

KENNEDY, GROMYKO DISCUSS LAOS

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No.

Oregon Civil Rights Measure Clears Senate

Reorganization Of Revenue Department Voted

Both Bills Sent To House for Action

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon House today passed, 36 to 22, a reapportionment plan backed by Republicans and spokesmen from rural areas.

Salem — (UPI) — The Senate today unanimously approved a bill extending civil rights to all businesses offering goods or services to the general public, and Gov. Mark Hatfield's reorganization plan for a revenue department won 24-4 consent.

Both bills went to the House.

SB75 requires such establishments as barber and beauty shops to serve any customer regardless of his race, religion or national origin.

The bill permits refusal only on "just cause" and penalties for discrimination.

There was little debate and no opposition.

Second Cabinet Bill

The revenue department, SB310, was the second cabinet government bill to come before the Senate. SB310 abolishes the State Tax commission and merges certain functions.

Sen. Robert Straub, while voting for it, complained that the Senate State and Federal Affairs committee "weakened" it by taking out transfer of gift and inheritance tax collections from the state treasurer to the new department.

The committee also deleted provisions for a tax appeals court because the Senate earlier approved a separate bill by Sen. Ben Mena that has the same effect.

Original Bill Liked

Sen. Vernon Cook (D-Troutdale), who favored the bill, said the problem should not be approached from the standpoint of whether an agency is doing a poor job, but whether a reorganized department could do the job better.

He said he preferred the original bill which was stronger.

Sen. Walter J. Pearson, head of the committee which made the amendments, admitted the bill "started out like a lion but has wound up like a mouse."

He noted that the tax commission has indicated it favors its own abolition.

The new department would be operational by next Jan. 1.

Flood of Cuba Sugar Seen If Act Dropped

Washington — (UPI) — Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) told the Senate Finance Committee today there is a danger that Cuba could flood the American market with sugar if the current sugar control act isn't extended by Friday night, when it expires. The committee is considering a House-approved extension of controls of imports of sugar into this country. Ellender said President Kennedy would have no authority to keep out Cuban sugar after Friday unless there is an extension.

Soviet Demand for Veto Declared Unacceptable

Geneva — (UPI) — The veto the Soviet Union demands in any future nuclear test ban agreement would make it simple to violate the prohibition, the United States said today.

Chief American delegate Arthur H. Dean declared the Soviet veto demand is unacceptable.



Tug Capsizes at Mouth of Coos Bay; Skipper Missing

Bandon — (UPI) — A tugboat which took part in a rescue here last November capsized near the mouth of Coos Bay today and its skipper was feared lost.

A crewman was rescued. The tug was the Rebel out of Coos Bay.

Missing was A. T. (Red) Pederson, Empire, who apparently was trapped in his cabin when the tug capsized in rough water. Bob Fisher, Bandon, the crewman, was pulled ashore by his brother-in-law, Ralph Davidson, who waded into the surf to reach him.

Social Security Proposal Approved

Washington — (UPI) — The House Ways and Means Committee today approved a watered-down version of President Kennedy's proposals to liberalize social security benefits.

The legislation would boost cash benefits this summer for 3,675,000 persons on the social security rolls and would permit male workers to retire at age 62 with permanently reduced cash benefits. The present law requires a person to reach 65 before retiring.

The committee — approved legislation would be financed by one-half of the payroll tax increase proposed by Kennedy for his program. It would boost these taxes by as much as \$6 a year for employees and \$9 a year for the self-employed, effective Jan. 1.

State Constitution Committee Approved

Salem — (UPI) — The Senate today voted unanimously to form a state commission on constitutional revision in 1962. It would make suggestions on rewriting the state constitution to the 1963 legislature.

The commission would be made up of 12 members plus former Oregon governors. The measure went to the House.

Hatfield Plans Statement on Jobless Benefits

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield, expressing continued concern over unemployment, today promised an announcement later this week on extended jobless benefits for Oregon and criticized the legislature for delay on construction bills.

Hatfield also revealed a speedup in highway spending has resulted in preparation of highway contracts totaling \$20 million to be let in the next two months.

The extended unemployment benefits would come as a result of President Kennedy's bill signed into law last week. The impact on Oregon, Hatfield said, would be to help some 200 to 300 workers that now are exhausting their benefits each week.

Hatfield expressed displeasure with Ways and Means Committee for failure to respond to a Feb. 7 request for speedy action on Board of Control and higher education building programs.

Rep. Clarence Barton, Ways and Means co-chairman, retorted that the committee had reviewed the entire building program, finding some of the plans "fragmentary and half-baked."

One architect, Barton said, admitted \$46,000 could be knocked off a deal school building plan.

May Veto Bill

Hatfield, at his weekly news conference, indicated he may well veto a bill aimed at preventing him from shifting the Public Welfare Commission from Portland to Salem. The measure passed the House and has gone to the Senate.

The governor said he knew of no statutes to provide for filling the position of missing Lincoln County Circuit Judge Richard Anderson until Anderson's term expires.

The judge has been missing in a light plane for more than a week.

Lake Water Level Thought Adequate To Cover Ramp

There should be enough water in the Howard Prairie lake all this summer to cover the end of the existing boat launching ramp in the development area, Walter Hoffbuh, Talent Irrigation district manager, estimated today.

Emigrant lake will be used as the "prime reservoir" to furnish irrigation water this season, Hoffbuh explained. Howard Prairie water will be used to produce electricity at the Green Springs power house for California Oregon Power company and to supply one irrigation lateral.

"The way it looks right now, draw down, quantity-wise, will be just about half what it was last year," Hoffbuh said. "If the amount of water flowing into Howard Prairie is about the same, and 12,000 acre feet of water is used from June 2 to Nov. 1, the same as last year, the water level will come to the end of the paved boat ramp."

The irrigation district manager explained, "However, it looks now as if we will use only about half of the 12,000 acre feet used last year."

Near Boat Ramp

Hoffbuh said the water in Howard Prairie is now two feet from the bottom of the boat ramp. By about June 1, he estimates the water will be nine feet deep at the end of the ramp.

As of March 24, Howard Prairie lake contained 17,724 acre feet of active storage (that water which can be let out for irrigation). Last year on the same date the lake contained 11,443 acre feet of water, which means an increase of 6,281 acre feet this year.

Bob Johnson, of Johnston Stores, concessionaire, has been concerned that the boat ramp will not be extended far enough to cover the mud flat if and when the water recedes.

TO RATIFY TREATY

Ottawa — (UPI) — Prime Minister John Diefenbaker says Canada will definitely ratify the Columbia River treaty, which already has been approved by the U. S. Senate.

GETS PRISON TERM

Butte, Mont. — (UPI) — Clyde Thomas Goucher, 21, Albany, Ore., has received a 20-year prison sentence for his part in a \$20,000 bank robbery at Shedd March 2.

Cheap Ice Wanted With Cheap Skates

New York — (UPI) — The New York Daily News today published a letter from "A. P." in Brooklyn which said: "What this country needs is some cheap ice. We've got cheap skates."

Tentative Bridge Budget Includes Wimer Footbridge

A requested allocation of \$5,000 for a footbridge to replace the old Wimer covered bridge, is included in the tentative budget for the proposed 1961-62 bridges budget, according to Robert J. Carstensen, county engineer.

Carstensen emphasized that this is a tentative program and has not yet been approved by the county court for inclusion in the proposed new fiscal year county budget.

Rehabilitation of the old Wimer covered bridge, as proposed in petitions signed by 150 people, was taken under advisement Wednesday.

At a meeting earlier this month the county court told the Wimer area residents the court would investigate the possibility of repairing the old bridge across Evans creek for foot traffic only.

The covered bridge was condemned in 1956 and closed to motor traffic for several years. The proposed foot bridge would be constructed nearby and the covered bridge would be razed, according to previous plans.

Historic Landmark

At a meeting March 14 in Wimer, residents there offered the county court and county engineer labor and materials to restore the bridge which they feel is an historic landmark.

Four other bridges across Evans creek are also listed in the tentative bridges budget. Work on one, on the west side of Evans creek is estimated at \$40,000 and improvement of one three-quarters of a mile southwest of Ramsey Canyon rd. is estimated at \$60,000. Improvement projects are scheduled on two bridges located on Antioch rd., one at \$7,500 and the other at \$4,000.

Total tentative bridge budget for the new fiscal year is \$357,000.

Chamber To Hear Functions of Center

Ashland — James R. McDonald, director of the Jackson County Curriculum Materials center, will explain functions of the center and show slides demonstrating four main services performed at the Tuesday noon luncheon of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce in the Mark Anthony hotel.

Last week the center was selected by Indiana University as one of the top 15 centers in the nation offering production services. McDonald will explain how educational tape recordings and films are produced.

TV Highlights

Rep. Edwin R. Durno (R-Ore.) will speak over station KBEV-TV at 5:30 p.m. today. Rep. and Mrs. Durno are spending the Easter vacation at their home in Medford.



CRITICAL MEETING—President Kennedy today, Gromyko brought with him an answer from Premier Nikita Khrushchev on the Laotian civil war. (UPI Telephoto)

SEATO Nations Said Agreed On Military Action in Laos

Bangkok, Thailand — (UPI) — The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization nations were reported agreed today to take military steps if necessary to keep the Communists from taking over Laos.

Informed sources said France was the only one which showed reservations about the possible use of force in a joint SEATO action in Laos if the Soviet Union does not agree to an immediate cease fire there.

Peaceful Intent Indicated

However, an editorial in the Soviet Communist newspaper Pravda indicated the Russians were ready to end the Laotian crisis peacefully. Press reports quoted Pravda as saying the Russians favor "peace talks."

Observers interpreted this as a hopeful sign, although it was not clear whether it meant the Soviet Union was ready to accept the idea of cease fire.

News of the Pravda editorial reached the ministers during their opening session in secret. The group recessed

a short time after word reached here, although it was learned that the Pravda editorial was not discussed officially in the meeting. The ministers convene again Tuesday.

U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Roger

Tubby informed the meeting of the reported acceptance.

British sources, apparently not informed of the report, said there was "not enough information" to comment upon but "we profoundly hope it's true."

Pedestrian Struck By Two Automobiles Dies in Portland

By United Press International

A Portland pedestrian was killed when struck twice by different cars and a Creswell man died in a car-truck collision in Oregon Sunday.

Tufik Zidan, 56, Portland, was being treated for injuries suffered early Sunday after being struck by a car when a second car struck him and a circle of pedestrians, killing Zidan.

Injured in the accident were David Chowning, 17, Corvallis, who had stopped to give Zidan aid after his car struck the pedestrian; Norman W. Leidevin, 33, Portland, and policeman Horace A. Duke. Leidevin was in critical condition. Chowning was in satisfactory condition and Duke was given private treatment.

Police booked the driver of the second car, Leo J. Manning, 37, Portland, on reckless

driving and negligent homicide charges. He was released on bail.

Donald A. Davis, 48, Creswell, was killed late Sunday in a car-truck collision 18 miles north of Roseburg on Highway 99. The truck driver, George Woodward, 37, Santa Ana, Calif., was not hurt.

Portland also recorded another fatality when Lisa Ann Thomas, 7, died Sunday from injuries suffered Thursday when struck by a car near her home.

Plans Told for Lake Building

Tentative plans call for construction of a \$35,000 store and restaurant building at the Howard Prairie recreation area under the next fiscal year budget, it was reported today.

The building would be 56 by 72 feet of split-level construction and would be constructed just north of the spring and pump house.

It would be of rustic design with stone fireplace and a wood siding retaining wall. Glass windows in front will give a view of the lake. The structure would include a snack bar, store, kitchen, restrooms and lounge, with the restaurant operator's quarters in the elevated portion in the rear.

A patrol will be located in front with a service window off the kitchen area so patrons may be served outside at the patio tables. Wayne Struble, Medford, is the architect.

Plane Believed Downed In Communist Territory

Washington — (UPI) — An American military transport plane missing in Laos since Thursday was apparently shot down deep in Communist-held territory, officials said today.

The C47 transport plane with eight persons aboard belonged to the office of the air attaché at the American Embassy in Vientiane.

Committee Considered To Study County Cat Problem

An investigating committee on the cat problems in Jackson county is being considered by the county court today, County Judge Earl Miller said this morning.

Names of proposed committee members have been selected, but the county judge said he would announce them publicly later. Action on such a committee as to its need was scheduled to be announced this Friday, March 31.

A group of citizens and animal agency officials had met with the county court on March 15 and presented petitions containing 1,000 names. The petitions asked that the court appoint a board whose duties would be to investigate and recommend an efficient solution to the control of all unwanted animals. "Small animals" not cats were specifically mentioned in the petition.

Statements Tell Hope of Peaceful Settlement

Possibility of Cease Fire Talked

Washington — (UPI) — President Kennedy and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko discussed the Laotian crisis for an hour today and then issued separate statements expressing hope of a peaceful settlement.

Gromyko said they discussed the possibility of a cease fire in war-torn Laos.

The White House said Kennedy "continues to be hopeful that there will be agreement between the parties concerned which will permit cessation of hostilities and a development of a neutral and independent Laos."

Gromyko told reporters he stated to Kennedy the position of Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev on a cease fire. Question of Degree

Asked about the degree to which the cease fire question figured in the meeting, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said:

"The Soviet foreign minister indicated that the Soviet government is studying the British (cease fire) proposals and will make an answer to them in the very near future."

Gromyko said he explained to Kennedy "certain considerations" on the part of Khrushchev with regard to a truce in Laos today.

Use of the word "considerations" indicated Khrushchev may be attaching some strings to any Russian acceptance of Britain's proposal for a cease fire, a truce team and an international conference on Laos.

President Firm

Kennedy was understood to be firm in insisting that the Soviets help bring about a cease fire in Laos as the first step in any diplomatic settlement. Officials said a halt in the fighting was the "essential precondition" to the holding of an international conference on Laos.

Gromyko said he and the President agreed on the desirability of a "peaceful" settlement in Laos and the development of a government there under a "policy of neutrality."

As Gromyko arrived for his critical meeting with the President, there were indications that Khrushchev might be trying to avoid a military showdown in southeast Asia.

Long Silence Broken

Hours preceding his arrival the Russians had broken their long silence on Laos by means of an editorial in Pravda which said Khrushchev favors "peace talks" to settle the most explosive dispute in the world today.

But the Communist party organ was silent on the most critical Western demand, that the Communists accept a cease fire in Laos as the first condition toward a peaceful settlement.

Giving the first indication of the official Soviet attitude, Pravda said the Russians favor peace talks on Laos, followed by convening of a 14-nation conference, including Red China, and reactivation of the old three-power Laos Control Commission.

King, Queen Named For Pear Festival

The king and queen who will reign over the Pear Blossom festival April 8 were crowned Saturday afternoon. The queen is Theresa Lynn Stickley, 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Stickley, 509 Beatty st., and the king is Donald Emery, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Emery, 113 Summit ave.

Judges for the contest were municipal officials from throughout the county. The king and queen will reign over Pear Blossom festival activities throughout the day.