

Congress Closes Session Claiming Spending Slashes

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The 86th Congress wound up its first session as usual claiming to have chopped the budget out of the President's budget. Any way you look at it, the claim is misleading—if not downright phony.

About all the lawmakers can say for a fact is that they have trimmed the late President Kennedy's year-old requests for new money, and by a considerable sum, though even this must be swallowed with salt.

As for intimations this reduction means a cut in the government budget, President Johnson already has blown that out of the water.

He told a news conference recently that government spending for the current 12 months—and that is what is meant by the budget—will run just about what Kennedy forecast, \$96.8 billion, or maybe a few dollars more.

And he said furthermore that Congress, in approving military pay boosts, school aid, and other new programs already has "built in" spending increases for next year totalling about \$3.5 billion.

This is an old story, but one not generally understood even by congressmen. Some lawmakers who do understand it would rather pretend that they don't. It is nice to be for economy, to support "budget cuts," and yet to vote for popular programs that mean added federal spending.

After Kennedy sent Congress last January his plans to spend a record \$98.8 billion in the 12-month period that now is half gone House Republicans set up an "economy task force" to show how this figure could be sharply curtailed.

The task force shortly announced that it knew where to cut appropriations requests by \$10 billion to \$15 billion and actual spending during the new fiscal year by \$4 billion to \$6 billion.

Democrats said the Republicans were just stealing their thunder. Anyway, with both parties pitching in on behalf of taxpayers, most appropriations wound up being cut.

Task force Chairman Frank T. Bow, R-Ohio, estimated today that such reductions during the year totaled about \$6.4 billion. Bow — one who understands the difference between appropriations and spending and is honest about it—conceded that the immediate spending effect would be far less than that, running maybe to a fourth of the total.

Bow said most of the rest of the cuts would show up to the taxpayers' credit in subsequent years. Maybe so. But the record shows this doesn't always work out.

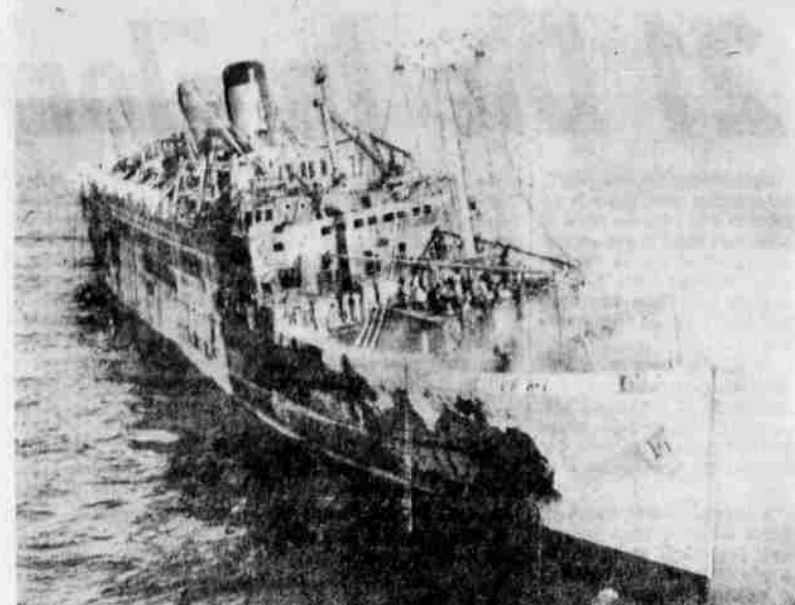
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LOST TO SEA — The Greek liner Lakonia which caught fire in the Atlantic with a loss of 155 lives sank Sunday while being towed to Gibraltar, Norwegian tug owners reported. Here, the 20,314-ton liner is shown on Dec. 24, two days after the accident, as it drifted in the Atlantic. Dangling from its sides are rope ladders which passengers used to escape the burning vessel. — UPI Telephoto

Burned-Out Liner Lakonia Sinks In Mile-Deep Water

GIBRALTAR (UPI) — The burned-out Greek cruise liner Lakonia sank Sunday while under tow to Gibraltar taking with it the secret of the Dec. 22 fire at sea that cost 155 lives.

Officials said there would be no attempt to salvage the 20,000-ton liner, which had been refitted at a cost of \$640,000 just before the tragic Christmas cruise from Southampton, England.

The Lakonia lies more than a mile deep in the Atlantic about 275 miles west of Morocco. Three tugs were trying to tow it into port when the ship, described by tugmen as a "burned-out, stinking hulk," rolled over and sank.

The sinking ended hopes for investigations into the cause of the blaze.

The controversy over the fire and the rescue operation continued to boil with the arrival in Tilbury, England, of 295 survivors—124 passengers and 141 crew members.

Almost all the passengers were British.

"It was absolute chaos," said Mrs. Jean Wendt of London, accusing the crew of failing to carry out its rescue duties.

But one of the Lakonia stewards, Georgios Kitamrtzian, 26,

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Six Perish In Traffic

By United Press International
Six Oregon residents lost their lives in traffic accidents during the weekend. Four of the deaths were recorded in the state.

Donald Lingal, 35, Canby, was struck and killed by a car while pushing a car on U.S. Highway 99 near Canby Saturday night.

Warren Storm, 16, a resident of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, died when the pickup truck in which he was riding collided with a Union Pacific train on State Highway 203 near Burns Saturday night.

James Crawford, 77, Klamath Falls, and his wife, Celia, 72, were killed when their car was struck by a Southern Pacific freight train on U.S. Highway 97 at Dorris, Calif., Saturday.

Mark Bussear, 16, Eugene, died in the crash of a pickup truck near Eugene Saturday.

Carl Thaler, 89, Portland was injured fatally when he was struck by a car in Portland Friday night.

Rocky Mountain Storm Front Stabs Into Southland With Snow Blanket

By United Press International
A Rocky Mountain storm blustered into the Southern Plains during the night, dropping 6 inches or more of snow in parts of Texas and leaving highways glassy as far as Missouri and the Dakotas.

Some of the coldest December weather in history continued from Minnesota to the Appalachians.

Midwesterners turned up furnaces and heaters against the record cold, touching off a rash of death-dealing fires.

At Clawson, Mich., a mother and two of her children died in flames which destroyed their home Sunday. Two children were killed in a fire in Chicago Sunday night. A rash of fires in Pittsburgh claimed the lives of three men. A mother and two children burned to death in a fire at Toms River, N.J.

At Denver, Colo., two men

who suffered severe frostbite when marooned in their wrecked car in 15 below zero temperatures were listed in "poor to fair" condition.

Ten persons were injured in northern Utah when nine vehicles, including a Continental Trailways bus, collided on icy U.S. 40 during a fog Sunday. Sunday night on icy U.S. 101 near Malad City, Idaho, eight cars and three semi-trailers collided in fog, injuring two persons.

Steewater, Tex., measured 6 inches of snow in 4 hours. Up to 3 inches of snow was reported in the Texas Panhandle and Southern Plains. A two-car accident on a slippery highway

near the town of Panhandle claimed two lives.

Up to a foot of snow fell on the Colorado Rockies but only an inch was reported in Colorado's eastern plains. Up to 3 inches of snow was reported in the north and central mountains and northeast plains of New Mexico.

There were flurries and light snow along the east shores of the Great Lakes. Muskegon, Mich., reported its December snowfall total at 76 inches, a record for any month in the city's history.

Southern California sweltered in record heat. The temperature climbed to 83 degrees at San Diego Sunday.

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Weather Roundup

Northern California: Variable clouds through Tuesday.

The Dalles and Hood River: Partly cloudy with fog patches east; possible rain west late Tuesday; highs 42-51; low 33-39; gorge winds east 20-35.

Bend: Mostly cloudy through Tuesday; chance valley fog; highs 30-45; low 27-34.

Baker and La Grande: Mostly cloudy with valley fog; highs 34-40; low 22-33.

Portland - Vancouver: Partly cloudy tonight; little rain late Tuesday; highs 46-51; low tonight about 39; east wind 15-20.

Western Oregon: Partly cloudy with fog south interior and spotty fog north; chance rain north coast Tuesday; high 45-53; low 35-45.

Eastern Oregon: Local fog through Tuesday; highs 34-44; low 22-32.

Tatoosh to Blanco: Small craft warnings for east to southeast winds 12-25 increasing to 15-30 Tuesday; occasional rain Tuesday.

Five Day Weather
Western Oregon: Moderate precipitation through Saturday with most of the rain after Wednesday; highs 45-55; lows 35-45.

Eastern Oregon: Moderate precipitation, mostly after Wednesday; highs 35-45; lows 22-32.

Temperatures during the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PST today:

City	High	Low
Astoria	51	44
Baker	33	27
Brookings	64	51
Medford	48	35
North Bend	60	51
Pendleton	37	33
Portland	48	39
Redmond	46	37
Salem	46	38
The Dalles	49	36
Chicago	20	3
Los Angeles	83	62
New York	33	19
Phoenix	74	40
San Francisco	58	48
Seattle	44	37
Washington	37	19

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