

Minister Refuses \$3 Fine; Jailed

Portland—(UPI)—A Eugene minister, angered by confusing traffic signs, spent four hours in jail rather than pay a \$3 traffic fine here.

The Rev. Raymond R. Cronk, a Seventh Day Adventist minister, appeared Monday before Municipal Judge J. J. Labadie after being cited for driving against traffic on a one-way street Sept. 30.

He pleaded guilty but offered "extenuating circumstances" in his defense. He cited "inadequate and confusing traffic signs" and said he was an out-of-town driver trying to find his way at night.

The judge fined him \$10 and lowered it to \$3. The Rev. Mr. Cronk declined to pay the fine and spent four hours in jail from about 4 p.m. until about 8 p.m.

He was allowed to serve the "sentence" in the jail chaplain's office rather than in a cell.

The minister said he believed a warning ticket would have been enough.

California Made Disaster Area

Washington—(UPI)—President Kennedy has declared California a major disaster area as a result of storms and flooding.

The declaration made the state eligible for emergency federal grants.

White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said the actual allocation and payment of relief funds awaited a request and justification from state authorities.

Salinger said the severe weather, which struck the Pacific Coast Oct. 10, has led to federal grants of \$1 million to Oregon and \$350,000 to Washington.

WELL REPRESENTED

Austin, Tex.—(UPI)—Texas teachers who are "joiners" can find an organization to fit their needs during all stages of their careers. The state has a Future Teachers Association for youngsters; a Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, and, for teachers no longer teaching, a Retired Teachers Association.

Hope for Americans Awaiting Execution Rests in Executive, Judicial Branches

(Editor's note: In the controversy surrounding the execution of Caryl Chessman in California and the sparing of the life of convicted killer Paul Crump in Illinois has stirred up an old argument—whether the state has the right to take a man's life.

UPI reporters throughout the country questioned governors, legislators, judges and penologists for their stand on the issue. This is their report:

By BARNEY SEIBERT
United Press International

For the 100-odd Americans now awaiting death by execution, hope rests mainly in the executive and judicial branches of state and national governments.

Except in California, where 32 persons await the gas chamber, and Illinois, where 8 await the electric chair, there appears to be little disposition among lawmakers to abolish the death penalty.

It is probably not a coincidence that California and Illinois have been the scene of the most publicized battles in recent years to save the lives of condemned men. Despite world-wide protest, California went ahead with the execution of "Red Light Bandit" Caryl Chessman. In Illinois, a similar outcry ended last summer with commutation of the death sentence of robbery-slayer Paul Crump.

Campaigns Have Failed
In other states, campaigns against capital punishment have failed.

Within the past two years the legislatures of Kansas, Pennsylvania and Virginia re-



ELECTRIC CHAIR—Shown here is a sinister-looking assistant to the great equalizer, "Death," the electric chair in a U.S. prison. The controversy surrounding execution of Caryl Chessman in California, and the sparing of life of convicted killer, Paul Crump, in Illinois, has stirred the coals of an old argument—whether the state has the right to exact the supreme penalty. (UPI)

jected abolishment of the death penalty. Bills for abolition of capital punishment died in committee in the legislatures of Utah, Nebraska and Indiana. New Jersey's legislature this year estab-

YOUR CAR and the LAW

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Editor's note: Following is the fifth in a series of 12 articles dealing with Oregon motor vehicle laws. Questions regarding state motor vehicle laws may be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Traffic Safety Division, Salem.

Almost no one thinks he will be involved in a traffic accident.

The statistics, however, indicate that more than 100,000 drivers in Oregon will have to report a traffic accident to authorities this year.

Oregon's accident reporting law is unique in that it is the only state in the nation to require drivers to report all accidents on public streets and highways. Other states require reports only if property damage exceeds a certain minimum amount, varying from \$35 to \$100 or more.

The accident report, made on a form provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles, must be submitted within 24 hours after the accident. It may be filed directly with the department, with a county sheriff, or a city police department if the accident occurred in a city.

May Require Report
The department also may require a supplemental report from the drivers involved or from witnesses if the original report provides insufficient information of the accident. If the driver is physically incapable of making the report, and another occupant was in the vehicle, the report is to be made or "caused to be made" by the occupant. The Financial Responsibility Law requires the

deadlocked, 40-40, in 1961 over a bill to impose a four-year moratorium on capital punishment. A try for a six-year moratorium on the death penalty was defeated, 43-35 in 1959. The 1957 California assembly voted 44-29 in favor of a six-year moratorium on capital punishment, but the bill died in the Senate Judiciary committee.

Illinois has seen 35 attempts to outlaw the death penalty since 1903. All have failed.

Stronger Interest

One reason for the apparent stronger interest among California legislators in doing away with the death penalty may be the more frequent application of it by the state's courts. The 32 persons awaiting death in California are substantially more than in any other state—yet its large cities have a substantially lower homicide rate than many other areas of the nation.

In 1960, Los Angeles and San Francisco together had only half as many cases of homicide as Chicago. But the two electrocutions in Chicago this year were the first in five years.

The state of New York has not had an execution in 16 months. In 1960 the City of New York alone had 360 homicides.

St. Louis, Mo., had 67 homicides in 1960 but the state of Missouri has not used its gas chamber since 1957.

Pennsylvania had more

President Signs Forest Sale Bill

Washington—(UPI)—President Kennedy has signed a bill which one congressman has charged will mean the "rape of the national forests."

The legislation permits the interior secretary to sell up to five acres of public land to anyone holding a mining claim last July 23, providing the claim was at least seven years old.

Rep. John P. Saylor, top Republican member of the House Interior Committee, said the legislation will permit week end hunting lodges to be built throughout the National Forest system.

In a speech on the House floor about two weeks ago, the Pennsylvania congressman charged that the legislation also may encourage the "unlawful use" of the National Forests for such purposes as swanky resorts, nudist colonies and houses of ill repute.

Supporters of the bill disagreed.

Reflective Signs

Los Angeles—(UPI)—City officials here are making it easier for both local residents and visitors to locate streets they are unfamiliar with.

New street name signs 18 inches high and 40 to 60 inches long have been installed at test locations. Coated with reflective material that glows in automobile headlights, the street name signs can be seen a block away at night.



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than 200 homicides in 1960 but there were no executions between Oct. 26, 1959, and Oct. 23, 1961. Since then there have been three executions.

South Dakota was the last state to impose capital punishment, adopting the supreme penalty in the late 1930's. Since then only one person has died in the state's electric chair—none in the past seven years. On Aug. 20 Oregon had its first execution in nearly 10 years. New Mexico has had only 10 executions in 30 years. Four persons have been executed in Ohio since January, 1959.

In Kansas, which abolished capital punishment shortly after the turn of the century and then reimposed it in 1935, only 20 persons have been executed in a more than a century of statehood.

Alabama and Texas courts have shown no reluctance to impose the death penalty and there appears to be no important sentiment against it in the two states.

Said 'Gross Failure'

In at least six states—California and Iowa—capital pun-

ishment is an issue in the November election.

California's Democratic Gov. Edmund G. Brown has described capital punishment as "gross failure" which has "neither protected the innocent nor deterred the wicked." He advocates its abolition. His opponent, Republican Richard M. Nixon, has endorsed retention of the death penalty.

In Iowa, the Democratic candidate for governor, Harold Hughes, has pledged that if elected he will ask for legislation abolishing the death penalty. Republican Gov. Norman Erbe has said he does not feel strongly either way, but in the past summer he refused to commute the sentences of the first two persons hanged in the state in nearly a decade.

There are currently nine states—Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Wisconsin—which have no death penalty. Neither does Puerto Rico nor the Virgin Islands.

Arguments against capital

punishment are generally based on religious, moral and statistical grounds.

Opponents argue that states like Wisconsin and Rhode Island, which have had no capital punishment for more than a century, are among those with the lowest murder rates. Many clergymen say it is as wrong for the state to take human life as it is for individuals to do so.

Anti-execution spokesmen also raise the same issue as that which went before the

British parliament—possibility of error and execution of an innocent person.

Persons favoring capital punishment cite statistical and moral arguments.

They say the figures on murder rates are meaningless since states which impose capital punishment—such as Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont—also are among those with the nation's lowest murder rate.

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