

PEDESTRIAN, HIT BY CAR, DIES

Sekras Nystrom, 62 years old, of 2702 Sixth Ave. S., who was struck by an automobile Saturday night, died at 7 o'clock last night in Harborview County Hospital.

Nystrom was struck by the automobile of Charles Everett, 4205 Airport Way, as the former was crossing Airport Way at Lander St. Mrs. Audrey Froggatt, 25, of 3242 34th Ave. W., was recovering today in Harborview from a cerebral concussion she suffered when an automobile driven by her husband, William, collided with an Army truck operated by Corp. Bernard J. McSorley, Fort Lawton, in First Avenue at King Street. Froggatt received cuts and bruises.

GIRL INJURED IN SKYLIGHT FALL

Miss June Keithly, 19 years old, an employee of the Port of Seattle, suffered a brain concussion today when she fell through a skylight at the Bell Street Terminal and struck the street 20 feet below.

Saboteurs Reported Landed in Norway

STOCKHOLM, April 12.—British warships were reported today to have landed a number of saboteurs, presumably Free Norwegians, in small boats on the coast of Western Norway.

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HARDWARE COMPANY

Federal Power Board Raps Solon's P. U. D. Charges

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Charges by Representative Ditter, Republican, Pennsylvania, last Thursday that three federal bureaus established a dummy political corporation with "collusive knowledge" of the Federal Power Commission, which then tried to "suppress the facts and to gag the press," brought reply last night from the commission and a retort from Ditter.

"Collusive knowledge" of the commission, the Federal Housing Administration and the Bonneville Power Administration, Ditter told the House Thursday, was evident in setting up the Clark County (Wash.) Public Utility District as a \$50,000 middleman between the Bonneville Administration and a Federal Housing Administration project in Vancouver, Wash.

\$50,000 Collected, Says Solon
The Pennsylvania asserted that the Bonneville Power Administration ran a power line from Bonneville Dam directly to and through Vancouver, where the line crossed over to Portland, Or. "This dummy political corporation, the Clark County P. U. D., has a wholesale contract with the Bonneville Power Administration to supply power to this F. H. A. project. It sits in between, arbitrarily, as a middleman rendering absolutely no service, and collects the difference between the wholesale and the resale price, matter of some \$50,000 annually which is diverted into its coffers."

"Who gets what from this kitty," Ditter continued, "might make juicy reading."

Military Secrecy Charged
Ditter told his colleagues his charges were the outgrowth of a hearing before the Federal Power Commission April 5 and 6 on the power commission order directing the Washington Water Power Company of Spokane to permit its transmission and transformer facilities to be used to transmit Bonneville power to two Army camps in or near Spokane.

The congressman further contended that the F. P. C. tried to hide the facts, using the "ruse" of military secrecy, that it had ignored the President's "cheapest source of power" directive of October 22, and this ignored the interest of the Treasury and the federal taxpayer.

To these charges the power commission replied last night that "the press was not barred from the hearing held at the request of the Washington Water Power Company... as the record of the proceedings plainly shows."

Press Agreed, Says F. P. C.
"In this order setting the hearing," the F. P. C. statement said, "the commission provided that the hearing should be public 'except in so far as the presiding officer may deem otherwise appropriate in view of the war aspects of the subject matter'... Accordingly when, in the course of the hearing, testimony and exhibits showing in detail the facilities, operations and war industries serviced by the Washington Water Power Company... were about to be introduced, the trial examiner recessed the hearing and directed counsel for the water power company and counsel for the commission to report to him, after conference, their recommendations with respect to closing the hearing to the general public."

The F. P. C. statement said it was agreed that after covering matters not restricted by the War

Department the meeting should be executive.

"All press representatives of both news services and trade journals who had been in attendance at the public session were expressly permitted by the trial examiner to remain," the F. P. C. stated, "as the transcript of the proceeding shows. This procedure was thoroughly acceptable to the press representatives, who expressed the opinion that the testimony and exhibits to be offered during the closed session appeared to be of a character that could not be published under the Voluntary Censorship Code."

"Representative Ditter's charge of 'collusion' with reference to the Clark County contract is equally without basis. The only connection that the Federal Power Commission has had with this contract, which was entered into on May 24, 1932, or five months before the President's directive of October 22, 1942, is that the contract has been filed with the commission by the Federal Public Housing Authority. At the same time the commission has received from the procurement agencies service to set up plants and establishments, which are emergency character. All contracts for power subject to the President's directive will be reviewed as rapidly as possible."

Charges Declared Upheld
"In the light of these facts, the charges of gag rule and collusion against the Federal Power Commission are utterly without foundation and it is apparent that he was misinformed at the time he made his statement."

To this statement Ditter asserted, in a formal statement that he is "obliged to the Federal Power Commission for its so-called 'reply'... inasmuch as this 'reply' officially confirms, either directly or indirectly, each of the three indictments contained in my true bill against the commission."

Clark Manager Denies Ditter's Charges

VANCOUVER, Wash., April 12.—George Hibbert, manager of the Clark County Public Utility District, replied yesterday to charges by Representative Ditter, Republican, Pennsylvania, that the P. U. D. was set up as a dummy political corporation.

Hibbert in a prepared statement replied: "The P. U. D. organizations of the State of Washington are not set up as profit-making organizations and profits as such are not permitted. Surplus earnings must be passed on to the people in the form of rate reductions for the power service delivered or used to maintain the property of the people."

All funds received are immediately deposited with the county treasurer and disbursed only by county warrant. "The government agencies contracting for power with the P. U. D. made use of the people's organization established in this county since 1933 to assure low net cost of power as an avenue to distribute the government-generated energy to the housing project with no possibility of some agency reaping profits at the cost of the war effort to be filtered into the coffers of great private power companies controlling the power lines in the area."

"All accounts of the local utility are open to audit and the inference of 'shakedown' under the contract may be cleared by an examination of the records of disbursements open to the public for inspection."

Classified Ads Help City Find Men, Says Aide

Newspaper classified advertising helped in helping the city get applicants for firemen's jobs, Roy A. Palin, Civil Service Department secretary, told the City Council department efficiency committee today.

"It is hard to get employees for the city in these times and we tried newspaper advertising," Palin said. "We asked the applicants where they would out the jobs were open. Out of 76 applicants, 38, or half of them, said they had read the newspaper advertisements."

Strikers Tie Up Gary Steel Work

(Continued From Page One)

cials said, after about 250 union steelworkers refused to work due to a grievance the nature of which was not clear.

A company spokesman said the No. 5 shop produced high-grade armor plate steel. The company said the trouble started on the 4 p. m.-to-midnight shift yesterday when 75 men quit work after three cinder snappers or manual laborers in the crew didn't show up. The midnight-to-8 a. m. crew of 75 men and today's day crew of 100 men also stayed off the job.

Production will be delayed beyond the time the employees return, the company said, because the furnaces must be recharged and it takes eight hours to get them running full blast again.

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MAGAZINE GIRLS ANGER COUNCIL

The attractive young magazine girls who have been annoying business men and soldiers here the past week became the objects of City Council attention today.

The Council's license commission asked Corporation Counsel A. C. Van Soelen if the city has power to prevent the transient girls from soliciting subscriptions.

Police Chief Herbert D. Kinsey, City Comptroller W. C. Thomas and J. J. Downing, Thomas' assistant in the license division, called on the Council for action.

Downing said many service men had bought subscriptions to obtain promises of "dates" with the girls. The girls fail to keep the dates, he said, and there have been complaints they also fail to report the subscriptions to the magazines.

"They realize these men are going to be thousands of miles away from home, where they can't get magazines, anyhow," Downing said.

Comptroller Thomas said the girls frequent entrances to service men's clubs. "Girls, usually young and attractive accost the men in uniform, soliciting subscriptions in such a bold, determined manner that they are apparently becoming a nuisance," Thomas said.

Demos Kill Move To Revive Tax Bill

(Continued From Page One)

pay-as-you-go tax program could be presented to the House.

Quick Action Sought
"There is one thing we can do very quickly," Rayburn told reporters, "that is enact a withholding levy. Everybody fears inflation because of all the money, amounting to billions we hear, that is circulating in this country."

"The withholding levy would be the most effective stab at inflation I can think of. It is pay-as-you-go also."

Doughton subsequently told the House:

"The recent action of the House on the committee tax bill and the Carlson-Ruml substitute is well known to the Congress and the country," he said. "Both bills contain identical provisions as to a withholding tax, which seems to be what the country is most concerned with at this time."

Conference Proposed
Rayburn told newspaper men that he, Democratic Leader McCormack of Massachusetts, Republican Leader Martin of Massachusetts, and the 25 members of the ways and means committee might confer to see if an agreement could not be reached to put the withholding levy before the House immediately, shorn of any attendant proposals for tax abatement. Such a plan, if enacted presumably would become effective July 1.

The withholding levy would not be an additional tax but would provide a means of weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly deductions from the taxable portions of wages and salaries, with these collections to be applied against actual taxes as now computed.

After Doughton spoke, Republican Leader Martin accused the chairman of being desirous of obtaining action only on the part of the tax legislation. Doughton favored and leaving other matters "at sea."

Asserting the nation was "demanding" action on pay-as-you-go legislation, Martin told the House the entire matter should be considered at the same time.

"Let the House determine," Martin said. "A majority of the House can have its decision and I believe it will make that decision early."

While Secretary of State Hull stood before the committee to testify in behalf of extending the trade agreements, Representative Reed, Republican, New York, made a motion on behalf of nine Republican committee members to reopen immediately the bitter tax battle.

Rejection of his motion did not, of course, foreclose action at a later date.

Reed asked the committee to turn to the tax problem immediately after Hull had testified, and to defer reciprocal-trade considerations until the committee reported a new pay-as-you-go tax bill to the House.

The move climaxed a Republican effort to obtain another vote in the House on the Ruml plan, which would skip an income tax year in putting 44,000,000 taxpayers on a current payment basis.

Persons Moving to Canada Are Liable to Taxation

OTTAWA, April 12.—(AP)—Persons who move from the United States to Canada become immediately liable for taxation under Canada's "pay as we earn" income tax plan, Revenue Department officials said today.

I. C. C. Sets Aside Freight Rate Boost

WASHINGTON, April 12.—(AP)—The Interstate Commerce Commission announced today a decision suspending increased freight rates ordered a year ago but leaving undisturbed a 10 per cent increase in standard passenger fares.

The decision was based on hearings at which the Office of Price Administration and other government agencies contended that the increases were unjustified in the light of increased revenues of the railroads and were out of line with the stabilization program.

The commission said the decision was reached April 6 by vote of 6 to 5, with Commissioners Aitchison, Eastman, Lee, Mahaffie, Splawn and Rogers in the majority, and Chairman Aldridge and Commissioners Porter, Miller, Patterson and Johnson dissenting.

The original decision of the commission allowed increases of 10 per cent in the interstate standard passenger and commutation fares which became effective February 10, 1942.

FARM FRONT

Northeastern States' Output Probably to Be Less Than in '42

(From coast to coast, Associated Press reports have been gathering the views of farmers—down on the farm—on the food prospects for this year. These views are being presented, section by section, in six daily articles, of which this—covering the Northeastern States—is the first. Next article: The North Central States.)

BOSTON, April 12.—(AP)—Bill Richards is the biggest vegetable grower in Massachusetts. He's a big man, built like a football full-back.

After talking for half an hour while waiting for one trouble spot to another on his broad farm, where manpower is his prime worry, he rested a pair of cantaloupe-sized fists on his dining room table, piled high with letters, government forms and ration books, and said:

"These cumulative headaches simply mean that many farmers will produce less food than we did last year."

That prediction—smaller total food crops than in 1942—was echoed in varying degrees in most of the ten Northeastern States covered by a survey that gathered the opinions of state commissioners of agriculture, farm experts and dozens of farmers.

JAP INTERNEE, FLEEING, SLAIN

SALT LAKE CITY, April 12.—(AP)—James Hatsuaki Wakasha, 62-year-old Japanese, was shot and killed last night while attempting to flee from the relocation center at Topaz, in Central Utah, the Office of War Information announced today.

The center's commandant, in a report to Lorne Bell, acting project director, said the Japanese, crawling through the fence around the residential area, ignored four commands to halt.

Military police then opened fire, the report said. Military officials began an investigation.

Wakasha came here from the San Francisco area.

4 Police Help Big Woman

PORTLAND, Or., April 12.—Police received a call for assistance. Two men were sent out. These two called police headquarters and asked that two more be sent. The four men were able to do the job. They put back into bed a 400-pound woman who had fallen out.

The word from seven states, New York, Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, was that near-miracles would be needed if farmers are to equal last year's production. The best available consensus from the other three states, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maine, was mixed.

Pennsylvania farmers, for instance, have aimed their planting at the production of 4,496,000 more bushels of potatoes than in 1942, slightly more wheat, less oats and 1,013,000 fewer bushels of corn. But, said Miles Horst, state secretary of agriculture, "labor and equipment shortages may make it impossible to harvest the maximum."

The top money crop in New Jersey, poultry and eggs, may be up as much as 10 per cent, official spokesmen predicted, but the second crop, dairying, may drop by an equal amount after July 1. Maine's state commissioner of agriculture, Carl R. Smith, hit out at federal farm policies, and added: "If a more constructive farm program is developed, acreage may be expected to be increased."

Last Year Was Bumper One

Entirely aside from the "ifs" that are studding the farm picture in the Northeast—such problems as lack of manpower, shortages of

machinery and fertilizer, price ceilings or the lack of them, various federal rulings affecting farmers, and the ever-present question mark of the weather—one fact stands out above others:

It is that last year produced a bumper food crop, and that even a solution of the big "ifs" may well leave the East with the necessity of importing much more, rather than less, food.

Two men seemed to sound the keynote of most of the others. Said H. E. Babcock, New York State food production director:

"Given the same weather, New York will produce nearly as much as last year. But remember that we have had five years of exceptionally good weather. If you flip a coin five times in a row and it comes up heads every time, you wouldn't expect it to show heads the sixth."

Added Louis Webster, Massachusetts commissioner of agriculture and himself a working farmer:

"A man would be a rash optimist if he thought we could equal last year's bumper crop of commercial food, even if we had the same acreage, and as much labor and machinery."

THREE COUNTY SUICIDES IN DAY

Three persons ended their lives yesterday in King County.

Mrs. Sarah M. Johnson, 33 years old, a Boeing worker, of Bryn Mawr, and Mrs. Miriam H. Delzele, 51, of 1515 Belmont Ave., both were found dead in their rooms with gas jets on and the doors and windows sealed.

Daniel Badovinar, 37, hanged himself in his bedroom at 3046 Warsaw Pl. His wife, Fawn, found the body.

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Power Politics—AMERICAN STYLE

The frenzied paperhanger from Austria must now be suffering from acute insomnia. His vision of world empire is fading. His armies, once believed invincible by many, are beginning to know defeat. Many of his "supermen" are now tired and disillusioned.

And while Herr Hitler tosses sleeplessly, we wonder whether he realizes the enormity of his mistake in neglecting his railroads. For even in a land of "supermen," rolling stock must be kept in condition; engines should be periodically overhauled; roadbeds must be maintained; bombed railway centers must be given instant attention. The Nazi overlord has neglected these things. In doing so, he has violated a war principle as old as war itself—to maintain lines of supply and transportation so that armies may have quick mobility.

How thankful America should be that management foresaw the necessity of modernizing the nation's railroads. They are now in "fighting trim," and we are determined to keep them that way. ROCK ISLAND, for example, has for years pursued a comprehensive Program of Planned Progress. We have invested vast sums every year to make it one of the nation's modern rail systems, and we shall continue to keep it so.

Ours is the herculean task of moving fighting men and the materials vital to victory. War found us ready, and we shall carry on until victory is ours.

ROCK ISLAND LINES
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