

CASUALTIES HIGH IN SHIP FIRE

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Something unusual is going on today in the city of Albany, in the state of New York. It is the annual meeting of the stockholders of the New York Central Railroad system—some 50,000 of them. This meeting will be the showdown battle for control of the two and a half billion dollar New York Central railroad.

The battle—as everyone knows who reads the financial columns of the newspapers—has been raging for weeks between the present management of the New York Central, headed by President William White, and Robert R. Young and a group of New York Central stockholders who are backing him. White alleges that under the present management the railroad has been well and wisely run. Young contends that it hasn't been as well and as wisely run as it could be and that if he and his associates are given control it will be BETTER run.

What makes the battle unusual is that it will be settled at an election participated in by some 50,000 stockholders and not at a gathering of a few tycoons in a smoke-filled room.

That dramatizes for us as nothing else could a remarkable change that has come about in our economy. No longer is the great American business corporation the creature of a few financial giants. Fifty thousand stockholders, owning among them some six and a half million shares, constitute a modern democratic business institution if the shareholders choose to make it so.

They have apparently chosen to make it so in the case of the New York Central railroad. Today's meeting of shareholders in Albany is an interesting business development in the century of the common man.

It offers some interesting possibilities.

Our great steel industry, with its hundreds of thousands of stockholders on one side and its hundreds of thousands of workers on the other, is presently giving its full attention to the periodic battle over the distribution of the profits of the industry between the so-called owners and the so-called workers. In the steel industry, as in most of our other great American industries, the traditional conflict between the owners and the workers is complicated by the modern fact that many of the workers are also stockholders and therefore owners.

What would happen, do you suppose, if the workers in the steel industry should start saving their money and buying stocks of the steel companies and should continue to do so until in the course of time all of the stocks of all of the steel companies were owned by the workers in the steel industry?

If that should happen, would these costly periodic conflicts between the owners and the workers be either wise or necessary any longer?

I think not.

The American business corporation, you see, is capable of being made a sound and workable device for distributing fairly the products of industry among those who are engaged in industry.

The striking fact about such a development is that NOT A SINGLE NEW LAW WOULD BE REQUIRED to bring it to pass. It could all happen under existing law and existing business practice.

QUAKE

ATHENS (U)—A violent earthquake rocked central Greece early Wednesday damaging houses and injuring several persons.



SMILING FOR THE 9 o'clock photographer this morning is Grace Mayfield, note taker at the U. S. National Bank, 8th and Main.

House Passes KF Base Funds

Representative Sam Coon phoned the Herald and News from Washington just before noon today that the military appropriations bill containing an item of \$4,133,000 for the Klamath Falls jet interceptor base had just been approved by the house of representatives. The house vote, Coon said, had not been officially tabulated, but was practically unanimous.

Sheriff Fires Tax Employee

Irma (Polly) Dixon, 25 years an employee of the county tax office, was fired Wednesday.

Sheriff Murray Britton, who is also official county tax collector, said Mrs. Dixon had been dismissed because her services were "unsatisfactory." He would make no further statement.

The removal of Mrs. Dixon as a deputy tax collector brought a charge of "unfair treatment" from Mrs. Elsie Siemens, recently a candidate for county treasurer nomination, who last October 15 was fired from the tax office where she had worked for more than 25 years.

"Mrs. Dixon was the only capable person left in the tax office," Mrs. Siemens declared. "In my opinion, the reason she was fired was because she worked so hard in my campaign for county treasurer. She is a fine woman and was a loyal and efficient employee of Klamath County for 25 years."

At the time she was dismissed from the tax office, Mrs. Siemens said Britton discharged her because he resented the fact that she was generally known as tax collector. She added it was "pretty shabby treatment to be dismissed after more than 25 years of service with only three days' notice."

Mrs. Dixon refused to comment on her dismissal.

"I have nothing to say and I don't want to be quoted," she said.

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McKay Outlines Plans For Klamath Water Conference

Plans for an early conference to be participated in by all groups interested in water resource development in the Klamath River basin, with the hope of the beginning of the "new era" in the development of the Oregon Klamath River, were outlined today by Secretary McKay.

The groups, the secretary's letter says, include appropriate state agencies, water users, organizations and the California Oregon Power company. The purpose of the conference, Secretary McKay adds, will be to ascertain the position of all these groups in order that all points of view may be fully and adequately considered.

Secretary McKay says in his letter, Clyde H. Spencer, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation at Sacramento, has been instructed to confer with all interested groups. "These consultations," the letter continues, "will, we think, be mutually advantageous to the department of the Interior and to the groups themselves, particularly in view of the relationship of the matter to the report on the land and water resources of the Klamath River Basin and related areas now nearing completion under Mr. Spencer's direction."

Secretary McKay adds: "As you know, we in the department of the Interior strongly approve of water resources development being accomplished in accordance with the desires of the people involved. For this reason, the department's ultimate position in connection with the renewal or revision of the existing contract with the California Oregon Power company can not be formulated until we have an adequate expression of the wishes of those interested in water resource development in the Klamath River Basin. We are therefore most happy to have received your letter."

"I would, if I may, suggest that you keep in close touch with Mr. Spencer with the understanding, of course, that following an opportunity for us in the department to consider the results of Mr. Spencer's consultations, full opportunity will be afforded all interested parties to express their views upon the situation as it may then appear before the matter is concluded."

Secretary McKay's letter to Chairman Reed is in reply to a letter addressed to him on May 7 by the Oregon Klamath River Commission recommending that the Bureau of Reclamation sign a contract with Copco covering the waters from Upper Klamath lake providing that such a contract shall protect the needs of future irrigation development in the Klamath Basin area.

In his letter of May 7, the Oregon Klamath River commission expressed disapproval of the proposed project to take water from the Klamath river above Keno, pump it to Butte valley through a head of 170 feet, carry it across the valley and return a large part of the water through a tunnel, penstock and power plant to the Klamath river in California. The commission stated in its letter: "The proposed Butte Valley development, contemplating a diversion of 1000 second feet for power, would reduce the low water flow of the Klamath river between Keno and the Oregon-California line to that required for fish life. It would preclude the development of the power potential of the stream in Oregon, where the river falls about 110 feet. This power resource the state of Oregon does not wish to give up in favor of a power development wholly in California."

GOP Central Committee Meet Slated

Chief business at Tuesday evening's meeting of the executive committee of the Klamath County Republican Central Committee was the passing of a resolution to be forwarded to the state central committee and the naming of a nominating committee.

The resolution carried the recommendation that no convention be called for the purpose of nominating a senatorial candidate from this district until after the reorganization of the Oregon State Republican Central Committee. A candidate must be selected for the November ballot to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of State Senator Phil Hitchcock, who is resigning to join the staff of Lewis and Clark College in Portland. His term of office would have expired in 1956.

A copy of the resolution is to be forwarded to Ed Boenke of Eugene, Republican state chairman.

Under the state law, all county central committees and the state central committee must be reorganized within 30 days after the primary election.

A reorganization meeting for the Klamath County Republican Central Committee is called for Tuesday, June 15, at 8 p.m. in the circuit court room of the Klamath County Court House.

Chairman Wyatt Padgett states he is not a candidate to succeed himself as chairman. He named a nominating committee with Mrs. Annabelle Newton as chairman. It is very important that all duly elected committeemen and committeewomen attend the June 15 meeting, Padgett stated.

Klamath County is entitled to 96 precinct committeemen. Sixteen offices are to be filled at the reorganization meeting; chairman and vice chairman and alternates for both posts, secretary, treasurer, a district nominating committee of five, three delegates at large and two congressional committeemen.

Chairmen and vice chairmen of each county central committee will meet at the state central committee headquarters and elect new state committee officers at a meeting to be called by Boenke. No date has been set for this meeting.

Weather

FORECAST — Klamath Falls and vicinity: Fairly sunny and slightly warmer Thursday. High Thursday 61; low Wednesday night 36.

High yesterday	32
Low last night	33
Precip. last 24 hours	.02
Since Oct. 1	11.92
Same period last year	14.96
Normal for period	11.12

New Entrant In Queen Race

Fifth candidate to sign on the dotted line for Queen of the 1954 Klamath Basin Roundup contest is Darlene Winebarger, 18 year old Butte Valley High School sophomore. She is sponsored by the Mt. Hebron community.

Cold Weather Closes KF Pool

Swimming at the new Municipal Pool will be discontinued until the weather changes, Bob Bonney, park and recreation director, announced this morning.

Schine Reported As AWOL When Named For Guard Duty

WASHINGTON (U)—Pvt. G. David Schine's company commander testified Wednesday Schine took New Year's leave from Ft. Dix, N. J., in violation of instructions but was allowed to remain at home after Roy Cohn telephoned the fort.

Capt. Joseph J. M. Miller said he reported Schine as "absent without leave" but that no disciplinary action was taken against Schine, and Schine's service record does not show he was AWOL.

During his testimony Miller also said he never gave any "preferential treatment" to Schine, and that neither Sen. McCarthy nor any of McCarthy's aides ever asked him to do so.

Miller's story of the New Year's incident capped earlier testimony that Schine once apparently tried to offer him a trip to Florida, and also told him he was in the service "to remake the American military establishment along modern lines."

Miller said he had scheduled Schine for guard duty Dec. 31 and had specifically instructed him he was not to leave the post without Miller's authority. Miller said he also had advised Schine that because Schine had a Christmas pass, he would not be entitled to a pass for New Year's Day.

Continuing, Miller said it developed that Schine could not be found in the company area where Schine "was supposed to be."

He said he considered that Schine was absent from the company area, without permission, and ordered a search for him.



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HANOI, Indochina (U)—Vietnam troops moving east from captured Dien Bien Phu suddenly veered north today in an apparent attempt to encircle French defenses in the vital Red River delta.

The shift of Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap's Communist-led legions was believed designed to form a giant pincer squeezing the delta's northern perimeter while other Vietnamese troops threaten it from the west.

The French sent out U.S.-supplied B26 bombers and Corsairs to air strike was concentrated on troops bunched near Nha Phu, about 90 miles southwest of Hanoi.

Explosions Rock Big Navy Carrier

QUONSET, R. I. (U)—More than 100 men died and 220 were injured early Wednesday in two explosions and a fire aboard the aircraft carrier Bennington as she cruised along the eastern coastline.

Several hours after the Navy had announced that 79 were killed and 220 injured, the ship's skipper, Capt. William F. Raborn Jr., told newsmen that "more than 100" were killed.

The huge craft came into this port shortly after noon Wednesday, her decks lined with tired crewmen, their faces blackened by smoke.

Ensign Robert Grant of Brooklyn, N. Y., his own ankles bleeding, told newsmen "All I can say is, God I'm lucky to be alive." He was directing the evacuation of the casualties as he spoke.

Grant estimated the first two explosions occurred about 6:15 a.m. (EDT) Wednesday.

He said: "I was in the forward hangar bay when I heard general quarters alarm sounded. I listened for a moment and suddenly it dawned on me that there was no report that this was a drill."

The disaster probably was the second worst in naval peacetime history. There were 178 men missing or killed in 1952 in a mid-Atlantic collision between the destroyer Hobson and the carrier Wasp.

A shift of helicopters carried many of the seriously injured ashore to the Newport Naval Hospital across the bay from here as the 32,000-ton Essex class carrier moved toward port.

There was no immediate explanation of the explosions but one report said high octane gas was involved.

Involved in the fire evidently was caused by two explosions, one before the general quarters alarm was sounded and one afterward.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION

Grant related: "Five guys went to the hatch and I saw them pulling on it. The hatch seemed to be stuck. Suddenly a terrific explosion shook the ship and blew the hatch in. The five guys just vanished."

Grant said the hangar suddenly filled with smoke and that there must have been 30 or 40 men around, some choking and some coughing and others "just plain screaming."

"I think," he said through grim lips, "this was worse than war."

Grant said some one formed a chain. He went on:

"We all gripped another's hands and the lead man made his way to an opening to the starboard side forward. I guess plenty of the guys made it out."

"I must have been unconscious when I got out. Someone must have dragged me up. When I regained my senses all I could say was: 'Thank God, I had my clothes on.'"

Grant's hair and eyebrows were singed. He had no socks on, so his ankles got seared by flame.

"My ankles are raw and bleeding," he said, "but that is nothing, nothing at all compared to what happened to some of my buddies."

REAVE FIRE CREWS

Grant said the fire crews braved their lives in going deep into the forward lower deck to fight the blaze. "They fought it almost as soon as it started and were still fighting it at the time the carrier docked at Quonset."

The carrier reached port at 12:31 p.m., more than six hours after the estimated time of the explosions.

Secretary of the Navy Charles A. Thomas flew in from Washington to meet Capt. Raborn, of Oklahoma City, and begin the Navy's investigation.

From Washington President Eisenhower sent his personal and official condolences to the officers and crew of the carrier and to their families, many of whom waited anxiously for the big ship to dock.

Another survivor, Aviation Electrician Mate Francis Toth of Phoenixville, Pa., was a volunteer in the first fire control crew that went into action on the fourth deck.

"They wanted a crew and I was not a member but I just couldn't stand there. I had to help," he said.

FIRE ESTIMATE

Toth estimated the fire burned about four hours. He was blackened and shaken by his experience. He had been aboard the Bennington only three days.

He said there was good order but that it was an hour before the crew could get at the bodies of

Committee Completes City Budget

The city budget committee Wednesday night completed its work of budgeting the city's general funds. Total figures will not be available until late this afternoon.

Ed Bell, chairman of the budget committee, described it as "extremely tight."

The committee took advantage of the six per cent allowable increase in levy which permitted under state law for general fund operations, but even so, the budget is "tight."

Consideration was given the Civil Service Commission's recommendation regarding the police department and fire department to a certain extent.

The committee allowed \$9,300 additional funds for the police department to enable council to hire two more patrolmen. This will make it possible to establish a 46 hour week for all policemen.

The budget allows \$1,440 additional funds for the fire department. This will enable the council to grant a 35 per cent living allowance to each employee.

Bell pointed out that it was with considerable difficulty that these requests were granted. There were no other wage increases.

The sum of \$1500 was placed in a sinking fund in long range planning for ultimate rebuilding of dog pound facilities. It was the thought of the budget committee that a like amount would be included in budgets for the next five or six years for this purpose.

Not included in the general funds but in the Memorial Park budget, which operates on its own income, is a sum of \$1,000 to provide employment of a maintenance and grounds man for seven months of the year.

Bell complimented the department heads and office employees for their cooperation and conservatism in handling details of their respective budgets.

Members of the budget committee are Bob O'Sullivan, Adolph Zamsky, Lester Offield, John McCulloch and Kasper Moty.

The budget will be subject to the acceptance of city council, ultimately advertised for public hearing and subject to the final approval of the council.

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OTI TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE, Thursday, May 27 in the new licensed practical nurse training classrooms in Farrell Hall on the campus from 1 to 3 p.m. Graduates of the OTI practical nurses training course now aid substantially in the staffing of the Klamath Valley Hospital and the Hillside Hospital. An additional course in practical nurses training is planned for September, 1954. Students receive pay for eight of the twelve months spent in this course. Pictured above are student practical nurses (left to right) Bonnie Weaver, Los Angeles, and Patricia Young, Medford. Mrs. Virginia Phillips (right) is the instructor.

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TENOR, SOPRANO and (a basso profundo?): Michael Wayne Elliott at 2½ months, already trying to sing with his parents, music students at the University of Washington. Both mother and father, Will and Catherine Blanas Elliott, had two of the five solo roles in the university's presentation of the Bach B Minor Mass with 300 combined voices of Bach Society Chorus and University Singers, accompanied by the University Symphony, held last Sunday afternoon in Meany Hall. Elliott, also a University of Washington basketball player, and his wife will be graduated in June; after which he will report to Fort Knox for army duty, taking his wife and son with him. He plans to teach high-school music after release from the army. Mike's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Blanas, 1036 Eldorado; and Mr. and Mrs. W. Dexter Elliott, 1240 Monclaire.