

0-6-17-48  
**City Council Hears  
Vanport Evacuees  
In Plea for Money**

The citizens' committee set up at the June 4 mass meeting of the Vanport Tenants' league, headed by Irvin Goodman, attorney, moved in on the city council Wednesday with its demand for stopgap money, job priorities, rent freezes, and what it considers proper housing for flood victims.

The hearing was strictly one-sided, for no member of the council responded except Mayor Earl Riley, who at its conclusion ordered the matter referred to himself as commissioner of public safety.

By prearrangement, only five speakers took the floor. The audience sat passively, and there was no work for the half-dozen police officers on hand to shunt all standees into the hall.

Vaughn S. Albertson, former professor at Vanport college, said he was the official representative of the citizens' committee that drafted a set of resolutions embodying the objectives of the league.

#### **Pocket-Money Wanted**

Albertson introduced first John S. Davis Jr., 130 N. E. 71st avenue. Davis' appeal was for pocket-money for the evacuees. The Red Cross, he said, is issuing food requisitions; but many of the Vanport refugees lack funds even to buy toothpaste or razor blades. The city, he said, should be able to provide this.

Work priorities to Vanporters on projects for repairing flood damage were called for by Mrs. Carmen Walker, 3105 S. E. 28th avenue.

On the rent question, Bruce Bishop, 5706 N. Willamette boulevard, said he had seen no example of "extortion" yet, but he urged the council to go on record as supporting a rent freeze until the emergency is over.

#### **'Trailer Ghettos' Hit**

A Vanport schoolteacher, Mrs. Helen O. Campbell, made the most vehement appeal, against what she termed "trailer ghettos" that she warned would launch Vanport's children into careers of juvenile delinquency.

"I don't care what they're like," she declared, "Trailers aren't the right kind of living quarters for children.

"They were Vanport children yesterday but they're Portland

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## **Cash for Vanport Victims Wanted**

Demands that each Vanport refugee be granted \$250 immediately and that each registered tenant of the former housing project ultimately be granted \$2000 for himself and \$1000 for each dependent were made Sunday afternoon by a majority of persons attending a meeting called by the Citizens Committee for Flood Disaster and the Vanport Tenants league.

About 900 persons attended the meeting at High School of Commerce.

The \$250 cash grant proposal was made by Nels Peterson, state chairman of the Henry Wallace for President committee. He said the money could come from the \$10 million appropriated by congress last week for temporary housing for flood victims.

The group also voted to protest the action of the Red Cross in sending flood refugees to Swan island. The protest vote was made despite a defense of the action by Maurice Reddy, Red Cross disaster director of the Portland area. He pointed out that Vanport residents are only 18,000 of 41,000 homeless flood victims and said the work of the Red Cross had been complicated by hundreds of persons claiming falsely that they were flood refugees.

Speakers urged refugees to be present at the city hall and fill the streets around it at 9:30 a. m. Wednesday when a request will be made to the city council that hotels and auto camps be requisitioned as housing for the 1300 evacuees living on Swan island. A proposal also will be made that rents be frozen at the May 31 level.

The finance committee of the sponsoring group reported that the Vanport P-TA council will give the groups' disaster committee \$200 and other organizations in Vanport are expected to contribute also.

0-6-1-48  
**Reds Map Program**

Sunday's flood disaster brought comment from the Communist party of Oregon in the form of demands for national emergency relief legislation.

Oregon Party Chairman Mark Haller issued a party bulletin Monday calling for a four-point program to include:

1. Provision by congress of a \$2000 grant for each adult evacuee and \$1000 for each minor, with additional bonuses based on individual property loss.
2. Immediate construction of 10,000 low-rent housing units on safe ground in the Portland area.
3. Immediate construction of a four-year state university in Portland, with the continuation of Vanport college in temporary facilities.
4. Temporary public works programs to provide jobs for flood victims.

Haller also demanded an immediate congressional investigation to fix responsibility for the disaster. He demanded the public know what engineers had failed to estimate the danger correctly and why the Portland housing authority failed to prepare the area's inhabitants.

0-6-3-48

# Vanport Flood Evacuees Schedule Placard Parade

Plans for a placard parade and demonstration at the city hall and before the city council Wednesday at 10 a. m. were completed Sunday at a mass meeting of nearly 300 Vanport flood evacuees at Benson high school.

The meeting, called by the Citizens' Disaster committee, formed to represent ex-Vanporters, also protested the attitude of city, county, state and federal authorities toward the post-flood plight of the refugees.

Speakers bitterly assailed instances of what they said were rent gouging, racketeering, profiteering and looting in connection with the Memorial day flood that wiped out their housing project.

## Cold Shoulder Reported

"Apparently the various governments have developed an immunity to the needs of human beings," declared Spencer Gill, chairman of the committee.

He reported to the meeting on what he said was a "cold shoulder" given him and others by Commissioner Kenneth Cooper and Mayor Earl Riley when they sought city aid. Other agencies have been equally lax, he declared.

## No 29 to Meet

Thomas R. Mahoney and F. K. Haskell will be the speakers at a meeting of Townsend club No. 29 at 8:15 p. m. Monday in WOW temple, 528 S. W. 11th avenue.

The protest parade and delegation to the council was decided on after many persons told of abuses suffered by refugees.

One woman declared she is living in the emergency trailer park at Guilds Lake and 56 families are forced to share three lavatories. Others protested the Portland housing authority's demand for rent in advance and \$20 deposits for emergency quarters at Guilds Lake and University Homes.

## Many Complaints Recited

Gill reported that numerous complaints have been received that household effects salvaged were not complete, that many valuable pieces were missing, and that valuable jewelry had in one instance been removed from a box of costume jewelry. He said a demand is to be made on the authority to permit a committee of refugees to act as official observer at the salvage operations.

Committees were appointed to contact other ex-Vanport residents in an attempt to get a turnout of at least 3000 at the city hall protest meeting Wednesday. The fewer than 300 present voted to have signs prepared stating a demand for "food, housing, clothing and jobs," and arrangements made to transport some evacuees to the demonstration in a truck.

To help defray minor expenses of the Citizens' Disaster committee, the finance officer passed the hat at Sunday's session and the refugees contributed a total of \$79.98.

J-6-30-48

# 'Demonstration' Halts Hearing of Flood Group

A public hearing before the city council of the citizens' committee for flood disaster broke up abruptly this morning when Mayor Riley recessed the meeting because of a "demonstration" in council chambers.

The mayor's action came when 200 persons sitting in the chamber broke into loud applause as

one of the committee members, Victor Todd, summed up their grievances and demanded "outright dismissal of the housing authority of Portland."

Banging his gavel to the table, Riley said:

"I warned you earlier not to start any demonstration in here. This hearing is recessed."

## FILING ORDERED

He also ordered the committee's petition placed on file.

Preceding the hearing about 75 persons paraded about the city hall. Various placards calling for compensation for their flood losses, protesting the use of trailers for emergency housing and demanding dismissal of the housing authority, were displayed.

In the hearing Vaughn Albertson, spokesman for the committee, said the committee wanted the city council to impose rent control in Portland and to dismiss the housing authority.

When the audience applauded a testimonial by one of the flood victims, Mayor Riley cautioned against such a demonstration. He warned that any further applause would cause the hearing to be terminated.

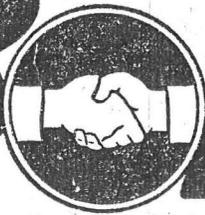
## RENT PROTESTED

Several Vanport flood victims testified that trailer accommodations offered them were not adequate for large families. Some said they were unable to pay the \$28 a month rent asked.

Todd asserted that the housing authority does not represent the true interest of the people of Vanport. He said that a majority of its members do not have the confidence of the people and that it is arbitrary in its dealings with flood victims.

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## Federation Backs Flood Aid But Hits Commie Deal

The Oregon State Federation of Labor declared its support for aid to the victims of the recent Northwest floods but refused to have anything to do with the Communist-dominated "Citizens Disaster Committee" by action of the convention last week.

Three resolutions introduced by S. P. Stevens were dealt with as follows:

A series of three resolutions numbered 60, 61 and 62 were proposed, all dealing with the Vanport tragedy. The language in some or all of these resolutions is intemperate and the assertions contained in some or all of them are not readily supported by available facts. Moreover they appear to follow the line currently being followed by an organization calling itself the "Citizens Disaster Committee." This committee is made up for the most part of sincere persons seeking relief from the suffering inflicted upon them by the recent flood. But it is directed and managed by Communists and their sympathizers and their purpose is not to relieve suffering but to create dissension, chaos and disruption and to capitalize upon the suffering of the flood victims for dishonest and traitorous political activity. We refuse to support these activities.

### Support Given

Therefore as a substitute for the three resolutions your committee recommends adoption of the following statement of policy:

"The Oregon State Federation of Labor deplores the fact that the Congress adjourned without taking adequate steps to meet the relief problems raised by the floods throughout the Northwest. We urge that Congress remedy this situation by adopting appropriations to relieve the losses suffered in the flood so far as practicable; enactment of long range housing legislation providing for permanent type construction in decentralized units at low rental cost; and such other legislation as may be required to meet the situation."

And we further recommend that all A. F. of L. unions refuse to cooperate with the Communist dominated Citizens Disaster Committee or to have anything to do with it.

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## Another Commie Front Exposed!

The Communist Dominated "Citizen Disaster Committee" picketed the City Hall Wednesday and made such a disturbance and demonstration that the City Council adjourned the hearing they had granted the group previously.

This group is Communist led and is endeavoring to disrupt all legitimate efforts to bring relief to the victims of the Northwest floods. The chairman of the Citizens Disaster Committee is Spencer Gill, Jr., a very close associate of Communists. Principle spokesman for the group is Victor Todd who is a Communist and was expelled from the Machinists Union for that specific reason. Another energetic little lady who promotes the Communist line and writes under an assumed name for Communist publications is Julia Eaton. She was on hand Wednesday morning to assist in the direction of the demonstration. Mark Haller, Chairman of the Communist Party of Oregon, was also on hand to assist in the directions being given.

There are other Communists and fellow-travelers who are actively agitating in the organization.

Their action is typical. They are preying upon the poor unfortunate persons who were hit by the disaster. They are doing all they can to so confuse the issue that a solution will not be found—for if one is found the Communists have then lost a chance to recruit and to create dissension.

The American Federation of Labor Unions know perfectly well that the problem cannot be met by the City Council. So do the Communists leading the so-called "Citizens Disaster Committee." The Vanport and other flooded areas lie outside the city limits of Portland. State and Federal legislation is required. The AFL unions intend to aid in securing such legislation. But we do not intend to have any part of the disgraceful mobocracy which tends to discredit real constructive effort.

The AFL unions will have no truck with the Citizens Disaster Committee nor with the Communists who have organized and directed it.