



A CAREENING PICKUP TRUCK that left Highway 39 near the Malin-Tulelake Junction near midnight Monday, did a flip-flop and pinned the driver, E. H. Mercer, Tulelake, underneath in a borrow pit where it came to rest. Mercer, at the right, enroute home from Klamath Falls was uninjured. Kaler's ambulance was called to the scene. State police investigated.

Congress Reconvenes Today With Routine Business - - Waits State Of Union Talk

By JACK BELL. WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress reconvenes today in the political atmosphere of a campaign year and with President Eisenhower marshaling his administration in a drive to bolster peace and prosperity. The two houses, meeting at noon, scheduled only routine formalities, including the swearing in of six members to fill vacancies caused by deaths and resignations. There was the possibility they would adjourn quickly out of respect to Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, who died Sept. 8 when Congress was not in session. The first session of this 83rd Congress adjourned the night of Aug. 3. Tomorrow President Eisenhower goes before a joint session with the State of the Union message outlining his program for the year. He will emphasize that his administration is taking the initiative in far-flung activities for national security. The President will be speaking to a closely divided Congress, in

which Democrats have one more senator than the Republicans and only four fewer House members than the GOP.

Behind that mere numerical division lies a growing Democratic unity heightened by GOP attacks and the approach of the November congressional elections. Such unity could spell trouble for some of the Eisenhower domestic proposals but seems unlikely to produce any major challenge to his foreign policies which may face more opposition within GOP ranks.

One Democratic senator, who didn't want to be quoted by name, said a White House briefing of congressional leaders yesterday produced no indication of any "fundamental change" in foreign policies. Eisenhower was said to be preparing to pledge further strengthening of the free world's defenses, coupled with attempts to get Russia to agree to drop its aggressive tactics and to join in peaceful development of atomic energy.

On the home front, the President apparently intends to deal tomorrow only in broad objectives, getting down to cases later in messages on specific subjects.

In one of these, due Monday, congressional sources said the President will recommend a farm program combining flexible price supports with a move to freeze part of existing farm surpluses in a national defense stockpile.

This can be expected to anger some Democratic and Republican supporters of rigid high-level supports which Congress has favored for the last five years.

Controversy is almost certain, too, over a message on Taft-Hartley labor relations act changes, scheduled the same day.

Without revealing the nature of the program, Chairman H. Alexander Smith (R-NJ) of the Senate

Labor Committee said in an interview he expects the President's proposals to be "greeted with contentions by business organizations that he is trying to give everything to labor and by complaints from union leaders that the amendments still would leave it 'a slave labor law.'"

The President was said to have sought at yesterday's White House conference to get Democratic leaders, as well as the Republicans, behind the general objectives of his "new look" military program—aimed at increasing combat striking power through new weapons while reducing manpower.

He apparently failed to convince some Democrats, including Sen. Russell (D-Ga.), that it would be wise to withdraw two divisions from Korea.

While Russell was publicly silent on the two-division issue, he said a review of world conditions by the President and Secretary of State Dulles was "good because it was carried on with the utmost candor and frankness."

Dulles was described as having sounded an optimistic note on the chances for world peace—a note echoed publicly by Sen. Griswold (R-Neb.), just back from a visit to Europe and Asia.

Griswold, who did not attend the conference, said in an interview: "I have come back with the feeling that there is not going to be a

shooting war. There may be some shooting battles in small areas, but there is not going to be an all-out war between Russia and the Western world."

Lawmakers who attended the White House conferences the President has held this week said the

County Seat Battles In Oregon Have Been Bitter, Long Lasting Legal Feuds

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. When Newport won the county seat of Lincoln in 1953 from Toledo, the election was hotly contested and the courts were called on to rule in the matter. But it didn't hold a patch to the bitterness of the only double reverse in Oregon's courthouse change history.

That was in Union County. The original seat was La Grande, designated in 1864 as the temporary place of government. The people of that city, consolidating their position, built a courthouse without bothering to have an election to make the selection permanent.

This backfired when an election was finally held in 1874, and the town of Union won and the county records were moved. The moving, not left to chance, was accomplished by a raiding party of Union residents determined to see that the election result was made effective.

After 10 more years, in 1884, the people of La Grande got another election and won it. And they, too, left nothing to chance and descended on Union in a body and carried back the records.

The Legislature, playing a key role in all these maneuverings, had several cracks at solving the Gilliam County problem. When the county was established in 1883, Alkali—now Arlington—got the temporary seat. The Legislature ordered an election with the town getting two-thirds majority being the winner. That caused trouble, for in the 1888 election Fossil got 373, Arlington and Condon tied at 290 and Olex got 92. Hence Arlington stayed on in its temporary role and the next Legislature revamped the election requirements but again there was no winner and again the Legislature tried, by ruling out Fossil which had been third in the second voting. Finally, in 1890, Condon took the seat away from Arlington, 579-408.

Fossil itself ultimately got a courthouse, by being put in the new county of Wheeler in 1899. Even then it had opposition, winning with 436 votes while the now nearly deserted community of Twickenham got 257.

Madras was another Central Oregon victor, winning its Jefferson County courthouse from Culver in 1915.

When the people of Polk County were deciding where their government should sit, the contestants were Independence and Dallas. The latter, which won, used as an inducement the town's progressive nature and in proof of it, raised \$17,000 to finance construction of a narrow gauge railroad into the city.

In 1853 Empire City was name county seat of Coos County and it held that distinction until an 1896 election favored Coquille. The shift there was made with little bitterness and Coquille as the most central point got a big vote, even from the bay area. The first wooden courthouse was built in 1895 and when it needed replacement a few years back there was some talk of another shift, back to the Coos Bay-North Bend area. But the talk died down and Coos County, on Jan. 23, will hold open house in a new million dollar courthouse financed with receipts from Oregon and California Revested Lands.

The state's newest county seat, Newport, expects to open bids in early spring for its courthouse. Right now, the offices mostly are in the old school gymnasium, with the sheriff in the city hall, the

Pranksters Blow Hand Off Young Latvian Pianist

ST. CATHERINES, Ont. (AP)—Two construction workers, faced 15-day jail terms today for a Christmas Eve fireworks prank that ruined the career of an aspiring refugee concert pianist.

The court which sentenced Vasil Wostlenko, 24, and Frank Zaggar, 23, here yesterday was told they made firecrackers out of explosive detonators and tossed them on the steps of a hut at the Queenston hydroelectric project, where they work.

Another worker, John Kusiks, 35, picked up one of the explosives. It went off, shattering his right hand and injuring it permanently, a witness testified.

Kusiks had studied piano in his native Latvia for 16 years. He was working on the hydro project to learn English and save enough money to resume his musical career in Canada.

Workmen Disturb Solons At Work

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (AP)—Gov. Dennis J. Roberts was reading his annual message to the opening session of the 1954 State Legislature yesterday when he was interrupted by the clamor of hammers on chisels.

State House Supt. Robert T. Schofield was summoned to investigate. He found two men chipping tile on the roof of the House chamber. They said they didn't know the Legislature was back in session.

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—After a short hearing this week, U. S. Commissioner W. Madden Hill decided that a woman ought to be held on a charge of receiving goods stolen in interstate commerce.

But he was having a hard time deciding what would be a fair bond for her when he asked: "What is your husband doing?" "Four years," she replied.

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administration is proposed defense buildup on a major war is not that the United States is prepared to bear a burden for years to come. The hope of GOP eliminate a prospective proposed constitutional amendment by Sen. Bricker limit treaty-making is dimmed by their failure any compromise agreement at a lengthy session yesterday.

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