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Nuclear reactor explosion kills three, area sealed off

Radiation danger expended in desert

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — A new-style nuclear reactor blew up Tuesday night, killed three men and touched off a high level of deadly radiation in a building at one of the major U.S. atomic testing stations.

The Atomic Energy Commission quickly sealed off the area and said there was no danger to other parts of the station or Idaho Falls, a city of 34,000 persons 40 miles away.

But the building itself was so "radioactively hot" that only one of the three bodies could be recoverel in the first nine hours after the blast.

A team of radiological experts, wearing baggy white suits with heavy protective shoes, gloves and masks, shuttled in and out of the building to inspect damage and test the radiation.

They went in one at a time and could stay only minutes. The AEC said it would send airplanes aloft to check the level and direction of radiation. A southwest wind, however, was blowing at the time and would take any radiation over barren wastelands away from populated areas.

The three victims, identified only as military personnel, were trainees learning to operate the reactor, a prototype of a small nuclear reactor being developed for use by the army in remote areas.

The accident happened at 9:30 p.m. MST when the three men killed were alone in the building. At least 60 are on duty there in the daytime.

It was the first fatal accident in the 11 years of operation at the National Reactor Testing Station, a major AEC installation.

It may be weeks before the AEC knows exactly what happened. But a spokesman said it apparently was a chemical explosion.

About 4,500 permanent employees work at the station west of here and the AEC said it planned no changes in their schedules today.

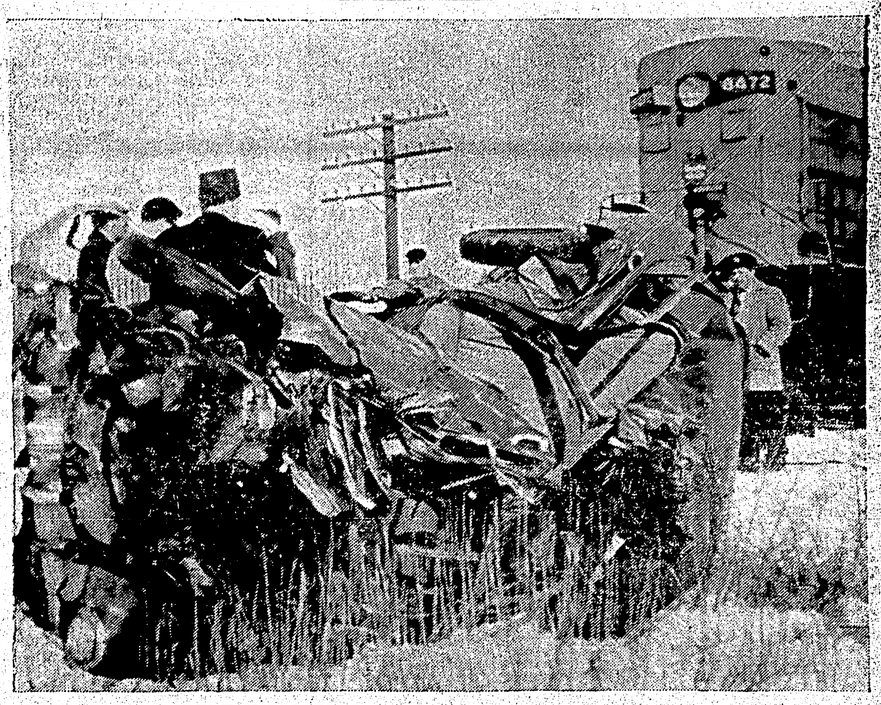
The radiological crew members who entered the metal building one at a time in an effort to retrieve the remaining two bodies pieced together this picture of the explosion:

The experimental reactor, being developed as a portable source of electric power and heat for the armed forces, apparently "blew its top."

The reactor and the boling water in which it is immersed [illegible] which was not penetrated. This is capped by a metal cover through which fuel and control rods run to reach the enriched uranium core of the reactor.

The reactor is housed in the basement, where the explosion apparently occurred, a main floor and an attic. The blast did not appear to have penetrated above the basement. The exterior of the building was not damaged.

Investigators are being flown from Washington.



TRAIN, CAR ACCIDENT KILLS FOUR in Ottawa suburba. George Stead, 62, Bobby Fal, 11, Gerry Davis, 12, and a woman believed to be Stead's wife were killed last Friday in this level-crossing smash between their car and a CPR train in the city's west end. — CP Wirephoto

Living cost now steady

OTTAWA (CP) — A four-month autumn rise in the cost of living in Canada was checked in November as the consumer price index for December held at 129.6, unchanged from November 1.

While costs of shelter and clothing increased during November, there was no change in the index measure of costs of household operation or of a group of miscellaneous goods and services.

The November stability in over-all living costs followed a slight increase in industrial wages during October. The index of average industrial wages and salaries at November 1 — latest date available — was 178.4 compared with 178.2 a month earlier and 173.8 a year earlier. This index is based on 1949 wages equalling 100.

This wages index, computed from a survey of firms employing more than 10 persons and covering a wide range of industries, represents an average of total wages paid.

The shelter index rose fractionally to 144.6 from 144.5 between November 1 and December 1. A similar marginal rise was reported in the index of clothing costs to 112.6 from 112.5. There was a scattering of minor price increases for men's shirts, hats and overalls and for some children's wear. Prices of women's fur coats eased.

Meanwhile, wholesale price movements were mixed.

In the four weeks November 25 to December 23 the index of Canadian farm products at terminal markets advanced to 221.1 from 218.9. The index is based on 1935-39 prices equalling 100.

Price fixing laid against packagers

OTTAWA (CP) — A combines report issued today accused 16 manufacturers of transparent film bags and packaging products of having made an arrangement to reduce competition among themselves.

The report by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission also named two firms as having acted as secretary of the group which, it said, operated from early 1954 until the spring of 1956 in all provinces but Alberta and British Columbia.

The commission said the associated companies held a "preponderant part" of a business—worth some $8,760,000 in 1955 — in tailor-made transparent bags.

The printed bags, made of transparent cellulose film or polyethylene plastic, are used mainly for packaging food products.

City committees, boards named as aldermen, trustees sworn-in

One alderman and two school trustees were sworn in to their positions on the city council and the school board Tuesday night at a statutory meeting of the council.

They were Alderman A. D. Ritchie, and Trustees Mrs. A. L. Bell and W. A. Dibben. Aldermen Gordon E. Carlson and T. Norton Youngs were absent and will be sworn in at a later date.

The short ceremony was carried out by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite.

In appointing his committees for the year Mayor P. J. Lester named Alderman M. W. H. Krueger chairman of the finance committee; Alderman Norman Bellis chairman of the board of works committee; Alderman T. Norton Youngs chairman of the utilities committee; health and licensing, Alderman Gordon Carlson; police and traffic, Alderman Darrow Gomex; zoning committee, Alderman Ritchie who will also be chairman of the airport committee. All of these committees have as their other members all members of the council.

Wage and personnel committee will be chaired by Alderman Bellis with Alderman Youngs and Alderman Ritchie. The Court of Revision (business tax bylaw) will be composed of Mayor P. J. Lester as chairman and Alderman Ritchie and Bellis as members. The same trio will serve on the Court of Revision (voters list). The purchasing committee will be composed of Alderman Krueger as chairman with Aldermen Youngs and the council purchasing agent.

The television committee will be headed by Mayor Lester aided by Alderman Bellis and City Administrator R. W. Long. The industrial development committee will have Mayor Lester as chairman, with E. T. Applewhaite as secretary, and Aldermen Krueger and Youngs. On the Alaska ferry committee will be Mayor Lester as chairman, Alderman Krueger, J. T. Harvey, QC, Orme G. Stuart, Mr. Applewhaite and Mr. Long.

LIBRARY AND PARKS

Two new members have been appointed to the parks commission. They are Dr. Robert B. Smith and Jack Lem.

Other members will be H. S. Harrison, Walter J. Smith, K. H. Andren and R. A. Giordano.

There are no changes on the library board which will again be composed of Alderman Ritchie, T B. Black, William C. Hankinson, Mrs. R. G. Large, Mrs. B. J. Fortune, Mrs. I. M. Scott and Roland Smith.

Council representatives to other boards are: Civic Centre Association, Alderman Youngs and city treasurer Derrick Ratcliffe; Prince Rupert General Hospital, Alderman Carlson; Museum of Northern British Columbia, Alderman Youngs; Prince Rupert Citizenship Council, Alderman Gomez; Skeena Union Board of Health, Alderman Carlson and Mrs. W. D. Smith; Senior Citizens Housing Association, Alderman Ritchie.

The Pioneer Home committee will be composed of Alderman Carlson, Alderman Gomez. Mrs. Smith and J. D. Mulroney.

At the conclusion of the swearing-in ceremony the statutory meeting was adjourned and the council went into committee on routine business.

Sea Cadets to parade tonight

Regular parades for Captain Cook Sea Cadet Corps will resume tonight at 7 o'clock in the navy drill hall it was announced today by Commanding Officer Lt. George J. Brown.

Girl, mother win Elk's club draw

The first $500 in the Elk's Club house bingo game in aid of the March of Dimes for the Crippled Children's Hospital has been won by Miss Jeannette Cloutier and her mother, Mrs. J. E. Cloutier of 346 Eighth Avenue West.

The winning number, B-7, was drawn yesterday by Mrs. A. B. Currie. Miss Cloutier's card has been checked and found correct by Elk's Club bingo organizer, Harley Lewis.

Parked car hit

Failing to remain at the scene of an accident earned Donald F. Griffey of 330 Sherbrooke Street, a $25 fine when he appeared in police court this morning before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite.

RCMP said that a car driven by Griffey had struck another vehicle owned by Richard Miller of 1414 Eighth Avenue East, while it was parked in the 400 block Sherbrooke Street about 3:20 a.m. Saturday.

Magistrate Applewhaite said that no suspension was recommended.

Prince Rupert has now gone 720 days without a fatal traffic accident.

Hit, run driver pleads guilty

John Hutchinson, of 629 Taylor Street was fined $20 in police court this morning for failing to remain at the scene of an accident.

He struck a parked car owned by Norbert Huenseler of 321 Third Avenue West about 6 p.m. New Year's Day. Hutchinson pleaded guilty to the charge. Huenseler was not driving his car as was previously reported.

Driver sought of hit-run car

Police still have found no trace of the hit and run driver who struck a car driven by Joseph Didychuk December 24.

It was previously thought Attilio Basso of 536 Ninth Avenue West was the driver of the second car as a number corresponding to the number of Basso's car was given to the RCMP. Mr. Basso has since established that he was in no way involved in the accident. Investigation is being continued.

No licence, fined

Driving without a licence cost Robert Edward Smith, of 840 Third Avenue West, $10 when he appeared in police court today before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite.

Smith pleaded guilty to the charge which was laid following an incident about 10 p.m. December 26 when he was checked by RCMP and found to be driving a vehicle without having a driver's licence.

Fish hauls down throughout Canada

OTTAWA (CP) — Catch of sea fish and shellfish by Canadian fishermen decreased in November to 118,187,000 pounds from 173,220,000 in the same month of 1959, the bureau of statistics reported today.

Landings in the January-November period of 1960 dropped to 1,544,852,000 pounds from 1,702,855,000 the same period of 1959.

$871.50 netted in court fines

City revenue from police court fines and costs for November amounted to $871.50. according to the monthly report to city council by Staff-Sgt. W. J. Currie, NCO in charge of the City RCMP detachment.

The report showed that $27 was paid to the Provincial Government while the Federal Government received $77.50.

There were 23 liquor cases reported during the month and the liquor situation is termed "fair." Complaints received and investigated amounted to 352.

RCMP attended three fires, reported three unlighted street lamps, discovered two business places unlocked, recovered three stolen bicycles and eight missing articles and received reports of seven lost articles and three stolen bicycles.

There were 13 traffic tickets and 11 parking tickets handed out. Prisoners' expenses and maintenance, including meals, amounted to $315.

In performing their duties, RCMP vehicles covered some 5,149 miles.

VIENTIANE (Reuters) — The National Assembly today installed by a unanimous vote of 41 to 0 the American - backed government of Premier Prince Boun Oum. The crucial vote of confidence came as Boun's forces battled leftists for key points in the strategic, tiny southeast Asian kingdom.

U.S. loses patience, breaks Cuban ties

By LEWIS GULICK

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower has broken U.S. diplomatic relations with Fidel Castro's regime, declaring "the limit has now been reached . . . to what the United States in self-respect can endure."

The White House announcement of the break-off Tuesday night marked rock bottom in a downward plunge of U.S.-Cuban relations that started soon after Castro took power two years ago.

The bearded Cuban leader reacted to Eisenhower's move with the terse statement: "We are alert." He called his cabinet into emergency session, then sent a note to the U.S. Embassy guaranteeing safety of all remaining Americans.

A state department spokesman said the break did not affect the big U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Castro has made threats against the base, but the United States says it holds an unbreakable, no-time-limit lease on the installations.

Eisenhower served notice last November 1 that the United States "will take whatever steps may be appropriate to defend the base."

President - elect Kennedy declined comment on the diplomatic break. He was given advance warning of the President's action.

The break cut Washington-Havana ties for the first time since U.S. forces freed Cuba from Spain at the turn of the century.

The last straw in the Cuban-U.S. feud was Castro's demand, delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Havana early Tuesday, that all but 11 of the U.S. diplomats get out of Cuba within 48 hours.

Repercussions spread widely from the break-off:

In Havana the ranking U.S. diplomat, Charge d'Affaires Daniel J. Braddock, and his staff of 87 packed up for a fast exit. Future U.S. diplomatic business in Cuba will be handed over to the Swiss mission.

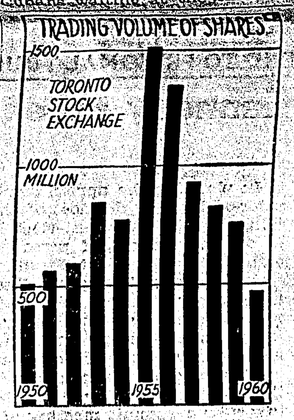
Cuban diplomats in this country likewise were under expulsion orders. State department officials said Cuban personnel totalled about 100, including about 10 at the Cuban Embassy in Washington and 90 at 13 Cuban consulates in other cities.

Castro named the Czech Embassy to handle future Cuban dealings in Washington.

Castro has had no ambassador here since December 1959, U.S. Ambassador Philip W. Bonsal left Havana last October. Most dependents of U.S. officials in Cuba have already departed.

The Soviet news agency Tass headlined Eisenhower's action as "a new step toward aggression."

The U.S. Embassy in Havana had been granting about 50,000 visas a month to Cubans. Suspension of the visa service Tuesday came with several hundred Cubans waiting at the embassy.



HITS 11-YEAR LOW — Trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange during 1960 was the lowest in 11 years. Graph shows annual volume of shares since 1950, start of a mining boom and the first year on record that volume exceeded 500,000,000 shares. Volume rose steadily from 506,595,465 shares in 1950 to 1,513,476,109 in 1955, peak of the mining boom, then slipped to 469,600,051 in 1960. Value of shares traded in 1960 is estimated at $1,215,000,000 compared with 016,548 in 1955 and $902,461,781 $1,860,422,327 in 1959, $4,591,- in 1950. — CP Newsmap

B.C. ROUNDUP

Window cracked as mob storms midnight sale

VANCOUVER (CP) — More than 2,000 persons turned out here early today for an after-midnight furniture sale which featured the selling of 10 television sets for $9.99 each.

Pushing, swearing bargain-hunters jammed the area of a Granville street store which staged the sale. About $250,000 worth of furniture went on sale at 12:01 a.m., legal under a city bylaw which regulates only hours of closing. A good portion of the crowd was on hand long before the doors opened. Some persons had been waiting since 1 p.m. Monday. A store window was cracked by the surging crowd.

Injured in fall

VANCOUVER (CP) — Art Steensel, a 16-year-old sailor aboard a Dutch freighter docked here, is in good condition after being injured in a fall Tuesday aboard the ship. He suffered a fractured hip and concussion in the 25-foot fall into a hold.

Probe requested

VANCOUVER (CP) — A royal commission on the state of physical education programs in B.C. schools was called for Tuesday by a YMCA physical education director. In a talk to Central Lions Club, William V. Oven of Vancouver Central Y, said teaching of sound PE programs was a "basic right of every school child."

Grandmother charged

NELSON (CP) — A grandmother was charged with murder of her five-year-old granddaughter in provincial court here Tuesday. Wearing a colorful kerchief and with her small hunchback body draped in a black coat, Mary Legebokoff, 55, of Glade, stood arms crossed as an interpreter explained the charge to her in Russian as read by Stipendiary Magistrate K. D. Morae.

Cedar problem talks

VANCOUVER (CP) — A panel of forest industry's pressing cedar experts will discuss the B.C. problem at the 18th annual Truck Loggers' Association Convention, to be held here January 11-13. The convention is B.C.'s largest industrial convention. About 1,500 loggers and guests are expected to attend the three-day meeting.

World News Briefs

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Ex-movie producer Robert E. Sherwood was found dead in his Sunset Strip apartment Tuesday and sheriff's deputies say he evidently shot himself in the head.

OTTAWA (CP) — The federal government kept its "business as usual" sign in plain sight for the government of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro today, but concern was expressed privately in some circles over international repercussions and possible disturbances in Cuba. External Affairs Minister Green declined comment on the announcement by President Eisenhower that U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations have been severed.

CAIRO (Reuters) — The Imam of Oman, who fled his Persian Gulf sheikdom in 1956, today was reported seeking a truce with Britain to return to him his homeland. But his peace feelers are opposed by some of his subjects who want to continue their five-year-old tribal insurrection against the British-backed Sultan of Muscat and Oman.

ROME (Reuters) — Governments and the United Nations are drawing up emergency measures to combat a disease which has killed hundreds of thousands of horses, mules and donkeys in Asia and now is expected to invade Europe.

TOKYO (Reuters) Scores of rivers in Japan are being harnessed to meet the nation's demands for electrical power. Seventy-one projects, now in various stages of construction, alone will produce 4,830,000 horsepower for industrial and domestic use.

Weekend musical workshop aims at band improvement

A music workshop will be held in Prince Rupert January 6 and 7 in room 120 of the Booth Memorial junior high school by arrangement with the High School music department and the University of British Columbia.

Friday night, January 6, work will concentrate on a clinic for band and choral directors and anyone who has interest in bands is welcome to attend.

Instrumental clinics will be held the following night in the same location. This will be followed by a history of music and appreciation. A mass band practice will also be held Saturday at which parents are invited to sit in.

President of the Prince Rupert High Schools Band Parents Association, D. M. Newton, says: "This is the beginning of an ambitious program for high school bands. A concert has been arranged for February 9 and tickets will be on sale January 13. "We hope that you will encourage band members to do some real practising now that the holidays are over," said Mr. Newton. The workshop is part of a plan to promote the arts throughout the province.

TORONTO (CP) — A photograph of a nude woman is not obscene in itself, says a member of the Ontario attorney - general's advisory committee on indecent literature.

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Speeder caught

Speeding on McBride Street and Sixth Avenue East about 40-50 miles per hour December 23, proved expensive for Arnold Lewis Petterson, of 441 Seventh Avenue East, when he appeared in police court today.

Petterson pleaded guilty to the charge before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite and was fined $25. He was clocked by the RCMP patrol about 3:55 a.m.

WEATHER

The gale warning for this area continues in force. It will be cloudy and wet in showers. Little change in temperature. Winds decreasing to westerly 20 after midnight. Low tonight and high tomorrow, 35 and 43.

TIDES

Thursday, Jan. 5, 1961
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	03:34	19.4 feet
	15:16	20.2 feet
Low	00:22	3.1 feet
	21:46	4.4 feet