

Atomic Board's Aid To Avowed Red Displayed Poor Judgment

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

The congressional storm that has blown up over the Atomic Energy Commission's fellowship award to an avowed Communist raises touchy issues.

Under pressure from angry senators, Chairman Lillenthal of the AEC has ordered all applicants and present holders of fellowships to take loyalty oaths and sign non-Communist affidavits.

Lillenthal was unhappy in this move. The awards are for training in scientific fields related directly or indirectly to atomic research. He told senators progress in science would be menaced by political tinkering with education. He begged them not to stretch the arm of federal control into learning.

The reaction in the Senate has been confusing. It seems likely some senators are using this matter and the case of the missing uranium as weapons against Lillenthal personally. He still has powerful enemies in the body that confirmed his appointment in 1947 only after 11 weeks' bitter debate.

U. S. Overthrow Party's Aim

His ouster has been demanded by Senator Hickenlooper who was originally one of Lillenthal's warmest supporters. But Lillenthal's general competence seems

to us a question apart from the specific issue of security against Communism in the AEC.

On that, one point stands clear at the outset. This government believes the U. S. Communist Party seeks to gain power through the violent overthrow of our system. It is now trying to prove that view in a New York Federal Court.

We have ample evidence, furthermore, that the party demands absolute allegiance to its doctrines and obedience to its orders. A party member who understands his obligation can serve no other master—and certainly not truth.

No man thus bound can be a loyal servant of the United States government. He is pledged to undermine it. But certainly the government has a right to require loyalty as a basic condition of employment. It cannot be ex-



NEW CITY HALL IN USE—Canyonville officials moved into their new city hall last week. The building is being shared by the offices of the police and the city recorder. Standing in the doorway above is W. I. Worrall, police officer and deputy sheriff. Offices are decorated in a soothing shade of green. Water bills hereafter are to be paid in the recorder's office in the new building. (Picture of Paul Jenkins.)

Special License Fees Expected To Fatten Portland's Treasury

PORTLAND, June 1. — (AP) — Portlanders, a month from today, will begin plugging up special license fees expected to add from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 annually to the city coffers.

Businesses and professions not specifically named for the fee boosts will be caught by a blanket \$30 levy for "all others." The new fees are effective today because the city certified yesterday that a city income and profits levy had been referred to the November, 1950, election. The license fee ordinances—there are 20 of them—had been passed by the Council to take effect if a referendum blocked the income and profits tax.

Commissioner William A. Bowes had warned earlier that the license fee boosts would be as unpopular as the referred tax—but no petitions were circulated against them.

Sample new fees: Independent grocers, \$25 annually plus \$1 on each \$1000 of gross sales over \$25,000; chain grocers with five stores, \$35 with upward graduation as the number in the chain increases; food and beverage processors, \$15 annually plus \$1 on each \$1000 of gross sales above \$15,000 up to \$115,000; wholesalers, \$25 plus 75 cents on each \$1000 of business in excess of \$30,000; milk distributors, \$30 for each truck.

Dozens of trade, service and sales firms will come under a \$25 annual fee.

Professions—Doctors, lawyers, druggists, accountants, architects, barbers, journalists and others—will pay \$25 annually for the privilege of being in business and will pay \$15 additional for each employee who is on wages or salary.

Mounting Union Demands Point To Summer Eruption Of Strikes

WASHINGTON, June 2. — (AP) — Government officials who keep tabs on labor matters say the nation may be in for a summer burst of strikes.

They pointed to mounting union demands for fourth round post-war wage boosts, increasing employer resistance to added labor costs, and bargaining difficulties over Taft-Hartley Law provisions. These authorities list imminent negotiations in the coal, steel, automobile and maritime industries as crucial in determining if there will be labor peace or strike conflict in the months ahead.

But a rash of small strikes could break out, too, they said privately. During the war government controls over wages led many smaller unions to expect they could get the "pattern" pay awards won by the larger unions.

This tendency for the smaller unions to demand, and get, the "pattern" awards has continued to some extent after the war. Most unions got the 2-cent raise the big unions negotiated in 1946. The next year the pattern was about 15 cents, and in 1948 about 12 cents.

Now, the experts say, collective bargaining results depend more and more on an employer's ability to pay, or his own economic situation. So the variation among unions is widening all the time. But this may not sit so well with some unions which see others get more.

A private labor relations advisory service recently estimated fourth round wage increases given so far average just under 8 cents an hour. Government officials think this may be high, that the average may be closer to six cents.

pected to gather into its fold men bent upon its overthrow. Mistake Evident

We still allow a man, as an individual, to join the Communist Party. But he cannot carry this privilege with him into government service. If he doesn't like the restriction, he is free to leave.

Applying this idea to the case of Hans Friestadt, the avowed Communist granted the fellowship, we must conclude the award was a mistake.

Friestadt would get federal money to study physics. Now some students receive government funds to study farming and other fields, for themselves. Friestadt would be trained, however, in the hope he could some day take part in the highly secret atomic energy program of the government.

By Lillenthal's testimony, he would not as a Communist be eligible for that secret work. He therefore could have no usefulness in the heart of the program. And, in this instance, the purpose of the fellowship awards would appear plainly to be defeated.

Birds and reptiles derive from the same stock and fossil birds show many similarities to reptiles that do not appear in modern birds.

Rain virtually never falls below the Antarctic circle, practically all falling moisture being snow.

No U. S. Power Shortage Except In Pacific Northwest, Institute Told

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., June 2. — (AP) — An up-to-the-minute survey that shows power surpluses in all areas excepting the Pacific Northwest was released yesterday by the nation's private power companies.

The Edison Electric Institute said it was a reply to government claims of an acute national power shortage and was based on an institute study of the electric power situation.

Walker L. Cislser, executive vice president of Detroit Edison Co., presented the report to the annual convention of the Institute, the trade organization of the privately owned power companies.

Record installations of generating equipment, he said, will enable the electric power industry to regain a safe margin of reserve for peacetime and national defense requirements by 1951. Reserve margin is the amount of generating capacity in excess of probable demand and the normal or desirable figure is 15 per cent.

The 1948 margin was 5.6 per cent. This year, Cislser said, the figure will be substantially increased to 9.6 per cent.

Cislser expected reserves to reach 12.0 in 1950 and he figured 15.6 per cent in 1951.

Cislser confidently predicted electric power loads will be adequately met in 1949, 1950 and 1951. Only Washington and Oregon, Cislser said, will not have suffi-

Housing Bill Stymied Until Cost Ascertained

WASHINGTON, June 2. — (AP) — The House Rules Committee refused Wednesday to clear President Truman's controversial bill for a House vote until it finds out just how much the program will cost.

On motion of Rep. Herter (R-

Mass.), the rules group sent a letter to the Budget Bureau requesting cost figures. Foes of the Senate-approved bill contend it would involve a federal outlay of \$16,000,000,000 to \$19,000,000,000 in 40 years.

The Rules Committee killed similar legislation last year.

Chairman Sabath (D-Ill.), battling for the bill, announced he has set Friday as a new deadline for committee action.

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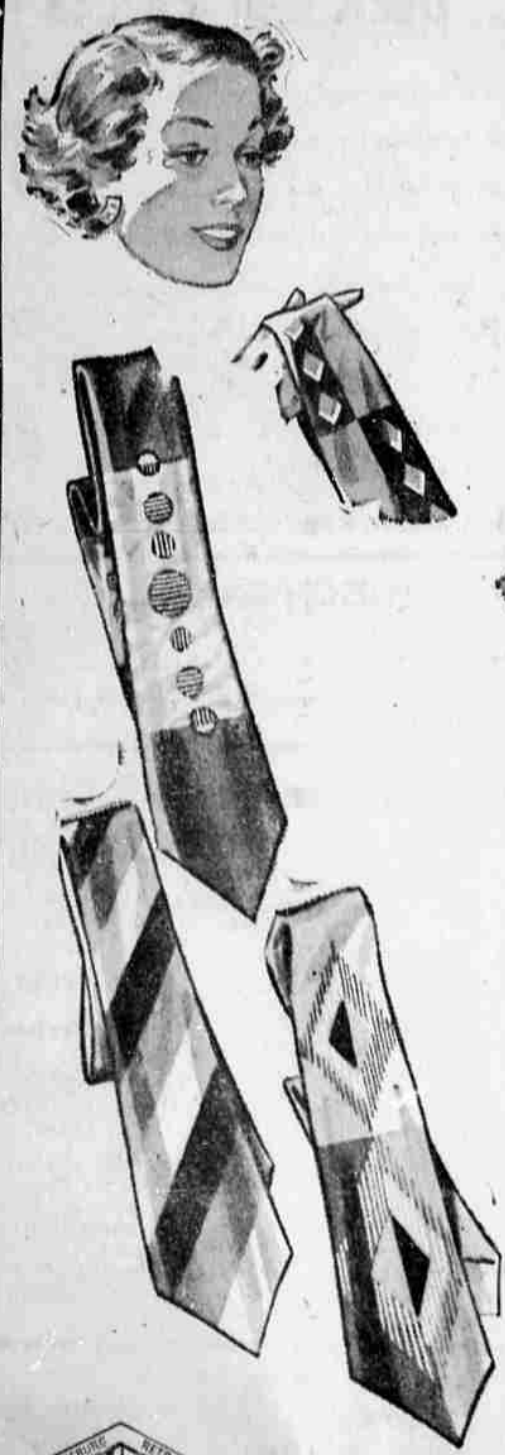
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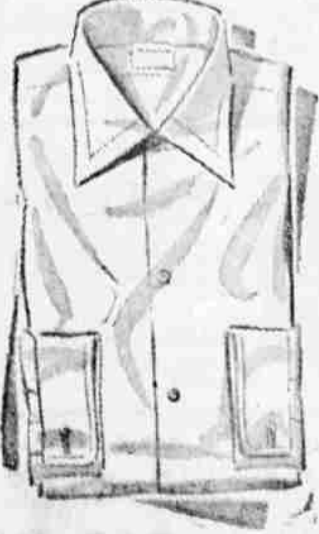


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