(AP Wirephoto)

FIERY TUMBLE—Section of Columbus, O., Country Club collapses in blaze that outraced firemen when they were slowed by freezing water. Building was 50 years old.

Proposed Inner Belt Would Kill Somerville, Says Sen. McKenna

The proposed Inner Belt route would "kill the City of Somerville," Sen. Denis L. McKenna (D-Somerville), said yesterday.

He said he introduced local veto legislation last year to get the best possible route for the Inner Belt.

The veto now is considered an impediment to the road's construction. The statute gives Boston, Somerville and Cambridge the right to accept or reject whatever route recommended by the State Public Works Department. Gov. Volpe filed legislation this year to repeal the veto provision.

McKenna said the Somerville Planning Board has devised two alternate routes which would do "the least damage." He will offer these plans Tuesday to the Legislature's Committee on Highways.

"I wish to make it clear," said McKenna, "I am not opposed to the idea of the Inner Belt. It seems quite logical to me that our primary purpose should not be to destroy our cities but rather to enable them to stay alive."

The existing plans for the route layout, from City sq., Charlestown, to the Southampton st. interchange with the Southeast Expressway, would "kill the city of Somerville," he said.

Meanwhile, a Cambridge senator suggested the double-decking of Storrow dr. in the Back Bay and Memorial dr. in Cambridge as the least damaging to his city.

Sen. Francis X. McCann, chairman of the Senate's Committee of Bills in Third Reading, also said he would pocket the veto repealer, if necessary, to halt construction of the present road layout.

A unanimous vote is required to force a bill from the chairman of a Senate committee.

Budget Balance To Help Political Equilibrium

Gov. Volpe is expected to submit a record $500 million budget to the Legislature on Jan. 24, completely balanced and well-tailored (with no new call for taxes) to this election year.

In his fight to draft a balanced budget, the governor and his staff have already trimmed $100 million from departmental requests.

An all-out drive for greater efficiency in tax collections to bring in substantial revenue also has been launched.

Tax Comm. Guy J. Rizzotto has been ordered to subject to greater scrutiny corporations which have been delinquent in paying filing fees.

Another source of new revenue, which is not considered a tax, is a proposal to license all types of vending machines.

This would bring $5 million to $10 million a year.

Franconia Moves Its Ski Garb Plant

Franconia Ski Wear, Inc, of Boston, one of the country's largest makers of ski apparel, has just moved to its enlarged plant and executive offices on South Huntington av.

The Banner brothers, directors of Franconia, say the plant is designed to meet the needs of an expanding market in ski wear.

A special feature of the new headquarters is a spacious new showroom, where next year's fashions for the slopes will be previewed even before this season's snow has melted at the ski resorts.

Somerville Limits All-Night Parking

Somerville Police Chief Thomas J. O'Brien announced yesterday that overnight parking will be allowed only on even-numbered sides of streets, beginning Monday.

The order, requested by the street commissioner and the Board of Aldermen, will be effective through Apr. 1.

Two Say Pal Threatened to Kill His Mother

A 17-year-old Reading boy not only suggested robbing his own mother but threatened to kill her when she made an outcry, two of his pals testified in Middlesex Superior Court yesterday.

The boy, Ralph Chapman of High st., is on trial before a jury on an armed robbery charge.

The other two, James F. Scurto, 18, of Soring st., Stoneham, and Ronald A. Kehoe, 19, of Blanchard st., Lynn, have pleaded guilty and turned state's evidence.

Chapman, on the stand, denied their story. He said he thought they were kidding when it was suggested they rob his mother. He said he did everything he could to protect her.

Scurto and Kehoe said the three went to the Chapman home and Chapman told them, "Take whatever you want." Scurto said he searched the house, found more than $100, and asked Ralph if he could take it.

He said Ralph told him, "Go ahead, it's only the rent money. She's got plenty more in the bank."

Scurto said Mrs. Chapman saw a gun in his pocket and became hysterical. He said Ralph told his mother, "Shut up or I'll kill you."

Chapman said that he thought it was all a joke, until Scurto pulled out his gun.

"At this point, I realized they were serious," he testified. "I tried to protect my mother. We both cried, We were scared.

"She asked me to get them out of the house. I told her I would do everything in my power.

"I told her, 'What I do now is not for myself but to protect you and my little brother'."

He said the other two "talked of getting rid of my mother and little brother."

Young Chapman testified, "I said, 'No, don't do that, she's my mother and I still love her'."

The trial continues Monday with Chapman still on the stand.