

BODIES OF 22 MINERS REMOVED

Jobless Payments for Railroaders Approved

House Committee Votes Measure To Extend Benefits

Proposal Offers Equal Treatment

Washington - (UPI) - The House Commerce Committee today unanimously approved an anti-recession bill providing \$24 million in extended jobless payments to 60,000 railroad workers.

No hearings were held on the legislation so it could be speeded through Congress. A committee spokesman said it would be considered by the House "as soon as possible."

Follow Up To Bill
The measure was designed as a follow-up to a House-passed bill calling for up to 13 weeks of additional benefits for more than 3 million idled workers in other industries.

Railroad employees, who are covered by a separate system of unemployment compensation, would receive equal treatment under the proposal.

Commerce Committee Chairman Oren Harris (D-Ark), sponsor of the measure, said he hoped it would receive fast approval by the House so it could be considered with the major extended benefits bill by the Senate.

Would Extend Payments
Harris' proposal would extend jobless payments to rail workers with no less than 10 years service who have exhausted their right to receive benefits because of long-term unemployment.

Those with longer service qualify for extended benefits already under a 1959 amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act.

Employment on the nation's railroads dipped to 714,000 at the end of January - a 70-year low. About 127,000 railroad workers applied for unemployment benefits at that time and 20,000 others had exhausted benefit rights.

Copco, PPL Seek Authority To Merge

Salem - The Pacific Power & Light Company, Portland, and the California Oregon Power Company, Medford, have filed a formal application seeking authority to merge, Public Utility Commissioner J. C. Hill announced today.

The merger in which Pacific will be the surviving corporation, was approved by the stockholders a few weeks ago, Hill said, adding that the case would be given a date for public hearing.

Hill said, "Negotiations are now underway to secure expert outside consultants who will testify in behalf of the public at the hearing."

In the application Pacific said the merger will result in a larger and financially stronger company that will be in a better position to finance future construction requirements in this rapidly growing area and will take advantage of a fully integrated operation that will eliminate the duplication of facilities, functions and activities.

Repossession Battle's First Round Won by Car

Central Point - The first round of a battle between an unknown finance company and the driver of a car wanted for repossession was won by the driver last night in Medford and Central Point.

Wally Bowen, Central Point chief of police, unfolded the bizarre story this morning.

At 7:20 p.m. yesterday, Central Point police received a call from a service station operator. The man said a car had hit a stop sign, jumped a curb, almost ran into a building and nearly missed a fire hydrant on the corner of Oak St. and Highway 99 in Central Point. The vehicle was apparently being chased by a second car, the man indicated.

The first car then made a U turn and headed toward Medford, with the second car in hot pursuit. Police found

New Decoration



Statements Asked From Members of Home Rule Group

Prepared statements favoring or opposing a home rule charter in Jackson county must be submitted by the county home rule committee members March 16, Mrs. Thomas Rutter, committee chairman, said last night.

Committee members expected to be absent should submit their votes in sealed envelopes before that date, according to Mrs. Rutter. All votes must give the reason for or against home rule, she said.

The committee will then

Judge Asks for Program Material

Public Welfare Administrator James Pullman has been asked to gather all information available on the new food surplus program and how it can be implemented in Jackson county, County Judge Earl Miller said this morning.

Miller said he had asked Pullman earlier to prepare this information. He declared that a story Tuesday on the surplus food allocation plan as "premature."

"We want to obtain all the information possible on this new food plan and how it will work in other counties so we will be ready to go on it in September," Miller said.

Tuesday, Miller had said approaching spring with increased employment opportunities made establishment of the program at this time unnecessary.

There were indications this morning that the program might be started in Jackson county this spring. However, H. D. Christenson, Medford, public welfare commission chairman here, said he had no statement until he had conferred with the county and other commission members. The next commission meeting is March 21.

Pullman said he has prepared a summary of information on the program including the rules for obtaining the surplus food. He will present this to the county court.

Suspect Quizzed In Robbery of Bank at Shedd

Search Continues For Second Man

Albany, Ore. - (UPI) - Authorities said today a suspect was in custody in connection with Thursday's bank robbery at nearby Shedd and that \$19,691 of the \$20,680 taken had been recovered.

Search continued for a second man, Marvin Vernon Clark, 23, Jefferson, was arrested during a car check near Jefferson late Thursday by Deputy Sheriff Leroy MacLaughlin of Marion county.

Statement Said Given
Sheriff George Miller said Clark, questioned much of the night, had given a statement but he declined immediately to release details of it. Dist. Atty. Courtney Johns said Clark would be charged with assault and robbery.

The money was found in a bag in the car.

Five persons who were in the Bank of Shedd at the time of the holdup were locked in a vault before the two young robbers fled.

Forced To Open Vault
One of the bandits pointed a revolver at bank officials and the other forced M. G. Burt, Albany, a bank examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., to open the vault.

After the gunmen put the money into a paper bag they locked the five in the vault.

Two women employees, who had been at lunch, let the others out of the vault.

Potato By-Product Plant Being Built In Central Point

Central Point - Construction is under way here today on a new Rogue valley industry-a potato by-product manufacturing and distributing plant that will employ a minimum of nine persons.

The plant, called the Ranch Fresh Foods company, will be located on the west side of highway 99, just north of the Pine St. intersection. The company is renovating and adding to a building that now stands on the property.

Dorance Hayes, of the T. J. Hight agency, Medford, who made the announcement, said the firm plans to be in production in approximately 60 days.

The plant will have an approximate floor space of 3,432 square feet. It will be outfitted with the latest in potato processing equipment, according to the announcement.

Products of Company
Products of the company will include potato, barbecue and cheese chips; shoe string potatoes; french fries; and pop corn. They will be sold under the brand name of "Gold Rush."

Hayes said the company plans to distribute its products in the southern Oregon-northern California area. The range of operations will initially extend from Bend to Klamath Falls; Redding to Roseburg; and Eureka to Coos Bay, on the coast.

Hayes said the owners of the company are James Garvin and Jack Damron. Damron will manage the plant, he said.

The company plans to use 7,000 pounds of potatoes per day for eight-hour shift. As many of the potatoes and other materials as possible, will be purchased locally, Hayes said.

Nine persons will be employed in the plant itself, according to Hayes, and additional sales and distribution personnel will probably also be needed.

Russia Said Stalling Peace Efforts in Laos

Washington - (UPI) - The State Department today charged Russia with stalling peace efforts in Laos to gain time for a military build-up by Communist forces seeking to overthrow the royal government.

ROCKET LAUNCHED
Cape Canaveral, Fla. - (UPI) - The Air Force today fired a poor man's rocket with telescopes and other devices to an altitude of 1,580 miles to take a peek at earth's radiation fields from the depths of space.

BIDS INVITED
Seattle - (UPI) - Army engineers today invited bids for construction of a ground-air transmitter receiver building at the North Bend, Ore., Air Force station. Bids will be opened about April 11.

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Labor Warns Workingman Will Suffer in Compensation Plan

Higher Costs, Lower Benefits Seen as Result

Major Testimony On Bill Completed

Salem - (UPI) - Organized labor warned a Senate committee Thursday that if the legislature approved a three-way workmen's compensation system the workingman in Oregon will suffer.

An attorney for the Oregon AFL-CIO described the proposal in SB334 as "excessively expensive and inefficient."

William Babcock of Portland said costs will go up and benefits will go down.

Testimony Completed
The Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee completed major testimony on the bill but Chairman Walter J. Pearson said amendments and two companion bills will be heard next week.

Under three-way, employers could insure their workers not only with the State Industrial Accident Commission but also through private companies or self-insurance. The state has all but a monopoly in this field now.

Brown Sums Up
George Brown of the AFL-CIO summed three-way up by saying "We represent the workmen and if we thought it would help them, we would support it." The obvious conclusion is that it doesn't help, he said.

Associated Oregon Industries - main sponsor of the bill - contended that the present monopoly system is a failure but under the optional plan employers and employees would have a better program. Most states have a three-way system.

Grand Jury May Meet on Thursday

A grand jury hearing may be called next Thursday to consider evidence in the case against Lee Roy Sanford McGahuey, 43-year-old Central Point man charged with first degree murder, according to District Attorney Alan B. Holmes.

Holmes said he had hoped to have the hearing Tuesday, but a member of the grand jury would have been unable to attend.

The district attorney said he was able to get a tape recorded statement from McGahuey regarding the murder of 23-month-old Rod Cameron Holt, son of Mrs. Loris Mae Holt. Mrs. Holt and her son were found slain in a Central Point apartment Feb. 22.

Holmes said he wanted a separate statement on the murder of the boy, since including other matters brought out during the confession might cause the entire tape to be excluded because of "matters of prejudice." The original taped confession included admission to stealing the gun used in killing the woman and boy.

The gun, a .22 single action revolver, was found in a loan shop in Redding, Calif., Monday, by Jackson county deputies.

HEARING SCHEDULED
Salem - (UPI) - A hearing has been set for March 16 on application of the Bend-Portland Truck Service for extension of its service into Jefferson county.

WEATHER
FORECAST: Mostly cloudy tonight and Saturday. Occasional showers or snow flurries, mainly over the mountains. Low tonight: 35-36. High Saturday: 48.

Highest Yesterday: 44
Lowest This Morning: 31
Precip. to 10 a.m. Today: Trace

Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today: 6:04 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow: 6:32 a.m.
Moonrise tonight: 7:27 p.m.
Last Quarter: March 9

PROMINENT STARS
The Twins, high over.
Procyon, below the Twins.
PROMINENT CONSTELLATIONS
Orion, in the south-west.
Lack in the southwest 12:37 a.m.



ESCAPES FLAMES - Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, wife of the governor of New York, is shown being helped down a ladder by a fireman as fire broke out in the Executive Mansion in Albany, N. Y., early today. Rockefeller said damage to the house and valuable art collection would run about half a million dollars. (UPI Telephoto)

Rockefeller, Wife Rescued; Fire Destroys Valuable Art

Albany, N. Y. - (UPI) - Gov. Rockefeller and three of his servants were rescued by firemen today when a flash fire swept the first floor of the state executive mansion, destroying paintings worth nearly \$350,000.

The Rockefellers, two maids and a butler, trapped for a brief period in their upstairs living quarters, were helped down ladders to safety. Firemen found flames shooting from the first floor windows when they arrived.

Rockefeller returned to the smoke-filled upstairs rooms to save several paintings, including one of his father, and twice went inside to survey the damage to his prized painting after the fire was controlled.

"All the good ones are gone," he said.

More than 25 valuable oils and drawings on the first floor were burned from their frames by the early morning fire. Smoke and water damage to the building was heavy.

Rockefeller estimated the damage to the 100-year-old building and its art treasures at half a million dollars.

All of the paintings were insured. They included a \$250,000 collection donated by former Gov. Averell Harriman and a group of Rockefeller's paintings valued at \$100,000.

A team of art experts from the Museum of Modern Art and the Rockefeller family staff flew to Albany from New York to appraise the damage.

The governor put on a business suit over his pajamas before helping his wife, who wore a dressing robe over her dress, down the ladder raised by firemen. Mrs. Rockefeller stood outside talking to reporters while her husband went inside the stately three-story brick building to survey the damage.

Firemen controlled the blaze less than an hour after it broke out in a first-floor drawing room, sending thick smoke swirling through the 34-room mansion.

Rockefeller said he and his wife were awakened by the smoke boiling through their second-floor living quarters. It once served such governors as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and Charles Evans Hughes.

Tunisians Threaten To Rush Congolese Camp
Leopoldville, The Congo - (UPI) - Angry Tunisian troops of the United Nations Command threatened today to invade a Congolese army camp to release a Tunisian officer who was being held prisoner, but UN officers managed to restrain them.

Eugene Business Firms, Salem Warehouse Burn
United Press International
A fire in downtown Eugene caused more than \$100,000 damage and a condemned warehouse burned to the ground in Salem four blocks from the city hall Thursday night.

Six business firms were damaged in the Eugene fire which broke out at a bakery shop on East Broadway and spread to a department store, music store, gift shop and coffee shop. A nearby record store was damaged by smoke and water.

The blaze occurred just one year to the day after the Hoffman Hotel, just half a block away, was destroyed by fire.

The fire was fought from 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

In Salem, the two-alarm fire which destroyed the old warehouse also resulted in heavy damage to a switch engine and a refrigerator car on railroad tracks adjacent to the building.

A spokesman for SP&S railroad said the building had no value but that damage to the two units and the truck was about \$5,000.

Blast Shatters Big Section of Mine in Indiana

Death Immediate, Investigators Say

West Terre Haute, Ind. - (UPI) - Exhausted rescue crews today brought up the bodies of 22 men killed in a massive explosion in a coal mine on the banks of the Wabash river.

The miners were felled where they worked Thursday night when the blast shattered a quarter-mile section 180 feet below ground in the Viking Coal company mine.

Hope Dashed
Throughout the night there had been hope that some might have found an air pocket and survived. But it proved to be a vain hope. The last miner was found at 7:35 a.m. - dead.

Investigators said the 22 men working on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift never had a chance.

The blast unloosed tons of coal and earth, twisted coal moles and loading machines into masses of metal and knocked out the mine's ventilating system, slowing rescue operations.

Met Immediate Death
"We found the men lying where they fell along the sides of the tracks where they must have been working at the time of the explosion," State Mine Inspector R. E. Hudson said.

"A couple of them apparently tried to crawl. They got only about 20 feet. The rest dropped dead on the spot."

Company Vice President Birch Brooks said, "we don't know what caused the explosion for certain-we have our suspicions." He did not elaborate.

Brooks said a joint investigation would be opened Saturday by representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, state mine investigators, the United Mine Workers, insurance investigators and company officials.

Rescue crews carried the bodies out one by one through the long, chilly night and carted them away in ambulances to a mortuary chapel.

Air Was Poisonous
The grim operation was slowed, Hudson said, by the "poisoned air and the darkness." Crews worked with only the lights on their helmets and rebuilt the ventilating system step by step to force fresh air ahead of them.

Wives, children and friends - some sobbing, others grim and tight-lipped - clustered around the crude lean-to building that covered the shaft as the bodies were brought up.

Gain Reported in Lumber Market

Portland - (UPI) - A slight gain during the past two weeks was reported in the lumber market today by Crow's Lumber Market News Service.

Crow's said inquiry has been slightly better for standard and better grades but that so far the upturn in buying had not been heavy enough to strengthen prices. The utility grade market rose \$2 to \$3 in both green fir and dry hemlock, following heavier buying in the South and Southwest.

Plywood held at the \$80 mark for sanded stock.

G. P. Man Nominated To Succeed Gunnar

Salem - (UPI) - Robert G. Davis of Grants Pass, general manager of Southern Oregon Plywood Corp., was nominated today to succeed Peter Gunnar as Oregon Republican chairman.

Davis attended Medford High school and graduated from the University of Oregon law school in 1948. He is married and has one child.

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