

Ecuador Quake Damage Set At \$50 Million

Estimate of Dead
Reduced to Between
2000 and 4000

QUITO, Ecuador, Aug. 8 (UP)—An official spokesman said today that destruction in last Friday's central Ecuadorian earthquake may reach \$50 million or more, but he scaled down estimates of dead to between 2000 and 4000.

Many believed dead, he said, had been found among some 227,000 men, women and children who fled to the hills and plains in terror after the tremors wrecked their villages and homes. Rescue workers found them camping in the open, he said.

The spokesman was Miguel Albornoz, secretary to President Cato Plaza Lazo. The President himself in a radio broadcast Sunday after his return from the disaster scene had estimated the dead at 5000 and the injured at 20,000.

Original Figures High
"It is impossible to tell the exact total killed," Mr. Albornoz said, "until we begin large-scale digging in the ruins of towns, and this is made difficult because we lack bulldozers and other machinery."

"The task is too monumental to be tackled with picks and shovels."

However, original estimates of the number killed may be rather high."

He said tents were needed urgently to shelter the 227,000 living or wandering in the hills. The government is also trying to feed the refugees, he said.

The government has organized an airlift to rush food and supplies to the earthquake area some 70 miles south of Quito.

Planes of every type took off at the rate of one every 10 minutes for the flight to Ambato, a thriving industrial and farming city of 20,000 that was destroyed by Friday's series of quakes.

Town Obliterated
The town of Peñón, he said, was obliterated.

Rescue workers who reached the town of Guano, near Ambato in the quake area, could not find a single survivor from among the 6000 inhabitants. All had been killed or had fled, he said.

Quake Damage Spreads
Earthquake damage spread across an area of 4000 square miles with a population of 100,000. Seventy per cent of all houses in the area were destroyed, rescue workers reported.

Airlift planes on their return journey from Ambato brought injured victims for treatment in Quito's hospitals.

Fan American Grace Airways planes joined the airlift and the president, A. B. Shea, said the full facilities of the airline had been placed at the disposal of the Ecuadorian government.

It was understood that the American Caribbean Air Command also would send planes from Albrook Field in the Panama Canal Zone to join the airlift.

Boy Killed by
'Unloaded' Luger
MILWAUKEE, Wis., Aug. 8 (UP)—A 16-year-old youth was killed because he wanted to show his 15-year-old girl friend how much he knew about guns, authorities said today.

Wayne Becklund showed his brother's Luger pistol to Wanda Reber. He showed her how he could take the clip from the gun.

Then to show her it was unloaded, he put the muzzle to his head and pulled the trigger. He was killed instantly by the cartridge left in the chamber.

Plans Atlantic Flight
NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (UP)—Italian pilot John Brondello, 36, said today he will fly the Atlantic non-stop from Lisbon to New York in a single-engine plane to publicize a \$3 million fund drive for an Italian "Boys Town."

Vice President Dodges Romance Rumors



Vice President Alben W. Barkley doesn't seem to mind Mrs. Carleton S. Hadley's applying her lipstick in public at the Cardinal-Giant baseball game in St. Louis yesterday. The vice president was on his second unscheduled flying trip of the summer to St. Louis. He saw the attractive widow on both trips.

Forest Fire Rages Over 6000 Acres

Northwest Blaze Still
Out of Control; 13 Dead

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 8 (UP)—The Northwest's worst forest fire in 40 years still raged out of control today after devastating 6000 acres and killing 13 firefighters in 96 hours.

Ranger headquarters said the blaze might be brought under control today but A. D. Moir, supervisor of the Helena National Forest, warned that a strong breeze could wipe out all the past three days' work.

The Montana fire is the largest of an estimated 75 blazes roaring through 18,000 acres of forests and prairies in five northwestern states.

500 Battle Flames
Over 500 men have fought it along a 21-mile perimeter in a region so remote that supplies must be brought by boat, pack train, trucks and airplanes.

Rangers placed the number of firefighters throughout the five-state area at over 2500 men.

Some of the smoke-grimed men fighting the Montana blaze in the gates of the mountains region had gone 72 hours without sleep.

The Montana blaze killed 13 firefighters over the week-end. They were trapped by shifting winds and perished in the flames. Twelve of them had parachuted into virtually inaccessible Mann Gulch.

The other one was a ground fighter who had joined them. The parachutists were members of a crew of 15 forest service "smoke jumpers."

Fire Out of Control
In Idaho, 950 men fought two major blazes, both of which were still out of control today. One in the Boise National Forest raged over 2400 acres despite the efforts of nearly 500 men.

In California two blazes covering 11,000 acres of forest were burning out of control with 400 men on the scene.

In Oregon, the town of Durkee was reported saved from a 5000-acre grass and timber fire that had been stopped by a force of 250 men.

At Sheridan, Wyo., 50 servicemen arrived today from Cheyenne to join 300 other firefighters battling a roaring timber blaze in the Big Horn forest.

TRAIN THROWS MAN 30 FEET
VAN NUYS, Cal., Aug. 8 (UP)—Frank Bic, 67, suffered only a broken shoulder and cuts and bruises when he was hit and thrown 30 feet by a freight train.

Engineer E. A. Fromm said Mr. Bic paid no attention to his warning whistle.

First Steps Taken On United Europe

10 Nations Form
'Council of Europe'

VIENNA, Austria, Aug. 8 (UP)—The U. S. joint chiefs of staff leave for home today, convinced after a 10-day swing through Western Europe that the Atlantic Pact will be a "going concern"—very soon.

By JOSEPH W. GRIGG
United Press Staff Correspondent
STRASBOURG, France, Aug. 8—The foreign ministers of 10 anti-Communist countries met today to take the first cautious steps toward western civilization's age-old dream of a united Europe.

The Council of Europe was born around a hollow oval table, draped in a fawn-colored cloth instead of the usual "conference green," in the reception room of Strasbourg's historic city hall.

The ministers of Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden sat around the table in alphabetical order.

Places were left open for Greece and Turkey, which were to be voted into the council later today.

After posing for photographers, the ministers started preparing the agenda for the European Assembly, the 87-member parliament which convenes Wednesday.

See Fight on Germany
Although all members agreed on admission of Greece and Turkey, a stiff fight was expected on the question of western Germany. Scandinavian delegates met this morning to lay plans for blocking Germany's admission.

Strasbourg's narrow streets and high gabled buildings were a colorful mass of flags, including the new green and white flag of the European union. It has a green background with a large letter "E" in white.

Hunt Knife-Slayer
Of N. Y. Man, 75
Couple Also Beaten
By Florida Attacker

CRYSTAL SPRINGS, Fla., Aug. 8 (UP)—A killer was loose today on the tourist-crammed Florida Gulf coast, after stabbing an aged man so viciously that the knife broke off in his body.

Norman Young Browne, 75, of New York, was killed and his wife and another couple injured by the slayer who apparently went blood-mad yesterday afternoon.

Roads leading into the Pinellas peninsula, and the long causeway across Tampa Bay, were blocked as state troopers and the police of coastal resorts moved in concerted action.

Victim Tied to Bed
Police said that the blade of his knife broke off in Mr. Browne's side, in an assault that apparently took place as the victim lay tied to a bed.

Mrs. Anna Browne, 69, was slashed and beaten.

Miles Crum, 36, and his wife were attacked when they came to call on the Brownes while the slayer was still in the house.

He fired a shotgun blast into Mr. Crum's stomach, and knocked down Mrs. Crum, who dropped her seven-month-old baby.

Mr. Crum, despite the wound, managed to get into his jeep and drive away in search of help.

Police believed that robbery was the motive when the slayer went to the Brownes' home, apart from others and well back from the coast. He tied the Brownes in their garage, authorities said, and later took them into the house and secured them to twin beds.

The house was ransacked and money taken from several wallets before the Crums drove up.

Town's Economy
Periled by Strike
ELIZABETH, N. J., Aug. 8 (UP)—A strike of 7500 CIO United Electrical Workers against the Singer Manufacturing Co., one of the first-walkouts in the nation for a fourth-round wage increase, went into its 15th week today, threatening to reduce the city to a depression economy.

Officials at UE Local 401 estimated the loss in wages between the beginning of the strike May 2, and Mayor James T. Kirk said it has had a "paralyzing effect" on the entire economy of the city of 120,000 persons. He said he had "no idea" when it would be settled.

Business Looking Up, Experts Say Cautiously

Attitude of Trade on Merchandising Expected
To Go Far in Determining Economic Trend

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—Government financial experts and private bankers cautiously agreed today that business appears to be looking up. But only a few thought that the post-inflation "readjustment" trend is over yet.

A top federal official, closely allied with the financial world, believed that the attitude of businessmen toward merchandising will go far in determining the economic future.

He said he believes that several factors which have caused this year's downturn will continue to operate, offsetting some of the bullish trends which have turned up in recent weeks.

'Significant Change'
This same official, however, said his informal talks with businessmen during the last month have turned up "a significant change" in attitude on this issue. He was hopeful, but he was very cautious in his optimism.

But 1000 bankers who replied last week to a questionnaire distributed by Washington Bank Trends, a weekly newsletter, were even less optimistic about the future.

Fifty-one of them foresaw a predominant trend of "uncertainty and hesitancy" in financial circles during the next three months. More than one-fourth said deflationary forces will dominate, and an almost equal number thought the readjustment period will ease off.

The bankers expressed varying opinions on what factors are now most predominant in affecting the economic future. But many noted three factors as being especially important. They were government fiscal policies, the foreign situation and the 1949 wage pattern.

Other developments in the economic picture were:

ONE: The CIO United Electrical Workers accused the government of underestimating July's peak unemployment by 1.8 million. It said there were actually 5.9 million persons out of work instead of the 4,095,000, reported by the Census Bureau.

TWO: The Labor Department's women's division announced it is making a study in 10 cities to find how much part-time work is available for women.

THREE: The Census Bureau reported that the American people shouldered the heaviest tax burden in history last year. Federal two hind quarters.

RUSSLERS INVADE ILLINOIS
JOLIET, Ill., Aug. 8 (UP)—Cattle "rustlers" were reported working as far east as Illinois today, Farmer Ernest Bachmann reported to police that somebody had slaughtered a \$300 Holstein cow, and skillfully cut off its burden in history last year. Federal two hind quarters.

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Child Welfare Post Filled

Miss Minnie Elper
Named by Mueller

Appointment of Miss Minnie Elper to head the child welfare division of the Marion County Welfare Department was announced today by John Mueller, director.

The appointment of Miss Elper as supervisor of the child welfare section fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Mrs. Evelyn Dunbar more than a year ago.

The post remained vacant, Mr. Mueller said, until a person could be found to meet qualifications set up in the 1947 Child Welfare Survey here.

Hold a Weak Spot
That survey labeled the county's child welfare section as one of the weak spots in the county's welfare system. It recommended appointment of a person with a high degree of training and professional experience to head and administer the department and also advised change in policy to give such a supervisor authority to represent the department in child welfare matters.

"We feel we have a person who fills all these requirements," Mr. Mueller said today in announcing the appointment.

Miss Elper was formerly a resident of St. Louis. She served in private agencies until 1937 when she became state supervisor of child welfare services in the Missouri State Welfare Department.

In 1944 she was advanced to supervisor of the field staff for public assistance and child welfare in the state agency, remaining in this post until last year when she returned to the University of Chicago to complete work on her master's degree.

Wheelbarrow Odyssey
Hits Half-Way Mark
KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 8 (UP)—The wheelbarrow odyssey of Mrs. Julia Roka St. Clair, Miss Hungary of 1918, reached the half-way mark today.

She and her seven-year-old crippled son, en route to Detroit from Jacksonville, Fla., wheeled into Knoxville and planned to rest a couple of days before resuming the unique trip.

They left the Florida city June 21 and plan to have the 1000-mile journey completed by early fall.



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