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Businessmen Ponder Woes; Business Drops

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As his customers flocked to the shiny new shopping centers to spend their money, the downtown merchant was left to contemplate his woes.

He seemed beset on every side with troubles, some of them his own making, some not.

He looked as his store fixtures and his shop facade and realized his consternation and dismay that they were pre-war and now pretty close to being 20 years old. They looked their age, too.

In front of his shop, down the length of the block, he saw a row of uniformly-spaced parking meters. Installed originally to facilitate the availability of parking in the downtown area, the meters over a period of years had now become a symbol of customers' frustration.

Indeed, the only ones who had a good word to say about the meters were city officials who had come to rely on the revenue from the coin-hungry machines.

Number of Cars Increase

His shop fronted on Main street, once an automatic guarantee that business would be good. But as the number of automobiles had increased, Main street, as the city's principal arterial, carried a heavier and heavier traffic flow, with all the attendant noise, exhaust fumes and harassment of pedestrians.

He knew, too, that his employees were unhappy about not having a place to park their cars convenient to where they worked. Their choice was among three alternatives, none of which was satisfactory: They could park at a meter close to the store and feed it change all day; they could park at a commercial lot at a cost of upwards of a \$1 a day; or they could, as most of them did, park at an unmetered curb about 10 blocks from the downtown area and walk to work.

The hardware store which had been in business next door to him for over 20 years had moved to a new building in the shopping center last month, and as far as he knew there was no prospective tenant in sight. The blank, soaped-over windows made the whole block look run down and unpleasant.

In fact, now that he thought about it, he realized there were a number of empty store fronts in the core area, more than he could ever recall having seen before. He thought too with a chill of the rumor he had heard last week that the town's leading department store was considering moving its location to the shopping center.

Lease Still Has to Run

He couldn't move himself, however attractive the prospect might appear to him at times. His lease still had several years to run. It had been negotiated during the lush years right after the war, and the property owner had sought and received a pretty substantial monthly rent increase.

When business had been good, he hadn't minded the exorbitant rent too much. But now, with the differential between overhead and sales receipts gradually narrowing, it began to appear increasingly burdensome.

He was in a bad spot and he knew it. The trouble was that the situation, if anything, would with a certainty get worse, not better.

In desperation, he and a group of his fellow merchants had attempted a variety of measures to solve the dilemma. They had increased their advertising, cooperated on several sales promotion events and had even taken steps to buy up a few parcels of downtown property to provide some off-street parking space for their customers.

But whatever success they had was only momentary. It was rather like taking aspirin to relieve the pain of a brain tumor.

He was at last becoming convinced that something drastic, something revolutionary—and, he feared, expensive—had to be done. Worst of all, it had to be done very soon, or it would be too late.

Next: Pomona Solves Its Problem



SPACE EXHIBIT—Part of the space exhibit at the Seattle World's Fair sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was in Medford today at both junior high schools. Paul Lampkin, above, travels with the exhibit which includes models of launch vehicles, satellites and space probes, electronic equipment and other special devices for demonstrating aspects of space science and exploration. All articles in the exhibit are space models of actual space program equipment. The show was brought to Medford through the efforts of the Medford 9417th Air Reserve Squadron. This morning the exhibit was at McLoughlin Junior High school and during the afternoon was at Hedrick.

Tshombe Ends War With United Nations

Critical Shortages Of Water Possible Unless More Rain

Critical shortages of water could result in southwestern and southern Oregon unless late winter and early spring storms deposit heavy snows, Robert D. Church, meteorologist in charge at the Medford weather bureau station, reported Tuesday from the water supply forecast summary for Medford, Roseburg and Klamath Falls.

On Jan. 1, Church said indications were that residual flow, January to September, will be slightly below the 15-year average. To date, most of the area has been "woefully short of snow," the meteorologist said.

Temperatures were mild during September and November in southwestern and southern Oregon. A cool spell during the first half of October resulted in monthly temperatures being several degrees below normal. December temperatures were near to slightly above normal.

High Pressure

During December, a large and persistent plateau high pressure system much of the month resulted in cool foggy weather in western valleys and mild sunny weather at higher elevations.

As a result at the end of the month snow depths in the Cascades were much below their seasonal levels. For example, the snow depth at Crater Lake at the end of December was only 25 inches as compared with an average of more than 60 inches.

For the most part, precipitation amounts were above normal during each of the fall months, September, October and November. Church noted, September precipitation was near 130 per cent of normal in southwestern Oregon and over headwaters of the Chewaucan drainage.

During October an intense storm period brought heavy precipitation to southwestern and southern Oregon. Monthly totals were from two to four times normal and Lakeview and several other

locations reported the wettest October of record.

Drainage Problem Meeting Tomorrow

Local Man Found Innocent by Jury

Milton Clinton Prater, 40, of 417 Berrydale ave., Medford, was found innocent on charges of vagrancy following a district court jury trial yesterday.

The jury returned its verdict at 6 p.m. yesterday following an hour's deliberation.

Prater was arrested in Eagle Point last November by sheriff's officers.

Bitter Battles Seen Ahead for New Frontier

Forces Ready for House Rules Fight

Washington — (UPI) — The Democratic-controlled 88th Congress convened today with pomp and ceremony that temporarily masked the bitter legislative battles ahead over President Kennedy's New Frontier legislation.

But barely had the House and Senate formally opened business at noon when pro and anti-administration forces got ready for a critical fight over the make-up of the House Rules Committee.

This issue, whether the committee should be kept at its enlarged total of 15 members to assure more favorable treatment of Kennedy's proposals, dominated opening day activities.

Prospects Good

The chief executive was assured at a breakfast meeting with top Democratic leaders that prospects were good for an administration victory in the rules fight.

This would be encouraging to the administration. But even so, such key out, social security-financed health care for the aged, and federal aid to education still face a hard pull in the new Congress.

Outside of the rules committee battle, opening day was largely ceremonial. New members were sworn in, ranging from the President's brother, Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) to the son of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, Rep. Robert A. Taft Jr. (R-Ohio).

In the Senate, Democrats met to elect their leaders. To no one's surprise, Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) was renominated to the party's top job in the Senate; Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) was reelected party whip, and George A. Smathers (D-Fla.) was renominated Democratic conference secretary.

Committee Set Up

Senate Democrats also voted to set up a six-man committee to study the possibility of revising Senate working schedules. This might include a one- or two-month summer recess to let members spend more time with families and constituents.

Clerk Ralph Roberts gavelled the House to Order precisely on time. The opening-day turnout of members appeared almost completely, as it is usually on opening day and is rarely thereafter.

The galleries were packed with families, friends and aides of the congressmen, including the 67 new members taking House seats for the first time.

Tax Bill Introduced

A Republican Congressman got the jump on Kennedy in presenting a plan to cut individual and corporate income taxes.

Rep. Robert F. Ellsworth (R-Kan.) introduced a bill to increase personal exemptions from \$600 to \$800 a person and cut the corporate tax rate to 47 per cent from the present 52 per cent rate.

Hearings Slated on Rail Fare Increase

Salem — (UPI) — Public hearings on Southern Pacific's request for a 10 per cent intrastate passenger fare increase will be held here Feb. 20, the Public Utility Commission announced today.

The proposed increase would affect both first class and coach class rail fares as well as joint line fares, Commissioner Jonel C. Hill said. He increase, scheduled to become effective Dec. 15, was suspended by Hill for six months to provide time for investigation.

The increase is identical with the 10 per cent federal excise transportation tax which was discontinued on Nov. 10, 1962.

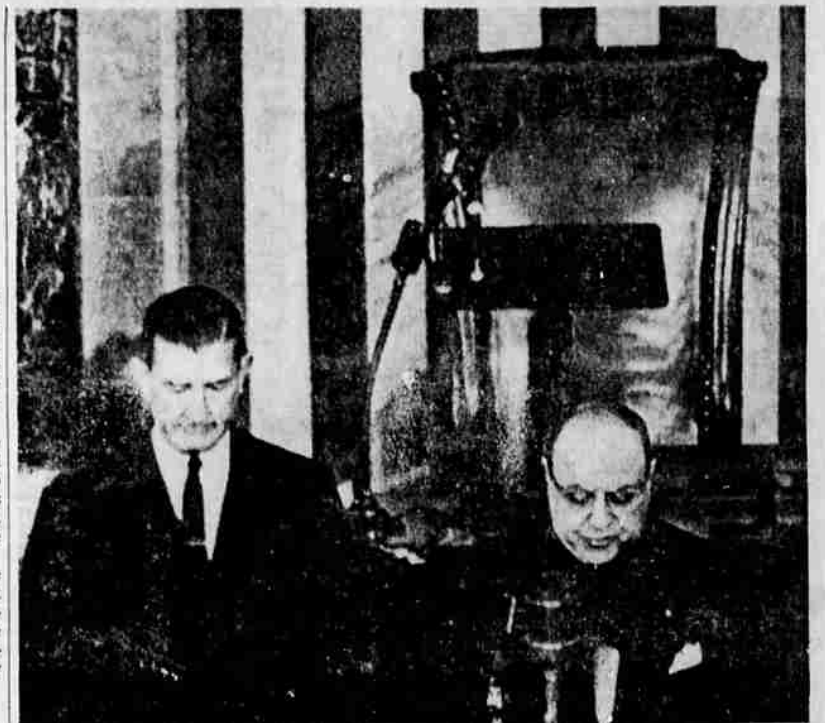
Railroad company officials argued the increase was necessary to offset continuing deficits in passenger operations.

LAND ACCEPTED

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Highway Commission said today it has accepted 4.3 acres of land between Mt. Vernon and John Day on the John Day highway.

CLINICS SCHEDULED

Portland — (UPI) — The Labor Department has scheduled clinics for Portland, Coos Bay and Astoria to explain the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosures Act to Oregon union officials.



OPENING PRAYER — The Rev. Bernard Braskamp, House chaplain, delivers the opening prayer in the Chamber of the House of Representatives in Washington as the 88th Congress got under way today. At left is Lewis Deschler, parliamentarian of the House. (UPI)

Flames Battled in New York Skyscraper

Senate Postpones Filibuster Fight Until Next Week

Washington — (UPI) — Amid promises of interim peace and later fury, the Senate today formally postponed the start of its antifilibuster rule fight until early next week.

By gentlemen's agreement, the three blocs involved assented to putting off the verbal fireworks until after President Kennedy delivers his State of the Union Message Monday.

Leaders of two groups advocating either moderate or liberal change in the Senate's Rule 22 against filibusters contented themselves with announcing that their amendments will be introduced Monday.

No Objections To Crossing Voiced

The Southern Pacific company raised no objections to the retention of a grade crossing at 11th st. once the Barnett rd. crossing is opened during a hearing Tuesday afternoon in Salem.

Five Candidates File for Positions

Talent — There will be five candidates in the running for the five posts on the board of directors of the proposed Talent Rural Fire Protection district, coming up for election Friday Jan. 18.

A fifth candidate, Dean R. Blackburn, filed nominating petitions with sufficient signatures to place his name on the ballot, the Jackson county elections department announced yesterday just before the filing deadline.

Other candidates are Howard DeYoung, Eddie M. Heim, Lee Floyd Quinn and Esper C. Silvester.

The board will take office only if the district formation is approved at the Jan. 18 election. Voting will be at the old agronomy station on Colver rd.

Parks, Recreation Group Will Meet

Three new members of the Medford parks and recreation commission will attend their first meeting of the group at 7:30 o'clock tonight in the Medford city council chambers.

New members are Tod Tibbutt, Don Reverman, and John Kent. They were among the new appointees to city commissions made Jan. 3 by Mayor James Dunlevy.

Committees to report at tonight's session include the teen-age, Bear creek improvement, park name, Jackson park development and Hawthorne park re-development. Also to be heard will be a report of flood damage to parks in the Dec. 2 flood.

Empire State Building Shaft Damaged by Fire

New York — (UPI) — Firemen battled a series of fires a quarter mile up today in the Empire State Building, the world's tallest.

Six hours after the fire was discovered it still was burning, apparently in electric wiring in a pipe shaft which runs the entire height of the tower's 1,472-foot structure.

No injuries were reported and by 10 a.m. (EST) most of the 16,000 persons who work in the building had been permitted to go to their jobs. Several hundred of them had been evacuated about 8 a.m.

Even as they worked, firemen continued to hack into the five-foot wide shaft, stripping insulation from wires. Other fire-fighters roamed the building, checking all its offices. Maintenance workers mopped up water.

Crowd Watches
The fire in the midtown Manhattan skyscraper first was reported at 4:35 a.m. It was declared under control about 8 a.m., but the fire-fighting operation was expected to continue all day.

Earlier, about 10,000 persons had crowded behind police barriers at the Fifth ave. and 34th st. site to watch the operation. A dozen fire companies fought the two-alarm fire.

The fires, affecting about 10 floors of the building, climbed as high as the 84th floor, just below the level of the observation tower. Firemen traveled skyward in the elevators, carrying rolled-up sections of hose.

Planning Commission To Elect New Officers

Officers will be elected for the Jackson county planning commission at a meeting at 8 o'clock tonight in the courthouse annex.

C. O. Lovejoy, retiring president, has served two terms as head of the commission. No new members have been added to the commission, Gerald Latham and Victor Birdseye, whose terms expired Dec. 31, 1962, were reappointed to the group by the county court.

Grenfell Goes on Trial For Making False Report

Portland — (UPI) — William A. Grenfell Jr., 37, went on trial in Municipal Court today on a charge of making a false report to police last Oct. 9 in connection with an automobile accident.

Grenfell, a Democratic state senator who was defeated in the race for Multnomah County Commissioner, is charged with reporting to police that he was injured when forcibly abducted from the downtown area and then pushed from a moving car. Grenfell later admitted through his attorney he was

driver of a car involved in a fatal collision. Grenfell was hospitalized until early in December and is still confined to a wheel chair. Mrs. Natalie Crenshaw, 23, Portland, a passenger in the car Grenfell drove the night of the fatal accident, took the Fifth amendment today when called to the stand. The matter of her testimony was delayed pending a discussion in the judges chambers and the trial moved on to other witnesses.

Hatfield Inaugural Program Announced

Salem — (UPI) — The program for the second inaugural of Gov. Hark Hatfield was announced today by Senate President-designate Ben Musa (D-The Dalles) and House Speaker — designate Clarence Barton (D-Coquille).

The ceremony in the House chambers will open at 2 p.m. Monday with a procession into the House by members of the Senate, former governors, state elective officials, justices of the Supreme Court, and the governor.

Edith Fairham Gunnar will lead the audience in singing the national anthem. The Rev. Arlin Halvorsen will deliver the invocation.

Barton will canvass the vote and announce that Hatfield has been officially elected to a second term as governor. Chief Justice William McAllister will administer the oath of office to Hatfield.

The governor then will deliver his second inaugural address, containing his message to the legislature.

The governor will lead the recessional, followed by members of the Supreme Court, elected officials, former governors and senators.

Prior to the inaugural, there will be music in the rotunda by the capital symphony.

NEWS BRIEFS

DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE POSTPONED
Washington — (UPI) — The United States and Russia agreed today to postpone the resumption of the Geneva Disarmament Conference for one month, from next Tuesday to Feb. 12.

POET ROBERT FROST 'DOING WELL'
Boston — (UPI) — Pulitzer Prize winning poet Robert Frost, 88, today was reported in fair condition and "doing well" after undergoing additional minor surgery to prevent blood clotting.

FRANCE PREPARING TO EXPLODE BOMB
Paris — (UPI) — France is starting preparations to explode her first H-bomb in the remote Gambier Islands in the Pacific Ocean about 1,000 miles southeast of Tahiti, possibly within two years, reliable French sources said today.

KENNEDY PLANS NEWS CONFERENCE
Washington — (UPI) — President Kennedy will hold a news conference at 1 p.m. (PST) Wednesday, Jan. 15, the White House announced today. Kennedy will not hold a news conference this week.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Variable cloudiness through Thursday evening. Fog not expected to return. Possibly a few rain or snow showers Thursday. Snow level dropping to 3,000 feet Thursday evening. Low tonight 22-25. High Thursday 35-40.

Our Skies Tonight

Sunset today 4:37 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:46 a.m.
Moonrise today 5:30 p.m.
Full Moon (and penumbral eclipse of the Moon) today 6:39 p.m.
The last visible eclipse of this series was in 1896. (Eclipses of the Moon occur in series of 48 or 49 eclipses, each a little over 14 years apart, over a period of about 365 years.)