

YOUTH FREED FROM GALLOWS

Governor Commutes Death Sentence To 99 Year Jolt

WALLA WALLA, Jan. 9 (AP)—A last-minute, eleventh hour reprieve gave Joseph (Joe) Maish, 17-year-old Vancouver high school youth, his life today under a 99-year sentence at the state prison and the badly-broken youth's first words were "Thank you very, very much."

It was a few minutes after 11 p. m. last night that word of Governor Wallgren's commutation was given to the frightened, half-sobbing youth. The governor's office at Olympia had announced he had made his decision a half hour before.

"The governor of the state of Washington," Warden Smith began, "partly because of the demand made upon him by the public, and partly out of the goodness of his heart, has commuted your sentence to 99 years, instead of death."

Maish, convicted of stabbing LaDonna Tosca, a high school girl, to death in a rape attempt at Vancouver a year ago last December, was shaking and trembling. He had eaten his "last meal," which was several cream puffs, and had had a prison chaplain's spiritual solace all evening for his after-midnight date with the gallows.

With an impulsive gesture, Maish looked towards a window. He waved his hand, almost unconsciously, as if glad to know there would be an out-of-doors for him again.

Warden Smith went on and told Maish he might never get out of prison and added:

"Living will impose a much greater responsibility than dying. But there are men here to help you."

"Thank you very, very much," Maish said. "I'll do my very best. I'll try, I'll try hard. I surely will."

He broke down and was crying again when Dr. Wallace A. Pratt, who came to the state prison a short time earlier for the purpose of pronouncing Maish dead after the hanging, came into the room.

"Congratulations, Joe. You're lucky, old boy," he said.

Governor Phones

It was at 10:50 p. m. that Governor Wallgren had called Warden Smith from his executive offices at Olympia.

"Tom, I've decided to commute the kid's sentence. I'm going to make it 99 years, Tom, because I don't want this kid to get out of that place!"

A barrage of requests for executive clemency had reached the governor's desk in recent days. The state has never executed a person as young as Maish. As late as last evening, telegrams from three of the jurors who convicted Maish and from Prosecutor DeWitt Jones, Clark county prosecuting attorney, were sent the governor supporting such action.

Then a few minutes later the governor issued a statement to newsmen and said he thought it so important that he wanted it printed in full to explain his action.

He said the decision was the "most difficult and heart rending one" he had ever made. He departed from usual policy, he said, because he had received no recommendations for clemency from the judge (Superior Judge Charles W. Hall) or the prosecutor in the case. (It was not immediately explained whether Prosecutor Jones' telegram last night, announced at Vancouver by Maish's attorney, Louis Schaefer, had reached Olympia.)

"I cannot believe that the best interests of society require the hanging of a child," the governor said. To newsmen, the governor went on to say, however, that the "boy should not get out of prison."

"This was my idea in commuting the sentence to 99 years . . . There is more to this crime than appears on the surface."

More Consideration

"Society must give more consideration to these social problems and juvenile delinquency. To a certain

extent families, mothers and fathers are responsible."

He will recommend to the next legislature, he said, with "all the force at my command" that the criminal code be amended to deal with such cases "in a more enlightened manner."

Maish went to bed about 15 minutes after receiving the news. The doctor, who was to have pronounced him dead, gave him sleeping pills.

At Vancouver, Maish's father, Frederick, a night dock watchman, and his mother, who made a personal appeal to Governor Wallgren last week, were overjoyed at the news. Many friends and neighbors were assembled at their house when they received the word, before midnight.

"They were all overcome with emotion," Attorney Schaefer said. "I never did believe the governor would let Joe die," the mother said. "I have prayed all the time for my boy, my sick boy."

Japs Forming Farm-Labor Party

TOKYO, Jan. 9 (AP)—A middle-of-the-road program of "cooperative socialism" was announced today by 24 members of the Japanese house of representatives who resigned from the social democratic party.

The group is forming a new farm-labor party. They are followers of Rikizo Hirano, former agriculture and forestry minister who resigned recently from the party and was dismissed from the cabinet by Premier Tetsu Katayama for political activity.

"Liftists and rightists are enemies of democracy," said the Hirano group in a statement.

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Candidate



Here is Douglas McKay of Marion county, first to announce for the republican nomination for governor in the May primary. McKay is a native Oregonian, graduate of Oregon State, veteran of both wars, and an automobile dealer at Salem. He is now in the state senate.

Lumber Pay Talks Start

Wage discussions for lumber and sawmill workers were under way today between the Pine Industrial Relations committee negotiating group and representatives of the Klamath basin district council (AFL) at the PIRC office.

The CIO-IWA lumber and sawmill workers are not taking part in today's talks. PIRC Secretary Chet Irving said. The AFL delegation is led by K. A. Gordon, local business agent and state AFL council president.

Several weeks ago at Grants Pass the state council voted to seek a possible 50-cent hourly pay boost for lumber and sawmill workers and that is expected to be the topic for today's discussions. The CIO-IWA lumber workers have not announced a wage boost goal.

Irving said that Monday a different PIRC employers' committee had a session scheduled for Susanville with representatives of the Northern California district council (AFL).

TO MEET

BATAVIA, Jan. 9 (AP)—The United Nations good offices committee announced today it would meet Sunday in Jogjakarta with leaders of the Indonesian republican government to "complete" discussion of cease fire proposals and Dutch amendments.

The committee said President Soekarno, Premier Amir Sjarifoeddin, former Premier Sutan Sjahrir and Mohamed Hatta, vice supreme commander of the armed forces, would attend.

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McKay Has Campaign Under Way

Douglas McKay, Salem auto dealer and state senator, is starting to organize his campaign for the republican nomination for Oregon governor, with Ralph W. Emmons, also of Salem, serving as secretary of the "McKay for governor" committee.

Although no branch of the organization has been formed in Klamath Falls as yet, local GOP leaders see no obstacle in McKay's path if he wants to get a campaign going here because he has a sizable following. He is due for a visit here this month.

McKay is a Marion county conservative of the Earl Snell and Robert Farrell type, and may assume much of the Snell-Parrell following in the party. He was a close friend of the late Senator Marshall Corbett and helped Corbett in the latter's campaign for the senate presidency last year.

He was the first to announce an intention to run for the gubernatorial nomination, coming out immediately after John Hall was raised to the office by the death of Governor Snell in October.

McKay was born in Portland in 1893, of a family which has lived in Oregon more than a century. His grandfather came to this state in 1841 as an employee of the Hudson's Bay company.

The republican candidate is a graduate of Portland schools and Oregon State college, and is a veteran of both World Wars. In the first he was a combat lieutenant with the 31st division, and in the second a captain at Camp Murray and Camp Adair.

McKay is a former mayor of Salem and has been a state senator since 1935.

Although the peace of 1783 granted the Minnesota territory to the United States, British fur traders continued to operate and man forts in the area until after the war of 1812.

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Arab Warfare Virtually Closes Holy Land Shrines

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (AP)—The Hill of Crucifixion where Christ died and the Holy Sepulchre from which he arose are virtually closed to Christians by the Arab state of armed siege within the walled old city district of Jerusalem.

Jews are barred from the ancient wailing wall, now under the tommy-guns of Arab guards, and the robed Moslems who walk down the narrow cobbled street to the guarded gates of the mosque of Omar on the site from which Mohammed ascended to paradise carry rifles openly.

None of this is the intent of the milling tense Arab throngs within the serrated walls. It is the result of the heightening terror of virtual civil war over the partitioning of Palestine.

In evidence that the holy places still are open—if pilgrims dare to venture there—I entered through the tightly guarded Jaffa gate and walked three hours through jammed bazaars teeming with veiled women, children, vendors, goats, burros and men armed with every type of gun to visit all three shrines.

When armed men stopped us, my Arab companion hesitated to explain that I was an American. Here-fore friendly Arabs now know America as one of the leaders in the United Nations plan to divide Palestine. So in the land where Christian and Saracen fought to death

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