

Five Persons Killed In Explosion At Columbia, S. C.

Government Seeks 60-Day 'Truce' In Coal Fields

Eight Hurt As Building Is Wrecked By Gas Blast

Curb Market Is Scene Of Tragedy

COLUMBIA, S. C. (AP)—Five persons were killed today and eight were injured in a terrific gas explosion which demolished a 100-foot wooden shed section of the Columbia Curb Market.

Police first reported six dead, but a check of hospitals reduced the number by two.

The explosion occurred in a building housing a number of stalls. The blast was caused by a gas leak from a pipe in the wall.

Persons injured were taken to hospitals. The damage to the market is estimated at \$50,000.

There's a Brr-r in The Air
When there's a brr-r in the air, there's a new edge to the apparel. Aids that means you'll want hot, tasty meals on the table for growing boys and girls. You'll find the things you need in food stores advertised in the Thursday food pages of The Charlotte News. Make these fine food pages your Thursday food habit.

Taft Predicts GOP Will Delay Drafting Of Its Legislative Work

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator Robert Taft of Ohio forecast today that Republicans will delay final drafting of any party legislative program for the GOP-controlled Congress until early in January.

The Republicans will proceed with their program without reference to any proposal the Democrats may make, he added.

The two GOP Steering Committees, meeting in separate sessions today, will hold a joint meeting tomorrow.

Taft, chairman of the Senate committee, declined any comment on the possibility that he may be a candidate for Minority Floor Leader.

Professor Threatened
'Gestapo' Tactics Used To Rankin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dr. Harlow Shapley, noted Harvard astronomer, accused Rep. Rankin, Democrat, Mississippi, of "Gestapo" tactics today after Rankin had threatened to bring a contempt action.

Truman To Fly South

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman will fly to Florida Sunday for a week's vacation at Key West, the White House announced today.

Would Give Lewis Chance To Make Pact

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Government today was reported seeking a 60-day "truce" in the nation's strike-threatened soft coal fields.

Lewis may serve notice tomorrow.

U. N. Attack Small Countries Hit At Veto Use

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. (AP)—Cuba charged today that retention of the veto in the United Nations made small countries "vassals and satellites" subject to a five-power "dictatorship" and Australia denounced Russia for invoking the veto ten times in the Security Council.

Diplomat Fined For Speeding

IRVINGTON, N. Y. (AP)—Police Judge James J. O'Brien fined Dr. Joseph A. Argente, delegate to the United Nations, \$10 today for exceeding his 30-mile-an-hour speed limit on the Saw Mill River Parkway Nov. 11.

Big Four Council Battle Over Trieste Rude Issue Flares

NEW YORK (AP)—A first-stage struggle was developing in the Big Four Council today over the issue of how to handle the proposed Free City of Trieste.

Resolution Endorsed Bankers Urge Full Study Of City-County Consolidation

Charlotte's four large commercial banks added their voice to the increasing demand for consideration of City-County consolidation today, calling upon the City Council and County Commissioners to make provision for a survey of local government.

U. N. Attack Small Countries Hit At Veto Use

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. (AP)—Cuba charged today that retention of the veto in the United Nations made small countries "vassals and satellites" subject to a five-power "dictatorship" and Australia denounced Russia for invoking the veto ten times in the Security Council.

Plane Hunt Is Resumed

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Hope for finding the missing plane was renewed today as a search was ordered resumed of a rugged 800-square-mile area north of here where the five-engine craft disappeared early yesterday.

Attempt Made On Romanian's Life

BUCHAREST (AP)—Romanian Minister Julliu Maniu disclosed today that an attempt was made against the life of Ion Mihalache, vice-president of the National Council, in Chişinău, a former capital in Mihalache's native village of Topoloveni.

2 Die In India Clashes

NEW DELHI (AP)—Two persons were killed and 100 others injured today in renewed clashes between Hindus and Moslems in scattered parts of India.

Would Ask Institute To Conduct Full Study

Joint Request Is Suggested

WASHINGTON (AP)—An industry group today urged that a study be made to determine the effect of rent control on the housing market.

Attempt Made On Romanian's Life

BUCHAREST (AP)—Romanian Minister Julliu Maniu disclosed today that an attempt was made against the life of Ion Mihalache, vice-president of the National Council, in Chişinău, a former capital in Mihalache's native village of Topoloveni.

Loss Threatened For Six-Figure Fee

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heavy snowstorms in the Rocky Mountain States today have threatened a loss of \$100,000 in already sown crops, the Agriculture Department said today.

Weather

Fair and continued cool this afternoon and tonight. Moderate to heavy rain Friday and Saturday, but slightly warmer.