

# GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

Associated Press

MONTANA'S BEST NEWS GATHERER

United Press International

VOL. 77, NO. 61

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1962

PRICE 10 CENTS



## Ribicoff Resigns Post, Announces for Senate

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Secretary of Welfare Abraham A. Ribicoff announced Thursday night his resignation from the Cabinet and his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to the U.S. Senate from Connecticut.

He expressed hope the people of his home state will elect him to the Senate and let him remain there for the remainder of his public career, putting that ambition above a possible seat on the Supreme Court.

The formal announcement by Ribicoff had been long expected, but it had two unusual aspects. One was that a Cabinet member announced his resignation rather than having the President do so. Also, it was the first time that a Cabinet member used a television speech—a taped speech in this instance—as the vehicle for announcing his resignation.

"An hour ago I sent to President Kennedy my resignation as secretary of health, education, and welfare," Ribicoff said in his prepared speech.

"I took this action so that I might announce my candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate. This I now do."

In Washington, Andrew T. Hatcher, the assistant White House press secretary, said there will be "no undue delay in announcing a successor."

However, it was understood the White House might make no official announcement concerning the resignation until release Friday afternoon of Ribicoff's letter and Kennedy's reply.

Ribicoff had long made it clear he intended to resign at about the time of the Connecticut Democratic State Convention so he could seek the Senate nomination. The convention opens Friday night, and delegates vote on nominees Saturday. Rep. Frank Kowalski is also seeking the nomination. Ribicoff recently wrote each delegate asking support, but said this

was not a formal announcement of candidacy.

In his taped speech, he said, "I want to be in the U.S. Senate—working to achieve the things I believe in. I want a vote as well as a voice."

Ribicoff was the first Cabinet member announced by Kennedy when the then President-elect was selecting his top officials in late 1960.

Many names have entered into the speculation as to a Ribicoff successor. Among them have been LeRoy Collins, former governor of Florida and now president of the National Association of Broadcasters; Rep. Edith Green, D-Ore.; Veterans Administrator John S. Gleason Jr.; and Robert Weaver, Housing and Home Finance administrator.

## Harlowton Bears Brunt Of Downpour in State

A low pressure system moved into southern Montana Thursday evening causing widespread thundershowers over the bottom half of the state.

Great Falls weather bureau, on the edge of a deluge, reported only .09 inches of moisture. In the downtown section of the city and some eastern parts of the residential area, the downpour was so heavy and rapid that water immediately poured over the curbs. At the Tribune building, it took only five minutes after the storm broke for the street drains to fill and water cover the curb.

Other portions of Great Falls, such as Riverview, reported only light showers.

Harlowton was hard hit by the storms which moved up from Nevada and Utah, into Montana near Bozeman and swept eastward through Harlowton and Lewistown.

**FLAMES DESTROY CLUB** — An early morning fire swept through a quarter of a block of downtown property Thursday to destroy the Ozark Club and the Geiger Auto Repair Shop before being controlled by firemen. Police and two insurance men estimated the damage could go to \$100,000 for the spectacular blaze. Fire Chief Charles Carrico said insured damage was estimated at \$45,000. DeMier Studio photo.

## Night Club, Repair Shop In Downtown Falls Burn

Tar-fed flames destroyed nearly a quarter of a block in downtown Great Falls early Thursday morning before firemen could bring the blaze under control.

The fire, which burned the Ozark Club, 113 3rd St. S., and the adjoining Geiger Repair Shop, 124 3rd St. S., was reported at 12:45 a.m., after which an estimated 40 or 50 patrons of the second-story night spot were ordered to evacuate the place.

Preliminary estimates on the total damage from the fire run to almost \$100,000. Fire Chief Charles Carrico said Thursday afternoon the insured loss from the blaze is estimated at \$45,000 but declined to make an estimate on the uninsured loss.

The adjacent Carpenter Paper Co. Building, 217 2nd Ave. S., which adjoins the rear of the Ozark Club, was damaged slightly by fire but there was considerable water and smoke damage in the building, mostly to wrapping paper and linoleum rugs stored in the basement, firemen said. Windows on the east side of the building were broken out from the fire heat and window sills and frames were scorched.

The three-story Michelotti Hotel and 112 Bar in the ground floor of the hotel, 112 3rd St. S., adjacent to the club, were undamaged by the flames. Patrons of the hotel were evacuated from their rooms by firemen and the hotel owner. Sites of a small restaurant and barber shop, between the club entrance and hotel, were damaged to some extent, mostly by smoke and water. Both were vacant.

Two cars parked on the street in front of the club and one stored in ground-floor space under the club were damaged. One of the cars was owned by Mrs. Richard Bowman, who said she has no insurance on the vehicle since she had purchased it only a few days before. Firemen said owners of the other cars are not yet identified. They said heat from the fire kept the cars on the street from being driven away by the owners.

Cause of the blaze, which

**Kennedys Will Delay**

Continued on page 11

# Night Club, Repair Shop In Downtown Falls Burn

Continued from page 1

Firemen said started in Geiger's Repair Shop, had not been determined Thursday night. County Atty. Gene B. Daly said five men reported leaving the scene in a car about the time the fire got a good start had been brought in and questioned and volunteered to take polygraph tests. They are not being held.

Authorities said investigation of the cause of the blaze, currently listed as undetermined, is being continued.

Police received a call at 12:45 a.m. reporting the building next to the Ozark Club was on fire. Firemen received a call at 12:46 a.m.

Firemen said when they arrived, Geiger's Shop was well contained by fire. Long tongues of flames were licking out the front windows and were eating at the front of the Ozark, operated for many years by the late Leo LaMar and long well-known as a night club. LaMar died June 20. His will, admitted to probate in District Court here Wednesday, named his wife, Beatrice LaMar, operator of the Vista Apartments on First Avenue South, as sole heir.

Fire Department Battalion Chief Carl Bauer reported that on arrival at the scene he went directly up the narrow stairway to the Ozark Club to order its evacuation.

He said the club's three-piece orchestra was beating out hot jazz and no one was aware of the

flames rapidly eating toward the club.

Bauer said those in the club evacuated rapidly and quietly and that within an estimated 10 minutes of the time he first entered flames were eating at the club. When he arrived, Bauer said, a faint smell of smoke was easing into the club atmosphere but the heat, later to be intense, was not yet felt.

The Geiger property, according to Fire Department records, is leased by Geiger from the Pacific Hide and Fur Co. It was burned completely to the ground and its brick walls crumbled. The shop had a tar roof. The club's asphalt roof and floor fell through and left some of the outside walls standing. The sign in front was little damaged by flames.

The spectacular blaze attracted hundreds of onlookers. It was brought under control about 4 a.m. and still was smoldering Thursday afternoon.

Richard Manning, a fireman, received first aid treatment at the hospital for thumb and finger burns suffered during exposure to intense heat in the blaze. Two firemen, Dick Zale and Bill Judge, were hit by falling bricks at the blaze but didn't require hospitalization.

