

President Johnson: To the People of the United States

Weeping Solon Denies Conflict of Interest

WASHINGTON (UPI) — With tears streaming down his face, Rep. John W. Byrnes stood before his colleagues Thursday to "swear before my God and this House" that no conflict of interest was involved in his dealings with a Milwaukee insurance company.

At the end of his speech, his colleagues, some visibly touched, stood and applauded.

The Wisconsin Republican, a potential favorite son presidential candidate in his native state, said he would sell the insurance company stock he owned and give the profits — estimated elsewhere at about \$25,000 — to charity.

Irreparably Damaged

He categorically denied "any unethical conduct or . . . any conflict of interest" in his dealings with Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Co. of Milwaukee. He said he had been "prosecuted, judged and hung by powerful parts of the public press" his character and reputation "perhaps irreparably damaged" because of the incident.

The galleries and the House were hushed as Byrnes, his voice choked with emotion and his eyes brimming with tears, detailed how and why he invested \$2,300 in the stock of the insurance firm, which was linked to the investigation of former Senate official Robert G. (Bobby) Baker.

Halleck Defends Byrnes

House GOP Leader Rep. Charles A. Halleck, R - Ind., strongly defended Byrnes as

"one of the ablest, decent members on either (the Republican or Democratic) side."

"I have complete confidence in his integrity," Halleck said.

Byrnes said he helped Mortgage Guaranty solve a tax problem which he said threatened to drive it out of business.

He said the intercession in the tax matter was undertaken as part of his duty as a congressman and in the interests of fair administration of tax law. He said his purchase of the stock was as a result of advice from Paul Rogan that it would be a good investment. Rogan is a former Wisconsin insurance commissioner and an official of the company.

"I state categorically that I had no understanding, expectation or desire for any reward or favor of any kind for my participation in the (tax) case," he said.

Will Sell Shares

Byrnes said he knew that he would be criticized now whether he sold or kept the stock, but he has decided to divest himself of all his shares in the company and keep only the money involved in his original investment.

"I will donate the remainder to Scholarships, Inc., of Green Bay, Wis., a charitable organization which provides higher education for deserving students in my hometown who could not otherwise afford to go to college," he said.

Summing up his personal fi-

nances, Byrnes said he owned no other stocks or bonds, had no outside connections or financial interests, no savings accounts and a few thousand dollars in checking accounts.

Two Injured in Three Accidents

Richard Melvin La Fleur, 17, of 506 Edwards St., was slightly injured Saturday when the car in which he was riding collided with the center guard rail on Interstate 5 in Medford, city police report.

The driver, David William Stratton, 804 Bennett St., was cited by police for violation of basic rule.

Josephine Marie Sleight, 68, of 117 Tripp St., was slightly injured Friday in a two car collision at 12th Street and Riverside Avenue. She was treated by a private physician.

She was a passenger in a car driven by Joan Rector Kounz, 805 Taylor St., which collided with one driven by Richard Arthur Cox, Minneapolis, Minn. Cox was cited by Medford police for defective brakes.

A two-car collision Saturday at West Main and Fir Streets resulted in no injuries. The cars driven by Joseph James McCallister, 3259 Bellinger Lane, and by Margaret P. Turner, White City, collided. No citations were issued.



JOHN F. KENNEDY

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Following is the text of President Johnson's proclamation:

To the People of the United States:

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, has been taken from us by an act which outrages decent men everywhere.

He upheld the faith of our fathers, which is freedom for all men. He broadened the frontiers of that faith, and backed it with energy and courage which are the mark of the nation he led.

A man of wisdom, strength and peace, he moulded and moved the power of our nation in the service of a world of growing liberty and order. All who love freedom will mourn his death.

As he did not shrink from his responsibilities, but welcomed them, so he would not have us shrink from carrying on his work beyond this hour of national tragedy.

He said it himself: "The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it — and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

Now, therefore, I, Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America, do appoint Monday next, Nov. 25, the day of the funeral service of President Kennedy, to be a national day of mourning throughout the United States. I earnestly recommend the people to assemble on that day in their respective places of Divine worship, there to bow down in submission to the will of Almighty God, and to pay their homage of love and reverence to the memory of a great and good man. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this day of mourning and rededication.

Education Costs Are Discussed

County School Supt. Alf B. Mekvold explained local and state taxation as related to the cost of education when the Jackson County Property Owners' Rental Association met recently in the Medford High School.

Local property taxes support two-thirds of Oregon schools' costs, he said. Before 1940 most school support was from local funds. Property taxes were the original source of these funds and still contribute two-thirds of Oregon school costs. The property tax was stabilized in 1947 when Oregonians voted to give back \$50 to the individual toward education. The school support fund was raised

in 1951 to \$80 by a vote of the people.

Mekvold pointed out there is a need now for additional sources of revenue to support education. It is unfair to property owners to carry such a large percentage of the cost, Mekvold admitted. A working man may have several children in school and pay no property tax or a very small property tax. Yet the property owners are paying the greatest percent of the cost for educating all children, he noted.

Sales and cigarette taxes could give a fairer distribution of taxation and would stabilize the property tax load, the county school superintendent said.

I Heard the Bells

on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!
... Longfellow

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Waltonian Critical Of Fish Commission

SALEM (UPI) — Allen Kelly, president of the Oregon Izaak Walton League, Thursday criticized the State Fish Commission for voicing opposition to the plan to bar the state's inland waters—including the Columbia River—to commercial fishing.

Kelly also is president of Save Our Salmon and Steelhead, Inc., which is spearheading a drive to place the commercial ban fishing measure on the ballot next year.

Kelly praised the State Game Commission for remaining neutral and admonished it to "keep straddling the fence." He said the Izaak Walton League was not out of character in backing the initiative movement. He said "it is our job to protect the sport fishery. This resource is in jeopardy."

More than 200 persons attended a public hearing on the controversial issue here today.

At a meeting in September, Fish Commission biologists said eliminating commercial fishing in the inland waters would not benefit the fish population. At that time Game Commission spokesmen refused to take a stand on the issue.

He said, "We are concerned and deeply disturbed that the Fish Commission's stand is being used by opponents."

Firm Defendent In Patent Suit

PORTLAND (UPI) — Georgia-Pacific Corp. is the defendant in a patent infringement suit filed in U. S. District Court here by Clupak, Inc., of New York.

Clupak's complaint charged Georgia-Pacific with infringing on a patent by making and selling extensible paper, a product with a built-in stretch that resists rips, tears and punctures.

The complaint asks for injunction against the alleged infringement, an accounting and judgment for profits, triple damages and attorneys' fees.

Public Hearing Set On Conditional Use

A public hearing to consider a conditional use permit to allow a trailer house in the South Talent Interim Zoned area will be held at 3 p.m. Monday in the conference room of the Jackson County Planning Commission in the courthouse.

The hearing was called by the Board of Adjustment of the commission.

Seeking the conditional use permit is Le Roy W. Adams, who wishes to park the trailer on the property approximately 600 feet southwest of the intersection of Creel Road and Old Pacific Highway during the construction of a house on the land.

NEXT WEEK, EAST LYNN

And not a dry eye in the house.

For those were the days of soggy sentiment and ice floes on the river. If there's anything the girls loved, it was a good cry. Today's girl would much rather laugh. And, if you want to see stars in her eyes, just show her Zale's new CONSTELLATION collection of diamond designs. These are the lithe and lovely, uncluttered modern settings that perfectly display her beautiful Zale diamond. If she cries, it will only be because she's happy. You'll be happy too, with Zale's modern credit terms.

Two brilliant examples of the sleek, uncluttered look in wedding and engagement rings from Zale's superb new Constellation Collection: left, unusual asymmetric styling in interlocking rings with 14 diamonds, \$150; right, 7 superlative diamonds in a swirling setting of classic beauty, \$450. Your Zale Jeweler will be delighted to show you the entire Constellation Collection of magnificent new contemporary designs.

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Illustration enlarged to show detail