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Deputy Defense Sec. Donald A. Quarles Found Dead At Home

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Deputy Defense Secretary Donald A. Quarles, who was in line as President Eisenhower's next secretary of defense, was found dead at his home here today.

Quarles, 64, apparently died in his sleep. He was found by his chauffeur who tried to wake him at 7:55 a.m. (e.d.t.) so that he would make an NBC television appearance.

He was pronounced dead 35 minutes later. Mrs. Quarles was in Chicago.

A police rescue squad and a physician rushed from Walter Reed Army Medical Center failed in efforts to revive him. Eisenhower was "shocked and saddened" by Quarles' unexpected death.

In an expression of sympathy, the President said: "As deputy secretary and prior to that as secretary of the Air Force, Mr. Quarles devoted his extraordinary talents to the service of his country. His contribution was of inestimable value to the security not only of the United States but of that of the entire Free World. I share with his associates in the government a keen sense of personal loss."

Saw President Thursday. Quarles, as a member of the National Security Council, had met with the President Thursday.

Quarles was an engineer-industrialist who came out of the Ozark Mountain town of Van Buren, Ark., and once played in a hill-billy band.

He had been a member of the Eisenhower administration team since September, 1953, and had served as secretary of the Air Force before taking over as deputy defense secretary March 26, 1957.

Quarles has been mentioned prominently as the possible successor to Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy who is expected to resign later this year.

Quarles was reported in good health and spirits Thursday night when he attended a private dinner at an Air Force symphony concert. He had returned to his home about 11 p.m.

When the chauffeur couldn't wake him this morning, police and a son-in-law, Col. Stanley Lewis, were notified.

Had Brilliant Mind. Before coming to Washington as a government official, Quarles had had a successful career with Western Electric and the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Quarles had a rural background and showed a flare for brilliance. At 16, he was teaching mathematics in Van Buren High School to students as young as he was.

He worked his way through Yale and was a Phi Beta Kappa. In World War I, he saw two years service as an Army captain in France and Germany.

Quarles began his career as an engineer with Western Electric in 1920 and studied theoretical physics at Columbia University at the same time.

Firemen Answer Roof Fire Call

A roof fire at 1101 Penn Avenue was extinguished by city firemen shortly before 8 a.m. today. The minor damage blaze was believed to have been started from chimney sparks. Mrs. Viola Stile and her granddaughter live in the house.

Firemen also reported that further investigation of the Dr. Joseph H. Gaiser roof fire yesterday at Alder street and M Avenue was started by defective wiring.

AS FAR APART AS EVER

Preliminary Steel Talks Fail To Bring Agreement

NEW YORK (UPI)—Preliminary steel contract talks ended today with both sides as far apart as at the start and actual give and take negotiations between four-man teams will begin Monday.

Both David J. McDonald, president of the United Steelworkers Union, and R. Conrad Cooper, chief industry negotiator, said they were beginning the joint collective bargaining sessions Monday in an attempt to reach an agreement by the July 1 strike deadline.

McDonald and Cooper issued statements which showed that the preliminary talks which started

Tuesday have been completely unsuccessful in narrowing the differences between them on basic economic issues.

Cooper said proposals made at a preliminary meeting between the union and U. S. Steel "reflect substantial differences between us."

The union wound up separate talks with 12 major steel companies.

Cooper again called for a one-year wage freeze and said steel companies could not absorb further cost increases without suffering "a profit squeeze that would be ruinous."

Cooper also emphasized that the



LHS SCOTTISH DANCERS PERFORM

A wee bit of Scotland, in the form of the Scottish Highlanders shown above, will be one of the highlights of the final night of the La Grande High School May Music Festival in the school auditorium tonight. Theme of

tonight's production will be "There's Magic in Music." Other musical performances were given Monday and Wednesday nights.

BIG CREEK AND TELOCASET RAILROAD BEING ABANDONED

BY H. E. PHILBY
Observer Staff Writer

One of the shortest, and least heard about railroads in the state, the Big Creek and Telocaset Railroad is being abandoned as a result of the sale of the Pondsosa sawmill by the Valsetz Lumber company.

Truman Collins of Portland, head of the Collins Pine Company which owns the 14-mile line, said today that an application is being filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon the line. The I.C.C. might just as well comply with the request—the Big Creek & Telocaset isn't in operation anyway.

Built in 1928 by Japanese labor by the Stoddard Lumber Company of Pondsosa, the railroad was designed to haul logs from Stoddard's timber holdings to the Pondsosa mill. Because of financial difficulties, the Stoddard firm transferred the railroad to the Big Creek & Telocaset Railroad company on Dec. 22, 1927 by warranty deed in exchange for capital stock. March 17, 1937 the Grande Ronde Pine Company, owned by E. S. Collins, purchased the entire stock in the BC&T railroad. The Grande Ronde Pine company later became the Collins Pine company.

Although the railroad was never designed to carry passengers, there were times when men were hauled on the line as an emergency measure according to Reuben S. Teske, a Valsetz Lumber company accountant who handled the paper work.

Teske recounts one mercy mission made by the railroad. "A hunting accident had occurred and the injured man was slipping fast from the loss of blood. Roads at this time were poor and blocked by snow.

"The engine was fired up, and the injured man was put on a flat car with a stove to keep him warm. When the train left camp, Teske reports, every available man in camp was hanging on the engine and shoveling snow to keep the track clear. The accident victim was taken to a Baker hospital where he recovered. Teske also reported that for

years, operating and maintenance workers carried guns during the hunting season "and usually got their back without much effort."

Two fatalities occurred while the train was in operation. One engineer shot a deer from his cab and dropped dead from a heart attack and on another occasion a train wreck resulted in an engineer being scalded to death by steam.

Technically there were no employees on the BC&T railroad. The payroll and operating expenses of the line were carried by the Mt. Emily Lumber Company, a subsidiary of the Valsetz company. In exchange for this financial arrangement the BC&T paid Mt. Emily a fee for each car of lumber moved along the tracks. The BC&T then charged off this fee as prorated engine operating expense. The payroll assumed by Mt. Emily was picked up on BC&T records as a contribution and took care of the maintenance

side of the bookkeeping records, Teske said.

Eleven miles of the 14-mile line is under I.C.C. jurisdiction, while the remaining three miles, from Beagle Creek to Pondsosa is on private land. The line connects with Union Pacific at Telocaset.

Collins said the 14 miles of trackage will be picked up and held in storage for future sale as scrap metal.

The tracks were laid on the ground without ballast in this sagebrush country. The buildings of the Japanese labor camp are still standing and can be seen from a car on a drive between Pondsosa and Telocaset.

The last load of lumber was hauled on the BC&T on March 12, 1959 with John J. Rayl as engineer.

The Pondsosa mill was actually shut down March 5 and the rail line was used to haul out the last cuttings from the mill.

Rackets Committee Hears Union Official's Charge

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Houston, Tex., official of the Bolleymakers Union swore today that Joseph McCollum, the union's vice president, tried to raise funds to have another union member murdered by a hired killer.

McCollum immediately denied the charge, saying "I have never in my life heard a man perjure himself more."

The charge was made before the Senate Rackets Committee by Leland F. Head, business manager of Houston Local 74.

It was injected unexpectedly into a committee hearing on a union dispute between McCollum, who

also lives in Houston, sought to raise \$500 each from the locals in the area to hire a killer, perhaps from Mexico, to murder Clarence Wilkins, member of Local 132 at nearby Galveston, Tex.

McCollum, also testifying under oath, said that not a single statement by Head was true.

Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) said it was obvious that either Head or McCollum had committed perjury. He said a transcript of their testimony would be sent to the Justice Department for possible action.

Just before the committee adjourned for lunch, Head, who had been excused as a witness, rose and told McClellan he would be willing to take a lie detector test on his testimony.

McClellan then asked McCollum if he would like to do the same. "I volunteer," McCollum replied.

McClellan told the committee staff to try to arrange the test for both this afternoon.

It was brought out that Wilkins had been acquitted on grounds of self defense for the 1955 union hall slaying of James Huff, business manager of Local 132. The next year, the committee was informed, Wilkins was accused of stabbing Jay D. Billingsley, another official of the local, in a bar room.

Head said he presumed this violence was why McCollum wanted Wilkins murdered. Head said he refused to contribute \$500 to this fund from his local.

Lions Birthday Party Planned

La Grande Lions club members will celebrate the 30th anniversary tomorrow night when they hold a banquet at the Saca Jawa hotel starting at 7 p.m. A no-host social hour will precede the dinner.

International Director Ted Peterson of Seattle will be the guest speaker at the dinner.

Lion President Bob Wilkins has received word from Bob Chrisman, state council governor, Izzy Hawn, Oregon's candidate for International director, and district Governor Simmons that they would attend the affair. Several Eastern Oregon clubs have indicated they will participate in the celebration.

Lions elected new officers at the regular meeting this week. Harvey Carter was named president, Augie Spurling, first vice president, Averitt Hickox, second vice president; Stewart Wyldie, secretary; L. Rhodes Lewis, treasurer; Rosch Fitzgerald, Lion Tamer, and Wendell Vaughn, Tail Twister.

WEATHER

Increasing clouds today; partly cloudy tonight and Saturday with a few scattered showers over the mountains; high today 67-74 and Saturday 60-67; low tonight 37-44.

JUST LIKE A WOMAN

LELAND, Miss. (UPI)—The female boll weevil is more dangerous than the male, according to entomologist Marvin Merkl.

He put a male and female in a cage containing cotton plants. The male damaged five cotton bolls on one plant. But the female made 442 punctures, damaging every plant in the cage.

'Mrs. McThing' Show Tonight

Mobsters "The Stinker"—Mike Hanford, and "Dirty Joe"—Bill Ward, kept "Mrs. McThing" alive on the Thursday opening night of the play at The Eastern Oregon College auditorium.

The naturalness of these two parts kept the play moving sufficiently to draw audience attention—though Becky Kimbrell, the seven year old girl who portrayed Mimi, and Ron Fuller as Howay, turned the trick by being cute in their parts.

"Mrs. McThing" is a fantasy in three acts by Mary Chase. The illusion of fantasy is created when Howay is turned into a "stick" by Mrs. McThing. The real Howay turns up as a dishwasher for Poison Eddie Schellenbach, chief of the mobsters.

When Howay's rich mother, Mrs. Howard V. Larue III, finds him at the cafe, she is turned into a "stick" by Mimi, Mrs. McThing's daughter.

All ends well in the end as the sticks, who have occupied the fancy home of Mrs. Larue, are actually turned into sticks, and Howay and Mrs. Larue resume their normal rich way of life.

The Stinker and Dirty Joe are the humorous vehicle for the play—and Bill Ward and Mike Hanford play the parts with zest and a definite naturalness.

The play will be presented to night and tomorrow night at the EOC auditorium. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

PATCH ON THE CRAZY QUILT

Hatfield Gives His Views On Legislature's Actions

SALEM (UPI)—Republican Gov. Mark Hatfield is satisfied with the size of Oregon's 1959-61 budget but not with the way the Democratic-controlled 50th Legislature went about raising money for it.

In his inaugural message on Feb. 9, Hatfield outlined a general fund budget calling for \$312,972,000. The budget approved by the Legislature which adjourned early Thursday was estimated at \$312,400,000.

Hatfield charged that the lawmakers "provided only a patch on the crazy quilt of Oregon taxation." He added, "instead of truly broadening the tax base as recommended... the Democratic

Russian Attitude Might Break Up Geneva Meeting

NOTE WARNS REDS ON EVE OF MEETING

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The United States formally urged the Soviet Union today to seek honest, fruitful results at the East-West foreign ministers conference which starts in Geneva Monday.

In a note to Moscow, made public shortly before, Secretary of State Christian A. Herter left for the conference, the U.S. also disavowed Soviet charges of trying to torpedo the negotiations in advance.

Herter took off after a plane-side statement that he was leaving in a "hopeful spirit." He said his expectations of success at Geneva are "not too high" and said that negotiations with the Soviets have proved that a "tremendous amount of patience is needed."

Earlier, high American sources said that any high-handed action by the Soviets against Berlin would break up the four-power foreign ministers meeting and kill chances of a summit conference later.

Before departing, Herter conferred with President Eisenhower at the White House, then called on his ailing predecessor, John Foster Dulles, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Herter and Dulles talked for about 15 minutes.

Herter headed for his vital assignment, ready to negotiate with the Russians in a spirit of conciliation, but firmly set against bargaining away basic western principles.

Officials said if the Soviets are not already aware of the danger of carrying out their ultimatum on Berlin, it will be made clear to them at the Geneva meeting starting Monday.

There also was indication that U. S. officials are prepared for a procedural scrap over what role the two Germanies and possibly Poland and Czechoslovakia should take in the discussions.

Confers With Eisenhower. Meanwhile, Herter had a brief morning consultation with President Eisenhower. They presumably went over last minute details on what the U. S. will expect as a prerequisite for a summer conference that would involve the President.

Officials said any Soviet attempt to take unilateral action on the Berlin situation while negotiations are going on in Geneva would very likely break up the conference. They would expect one of the western nations to take the matter immediately to the United Nations.

Herter, in his first tough assignment as the West's chief negotiator, was prepared to make concessions at the Geneva foreign ministers' conference if Russia will give ground, too.

Short Stop in Germany. Flying to Geneva by way of Bonn, Herter was to stop off Saturday for discussions with West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Herter promised in a radio-television address Thursday night that the Western powers would stand firm on such basic principles as "freedom for Berlin," German unification and safeguarded arms control agreements.

Doesn't Expect Much. But he said the United States, Britain and France were willing to negotiate with the Soviets on the "application" of these principles "provided that concessions from us are matched by equivalent counter-concessions from the Soviet Union."

In his maiden address to the nation as secretary of state, Herter pledged the West "honestly and in good faith to seek some advance, even if small, toward a just peace" in bargaining with the Soviets.

Russians Broadcast Accusations

LONDON (UPI)—Russia accused the West today of going into the Geneva conference Monday with a plan "which has little to do with a peace treaty or a Berlin settlement."

The broadcast by Moscow Radio was one of a series of propaganda statements in recent weeks aimed at setting forth the Soviet position before the world and discrediting the West in advance.

It coincided with Secretary of State Christian A. Herter's speech in which he warned that the American people should not expect a quick and easy end to the cold war—that the Soviets' past record of negotiating "does not warrant much optimism."

Moscow made no direct reply to Herter's speech. Tass carried a lengthy factual account of the speech but did not comment.

The Moscow broadcast said Russia realizes the conference "has some definite problems to settle, and it should help to normalize relations between countries."

Moscow said no Western plan has materialized for a Berlin 250 German settlement. "The effort seems to be a complex plan which has little to do with a peace treaty or a Berlin settlement," it said.

Court Test For Extra Pay Measure Due

SALEM (UPI)—Secretary of State Howell Appling refused Thursday to comply with a demand that he approve extra pay for legislators provided in a legislative bill, thus setting up a court test.

The bill would increase legislators' pay to \$175 a month from the present \$600 a year. It was introduced by Sen. R. F. Chapman (D-Coos Bay) solely to get a decision from the State Supreme Court on whether members of the Legislature could set their own salaries.

The Legislature also passed a bill which submits to the people in November of 1960 the question of whether legislators' salaries will go from the present rate to the \$175 per month figure.

Chapman made the demand for the extra pay from Appling with intention of filing suit to force him to comply. Appling said he was in sympathy with "the need for higher legislative salaries" and that he would cooperate fully to "obtain an early decision of legality of the issue."

such as those in elementary and secondary education could have been met with resultant property tax relief.

The main income tax plan as finally approved met with almost solid Republican opposition. All 27 GOP house members voted against it and only three of the 11 GOP senators voted for it. It also received bitter press criticism.

Hatfield was not entirely critical of the Legislature. He cited reorganization of the Board of Agriculture, repeal of the anti-picketing law, adoption of an uninsured motorist clause and unemployment compensation provisions as good things which came out of the session.