a week end of golf.

The President told his Republican audience, eager for a shot in the arm, that the nation has had five years of prosperity under his administration, a prosperity that has not been altered materially by the recent business decline.

Reiterating his belief that the tide will turn in midsummer, the President denounced "political Cassandras" who warn of another depression—critics who heretofore have been labeled by GOP leaders as the "prophets of gloom and doom."

"We reject this pessimistic doctrine and the lack of confidence it reflects. Republicans have never sold American free enterprise short and never will," he said.

Job Survey May Be Complete by April

The job classification survey in Jackson county offices should be completed by April, County Judge Rodney Keating said today.

This week, commission representatives held five group meetings with employees, department heads and elected officials. Thursday, the representatives met with officials of the county farm home and discussed the survey with the 32 employees and supervisors there, Keating said.

They also met with the foremen of the county road department and county shops and interviewed employees.

Portland—Two more indictments returned in Portland's vice probe have been dismissed here.

Passenger Service Abandoned on Line in Aug., 1955

Time to Submit Briefs Sufficient

Final hearings on Southern Pacific's abandonment of passenger service between Eugene and Ashland in August, 1955, will be held in Salem April 15. Public Utilities Commissioner Howard Morgan said today.

He said the hearing would be held "with or without" briefs because both parties had had enough time to prepare briefs and submit the case for formal decision.

The hearing will be held on a complaint filed by State Sen. Philip S. Lowry protesting the abandonment of passenger service. The complaint was drawn up by Lowry, and State Senators Gene L. Brown of Grants Pass and Paul E. Geddes, Roseburg.

Previous Hearings

Morgan noted that previous hearings were held in April, August and September, 1956, but that no briefs have been filed either by the railroad or by Lowry.

Original deadline for brief filing was set for Aug. 19, 1957, but an extension was granted because of the illness last fall of Geddes. Further delay was caused by the special session of the legislature.

Morgan said "more than sufficient time has been granted to all parties within which to prepare briefs and submit the case for final decisions."

The complaint was filed before service was discontinued asking the PUC to prevent discontinuance. It also asked the commissioner to investigate the discontinuance and order "reasonably adequate service."

Lowry said the action taken by the senators in filing the complaint was not done so by the senators as such, but as representatives of the people.

The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. April 15 in the public service building in Salem.

King's Road Work Nears Completion

Work on Kings highway is about completed at this time, Paul Rynning, county engineer, said today.

The road will be repaved and a mile will be paved when better weather arrives. Rynning said the engineer's office and county court will decide later on a county road program for the new fiscal year. The program will be submitted to the county budget committee.

"Can You Hurry? We're In An Important Race"



Johnson Sentencing Continued Pending Probation Reports

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Johnson, 781 1/2 Beatty st., Medford, appeared in Jackson county circuit court Thursday afternoon before Judge Edward C. Kelly on charges of unlawfully obtaining public assistance.

The Johnsons pleaded guilty in circuit court Aug. 23, 1957, and were freed on \$1,500 bond each. Sentencing has been postponed several times for pre-sentencing investigation reports.

Sentencing was again continued, pending pre-sentencing reports by the Oregon parole and probation officer.

The Johnsons were arrested June 6, 1957, by sheriff's deputies after an investigation indicated they had been receiving full assistance from the Jackson county welfare department while both were working as janitors at the Medford Mail Tribune.

The investigation reported began after the 13-year-old daughter of the Johnsons attempted to secure a marriage license. County clerk's deputies suspected her age was not accurately given. The Johnsons have three children. Mrs. Johnson is reported to have six grown children by an earlier marriage.

Investigation indicated that the couple had several sources of income during the period of March, 1953, to June, 1957, when they were receiving full assistance from the welfare department. They are reported to have received \$4,776.90 from the Mail Tribune; \$820 while Johnson was employed as a gardener at Sacred Heart hospital; plus an additional \$850 income from property owned outside Jackson county. They are charged with receiving \$4,913.58 overpayment from the county welfare department during that period.

Different Names

Johnson worked at the Mail Tribune under the first name of Charles, received assistance under the name of Clarence Johnson, and used the name of Clyde Johnson with his creditors, according to deputies.

Names on a number of social security cards also are believed to have been changed and used by the couple, authorities reported.

The family moved to Medford from Lane county in about 1953 and have drawn welfare assistance since March, 1953. Prior to that time they had received smaller sums of money from the welfare department.

Purchasing House

At the time of their arrest the Johnsons were reported purchasing a neighboring house, as well as their own.

Baker—Wayne Edward Collins, 19, Baker, has been acquitted of a charge of maliciously setting off a bomb at Baker Junior High school last Oct. 25.

Control of Seas By United States Said Jeopardized

Tight Budget, Russ Sub Threat Cited

Washington—The Navy said today that its tight budget plus the Soviet submarine threat jeopardizes U.S. control of the seas.

Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations, said Russia's growing sea power confronts the West with "one of its greatest challenges."

Burke also told the House Armed Services Committee that budget restrictions have forced the Navy to make "drastic" cuts in some activities in order to find money for modern ships and weapons required to keep control of the seas in U.S. hands.

More Strength on Sea

Burke appeared before the committee with Navy Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr., who said this country should "base a great deal more" of its military strength "on and under the sea."

The threat isn't solely from long-range Soviet missiles and H-bombs, Gates argued.

The missiles race with Russia was, however, getting priority attention from Congress.

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted \$1,260,000,000 in extra cash to speed missile development and defenses.

The Senate is expected to pass the emergency bill, already passed by the House, early next week.

County Court Plans Centennial Meeting

The county court will meet soon with the Jackson county fair board and chamber of commerce officials on possible participation of the county in the Oregon Centennial Exposition and International Trade Fair in Portland in 1959, County Judge Rodney Keating said today.

Keating said the court received a letter from Jack R. Lively, Springfield, commissioner for the event, requesting the county court to contact interested organizations in the county to discuss participation in the centennial.

Lively said representatives of the exposition would be glad to meet with the county court and various organization representatives here to provide more details.

Rudie Wilhelm Not To Seek Reelection

Portland—State Sen. Rudie Wilhelm Jr., announced here today he will not seek reelection to the Oregon Legislature.

He has been one of the leaders in tax legislation at Salem and was speaker of the House in 1953. He served four terms in the House of Representatives and two terms in the Senate.

Wilhelm did not explain his decision not to run but said he had been approached to run for other political office "and I have definitely made up my mind not to return to the Legislature." He said he would not oppose Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) for the third congressional district seat. Since entering politics, Wilhelm has been one of the GOP's best vote-getters in Multnomah county.

Pacific Tests Set On Missile Defenses

Washington—The Atomic Energy Commission said today new tests in the Pacific this year will advance nuclear defenses against enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Air Force has said it will test nuclear explosions in space above the atmosphere to determine their effectiveness against enemy space missiles. Presumably such tests would mean detonation of missile-borne warheads high above the Eniwetok-Bikini proving grounds in the Pacific.

President To Spend Week End Golfing On Augusta Course

Washington—President Eisenhower flies to Augusta, Ga., today for a golfing week end, his first since his Nov. 25 stroke.

The White House said the President and the First Lady will take a mid-February holiday at Thomasville, Ga. They will stay at the plantation of former Treasurer Secretary George M. Humphrey, where they have spent several previous brief vacations.

Eisenhower will spend the week end at his vacation White House at the Augusta National Golf course. He was last there in November, shortly before his stroke on Nov. 25.



KILLER'S 'HOSTAGE' COMPANION—Caril Fugate, 14-year-old companion of mad dog killer Charles Starkweather, is shown in police headquarters at Douglas, Wyo., after couple was captured following two-day chase. Starkweather, wanted for the murder of 10 persons in Nebraska and Wyoming, said he held the girl "hostage."

Elections Held at MHS to Nominate Student Candidates

A primary election was held today at Medford High school to nominate candidates for a general election as part of the 10th annual Student Government Day sponsored by the Medford Elks lodge.

Primary elections also are scheduled in other high schools in the Medford Elks jurisdictional area, which includes St. Mary's High school, Crater High in Central Point, and Phoenix, Butte Falls, Prospect, Eagle Point and Jacksonville High schools.

Campaigning for primary elections has been under way by upper division and senior students in the schools for the past few weeks. After nominations are complete, general elections will be held to elect various city and county officials. The general election at Medford High school is scheduled Friday, Feb. 7.

Elections, both primary and general, are held as near as possible to the time that students are studying those subjects in government courses. The two-day program is designed to teach citizenship by providing students with an opportunity to spend a day working with city and county officials in the actual operation of local government.

Students will work with their counterparts in the city and county offices Feb. 19 and 20.

Campaigns and elections in high schools approximate as closely as possible the procedures used in actual elections. Candidates prepare and display signs and posters urging their classmates to vote for them.

All students participate by registering as voters, assisting in campaigns, and finally voting on election day. Students also volunteer for election and counting boards. An average of four students seek positions in city and county government, school officials said.

About 100 city and county officials are cooperating in the program, which has received national recognition from the Valley Forge Freedoms foundation. The foundation has twice given the project its highest award as a student program.

Young Leaves Full Estate To Widow

Newport, R. I.—Robert R. Young, railroad magnate who committed suicide, left his entire personal estate of more than \$6 million and substantial real estate holdings to his widow, according to his will filed for probate here today.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York—Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 450.02, up 0.30; 20 railroads 109.04, up 0.14; 15 utilities 72.27, off 0.26 and 65 stocks 153.54, off 0.01. Sales today were about 2,030,000 shares compared with 2,150,000 shares Thursday.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Generally cloudy with occasional rain tonight and Saturday morning. Showers Saturday afternoon. Gusty southerly winds tonight. Low tonight 38. High Saturday 48.

Temp. Highest Yesterday 47. Lowest this Morning 34. Prec. to 10 a.m. Today .11. Our Skies Tonight Sunrise 7:27 a.m. Sunset 5:23 p.m. Moonset Saturday 4:59 a.m. Full Moon Feb. 4. Betelgeuse, in the constellation Orion, is the first magnitude star nearest the Moon tonight. It varies irregularly in brilliance. In 1832, in 1894 and again in 1908 it was brighter than Rigel.



MAD DOG KILLER—Charles Starkweather, 19, reclines on bunk in county jail in Douglas, Wyo., after his capture by police. He is being held in connection with the slaying of nine persons in the Lincoln, Neb., area and one near Douglas. Caril Fugate, Starkweather's 14-year-old companion on his two-state spree, is also being held by authorities, but no charges have been filed against her pending questioning.

Mass Killer Taken To Scene of Crimes

Gering, Neb.—Mass murderer Charles Starkweather, 19, who has admitted killing 11 persons because of a "hatred that built up in me," left here today on the 420-mile trip to Lincoln, Neb., scene of 10 of his murders, to face formal charges.

Starkweather, still clad in a bloodstained shirt, his hands chained to his belt, was wedged into a police car between two hefty deputies. His young girl friend, Caril Fugate, 14, was placed in a separate car for the journey. Two state patrol cruisers led the way.

Extreme precautions were taken, and officers declined to say publicly where stops would be made. The trip was expected to take seven or more hours.

In Good Spirits

Starkweather was in good spirits, laughed freely and ate two helpings of bacon and eggs. The girl also ate a breakfast of bacon and eggs but appeared to be "in a state of shock," Mrs. Steve Warrick, wife of the sheriff here, said.

Mrs. Warrick said the girl did not seem to realize her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bartlett, were dead. The Bartletts and their daughter, Betty Jean, 3, were the first victims of the mad killer.

Caril said she remembered that Starkweather threatened to kill them if they would not permit her to run away with him.

Find Shotgun Shell

Sheriff Warrick refused to let Starkweather see a newspaper and kept him overnight in a solitary cell where he could not hear radio broadcasts. He said he found a shotgun shell in the lining of Starkweather's jacket, but said it probably slipped through a hole in the jacket pocket.

Starkweather talked freely with officers en route here Thursday night from Douglas, Wyo., where he was captured Wednesday.

"Since I was a child I wanted to be an outlaw, but I didn't want it to go this far," Starkweather told Sheriff Merle Karnopp of Lincoln.

Bids Opened Today On Lateral Sewers

E. C. Conrad, Medford contractor, was apparent low bidder on a storm sewer lateral system to connect with the recently completed 10th st. storm sewer. Bids were opened at the city hall this morning.

Conrad's bid was \$8,999. Other bids were M. C. Linger and sons, Medford, \$10,635.50; Hatton and Bingham, North Bend, \$10,640.72; Keith Brothers Construction company, Medford, \$12,295.90; and DenHerder, Medford, \$12,731.50.

City estimate of construction was \$9,500, according to Vernon Thorpe, public works director.

Bids will be referred to the city council at its meeting next week for consideration.

Salem—Oregon Agriculture Director Robert Stewart has urged voluntary production control of hop growers.

Trail Man Sentenced To County Jail Term

Albert Elza Herring, Trail, was sentenced to 20 days in the county jail on charges of taking a horse without the permission of its owner, after appearing in circuit court yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Geraldine Blanche Griffin, Rogue River, was sentenced to two years in the Oregon state penitentiary for forgery. Execution was suspended, and she was placed on probation and ordered to make restitution within 90 days.

Mothers, Disappointed at Failure To Win Sons' Freedom, Back From China

San Francisco—Three American mothers arrived here today "disappointed but not crushed" by their failure to win immediate freedom for their sons imprisoned on spy charges in Communist China.

Hope Not Abandoned

"We have not given up hope," said William Downey, 25, who accompanied his mother and the other women into Red China. "We're not going to be content until we get the boys home."

The mothers made a personal appeal while in China for the freedom of their sons, but were turned down. Downey and Redmond are serving life terms; Fecteau 20 years.

"We were disappointed but not crushed," Downey said. "We had not built up any false hopes."

One Slim Hope

Downey said the Chinese hold out one slim hope. Some officials told him that the three Americans could be released earlier than their varying sentences, depending on their behavior.

"Otherwise, we received no specific encouragement and we obtained no promises," he said. The mothers crossed into China from Hong Kong on Jan. 6.