



TALKS WITH PRESIDENT - Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman talks with President Kennedy in front of the president's vacation White House at Palm Beach, Fla., today.

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Agriculture Secretary Meets With Kennedy

Wheat Referendum Claimed Important

Palm Beach, Fla. - (UPI) - Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman reported to President Kennedy today that American farmers face "make or break" decisions in 1963.

One of the critical decisions, according to the secretary, will be the wheat referendum this year to determine whether acreage controls and production quotas are continued. A negative result in the referendum, Freeman told Kennedy, could result in wheat prices plummeting to \$1 a bushel in 1964.

Kennedy and Freeman met at the President's oceanfront villa to discuss the 1963 legislative program for agriculture. During the conference the secretary submitted a memorandum topped by three critical needs to be met this year. In addition to a favorable vote in the wheat referendum, Freeman listed:

- Securing fair competitive arrangements with the European Common Market on key agricultural products, particularly for wheat and flour, feed grains, rice and poultry.

- New legislation on feed grains, cotton and dairy products to avoid further increases in surpluses.

- Other news developments at Palm Beach White House today.

The Amateur Athletic Union accepted the President's proposal to have Gen. Douglas MacArthur mediate its dispute with the National Collegiate Athletic Association over selection of the 1964 U.S. Olympic track and field teams.

- A message from French President Charles de Gaulle to the Kennedy offer of American-made Polaris missiles was received in Washington and being transmitted to the chief executive here today. The De Gaulle message was in response to the President's offer made during his recent Nassau meeting with British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. From Paris, a government spokesman said France was not turning down the offer, but would proceed with development of her own nuclear effort.

Dunlevy Expected To Make Appointments

Mayor James Dunlevy is expected to announce his appointments to various city boards and commissions at a meeting of the Medford city council tonight.

Included in the appointments will be a new city councilman from Ward 4 to fill the seat vacated by Dunlevy when he was elected mayor in last fall's election.

City Manager Robert Duff is scheduled to report to the council on the result of his negotiations with Rogue Flying Service for payment of more than \$8,000 in back rent owed to the city.

Bird in Engine Forces UAL Jet Plane Back

Portland - (UPI) - A United Air Lines DC-8 jetliner returned to the Portland International airport today after a large bird went into one of its engines.

The huge plane, which was carrying 92 passengers, took off from the airport at 8:19 a.m. and returned at 8:49 a.m. after the bird went into its No. 3 engine.

Furious Viet Nam War Taking Heavy Human Toll

Guerrillas Stage Stiff Resistance; 3 Yanks Killed

Five Helicopters Downed by Reds

Tan Hiep, South Viet Nam - (UPI) - One of the most furious battles of the war against Communist guerrillas in South Viet Nam went into its second day today taking a terrible toll in human lives.

At least three American soldiers were dead and four wounded, bringing to 30 the number of Americans killed in action in Viet Nam.

South Vietnamese military casualties were expected to run as high as 100 killed and wounded.

Communist Viet Cong casualties were unknown but were believed to be even higher. There also was a possibility of high casualties among the 600 to 700 persons living in the small Mekong river delta hamlet where the main fighting raged.

Reds Surprise

The guerrillas, who usually avoid direct clashes and fade into the jungle when attacked, put up surprisingly stiff resistance although heavily outnumbered by government forces.

It was perhaps the first fixed position fight that the Communists had put up in the long, usually shadowy guerrilla war.

In addition to the human toll, they shot down five American-maned helicopters and severely damaged at least six others with a withering fire by automatic weapons.

Two of the American dead were helicopter crewmen, both Army sergeants. The third was a captain who was leading an assault by the South Vietnamese army battalion he had been advising.

Ferry in Troops

The helicopters ran into the deadly Communist fire while ferrying in troops to reinforce government forces which had been pinned down while moving inland toward the hamlet.

Ten American H21 helicopters responded to the call. They were escorted by five rocket-laden HU1B helicopters.

As the 10 H21s hovered over an open field to land the troops the Viet Cong opened fire with automatic weapons.

Two of the H21s went down on the spot. Two others managed to fly about a mile before crashing. One sergeant aboard the first two H21s to crash was killed and three other American crewmen were wounded.

United Crusade Reaches Its Goal

The United Crusade of Jackson county reached its \$167,000 goal late this morning, Robert Heffernan, campaign chairman, announced.

This is the 10th consecutive year that the crusade has reached or has exceeded the goal.

The United Crusade executive committee met this noon to question suspects today to review the campaign, and compile contribution and pledge totals. Final figures are expected to exceed the established goal, United Crusade officials indicated, but the amount more than the goal was expected to be slight.

BULLETIN

Miami, Fla. - (UPI) - The Red Cross announced today that a flight scheduled to bring 109 Cuban-Americans from Havana to Miami has been canceled. No reason was given for the cancellation.



HOME DEMOLISHED - Flames and smoke pour out from all sides of this seven-room home in San Francisco after a gas explosion ripped through the wood frame structure.

The blast demolished the home which had been evacuated. Seven firemen working in and around the house were injured, two of them "very critically." (UPI)

Wolf Creek Man Is Sentenced to State Penitentiary Term

Harry Warren Stumbo, 34, of Wolf Creek, the last of a trio of men to be sentenced on charges of setting fire to forests, was sentenced to 18 months in the Oregon state penitentiary this morning.

Previously the other two men, Leo V. Thompson, 39, Salem, was sentenced to 20 months in the Oregon state penitentiary and Claude W. Chase, 41, of Central Point, had imposition of sentence suspended for five years.

The three men were indicted by the grand jury last August for setting a fire in Jackson county in July. In a statement made by Chase and Stumbo to officials, at least 12 known fires were set in Josephine and Jackson counties.

The statement was read this morning by District Attorney Alan B. Holmes prior to sentencing by Judge Edward C. Kelly. The statement was made by Chase and Stumbo after Thompson pleaded guilty to the charge. The other two men, who first pleaded innocent, later changed their pleas to guilty.

In the statement, Stumbo admitted to setting the first fire in Josephine county, with the other fires set by Thompson. It had been stated that Chase knew that the fires were being set, but did nothing to prevent them from being started.

Eight incendiary devices were recovered by officers, Holmes stated. The devices were of thread and cigarettes. Holmes said the thread from a partly burned device recovered from the site of the Starvation Heights fire north of Rogue River was analyzed by the state crime laboratory in Salem. The thread matched that found in an apron at a Rogue River home where the three men spent part of the day.

Holmes explained that the maximum penalty for this felony was two years in the Oregon state penitentiary. He said Thompson had requested the penitentiary sentence in preference to a county jail sentence since his family lived in the Salem area.

In Stumbo's case the district attorney recommended he be sent to the state penitentiary where work and rehabilitation programs are available.

Prior to sentencing, Judge Kelly said it was difficult for him to comprehend how Stumbo, who had grown up in the woods and who, with his fam-

ily, had made their living from the forests, could set fires during such dry weather.

The judge said if anyone should appreciate the beauty of the forests, and understand the importance of the forests to the economy of the area, it should be Stumbo.

He encouraged Stumbo to stop "trying to live on your family reputation, and start building for yourself." The judge concluded that during the 18 months in the state penitentiary he would have "time to take stock of himself."

U. S. Troops Travel In East Germany

Berlin - (UPI) - A U.S. Army convoy beginning a week-long troop movement through Communist East Germany was cleared by the Russians "in record time" today but was delayed three hours by 14-degree cold.

The first convoy of 103 men in 27 vehicles went through Soviet checkpoints on both ends of the 110-mile highway across East Germany without delay. But a series of stops caused by frozen fuel lines and slow driving over the icy roads delayed its arrival here from noon to 3 p.m.

The troop movements, designed to stress Western rights of access to Berlin as well as rotate units of the Berlin garrison, brought the 1st Battle Group, 13th Infantry Regiment to Berlin.

Two Near Death, Five Others Hurt In S. F. Explosion

San Francisco - (UPI) - Two firemen were barely clinging to life today and five others were hospitalized following a gas explosion which leveled a two-story house and sent part of the structure crashing atop the firefighters.

The presence of escaping gas caused Disaster Corps officials to move residents out of a five-block area in the southern section of the city Wednesday night.

Battalion Chief Frank Lamey had a heart attack while helping to fight the fire and was dead on arrival at a hospital. The two critically injured firemen, Lt. Clarence McGrath and Anthony Marelich, received serious burns.

The explosion packed enough force to drive a broom handle through a wall. Fire Chief William Murray said the pilot light of the seven-room house ignited gas fumes, setting off the blast. Residents of the home had been removed earlier.

The firemen had been called out to control a gas main leak. They were standing in front of the house when the explosion occurred, blowing the four walls of the home apart and collapsing one end of the structure atop them.

Repair crews shut off the ruptured gas main Wednesday night.

Russian Peasants Push Into U.S. Embassy Seeking Refuge

Moscow - (UPI) - A group of 32 peasant men, women and children who had traveled 2,000 miles from Siberia, pushed past Soviet guards into the U.S. Embassy today seeking asylum from "religious persecution."

Many Weeping

The embassy turned them over to Soviet officials who took the peasants away in a bus. Many of them were weeping and protesting that they would be shot for their religious beliefs.

Embassy policy in Moscow is to refuse refuge to Soviet citizens, presumably because of the political problems which would arise as well as the lack of facilities for housing them in the embassy building.

Although seeking refuge in the embassy, the group did not ask for political asylum, an embassy spokesman said. Embassy officials explained to the peasants that they could not leave Russia without permission from Soviet authorities and that an embassy could not make such arrangements. This argument finally persuaded them to start boarding the bus.

Claim Equality

Members of the group referred to themselves as "Evangelical Christians" who do not recognize any form of organized religion but merely are persons who claim equality among themselves and pray to God.

The peasants complained they had not been allowed to observe religious holidays and had been barred from contact with their children in some instances.

Soviet Foreign Ministry officials were heard assuring the members of the group that "nothing will happen to you."

No Formal Guarantee

But it did not appear that any formal guarantee had been given.

Embassy sources said the peasants had been given a meal of eggs, toast and coffee in the embassy lunchroom before they were taken away by Soviet authorities.

Procedures for MID Administration Are Considered by Board

Differences within the administration of the Medford Irrigation district were temporarily resolved yesterday with the discussion of a possible set of administrative procedures.

Jack Hoffbuhr, manager of the district, agreed to hold his recently-submitted letter of resignation in abeyance, but did not withdraw it. He was unanimously re-elected as district manager.

The administrative procedure recommendation was submitted by a special committee composed of Robert Root and H. B. Murphy, Medford pear shippers and orchardists. They will work with board members and the district's attorney, Philip B. Lowry, in drawing up the final draft of procedures.

Continuation of Management

Murphy explained that "what we had in mind (in proposing the administrative procedures) is continuation of the successful and economic management of the district and to clear up some items involving a clash of personalities (with one of the directors). There is no intention to offend anyone."

The final draft of the proposed administrative procedures is expected to be considered at the board's Feb. 3 meeting.

Hoffbuhr submitted his letter of resignation about a month ago, but agreed to continue working until his former returned from the hospital. His resignation was to become effective Jan. 1.

Points of Procedure

Among some of the points of procedure discussed yesterday were a prepared agenda for meetings; an invitation of news media and at least two waterusers to all meetings, including adjourned, special

Enrollment Ahead At Southern Oregon

Ashland - Student registration for winter term at Southern Oregon college is running ahead of figures for a comparable date last year, according to Mrs. Mabel Winston, registrar.

Yesterday, 1,100 students completed registration, compared to 1,026 on a comparable date in 1962, Mrs. Winston said.

Record enrollment at Southern Oregon college for a winter term was in 1962, when a total of 1,503 students registered.

Mrs. Winston said registration will continue through Jan. 16.

EDITOR DIES

Aberdeen, Wash. - (UPI) - Werner A. Rupp, editor and publisher of the Aberdeen Daily World, died Wednesday at the age of 82.

Tshombe Stronghold Falls in UN Advance

Leopoldville, The Congo - (UPI) - United Nations forces captured Katanga President Moise Tshombe's mining center stronghold of Jadotville almost without opposition today.

The UN troops, made up of Indian armor and Ethiopian infantry, consolidated their positions in Jadotville and poised for an expected plunge toward the last remaining Katangese stronghold at Kolwezi, 80 miles further along the main highway to the northwest.

Expected bitter Katangese resistance at Jadotville crumbled.

Freeman's Lawyers Meet with Hatfield

Salem - (UPI) - Attorneys for condemned child slayer Jeanne June Freeman had no comment after a one-hour meeting with Gov. Mark Hatfield today to plead for commutation of Miss Freeman's death sentence.

Attorneys William M. Holmes and Cash R. Perrine, both of Bend, walked briskly from Hatfield's office at 10:05.

"We don't think it proper to comment at this time," was all that Holmes would say.

Travis Cross, Hatfield's press secretary, said "the governor will have no comment on the attorney's presentation for a day or two."

Cross said the discussion was confined to the Freeman case.

Holmes and Perrine met with Hatfield to discuss formally their clients' plea for commutation to life imprisonment.

Miss Freeman is scheduled to die in the gas chamber Jan. 29.

NEWS BRIEFS

HANFORD REACTOR GETS FINAL APPROVAL

Washington - (UPI) - The Atomic Energy Commission has given its final approval to a proposal by Washington Public Power Supply System to construct and operate a dual-purpose reactor at the Hanford Atomic Works. Sen. Henry M. Jackson said Wednesday.

NATIONAL GUARD PLAN TO BE STUDIED

Olympia - (UPI) - The Executive Committee of the National Governors' Conference will meet Friday and Saturday in Washington, D.C., to study the Pentagon's plan for reorganization of the National Guard. Gov. Albert D. Rosellini announced Wednesday.

SECOND CRACK PUT IN DOCK STRIKE

New York - (UPI) - Longshoremen in Charleston, S.C., defied union orders and unloaded two ships today, putting their second crack in the Maine-to-Texas dock strike. Union headquarters here dispatched a vice president to dismiss the local from the union.