

Benson Asked To Step Out of Cabinet Job



PRESENTS PAPERS—Dean Coe, civil deputy, served copies of a "petition of application in original proceeding in mandamus" and an alternative writ of mandamus on Mrs. Bereth Hopkins, Jackson county clerk. The papers were served yesterday and the original copies sent to the State Supreme court asking the court to order Mrs. Hopkins to accept the filing of candidacy for county judge from K. C. (Swede) Wernmark, Democrat. The attorney general's opinion states Incumbent Rodney Keating's office does not expire until 1960.

Termination of Contract Approved

The Medford city council last night authorized City Manager Robert Duff to terminate the South Bear Creek Sanitary District contract because the district has failed to provide a satisfactory meter.

The district was given notice of failure to comply with the contract on Jan. 7, according to Duff. He said following Feb. 14, 38 days after the notice, a termination of contract notice was sent to the district's board of directors.

The council also authorized Duff to set new rates for the district for the period between termination of the contract and a new contract or installation of a satisfactory meter. The termination notice does not require the district to disconnect the line from the city, Duff said.

Made Estimates
The city engineering department made estimates which show the district frequently delivers several times more than the 400,000 gallons per day maximum permitted in the old contract. The minimum flow during summers are close to the excess point, Duff added.

Payments to the city by the district have been on a monthly basis and no account of gallons passing through the system has been kept with a satisfactory meter. The city has lost considerable revenue because of the present meter system, Duff said.

Duff said all members of the district's board had been notified of the action, but none attended last night's meeting. He said the district could be forced to construct its own facilities if an agreement could not be worked out. (See story on page 10)

Contracts Awarded For Fuel for City

Contracts for automotive fuel for the city for the coming year were awarded to Tide Water Oil company last night.

The firm bid a low estimated price of \$18,174.50 for gasoline, kerosene and diesel oil. Several grades of each fuel are required by the city.

Other bidders were the Texas company, \$18,411.30; Union Oil company, \$18,254.26; Richfield Oil company, \$18,243.50; Shell Oil company, \$18,787.90; Standard Oil company, \$18,825.80; and General Petroleum, which did not enter a complete bid.

Although the contract was awarded on an annual estimated use of the fuels, the city is under no obligation to purchase a minimum amount, according to Richard Hogan, city purchasing agent.

Central Sumatran Town Bombarded

Singapore — Two military planes bombed and strafed the central Sumatran town of Pagan today causing 78 casualties, some of them fatal, Padang Radio reported.

Pagan is 48 miles south of Padang, the central Sumatran seaport where the revolutionary government was spawned.

It was the first report of military action since the rebel government was proclaimed last Saturday. The capital of the rebels is at Bukittinggi.

The report of the attack followed a speech in Jakarta today by President Sukarno calling on the Indonesian people to crush the rebellion.

Washington — Informed sources said the United States hopes to test another Vanguard satellite launcher at Cape Canaveral, Fla., next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Nunn to Appear In Circuit Court For Resentencing

Conviction Upheld By Supreme Court

Billy Junior Nunn of Klamath Falls, will appear before Circuit Judge H. K. Hanna here Monday for resentencing, District Attorney Tom Reeder said today.

The State Supreme Court affirmed on Jan. 29 the conviction of Nunn on first degree murder in the strangling of 14-year-old Alvin Eacret, of Klamath Falls. The court also upheld the death penalty in the case.

Reeder said that since the date of execution had been set previously by the Jackson County Circuit court, it is necessary to bring Nunn back to set a new date.

The State Supreme Court also found that an oral confession made by the defendant to police officers was properly admitted although the court had excluded an earlier written confession.

Body Found
Eacret's body was found in April, 1956, near Tub Springs State park on Highway 66 between Ashland and Klamath Falls.

The defense claimed that Nunn was led to believe he would be charged only with second degree murder and would be granted psychiatric help at public expense and the confession was not voluntary.

Gov. Robert D. Holmes, upon being informed of the decision, said his legal counsel would review the case immediately. The governor, who opposes capital punishment said he will announce his decision on possible commutation about the time the Circuit Court sets a new date for Nunn's execution.

Three Valley Men Buy Root Building

Three valley men have purchased the Myron Root company building on the Eighth st. right-of-way at South First. The sale was made by the state highway department who had previously asked for bids on the structure.

Men who bought the building are David T. Allison, 136 Glenn Way, Central Point, Delbert Beers, 625 Clark st., Medford, and Ralph Cross, 921 Maple Park, Medford. They are all employees of Timber Products and work on the second shift.

They expect to remove the roof from the building this week end and are scheduled to have the walls down shortly afterwards, Allison said. According to the purchase agreement the building on the right-of-way must be removed within 30 days. The sale was completed Feb. 19.

Egypt, Syria Vote Nasser as President

Cairo — Egypt and Syria voted today to merge their countries into a United Arab Republic and to elect Gamal Abdel Nasser as their president.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York — Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 439.52, off 0.12; 20 railroads 105.31, off 0.48; 15 utilities 71.93, off 0.15; and 85 stocks 150.21, off 0.22. Sales today were about 2,060,000 shares compared with 1,700,000 shares Thursday.

Phoenix City Bonds To Finance Sewer Work

Money from bonds sold by the city of Phoenix will be used for sewer improvements instead of street improvements, as reported earlier.

U.S. National bank of Portland, and Blyth and company were successful joint bidders on the \$57,879.31 worth of bonds. Interest rate will be 3.70 per cent.

Churchill's Condition 'Definitely Improved'

Rouen, France — Sir Winston Churchill's doctors announced today that "there is a very definite improvement" in his condition. The 83-year-old British statesman has been battling an attack of pneumonia and pleurisy since last Tuesday.

Ore To Look For Attention Turning To Bolster State Economy

By A. ROBERT SMITH

Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — Most members of the Oregon congressional delegation are now spending an increasingly large share of time on efforts to counteract the economic recession which plagues Oregon and, to a lesser extent, the nation this winter.

This was the No. 1 item on the agenda of the delegation's five Democrats when they held their biweekly meeting this week. It looms as probably the most complex and most slippery problem they are likely to confront for many months.

Until recently, the action of delegation members had been limited largely to spoken criticism of the Eisenhower administration's fiscal policy—the tight money policy which made borrowing hard in order to reduce the inflationary spiral. They charged that this was putting a clamp on mortgage lending and adversely affecting the housing and lumber industry. They said, also, that it was hurting the small businessman who

finds it more difficult than large firms in borrowing investment capital.

As the recession has lingered and become worse in recent weeks, the tight money policy has been relaxed somewhat by the Federal Reserve Board. But the Oregonians are not at all satisfied.

Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) with unemployment mounting in the Portland area which she represents, has for weeks been tackling the problem from a defense contract standpoint. She was the sparkplug in the organization of a Portland committee for industrial contracts which has mapped out an action program and made its appeal directly to the Pentagon.

The fact that Portland has been declared a distress labor area will give it a priority in instances where bidding between Portland firms and competitors elsewhere is close. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) went to the Pentagon last week with the chairman of the Portland committee, Roy F. Renoud, to state the state's case for procurement con-

tracts.

Rep. Charles O. Porter has been tackling the problem from a broader base through a bill to pump up to \$1 billion into the home mortgage loan pipeline. He would take this money from the railroad retirement fund (whose reserves are now usually invested in government bonds) and make it available as mortgage money through the government's housing finance agencies.

The administration has come out against the bill, however, on grounds that if this money were not invested in government securities, the Treasury would have to borrow from private sources—and that generally, this would have an inflationary effect if it made mortgage lending easier.

Porter has also introduced what amounts to a PWA bill—an echo of the New Deal make-work programs of the 30s. It is similar to a bill introduced in the Senate by Sen. Albert Gore to make \$500,000,000 available for construction of necessary public

works.

"It would sop up unemployment," explained Porter, "and create works that would be useful to the economy of the nation."

Porter has undertaken the task of drafting an anti-recession program for the Democratic members of the delegation. It is to consist of those bills which the delegation supports as means of improving Oregon's economic health.

The Eugene congressman indicated that it will have a New Dealish look. On a filmed TV program which he is sending this week to stations in the fourth congressional district, Porter talked with Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.) on how to combat a recession or a depression, as Roosevelt insisted on calling it. Behind them was a large portrait of President Roosevelt, to whom they paid frequent respects during the program.

Points on which they agreed were:

1. Modernize the social security program to give "realistic" benefits to retired persons. They would increase monthly payments and raise the ceiling on earnings which a retired person can have.
2. Extend the minimum wage law to additional jobs, such as retail clerks.
3. There are some shameful examples still going on in the retail field," explained Porter, "where elderly persons are hired for 70 to 80 cents an hour. I think the minimum wage of \$1 should be extended to the larger retailers."
4. Revise tax laws to permit small business more liberal allowances for sums invested; and set up a small business capital equity system backed by the government similar in purpose to the lending agencies for home loans and for supplying loans to farmers.

To date, there has been no demand from the Oregon delegation for a general personal income tax cut.

Files Candidacy

Franklin (Jere) Girard, 65, of Ashland, yesterday filed his candidacy for nomination for Jackson county commissioner on the Democratic ticket. He served as secretary of state in Idaho, and also was a member of the Idaho boards of equalization, examiners, and land commissioners. He has lived in this area for several years.

Disciplinary action by Medford school officials concerning 25 juveniles picked up by city police Saturday night on charges of possession of liquor is pending the completion of further investigation, according to Lester Harris, high school principal.

School officials reported that two of the boys involved were suspended from participation in athletics and three other students were ruled ineligible for participation in student government day activities this week.

Harris said several other students who were questioned have been temporarily suspended from offices in student government until investigation regarding the incident has been completed.

Awarding Scholarships

He explained that several students had been recommended for scholarships. Harris stressed that in cases where recommendations by the high school are necessary for scholarships, the actual awarding of the scholarship would be delayed, pending completion of the investigation by school officials.

He added that students involved in the incident who have been awarded scholarships by organizations and firms in which the high school made no recommendations will not be affected.

It was mentioned that the majority of the students questioned by police did not participate in sports, student government or had not applied for scholarships.

Our Skies Tonight

Sunrise 7:00 a.m.
Sunset 5:31 p.m.
The Moon sets 9:08 p.m. and is in Apogee tonight at its greatest distance from the Earth for the month.

WEATHER
Forecast — Variable high cloudiness through Saturday. Chance of occasional light rain Saturday. Mild temperatures. Low tonight 45. High Saturday 58.

Highest Yesterday 62
Lowest this Morning 39

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VISIBLE PLANETS
Jupiter, rises 11:05 p.m.
Saturn, low in southeast 4:26 a.m.
Mars, rises 5:02 a.m.
Venus, rises 5:18 a.m.

Sacramento River Banks Weakening

San Francisco — The weatherman had gloomy news today for Northern California, especially those living alongside the Sacramento river — more rain.

Even as the Sacramento threatened to collapse its banks in the Grimes area of Colusa county, the weatherman predicted rain would begin falling in the extreme northern part of the State.

A proposal to forward a request to the Public Utilities commission requesting installation of railroad crossing arms on several crossings near the high school was defeated.

A recommendation to eliminate parking restrictions in the high school area was tabled by students. The regular city council postponed action on a similar move.

Students Conduct Meeting

Council Meeting

A mock city council meeting was held last night by students taking part in Student Government Day activities sponsored by the Medford Elks club.

Students held the meeting after the Medford city council completed its regular business. Members of the student council were elected by other students at Medford and St. Mary's High school.

An amendment to the city business license ordinance was adopted by the students. The amendment prohibits telephone soliciting by salesmen in the city.

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Students adopted a traffic measure prohibiting parking on the east side of Crater Lake ave. from Main to Jackson sts. They said they believed the street was too narrow in view of the large amount of traffic to allow parking on both sides of the street.

A proposal to condemn several buildings claimed unsafe, in the Eighth and Bartlett sts. and Front st. area was referred to a committee after council members felt not enough

information was available for a decision.

Improvements of fire protection, lighting and ventilation were approved for the city hall. They made no provision for planning or financing the project.

Paving Authorized
After a long debate, measure which would authorize the city to pave a section of road near the Rogue Flying service on airport property was passed by students. They also approved grading several roads and taxi-ways in the airport hanger area. The proposed paving would cost an estimated \$1,500.

The council discussed on appropriation of property for construction of a building to house heavy equipment in Hawthorne park. The present building is in the path of the Highway 99 freeway and must be replaced. No agreement on the proposal was reached and action was postponed.

A letter of complaint by a student concerning study regulations in the city library was read by the student mayor. The council first voted to require the library commission to enforce council suggestions and then voted a senior from each high school be added to the commission.

Portland — Philip M. Talbot of Washington, D.C., president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, predicts there will be an upturn in the nation's economy next June.

Students conduct meeting — Student officials took over the Medford city council meeting last night and conducted business on an agenda of their own. City officials in the audience said the students learned several things about city government and its problems by holding the meeting.

Pictured from left to right are Mike Forbes, councilman; Frank Albert, mayor; John Jones, councilman; Curtis Cook, councilman; Kathy Metz, councilwoman; and Henry Courtney, councilman. In foreground is City Recorder-Treasurer Sue Knight who is taking minutes of the meeting.

Officials discuss road development — Paul Rynning, county engineer, and members of the Jackson county court are in Portland today attending a meeting on the Lake of the Woods road development.

Also scheduled to attend were Glenn Jackson and Chester Hubbard of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce roads committee; and Carroll Brown, supervisor of Rogue River National forest. They are meeting with Herb Stone, regional forest service forester. They plan to discuss the possibility of getting the Lake of the Woods road improvement included in the forest roads program.

Motorists Still Confused on Light

Confused on Light

The public works department has reported that some Medford motorists are still confused about the change in the traffic light on Main st. at Lindley ave.

Vernon Thorpe, director of public works, said between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. the light is operating as usual but during the red cycle, the light will blink on and off.

Motorists are permitted to proceed through the blinking red light if they yield the right-of-way to cars and pedestrians coming from other directions, he said. The light is operating with no change between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Washington Distracting; Chiefs Go To Puerto Rico

Washington — A task force of top defense officials, accompanied by their wives, flew to Puerto Rico today to sort out the "bad from the good" in proposals to reorganize the Defense Department.

Take Tennis Racquets
The group of 26 military and civilian officials, wives, consultants and aides took off from the Military Air Transport Terminal in two Air Force C118 four-engine transport planes. Some in the party took along tennis racquets and golf clubs in addition to their luggage.

The group will assemble at an air base in Puerto Rico far removed from Washington's distractions.

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According to the proposal, a 16-mile stretch from Little Butte creek near Lake Creek to Lake of the Woods would be graded and paved. This would provide a through connection with the Crater Lake highway and the Lake of the Woods-Klamath Falls highway.

Body of Rogue River Drowning Victim Found

Gold Beach, Ore. — The Curry county coroner's office reported today that the body of Emily Meservey, 11, had been recovered from the ocean near here. The girl was one of four who drowned Feb. 1 in a boating accident in the Rogue river. Bodies of the other three members of the Meservey family have not been recovered.

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HERB BLOCK
STYLING: MARGARET HOFF