

Key Democrats Question President's Budget

Butane Explosion Kills 4, Hurts 168

Crowd Gathered At Wreck Scene As Truck Explodes

Windows Blown Out All Over Texas Town

Brownfield, Tex. — (UPI) — A butane gas transport truck blew up Monday night in the midst of 500 persons standing as close to it as 10 feet. Spectators said flames shot 1,000 feet into the air and the blast blew chunks of red hot metal two miles.

The explosion killed four persons and injured 168. Most of the injured were treated for burns and sent home, but at least 63 remained in hospitals, some in critical condition.

The tragedy started with a wreck between the butane transport and a trailer truck. There was a small explosion, probably of gasoline, when the trucks collided, and a fire.

The Brownfield volunteer fire department rushed to the scene and spectators gathered. Fifteen minutes after the wreck and original explosion, the powerful butane gas on the truck blew up.

The victims include volunteer fire marshal Jim Cousineau, about 45, who earned his living as an electrical engineer; Ruben Johnson, about 50, Lubbock; Wayland Parker, about 45, and J. B. Ray.

Parker, a farmer, was a volunteer fireman. Johnson and Ray were spectators.

The injured overflowed the local hospital and ambulances and automobiles rushed them to hospitals in Lubbock, Levelland and Lamesa, about 40 miles away.

Residents of Lubbock, Muleshoe and Big Spring reported seeing the flash of the explosion. Big Spring is 80 miles from Brownfield.

The explosion knocked out Brownfield's power supply and there was no power for more than an hour. It blew out windows all over town. The glass in a filling station two blocks away simply disappeared.

Butane is a gas, widely used for heating in the rural areas, that liquefies under pressure. It is carried about as a liquid and stored in tanks on farms and ranches, but the moment it touches air, it becomes a gas.

The Pope spoke in Italian over Vatican Radio, which later rebroadcast the speech in 30 languages. It was beamed to nations around the world, including those behind the Iron and Bamboo curtains.



'Eyesores' in City Surveyed by Group

The mayor's "Make Medford Beautiful" committee has inventoried 37 "eyesores" along Riverside and Central avenues, a subcommittee chairman reported yesterday.

Granville Brittan, chairman of the survey action subcommittee, said six service clubs have volunteered to contact property owners about clearing up the unsightly situations.

He said he is confident nearly all property owners will cooperate in the beautification campaign.

Main st. and the airport area are on the committee's agenda for surveys and inventories, he said.

Brittan, appearing with other committee members at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce weekly roundtable luncheon, spoke enthusiastically of the "wonderful volunteer help" that has been offered.

He said Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young Men's Christian association, garden clubs and the Rose society have all offered to contribute time and effort.

Lou Cranston, chairman of the committee proper, discussed activities of the subcommittee for planting. The goal of this group, he said, is to plant plots of flowers along the approaches to the city.

Several civic organizations, he reported, have already planted bulbs donated by the Southern Oregon Nurserymen's association. He said Girl Scouts volunteered to plant bulbs in front of the Union 76 service station at Stewart and Riverside avenues.

Cranston also mentioned the possibility of a "Cleanup and Paintup" contest in which Medford residents could compete for prizes.

Underground Grotto Collapses; 18 Feared Dead

Belgium Villagers Collecting Mushrooms

Brussels — (UPI) — An underground grotto in a corner of Belgium collapsed today, apparently wiping out part of a group of villagers collecting mushrooms for Christmas dinners.

Eighteen were buried and feared dead. The broken body of an 8-year-old girl was the first to be recovered from the humid, dark passageways of the grotto.

Dozens Treated
About 150 persons from the quaintly named village of Zichen-Zussen-Bolder, in the northeast corner of the country on the Dutch border, were gathering mushrooms when the disaster struck.

Most clawed and scrambled their way to safety through passages and air shafts. Twelve were hospitalized with serious injuries. Dozens of others were treated at the site for cuts and bruises.

Rescue teams from Holland and Belgium converged on the spot within a half hour of the alarm being given.

Praying for Miracles
But a police spokesman said "it would be a miracle if anyone is alive" under the tons of rubble which fell on the muddy floor in which mushrooms thrive.

In the pall of dust hanging around the hillside, relatives of the trapped villagers prayed for that pre-Christmas miracle.

The grotto consisted of about 120 to 160 acres of caves and galleries in an abandoned quarry. The caves began to collapse over about 20 acres, probably from some earth movement caused by the recent heavy rains. The walls of the quarry caved in sending a terrific whoosh of air through the entire workings.

Golden Case Is Continued Today

The case of Jerry Eugene Golden, 28, of 684 East Valley View rd., Ashland, was continued today in circuit court pending consultation between Golden and his attorney.

Golden appeared before Circuit Court Judge Edward C. Kelly on charges of assault with intent to commit robbery. Judge Kelly appointed William Duhaime, Medford, his attorney.

Golden was brought into circuit court on one charge because the nature of a second charge will depend on whether the shooting victim, Ray Edward Reid, lives, the district attorney's office explained. Golden also is charged with assault with intent to kill 34-year-old Reid of 1850 Barnett rd., Medford.

Attendees at Rogue Valley hospital today said Reid's condition "is satisfactory considering the number of days." Reid's physician told the district attorney's office that he wanted to wait three or four days before definitely predicting whether or not Reid would live.

Golden was arraigned in district court Friday afternoon on charges of assault with intent to kill and assault with intent to commit robbery. He has admitted to firing the shot that struck Reid Thursday evening in the 90 and 9 Tavern on South Riverside ave.

Two Major Appointments Announced by Hatfield

Eugene Man To Be Director of Motor Vehicles

Finance Post Goes To Elections Chief

Salem — (UPI) — Two major appointments were announced today by Gov-Elect Mark Hatfield.

Vern Hill, Eugene police chief and a 20-year veteran with the state police, will be the new state director of motor vehicles.

Freeman Holmer, 41, present state elections chief, will take over as state director of finance and administration.

Hill replaces James R. Johnson, an appointee of Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

Holmer takes over from John F. Richardson, also a Holmes appointee.

Both men had revealed their intention of resigning when Hatfield takes office on Jan. 12.

Stores Will Be Open Again Tonight

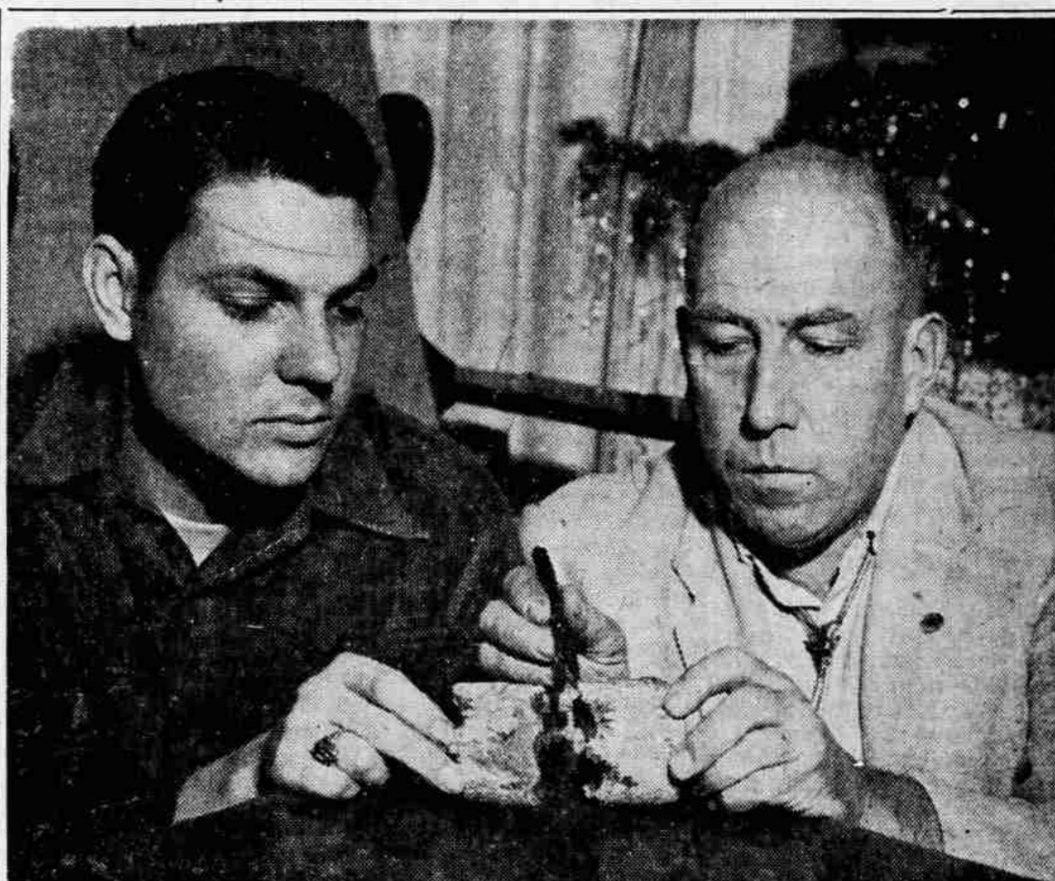
Tonight will be the last opportunity for Christmas shoppers to make purchases during evening hours, and Medford downtown merchants expect crowded stores again tomorrow, the final shopping day before the holiday.

Stores will remain open until 9 o'clock tonight, but will close at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow so employees may have Christmas eve at home. Most stores and all governmental agencies, except emergency agencies, will be closed Thursday.

Schools in Jackson county which did not close Friday will close this afternoon and tomorrow.

Schools closing today include Jacksonville, Griffin Creek, Ruch, Phoenix, district 6C which includes schools at Central Point, Gold Hill and Sams Valley, Eagle Point, Talent, Applegate, Prospect, Howard and all Medford schools.

Rogue River and Evans Valley schools will close tomorrow afternoon. All schools will resume classes Monday, Jan. 5.



Fossil Found

An agatized section of bone which has been identified as being from a 15-foot invertebrate that lived in the Rogue River valley some 400 million years ago, was discovered recently by Tommy Tucker (left, above), 1030 Oak st., Central Point. Tucker uncovered the bone at a depth of about one foot while digging a hole for a lilac bush in his back yard. Delmar Smith (right), of Crater Rock museum, Central Point, is pointing out how the bone section broke along one of the suture lines that criss cross it. Smith said the creature once inhabited the ancient seas that covered this area and is of the family of cephalopods that resembled a squid, except that the body was elongated and was held rigid by a heavy bone running through it. The agatizing process alone, in which the bone molecules are replaced by silica, takes up to 20 million years. The fossil will be on display at Crater Rock museum after Christmas, Smith said.

UMC Assured of Reaching Goal For Sixth Year

The United Medford Crusade has reached its goal for the sixth consecutive year, Richard Travis, general chairman, announced today.

The Crusade has received \$130,500 of its \$131,030 goal, he said, and other commitments and receipts will be sufficient to make up the difference of about \$500.

The "Christmas Cards for UMC" received here will be delivered by United Air Lines tomorrow morning to the Waverly Baby home, a UMC and United Appeal agency in Portland.

Travis expressed his appreciation to residents of Medford for their response to the campaign, and was especially grateful to those who contributed twice to raise about \$7,000 in a week to assure the organization it would reach its goal and that welfare services of its agencies will not be curtailed.

He pointed out that Medford is the only city in Oregon which has reached its United Fund goal six consecutive years.

Buttram Sentenced To Prison Term

Lenel Carl Buttram, 21, of Shady Cove, was sentenced to 3½ years in the Oregon state penitentiary this morning by Circuit Court Judge Edward C. Kelly.

Buttram pleaded guilty to a district attorney's information charging him with burglary not in a dwelling.

Buttram and Homer Cloyd Brooks, 39, of Pueblo, Colo., were arrested Dec. 4 by police following a high speed chase in the valley. They were arrested in connection with the theft of about \$687.55 from the safe of Crater Finance company, Central Point. Brooks has waived the right to a grand jury hearing and was arraigned on district attorney's information.

Medford Man Hurt When Hit by Truck

George Washington Childs, 61, of 16 Portland ave., was in poor condition at Sacred Heart hospital today after being run over last night by a Christmas tree salesman's truck in Medford.

The salesman, James Howard Nunes, 26, of 169 Glenwood rd., told city police he felt a bump under the left rear wheel of his Army surplus weapons carrier truck and thought at first it was a blow-out. The accident occurred shortly after 8 p.m. at the intersection of East Main and Cottage sts.

Childs suffered severe head and chest injuries, according to police.

Restraining Order Asked on Rail Rates

San Francisco — (UPI) — Fifteen Northern California lumber companies and trucking firms have asked for a restraining order to halt proposed railroad freight rate slashes in Oregon.

The petitioners told U. S. District Judge Lloyd H. Burke Monday that unless the rate cuts were suspended "the California lumber industry would be destroyed or substantially damaged in comparison to the Oregon industry."

The new rates were requested by the Southern Pacific Railroad and became effective automatically after the Interstate Commerce Commission took no action after the seven-month statutory period.

The new schedules reduce charges an average of 20 percent on lumber carloads of a minimum of 34,000 pounds between Oregon, California and Arizona points. California railroad operations are not affected by the rates.

Balance Without General Increase In Taxes Doubled

Temporary Programs Scheduled To End

Washington — (UPI) — Key congressional Democrats today openly questioned the ability of President Eisenhower to balance the new federal budget at \$77 billion without a general tax increase.

The chairman of the Senate finance and House appropriations committees accepted Eisenhower's announced goal of ending mountainous federal deficits as admirable. But they doubted that Uncle Sam would take in enough extra revenue to do the job in fiscal 1960.

The President, although he proposed increased defense spending, promised he would not ask for a general tax hike. He said the budget will call for higher postal rates and gasoline taxes, however.

In a direct challenge to the strong Democratic Congress to refrain from heavy new spending, Eisenhower issued the rare budget preview Monday nearly a month before it was scheduled to go to Capitol Hill.

End Temporary Programs

"It will be a balanced budget," the President said. "Revenues and expenditures will be in the general area of \$77 billion."

The Chief Executive said reductions in total spending — expected to pass \$80 billion this year — would be accomplished in the new budget partly by ending of temporary programs in agriculture, unemployment insurance and housing. Savings in this category were estimated at upwards of \$2,500,000,000.

What interested the Democrats in heavy control of Congress, however, was the bright revenue picture painted by Eisenhower.

Revenue in the current fiscal year is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$68 billion. This will leave a deficit of about \$12 billion. The President's "balance" next year at \$77 billion would mean an improvement of \$9 billion dollars in federal receipts.

Skeptical of Savings

One of the most influential Democrats in the field of federal finance, Chairman Clarence Cannon of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was skeptical of Eisenhower's anticipated savings and found "no evidence that revenues will be up to what he expects."

Chairman Harry F. Byrd of the Senate Finance Committee, another powerful Democratic figure, was more laudatory than Cannon of Eisenhower's economy objective. But like other Democrats, Byrd questioned whether there would be enough revenue to make a balanced budget possible.

Eisenhower said defense spending would push upward to a new peacetime peak. Defense spending this year is expected to run about \$40,800,000,000 and there have been recent estimates that the 1960 military outlay might go up well above \$41 billion.

Reorganization Group Withdraws Suggestion

Hill and Sams Valley, or with district 549C, Medford.

A total of 561 valid votes were returned. Of these, 378, or 67.4 per cent, favored consolidation with district 549C, and 183, or 32.6 per cent favored consolidation with district 6C.

The reorganization committee had recommended that the Howard district be consolidated with district 6C along with Rogue River and Evans Valley.

Stewart Resigns at Holmes' Request; Denies Charges of Cooperation Lack

Salem — (UPI) — State Tax Commissioner Sam Stewart today tendered his resignation to Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

At the same time, Stewart denied all charges Gov. Holmes made against him when he called for Stewart's resignation.

The letter stated that Stewart was "amazed" at the charges leveled at him by the governor and said that as recently as this fall, the governor had told him he was satisfied with his work.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Variable cloudiness tonight and Wednesday. Valley fog reforming tonight. Clearing partially Wednesday afternoon. Outlook for Thursday, night and morning fog. Low tonight 35. High Wednesday 45.

Highest Yesterday	45	Temp.
Lowest this Morning	29	
Prev. to 10 a.m. Today	Trace	

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today	4:42 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:38 a.m.
Moonset tomorrow	6:04 a.m.
Full Moon	Dec. 25

PROMINENT STARS

Aldebaran, near the Moon. Betelgeuse, low in east 6:27 p.m. VISIBLE PLANETS: Mars, high in southeast 7:30 p.m. Jupiter, in the south-east 6:21 a.m.

One Shopping Day Left! Stores Open Tonight