

U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Tucson and vicinity: Cloudy, cooler.
Temperatures
Yesterday: HIGH 85 LOW 53
Year Ago: HIGH 77 LOW 51

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An Independent Newspaper
Printing the News
Impartially

Bills Limiting
Veteran Tax
Escape Killed

Committee's Decision
Ends Bitter Fight
In Legislature

By LESTER N. INSKREIP
Star Staff Correspondent
PHOENIX, March 9.—Faced with unavailing opposition and the short time remaining in the current session, the ways and means committee of the Arizona House of Representatives killed this afternoon all pending legislation regarding modification of the tax exemption privileges of war veterans and widows.

The senate, meanwhile, prepared to debate the most important bill now pending there, the house approved new income tax code, reorganized the highway department and a substantially amended budget during the next few days.

Schedule for discussion tomorrow in the income tax bill. The highway department bill, of which there are three, were set by the rules committee tonight for debate on Friday, and the water code on Saturday or Monday.

The highway department bill, however, have been tied up in the judiciary committee, which today decided to release them for consideration on the floor.

Original plans were to take up the water code on Friday, but this was changed after tonight's rules committee meeting.

Decision of the house ways and means committee to kill the veterans' and widows' tax exemption legislation which today ended, for the time being at least, one of the bitterest fights of the current session.

However, the matter will be revived at the next session, Chairman Charles O. Bloomquist (D-Cochise) said.

The chairman asserted that the committee has already accumulated a mass of information on the subject, will continue its work, and will attempt to work out an acceptable compromise with representatives of the veterans' organizations during the coming year.

Numerous proposals to end the constitutional tax exemption now enjoyed by war veterans have been made in the current session. At present both veterans and widows are exempt from taxes on the first \$2,000 of assessed valuation, providing their local...

Silence Counseled

Dragonette Testimony
Withheld From Public

By VINCE DAVIS
A \$40,000 loan to the Rillito race track was the subject of testimony given at a closed deposition yesterday by Fred A. Dragonette, owner of the Omega Loan company that made the loan on an open note Feb. 4.

Dragonette, president of the Old Pueblo Savings and Loan, 230 East Congress, angrily refused to discuss his testimony when he left the hearing room with his attorney, Walter M. Stevenson.

County Attorney Morris K. Udall, however, confirmed that Dragonette had been questioned under oath concerning testimony made by the Omega company.

Previously, Stevenson, the witness had been subpoenaed to testify last week at the second session of a one-man jury investigating the ownership and operation of the Rillito race track.

Dragonette came to the courthouse voluntarily to be questioned concerning Omega loans. Udall said, explaining that the witness was closed and not open to the press or public. The transcript, however, will become public when filed in the official superior court case file.

Udall said he testified concerning Omega's Dragonette was asked 23 questions at the hearing (Star A-4, Col. 2).

Bridge-Nicking Habit
Carried on by Limer
LONDON, March 9.—The Spanish ocean liner Monte Trinidad, launched by her scrapyard acquaintance with London's bridges again today.

For the third time in six weeks, the 77,000-ton passenger and cargo vessel nicked a Thames river bridge, raising panic from glowing white hull and scarring crossing pedestrians and motorists.

The Monte Trinidad's latest encounter was with the Tower bridge, raising panic from glowing white hull and scarring crossing pedestrians and motorists.

10 Billion Dollar Business in '53

General Motors Sets
Automotive Sales Mark

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(AP)—General Motors today reported that its 1953 sales of 2,650,000 automobiles set a new record for the company.

Automotive sales for 1953 were up 10.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total sales, including trucks and buses, were up 12.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 earnings were up 15.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total earnings, including trucks and buses, were up 17.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 operating profit was up 18.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total operating profit, including trucks and buses, was up 20.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 net income was up 19.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total net income, including trucks and buses, was up 21.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 cash flow was up 20.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total cash flow, including trucks and buses, was up 22.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 working capital was up 21.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total working capital, including trucks and buses, was up 23.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 debt to capitalization ratio was up 22.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total debt to capitalization ratio, including trucks and buses, was up 24.5 percent.

General Motors' 1953 return on equity was up 23.5 percent over 1952, the company said. Total return on equity, including trucks and buses, was up 25.5 percent.

Anderson Named Defense Deputy

U. S. Stepping
Up Quest for
Atomic Power

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(AP)—The Atomic Energy Commission tonight disclosed plans to build four more atomic "reactors" in the next few years.

The commission said the reactors would be built at the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, the Shippingport Atomic Energy Center in Pennsylvania, and the Clinch River Reactor in Tennessee.

The commission also announced plans to build a fifth reactor at the Fort St. Vrain Atomic Energy Center in Colorado.

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Giant Firm's
Tax Bill Near
Two Billion

Saar Solution
New Goal of
France, Bonn

NEW YORK, March 9.—(AP)—Sales of more than 10 billion dollars in 1953, a record for any private corporation, were reported today by General Motors corporation.

Its direct taxes exceeded a billion and a quarter dollars and with sales and excise taxes, the corporation's total tax was nearly two billion dollars.

The giant auto maker's world's largest manufacturing concern, said its sales of 2,650,000 cars, trucks and buses compared with \$7,543,154,149 in 1953.

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Crash Injuries Fatal to Torres

Robert M. Torres, 24, critically injured in an intersection collision that killed a Tucson woman Saturday night, died early yesterday morning at St. Mary's hospital.

Atom Age
Navy Planned
By Britishers

All Fleet Types Except Battleships to Change Over to New Weapons
LONDON, March 9.—(AP)—Britain tonight announced plans for a guided missile-atomic age Royal Navy involving sweeping changes in almost all types of vessels in the fleet.

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U. S. Not Putting
Defense Ideas in One
Basket, Says Radford

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Walter Binson Named
Consultant For SBA

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(AP)—Wendell B. Barnes, head of the Small Business Administration, today appointed six members to a national council of consultants to advise him in the development of SBA programs.