

'Unprecedented Heights' Reached, Ike Says

Rogue Valley Edition

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No. 255

Reorganization Bills Introduced

Representatives Get Labor Bills; GOP Caucus Held

Salem — (UPI) — A flock of bills were introduced in the Oregon Senate today including one covering the major portion of Gov. Mark Hatfield's government reorganization plan.

The bill is jointly sponsored by Sens. Walter J. Pearson and Senate Minority Leader Anthony Yturri (R-Ontario).

The bill sets up six major new state departments plus a revenue department abolishing the state tax commission.

The "cabinet" agencies include commerce, land, natural resources, public safety, social services and transportation and utilities.

Sen. William Grenfell Jr. (D-Portland) introduced several bills, one declaring state unemployment compensation in a state of "emergency" and changing the qualification from 20 to 18 weeks of work with an average of 16 hours per week.

The bill would delete \$40 as the maximum weekly benefit and provide "no more than 50 per cent of Oregon's average weekly wage." This would at least double current maximum benefits per week.

Salem — (UPI) — A raft of labor-backed bills, including a minimum wage measure and several workers' compensation proposals, were introduced in the House today.

Action on a controversial resolution to repay lawmakers for out-of-pocket expenses was deferred until Friday.

House Speaker Robert Duncan called for the delay so House members could "examine" the measure.

His comment came after Sen. Carl Francis, R-Dayton, told the Senate Wednesday he would not have voted for the proposal if it had been read in full.

Caucus Held
House Republicans held a caucus this morning and Minority Leader F. F. Montgomery, R-Eugene, said House GOP members still were split 14-13 in favor of the expense proposal. Montgomery opposes the plan.

The labor bills were introduced by Rep. Edward J. Whelan, D-Portland, and a group of Portland area Democrats at the request of the state AFL-CIO.

One would set a minimum \$1.25 hourly wage and a maximum 40-hour work week.

Official Says Help Needed for Aged
Washington — (UPI) — A top official of the Eisenhower administration told the final session of the White House Conference on Aging today that Congress should do more to help older persons to pay for medical care.

Arthur S. Flemming, outgoing secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, said this was one of the major issues facing the nation.

"Move One To The Back Burner—One Up To The Front Burner—"



UNLOAD SUPPLIES—Laotian soldiers are shown unloading ammunition from a Civil Air Transport plane at Luang Prabang, Laos, Wednesday. The ammunition was flown from Bangkok to the airport here aboard an Air America transport under contract

Laotian Pilots in U.S.-Made Craft Attack Guerrillas

Vientiane, Laos — (UPI) — Laotian pilots in the cockpits of four U.S.-built training planes flew rocket strikes today against pro-Communist guerrillas entrenched in the jungles and mountains of northern Laos.

The planes, propeller-driven T-28s used for reconnaissance in the Korean War, took off from Vientiane airport this morning to attack the rebel positions in the north.

The government disclosed the first strikes were flown against the Communists Wednesday, but informed sources said the inexperienced Laotian pilots missed their targets.

The air attacks may have signaled the start of a massive offensive against the Communist Pathet Lao troops and rebel sympathizers to consolidate the position of Western forces before an international truce move begins.

The world's major powers appeared to be moving toward an international conference aimed at ending the Laotian crisis that has threatened to plunge Southeast Asia into war.

The four single-engine fighters that took off on today's rocket mission were delivered Wednesday to the government of Premier Bouin Oum under the U.S. military aid program.

The first air strike Wednesday was carried out after the Laotian government delivered a stiff note of protest to Russia warning the Soviets to halt air drops of arms to Laotian leftists.

Portland — (UPI) — Robert H. Nelson, 46, Portland, was dead on arrival at a hospital Wednesday night after his car was involved in an accident.

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School Study To Be Made Current

Dr. Keith Goldhammer of the bureau of educational research, school of education at the University of Oregon, will be asked by the Medford school board to bring a study of the district's school facilities and needs up to date.

A survey of district needs and enrollment trends was first made under the direction of Dr. Goldhammer in 1957, and was revised in 1959. The latter study served as a basis for a two-year building program, now nearing completion.

The school board this week expressed a desire to have

Decline Research Program Sought

Washington — (UPI) — Eight West Coast House members called today for a coordinated crash research program by government and industry to fight a disease of pear trees that threatens to cripple production of the fruit in Oregon, Washington and California.

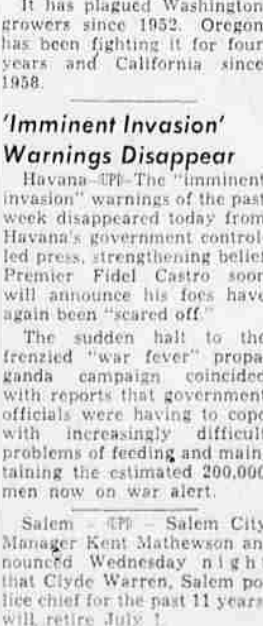
Although they did not draft any specific proposals, the congressmen agreed that separate programs seeking a solution to the problem should be tied together and strengthened.

Another meeting, possibly to agree upon a request for additional federal action, will be held later, a spokesman for the bi-partisan group said.

The disease, called pear decline, cut production of the fruit by 50 per cent in Washington and 25 per cent in Oregon last year. It is expected to cut the next California crop almost in half. The loss in California last year was \$4.5 million, it was reported. The disease attacks the roots of pear trees and eventually kills them.

It has plagued Washington growers since 1952. Oregon has been fighting it for four years and California since 1958.

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Negro Students Suspended from Georgia College

Athens, Ga. — (UPI) — Two Negro students were suspended temporarily from the University of Georgia early today when police had to use tear gas to break up student rioting.

At Macon, Ga., U.S. District Court Judge W. A. Bottle ruled that a state law cutting off funds from any integrated school is "patently unconstitutional." The judge said he would issue later today even a broader and much more sweeping injunction against the law than the one now in force.

Gov. Ernest Vandiver said in Atlanta at midmorning that he had no immediate plans to return them but Dean of Students Joseph Williams said in an emotional statement that he, not Vandiver, removed them and he emphasized that the removal was temporary.

Police Break Riot With Tear Gas

A true bill was returned also on Thomas Ernest Smoot, 57-year-old transient, charged with the armed robbery of the former Safeway store at 130 North Bartlett st. Circuit court arraignment of Smoot is scheduled for 2 o'clock this afternoon and Taylor at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Taylor, charged with the wounding of State Policeman Donald Cain the evening of Dec. 20, is scheduled to appear in Jackson county circuit court Jan. 16 on two charges of grand larceny.

Taylor is charged with firing three bullets which hit the state policeman who had stopped Cain at the intersection of Highway 99 and 66 for questioning. Taylor is also charged with taking two automobiles.

Smoot is charged with the robbery of the Safeway store here on Dec. 2. He was apprehended by Medford police near the store a few minutes after the crime. He had a revolver and a paper sack stuffed with \$599 in currency when arrested.

Public Hearings On Commission Agenda

"Move One To The Back Burner—One Up To The Front Burner—"



Two 'True' Bills Are Returned By Grand Jury

A Jackson county grand jury returned a true bill yesterday on John R. Taylor, 27, Salem, charged with assault with intent to kill, according to the district attorney's office.

A true bill was returned also on Thomas Ernest Smoot, 57-year-old transient, charged with the armed robbery of the former Safeway store at 130 North Bartlett st. Circuit court arraignment of Smoot is scheduled for 2 o'clock this afternoon and Taylor at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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Hospitals Reported At Near Capacity

The two Medford hospitals reported that they have been "very busy" the last several weeks with a near, or over, capacity number of patients.

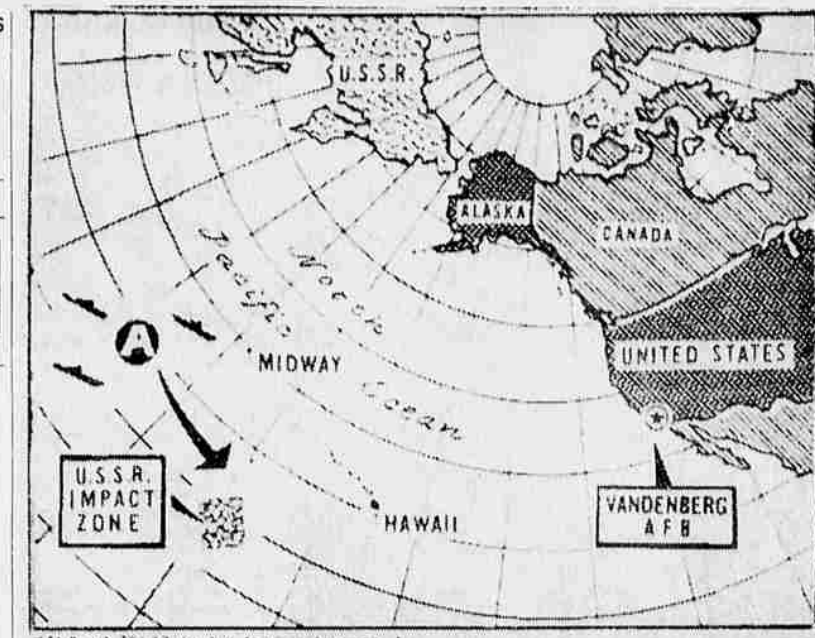
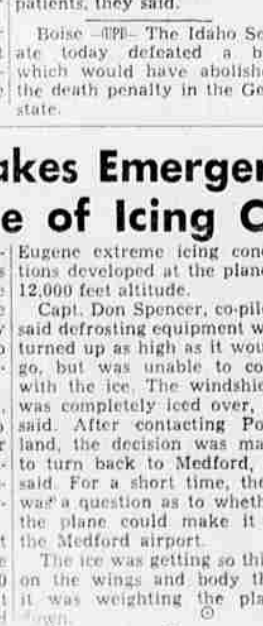
Sacred Heart hospital officials reported the hospital has averaged between 85 and 88 per cent of capacity the last several weeks with only four beds empty on one night.

Rogue Valley hospital at midnight last night had 92 patients, two over capacity. Officials reported that beds were put in public areas.

Sacred Heart hospital reported November as its quietest month while Rogue Valley listed it as their busiest. The reason given was the closure for the maternity ward at Sacred Heart hospital.

Both hospitals report an unusually high number of children patients. Medical cases account for the majority of patients, they said.

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SHIPS MOVING — Newspaper spots area where three Russian missile tracking patrol planes Wednesday toward ships (A) are moving into the Pacific testing an impact are 1,050 miles southwest of Oahu, Hawaii, where previous Russian Soviet space spectacular, the Navy announced. — (UPI Telephone)

Defense Rests Case In Bengtson Trial

Grants Pass — The defense rested its case this morning at 10:30 o'clock after three other witnesses testified in addition to the defendant, O. H. Bengtson.

The trial, under way in Josephine county circuit court, entered its fifth day today. Bengtson, Medford lawyer and former secretary of the Medford Escrow company, is charged with embezzling \$1,700 from the firm.

Witnesses called this morning by the defense included Mrs. Bette Parker, former Bengtson employee now living in Hoopa, Calif.; Kenneth Poole, a former Portland lawyer now practicing in Eugene; and former Jackson county Deputy District Attorney Gerald Scannell.

Testimony concerned conversations the witnesses had had with Bengtson or Mrs. Rachel Peterson Carter, former president of the escrow firm. Scannell identified a \$1,700 check as one which he had shown to the Jackson county grand jury prior to an indictment being returned against Bengtson.

Bengtson testified that the meeting, mentioned by Bengtson when he testified Wednesday morning, was reported to have been held at the Medford home of Mrs. Beulah Balderston, former Medford Escrow company president now living in Anderson, Calif. Others present at the meeting, according to Bengtson's testimony, were Mrs. Carter, and himself.

Bengtson and Mrs. Balderston testified that at the meeting Mrs. Balderston resigned as president of the firm and Mrs. Carter became president. It was testified that Bengtson was to continue as secretary of the company, but would sell all of his stock to Mrs. Carter.

Dog Alerts Couple As House Burns

A new name will be the just reward of a Sealyham terrier pup owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davenport.

They have been calling the little dog "Useless."

This morning, awakened by the pup's barking and her scratching at the bedroom door about 2 o'clock, the Davenports discovered that their home on Griffin Creek rd. (route 4, box 370) was on fire.

Mrs. Davenport escaped through the back door with the dog. Her husband managed to save a few clothes before getting out through the bedroom window. The five-room, two-story house burned to the ground.

Davenport, who operates a nearby farm machinery business, said that the roof over the kitchen was ablaze when he and his wife were awakened. He reported that the fire appeared to have started in the attic and may have started from wiring. The residence was heated electrically and had no heating stove.

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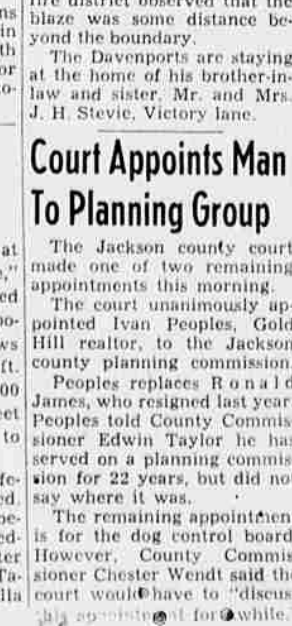
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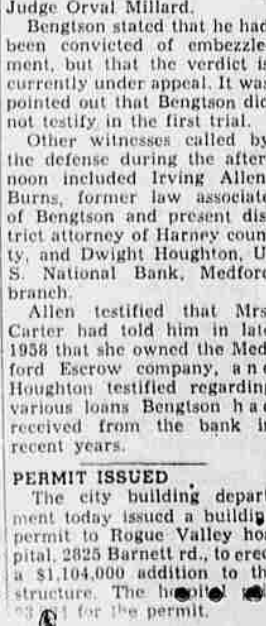
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Problems Here, Abroad Inherited By John Kennedy

State of Union Message Read Today

Washington — (UPI) — President Eisenhower said in a farewell State of the Union Message today that the United States reached "unprecedented heights" during his administration. But he acknowledged that President-elect John F. Kennedy will inherit many problems at home and abroad.

The President's 6,000-word valedictory to Congress reviewed his eight-year stewardship in the White House.

It also catalogued achievements and continuing problems, expressed "best wishes" to his Democratic successor, and carried a prayerful hope that future American leaders "will be able to keep the nation strong and at peace."

"... We have honored our commitment to pursue and attain special objectives," he said of his administration.

But he frankly acknowledged that he was not "implying that all is well—that all problems are solved."

Cuban Problem Serious
On the grim side, the President warned that "Communist penetration of Cuba is real and poses a serious threat."

Communist activities, he said, "have caused and are continuing to cause grave troubles in the world—in Berlin and in Laos, as well as in Cuba."

"At home," he said, "several conspicuous problems remain."

He listed the need for higher employment, for continuing a steady economic growth and a sound currency; eliminating farm surpluses; overcoming deficiencies in health and education programs.

Eisenhower defended his defense and space programs.

And he expressed hope that the incoming Democratic administration will continue programs which form the cornerstone of the Eisenhower foreign policy.

The President did not deliver his message in person. He sent it to the House to be read by clerks. The Senate, in recess today, will hear it Friday.

The White House announced, however, that Eisenhower will deliver a farewell speech to the nation next Tuesday night, three days before he leaves office.

(See Story on Page 6A)

Ice Still In Good Skating Condition

Supervised ice skating is planned for Howard Prairie Lake again this week end, City-County Park and Recreation Director Robert Haworth said today.

Haworth said the ice was in good skating condition. Supervisors will be at the lake both Saturday and Sunday.

Additional facilities, such as skate changing huts, equipped with oil stoves and a coffee and sandwich snack bar will be provided this week end, he said.

Also, Haworth said an adequate supply of firewood will be available, and a first aid station will be located near the lake. He said the parking problem should be reduced this week end through the efforts of the Ashland Explorer Scouts who have volunteered to help with traffic control and parking at the lake.

Russia Asks UN Take Trust from Belgium

United Nations, N.Y. — (UPI) — Russia demanded today that the United Nations strip Belgium of Ruanda-Urundi, the African trust territory from which a Congolese force mounted an offensive against troops supporting ousted Premier Patrice Lumumba in Kivu Province on New Year's Day.

It suggested a new emergency meeting of the General Assembly on the worsening Congo situation if the Security Council, meeting at Russia's request today on the Ruanda-Urundi incident, does not act.

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WEATHER	
Forecast: Increasing cloudiness tonight with a few showers in the vicinity. Patchy valley fog early morning, becoming partly cloudy during the afternoon. Low tonight 34-36. High Friday 39.	
TEMPERATURE	
Highest yesterday	53
Lowest this morning	33
Precipitation	.04
To 10 a.m. today	
Our Skies Tonight	
Sunset today	5:01 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:38 a.m.
Moonrise tomorrow	4:01 a.m.
New Moon	Jan. 16
PRECIPITATION STARS	
Vega, low in northwest	7:09 p.m.
Antares, low in	8:34 p.m.
VISIBLE PLANETS	
Jupiter, in the east	2:16 p.m.
Saturn, low in west	8:23 p.m.