

# Renewed American Pledge Helps Berlin Mayor's Chances

## Council Won't Get 'Free-Hand' In Amendment

Councilman Says There Are Safeguards

City Councilman Robert Van Sickle, Ward III, told Medford voters today that approval of the charter amendment Dec. 10 would not give the council a "free hand" in developing an off-street parking program.

"This is not the 'free hand' that some have implied but has definite limitations," he said. "All of the additional steps necessary, after the approval of the charter amendment Dec. 10, are set forth by law and have built-in safeguards for you and me, as residents of Medford."

The amendment would authorize the city to issue up to \$500,000 in general obligation bonds to finance a municipal off-street parking program. The bonds would be paid off by revenues from the off-street facilities, up to 25 per cent of parking meter revenue and assessments from a special district of those properties benefited by the facilities.

**Not General Tax Measure**  
"This ballot measure is not a general tax measure," Van Sickle said. "This is a charter amendment which, when approved, will allow the ordinance calling for the downtown assessment district, the proper hearings on the formation of the district and other steps outlined by existing legislation to solve the parking problem."

"I urge you," he said, "to cast your 'Yes' vote as an informed voter who is interested in the planned economic growth of our city."

Van Sickle said planning of proposed boundaries for a downtown assessment district are in preparation. He said a complete evaluation of the "Keeney Plan" for a self-parking platform straddling the Southern Pacific railroad tracks would follow approval of the charter amendment.

**Basis of Consideration**  
He said that whatever plan was selected would be considered on the basis of its feasibility, unit cost of installation and operation and other economic factors.

He stated that the loss of parking spaces to comply with state highway requirements plus the loss of private and municipal off-street parking spaces currently available would accelerate in the years ahead.

He described the ballot measure as vital to overall plans for providing off-street parking relief, and urged voters to inform themselves of its merits.

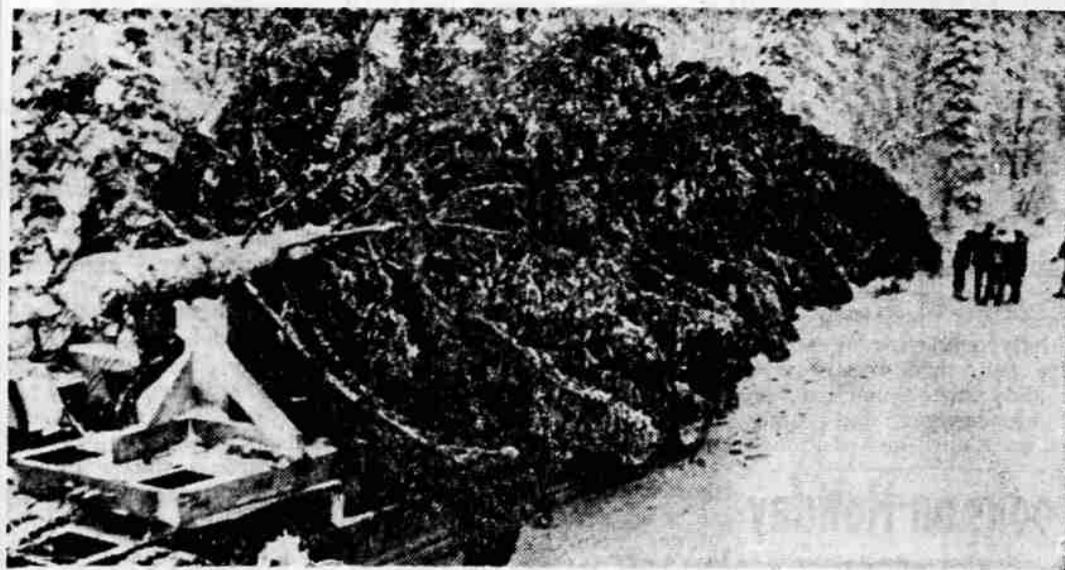
**Pendleton**—UPB—Two more West Coast airline flights to increase service to eastern Oregon have been added here.

**WEATHER**  
FORECAST: Variable cloudiness, continued, m11d through Wednesday. Patchy valley fog during late night and early morning hours. Low tonight 42; high Wednesday 37.  
Lowest yesterday 35  
Highest this morning 42

**Our Skies Tonight**  
Sunset today 4:46 p.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow 7:23 a.m.  
Moonrise tonight 11:05 p.m.  
Last Quarter Wednesday  
PROXIMATE STARS  
Altair, low in west 8:35 p.m.  
Regulus, near the Moon  
VISIBLE PLANETS  
Mars, in the east 5:55 p.m.  
Jupiter, rises 5:54 a.m.

## Five Organizations Are Added to Beauty Program

Five more Medford organizations have volunteered to aid the current "Make Medford Beautiful" program and the public schools have stated they will cooperate with the project, it was reported at the noon luncheon of the committee Monday at the Medford hotel.



STANDING 99 FEET HIGH, this is Engelmann spruce which will be set up as Christmas tree in White House ground. It was cut in Kootenai National forest, near Libby, Mont., and will be tallest ever used in ceremony. Two specially equipped flat cars will carry tree 2,490 miles to Washington. Lighting ceremony is set for December 24.

## Directors Elected In Eight Districts

Claude Thompson and Charles Bateman retained their seats on the board of the Central Point Rural Fire Protection district yesterday in one of eight elections in Jackson county.

Central Point voters also approved by a 28-25 margin the annexation into the district of a tract in the White City area.

Thompson, receiving 54 votes, was reelected for a five-year term. He is currently chairman of the board. Bateman, appointed to the board previously to replace the late Harold Gebhard, was elected to serve out the remaining four years of his predecessor's term.

Wallace Bowen, Central Point police chief, received 15 write-in votes. Otto Bohner received two, and Rupert Wilson and Wesley Claslin, one each.

**Neff Reelected**  
Asher Neff was reelected for a five-year term as a director of the Medford Rural Fire district. Glen V. Allen was elected to serve out the remaining four years of a seat vacated recently by H. Chandler Drew. They were unopposed.

Delmar Logan was elected for a five-year term as a director of the Shady Cove-Trail Labor Payoffs Charged, Denied

Washington—UPB—The Senate Rackets committee heard sworn charges and denies today that a Chicago union official received \$27,000 from a Wichita, Kan., company as payoffs for labor peace.

Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), promptly ordered a transcript of the conflicting testimony sent to the Justice Department for possible prosecution of what he described as deliberate perjury.

Carl L. Burrows of the Coleman Co. of Wichita told the committee the money was paid to Arthur H. Cronin, a vice president of the Sheet Metal Workers union, to solve difficulties with the union. But Cronin, who followed Burrows to the witness stand swore that the only money he got was a \$5,000 Christmas present which he returned.

## Redden Resigns As Chairman of Democratic Party

James A. Redden, Medford attorney, has resigned as chairman of the Jackson County Democratic Party.

A new chairman will be elected by the Central committee Wednesday, Dec. 10, at a meeting at the Labor temple, 24½ South Grape st., Medford. On the nominating committee are Mrs. Myrtle Newton, Ashland; William Frohnmayer, Medford; and Donna Straus, Sams Valley.

Redden was elected chairman of the party in 1957 to fill the unexpired term of Larry Sheehan, Rogue River. Redden was reelected this year.

**Rewarding Experience**  
Redden said "It has been an interesting, invigorating, and rewarding experience to serve the Democratic Party" of the county.

"I regret the necessity of announcing my resignation at this time, but the press of family and business commitments would mean that I could not devote the time the job of county chairman deserves," Redden said.

He added that "We have made great strides forward in the past year that are attributable in great part to the hard working Democrats of the Jackson County Central committee. We reelected our representative in the House, who will be the next speaker of the House, captured the traditionally Republican office of county clerk, and came within a few votes of electing the first Democratic state senator in decades. In registrations, we have our greatest victory, and we will be, without doubt, the majority party in Jackson county in 1960."

**First Steps Taken For Roadside Area**  
Preliminary steps were taken yesterday toward developing a roadside area on the Dead Indian rd. as a picnic and rest spot.

Members of the county court, County Planning Technician Jack Eaton, and county surveyors inspected the site near the springs on the Dead Indian rd. and made plans for its development.

Development of the site had been recommended by the county planning commission following an inspection by members of the county court and planning commission.

**Morgan 'Regrets' Railroad's Action**  
Salem—UPB—Public Utility Commissioner Howard Morgan said today it was a "shame" that Southern Pacific plans to reduce operation of the Shasta Daylight train to three times a week during the winter months between Portland and San Francisco.

"They are losing money on some of their passenger operations," Morgan said, "but this is not the case here."  
He said that formerly individual state public utility commissioners had power to prevent such reductions and that the last time Southern Pacific made this proposal the California PUC vetoed it. However, the last Congress passed a bill which switched most passenger regulations to the Interstate Commerce Commission, Morgan said. He added a study of the law would be made to see what action Oregon can take.

## Mayfield to Talk At Fund Meeting

Dr. Leonard B. Mayfield, superintendent of Medford schools, will discuss the economic and cultural values of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival at a meeting of the building fund committee at the Red Cross building, 60 Hawthorne ave., tomorrow noon.

Tomorrow's meeting is the third report luncheon in the campaign to raise \$275,000 for construction of a new theater building for the Festival.

Ashland's race to meet its \$50,000 portion of the goal has pulled ahead of Medford's. New donations reported at Monday's meeting raised Ashland's total to \$38,829.09, compared to \$33,040 contributed in Medford last week.

A. C. Fries, Festival association president, Ashland, urged Ashland workers to reach the quota by next Monday, and Ashland Mayor Richard Neill noted that with only 26 per cent of Ashland's potential donors contacted, workers already have received donations for three-fifths of the goal.

Medford's goal in the campaign has been set at \$100,000.

**Medford Businesses Plan to Hire About Same Number of Extra Help for Holiday**  
Medford businesses plan to hire approximately the same number of extra personnel during the Christmas season this year as last, according to a poll made by the Mail Tribune this week.

Although the stores reported that the majority of their current hiring is from a group of former holiday season employees, they do hire new persons each year.

The majority of the store managers stated that experience in use of the cash register and meeting the public is desired for new employees.

Recent U.S. Labor department statistics reported that 11 per cent more elderly persons were placed during last December than the previous year on a national level. This

## U.S. To Defend Air Lift Routes If Necessary

Berlin To Elect Parliament Sunday

Berlin—UPB—Renewed American pledges to fight an all-out war if necessary to maintain the U.S. position in West Berlin have boosted the chances of Mayor Willy Brandt to win a smashing victory in Sunday's city elections.

On Sunday West Berlin's 1,650,000 electorate goes to the polls to elect a new 127-seat city parliament which in turn will elect a mayor. Brandt's Social Democrat Party has ruled since 1954 and his strong position on Berlin and Western support were raising his stock.

He was helped late Monday when informed sources passed the word in the city that the United States would support its garrison against any military attack by the Communists against West Berlin. West Berlin newspapers accepted it as the strongest pledge yet.

The sources also said the United States would defend any new airlift to Berlin and would return the fire of either Soviet or East German aircraft, raising the possibility of a limited air war in the three 20-mile-wide air corridors leading to Berlin.

The sources said the United States had no plans to bomb Soviet or East German bases from which eastern aircraft could attack airlift planes and that it was believed the Soviets would not attack American Air Force bases.

**Could Mean War**  
The United States realizes that sending supply aircraft over the Soviet Zone to Berlin in defiance of Communist warnings could mean a full-scale war. But the United States is determined to take this risk if necessary, the sources said.

The sources said there was no plan to fight through with armored trains or tanks since this might mean firing the first shot, and that the massive airlift would be the answer to any blockade. In any case, the sources said, the West will not recognize East Germany nor will it negotiate with the East German government.

It followed a declaration Sunday by Gen. Henry I. Hodes, American Army commander in Europe, that the United States would consider an attack against the American garrison as an attack against the United States.

**Pupils Stay Home; Road Too Narrow**  
Vancouver, Wash.—UPB—Eleven families in the Salmon Creek area near here refused today to send their children on foot down a narrow road to meet the school bus.

The parents said they would rather keep their children home than send them down a narrow road three-tenths of a mile long which has no sidewalks. They said the traffic danger was too great.

The school bus did not drive up the hill and the children remained home.

Local school officials said the problem was a policy matter between the parents and the school board, which next meets Dec. 16.

**Highways Mostly Clear in Oregon**  
Salem—UPB—The State Highway department today reported icy spots at Chemult and packed, sanded snow at Austin. Otherwise, the Department said, Oregon highways are bare.

There were two inches of roadside snow at Santiam pass and Meacham.

# BOYS QUIZZED IN FIRE PROBE

## State Seeks Fire Fighting Costs From Power Firm

Case Opens in Court Early Today

Opening statements were heard by Circuit Judge Orval J. Millard this morning in the case of the state vs. the California Oregon Power company.

The state is asking that \$40,682.40 be paid the state forestry department in fire-fighting costs by the California Oregon Power company.

The state alleges the costs were incurred during the Sykes creek fire on Sept. 5, 1955, when 4,200 acres of forest land were burned. It is charged further that Copco has one of its main transmission lines extending through the fire area.

The non-jury case was adjourned near noon today to allow the circuit court judge from Grants Pass to inspect the area involved in the suit.

**Claims Copco's Duty**  
The state alleges that Copco had a duty to protect the forest lands through which its transmission line extended, was an owner, operator or "person in possession of premises." The power company denies these things.

The state charges further that the power company allowed a 75-foot pine tree to remain near the power line after it was erected and left inflammable debris nearby. A high wind snapped off the top section of the tree and blew it into the line starting the fire, the state charges.

In its answer Copco admits the existence of the pine tree and that it is owner of a grant of right-of-way for the transmission line and that the fire started. It denies all other charges.

**Stores to Remain Open Two Nights**  
Downtown Medford retail stores will be open evenings on each Monday and Thursday until Christmas, according to a spokesman for the Retail Merchants association.

The evening opening policy was adopted at a recent meeting, and most stores are expected to comply.

In addition, stores will remain open Tuesday, Dec. 23, but will close Christmas eve to permit their employees to spend that evening with their families.

The evening opening will be until 9 p.m. in each case.

**Neuberger Sees Chance To Cut Budget**  
Portland—UPB—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) said Monday selection by President Eisenhower of a panel to review military aspects of this nation's foreign aid program offers "one of the few genuine opportunities to reduce the vast national budget in the field of arms."

There were two inches of roadside snow at Santiam pass and Meacham.



## Jaycees to Sponsor Lighting Contest

The Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the third annual residential Christmas lighting contest in the city this year, Del Landing, contest committee chairman, has announced.

The contest is organized to encourage and promote Christmas spirit through decorative lights. Prizes will be awarded on the basis of originality, lighting and theme with the first place winner being entered in General Electric's \$5,000 nationwide Christmas decorating contest.

Entry blanks are available at several downtown locations, Landing said.

**Divided Into Sections**  
Medford and the suburban area will be divided into four sections with Highway 99 (Riverside ave. inside the city limits), and East and West Main st. as boundaries.

Prizes will be awarded to each section, with first and second place winners being picked from the combined areas. A prize also will be awarded for each area on a drawing basis. Prizes will be displayed at a downtown Medford store later, Landing said.

The Jaycees have several brochures which give ideas on decorations and lighting techniques, Landing said, and persons interested may obtain one by writing the Medford Jaycees at post office box 251, Medford.

Assisting Landing are Hal Gardner, Greg Orr, Gil Gilbert, Joe Walsh and Bob Hjelm.

**\$112,696 Reached In UMC Campaign**  
The United Medford Crusade reached \$112,696 of its \$131,030 goal for this year, General Chairman Richard Travis reported at yesterday's report meeting.

The amount is about \$2,500 less than was reported at last time in the campaign last year, when the goal was \$124,000.

Travis expressed optimism in the fact that a large fruit industry will complete its canvass for funds this week. He also noted that several other firms have not completed solicitations and proceeds from several special events are expected to be received this week.

Plans will be formulated soon for furthering the campaign should a deficit still occur after funds are reported from the fruit industry and other sources not yet reported.

## 87 Students, Three Nuns Die In School Blaze

Grieving Parents Identify Victims

Chicago—UPB—Police questioned pupils in a grief-stricken West Side neighborhood today in an effort to learn if one of them accidentally caused a fire which killed 87 students and three nuns in a Roman Catholic school.

A squad of 35 officers was assigned to question boys whose task it was to carry wastepaper from classrooms to trash bins near a basement stairwell where the fire apparently started.

Authorities questioned two boys during the night and called two more youths to the Austin Police Station late this morning. Police theorized a pupil might have tossed a

lighted cigarette into the trash, setting off Chicago's worst fire in 55 years.

The fire flashed through Our Lady of Angels parochial school Monday only about 20 minutes before classes were to be dismissed at 3 p.m.

**Most Bodies Identified**  
The flames and blinding clouds of black smoke which billowed through the building killed 53 girls, 34 boys and three nuns. The children were from 9 to 15 years old.

At the morgue, grieving parents identified 76 of the little victims. Eight others were identified tentatively.

Some of the dead were charred beyond recognition and the process of trying to identify them through the remains and personal effects moved slowly.

At mid-morning, two bodies were identified by their teeth. The victim's fathers, who had been waiting tensely through the night, gave in to uncontrolled grief. Policemen, who had seen the scene repeated hour after hour, broke down and cried. One of the fathers, Victor Silvio, collapsed and shouted in hysteria.

**Investigation Deferred**  
Coroner Walter McCarron deferred a "blue ribbon jury" investigation of the fire in order to select "the top men, the best I can find" to serve on the panel.

"In the face of such grim tragedy it is imperative that we move slowly and with firm determination to learn the basic cause of this tragedy," he said.

The coroner said he would call an inquest into the fire sometime next week.

Of the injured, 82 remained hospitalized today. Four were near death. Some Found at Desks

Many of the children leaped from windows on the upper floor of the two-story building, their clothing and hair afire. Bystanders and firemen caught or broke the fall of many of them. Others smashed to the frozen ground and were killed. Still others never left their classroom desks and were found suffocated, seated in front of their open books.

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19 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS HELP FIGHT TB