

STORM THREATENS CALIFORNIA

In The
Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This is written on the morning of the fourth day of 1956 — the year of the political big wind. Already the teletype is spitting out politics like a colored boy at a Mississippi picnic spitting out watermelon seeds.

House Democratic Floor Leader John McCormack says he thinks the Democrats should fight their major investigations this year on what he calls control of the government by big business.

He adds: "This administration is dominated by Big Business, and I think the public should know the extent to which Big Business has taken over."

Hmmmmmm! Let's see. According to official statistics of the U.S. treasury, people in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 income class pay 10 per cent to the government in taxes about 10 per cent of their average income and keep 90 per cent for themselves. Big shots in the upper bracket fork over 30 PER CENT of their incomes to the government and keep 10 per cent for themselves. Rugged, isn't it?

The senate agriculture committee is meeting today on farm legislation. Democratic Senator John Sparkman predicts the Democratic majority of the committee will come up with its own farm plan — which, he says, will be based on restoration of rigid farm price supports.

But — He adds — "It will go a LONG way beyond that." That ought to nail down the farm vote.

The Democrats obviously have the GOP's scared on this farm vote business. The New York Times says this morning the Eisenhower administration is reported to have a program to PAY FARMERS NOT TO PRODUCE SO MUCH.

The Times says congress will get next Monday an administration plan intended to reduce corn, wheat, cotton and rice crops by 20 per cent. Farmers who co-operate by NOT PLANTING all their acreage could take their reward in cash or in government surplus of the crop they DIDN'T GROW, disposing of that as they see fit.

I hope it isn't true. If it is true, I'm afraid I'll be tempted to buy a farm and let Uncle Sam pay me in cash in my little hot hand for letting it lie idle and grow up to weeds.

I don't think that would be good for our national economy and I'm SURE it wouldn't be good for me. People need to WORK for what they get.

I'd like to interject here a little story that has just come off the wire.

Police in Formosa have caught up with a young Formosan who was firing cyclists on the spot for riding without lights. He was posing as a policeman in plain clothes, and when the cops nabbed him he had collected \$15.

He has all the makings of a modern politician — whose motto is never WORK if you can think up a racket to get out of it.

In closing — Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy this morning renewed criticism of some of President Eisenhower's advisers — including the President's brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower. McCarthy says the administration would have a much better record if it would get rid of the Paul Hoffmans, the Harold Stenssens and the Milton Eisenhowers.

A year or so ago, McCarthy was a Big Bertha how he doesn't even rate as a pop-gun.

So he's hollering bloody murder about how BAD things are — his idea being to get back into the "spotlight, without which a politician is sunk."

Missing Ferry Found Near Slip

NEW YORK (AP) — A four-hour search for a missing ferryboat ended Wednesday when a heavy fog lifted slightly and a police launch located the 100-foot craft tied up a half mile from its slip.

The captain had tied up his craft at a shipyard on City Island when he could not locate his regular slip on the East River and Long Island Sound.

The ferry was reported missing after it failed to reach its City Island slip on a 14-minute run from Hart Island.

Middle-East Tour Set For KF Youth

CORVALLIS (AP) — Four Oregon farm youth have been assigned to countries in which they will spend six months as part of the international farm youth exchange program.

Winnifred Gillen, state extension agent at Oregon State College, said these are the assignments:

Marilyn Bradshaw, Albany, to Scotland; Ward Armstrong, Newberg, to India; Carolyn Varitz, Escondido, to Finland; and Tom Zinn, Klamath Falls, to a country not yet selected in the Middle East.

Armstrong will leave in October and the others in June.

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Ike Plans New Farm Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower plans to send to Congress on Monday a new farm program aimed at price stabilization through disposal of present crop surpluses and prevention of future oversupply.

A general idea of what to expect in the way of administration agricultural plans—a matter of high political potency in an election year—was presented Wednesday to Republican members of the House Agriculture Committee by Secretary of Agriculture Benson at a private breakfast get-together.

About the same time James C. Hagerty, presidential press secretary, said at Eisenhower's vacation headquarters in Key West, Fla., the message will go to the Capitol Monday "under present plans."

NO DECISION

Members who were present at the session with Benson said no firm decision had been reached.

Benson himself told reporters the same thing later, saying tentative proposals were being worked out by his staff and he hopes to go over them with the President at Key West Thursday or Friday.

Lawmakers attending the Benson breakfast were pledged to support, but word coming out of the meeting pointed to this broad outline of tentative plans.

1. A proposal to cut down by as much as 20 per cent the currently allowed acreage of surplus crops with farmers receiving in return for their acreage reduction a certificate equal to all or part of the value of crops the retired land would produce.

Farmers would be entitled to exchange the certificate for farm surplus commodities now held in government storage for use as they see fit.

CERTIFICATES

According to those attending the meeting, no suggestion was offered

by Benson for permitting farmers to exchange their certificates for cash as a direct federal subsidy. Presumably, however, a cash payment might be one alternative.

2. A "soil bank" plan based on long-range conservation practices and aimed at the prevention of future surpluses. The cost of such a program, it was reported, would be anybody's guess.

One part of the "soil bank" proposal envisages a range reserve whereby land would be put to grass and trees, with the land so reserved withheld from all production and pasture use.

Another part calls for a conservation reserve of surplus-producing cropland, with provision for all or part of it to be returned to production in periods of shortage as determined by the secretary of agriculture.

3. Stepped-up disposal of existing crop surpluses through increased use of government-held commodities for charitable, school and disaster uses, and increased trade of U.S. farm surpluses for strategic materials throughout the world.

The entire program, as now tentatively contemplated, lays main emphasis on ways to deal with the huge surpluses which have depressed farm prices to their lowest levels in more than a decade.

The Senate Agriculture Committee unanimously agreed meanwhile to rush approval of a broad new farm program.

Chairman Ellender (D-La.) told newsmen that Republicans and Democrats agreed at a closed-door two-hour session "to try to have the new program on the President's desk by February 15."

Ellender said key points would be:

1. Some form of "fertility bank" which would put from 400 millions to more than a billion dollars additional cash into pockets of farmers who withdrew production of acres in crops now surplus.

2. A revision of the administration's flexible price support program so that it could move upward from 80 per cent of parity "for quality commodities," instead of downward.

3. A combination "of gadgets" to dispose of huge surpluses in which the government now has some seven billion dollars invested in price support loans.

Reports of an administration effort to get the jump on the Democratic farm plan had circulated here earlier.

Ike Relaxes In Key West

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — President Eisenhower, his work completed on two major messages to Congress, arranged to take it "completely easy" today.

James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, said that for the first time since the President arrived here a week ago he had scheduled no work session on government business.

"This is a day when it looks like he can take it completely easy," Hagerty said.

Eisenhower, in Key West on his doctors' recommendation that he get more outdoor exercise in convalescence from his Sept. 24 heart attack, completed work yesterday on the State of the Union message and the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1.

The details and time of the hearing in Klamath Falls will be announced.

Engle Blasts Military Acres

WASHINGTON (UP) — Chairman Clair Engle (D-Calif.) said today the military has or is seeking public lands for military reservations equal to a strip 11 miles wide across the continent.

He summoned Defense Department officials before his Senate Interior Committee to justify the need for that much military acreage.

Engle said the committee will hear later, possibly late this month, from citizens who want to protest the military's action.

Engle said in a statement in advance of today's hearing that Congress is "becoming increasingly concerned" that military withdrawals from public lands are cutting down areas available for "multiple use."

The public lands, he said, should be considered dedicated to grazing, timbering, mining and fostering of fish and wildlife development. These uses are being threatened, he said, by huge military withdrawals for gunnery ranges and other defense purposes.

Some withdrawals have been ordered also along the continental shelf and may interfere with oil developments, he said.

"We want to find out if they make a fair determination of need before carving out these areas," he said.

Engle said Congress is considering the "propriety" of public lands in constitutional law. Its committees, he said, spend hours in hearings on bills for disposal of tracts of a few acres.

"Yet," he said, "the military may take an area a hundred miles square just by the stroke of a pen."

Abbott Alibi Gets Scored By Officer

OAKLAND (UP) — The prosecution recalled Berkeley Police Officer Willard Hutchins to the stand today in a new attempt to chip away at testimony offered by alibi witnesses in behalf of Burton W. Abbott.

Hutchins took the stand as a rebuttal witness for the first time yesterday. He quoted two major defense witnesses as making statements considerably at variance with their trial testimony.

Abbott is on trial for kidnapping and murdering 14-year-old Stephanie Bryan of Berkeley last April 28. Her body was found in a shallow grave near Abbott's Trinity County mountain cabin on July 20.

One of the witnesses whose trial testimony Hutchins disputed was Robert C. Hall, co-owner of a Red Bluff restaurant. Hall had placed Abbott in his restaurant about 6:30 p.m. on April 28. Red Bluff is about 200 miles from Berkeley, where Stephanie was last seen about 4:30 p.m.

Hutchins also contradicted the testimony of Charles S. Munds, San Pablo grocer, who claimed to have seen Stephanie in an auto with two men, neither of them Abbott, in front of his store on the evening of April 28.

Hutchins told of interviewing Hall at his restaurant on Oct. 25. "Did Hall tell you," asked Asst. Dist. Atty. Folger Emerson, "that he could no more tell you when Abbott was at the restaurant than he could fly like a kite?"

"Yes," Hutchins replied, "that is correct."

Earlier, Hall had denied making this statement to Hutchins. "Did he tell you," Emerson continued, "I don't know exactly the day or the time?"

"Yes, he did," Hutchins replied.

REWARD POSTER

Turning to Munds, Hutchins told of talking to him May 23 and showing him a poster with Stephanie's picture and the red ink legend, "\$2500 Reward."

Munds said at the time, Hutchins testified, that he was at first sure that Stephanie was the girl he saw; but that he now was more sure of it. And when shown the poster, Hutchins added, Munds said:

"That's the girl, I'm sure of it now."

At the trial, Munds had declared he never was uncertain of the girl's identity and had denied being shown the reward poster.

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KICKING OFF THE MARCH OF DIMES DRIVE in Klamath Falls Tuesday Mayor Paul Landry, left, presented his contribution to the three co-chairmen of the special events of the polio fund raising campaign. The co-chairmen are holding one of the polio dimes boards which will be placed in public places throughout Klamath County during the month-long campaign. The co-chairmen pictured with Mayor Landry are, left to right, U.S. Navy CPO Larry Guffel, U.S. Marine S-Sgt. Harold Morts and U.S. Air Force T-Sgt. James Shrum. Cuffel and Morts are recruiters in this area and Shrum is the Ground Observer sector sergeant here. The campaign chairman is Jay Kroksh. The special events co-chairmen will supervise the many special fund raising programs during the month.

Interim Group Plans KF Meet

An Oregon legislative interim committee on local government will hold a public hearing on "Pringle Area" problems in Klamath Falls later this month.

A steering committee to plan for the hearing will meet at the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce January 13, according to R. Frank Tucker, chamber manager.

The steering committee consists of Mayor Paul Landry, Alice Vitus and Truman Runyan, chamber Civic Affairs Committee heads.

Representatives of the Klamath County Court, labor unions, county and city school superintendents Carol Howe and Arnold Gralapp and Vernon Durant, president of the Klamath Board of Realtors, also will attend the meeting.

Subjects discussed at similar local government committee hearings in the state have included methods by which such services as sewage disposal, water, fire and police protection, public transportation, parks and recreation, road construction and maintenance can best be provided and financed in incorporated urban areas and in growing cities.

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Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity: Occasional rain through Thursday and windy at times. High Thursday 43; low Wednesday night 35.

High yesterday 38
Low last night 32
Precip. last 24 hours — trace
Precip. since Oct. 1 11.06
Same period last year 3.01
Normal for period 4.98

Douglas Flood Estimate Given

ROSEBURG (AP) — Preliminary estimates by city and county officials place Douglas County costs in the floods of Dec. 22 and 26 at \$243,800.

Gen. J. T. Pierce, county civil defense coordinator, said estimates have arrived from all communities in the county as requested by the federal government.

The county was one of 10 in Oregon made eligible for federal aid last week by President Eisenhower.

The figures include costs of protection of lives and property, including evacuations; of post-flood cleanup; and of emergency repairs to public installations, such as streets.

The county government's estimate was the largest, \$205,000. Myrtle Creek was the heaviest hit among nine cities reporting, listing apparent damage of \$9,600.

The estimates don't include the damages to homes and businesses. Gen. Pierce said there were about 460 reported evacuations, 276 in the Myrtle Creek area alone.

Morse Cites Storm Lesson

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recent West Coast floods should provide "a signal lesson to all of us," Sen. Morse (D-Ore.) said Wednesday.

"This awful disaster proved that in those parts of the state where we have made considerable progress with flood control projects great protection was afforded our people," he said.

"If we had not been prevented by short-sighted opposition from moving faster with river basin development, including very much needed flood control projects for which many of us have been working so hard, the loss from this flood in human and material values would have been much, much less."

Morse, commenting on the flood situation in his weekly report to his constituents, said flood control is completely justified from the standpoint of protecting human life, but added:

"However, if anyone wants to be materially minded about it, such a comprehensive flood control program as we have been urging is bound to pay for itself in dollars and cents, as evidenced by the great economic losses of the present flood disaster."

Army Engineers Eye Levees In Yuba City

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — A storm with warm rain and gale force winds blew in from the Pacific today, posing a serious threat to the flood-battered areas of Oregon and California.

The weatherman offered some hope that the new storm would be less severe than those that caused the devastation of Christmas week.

"There are no indications that this rain will be as heavy or last as long," he said. However, all interests should be watchful during the next 48 hours.

Early today, the California border area was receiving the brunt of the storm's fury. The rainfall was expected to spread south today to King City and Merced and to turn to heavy snow about the

7000-foot level in the Sierra Nevada.

The fact that the rain was warm and the weather was falling as high as the 7000-foot level was ominous. That meant it would cause a considerable runoff of the Sierra snowback, which would heighten the flood danger.

An average of six feet of new snow has fallen in the Sierra since the floods.

The danger of floods was "great" in the Sacramento Valley. At Yuba City, Army Engineers had 100 men, a dredge and 30 big earth-moving machines, fighting to close a 500-foot gap in the levee.

It was the breaking of this levee early Dec. 24 that caused 10,000 residents to flee for their lives when the Feather River poured into Yuba City and the surrounding countryside.

Lt. Col. Alvin D. Wilder, acting district engineer, said levee construction equipment was working "around the clock" to close the gap.

"Closure is scheduled to be completed by tonight," he said. "This fill will be four to five feet above the present water surface in the Feather River. The situation may become critical if the river stage rises more than three feet."

The Weather Bureau in Sacramento yesterday forecast a rise of up to four feet by late Thursday, but much will depend on where the storm is centered.

Ronald Thompson, supervising civil engineer for the Army, said if the new fill gives way, a five-foot wall of water would cascade back through Yuba City streets once more. However, it would cause considerably less damage than the 20-foot tower of water on Dec. 24.

Elsewhere, Army Engineers, sheriffs' patrols and others watched the banks of the Feather River in the North Coast region for signs of flooding.

FURTHER THREAT

In San Joaquin Valley, Wilder said there was the threat of further flooding if heavy rain falls in the next few weeks. The engineers ordered releases from Friant Dam behind Fresno stepped up to make room for runoff.

The dam holds 820,000 acre feet of water, 31 of which are 454,000 acre feet.

A Gomez, chief of the engineer's planning branch, said: "If you gamble, and let the reservoir stay high, and in the next few days get a storm, you are in for a major disaster. All the West Side of San Joaquin Valley will go under."

The death toll from the Christmas week floods was 72 in California and 13 in Oregon. Damage was conservatively estimated at 150 million dollars.

KPCA Slates Annual Meet

Plans are being completed for the Klamath Production Credit Association's annual stockholders' meeting to be held Saturday, January 14 in the Klamath Falls Armory. Some 500 farmers and stockmen and their wives from Klamath, Lake, Modoc and Siskiyou counties are expected to attend this meeting. The annual one of the largest farm gatherings in this area.

Three new directors are to be elected during the business meeting that will follow the luncheon hour and entertainment. Terms of W. H. Williams, Henley district, Walter Robison, Mt. Hebron and J. Randall Pope are expiring.

Holdover directors are Lee Holliday, Klamath Falls, president; E. M. Hammond, Merrill, A. R. Campbell and E. A. Geary, both of Klamath Falls.

Guest speaker will be A. R. Robertson, vice president of the Production Credit Corporation, Spokane.

Don W. Krider, secretary-treasurer of the Klamath Production Credit Association, reports that farmers and ranchers in Klamath, Lake, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lake and Harney counties used \$4,047,303 in credit from January 1 to December 31 of 1955.

A smorgasbord luncheon will be served at noon by Ed Miller, caterer. Entertainment will follow the luncheon.

Through the courtesy of the city traffic department, free parking stickers will be issued to those attending the meeting. These stickers will be mailed to members of the association with the official notice of the meeting.

Crater Snowfall Set At 92 Inches

After nearly continuous snow Tuesday in Crater Lake National Park, snow depth of 92 inches was recorded this morning, compared with 60 inches on this date last year. Nine and