

Platform Being Erected

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ordinarily, Capitol architect J. George Stewart hardly even blows his nose without making a ceremony of it.

As the man in charge of construction at the Capitol, he takes pleasure in presiding at ground-breakings, flag-raising and ribbon-cuttings commemorating the start or finish of various projects.

During the Capitol building boom of the past couple of years, he has spaded up enough ceremonial dirt to qualify for the national plowing contest.

I was rather surprised, therefore, when I saw some workmen unceremoniously unloading some lumber in front of the Capitol steps. I was surprised, that is, after I learned what they were doing.

Report Hit By Demos

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democrats charged Tuesday that the Agriculture Department was using "partisan political purposes" in preparing a cost analysis of farm proposals made by Sen. John F. Kennedy.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington, the Democratic National chairman, said in a statement that the action "violates the concept of keeping the federal government free from political pressures."

Begin Inauguration Work
A few discreet inquiries elicited the information that they were beginning work on the platform for the 1961 presidential inauguration. At first, I couldn't believe that Stewart would let an occasion such as this go by without a plank-nailing ceremony of some sort.

When I got in touch with him by phone, however, he explained that for security reasons it is customary not to publicize the platform plans. The purpose of keeping the blueprint secret is to prevent any would-be assassins from pinpointing far in advance of the inauguration the exact spot where the new president will be standing next January.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon used statistics provided by the department in criticizing Kennedy's proposals to cut farm production to a level that would assure farmers what he called parity of income prices.

The Department's analysis said Kennedy's proposals would raise grocery bills by 25 per cent, boost farm prices 50 to 60 per cent, eliminate nearly a million jobs in agriculture and related industries and add \$250 million a year to administrative costs.

I can only tell you that the platform will cost about \$15,000 and will be used for about two hours. Let us hope that the new president, whoever he may be, will be worth it.

It may seem premature to be planning the inauguration when we have not yet elected the inauguree. But a girl doesn't wait for a proposal to start selecting her trousseau.

Platforms Take Time
Bridegrooms and presidents we can always get. Platforms and trousseaus take time.

The west side of the Capitol is widely regarded as the ideal place for an inauguration. Therefore, inaugurations always are held on the east side.

This may strike some of our more impressionable citizens as a quaint way of doing things. The tradition dates back to the time when the East Side was regarded as the front. With the passage of the years, it became apparent that the West Side was a better front. But rather than downgrade the East Side, it was decided to let the Capitol have two fronts.

Good Advisers Being Sought

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Association of Secondary School Principals Monday was urged to seek qualified persons for counseling positions.

Most counseling workers in Oregon today are not qualified professionally. Raymond Lowe of the University of Oregon told the 300 delegates to the convention Monday.

Lowe was a member of a panel that discussed problems of education as the group opened a two-day conference here. It ends today.

At Monday's session, Alvin Unruh of The Dalles and Otin Johnson of Grants Pass were nominated for vice president of the association. The election will be held when the group convenes its winter convention in Eugene.

The east front would have the advantage only if we were inaugurating a Moslem. It faces Mecca.

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Petition Filed To Drop Vote Age

SALEM (AP) — A measure to reduce Oregon's 21-year-old minimum voting age to 18 was filed here Monday as a preliminary initiative petition.

The initiative would appear on the 1962 general election ballot if enough names are obtained.

But State Elections Supervisor Jack Thompson said it will not be possible to determine the number required until after next month's general election. The number is based on the vote cast at the election.

It was filed by June Neil, 18, Portland, national secretary of the Defenders Clubs of America. She said the club's purpose is to interpret.

SHIES FROM SHOOTING
LOWER HALSTOW, England (UPI) — Hunter William Moulton said Sunday he has decided he just can't shoot at 300 wild maulards reared on a game farm.

"It would be a massacre," he explained. "They are all family pets."



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Starting Monday, Oct. 17 in the
Herald and News

Man With Odd Malady Takes Own Life

OAKLAND (UPI) — Nicholas Leko, 31, San Leandro, who apparently was suffering from the same strange malady that killed his parents within two days of each other, died today in Highland Hospital of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Leko shot himself in the head in a bedroom closet at his home Saturday.

A suicide note read: "I'm sick, too much." Police speculated the "accident" was referred to in a citation Leko received. Passed out again. Accident caused from Oakland police after.

Meanwhile, the Alameda County coroner's office continued an investigation into the deaths of his parents, Frank, 69, and Helen, 61.

Mrs. Leko had suffered blackout spells and weakness, and was found unconscious Sept. 5. She died in a hospital Sept. 26.

The elder Leko lapsed into a semiconscious coma state Sept. 20 and died in a hospital Sept. 20. Nicholas likewise suffered from the same illness and entered a hospital Sept. 21 but recovered sufficiently Sept. 30 to attend his parents' funeral.

After the funeral young Leko stayed with an uncle, James F. Moniz, in Oakland for a few days, then disappeared. Moniz asked police to check, and officers found the wounded Nicholas Saturday in his house.

Early Bermuda settlers called the island chain "Virginia" to show their close connection with the affairs of the Virginia colony.

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