

Truman Firm In Stand On Size Of Air Force

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—(AP)—President Truman Wednesday renewed his opposition to a 58-group air force at a White House conference with members of the senate appropriations committee. The senators told newsmen afterward, however, that the President suggested he would accept the House position on funds for stockpiling of strategic materials.

The two controversies are holding up passage of an appropriations bill carrying funds for all the armed services.

Senate Democratic Leader Lucas (Ill.) who participated in the conference, said Mr. Truman was standing by his position in favor of a 48-group air force, instead of the 58 groups insisted upon by the House, because of the "savings of \$741,000,000."

Lucas and the other senators, including Wherry (Neb.), the Republican floor leader, said Mr. Truman did not say he would veto a bill carrying the House version.

The outcome of the conference at the White House left the future of the bill as uncertain as ever.

Wherry, who supported both the 48-group air force and the \$271,000,000 Senate cut in the House figure for stockpiling, indicated that he would not yield on either count.

"I came down here to hear what the President had to say, but it is not going to influence me in any way," Wherry said.

Wherry said the President was "very decent" at the meeting and simply gave his opinion.

The House voted 305 to 1

Still Mountain Climbing At 78 Years Of Age

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Thomas E. Clarke, 78, has climbed Mt. Whitney for the 13th time. What's more, the 6-foot, 169-pound Hemet, Calif., man scrambled to the top of the nation's highest peak, 14,496 feet, only five and a half hours after leaving the 10,000 foot level.

Clarke made his latest ascent with a friend. "When we rolled out of our sleeping bags, he said, 'Frost and ice were on the ground.' He said one inexperienced hiker collapsed near him on the trail and had to be carried down. For 30 years an inspector of public works in Los Angeles, Clarke has been an enthusiastic alpinist for as long as he can remember. "In my younger days I would quit a good job to go off into the mountains," he said.

His only complaint about his last jaunt was the heavy traffic on the trail and the discourtesy of some climbers, whom he compared to Sunday drivers. "I was knocked down several times," he said, "and I don't get up so quick as I used to."

against yielding from its position in favor of the 58-group air force.

Lucas, supporting the President's position, said it "is difficult for me to understand how the experts in the House want to override the experts in the army and the air force as well as the President of the United States."

The argument between the two houses over air force funds has held up the huge military appropriations bill for more than a month.

Lateran Cross Awarded To Wm. R. Hearst

VATICAN CITY, Oct. 12.—(AP)—Vatican sources Tuesday said the Lateran cross has been awarded William Randolph Hearst, American publisher, by the Canons of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. This is a simple medal and not an award from Pope Pius XII, the sources added.

This clarification came in connection with a broadcast by the Vatican secretariat of state denying a Moscow radio statement that the "highest papal honor" had been given the publisher.

The Vatican broadcast said: "As is seen, radio Moscow bases its accusations against the Pope and the Apostolic see on lies and pure invention."

A report of a papal award to Hearst was made to reporters Sept. 29 and 30 by the Rev. George Yahn, representing Bishop A. J. Willinger of Monterey-Fresno, Calif. He said Hearst had been given the order of St. Sylvester by the Pope and that it would be presented Nov. 10 in St. John's cathedral, Fresno, Calif.

Father Yahn said the award was made in recognition of Hearst's aid in restoring old mission churches in California.

Vatican sources said Tuesday Bishop Willinger had recommended the award of the decoration to Hearst, but that this had been refused.

Fir Seedlings Being Rushed For Reforestation

OLYMPIA, Wash., Oct. 13.—(AP)—Lifting and packing 700,000 noble fir seedlings at the forest industries tree nursery at Nisqually is being rushed in an early-season effort to get the seedlings to the high mountain areas for hand planting before snow covers the ground.

This year's crop of 9,500,000 seedling trees is the largest in the eight-year history of the loggers' tree nursery, according to W. D. Hagenstein, forest engineer of the Forest Conservation committee of Pacific Northwest Forest Industries.

The nursery has contract orders for 6,500,000 trees which

will be planted on taxpaying forest lands in need of reforestation in western Washington and Oregon, Hagenstein said.

The forester pointed out that the 3,000,000 surplus trees will be sold to other companies and landowners, as has been the custom in past years, when a surplus was available.

When the rush of lifting the

Noble fir seedling is over in about two weeks, packing will be suspended until the middle of November when the main species will be lifted, packed and shipped through the end of March. Douglas fir comprises better than 90 percent of the crop, with other species being Port Orford cedar, Monterey pine, Sequoia, Norway and white spruce.

If the nursery is successful in selling its surplus, this year's crop of seedlings will restore to productivity 17,250 acres of idle forest land. This giant forest planting project will cost private owners about \$350,000, Hagenstein said, and will give more than 17,250 man days of employment.

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