



THREE LITTLE INNOCENTS — These three little kittens couldn't have read the label, left, as they pose prettily, that is, except the freshly at right, in a Christmas box they have torn asunder. — UPI Telephoto

Interim Group Undecided On Probe Of Fire Grading

SALEM (UPI) — No decision was made Saturday by the Legislative Interim Committee on Insurance on whether to conduct an investigation of fire insurance grading methods for Oregon cities.

The League of Oregon Cities asked the legislative group to make the study.

Spokesmen for the National Board of Underwriters and Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau appeared before the day-long session of the committee here to deny the need for such a probe.

Fire insurance premiums paid by householders and business firms are based on the underwriters' ratings bureau's grading of city fire fighting capabilities.

Don Jones, spokesman for the league, charged the underwriters' manpower requirements

were unreasonably high, that not enough credit is given for fire prevention work, that city officials are not consulted about revisions in the grades and that inspections are infrequent and do not reflect up to date information about cities' fire defenses.

Fire chiefs and mayors from throughout Oregon attended the meeting.

Opposing the request were W. F. Williams and Carl Weers, of the San Francisco office of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and A. J. Snow of the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau.

Williams said many of the objections voiced by the cities were outdated and had already been corrected by changes in the rules.

He said statewide fire loss experience was the major factor in setting fire insurance rates,

not the ability of individual cities to fight fires.

He said if the rates for each city were based on that city's fire loss alone, a major fire could force insurance rates up so high nobody could afford insurance.

He denied that the board of underwriters, which grades Portland, Eugene and Salem, or the Oregon Rating Bureau, which grades the state's smaller cities were arbitrary in their action.

Rep. F. F. Montgomery, R-Eugene, is chairman of the interim committee on insurance.

Four Lost In Action

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI) — A U.S. Army officer was killed by Communist guerrillas Sunday and three other U.S. servicemen were reported missing in the crash of their helicopter off the Vietnamese coast.

The death was the ninth in the past four days. It raised to 126 the number of Americans killed in South Viet Nam combat since January, 1961, when the U.S. buildup began here. Another 29 U.S. troops have died in non-combat accidents.

The three helicopter crewmen raised to 15 the number of Americans missing in fighting or combat operations during the same period.

A U.S. military spokesman gave these accounts of the two incidents:

The officer was shot by a Communist heavy machinegun in an operation against the guerrillas just after dawn Sunday in central Viet Nam.

He was serving as a military adviser to a South Vietnamese unit in a drive against the guerrillas in the mountains of Quang Tien Province, 340 miles north of Saigon.

He was killed by a single shot in the chest. Other casualties were not known.

The helicopter plunged into the sea Saturday night half a mile off the coast of central Viet Nam. An officer and two enlisted men were listed as missing after the crash.

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NLRB Accuses Firms Of Illegal Lockout

SEATTLE (UPI) — The National Labor Relations Board has accused four major timber-products firms in the Northwest of conducting an illegal lockout last summer which involved 15,000 workers and lost-wage liabilities of \$15 million.

Named in the complaint were Weyerhaeuser Co., Crown Zellerbach Corp., Rayonier Inc., and the International Paper Co. The complaint also named the "Big Six" association in the liability case. The named four firms plus U.S. Plywood Corp. and St. Regis Paper Co. are members of the Big Six.

Thomas P. Graham, regional director of the board, scheduled a hearing Feb. 17 in Seattle on the complaint before a board

trial examiner. The firms have 10 days to file an answer to the complaint.

The complaint comes nearly six months after a strike last summer with the Big Six companies and the International Woodworkers of America. Those two unions struck U.S. Plywood and St. Regis plants June 5. The other four firms in the Big Six then locked out their employees in what the complaint terms "reprisal for the strikes." The lockout ended Aug. 7. It affected 23 plants in Washington, 13 in Oregon and two in Northern California.

The complaint says the four firms illegally discriminated against their employees and deprived them of their rights.

The case is the largest ever filed in the Northwest in view of the number of workers and potential wage liabilities involved. It is one of the 10 largest ever filed in the United States.

It is expected the case will take three to four years to resolve and that it will be appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. After the trial examiner has heard the case and made recommendations, the case may be appealed to the five-man labor board, and then to the Circuit Court and then to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Morse Charges Press Not Informing People

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., charged Sunday that the American press is failing to give the American people objective reporting on major issues.

"Frequently the American press does a Pravda job on the American people," he said in a television interview (Metropolitan Broadcasting—"Opinion in the Capital").

"It feeds them what it wants them to read and omits telling them what they ought to know is in the news."

Morse issued his criticism when asked about an incident last week in which he protested about too much noise in the Senate press gallery.

"But that's insignificant," the senator went on. "I do have a great disappointment in the American press as a whole, for I have sat in the Senate for 19 years and I think I'm a pretty good witness in the operation of the press in handling political

news, and in my judgment, the press does not do, by and large, an objective job of publishing the news."

He said he blamed editors more than reporters.

"I'd take my chances even though I've had my difficulties with the working press, in the objectivity of the working press," the senator said. "But the fact is that their stories are re-written at a higher level or they're cut out entirely at higher level."

Morse said that during the recent Senate debate on foreign aid, he and others like Sen. Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, had made speeches criticizing the program but "you pick up the press and find not a single reference to the speech."

"You'll find in that same paper a lot of inconsequential news and I happen to think that the press owes to the American people objective reporting on major issues."

Morse said that the situation has become "steadily worse in my judgment, steadily worse."

"I've had even representatives of the great wire services come to me and tell me how sorry they were that a story they had sent in on some issue that I had raised in the Senate was cut out, but they even in some instance showed me the story they sent in; but it was cut out at the upper desk," he said.

Canadian Line Super Derails

KAMLOOPS, B. C. (UPI) — The Canadian National Railways' (CNR) crack Super-Continental train derailed near here early today as it headed west on the last leg of a trip from Montreal to Vancouver, B.C.

No fatalities were reported. But at least four persons were injured, and a number of others suffered shock.

A railway spokesman said 10 of the train's 18 cars left the tracks.

Cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

Traffic on the CNR's main line was rerouted.

A CNR spokesman said the diesel locomotive stayed on the tracks, while the first 10 cars derailed. The remaining eight passenger cars, and the baggage and mail cars, were not derailed.

The train is one of the best-known in Canada.

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Minced Clams Sea Trader, Eastern 8-oz. **29c**
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Book Matches Diamond. Box of 20 packs **2/29c**
Sudsy Ammonia Parson's 16-oz. btl. **19c**
Liquid Detergent Trend 32-oz. btl. **69c**
Trend Detergent Powdered. 12 1/2-oz. pkg. **39c**

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