

Mayor Urged To Press 'Snow' Study

Peace and quiet reigned at Monday night's city council session with the usual flare-ups missing.

"Black snow" suit flying from the Consumers Heating company smokestacks, came in for a brief discussion, as Councilman A. F. Conroy pressed Mayor Ed Ostendorf for appointment of an "impartial" committee to study the problem.

The mayor said he has been having some difficulty finding impartial people to put on the committee but he will make the appointment soon.

License fee on Bailey Brothers' circus to be here April 28 will be collected but will be turned over to the Kiwanis club for development of the club's park. Kiwanis are sponsoring the circus. Ted Reeves, Kiwanis president, made the request to the council.

Parade Okayed

Councilmen okayed a request from Mel Carpenter, representing the Klamath Gems, professional baseball team, to hold a parade marking the end-of-the coming season May 8.

Ed Dunham, property owner, of 13th Oak, asked the city to close off Esauina street because of mud that washes down onto paved streets below and closes drains in the sector. City dads turned the matter over to City Engineer E. A. Thomas for action. The closure will affect only the section of Esauina where there are no residences.

Headings of property sales closed the unusually short meeting.

\$48,550 In Permits OK'd

A \$22,000 construction job to set back Adair's Furniture store at 2244 B. 6th, brought the week's building permit total to \$48,550. A Dovers will do the work.

The structure is one of those left standing just at the street's edge when 8th was widened, and now must be set back with sidewalks laid in front. The state highway department is handling the job.

Other permits okayed by the city council Monday night include the following: A. B. Larsen, \$1000, remodel residence, 1935 Portland; Leonard Mayfield, \$150, remodel, 731 Division; A. Dovers, \$4000, shop building, Broad and Oak; C. R. Orens, \$4500, re-roof, Klamath Lake Moulding company, 6th and Spring; Tom Harper, \$15,900, new residence, Eldorado and Fremont; John Metcalf, \$300, new foundation and remodel residence, 2304 Eberlein; Lekberg and Duncan, \$2000, remodel Pluhner's Bakery, 7th and Pine, and Howard B. Holt, \$100, remodel residence, 1636 Worden.

House Approves Highway Measure

WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—A \$1,500,000,000 three-year federal aid highway program was approved Monday by the house. The measure was sent to the senate. It authorizes, but does not actually appropriate, \$500,000,000 for road work for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1950, 1951 and 1952. The actual appropriation must be made later.

Of the total for each year, \$225,000,000 would be for projects on the basic highway system, \$150,000,000 for secondary roads, and \$125,000,000 for city roads in the federal system.

The money would be apportioned to the states on the basis of area, population, and existing post-road mileage.

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Stalin Attends Russian-Finnish Pact Signing



Prime Minister Joseph Stalin of Russia stands behind V. M. Molotov as the Soviet foreign minister signs 10-year Russian-Finnish mutual aid pact in the Kremlin, Moscow. Rear, left to right, are: V. A. Zorin and A. Y. Vyshinsky, Russian vice ministers of foreign affairs; Premier Mauno Pekkala of Finland, and Stalin. Left at table is Molotov's aide.—AP wirephoto.

Come Home, Mr. Benton

By FRANK TRIPP

Mr. Truman said that sending potential war materials to Russia was shipping to a friendly nation; that some of it had been ordered two years ago. Which made it all right, he thought.

A week before that classic alibi from our head man, a republican congressman said we had promised these things to Russia and we should keep our word.

My father once promised me a rifle—which he repossessed and locked up after I had shot a neighbor's cat.

A few days preceding these amazing Washington pronouncements, 13 locomotives were shipped from an army holding point six miles from my house—destined to Finland.

A reporter dug up the story and observed in connection with it that Finland is dangerously close to Russia both geographically and dictatorially. After the story came out it was revealed that 46 Russian type locomotives have been thus sold and some shipped. Shipment of the remainder has been held up "pending investigation."

Shortly we began to hear about millions of war excess going to Stalin and his dominated sphere, including bomber plane engines, bought with Americans' war bond savings. Never promised, not under two-year-old orders; but with the knowledge and consent of agencies now getting set for war with those who received them.

William Benton of the state department—one of 25,000—by Mr. Truman's appointment, leads a 29 member U. S. commission now attending a United Nations freedom of information conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

This is to suggest that the commission might well have held some dress rehearsals in Washington and gone to Geneva with clean noses.

This column and plenty of other writers and journals of the supposedly free and informed American press have been pounding away for months for freedom of information at home. A kind that would let you know what is going on.

Mr. Benton's parting word, as he left for Geneva was: "The goal of the American delegation must be to lay a cornerstone for an ultimate broad world acceptance of the fact that freedom of information is the keystone of democracy and thus of peace."

I want to ask every uneasy American who reads this, just one question:

What kind of freedom of information have you had when men to whom you entrusted your ship of state seek your billions and conscription of your sons to defend you against a "friendly" nation to which they have permitted to be shipped materials, and even weapons, which may be used to destroy you?

Just how far do such acts fall short of being treason-by-negligence?

Had these things been known to the people four ago they would not have happened. The damnable secrecy which shrouds and sanctifies the deeds of the clique of Washington spendthrifts forms an iron curtain as dangerous as any that Russia ever dropped.

Again, the importance of our press comes home to us. But that it is free is not enough.

It is free to speak, yet cannot speak what it does not know. It can dig and pry and will, in time, unearth the truth. Sometimes the truth comes late. God grant that the recent sickening truths have dawned in time.

We send commissions to Geneva. We blast Europe with radio pleas that the people shake off the fetters

of secret government. Meantime we are victims of the very secrecy which we condemn. What must be Joe Stalin's biggest laugh, to us is tragic.

Many of our national ills would never be if they could not fester in the dark. A few men take it upon themselves to be judges of all things.

They only go back to the people for money and for votes. Relatively few are schooled in their tasks. Most of them are political choices. Many move from post to post, according to party loyalty or their financial needs. They dominate vital functions of which they know nothing. They puff all up with prominence and title.

The inspiration and guidance which could make them really great are back among the people from whom they hide their acts. Instead they guide each other, the blind leading the blind, into deep waters—and drag us with them.

True democracy requires that the governed know the course they pursue in times of peace. Only in war is there excuse for the kind of secrecy which has brought us to our present world plight.

The pressure of public opinion is great. It can only be safe pressure when the people are informed. Those who fear or distrust informed public opinion or withhold the truth from the people are not fit to hold public trust.

Come back home, Mr. Benton—!!! We clean up our own doorstep.

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Wood Lab Fund Rodeo Gets Cut Blasted

WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP)—Rep. Mack (R-Wash.), chided the house Monday for appropriating \$60,000,000 for research in production of oil from coal and refusing to grant \$1250,000 for seeking methods of utilizing 109,000,000 tons of wood waste.

The house last week cut funds in the agriculture department bill for the forest products laboratory at Madison, Wis., from \$1,250,000 to \$1,000,000.

Mack offered a letter from the Simpson Logging company, Shelton, Wash., saying it used 44,000 tons of wood waste annually in making wall board.

"I do not know that the additional \$250,000 asked for the Madison laboratory will develop use for all of the wood that is going to waste, but I believe that \$250,000 will be as good a calculated risk as any of our government undertakes," Mack said.

"Our government, on a purely dollar and cents revenue basis, has a great stake in seeing this waste wood utilized, even if we don't consider the far greater values of more jobs and more wealth to consume and enjoy which utilization of that waste wood would provide."

Mack said that 57 per cent of all timber logged is left either in the woods to rot or is lost in milling and manufacturing processes.

He said he hoped the senate will restore the \$250,000.

Employment In Area Shows Gain

An interesting note in the employment situation in this area, is that California is contributing the largest percentage of the increasing number of in-coming job seekers.

Employment showed a slight increase in the number of job openings during March but at the end of the month there were only 24 unfilled openings.

Weather, always a big factor in the employment picture here is usually unfavorable to labor during March and April, delaying logging, building construction and farming, but May is expected to see increased activity in these lines.

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be addressed to Karl Wahl, Red Bluff, Calif.

Among events will be bucking horse contests, bareback bronc riding, Brahma bull riding, bull riding, bulldogging, single steer roping contest, calf roping contest, wild horse race, cowhorse contest.

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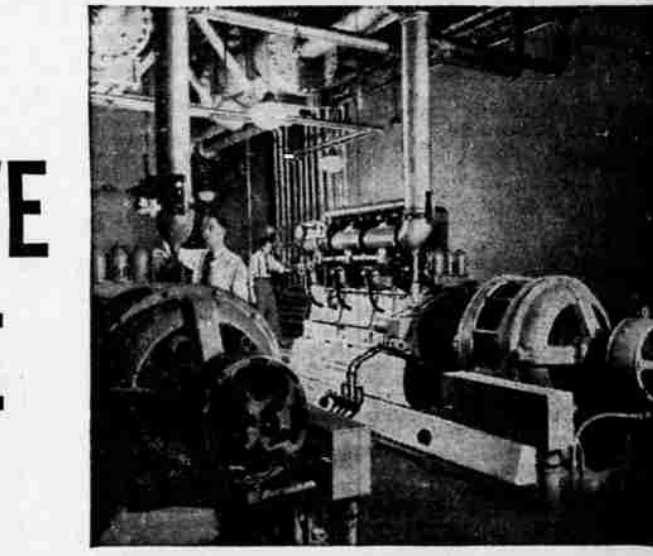
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