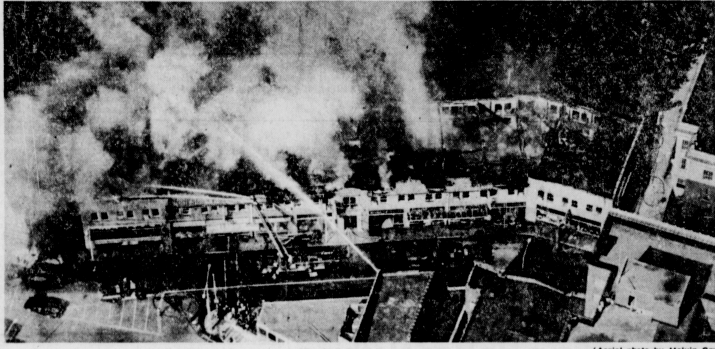


## Costliest Blaze In Bluefield's History - - -

# Fire Guts 9 City Businesses



Smoke rises from Bluefield's Bradmann Building as firemen battle Thursday night. (Aerial photo by Melvin Grubin)

More than 100 persons worked in nine business offices, shops in building

Today's News Highlights  
NATIONAL, WORLD

**REYKJAVIK, Iceland** — President Nixon and Pompidou agreed Thursday on a series of moves designed to recast American-French relations within a modernized Atlantic alliance.  
The two leaders failed in a day of intensive talks to settle specific economic and political differences. Page 1.

**WASHINGTON** — H. R. Haldeman said Thursday that "at no time, not in any way," did he participate in covering up the Watergate affair while he was President Nixon's chief of staff.  
His testimony conflicts with that of others who attended an important White House meeting last June 23, according to a senator and a congressman on separate investigating committees. Page 2.

**CHARLESTON** — Democratic defections to the Republican minority shook loose \$218 million in previously bottled-up supplemental appropriation bills from a House Finance Committee Thursday. Page 1.

**CHARLESTON** — Coal miners are winning United Mine Workers district elections under the banner of Miners For Democracy, but at the same time the victors are saying the MFD has done its job and should be laid to rest. Page 1.

**RICHMOND** — New laws enacted by the 1973 Virginia General Assembly, and embracing everyone from bingo players to bicyclists will go into effect Friday. Page 7.

**Local, Area**  
Damage resulting from a fire which roared through the Bradmann Building on Broad Street in Bluefield early Thursday and destroyed or severely damaged nine business establishments has been estimated in excess of \$1 million. Page 1.

**Buchanan County, Va.**, Circuit Judge Glynn Phillips Thursday entered a contempt citation against Southern Tri-State Corporation, a mine construction company doing work for Island Creek Coal Company in Buchanan County, finding the corporation \$500 a day for every day it did not comply with an injunction previously granted to Junior Joyce, a former employee of the corporation, and District 26 of the United Mine Workers of America. Page 2.

Two more candidates for Bluefield's June 12 primary election — bringing the current list to eight — filed Thursday at the Bluefield City Clerk's office. Page 3.

Stock market prices continued their downward spiral Thursday after a feeble rally effort. Page 14.

## Iceland Summit: U.S., France Still Divided On Key Issues

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Presidents Nixon and Pompidou agreed Thursday on a series of moves designed to recast American-French relations within a modernized Atlantic alliance.  
The two leaders failed in a day of intensive talks to settle specific economic and political differences. But they arranged a set of understandings which spokesmen for both sides said could smooth the way for eventual solutions.  
The diplomatic procedures could lead to an unprecedented summit of the leaders of 16 Atlantic countries, although Nixon and Pompidou stopped far short of agreeing on the necessity of such a major international conference.

The summit talks on the fringes of the Arctic will not conclude until midday Friday, but nearly identical statements by U.S. and French spokesmen made clear no settlement is in sight on the specific trade, monetary and military differences that have chilled relations between the two countries.  
The statements indicated, however, that the presidents had struck something of a compromise on the broader issue of how efforts will be undertaken to rebuild the Atlantic partnership in what Nixon has called the "Year of Europe."

Nixon virtually abandoned a previous call by his assistant, Henry A. Kissinger, for a new Atlantic charter.  
Apparently further diluted was the Nixon-Kissinger idea of linking specific economic, political and defense issues together in a sort of transatlantic "super negotiation." European leaders have indicated preference for dealing with such issues separately.  
The French president signalled his willingness to work toward revitalizing the partnership between the United States and its European allies — a major goal of Nixon's second-term foreign policy.  
But the presidents made no headway on the crucial issue of monetary reform on a day when the free market price of gold hit a record \$115 an ounce. This underscored the deep impact of the crisis on both sides of the Atlantic.  
Nixon and Pompidou agreed it is vital that U.S. troops remain in Europe.  
In the long twilight of the Icelandic spring, they joined in a dinner at a country estate, toasting their glasses in lifts to continued U.S.-French friendship.

**By HERR LITTLE**  
CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — Democratic defections to the Republican minority shook loose \$218 million in previously bottled-up supplemental appropriation bills from a House Finance Committee Thursday.  
In a victory for GOP Governor Arch A. Moore Jr., the committee — acting without dissent — reported the 34 Moore-recommended appropriation bills to the floor without recommendation.  
At the same time the committee — acting without dissent — recommended a bill to increase the consumer sales tax from three to five per cent and remove the tax entirely from food.  
The appropriation bills and the sales tax measure all received routine first readings on the House floor later in the day. They will be at amendment stage when the House reconvenes Friday.  
In other developments in the legislature's special session: — A House-passed school construction bill received 264-Senate approval after the Senate amended the bill in one respect into a form which caused Moore to veto a similar measure passed by the legislature's regular session earlier this year.  
— The House-passed 86-10 and sent to the Senate an administration bill to consolidate the state governments' scattered environmental functions under one super-agency — a proposed new department of Environmental Protection and Control.  
— A proposed constitutional amendment to permit sheriffs to serve two consecutive terms was approved 93-4 by the House and now goes to the Senate.  
— Before approving the budget bill passed in the regular session, Moore made deletions and cuts which in general revenue appropriations alone amounted to over \$100 million. He proposed reallocation of this money and more by submitting \$218 million worth of supplemental appropriations to the current special session.  
— Planning a state Supreme Court test of the governor's action on the regular session budget bill, the Democratic leadership sought to hold the new appropriation bills in committee.

**Senate Appropriation Bills Totalling \$218 Million Freed From Deadlock**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted 63-19 Thursday to stop spending money for U.S. bombing in Cambodia and Laos.  
An amendment by Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, D-Mo., was added to a House-passed \$3.5-billion supplemental appropriation bill.  
Administration backers in the Senate said the amendment is "tying the hands" of President Nixon in current negotiations to solidify compliance with the Jan. 27 Vietnam cease-fire agreement.  
Before the vote, the Pentagon said it has already reduced the B52 bombing raids by one-third. One reason, a spokesman said, has been to act on a request to transfer money from one military account to another. The \$450-million transfer is tied up in the money bill.  
The amendment voted by the Senate was introduced by its sponsor, Sen. Robert A. Taft, R-Ohio, to permit continued bombing of North Vietnamese forces in Cambodia.

**West Virginia, Virginia Voting**  
Byrd, W. Va.; Randolph, Va.; Byrd, Va.; GAGAN; Scott, Va.  
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Overhead picture shows roof damage. Fire brought under control after eight hours.

Fire department officials said that the blaze apparently originated at the north end of the Bradmann Building and spread southward on beams above a false ceiling.  
Fire Department Capt. Richard Poe said that firemen believed that they had the blaze under control approximately 40 minutes after answering the 3:35 a.m. alarm but flames kept bursting out as a result of the air space between the false ceiling and the tiles.  
Officials of Flat Top Insurance Agency said that some of the company's records were in fire-resistant cabinets and could probably be salvaged. Spokesmen for the adjustment bureau said they hoped that some of their records could be dug out of the ruins. Some prescription records from Hankla's Pharmacy were reported saved.  
Two trucks from Bluefield's Northside Fire Station responded to the original alarm which was turned in by Bluefield Patrolman Monte Wall who was working the midnight to 6 a.m. shift. After the extent of the blaze was discovered, Chief Puckett summoned two additional pumpers from the Southside Fire Station.  
Witnesses said that at one point flames were "going 40 or 50 feet into the air" and could be seen from the Bluefield-Princeton Road.

Chief Puckett also sustained a burn on his abdomen. Both were reported in "satisfactory" condition.  
The two-story Bradmann Building contained Bradley's Ladies Shop, Bradley's Bridal Shop, Flat Top Insurance Agency, Hankla's Pharmacy, Jenny's Hat Shop, labor's Market, Bishop Optical Company, McHugh Adjustment Bureau and General Adjustment Bureau.  
All of the establishments were destroyed by the blaze with the exception of Bradley's Bridal Shop and Hankla's Pharmacy, both of which sustained extensive smoke and water damage.  
The building is owned by Flat Top Insurance Agency. All of the firms in the structure were reportedly covered by insurance.  
Mervin G. Anderson, treasurer of the insurance agency, said that an official estimate of the damage would be available for several days but that "it would probably run more than \$1 million." Other unofficial estimates placed the figure closer to \$1.5 million.  
The Bradmann Building fire was the second in Bluefield in the past two weeks. A May 23 blaze — believed to have been triggered by lighting — destroyed the grandstands, concession areas and dressing rooms at Bowen Field causing damage of more than \$100,000.

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**Miners Pull For Unity: 'MFD Has Done Its Job'**  
CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — Coal miners are winning United Mine Workers district elections under the banner of Miners For Democracy, but at the same time the victors are saying the MFD has done its job and should be laid to rest.  
"It got what we wanted — the right to elect our people," said Jack Perry, newly elected president of District 17 in southern West Virginia. "But we are United Mine Workers and not Miners For Democracy."  
That feeling, that the union itself comes before the fact that it overthrows the old regime, is reflected by other district officers who have been elected in past weeks.  
The MFD grew from the murder of Joseph "Jack" Yablonski, who tried and failed to oust W.A. "Tony" Boyle from the union's presidency. It forced court-ordered elections in the union and pushed Arnold Miller to the UMW presidency last December.

MFD candidates have swept to victory in Districts 17 and 21 in West Virginia; 5, 4, and 23 in Pennsylvania, and last week-end an MFD slate captured all three offices in District 12 in Illinois. However, miners in eastern Kentucky's District 30 voted strongly for officers who are former Boyle supporters.  
"We don't care whether he's a Miller man or a Boyle man, as long as he's a coal miner," Lawrence Hays, a monitor in Indiana's District 11, said of new officials. "That's all behind us now. We're all United Mine Workers."  
"Forget the MFD," said Ken Dawes, newly elected District 12 president and former national co-chairman of the MFD.  
Observers point out that internal disputes still flare up, and a union official conceded that the UMW does not yet speak with one voice.  
"Some of the wounds will stay fresh just because there are some divisions," he said.  
But he said UMW members are more optimistic about unity since the MFD's sweep in the 34,000-member District 17, Miller's home base.  
(Page Two Column One)

**By JIM GILREATH**  
Damage resulting from a fire which roared through the Bradmann Building on Broad Street in Bluefield early Thursday and destroyed or severely damaged nine business establishments has been estimated in excess of \$1 million.  
The amount of the damage is the highest resulting from any single blaze in Bluefield's history, firemen said.  
Firemen who fought the blaze for more than eight hours before bringing it under control late Thursday morning were still wetting down the smoking ruins late Thursday night.  
Bluefield Fire Chief Lee Puckett and Fireman Curtis Thompson were admitted to Bluefield Sanitarium after suffering smoke inhalation.

**Additional reports, pictures on page 6**

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The gasoline shortage provides another excellent excuse for not mowing the lawn.

## Senate Votes To Halt Money For Indochina Bomb Missions

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