

Purchasing Agency Goes Into Action

WASHINGTON, July 1 (AP)—The government put a new agency to work today at mass purchasing for most federal bureaus, in a move to save money.

It was suggested as an economy step in the government reorganization plan of the bipartisan commission headed by former President Herbert Hoover.

Congress finished legislation setting up the new general services administration yesterday and President Truman quickly signed the bill into law.

At its head Mr. Truman placed a former army colonel and Oklahoma lawyer, Jess Larson.

Larson has been serving as federal works administrator. But before that he was Uncle Sam's biggest merchandise salesman, disposing of billions of dollars worth of surplus government property as war assets administrator.

His nomination for the job of general services administrator was due to go to the senate today. His duties would be to handle property management and buying for a group of major agencies. Some government departments, like the military, will continue to do their own buying and housekeeping chores.

In selecting Larson President Truman asked him to see that small business gets a "fair share" of government contracts.

"There is always the danger," Mr. Truman said in a statement, "that the natural desire for flexibility and speed in procurement may lead to excessive placement of contracts by negotiations and undue reliance upon large concerns."

"This must not occur."

The president noted that the law permits exceptions to the requirement that all purchases and contracts for federal supplies and services must be made by advertising for bids.

Moore Park Travel For Year Heavy

Heavy attendance at Moore park this year has been recorded by Caretaker Bert Stott, with many large picnics and parties being held on the recreation grounds.

This attendance is heavier than last year's, Stott says, probably because people are sticking a little closer to home these days.

Efforts on park improvement have been distributed among the several smaller parks in and around Klamath Falls. The only thing on the agenda for the rest of this year for Moore park is a proposed enlarging of the ice skating rink.

Closing time at the park has been extended, and the hours are now from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. inclusive.

Park authorities would like to thank the organizations which have held picnics and parties there this summer for their fine cooperation in keeping the area clean.

Fishermen Stay Out Of CVA Row

ASTORIA, July 1 (AP)—The Columbia river fishing industry is going to stay neutral—for the present—in the CVA controversy.

J. H. Cellars, secretary of the Columbia River Salmon and Tuna Packers association, said a poll of packers showed they didn't want to take sides on establishment of a Columbia valley administration.

Reporting to Assistant Secretary of the Interior C. Girard Davidson, Cellars said members "are not blind to some of the merits behind the CVA proposals nor to the glaring faults of the present method of achieving river basin development."

However, until further public discussion is held, the association will take no position, he concluded.

CEREMONY
SEATTLE, July 1 (AP)—Governor Langlie will snip a ribbon with a pair of scissors, then ride the first free automobile across the Lake Washington floating bridge Saturday when tolls are lifted at 4:30 p. m.

Clarence D. Martin of Cheney, former governor who officiated at ground-breaking ceremonies Dec. 29, 1938, also will participate.

Actual earnings of the bridge were in excess of the \$5,000,000 worth of bonds which financed construction. An airplane will drop 300 pounds of rose and sweet pea petals during the brief ceremony on the toll plaza.

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East-Side, West-Side Argument On

PORTLAND, July 1 (AP)—The state board of control has the old east side-west side argument in its lap now.

The board, which inspected sites here yesterday for the new \$2,500,000 state office building, was urged by the city planning commission to choose a west side location, near existing government buildings.

But Harry Pedersen, planning commissioner and president of the East Side Commercial club, submitted a minority report saying the new building should be on the east side.

The state board will consider the matter.

Balkan Pact Said Broken By Russians

WASHINGTON, July 1 (AP)—The United States today accused Russia of disregarding Balkan peace treaties.

A state department note said the Soviets are trying to block action by the western powers on charges of human rights violations in communist dominated Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

The charge was made in the latest of the long series of attacks by the western powers on alleged denials of religious, political and other rights in the three countries.

The state department announced the note was delivered to the Soviet embassy here yesterday. It accused Russia of disregarding peace treaty provisions by refusing to join with the U. S. and Britain in handling disputes which arise under the peace treaties.

On May 31 Britain and the United States invoked treaty clauses specifying that when disputes arise they shall be handled by ranking American, British and Russian diplomats in each of the Balkan capitals.

On June 11 Russia replied that no violations of peace treaties had occurred, that the western powers were trying to meddle in the internal affairs of the countries and that the Russian government saw no reason for having the big three diplomats even discuss the matter.

The American reply—Britain took the same position in a note yesterday—asked that the Russian government "reconsider its decision" and agree to the three-power talks in each of the Balkan capitals.

Western Band To Play Here

Eddie Kirk, western singer, and his orchestra will be in the armory the night of July 4, to play for dancing.

An interesting feature of this Fourth of July dance, arranged for the dancing public by Baldy Evans, is that there will be continuous dance music throughout the evening with Kirk's and Baldy's bands playing alternate 10-minute periods from 8:30 p. m. to 1 a. m. One orchestra will occupy the podium and the other will be placed on the right hand side of the hall on the dance floor.

Kirk has made his mark singing such hits as "Candy Kisses," "The Gods Were Angry With Me" and "Sweet Little You," for Capitol recordings. He has appeared in over 25 motion pictures and was featured over CBS on "Hollywood Barn Dance," also was featured on a show with Gene Autry for nearly a year and has toured the country with the Andrews Sisters in their "Eight to a Bar Ranch Show."

More Prosperity Predicted For US

CHICAGO, July 1 (AP)—Undersecretary of the Treasury Edward H. Foley Jr. declared Thursday that all signs point to continued American prosperity "beyond anything we have experienced in the past."

America's economy is strong, Foley said in a speech prepared for the convention of the International Circulation Managers' association.

"There has been no undermining of that strength as we have readjusted our business structure to said. "Some few critics have mistakenly readjustment for something basically destructive. I believe they are now realizing their error."

Foley cited the cash position of Americans as one of the "foundational stones of our economic power."

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Highway Commission Keeps Going On Long-Range Plan

During the past three years (1946-47-48) the state highway commission has been contracting and constructing a three year highway construction program which has totaled approximately \$52 million in money and which will result in the improvements of some 1891 miles of roads in the extended motor transportation grid of the state. In comparison with the progress made

in other states in the conduct of its highway construction program for this period, Oregon stands in seventh place among the 48 states of the union.

Of the \$52 million, approximately \$40,300,000 represented federal aid projects, the remaining \$11,700,000 state projects to which no federal money attached. This work constitutes what is called the

"first postwar program," as initiated by the 1946 road act of congress, which earmarked \$36 million (\$21 million of federal funds and \$15 million of state funds) for federal aid construction in Oregon during the three-year period.

The second postwar federal aid program was authorized and initiated by the congress in June 1948. Under this program, the highway commission will have available approximately \$21 million in both state and federal funds for construction and federal funds for construction work during the coming two years, the program for which was set up,

in major part, by the commission at its May meeting.

On June 27 and 28, at a meeting held in Portland, the commission let contracts totalling approximately \$3 million. One of the largest lettings in amount and number of projects in the history of the commission. One \$300,000 project included in the list is for construction work on the Ochoco highway and is a segment of the second postwar program, the remainder being remaining construction items of the first postwar program. There will remain for subsequent contracts about \$3,250,000 of the first postwar

program, of which \$1,700,000 covers the completion of the Harbor Drive improvement in Portland.

Before the close of the present year the commission expects to let contracts covering all remaining fragments of the first postwar program construction, together with

the major portion of the first year of the second postwar schedule, as set up at the May meeting of the commission.

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