



**THE 1957 AUTOMOBILE** license plates found a ready market when they went on sale at the Carolina Motor Club offices at 701 S. Tryon this morning. A line that formed at the entrance (top photo) stretched around the corner and down Hill St. The steady stream of customers also kept the office crowded (bottom photo). Club officials said 3,000 to

4,000 plates will be sold today. Officials estimated 112,000 plates will be sold here this year to top last year's 97,390. The office also expects to sell 65,000 city license plates. The office will be open from 9 to 4 each week day and from 9 to 12 on Saturday. All cars must display 1957 plates by midnight Feb. 15.



Knowland, Rayburn, Johnson, and Martin (L to R) Just Before Meeting With Ike.

(News Staff Photos by Tom Franklin—Franklin)

## White House Seeking Retaliation' Speed-Up

### Reception Generally Favorable

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House worked under a speed-up schedule today to get action on President Eisenhower's call for standby authority to take swift retaliatory action against any Communist aggression in the Middle East.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty told newsmen that White House and State Dept. liaison men are already at work with key legislators on plans for the President's formal message to Congress on the proposed action.

Hagerty held open the possibility that the message might be presented this week.

With Congress convening tomorrow, next week was the earliest time mentioned yesterday when the plan was discussed with key members of both parties at the White House.

**SPEED-UP FACTOR**  
A probable factor in the speed-up was the generally favorable response which the 29 senators and House members gave to the plan.

In a four-hour White House session the key Congressmen members gave most of their time to the proposal which the President said was "designed to deter Communist armed aggression in the Middle East area."

A White House statement said this would be linked with a request for "an enlarged program of economic aid to the nations in that area," to be administered under Eisenhower's personal direction.

**MORE DETAILS WANTED**  
The general principles of this new peace-keeping doctrine got immediate backing from leaders of both parties, subject to a more detailed explanation Eisenhower will give Congress within the next five or six days.

Some conferees said Eisenhower may deliver the special message in person early next week but the White House said no details of the explanation Eisenhower will give Congress within the next five or six days.

Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.) told reporters he believes the President's proposal—which conferees said involved standby presidential authority to order U.S. military forces into action—will be a very fine thing if it can have proper explanation and practical unanimity in the Congress.

**"SENSIBLE COURSE"**  
Chairman Cannon (D-Mo.) of the House Appropriations Committee said, "The President's proposal seems to me to be a sensible course for us to follow."

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, the Senate's Democratic leader, reserved judgment. He said Eisenhower's request involved

See PARTY on page 2A

### COPS LOOKING FOR NEWLY CLIPPED POOCH

This is the first shaggy dog story of 1957.  
Somebody broke into the Hastings Seed Store at 218 N. College St. early today and police are looking for a man who owns a dog that needs a haircut.

How did they arrive at that ingenious conclusion?  
Driving on up the canal, one of them saw above the water. Many were completely submerged and invisible from the highway. The best available information is

there are some 50 sunken vessels from one end of the canal to the other.

**SKIRTS EDGE**  
A motorist has to leave the main channel of the canal to skirt the edge of Bitter Lake. Then you pass the Perdan bridge, completely collapsed in the center and untouched since it was bombed. This was the only permanent bridge across the canal south of Port Said. Two German supply vessels, under U.S. auspices have tied up here.

A few miles north of the Bitter Lake is Lake Timsan, another lake through which canal traffic must pass. At its entrance lies

motor launch and began work on the sunken Egyptian warship Abukir.

The Abukir, on its side, was completely visible in the clear water of the canal. It had its smokestacks jutting out of the water. The sunken Suez Canal Co. tug Hercules, in the center of the canal, lay on its side. One could see parts of sunken craft at intervals, some had their bows in the air while the smokestacks of others rose above the water.

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### Same Leaders May Be Retained

## Parties Talk About 85th Congress

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST  
WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats and Republicans called party buddies today to work out the preliminaries for the formal opening at noon tomorrow of the 85th Congress.

The separate caucuses were expected to approve retentions of the same leaders and elective officials who served in the last Congress.

John W. McCormack of Massachusetts and Joseph W. Martin Jr. of Massachusetts will continue as Democratic and Republican floor leaders, respectively, with Carl Albert of Oklahoma, Democrat, and Leslie Areeda of Illinois, Republican, remaining as party whips.

Senate party meetings will be held tomorrow, with no leadership changes in prospect but with two vacancies to be filled. Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana is slated to replace Earle C. Clements of Kentucky as Democratic whip.

Clements was defeated for re-election. Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) is in line to become president pro-tem of the senate, succeeding Walter George of Georgia, who did not seek re-election.

**SENATE LEADERS**  
Lyndon R. Johnson of Texas and William F. Knowland of California will continue as Democratic and Republican Senate leaders, respectively.

The House caucus choices will be formally decided when the House convenes tomorrow at the call of its clerk, Ralph Roberts.

While awaiting committee assignment recommendations, Congress will mark time and receive President Eisenhower's legislative proposals. The chief executive's message on the State of the Union will be delivered to each person Jan. 10.

Even before that, Eisenhower will send or deliver to Congress a special message asking standby authority to use American military might if necessary to curb Communist inroads in the Middle East.

Outlined yesterday to congressional leaders of both parties, the plan calls also for broader economic aid to the area, in the expected amount of 400 million dollars for a two-year period.

The threat of a possible intra-party row in the House dissolved with the statement of Rayburn that the Democratic caucus would not try to deny committee representation to Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-N.Y.). Powell openly supported President Eisenhower for re-election, and some Democrats have sought to strip him of

his major committee posts. Rayburn told newsmen there would be no retaliatory action against the New York Negro member.

Congressional leaders expect no surprise legislative requests from Eisenhower. He already has outlined his program to them at White House conferences.

It includes continuation of the general foreign aid program, expansion of the domestic atomic power program, government aid for school construction, civil rights legislation, immigration law revision, increased postal rates, amendments to the Taft-Hartley labor law and additional aid for small business.

With heavy emphasis on defense and foreign aid spending, the program provides for no sizable tax reduction this year but for a balanced budget despite expected expenditures of around 72 billion dollars.

Delayed reports Wednesday for the New Year period that began at 6 p.m. (local time) Friday and ended last midnight raised the toll to 405 deaths in traffic, 70 in fires and 109 in accidents of other types for a total of 584.

The National Safety Council, which had predicted 490 traffic fatalities during the New Year celebration, stated:

**ESTIMATE HIGH**  
"Drivers and law enforcement officers, teamed up to make our holiday season safe, are making a guide post through 1957. If we can do it for four days we can do it for 365."

The New Year traffic toll fell far under the total of 706 during the Christmas period—a record for any holiday period.

The combined total for the two holidays set a new high, with more than 1,100 traffic deaths. The old record was 974, set in 1955-56.

**FIGURE CUT**  
The National Safety Council, which last week had predicted 490 traffic deaths, lowered its figure during the holiday.

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**STORE ROBBED WHILE OWNER TAKES INVENTORY**  
DALLAS (AP)—A customer at a drive-in grocery last night was driven by the young man behind the counter that the store was open for business and that he was "just taking inventory." The inventory the young man took in closed all the money in the cash register. Inventoried but left locked up in a rear room were the store's two employees.

## Big Budapest Firm Reopens Doors For Work

BUDAPEST (AP)—The official Hungarian news agency reported the nation's biggest industrial complex, the Csepel Island plant and steel works, resumed partial production today after a 10-day shutdown.

But Radio Budapest said the continuing grave shortage of coal and power kept other large segments of Hungarian industry idle on the first work day of 1957.

The MTI news agency said resumption of work at Csepel Island, south of Budapest, was made possible by receipt of new coal of both coal and raw materials.

**SENT HOME**  
Before the Oct. 23 revolt, more than 30,000 worked at the Csepel plants, but only 21,000 were reporting when production was shut down Dec. 23. Then 17,000 profited today and only 4,000 kept on half pay and only 4,000 kept in the plant for maintenance, repairs and inventory.

The MTI report did not say how many were back at work.

The Russian-supported government of Premier János Kadar has been striving for weeks to get coal miners back to work. The mines are limping along with only about half of the usual force, digging only about a third as much coal.

Budapest radio said Kadar's government was consolidating work units and reorganizing production methods to meet the power shortages. Thousands have been laid off from the idle plants, and there has been speculation many would be drafted for the coal mines.

Police were forced to intervene today when a crowd of about 1,000, mostly women and children, broke from a long queue and stormed a department store in Hungarian Youth Street, formerly Stalin Avenue, which is the main thoroughfare.

The ship recently was opened to replace another one destroyed in the October-November revolution. Store personnel tried to aid police in hiding back queues of several thousand shoppers by fixing ropes.

But impatient mothers and children broke the lines. Some women used clubs on them.

Go First to FIELDS — Sterling FRIENDSHIP RINGS 5¢. (A44)

## Soviets Reverse Policy On Stalin

MOSCOW (AP)—Soviet Communist party boss Nikita Khrushchev has backtracked on his denunciation of Stalin's biggest industrial complex, the Csepel Island plant and steel works, resumed partial production today after a 10-day shutdown.

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**Our Weather**  
Mostly fair and cold through tomorrow. Friday increasing cloudiness and warmer.

Low this morning—25.  
Low tomorrow morning—23.  
High today—40.  
High yesterday—55.  
High tomorrow—40.  
Sunrise today 7:32 a.m.;  
sunset today 5:23 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

## Canal's Sunken Ships Can Be Seen From Road

By ANTOINE YARED  
PORT SAID, Egypt (AP)—Ships can't be seen through the Suez Canal today, but you can drive along the highway that lies beside it, running from Suez on the Red Sea to Port Said on the Mediterranean.

The canal has been closed two months, and a silliness has settled over the entire canal area.

The starting point of a trip, Suez, is almost a paralyzed city today. In normal times, the harbor is filled with tankers, freighters, passenger ships. Today the entrance to the harbor is blocked by the 4,000-ton Egyptian ship Zamelek, lying on its side. An Egyptian salvage crew including divers is working on the Zamelek

in the hope of opening the harbor soon.

**SALVAGE TEAM**  
At the entrance to the canal at Suez a U.N. salvage team was swinging into action. A Dutch diver slipped over the side of a

motor launch and began work on the sunken Egyptian warship Abukir.

## Blaze Routs 27 Patients

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Patients were routed from Charity Hospital today by flames breaking out in the attic about 4:20 a.m.

Twenty-seven persons were removed first to the ground floor of the building and, finally, as water began to accumulate there, to the larger Chatham Memorial Hospital.

None suffered any injury during the transfer in the early morning chill.

Two firemen received cuts battling the blaze.

The fire was officially under control just before 8:30 a.m. Damage to the Negro hospital and its equipment was undetermined, but spokesmen said it would be considerable, especially from water.

Charity Hospital's patients were removed out "with no injury, no confusion" and with a minimum of discomfort, reported Dan Gay, administrator of Chatham Memorial.

Gay described the transfer as "beautifully done."

## \$11-2 Million Oil Rig Is Destroyed

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Oilmen in a desert lands that is a base for a large group of American technicians.

Weather advisers gave this picture of the incident:

The rig, similar to those used in offshore drilling in the United States, was being prepared for removal to a drilling site in deep water.

Weather forecasts had indicated a low could be started during the night, but a northeasterly tempest sprang up. The wind damaged the two 1,000-ton pontoons on which drilling platform—its main deck a huge living and working area 40 feet above the water—was mounted for towing.

**HEAVY SWELL**  
A heavy swell came on, with 20-foot waves. Under the swell the crossbeams connecting the pontoons snapped like glass rods.

The rig's deck, supported by three tugs, the loose pontoons smashed against the drilling platform. Heavy equipment broke off and crashed into the water.

Orders were given to abandon the platform and 250 men jumped or slid into the raging waves in complete darkness. Most of them reached the accompanying tugs. Dawn showed the rig deserted.

**What's Inside**  
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Theaters ..... 10A  
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**Store Robbed While Owner Takes Inventory**  
DALLAS (AP)—A customer at a drive-in grocery last night was driven by the young man behind the counter that the store was open for business and that he was "just taking inventory." The inventory the young man took in closed all the money in the cash register. Inventoried but left locked up in a rear room were the store's two employees.