

Freight Station Destroyed NINE HURT IN \$1 MILLION FIRE

Seeks Accord Churchill Begins Talks With Ike

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (P)—Prime Minister Churchill met with President Eisenhower today to see whether

Nationalist China Seizes Soviet Vessel

TAIPEI, Formosa (P)—Nationalist China announced tonight that one of its warships seized the Russian tanker Tuesday off Formosa and indicated the vessel and its cargo might be confiscated.

The 8,400-ton Danish-built tanker is being held at the southern Formosa port of Kaohsiung, the announcement said.

Word that the Tug was seized by Nationalist hands came hours after the Soviet Union, in a stiff note made public in Moscow earlier today, accused the United States of seizing the tanker.

The Soviet note said the Tug was seized in waters between Formosa and the Philippines "by a warship of the destroyer type" which threatened to open fire.

The note threatened "appropriate measures for safeguarding the security of Soviet merchant ships sailing in the area."

In announcing that the tanker was in custody the Nationalists said tersely that the matter was "being disposed of," indicating the Tug might be confiscated, as were two ships to which Poland claims title.

The Nationalists said the Tug was carrying oil to the "Communist hand" port of Shanghai on the Red-bellied mainland in violation of a U.N. embargo on such shipments.

The announcement said only that the Tug was seized while violating Nationalist China's port closure policy—a blockade of the China coast.

1st Hurricane Of '54 In Gulf

BROWNSVILLE, Tex. (P)—Alice, the first hurricane of the season, sprang up suddenly in the Gulf of Mexico and scooted toward Brownsville and the lonely Mexican coast.

It wasn't a big blow as hurricanes go. Winds at the center were reported 80 miles an hour, just five miles above hurricane strength.

The center was aimed at a waste land stretch of Mexican coast 50 or 60 miles south of Brownsville, Texas' southernmost city.

One man was injured in Brownsville when winds, which blew in gusts up to 56 miles an hour, knocked off a crossbar on a power line, and the crossbar hit him on the head. The man, unidentified, was working on the line.

Some 50 or 60 Girl Scouts in a camp near here were evacuated and set up their camp in the Brownsville Civic Center before dawn.

All persons on Padre Island, off the coast near Brownsville, were evacuated. Tides there were expected to be 5 to 8 feet above normal.

Brownsville police stood by for emergency.

Brownsville, a city of 36,000 and 30 miles inland from the coast, is used to hurricanes. It's been at least sideswiped by all gulf hurricanes.

OUR WEATHER
Fair and a little warmer today, tonight and tomorrow.
High temperature yesterday 91 degrees.
High temperature expected today 95 degrees.
Low temperature this morning 64 degrees.
Low temperature expected tonight 65 degrees.
Sunrise 5:10 a.m.; sunset 7:45 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 13-A



Boxcars: Burned, Blackened, Buckled (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin's-Martin)

14 Indicted For Tax Fraud Plot

WASHINGTON (P)—Fourteen persons, including three New York lawyers, were named today in an indictment accusing them of plotting to corrupt Internal Revenue Bureau officials and impede tax scandal investigations.

Atty. Gen. Brownell announced the return of the indictment by a federal grand jury in New York. Four persons were named as defendants, the others as co-conspirators.

Those named as co-conspirators included Daniel A. Bolich, former No. 2 man in the old Internal Revenue Bureau, and Henry W. (The Dutchman) Grunwald, long a mystery man around Washington.

The eight count indictment named as defendants:

WHAT'S INSIDE

THE PATOIS OF THE HUCKSTERS has always fascinated columnist John Crosby. He slyly records all the latest expressions among the ad agency men along Madison Ave., expressions such as "Let's put it on the cat and see if she licks it off." He reports the latest in his story on Page 3-B.

THE CAT WITH NINE LIVES had nothing on Winston Churchill, who has had harrowing brushes with death all through the years. Drew Pearson tells about them in his column on the editorial page, 4-A.

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Land Option Is Taken By Electric Firm

By EMERY WISTER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
The Western Electric Co., announced today it had taken option on land on N. Tryon St., on which it proposes to erect a distribution facility.

R. M. LaClair, engineer of distribution of Western Electric, said option has been taken on the land and that text borings will be made at once to see if the soil will support the proposed building.

The land is on N. Tryon St. and is part of the old Orr estate. The eight-and-one-half-acre tract lies between 31st and 32nd Sts.

Mr. LaClair said he did not know how large the proposed building will be, but previous estimates have placed its site at between 75,000 and 200,000 square feet. He said, however, the structure will not have as much as 50,000 square feet.

Because of indecision of size of the building, no estimate can be placed on cost. But it is expected that the building will cost several hundred thousand dollars, perhaps as much as \$800,000.

He said that contract had been let for test borings and that the company has 60 days in which to exercise its option.

He said that the building will serve all Southern Bell telephone exchanges in the Carolinas. West-

See FIRM on page 12-A

3rd St. Extension Talk Follows Fire

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer
In the wake of the spectacular Southern Railway Terminal fire, municipal investigation of the possibility of extending E. 3rd St. was proposed today.

City Manager Henry A. Yancey when queried about the possibility of providing another outlet from the congested Charlotte through the extension of E. 3rd St., said:

"Of course the proposal merits careful investigation."

And on the council front, Councilman Steve W. Dellinger was ready to launch immediate negotiations for removal of the freight station to another site and for the opening up of the street, which previously had been blocked by the freight building.

Mr. Dellinger said, "Now is the ideal time for the city to approach the railroad about moving its station and opening up 3rd St."

He felt that the proposition was of such merit that the City Council should not hesitate to proceed immediately with such negotiations.

PHONE CALLS
Traffic Engineer Herman J. Hoose said that he had already received several telephone calls from interested citizens who advanced the possibility of now proceeding with further plans in unbuilding midtown Charlotte.

The suggestion of extending 3rd St. and giving another outlet from the central business district was

Firemen Seeking Cause Of Blaze

By DONALD MACDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Rubble ten feet deep was being probed today as firemen and Southern Railway investigators sought the actual cause of the spectacular fire which swept through the railway's midtown freight station.

As firemen kept two pumps at the scene for mopping up operations, estimates of loss moved closer toward \$1,000,000.

The fire which flashed end-on through the freight terminal on N. College at 2nd St. injured at least eight city firemen.

One civilian was also listed as having received hospital treatment following the mid-afternoon catastrophe. And reports said other civilians and volunteer firemen also suffered minor cuts, bruises and blisters.

After surveying the debris piled inside the shell of the one-story brick building, Charlotte Fire Chief Donald S. Charles said losses are now unofficially estimated at "from \$800,000 to \$900,000—but may reach \$1,000,000."

Southern Railway officials were seeking to determine the chemical contents of drums stored in the warehouse-type structure to decide the actual cause.

There were also drums of movie film stored in the building, and firemen expressed a feeling that spontaneous combustion may have set off the blaze.

Accompanied by mountains of black smoke which was seen for miles, the fire flashed through the freight station enveloping at least 25 freight cars and seven motor vehicles.

It was our worst fire since the old Academy of Music building was destroyed in 1924," Chief Charles declared. "The Academy of Music building stood on S. Tryon St. right where the Johnson Bldg. now stands."

The blaze was first detected by Chief Charles, who gave a general alarm.

Every fireman was called on duty, the county's eleven volunteer fire departments were rushed into the city, and City Manager Henry A. Yancey sent calls for help to departments at Gastonia, Concord and Monroe.

At daybreak this morning, firemen reported several muffled explosions as overpacked loads of canned goods burst beneath the piles of blackened, charred debris.

Before noon, a towering brick chimney was toppled by firemen, who have ordered the area roped off as a danger zone.

A partition inside the gutted structure collapsed at 2 a.m., sending firemen scurrying through the ruins to safety.

"About seven firemen were on the other side of this wall," fireman R. L. Cooper said. "If it had fallen the other way, it would have gotten every one of them."

THE INJURED
The list of injured firemen included:
J. L. Turner, from Plaza Station, second and third degree burns on the arms.
H. V. Conder, from Belmont Ave. Station, third degree burns on his right arm.

R. E. McGuire, from North Charlotte Station, injury to his right eye caused when an explosion threw cinders or some materials into his eye.

Louis E. Westbrook, Fifth St. Station, slight burns around the shoulders and feet.

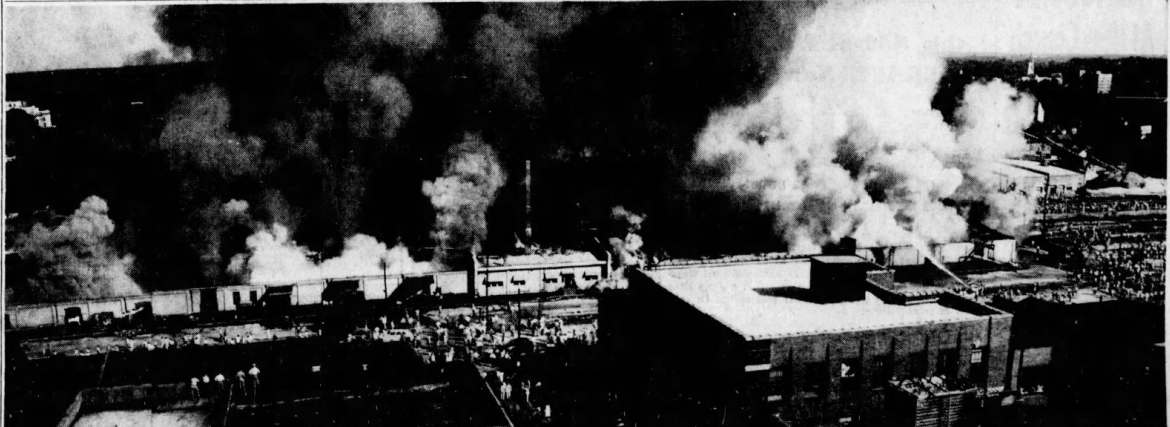
R. L. Queen, Tuckasee Rd. Station, blistered foot.
Capt. Walter Black, of headquarters station, a cut on his right hand.

C. P. Hannah, headquarters station, a cut on his left hand requiring three stitches and an injury to his heel.

H. V. Roger, headquarters station, a piece of glass imbedded in his left hand.

The one civilian treated at Presbyterian Hospital for minor

See FIRE on page 12-A



Smoke Could Be Seen Over Much of the Carolinas As Southern Freight Station Burned Here (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin's-Martin)