

STREAMLINER CRASH KILLS FOUR

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY

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(Telephone 8111)

Number 10850

WEATHER

Max. (Feb. 4) 52 Min. 29
Precipitation last 24 hours .46
Normal year to date 1.72
Normal 6.79 Last year 9.13
Forecast: Partly cloudy; little temperature change.

3 Per Cent Sales Tax Proposed

40-Mill Ceiling On Real Estate Offered In Bill

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr.
SALEM, Feb. 5 (AP)—A bill for a 3 per cent retail sales tax, containing a 40-mill property tax limit and exempting persons earning less than \$5000 a year from paying income taxes, was introduced in the state legislature today by Rep. Earl Hill, Clatskanie, Lane county.

The measure does not provide for the use of tax tokens, and does not contain a clause to refer it to the people.

Hill explained he is introducing the bill now so that the legislative taxation committees will have plenty of time to consider it along with its other tax proposals.

Hill said: "This measure is being introduced for the purpose of ob-

lating needed funds for the operation of state and local governments. We are faced with the financial problems of a growing state that must depend, to a great extent, upon ad valorem taxes, and real property cannot support much longer the burden being imposed upon it, and unless new sources of revenue are found a much greater burden will be necessitated.

"Our state institutions, our schools, our older people, are all asking for financial help. It is imperative that something be done at this legislative session to alleviate their distress.

The house assessment and taxation committee heard today that Attorney General George Neuner is "having serious difficulty" answering the committee's question whether it would be constitutional to adopt Governor Earl Snell's recommendation to balance the budget by using \$5,000,000 of corporation income tax surpluses.

Frank Sever, the committee's attorney, said he could understand why Neuner was having trouble. Sever asserted the plan might be unconstitutional because tax money must be used for the purpose for which it was levied. The corporation income tax was levied to reduce property taxes, Sever said.

Sever also said that adoption of the governor's plan "is extremely dangerous and subject to litigation."

Cold Wave Sweeps Over British Isle

LONDON, Feb. 3 (AP)—A severe cold wave gripped Great Britain and western Europe today, further aggravating the grave coal shortage from recently socialized British mines.

Factories employing 75,000 persons have shut down in England because of the fuel shortage and their owners appealed to the labor government for coal.

The sharp rise in coal consumption, expected from the icy weather, threatened further industrial shutdowns. Hundreds of factories already were idle or working part time. Snow covered nearly all of England, Scotland and Wales and temperatures dropped sharply.

In Berlin, more than 800 enterprises employing 32,000 persons closed because of the cold and lack of coal. Another 140,000 workers reported themselves too ill to report. The American occupation zone was covered with six inches of snow. Two more persons died in Berlin of the cold since December 1 to 103.

Italy had snowstorms which stopped traffic in the northern cities, landslides that blocked roads along the Adriatic, gales and torrential rains. Two youths drowned in the flooded Arno river at Florence. Sardinian streams overflowed their banks, damaged crops and inundated part of Bosa. A cloudburst and high winds unroofed many houses in Leghorn and La Spezia.

Some factories were closed in northern France by the cold and fuel shortage, affecting a few thousand workmen.

Truman Okays Vet Application

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—President Truman acted today to enable disabled war veterans at Idaho, Marion county, Ore., to take the examination for postmaster there.

He withdrew from the senate the nomination of Mrs. Rella M. Schaffer to be postmaster. Her nomination had been submitted January 10.

The post office department explained that after she was nominated it was found some disabled veterans wanted to take the postmaster examination, and the president withdrew the nomination to give them a chance.

Chiang Kai-Shek Recalls Chinese Representative

By EDWARD E. BOMAR
WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—The breakdown of Chinese peace negotiations was reported today to have prompted Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek to recall his top military leader, Gen. Ho Ying-Chin, from the United States.

Chinese officials said that General Ho, who currently is China's representative on the United Nations staff committee, probably will leave for home this month.

Ho and Ambassador Wellington Koo said what they termed a courtesy call on Secretary of State Marshall earlier this week. China's wartime chief of staff, Ho is rated an uncompromising

Butter Price Stays Firm

A drop in butter prices in Portland and Seattle will have little effect on the Klamath market, it was learned here today and butter remained firm wholesaling at 47 cents. This is AA grade, 93 score.

Local butter production was termed "extremely low" here and between 60 and 70 per cent of the amount consumed is being brought in from the outside.

A three-cent drop in eggs last week was holding here today and a small decrease was forecast for the coming week. Egg production is reported down in both Oregon and Washington attributed to cold weather, the market price decrease and the marketing of laying chickens as well as delivery to hatcheries.

Egg men here were interested in the government's action the past week when the government came out on a price of canned eggs, (frozen whole eggs) for overseas consumption and on a support price basis of 33 cents for February, March and April. This reflects on the local market and the AA grade price in the west is around 50 cents. The difference in price is due to "receipts" or poor quality eggs which are being used for overseas shipments.

Wholesale price of eggs is between 53 and 55 cents for large, best quality, and no storage eggs are being offered at this time.

Indian Land Sale Asked

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—Rep. Case (R-S.D.) proposed to Interior Secretary Krug today that competent Indians be permitted to sell restricted lands in the open market.

"Unless it is desired to chain the Indians to the reservations, I can see no justification for denying the capable allotted Indian the right to use his resources," he wrote to Krug.

Case referred to Indian office regulations, adopted in 1933 "because of existing economic conditions and the very poor market for Indian-owned restricted lands." These regulations almost completely forbid the sale of trust or restricted lands held by Indians.

"I think it might be well to re-examine the departmental policy in this matter," Case wrote. "In many cases the land could be sold at good prices."

"In many instances, the return from the land would permit them (the Indians) to build or acquire homes where they live and have their work. In other words, it would provide them with needed capital for a small business."



FRESNO, Calif., Feb. 5.—A Southern Pacific streamline train struck an oil tanker-truck near Fresno late yesterday, killing four persons and injuring many others. The top picture shows the mass of flame and smoke enveloping the train engine and the lower photo is a general view of the burning cars and the crowd which gathered at the scene.

Solons Skip Moscow Meet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—Secretary of State Marshall will have to carry on without Senators Vandenberg (R-Mich.) and Connally (D-Tex.), for at least a part of his first Big Four conference beginning March 10 in Moscow.

The two senators, who provided James F. Byrnes with bipartisan aid and counsel, announced yesterday they have agreed that "the pressure of other matters" requires their presence in Washington.

Vandenberg said in a statement his job as foreign relations committee chairman makes it necessary for him to be on hand for the ratification of Italian and Balkan treaties and congressional action on international trade and relief.

Both senators said they will go to Moscow later if Marshall and President Truman desire.

Farm Laboratory Funds Requested

SALEM, Feb. 5 (AP)—Appropriation of \$30,000 to establish an agricultural field laboratory in The Dalles district was sought in a bill introduced in the house Tuesday by the Hood River and Wasco county delegations.

Red Army Demobilization Continues; Older Men Out

MOSCOW, Feb. 5 (AP)—The government today issued its fifth demobilization order since June 23, 1945, singling out several thousand more Russian armed force personnel for return to civilian life in another step toward getting the Soviet Union back to a peacetime basis and furnishing manpower for field and factory.

This latest demobilization looks even larger than the preceding one, announced last October. Signed by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Nikolai Svernik, it goes into effect between March and June. It affects older personnel in the ground forces, air force and navy, but not officers. The order did not specify age groups beyond mentioning "older" troops.

Russia, like other nations, is continuing to bring younger age groups into the army as older personnel is demobilized. But the best indications here are that thousands of young Russians of military age have not been

Truman Praises "Great Progress" Made By UN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—President Truman told congress today that the United Nations has made "great progress" in the past year but that world hopes for peace can yet "be betrayed and lost."

"The difficulties and dangers that lie before us are many and serious," Mr. Truman said in a letter transmitting to both the senate and house a report on United States activities in the world organization during 1946. He declared in the report itself that progress made on international control of atomic energy is "heartening," due chiefly to increasing Russian agreement with American proposals for a world control system.

On the other hand, the chief executive described as "disappointingly slow" the work of the military staff committee. That U. N. agency has the task of organizing the forces which the security council is authorized to use against any future aggressor.

Mr. Truman said, however, "there are already signs of greater speed and it is hoped that the pace of the committee's work will continue to accelerate."

The president listed as one outstanding accomplishment of the peace agency during its first year the unanimous agreement by the 54 member nations, including Russia, on the principle of international control and inspection of atomic energy, "established by treaty and not subject to any veto in its operations." But he added:

Many months of hard work and difficult negotiation in the security council and the atomic energy commission lie ahead. Not all the essential principles have been agreed upon. The problem of enforcement must still be resolved.

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Roaring Flames Sweep SP Train In Truck Smash

FRESNO, Calif., Feb. 5 (AP)—The flaming crash of the Southern Pacific railroad's streamlined Daylight Limited into a loaded gasoline truck claimed an additional fatality today, bringing the dead to four.

Ninety passengers were injured—some 12 remaining in serious condition—when the orange-colored streamliner was enveloped in flames which completely or partially gutted 10 of the 14 cars.

The fourth victim died in Kingsburg hospital early today. She was Katherine Ann Hansen, 17, of (1841 9th Ave.) Pasadena, a victim of burns. Earlier the engineer and fireman, and a woman passenger had died.

The Daylight left Los Angeles yesterday morning en route for Oakland and San Francisco. It struck the tank-trailer of the gasoline truck at 3 p. m. on the outskirts of Kingsburg, 20 miles south of Fresno.

It was sprayed with burning gasoline and turned into a blazing wreck in a matter of seconds; its gayly-decorated orange cars, jammed with frantic passengers smashing windows and fighting crazily to escape.

There was a tremendous explosion as the streamliner, racing through the flatlands of the San Joaquin valley, slashed into the truck at 3:25 p. m. (PST) yesterday. For hours afterward railway officials, the Red Cross and other relief agencies struggled to aid the scores of casualties and find out the extent of the disaster.

The dead identified by the railroad were Mrs. Sara E. Badgley of Dunsuir, Calif., George Schneckenberger of Bakersfield, the engineer, and Ernest M. Comer, Bakersfield, fireman.

Philip Lee Mayer, 21, of Fresno, the truck driver, in some miraculous manner, escaped injury.

The scene was one of tragic horror as the searing flames trapped many of the 500 passengers in the cars.

Some passengers were injured when they smashed windows and jumped from the cars through flames that leaped eight to 10 feet high—burning grass along the right of way added to the fire hazard.

B. W. Mitchell, Southern Pacific division superintendent at Fresno, believed at least 20 and possibly 30 of the injured were seriously burned.

The victims were taken to hospitals at Kingsburg, Selma, Fresno and Tulare, adding to the difficulties of determining the extent of their injuries.

Mayer, the truck driver, told the California highway patrol that he came to a stop prior to crossing the track. He said a freight train was on a siding and the wig-wag warning signal was not working. He told officers he was halfway across the right of way before he saw the onrushing train.

J. E. Mulaney, a brakeman from Los Angeles, told newsmen that when the train hit the tank truck he saw "a blind" (Continued on Page 4, Column 1).

Truck Bill Bugged Down

SALEM, Feb. 5 (AP)—The "big truck bill" approved almost unanimously by the house, was stalled in the senate roads and highways committee today.

The committee laid the bill on the table, giving the right-of-way to the bill to increase truck taxes \$1,000,000 a year, which has not yet been passed by either house.

There was considerable sentiment in the legislature that if the truckers get their "big truck" bill, which would make permanent the temporary wartime increased weight and length limits on trucks using the highways, then they first must accept the truck revenue measure.

The motion to table was made by Sen. C. H. Zuercher, Enterprise, who has led the battles against bigger trucks at past sessions.

The measure would authorize maximum limits of 60 feet and 72,000 pounds, compared with 50 feet and 54,000 pounds before the war.

Senators Mum On Subject Of Banning Russian Vodka

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—Shake well the subject of drinking in general, add a dash of politics and a few well-aged memories of prohibition, and you've got the current congressional reaction to any public discussion of pledge-taking.

For the bourbon-and-brandy-water boys and the cocktail clique on Capitol hill have reached solid agreement on a surefire formula for avoiding political hangovers.

In brief, it's this: Don't talk. It applies to those who vote dry and drink wet. And vice versa.

The subject came up again yesterday when the board of temperance of the Methodist church urged U. S. lawmakers and administrators, and delegates to the United Nations to abstain from the use of alcoholic

Closed Shop Bill Rapped By GM Head

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (AP)—Charles E. Wilson, president of General Motors, today told the senate labor committee he "never will sign" a closed shop contract.

"I wouldn't sign a closed shop agreement," the corporation head declared. "I never will sign one. When it gets around to that they can make a farmer out of me."

The white-haired GM executive expressed his views under questioning by Senator Morse (R-Ore.), who told Wilson: "The thing you are overlooking is that we have to protect working men from employers who want to destroy the right to organize for economic benefit."

The labor committee is conducting hearings on a sheaf of bills designed to iron out labor-management troubles. One of the measures would outlaw closed shop contracts, which require a worker to join a union to get a job.

SP Official's Mother Killed

Mrs. Sara E. Badgley, about 65, listed as one of the passengers killed in the Southern Pacific's crack streamliner, the San Joaquin Daylight, Tuesday afternoon, was the mother of Rex B. Badgley, former Southern Pacific trainmaster stationed in Klamath Falls and now at Dunsuir, Calif.

Mrs. Badgley had not made her home here but had visited her son in this city, friends said today. Her address was given as Dunsuir but it is thought she was en route to visit her son. Badgley came to Klamath Falls in June, 1942, replacing Harry Sprague as SP trainmaster who was transferred to Dunsuir. He was there until February, 1944, when Badgley was sent to the San Francisco main office and replaced here by W. E. Hughes, present trainmaster. Badgley was then called into service with the rank of lieutenant colonel, US army transportation corps and served in the Paris office. He replaced Sprague in November at Dunsuir.

Fishing Boat Hits Hot Weather

ASTORIA, Feb. 5 (AP)—Fishermen accompanying the expedition of the Pacific Explorer reported here today that they were fishing in temperatures of 110 degrees off the coast of Mexico.

They said the water temperature is running so high that refrigeration facilities aboard the 8800-ton vessel have been hard pressed.

As insurance against a refrigeration failure, the ship is carrying 50 tons of ice.

The Pacific Explorer has received several hundred tons of tuna.

Waterfront sources were advised that the fishing fleet which delivers to the huge refrigerator ship will soon be increased to 15.