

Behind-the-Scenes Activity by Morse May Hurt Dunes Bill



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Washington — At Interior Secretary Stewart Udall's news conference last week he was asked whether he and President Kennedy, while flying over the Oregon Dunes in September, had been able to convert Sen. Wayne Morse to support their proposal for establishing a national park at the Dunes.

Udall grinned and said that he concluded from all the conversation on the president's plane that "Senator Morse favors it."

Privately, however, Udall and other advocates of the Oregon Dunes park are deeply troubled by reports that the park bill may be stripped of one of its key provisions at Morse's behind-the-scenes insistence.

That key provision is the power of condemnation which is normally granted to public agencies in creating parks, locating highways, implementing urban renewal projects, etc. This government power to take property for a public use, paying the owner a fair price set by the courts, is the established method by which the public interest in recreation facilities, new roads and

tions, such as honky tonk commercialism, then residential property in the park cannot be condemned; and owners can continue to live in their homes or sell them to other private persons if they wished.

In short, such restrained application of condemnation authority is designed to protect both the public's interest in preserving the scenic character of the area and the residents' interest in not being bought out by the government without their consent.

No Guarantee Offered

The weakness of Morse's position is that it fails to offer the public — the future visitors to such an outdoor recreation area — any guarantee that they won't encounter undesirable honky tonks nestled unpleasantly within the park.

The same Senate subcommittee has approved numerous other park bills which included condemnation authority. Without it, the Park Service would be powerless to deal with a cheap beer joint within the boundaries of the new Cape Cod National Seashore park, or to touch the Gold Nugget Saloon, a gambling joint, in Lake Meade Recreation Area.

When the committee finishes drawing boundaries for the Oregon Dunes park, there may be no such undesirable establishments in the park. But if the Senate bows to Morse, or if the senator doesn't modify his position, there will be no protection against some enterprising operators setting up honky tonks and thumping their noses at the disapproving park rangers, conservationists and citizens who believe that a scenic park should be spared the wicked ways of the city.

San Francisco (UPI) — A former swimming star and honor student at the University of California lost both legs and part of his left hand Sunday when he was caught in the whirling propeller of a fishing boat in San Francisco Bay.

The victim, James Small, 27, lay close to death at Letterman General Hospital today as doctors gave him numerous transfusions of blood to save his life.

The accident occurred near Alcatraz Island as Small and 11 other members of the Dolphin Club competed in a long-distance swim across the bay.

The 32-foot fishing boat, the Pacific Dawn, cut through the group of swimmers at an estimated speed of 12 knots. Its propeller sliced off Small's right leg above the knee. Doctors later amputated the left leg, also above the knee, and Small's left thumb.

Small graduated from the University of California with honors in 1960 and later served in the Marine Corps. He set school records in the 400 and 1,500 meter free style races while on the swimming team.

Swimmer Caught In Boat Propeller

San Francisco (UPI) — A former swimming star and honor student at the University of California lost both legs and part of his left hand Sunday when he was caught in the whirling propeller of a fishing boat in San Francisco Bay.

Schrunk Disappointed On Choice of Mexico

Portland (UPI) — Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk has expressed disappointment that Mexico City had won the 1968 Olympic Games, but said Portland will continue its efforts to lure the 1972 games.

"I had hoped it would go to a European city," Schrunk said of the selection. "That would give the United States and particularly Portland a better chance at the 1972 games."

PREDICTS CUT
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Budget Director Kermit Gordon predicts a \$1 billion cut in government spending this year.



NEW ASTRONAUTS — The 14 new astronauts pose on the steps at Cullen Auditorium at the University of Houston. From left, top to bottom, they are H. Walter Cunningham, Richard F. Gordon, Edwin E. Aldrin, Clifton C. Williams Jr., Theodore C. Freeman, Michael Collins, Don F. Eisele, William A. Anders, Charles A. Bassett II, Alan C. Bean, Russell L. Schweickart, David H. Scott and Eugene A. Cernan. (UPI).

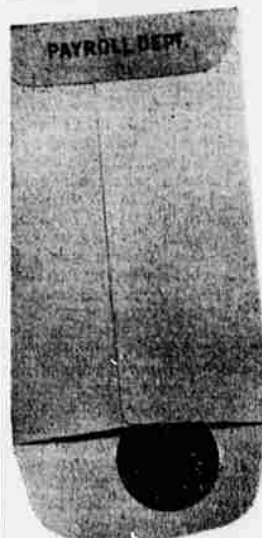


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