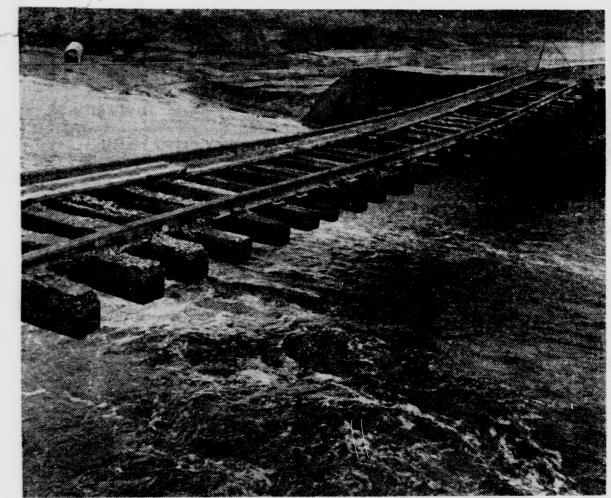
VOL. 82 * * *

STORM RAVAGES KERN ROADS



Malaga Road disappeared under flowing waters which inundated large areas southeast of Bakersfield. This is at Panama Road.



Raging waters from Walker Basin Creek washed out the earth fill and left the tracks on the rail spur at the AFC Bena fertilizer plant on old Caliente Road hanging in midair. Flood waters in this section some 20 miles east of Bakersfield were receding today.

Sirhan, Wild in Court, Seeks to Plead Guilty

By JACK V. FOX

plead guilty to the murder of nated, assassinated, assassi-Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and nated. die in the gas chamber rather than proceed with his present

The 24-year-old Arab exploded in anger in the courtroom Tuesday at presentation of notes in which he wrote that Kennedy "must die like his brother.

Defense attorneys and his mother tried to calm him and counsel Grant B. Cooper said: "He is like a man in a he wants to leave when they to death or life. know he cannot possibly do

Sirhan stood up and shouted and had to be shoved to his seat twice by bailiffs when the prosecution presented the diaries in which he had scribbled that he favored the overthrow of the United States government, backed Russian and Chinese Communists and wrote over and over again that "RFK must die."

Sirhan told Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker in private chambers that he would rather die "than have people think I am getting a

In notebooks dated May 18, 1968, Sirhan wrote in disjointed and unpuncuated

"Robert Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the exploited people. My determination to eliminate RFK is become the more of an unshakeable obsession. "RFK must die-RFK must be killed - Robert F.

LOS ANGELES (UPI) - Kennedy must be assassi- Mrs. Mary Sirhan, dabbed at Sirhan B. Sirhan is willing to nated-RFK must be assassi-"Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June

Kennedy was cut down by

gunfire in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel early last

Today Sirhan was coming back to court again and the question is whether he is still determined now to plead guilty and throw himself on hospital who tells his doctors the decision of the jury as

Cooper said that if Sirhan persisted in that plea he would have to fire him and his other attorneys, Emile Zola Berman and Russell Parsons. If Sirhan pleads guilty, Cooper said, there is no possibility of an

The mother of the tiny Arab,

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her eyes with a handkerchief and said, "They are even trying to use the trash against him." She referred to an envelope found in a garbage can in which Sirhan had written that Kennedy must die like his brother.

Said Cooper: "He doesn't know what he's doing. He has blown his top.

books said:

We are his lawyers and we are going to protect his constitutional rights." Another entry in the note-

"The so-called presidents of the United States of America must be advised of their punishment for their treasonable crimes against the state, against the glorious United States of America will eventually be felled by an assassin's bullet-bullets assassin's bullets today I must come home in a new car today I must plan to drive home new Mustang a new Mustang tonight must buy a

new Mustang. "Ambassador Goldberg must die die die die Ambassador Goldberg must die Goldberg must die Goldberg must be eliminated Sirhan is an Arab Sirhan you you

you Arab you you Arab. Should Sirhan demand that he plead guilty to first degree murder in Kennedy's death, Judge Walker would question him and perhaps even call sychiatrists to ascertain whether the defendant really

knew what he was doing. Berman said that Sirhan's explosive nature in the trial went a long way to explain see Sirhan—page 12

Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol Dies

Premier Levi Eshkol, who guided Israel through its gravest political and military crises of the decade, died today at the height of a new Arab-Israeli confrontation. He

claimed responsibility for his succeed Eshkol. They ex- power June 26, 1963, by solving death but the premier's attending physician attributed it to a heart attack, Eshkol's third in three years.

The cabinet met three hours and 15 minutes after his death and named Deputy Premier Yigal Allon as interim premier pending recommendations by Eshkol's Maipai Party on a permanent successor.

The Al Fatah claim, reported from Damascus, referred to the Arabs' Monday night shelling of Eshkol's rural home at Deganiah, near the Sea of Galilee in the Jordan Valley.

The Arabs said they shelled home because of intelligence reports that Eshkol was there at the time. The Israeli government said he had been in Jerusalem during the shelling.

"His death came today to confirm the truth of our information," said a spokesman for the Al Fatah group in Damascus.

"Al Fatah boasting," replied a spokesman for the Israeli foreign ministry. "It is the most ridiculous and infantile of the Fatah's one thousand and one nights fairy tales."

Physicians disclosed that Eshkol had been ailing since suffering a heart attack last Feb. 3 that had not been announced publicly. He had suffered his first heart attack in 1965, they said.

The Foreign Ministry said Eshkol had been in Jerusalem since suffering the Feb. 3 heart attack, and other Israeli sources pointed out that Eshkol's rural home was still intact to further discredit the Al Fatah claim. Arab commando sources in

FLOOD FREES CROCODILES, TWO HIPPOS

PALMDALE (P)-Two hippopotamuses and two crocodiles swam to freedom from a rain-flooded animal compound Tuesday, and the owners said later they don't know where the animals are.

The escape was from Africa, U.S.A., a compound which houses animals used in Hollywood movies. The rural area of ranches and brushland was under water after days of rain and flooding streams. The owners said helicopters

would be used to hunt down the animals.

Damascus said Eshkol had coming here in 1921, and Eban been seriously injured in the as the most likely candidates.

Political sources said Mrs. Golda Meir, a former foreign minister, or Abba Eban, the current foreign minister, were Al Fatah Arab commandoes the most likely candidates to pressed doubt that the choice would be Defense Minister forced the resignation of his Moshe Dayan, the hero of the 1967 war whom the Arabs fear as a hawk.

> Eshkol was recovering from influenza at his official residence when stricken with chest pains that precipitated heart attack. His physician, Prof. Moshe Rahmilet Rahmilevitz, was summoned to his bedside and at first reported his prospects good. But Eshkol's condition deteriorated and the old fighter for a free and independent Jewish state died

at 8:15 a.m. Jerusalem Radio reported his death one hour and 45 minutes later, and a crowd gathered almost immediately to stand in silence outside the high wall that surrounds his residence in the Erehavia section of Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, to whom Eshkol had entrusted Israel's armed forces just prior to the six-day war of 1967, flew from Tel Aviv to join other cabinet members who rushed to Eshkol's home.

Although Allon was expected to be named acting premier, political sources doubted his chances to succeed Eshkol. They tabbed Mrs. Meis, who taught school in Milwaukee, Chicago and New York before mediately available.

shelling and brought to Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir was another possibility.

Eshkol, who entered politics when malaria forced him to abandon his lifelong love of farming, was a political manipulator who came to a political crisis that had old ally and Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Eshkol formed the coalition of parties around his Maipai party that still governs

HELICOPTER **RESCUES 2** NAVY PILOTS

LEMOORE NAVAL AIR STATION (P) - Two stranded Navy pilots were picked off a 12,000-foot plateau in rugged, snow covered Sierra country today by a hovering Air Force helicopter. Both were reported in good condition.

The rescue mission began Tuesday afternoon after Lt. Cmdr. Gary Lubbers of Lemoore and Lt. John McDaniel of Hanford crash landed their A13 Skyraider propeller plane on the plateau 72 miles east of Lemoore.

A paramedic parachuted into the area Tuesday night and said the two suffered only minor bruises.

An Air Force helicopter attempted to land in the area Tuesday night but turned back because of strong winds.

A spokesman at Lemoore Naval Air Station said details on the crash were not im-

\$1 Million in Damages Estimated

Weary state and county road crews have been working around the clock since Monday pumping water from roads and sumps and making repairs for emergency traffic throughout Kern County. Damage to county roads and bridges has been estimated at nearly \$1 million by County Road Commissioner Vernon Smith.

Two county bridges already have been washed out, roads have been sliced up by rampaging flood waters—and more rain is on the way, according to the weatherman at Meadows

Freeway 99, main artery through the Central Valley, has been closed to traffic north of Bakersfield at Highway 65. Northbound traffic has been rerouted on 65 to Highway 190 and then west back to the freeway in the vicinity of Tipton. Southbound 99 is open, with one detour listed in the Castaic area at the Santa Clarita Bridge.

The two bridges lost by the county include the one across Friant-Kern Canal on County Line Road and the other across Poso Creek at Famoso. A detour has been established to route traffic to the Famoso Drag Strip, site of the Bakersfield Fuel and Gas Championships scheduled for this weekend, but the detour was under water this morning.

Mike Ansolabehere, spokesman for the county road commissioner's office, said every effort will be made to clear up the detour by Friday — barring further precipitation.

Highway and road advisory issued by the California Highway Patrol at 8 a.m. today included the following roads: -Highway 58 east is open, but some snow is reported at Broome Road. No chains were required, but motorists are

advised to carry them. The same highway is closed to passenger vehicles west of Barstow. -Westbound Highway 58 is closed west of McKittrick.

-Highway 14 north of Mojave is open, but south of Mojave there are several detours.

-Highway 33 is closed south to Ojai and north at High-

-Highway 46 west is open to Paso Robles; 126 west is closed at Castaic; 155 is closed east of Highway 65 and Highway 166 is closed at Cuyama.

The Kern Canyon Road (178) is closed, Mt. Cerro Noroeste Road is closed, Poso Flat Road is closed and Famoso-Porterville Road is closed. -Frazier Park Road has been opened to one-way traf-

fic, although a few residents in the area are still isolated. The county crews ask that traffic be limited to local and emergency vehicles. -Breckenridge Road is open to emergency traffic only

east of Comanche Road. Comanche is closed between Panama Road and Mt. View Road. Panama Road is closed between Weed Patch Highway and Comanche. Vineland is closed between DiGiorgio Road and Buena Vista Road.

-The Caliente-Bodfish Road is closed but Ansolabehere reported county crews hoped to have this open to emergency and local traffic by late today.

-Highway 43 is closed between Garces Avenue and Ave-

In his report to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Smith stated that more than 40 roads were closed to traffic at one

point Tuesday. Caliente Wash, which is running water from Tehachapi, Walker Basin and Caliente Creek is expected to give trouble most of today. Bakersfield urban subdivision sumps were overflowing, Smith said, but crews have worked double shifts to bring

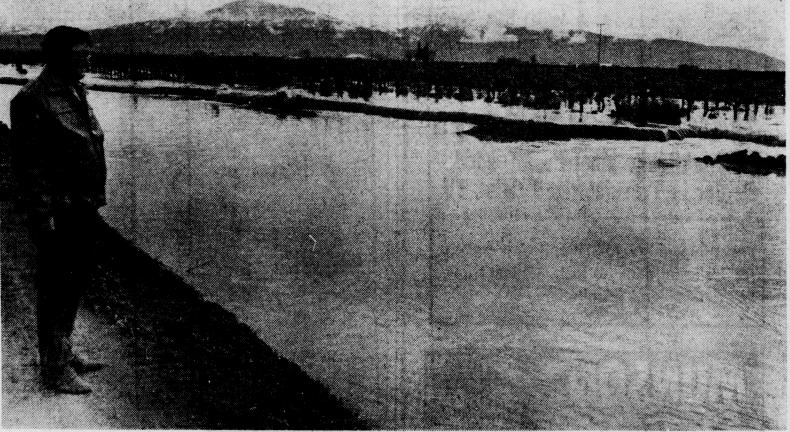
the level of these down in preparation for another storm which is on the way. Smith estimated damage from the first storm at \$350,000, while the Monday-Tuesday rain and snow caused immediate

damage estimated at up to \$500,000. Add to this the longrange damage to weakened roadbeds, and losses could range up to \$1 million. Normally, Smith explained, flood cleanup can be executed

in 24-48 hours, but the storms of the last two weeks leave excess waters standing and roadbeds soaked so that traffic weight causes considerable damage.

Supervisor John Holt commended Smith for the efforts of the road crews during the past 48 hours.

Although public and private property damage could reach into the millions, no lives have been lost in Kern County because of the heavy rains this week.



Albert Morris watches as fast-swirling flood waters rip through a canal bank from the Panama Road course,

heading through the Guidera Farms and a vineyard. In past years the canal has filled and spilled water into Lamont.