



FRED A. KNUTSEN, president of the Spokane Federal Land Bank, will be main speaker at the annual stockholders' meeting of the Klamath-Lake National Farm Loan Association on Friday at 12 noon in the Winema Hotel. Knutsen, a native of Portland, Oregon, has been a member of the bank's legal staff since 1933 and general agent and general counsel of the Farm Credit District of Spokane since 1949. H. E. Hamaker, is secretary-treasurer of the Klamath-Lake National Farm Loan Association.

Ike May Veto Gas Proposal

WASHINGTON (UP) — Sen. George D. Aiken said today that President Eisenhower may veto the natural gas bill because of the furor over a \$2,500 campaign contribution which developed during Senate debate on the measure.

The Vermont Republican, an outspoken opponent of the bill, said there was a "50-50 chance" that Mr. Eisenhower would disapprove it in view of the controversy over the campaign gift offered to, but rejected by, Sen. Francis Case (R-SD).

A federal grand jury continued an inquiry today into the contribution offer, and three Senate committees were interested in various phases of the matter.

Aiken stressed that he had no private information on the President's intentions and was basing his belief on a general knowledge of Mr. Eisenhower himself.

Numerous reports circulated in Washington that the President had decided definitely to veto the bill. One such report came from a representative of the gas producing industry itself, which had hoped strongly for presidential approval.

The bill would exempt independent natural gas producers from direct federal price control. The President has until Sunday to act on it or it becomes law without his signature.

A Senate source close to developments said the President was under pressure from influential White House advisers to veto the measure, but the source said he was convinced Mr. Eisenhower still had not made up his mind.

Icy Air Sweeps Across Midwest

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Icy air spread across wide areas of the Midwest from the northern Rockies today as most of the South and East enjoyed mild winter weather.

The cold air from Canada, which kept temperatures below zero along the Canadian border in Montana and the Dakotas, moved southeastward into the upper and middle Mississippi valley and the western Great Lakes region.

At the same time warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico extended northeastward from the Gulf Coast through the Ohio Valley to New England as well as along the entire Atlantic Seaboard. Readings were in the low 40s in the Ohio Valley and considerably warmer than 24 hours earlier in areas east of the Appalachians.

Showers and thunderstorms hit parts of the west and central Gulf states and in the Ohio Valley. Scattered snow flurries fell in the northern and central plains and in the northern Rockies.

Ending Of Colorful Mardi Gras Signals Lent Season

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Church bells sounded the beginning of Lent today as New Orleans cleaned up confetti and beer cans after one of its most colorful Mardi Gras celebrations.

Thousands of tourists jammed into the city to see Rex, Lord of Misrule, hold sway in a realm of daytime merrymaking and Comus, God of Revelry, rule over a night kingdom of torchlit parades and fancy dress balls.

The celebration started at dawn when the first maskers appeared on the streets, continued as its high pitch as Zulu, King of the Negroes, departed from a barge at the foot of Canal street, and reached a frenzied climax with the big Rex and Comus parades.

With the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People urging dignified behavior, Zulu King Albert (Snake) Hamilton found himself at the head of a parade that pleased nobody.

NAACP Field Secretary Clarence Laws saw some improvement, particularly in the toast-drinking department, but thought the parade

still left "very much to be desired."

Zulu Grand Marshal James Alexander was even more unhappy—for a different reason. "Worst I've seen, and I've been looking at them since 1916," he grumbled.

High-stepping bands, staidly decorated floats and precision marching units graced the Rex and Comus parades, but the real show was the street dancing, general

masking and impromptu antics that prevailed everywhere in the city. Rex was Edgar Bright, a New Orleans cotton broker. The identity of Comus is never disclosed.

Stores were closed, downtown

streets blocked off to traffic and inhibitions cast aside to make way for the thousands of costumed citizens and tourists who turned out as clowns, hula dancers, men from Mars, plumed knights and endless other characters.

Intermittent rain fell during the afternoon and early evening, making sloppy going for the marchers but not slightest difference to the masqueraders, who milled through the French Quarter and downtown streets throughout it all.

The official celebration came to

an end at midnight when the mid-die partition lifted in the huge municipal auditorium and the dancing courts of Rex and Comus joined to toast each other's health and stage a mass ball.

But for many hours thereafter

cubby-hole night clubs on Bourbon Street, strippers piled their trade and hundreds of private parties went on all over the city.

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Three Airmen Abandon Jet

EDWARDS, Calif. (AP)—After circling for four tense hours, three Navy airmen bailed out rather than crash-land their disabled jet bomber on the Mojave Desert yesterday.

The three parachuted safely and the two-million-dollar A3D jet was shot down by three Air Force F100s as it flew pitilessly about 20 miles north of here.

The plane's landing gear stuck soon after taking off on a ferry flight from Los Angeles to Patuxent River, Md. The gear could not be lowered and the pilot, Lt. W. B. McGinty, Norman, Okla., said he would try a belly landing on Muroc Dry Lake.

Crash trucks stood by as the plane circled to use up fuel so that the possibility of fire would be lessened. Observer planes flew alongside as ground experts offered advice by radio to the tense airmen.

Metal panels, apparently landing gear covers, continued to drop off and finally the fliers decided to abandon ship.

"Evidently some of the falling gear damaged the horizontal stabilizer," McGinty later explained. "So I felt it was not safe to attempt a belly landing."

The other airmen were Lt. Kenneth L. Mellin, Alexandria, Minn., copilot, and Aviation Machinist's Mate J.C. C. W. Huffines, Gainesboro, Tenn. All were unhurt. The three were stationed at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

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