

Van Fleet States Ridgway's Order Blocked Victory

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. James A. Van Fleet testified Wednesday he could have destroyed the Red armies in Korea two years ago and was ready to jump off on a sea-borne strike to accomplish that mission in June, 1951, when he was stopped by higher orders.

Van Fleet joined with Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond, retired commander of the U. S. 10th Corps, in telling a special Senate inquiry committee they were hampered all along by ammunition shortages in Korea.

In May, 1951, Van Fleet said, the 8th Army's hoarded ammo supplies dropped to "zero" in some types in beating off a Red attack.

Almond, who followed Van Fleet to the witness chair, fully endorsed Van Fleet's comment of serious and at times critical shortages of ammunition on the Korean battlefield.

Almond said that in the early days of the war the Army had to do along on a "hand to mouth" basis in using ammunition. He said the Far East Command asked the Pentagon for a five-fold increase in the World War II ammunition

table — 40 rounds per gun per day — but the recommendation was turned down.

Called "illogical" Almond said the Pentagon called the request "illogical and too high."

Van Fleet, retired commander of the 8th Army, said the order to call off his projected sea-borne attack behind the enemy lines in mid-1951 came from Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, then supreme Allied commander in the Far East.

In Europe, Ridgway said he had "absolutely no comment" on Van Fleet's statement. He is now supreme Allied commander in Europe.

Many Opportunities
Sen. Hendrickson (R-N.J.) asked Van Fleet if opportunities arose for hitting the enemy with greater vigor than displayed in the current "sitdown war" in Korea.

Crisply, Van Fleet replied: "There were opportunities every day."

Describing himself as "a big firepower man," Van Fleet reiterated his previous testimony that American soldiers were severely handicapped by ammunition shortages throughout his 22 months in command of the 8th Army.

The big, broad-shouldered general gave his testimony as a special Senate Armed Services Subcommittee opened a new full-dress investigation into charges of ammunition shortages on the Korean battlefield.

Complaints Substantiated
The full Armed Services Committee, which heard extensive testimony last month, has already declared that Van Fleet's complaints were "fully substantiated" despite conflicting testimony by high Pentagon officials.

The five-member subcommittee, headed by Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Me.), has been directed to pin down responsibility for the shortages.

Even as Van Fleet testified, Army Secretary Robert Stevens told newsmen in Seoul, Korea, that the 8th Army now has enough ammunition "no matter what happens."

Stevens, who went to Korea for a first-hand inspection of the ammunition situation, said he found no signs of a shortage.

Held Under Wraps
Van Fleet said at the outset of his testimony he was convinced he could have destroyed the Communist armies in Korea if Gen. Ridgway had not held him under wraps.

He said his 8th Army had smashed two Red spring offensives and he then recommended to Ridgway "that we follow up with an amphibious landing on the East Coast."

The witness said he was ready to go when he received "stop" orders from Ridgway.

Van Fleet did not explain why Ridgway called off the proposed sea-borne strike or whether it was dictated by the Pentagon or State Department in Washington.

He made it clear, however, that if Ridgway had not intervened he expected to rival Gen. Douglas MacArthur's spectacular amphibious blow that shattered the North Korean army in 1950.

MacArthur landed behind the enemy lines at Inchon, on the Korean West Coast, and swept all the way to the Yalu River boundary between Korea and Chinese Manchuria. It was then that the Chinese Reds moved in to create what MacArthur called an entirely new war.

Gunfire Halts Escape Dash By Prisoners

HOOD RIVER (AP) — The dash of two prisoners from the Multnomah County jail in a stolen automobile ended abruptly in gunfire near here Tuesday.

The pair stole an automobile owned by Henry A. Doellefeld, Hood River business man who commutes from Parkrose, just east of Portland. At Cascade Locks, where the men stopped for gas, the car was recognized and state police were notified.

Near Hood River, State Patrolman Roland Montgomery saw the car, but the driver sped through town with Montgomery in pursuit. The car swung south toward Parkdale, Montgomery fired two bullets into the machine, and the men stopped and surrendered.

They were identified as Roger Hanson, 19, and John Draper, 20. They were returned to jail.

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Plaintiff Heard In Hood River Deacons Trial

HOOD RIVER, Ore. (AP)—Sheridan Mark Delepine, bearded and self-styled messenger of God, testified Wednesday how Baptist Church deacons tried to oust him from their church here.

He told a Circuit Court jury the deacons twice "wrote him that he no longer was a member of the church, and finally grabbed him by the arms at church Oct. 31, 1951, and forced him outside with an order not to return.

All this came about, he testified in a \$120,000 assault and battery suit against the deacons, because (1) the deacons imagined there was some sort of misconduct between him and his wife before he married her, and (2) he evaded military service in World War II by hiding out in a cabin five years.

It was while in the cabin that he began getting messages from God, the 53-year-old Delepine testified. He said he put the messages into a book he authored, "The Mystery of God." This he described as a "source" book, written in "His" words, not Delepine's.

Delepine said he is trying to establish his right to attend the church of his choice, and introduced a 1951 letter from his attorneys advising him to attend church meetings regularly, for "this may be a wonderful opportunity to meet an exalted one."

He testified he separated from his former wife, who bore him seven children, in 1937. After the war he married the former Bernice Bennett, who took the stand Wednesday to corroborate his testimony.

Sacred Heart Student Wins Essay Prize

Vance Cooney, student at Sacred Heart Academy, won first prize and \$25 Wednesday for his essay in the current Marion County Veterans of Foreign Wars "Democracy is What We Make It" contest.

Cooney's contribution to the contest will now be submitted in competition by VFW Post 661, Salem.

Second prize winner was Jay Schorenberg, Mt. Angel, and third prize was won by Marcine Buchholz, also of Mt. Angel. Miss Schorenberg received a \$15 prize for her entry. Judges in the Marion County contest were Mrs. Dorothy Daugherty, principal of Englewood school; Marion County Judge Rex Hartley, and Dr. John A. Rademaker, professor at Willamette University.

Dope Peddler Claims Hoarding as Alibi

EL PASO, Tex. (AP) — Frank Maldonado of Brooklyn, N. Y., was sentenced to five years Wednesday on charges of purchasing 10,716 grams of marijuana with the intentions of selling it in New York.

Maldonado denied the charges saying: "I planned to smoke it all myself."

IKE SIGNS CABINET BILL
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower Wednesday signed legislation which will give him his tenth Cabinet officer: A secretary of health, education and welfare.

With a Hug From Mary



WASHINGTON — House Speaker Joe Martin gets a hug from Mary Pickford, one-time movie glamor girl, as he signs a savings bond—a month application on the capitol steps. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

Home Building Gets Off to Fast Start in April

Building business was booming in Salem Wednesday with the city building inspector issuing 11 construction and alteration permits.

The General Realty Co. was issued three permits to build \$7,000 homes and garages at 2220, 2215 and 2236 Rural St.

Pat Jarvill received permission to erect a one-story house and garage at 2515 Northgate St. for \$10,000 and F. M. North a permit to put up a \$11,000 house and garage at 2670 Englewood Ave.

Other house construction permits went to R. A. Fullerton to build a one-story house and garage at 2195 Stortz St. for \$6,300 and W. M. Rutherford to erect a one-story house and garage for \$8,130 at 750 N. 14th St.

Receiving alteration permits were R. C. Cannen, slaughterhouse, 1505 S. 29th St., \$3,500; Blue Lake Cannery, 376 Patterson Ave., \$4,500; M. D. Bruckman, house, 1990 Virginia St., \$2,500; and Charles Layport, apartment, 1133 Chemeketa St., \$2,000.

Repeal of Tight Dairy Import Law Favored

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Eisenhower administration came out Wednesday for repeal of the law under which tight curbs on imports of dairy products have been applied with resulting bitter protests from other countries.

Congress had turned a deaf ear to repeat pleas of the same sort from former President Truman.

While the new administration's views were being advanced before the Senate Banking Committee, a House Agriculture Subcommittee heard producer spokesmen call not only for continuation of the law but for stronger curbs.

A qualified source at the State Department said it was the first time the new administration had taken an open stand in that trade policy field.

Grain Support Loans to Fall Due

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department announced Wednesday that price support loans to farmers on most 1952-crop grains stored in commercial warehouses will fall due April 30.

This means that farmers having such commodities stored in these facilities will have until the end of this month to repay their loans and retain full title to their products. Otherwise, the department will take over the commodities as full payment of the loans.

BUTTER UNLOADED ON U.S.
WASHINGTON (AP) — The dairy industry unloaded a record daily volume of 42,522,000 pounds of butter, cheese and dried milk onto the government Tuesday to beat a reduction Wednesday in price support rates.

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36 to Leave For Draft From Salem Tuesday

Thirty-six men are included in the draft list from Marion County slated to leave from Salem Tuesday for Portland to be sworn in for military duty.

From Salem are: Henry Eugene Seelen, Robert William Munson, Darrell Lloyd Johnson, Jimmie Ray Varbel, John Robert Strong, Raymond Lee Stuart, Clarence G. Vanzant, David Lloyd Dentzell, James Elbert Hart Jr., Darrell F. Stratton, Jack Quincy Hall, Barney Lee Stice, Richard Lee Zander, John Robert Wenger, Virgil John Weber and Alvin Suderman.

Other boys from valley towns include George A. Peters, Wayne Arthur Steffen, Douglas Dean Wallis, Gary Leroy Carter and Richard Lee Bye, all of Silverton; Percy Eugene McCarthy, Albert Elmer Hansen and Norman C. Wyffels, all of Woodburn; Charles Earl Florer and Gerald Richard Harvey, both of Gervais; Wayne Allen Trowbridge, Aurora; Everett Willis Hatch, Aumsville and William Charles Davies, Jefferson.

Also Duane Everett Bradley, Sublimity; Howard Dale Boswell, Lenard Eugene Manning and Wallace John Wipper, all of Turner; Darrell Dean Harold, Corvallis; Frederick T. LaBonte, Donald; John Alvin Hampton, Marion, and Norman C. Wyffels, Woodburn.

The faraway party at the Salem YMCA will precede the draftees' departure Tuesday.

A-Blast Blows Nevada Clay To Washington

SEATTLE (AP) — Atomic test blasts in Nevada last month apparently did something more than destroy some houses and sundry other items.

A man living in the northwest-ernmost part of the United States learned Wednesday it blew some Nevada real estate right into the state of Washington and turned the roof of his house yellow.

Lew Dodds, sole occupant of tiny Yellow Island in the San Juan Island group 90 miles northwest of Seattle, awoke the next morning to find that his aluminum roof had turned yellow overnight.

Closer examination showed the corrugated metal was covered with a film of yellow dust. Curious, Dodds took scrapings to Dr. Thomas G. Thompson, University of Washington oceanographer, who has a country home on a neighboring island.

Dr. Thompson turned the material over to the university radiation laboratories. There, the darker parts of the dust were identified by specialists as "typical gray Nevada clay" thrown up by the atomic explosions.

The radiation specialists said the Yellow Island material showed a disintegration rate of 2,100 per minute per gram, a definite indication of radioactivity. But, they emphasized, there was no cause for the slightest alarm as it was not in sufficient amount to be dangerous.

(Ironically, Dodds went to Yellow Island a quarter century ago to "get away from civilization." He did, it seems, but he can't.)

Blaze Kills 5 In Kansas City Apartments

KANSAS CITY (AP) — At least five persons were killed and 12 injured in a raging fire that swept through the 75-unit Eysell Court apartments Wednesday.

Three firemen were killed and six other firefighters were injured by a collapsing wall and roof.

The bodies of an unidentified woman and child were recovered from the east wing of the building.

The blaze finally was controlled about 3 1/4 hours after it broke out. P. W. Halloran, a city health department employee, said an excited mother leaned out of a window of a third floor with a baby shortly after the fire broke out.

She was ready to drop the child when Halloran called to her to wait, he said. Firemen quickly raised a ladder and carried the two to safety.

The apartment was located at 504 West 18th street, about 11 blocks from the center of the business district. It housed 60 families.

Picketing Just 'Joke' on Employer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — The president of a small South Bend factory found only one of his 61 employees at work when he arrived at the plant Wednesday. The others were picketing.

Wendell R. Nace, head of the Precision Piece Parts Co., said the picketers ignored him as he walked past them, and the lone workman gave him a stony stare and walked out to join the others.

Nace was at his desk pondering the sudden walkout when one employee came to the door and yelled: "April Fool!" Then everybody went to work.

Bandits Offer Cash to Victim

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two bandits, moved by an intended victim's tale of woe, offered him money instead Wednesday, police reported.

John B. Mitchell, 53, said he was accosted by the men on a city street. When they found he had only 50 cents and heard his sad story, they tried to force money on him, Mitchell told police, but left after he declined with thanks.

Demos Talk of Convention in Fall of 1954

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Executive Committee of the Democratic party decided unanimously Wednesday night to explore fully "the idea of holding a national convention in August or September of 1954."

The proposal was made by Paul M. Butler of South Bend, Ind., a national committeeman and at-large member of the 13-man Executive Committee of the party's National Committee.

Normally a political party holds a convention only every four years, when a President is to be nominated. Butler told reporters his plan would:

1. Focus attention on the Democratic party,
2. Give "a single clear voice to the Democratic party to speak as one in a congressional election year for the first time in history," and
3. Be a vehicle for party harmony.

Even before the Executive Committee met behind closed doors National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell said he was "very sympathetic" to the idea.

It would be subject to approval by Democratic senators and representatives of their own, then the full National Committee.

Weeks Proposes To Eliminate Aid to Airport, Ship Jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Commerce Weeks Wednesday told the Senate Appropriations Committee he proposes to eliminate all federally aided new airport and merchant ship construction in the 12 months beginning July 1.

This drew criticism from Sen. McCarran (D-Nev.) who said halting new airport construction would curtail the will of Congress and cause an "avalanche of protests from across the country."

Weeks disclosed the at least temporary halt in federal ship and airport building programs in making the first public disclosure of details in his revision of the Commerce Department's budget for the fiscal year 1954, beginning July 1.

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ADENAUER TO VISIT U.S.
LA HAVRE, France (AP) — West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer sailed early Thursday on the liner United States for the U. S. for high-level talks with U.S. officials.

Government engineers say the Rio Grande is becoming steadily smaller.

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