

US Agencies Prefer Being Billed To Buying Stamps

WASHINGTON (AP) — Post Office officials said Saturday most federal agencies apparently prefer to be billed for their mail-handling costs rather than buy stamps for their mail-handling program.

However, a full rundown on the various methods available for having each department and agency pay its own mail costs will not be compiled until the end of January. That is the deadline for making reports to the Post Office department.

The long-established "free mail" system the government went out last year, when President Eisenhower signed a congressional act designed to whittle down the Post Office's huge deficit by about 36 million dollars a year.

It boils down to a government bookkeeping operation in which the Post Office gets out from under the load of carrying everybody else's government mail costs. Each agency must pay for its postal services now.

A federal agency may (1) buy stamps and stamped envelopes, (2) use postage meters, or (3) continue using franked unstamped envelopes and pay up every three months.

In the quarterly settlement plan, the agency figures out how much it owes the Post Office on the basis of estimated depletion in stationary supplies. Such supplies are accurately inventoried once each year, at which time the quarterly payments will be "reconciled" with the actual depletion, allowing for a percentage of spoiled or unmailed stationary.

To simplify matters, the "first quarter" under the plan is considered to start Aug. 15, when the act was signed, and end Dec. 31. There is a 30-day grace period after each quarter for making estimated settlements.

The House and Senate are continuing use of the congressional frank for their members at a cost to the government of about \$1,700,000 a year. The senators and representatives are not required to make an individual accounting, but the Post Office will estimate the over-all volume through periodic sample counts, and bill the two chambers on an annual basis. Payment will come out of appropriations for the operations of Congress.

Ships Hit; 20 Seamen Feared Lost

WOLFESESS, England (AP) — Twenty seamen were feared killed today in a mysterious predawn collision that sank the 2,745-ton Italian freighter Vittoria Claudia in the English Channel.

The 7,354-ton French cargo steamer Perou, which crashed with the Vittoria Claudia, steamed away later with little damage and no reported casualties.

The Italian ship, whose home port was Genoa, reportedly carried a crew of 25, but only five survivors had been picked up by rescue vessels some five hours after the disaster 23 miles off this southern England port.

U. S. Air Force helicopters and a British helicopter and a seaplane of rescue boats reported spotting numerous bodies floating in the wreckage-strewn channel waters.

"It's a mystery at present how the collision occurred for the weather was clear as far as we could see," reported David Oller, a veteran sea rescue worker.

"The sea was dead calm with no wind," he continued, "but picking up survivors was made more difficult because the water was covered with a large amount of wreckage and a lot of oil."

Friday's Wash Day For Denver Cops

DENVER (AP) — There was a note of urgency in the voice of the Denver Police Department radio dispatcher:

"Attention all solo traffic enforcement cars!"

A pause and then:

"Today is your washday."

Startled listeners, who have been informed that officers were being reminded that Friday was their day for having their police cars washed.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE is Herald and News carrier Norman Singleton's slogan. Here he is on his Ward Street route replacing a battered and beaten paper box.

Columnists Think It'll Be Stevenson Again In 1954

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Four out of five newspaper columnists and commentators pick Adlai Stevenson as the 1954 Democratic presidential candidate.

Their selections were made during a question-and-answer forum on public affairs at a national convention meeting of Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity, here Friday night.

Sen. Symington (D-Mo) got the vote of Roscoe Drummond, chief of the New York Herald-Tribune Washington bureau.

The four who picked Stevenson, who lost last year's election to President Eisenhower, were: Doris Fleenor, commentator on the political scene; Marquis Childs, veteran columnist; Thomas L. Stokes, Washington reporter and Pulitzer prize winner and Stewart Alsop, news analyst.

The columnists had words of criticism for President Eisenhower, Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) and Republicans in general during the hour-long forum.

"Unless the Republican party produces a program in Congress that will appeal to the voters," Drummond said, "the almost inevitable result will be a four-year term for the Eisenhower administration."

Childs noted that if President Eisenhower "can rapidly revise his concept of the presidency" he has a chance of formulating a program which the narrowly divided Congress will approve at its next session.

He said the report is current in Washington that the resignation of

Boy Gives Self Up After Killing

FLOODWOOD, Minn. (AP) — A 17-year-old youth drove into this northern Minnesota community early Saturday and confessed to the village marshal he had shot and killed the couple who had given him a home for the last five years and a boy who also shared the home.

Slain about 3 a.m. with a 30-30 rifle were George Snyder, 61, his wife, 56, and Richard Demars, 18, a ward of the state who lived with the Snyders. The Demars boy had recently recovered from polio.

Village marshal Francis T. Kokkanen said the youth drove nine miles to the home of the Snyders' son, Leonard, and told them what he had done.

Hokkanen took him to the village jail, where he immediately fell into a deep sleep.

Sheriff Sam Owens quoted the youth as saying he could not remember anything about the shooting.

"As far as we can tell right now the sheriff added, "it was a senseless, tragic killing. The boy said he had no quarrels with the old folks and that the Demars boy had been his best friend."

Hans Norland Auto Insurance, 627 Pine St.

Nixon, Wife Dine With Jap Emperor At Palace

By RUSSELL BRINES

TOKYO (AP) — U. S. Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife rode a storybook, horse-drawn coach today to the ceremonial high point of their Japanese visit—a luncheon with Emperor Hirohito at his most-quiet palace grounds.

The day was crammed with formal visits for the vice president, who is touring Asia on a world trip as President Eisenhower's special envoy.

This morning, he visited an hour with tough, 75-year-old Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida.

This afternoon, following the palace luncheon visit, he was guest of honor at a military reception at Pershing Heights, U. S. defense headquarters.

From that he hastened to an inspection of Japanese troops of the national security force stationed just outside Tokyo.

Tonight he attended a formal dinner with Yoshida.

Throughout the day Nixon repeated to the Japanese his message of American good will toward Asian nations and of the joint work of self defense that must be

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