

FORECAST: Fair today, partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow. High today 63; low tonight 28 to 33; high tomorrow 68.



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BLAZING HIGH SCHOOL - This aerial photograph shows firemen battling the blazing high school in Bellport, N. Y., Friday. A total of 43 students and teachers were hospitalized and another 100 boys and girls were treated at the scene. There were no fatalities. (UPI)

Neutral Nations Approve Plan at East-West Talks

New Proposals May End Ban Deadlock

Geneva - (UPI) - Neutral members of the 17-nation Disarmament Conference Saturday approved a compromise plan they hope will break the East-West deadlock on a nuclear test ban. It is to be submitted to the full conference this week.

The eight neutrals met as Western disarmament negotiators were awaiting for confirmation of unofficial reports that France may soon resume its underground nuclear testing in the Sahara desert - a move expected to stiffen the Soviet stand even further.

The Soviets often charged that France served as a secret cover for tests by the United States and Britain during the two-year moratorium broken by the Russians in September, 1961. Western sources expected new French tests and possible Chinese Communist tests within a year.

The eight neutrals - Burma, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic - have been working on the compromise for a week. Their representatives met for two hours Saturday at a downtown hotel to put the final seal of approval on the plan, worked out in detail Friday by a four-nation drafting committee. The plan is expected to come before the full conference next Wednesday or Friday.

White details of the neutral attempt to get the deadlocked talks were lacking. It was known the neutrals were anxious to bridge the gap between the maximum of three on-site inspections offered by the Communist bloc for the proposed test ban treaty and the minimum of seven the U. S. is willing to accept.

Reds Charge U.S. Used Poison Gas In South Viet Nam

Moscow - (UPI) - The Soviet Defense Department Saturday accused the United States of killing hundreds of women and children in South Viet Nam with poison gas as part of U. S. germ warfare strategy.

The Defense Department newspaper Red Star claimed U. S. planes sprayed the gas over South Viet Nam villages, killing women, children and cattle.

Red Star said the United States has "decided to put its faith not only on the atom but on bacteria and gas."

It claimed the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver, Colo., produced \$6.9 million worth of lethal substances last year and was equipped to arm U. S. rockets with poison gas.

Agonize Testify "The death agonies of South Viet Nam women and children testify to the effectiveness of U. S. gases," Red Star said.

The newspaper said a dispatch from South Viet Nam reported the alleged gas attacks had victimized 5,000 persons, but did not say how many died.

Red Star accused the Pentagon of "producing poison gas with the purpose of trying its effect on millions of people."

It also charged England and West Germany were preparing for bacteriological warfare and added, "the employment by imperialists of chemical weapons prohibited by the Geneva protocol of 1925 is so far restricted to colonial wars."

Portland Woman Guilty In Telephone Fraud Case

Grants Pass - Roberta Jean Hoffard, 19, of Portland was sentenced to two years on probation in Josephine County Circuit court Friday afternoon in a precedent-setting telephone fraud case.

It was the first case to be prosecuted under a state law passed in 1961 which prohibits procuring communications service by fraud.

Rockefeller Says JFK Tax Program Doomed to Failure

Milwaukee, Wis. - (UPI) - Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York said Saturday President Kennedy's tax program "is doomed to failure" and called for an income tax cut proposal of his own.

Rockefeller also said it is "wonderful" former vice president Richard Nixon "is coming back into public life."

He told a news conference that President Kennedy's tax program will fail because "it does not have the basic elements to achieve accelerated economic growth."

Rockefeller called for a \$7.5 billion across-the-board cut in individual income taxes and \$2.5 billion in corporate income taxes this year.

Rockefeller, who addressed a Wisconsin GOP \$100-a-plate fund raising dinner Saturday night, used the news conference to disclose a tax program of his own for the nation.

Enter Primary Rockefeller told newsmen he has not "proclaimed myself a candidate for the presidential nomination," and that he therefore could not answer questions on whether he would enter Wisconsin's presidential primary next year.

Rockefeller got a cool reception here in 1959 when he was thinking of opposing Nixon for the GOP nomination.

Yturri Slated for Hospital Release

Salem - (UPI) - Senate Minority Leader Anthony Yturri (R-Ore.) will be released from Salem Memorial hospital today, according to his physician.

Dr. Ralph Purvine said Yturri's illness Friday was caused primarily by fatigue. "He has just been putting in too many hours a day on the job," the doctor said.

Yturri was taken to the hospital after nearly fainting in the hallway of the capitol while talking to another legislator.

The doctor said he did not suffer a heart attack.

Seventeen Youths Injured by Smoke In School Fire

Bellport, N. Y. - (UPI) - Doctors used oxygen tents and steam vaporizers Saturday to aid the labored breathing of 17 students who suffered smoke poisoning in a fire that swept through one wing of Bellport High school.

A total of 43 students and teachers were hospitalized and another 100 boys and girls and their teachers were treated at the scene Friday.

Some were injured in leaping from the upper floor of the two-story building. Others cut themselves smashing windows with their fists. Most suffered from smoke inhalation.

Only one of the victims was in critical condition, John Allers, 15. Allers, the son of a Suffolk county policeman, leaped to a concrete sidewalk from one of the second story windows, fracturing both ankles and suffering possible internal injuries.

Another youth, David Hassell, 18, broke both his knee caps when he plunged from the second floor to escape searing heat and dense smoke which swept through the old wing of the 900-student school located 55 miles from New York City on Long Island's southern shore.

Officials said many of the 65 teachers who were in the school when the fire billowed up five minutes before dismissal time formed "human nets" by interlocking arms to catch the jumping students.

The officials added that automatically closing steel fire doors in the gymnasium which separates the old wing from the new prevented spread of the flames to the newer portion of the "T" shaped building. However, damage to the school was estimated at \$500,000 and officials were working out plans to put the students on split sessions until repairs can be made.

Morse Criticizes U.S. Journalism For 'Failures'

Washington - (UPI) - Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) said Saturday American journalism has "failed in its responsibilities" to tell the truth about events and the American reading public knows it.

"The people of the country know that American journalism, by and large, has failed in its responsibilities (freedom of speech) to tell the truth," Morse told the Senate.

Only a handful of members were present when Morse delivered his speech. His remarks were sparked by an editorial in the Washington evening Star about Morse entitled: "Our Verbose Correspondent."

Some Exceptions Morse also said that the American press has, with "some notable exceptions, succumbed to the powerful interests which own American journalism."

"Let me say," he added, "that I happen to be one politician who for 18 years in the Senate has not hesitated to 'take on' the press, because I do not recognize the members of the press as particularly superior men."

The Oregon Democrat said journalists don't read enough to keep themselves informed because they are so engrossed in reading only what they write.

New Syrian Junta Moves To Wipe Out Resistance

Mysterious Blasts Jolt East Berlin; Gunfire Follows

Detonations Not Explained by Reds

Berlin - (UPI) - Four mysterious blasts in East Germany jolted the southwestern sector of West Berlin Saturday and shots rang out behind the Communist wall dividing the city on the other side.

West Berlin police rushed to the borders on both sides of the city to aid possible refugees but found no one. The East Germans gave no explanation for the explosions and shooting which echoed across the border during the dark early morning hours.

Four detonations described as "medium-heavy" were heard at the extreme southwestern corner of the city in the region of the Babelsberg entrance to the autobahn to West Germany.

Police said the blasts took place somewhere behind the strands of barbed wire barricades between West Berlin and Red Germany. A West Berlin police squad searched along the border for more than an hour in case refugees had blasted their way through the barrier.

About an hour after the explosions, police reported three shots were fired several hundred yards inside East Berlin opposite the Kreuzberg district in the U. S. sector.

West Berlin police reported they were seeking a young man wearing horn-rimmed glasses who warned pedestrians away from the Soviet "tourist" office here shortly before it was blown up Tuesday night. They said the man is believed to be one of the group who bombed the Russian travel agency's office.

Blaze in SOC Dorm Under Investigation

Ashland - A fire was reported in the utility room of Siskiyou hall on the Southern Oregon college campus Friday night - the fourth one in two months.

The latest incident is under investigation. College officials and Ashland firemen believe that all four fires were deliberately set, but have no clues as to who has been setting them.

Friday night's fire was confined to a cardboard box near the door of the fireproof utility room. The door had been locked since 4 p.m., leading authorities to believe that someone might have poured lighter fluid under the door.

The fire was discovered around 8:30 p.m. and was put out by students before firemen arrived. Students have put out three of the four fires.

Sports Bulletins

Medford high earned a state tournament berth and a share of the Southern Oregon conference championship with Grants Pass last night by beating the Crater Comets here 34 to 63. Medford had a 40 to 33 halftime lead. Jack Forde had 24 points for the Black Tornado and Rich Benner 20. Howard Tomlinson headed Crater with 23. The Tornado finished with an 11-5 conference record and the Comets in third place with 9-7.

Grants Pass - Grants Pass High school tied Medford for the Southern Oregon conference crown by defeating Ashland High here last night 75 to 47. Grants Pass led at the half 39 to 24. Al Hutchins was high point man for Grants Pass with 20. Rick Pierce had 10 for Ashland.

Ashland - Henley high won the District 5 A-2 basketball championship last night by downing Eagle Point 55 to 48 in a tournament final here.

Henley led 26 to 20 at the half. Charles Peomerooy was high point man of the game with 26 points for Eagle Point.



NAMED PREMIER - Damascus radio reported Saturday that pro-Nasserite Salah Bitar (above) has been named premier and foreign minister of the revolutionary Syrian government. A military junta overthrew Syrian Premier Khaled Al Azm's government Friday without firing a shot. The takeover set off a chain reaction of military alerts Saturday through the troubled Middle East. (UPI)

Peterson Describes Function of SBA At Friday Meeting

The Small Business Administration does not compete with banks, but augments their efforts. Small businesses will never disappear as long as there are new ideas to put on the market, SBA officials told local businessmen attending the Oregon Small Business Advisory Council meeting Friday in the Rogue Valley Country club.

"The first thing we try to do is to get the businessman back to his bank, since his bank can do a better job of administration than we can," Edgar D. Peterson, chief of the financial assistance division, Region 13, told the small group.

SBA uses the same criteria for making a loan that a bank would use. Often information brought out by SBA can help banks in making later loans, it was pointed out. A major difference is that SBA can extend a loan as high as five years.

Small businesses have to limit themselves to a local or regional market, since it costs considerable money to penetrate a large market, Carnation Milk company, for instance, spent about \$500 million to get into the powdered milk market, it was pointed out.

Small businesses can't go into such enterprises as car manufacturing because of the tremendous amount of capital needed and the intense competition. However, new and elastic ideas are what keeps small businesses operating, speakers said.

There is a large field for small business in the import-export field, it was pointed out. Definite Function

The SBA is not just another government bureau but serves a definite function in promoting loans to small businesses and working with banks to help the small businessman. A poor loan for the SBA is

Ousted Premier Said Hiding in Turkish Embassy

New Leader Says Policies Unsettled

Damascus, Syria - (UPI) - Syria's new military junta, apparently determined to wipe out all resistance, Saturday sent tanks and armored cars through the capital to round up enemies.

Sporadic rifle fire broke the stillness of curfew here. There were rumors of waves of arrests of Syrian Communists and followers of the regime of ousted Premier Khaled El Azm.

The streets were deserted except for military patrols and armored vehicles prowling between machinegun and mortar emplacements. More troops ringed the capital. Policies Unsettled

Salah El Bitar, the new premier, Saturday refused all comments on his government's policies to the first newsmen entering the capital since the reopening of the country's borders. He said his policies were "still unsettled."

The military junta's troops stood by at the white stone Turkish embassy building here where Azm and his family were reported to have fled. They swung rifle butts to keep away foreign newsmen and Syrians alike.

The only obvious sign of past violence in the capital was the wreckage of Azm's official car, burned by a mob near his office. Reports said camouflage-suited Syrian paratroopers armed with Czech-made submachineguns prevented mobs from marching on the Turkish embassy to demand that he be handed over.

Railroad Strike Talks Postponed

San Francisco - (UPI) - Federal mediator Frank O'Neill Saturday night unexpectedly postponed until Monday further negotiations aimed at settling the prolonged automation dispute between Southern Pacific and the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

The joint bargaining sessions were originally scheduled to continue through the week end. But the mediator said after daylong talks Saturday that "we have hit a snag and both sides agreed that a day of rest was necessary to study the material presented to date."

He declined to say what the "snag" was on the grounds that "this would necessitate going too fully into the issues at this time."

However, he expressed optimism that a settlement would soon be reached and praised both the company and union officials in their efforts to iron out their differences.



MARCH FOUR ABREAST - Carrying a huge wreath, members of the Red Army march four abreast down Whitechapel past the British Houses of Parliament in London early Saturday on their way to place the wreath at the Cenotaph, Britain's unknown soldier's tomb. The ensemble is in England for a seven-week concert tour. Consisting of real soldiers, the group has been hailed for its superb dancing and singing in performances at London's Royal Albert hall. (UPI)

NEWS BRIEFS

HUMPHREY PREDICTS NEW TEST SERIES Washington - (UPI) - Senate Disarmament Chairman Hubert H. Humphrey predicted Saturday that Russia, balking at any test ban agreement to gain time, will fire another series of nuclear explosions late this summer or early next fall.

EXPLOSION RIPS GERMAN FOUNDRY Belecke, Germany - (UPI) - A bomb-like explosion spread death and destruction through the Siepmann Werke foundry here Saturday leaving 16 dead and two workers missing.

30,000 HOMELESS IN PERU FLOOD Lima, Peru - (UPI) - Floodwaters nearly five feet deep Saturday swept through the city of Ica, 200 miles south of here, forcing 30,000 persons to flee from their homes.