



No. 352

Seattle, Washington

Feb. 13 to 19, 1955

WE'VE HAD IT! And now we want your help in doing something about it!

We're talking about the bill digest--that monstrous, monumental chore which we undertook back in the days when the Legislature introduced a reasonable number of bills which we could handle without too great a strain. But each year a new record total of bills is submitted and this session was no different--1,247 bills plus 91 memorials and resolutions.

As of Saturday day wire close, we still had 16 typewritten pages to try and move on the TTS circuit. We'll be fortunate to get them cleared by Monday. The problem is obvious and we would appreciate your thoughts on it. Nothing can be done this year, but we do not want to encounter the same thing two years from now.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

SPORTS EDITORS: IMPORTANT! ...Class B high school basketball district tourneys get under way the week of Feb.21-26. Will the following members please provide us the results immediately after each night's play?

- Dist.1..Mount Vernon, Feb.21-26--Everett Herald.
- Dist.2..Franklin-Pierce gym, Feb.21-26, Tacoma News-Tribune.
- Dist.4..Centralia and Chehalis, Feb.22-26.. Centralia Chronicle.
- Dist.5, winds up Feb.24-26 at Granger, Yakima Morning Herald.
- Dist.6..Grand Coulee, Feb.22-26..Wenatchee World.
- Dist.7..Cheney, Feb.23-26..Spokane bureau.
- Dist.9..Colfax, Feb.16-21, Spokane covering.

(Districts 3,8,10 have no B teams.)

All we need are bare scores, with a story if something newsworthy develops like a sensational scoring performance or upset of favored poll team.

We also would appreciate the members protecting in the same manner on the Class A district tourneys the following week.

On the B tournament (state) at Tacoma March 2, Sports Editor Jack Hewins will staff. We will carry only the bare score and a day and night roundup up through Friday. The day story will be topped about 1 p.m. each day. The short box will be available for all games in Seattle and any point desiring them may have them overhead. On the final day, Saturday, March 5, we will carry a short box on each game plus a short lead and will give the final game full treatment, plus a full box.

On the A tournament in Seattle the following week, we will carry a short box on all games and a 50 word lead.

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If annual sessions of the legislature are voted, the problem probably will continue every other year.

There are these alternatives:

1. Eliminate the list of all bills introduced and carry only those on which action is taken in committee or by the Legislature. The roundup story would, of course, cover the main measures introduced.

2. Add at least one hour a day to the existing wire, preferably from 2 to 3 p.m. This will increase the cost of covering the Legislature.

The increasingly-heavy burden of carrying the bills has resulted in some news stories being crowded off the wire. It has meant the suspension of our program of personality stories. It takes up the time of one man in Olympia for much of the session.

We don't know the exact value of the bill digest. Many papers carry them; probably as many more do not.

However, would you please give the matter thought while it is still fresh in your mind and let us know what you think; tell us if they are important enough to continue as at present.

We might add, too, that Bob Cummings' work on the bills has drawn high praise from members, legislators and others.

MORE FOR YOUR INFORMATION

On the final A game March 12 we will carry a complete story and a full box. If any of you have special requests for coverage of either A or B games, please send them in as soon as possible so that final plans for coverage may be made.

...
AP NEWSFEATURES report this week has an interesting analysis of the Q and A type interview as compared with the old-fashioned interview. We quote:

"The Q and A technique is one that has been urged upon us by a number of managing editors who have been impressed with its use in magazines. As a novelty and an occasional use for particular types of story it serves a useful purpose.

"But, quite frankly, we do not feel as a newspaper technique it is as efficient or informative as an old-fashioned type of interview in which a qualified reporter condenses the replies and emphasizes the points that he feels are important.

"In the first place, the Q and A uses up tremendous wordage despite careful editing. The only means a reporter has to get a speaker back on the subject is to ask another question and try to pull him back. And if the man being interviewed is determined to duck some of the questions hundreds of words can be used up trying to get this point over. Often the same amount of material can be covered in a single sentence or paragraph in a normal type of interview. Furthermore, with the Q and A when a new field has opened up it requires further questions and further wordage to have the speaker explain the background which makes the point comprehensible."

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* THIS WEEK'S log envel-
* ope going to newspapers
* contains the announcement
* and rules of the Washing-
* ton State Press Club's an-
* nual writing awards con-
* test. Will you please
* post the announcement and
* rules on your office bul-
* letin board? Thank you.
*

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With the Legislature moving toward its final phase, and with night sessions indicated before long, it will be necessary to do some trimming of the night state wire in order to make room for it.

We ask the bureau points, first, to take a look at their night offerings and make sure that when they schedule a story it is 1. important enough to justify the wordage scheduled and 2. should they be asked to trim the story that it be done. Please consider the press of news from throughout the world, the nation and the state, all fighting for a spot on the wire, and ask yourself if your story, all things considered, has what is needed.

It probably will be necessary to do some trimming on Northwest and Evergreen conference games. Stories will be held to around 75 words except where the leaders are involved. Only boxes carried will be those involving Tacoma and Spokane, except on Saturday nights when WWCE games are played. On games involving only east side teams no short boxes will be carried.

Games in the Portland area not involving Whitman or College of Idaho will not have the short form boxes on the Washington side. When played at Walla Walla or Caldwell involving other teams will require the short box.

Please bear with us until either the basketball season--or the Legislature--ends, whichever comes first.

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Brief notes: A picture in the Longview Daily News on Feb.15 was "the first picture taken in a Cowlitz County Superior Court in 20 years." It was taken while court was in session, but if an explanation was given we missed it...Ray Ruppert has been doing an outstanding series of stories on juvenile delinquency in Yakima County for the Sunday Herald...Bob Atwood, Anchorage Times publisher, spoke at a Portland Chamber of Commerce meeting last Monday...KONO of San Antonio, Texas is the new champ with a total of 334 contributions to the AP news report in 1954. The runner-up was WKZO of Kalamazoo, Mich. with 320...Congratulations to Dave Kirk, editorial writer for the Spokane Daily Chronicle who won \$50 and a George Washington honor medal as second place award by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. His prize-winning editorial was "Russ baby leaves U.S. to live in realm of fear."

DO YOU WANT BETTER REGIONAL COVERAGE OUT OF WASHINGTON,D.C.?

Frank Vaille, former Seattle staffer now assigned to regional coverage in Washington, was here recently on vacation. We asked him to write out a memo on how you can help him to improve regional coverage out of the capitol. Here is his report:

Perhaps the best way to describe our regional operation would be to lay out a typical, but somewhat theoretical day. It starts with a 9:30 a.m. show up at AP's downtown office in the Star Building to pick up the day's assignments, including any queries which have come in during the night, and to check my incoming Washington-Oregon newspapers (unfortunately, I don't get any from Alaska.)

On the assignment sheet I may be lucky and draw a blank. Then I'm free to work up something on my own or pound the corridors to keep abreast of what's doing in congressional offices.

Assignments may range from a single congressional committee hearing (usually involving the Pacific Northwest or Alaska) to several such sessions going on simultaneously on opposite sides of the capitol or to a hearing before a government agency such as the Power Commission. Such hearings can go on indefinitely (Northwest natural gas Hells Canyon, various TV proceedings for example) but most congressional hearings are simple one-shot affairs lasting only until the House or Senate convenes for the day at noon.

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*   SEATTLE--1ST ADD ....
*
*   A daughter was born last
*   week to Mr. and Mrs. Richard
*   Nelson, their first child.
*
*   The mother is the daughter
*   of Mr. and Mrs.Murlin Spencer
*   of Seattle. The baby,
*   parents and grandparents are
*   doing well.
*
* * * * *
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Returning to one of the capitol press galleries to write a piece on the morning's activities, it's customary to find from one to a half dozen telephone calls which may or may not turn up stories from congressional or agency sources. Again if you're lucky this will leave you clear for a quick lunch at 1:30 or 2 p.m. after which you're free to snoop around where you think it will do the most good--provided there's nothing involving the Pacific Northwest before the House or Senate, or the committee hasn't gone back in for an afternoon session.

I said earlier this was a "typical, but sometimes theoretical, day." A downtown hearing may mean I don't get to the hill for the duration. An all day committee session means there's no time for contacting congressional sources. In such cases, major stories are handled by others on the staff (they get back at me on days they're stacked up). Items of lesser importance are held for me to work in when time permits.

As outlined above it looks as though there would be 3-4 hours of "free" time each day. Actually it doesn't work out that way. Queries to departments for example aren't answered simply by picking up the telephone. Half a dozen telephone calls aren't unusual just to find the man who handles what you're after. He promises to "call you right back." An hour later after hanging by the telephone you find he's gone to lunch.

I can't remember the query but I still well recall the horrible day some two years ago when I literally sat in the gallery all day trying to get the "quick" response I'd been promised to two telephone calls. I finally got them but it was a long, frustrating day.

As for how Alaska-Washington members could best help me help them, it's a simple matter of letting me know what's going on. If a delegation from their community is coming to Washington on some problem, let me know. Because of the time it takes newspapers to come cross country, I have on several occasions checked a story on a delegation coming here only to find they had come and gone.

In passing along such information--by letter if time permits--it would be most helpful to have the hotel at which the delegation plans to stay, the name of the spokesman and, if possible, a clipping or something giving the background on their trip.

OFFERINGS ON REGIONAL NETWORK DROP OFF IN JULY

July, the start of the vacation slack season, saw a falling off in member contributions to the Pacific Northwest Regional Wirephoto network. It points out the need for all members
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MORE ON WIREPHOTO NETWORK

to watch particularly for good feature copy on slack days.

During the month there were 119 state and regional pictures moved as compared with 175 in June and a monthly average of 143.

Seattle's local and regional state network transmissions totalled 79. Yakima transmitted 14, Tacoma and Wenatchee 7 each, Spokane 4, Vancouver Province 2 and Aberdeen, 1. Non-network correspondents provided these additional datelines: Mt. Baker, Olympia, Friday Harbor, Ellensburg, Kent, Darrington, Elma, Entiat, Chehalis and Victoria, B.C.

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Every meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference, whether of faculty representatives or presidents, leaves a bad taste in one's mouth. The recent meeting at Portland was no exception. Although AP sent in two staffers from outside, including Jack Hewins, there was strict secrecy maintained as to what was going on. The PCC representatives apparently spend all their time in learning new ways to say "no comment."...And after all the secrecy maintained at San Francisco and Victoria as to how the various schools voted, the Conference finally came out in a printed booklet to tell the exact vote. Apparently something a little more potent in the way of pressure than we have been using up to now is needed.

W.E. (Bill) Warner, has been named news editor at KBYR in Anchorage...Don Wright, copy boy on The Seattle Times, is a delegate to the Democratic convention in Chicago, moving up when the regular delegate was unable to attend. At 21 he may be the youngest delegate there.

--AP--

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NOTES FROM THE NEWS AND WIRE FILING DESKS

The summer doldrums are definitely hitting the state and Alaska. News is scarce. One of the outstanding news coverage jobs we have seen was turned in by Canadian Press with its stroke-by-stroke coverage of the Marilyn Bell swim. It was outstanding. But there were also some outstanding failures...The Olympian carried a story Saturday on an important development in their child death case which no one received that day.

And after getting good coverage on the story about the forthcoming Little League tournament at Port Orchard, Bremerton failed to cover us with a story on the games. We had a very difficult time getting coverage out of Juneau for Sitka on American Legion junior baseball, KINY finally coming in with scores.

While we know everyone is short-handed during this vacation season, we still can't let down in covering legitimate news. And as far as Alaska is concerned, the condition of the circuit has been no help.

Top feature of the week was Click Relander's excellent story on the dedication of Mt. Simcoe as a state park...Wallie Funk told of Texaco planning to take up options on land for a new refinery at Anacortes...Moses Lake tipped on a possible sleeping sickness case in Kennewick and the Tri-City Herald obtained a story...

Juneau told the death of Mrs. George S. Maynard, widow of the former publisher of the Nome Nugget...Sig Digree at Kodiak had a good week with the story of a Navy man killed when his car plunged over a cliff and two workmen dying at Port Moller as a result of a fisheries plan fire.

Olympia was fast with the announcement that Initiative 198 would be on the ballot, and Anchorage reported a gas well coming in at Houston, 40 miles north of Anchorage. John McClelland Jr. was among leading citizens named to a new Washington Citizens' Council being formed to supervise a study of the state's treatment of juvenile and adult lawbreakers.

Wenatchee and Spokane ran a dead heat in a story on the Douglas County PUD to ask a rehearing on Rocky Reach dam license as granted to the Chelan PUD.

Otherwise there was little of note during the week. We can only hope that before long the news will pick up.

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NOTES FROM THE NEWS AND WIRE FILING DESKS

Monday,

May 2 This was one of those days and thank goodness for the Washington Regional service. If it hadn't been for the boys in Washington, D.C. the report would have been almost completely lacking in up-to-date spot news about this area. The night side had mostly baseball, college variety from Walla Walla and Northwest League type from Wenatchee and Tri-City. ..Alaska had a better report, regionally, although Anchorage was the heavy filer with four stories.

Tuesday,

May 3 Bellingham was the day's top contributor with three items...Ned Thomas, Moses Lake, and Harry Arnold, Yakima, covered air and ground war maneuvers...We had a number of calls asking for results of the fluoridation vote at Chehalis and fortunately the Chronicle had provided fast service on the election...Ty Clark, Anchorage, told of the closing of the Air Force base at Nome...Fairbanks, Juneau, Anchorage and the Ketchikan News punched out stories on the circuit including one from Ketchikan that Seattle's hali-but fleet may bypass Alaskan ports because of an additional tax.. Fairbanks reported the release of Colombany from jail...

Wednesday,

May 4 Click Relander of the Yakima Republic, certainly one of the foremost experts on Indian affairs in the newspaper business, came up with a good feature which was by-lined. It was on the Indians who are after the feathers from an eagle killed on Mt.Spokane...Harry Arnold was in promptly again with coverage of the maneuvers and Gil Gilmore, Tri-City, had a drowning...Georg Meyers, Seattle Times, had a catchy feature on the new giraffe that arrived with a kink in its neck...The Alaska file was heavy, with Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Valdez represented.

Thursday,

May 5 The big regional story was the ball-up over the "yellow alert" that had civil defense officials alarmed just about everywhere in the West but Washington and Oregon...Tacoma, Olympia, Portland, Salem, Spokane and Canpress contributed to the North-west angles in a fine cooperative job. It was a somewhat difficult story to pin down...Port Angeles telephoned a story on the ex-frogman planning to swim the Strait in a practice trial...YAKIMA had four, including good coverage on Operation Applejack...Juneau was the heavy Alaska filer, its best story being a polio vaccine situationer.

Friday

May 6 The public should have been well confused by the polio picture. We were and so were public health officials...State Health Department officials knew only what we read them from the stories coming out of Washington and apparently had no direct advice. We had two stories of particular interest to the profession at least. One was the 90th birthday of S.A.Perkins, owner of the Bellingham Herald and Olympia Olympian. The birth-day came shortly after we had carried a personality sketch which received wide play in the state. The second story was the award to Jim Hutcheson of the Farthest North Press Club's citation for impartial and complete coverage of the Alaska Legislature...Kay Kennedy, Fairbanks News-Miner, made the presentation. She is here on vacation...Yakima, on a tip from Olympia, filed a story on the death of Roy H.Skill, Washington Power Commission member...Big story regionally was the examiner's recommendation that Idaho Power be permitted to build a dam in Hells Canyon, covered in Washington by John Kamps...Alaska filing continued at its high pace. Anchorage had four, Juneau three, Fairbanks covered on its health officer delaying use of the Salk vaccine...The P.I. gave us a good Alaska story on Alaska Airlines getting a \$14,000 judgment from a bonding company for dough the airline said disappeared in 1951, along with a blonde ticket agent...Orchid for the night goes to Shirley Bartholomew, KRKO, who gave a full, fast and complete report on the Weiser Mill fire at Mayysville...Tacoma had to be prodded to provide a night lead baptists.

Saturday,

May 7 Eight stories were filed out of Alaska by Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Ketchikan and one told of a hunter bagging a polar bear measuring 11 feet, without the head...

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* MANAGING EDITORS NOTE: Among the best played stories recently have been *
* those on outstanding Washington State personalities. But the cupboard is bare *
* and we have had no nominations for additional ones. Will you please check your *
* areas and see if you don't have some who would be of interest to the state? *
* * * * *

NOTES FROM THE NEWS AND WIRE FILING DESKS

The crash of a Navy plane near Anchorage this week points up the need for radio stations, as well as newspapers, to remember the phrase: "Remember The A.P." In checking back to determine why we were behind on the first break in the story, we were informed that the Air Force notified the two stations we serve in Anchorage late the evening of Feb.17. One opposition serviced station also was notified.

Our members neglected to remember us. The opposition station sent it out. The result: we took a pretty bad beating which hurt despite the fact superior coverage by The Anchorage Times the following day enabled us to come from behind.

All radio stations should please remember that we are sorely in need of protection in the evening, night time and early morning hours. In Alaska, if the circuit has been cut off the sending side for you, either wire or telephone. Don't worry about duplication--just make sure we get it. Your cooperation will be appreciated by not only AP, but by other stations and newspapers who give you their news.

One of the best played stories of the week was a feature by Don Duncan of the Tacoma News-Tribune. It landed on several front pages and was the story of the girl and her dog who were operated on a short time apart. It was very well written.

Beat of the week was from Olympia on the Supreme Court decision giving Grant County PUD the go-ahead insofar as the state is concerned on construction of Priest Rapids dam. We had it in time to catch papers that day, or at least those with fairly late deadlines. We did not see UP in any paper.

The Tacoma News-Tribune, Don Duncan reporting, gave an assist to Centralia and Chehalis papers fighting a secrecy in the police station battle. It quoted Police Chief Tom Murray as referring to reports as "those dirty b.....s" and said he was always being misquoted. "Yes, we give 'em the news," he said. "What we think they should have." One Judge Dorman Searle, a police judge, told Duncan he thought Chief Murray is at least as capable of deciding what should be printed as the press is.

It was a pretty good week from a news standpoint. Highlights were John Richardson's mailer about Columbia Basin farmers using irrigation water so lavishly the waterlevel has come up 140-150 feet, creating a drainage problem...Canpress did a nice job on its Winnipeg B47 crash and rescue of two men...Fairbanks reported a tie for a dubious record for cold at Umiat, a freezing 67 below.

Another of the better state stories was Dr.Schmitz ban of Dr.Oppenheimer's proposed lecture at the UW, a story that went to the governor and Legislature...Spokane had a strong entry in the feature field--the embarrassed city police who couldn't fine anyone for not having 1955 tags because theirs hadn't arrived, either...Shirley Bartholomew, KRKO, Everett, got a good play on her story of the woman who drove a car on to a railroad track, went home bruised and battered and, fortunately, before it was struck by a train.

Another well played story came from Bellingham on the teen-ager who gets to stay in school days and in jail nights...Anacortes made interesting reading on the union official who resigned to become general manager of the mill his men worked in...Our own staffer, Jim Faber, Olympia, won good play with a good feature of a legislator criticizing the AP for a story on the short length of time the Senate spent in passing a 151 million dollar appropriation (2 minutes) compared with some minor bills (25 minutes) compared with the criticism (4 minutes.)

Anchorage and Kodiak furnished lists of the 11 men aboard the missing Navy plane at the same time Washington, D.C. was moving the same list, with some variations...Joe Lowe, Port Angeles, gave good coverage of the helicopter rescue of a man who was bleeding to death on a fish boat in the Pacific...KENI, Anchorage, covered dog sled results and gave additional information on the plane crash.

An interesting story this week told of both the Vancouver Province and Vancouver Sun increasing price of regular editions from 5 to 7 cents effective March 1...Congratulations to the winners of the Spokane alumni chapter of Theta Sigma Phi..John Lemon, Spokane Chronicle, daily news; Dorothy Powers, Spokesman-Review, daily features; Joe Davis, Okanogan Independent, weekly features and Robert Beck, Camas, weekly editorial writing. And to second place winners, Click Relander, Yakima Daily Republic, daily news writing, and Bob Kull, Yakima Morning Herald, daily feature writing.