

U. S. Still Talking Of Direct Action to Free Gls in China

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (U) — The Eisenhower administration Wednesday backed up further United Nations efforts to free 15 American airmen from Red China prisons but warned that "direct action" may be necessary if the U.N. moves fail.

Fongs Indicted In Diane Hank Slaying Case

PORTLAND (U) — Wey Him Fong, a Chinese resident of Portland, and his Caucasian wife, Sherri, were booked on first degree murder charges here Tuesday after a grand jury had returned secret indictments against them.

They, and a third person, were accused in the indictment of slaying Diane Hank, a 16-year-old Portland high school girl, "deliberately and with premeditated violence, by means unknown to the grand jury."

The third person named in the indictment is being sought.

Fong, 26, and his 23-year-old wife, and Kwong Ting Yee, were questioned about the death of the girl after her body was found Feb. 26 last year by a crew of highway repairmen just off the Evergreen Highway near Washougal, Wash.

The girl's mother had reported her missing some two months earlier.

The Fongs were indicted on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after police said Mrs. Fong told them she had served the girl a drink the night she disappeared.

The Fongs were free on bail on that charge at the time of their arrest Tuesday.

The Fongs have denied any knowledge of how the girl met her death but they admitted she spent the last night she was seen with them. Mrs. Fong said she last saw the girl the morning of Jan. 6, when she left the house.

Dist. Atty. William Langley said he had uncovered "new evidence" in the case. He declined to say what it was.

The girl's body was badly decomposed when found and medical studies apparently did not reveal the cause of death.

The Hank girl became acquainted with the Fongs by baby sitting for their two children.

Fong has a police record including conviction on a narcotics charge.

State Liquor Business High

PORTLAND (U) — The state did a record liquor business last month, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission reported Wednesday.

State stores sold 117,135 cases of spirits for \$6,016,358, the highest sum for any month in history. However, sales for the first half of the fiscal year ended Dec. 31 were 1.9 per cent below those for the same six months of 1953 because of lighter purchases in August, September and October.

Sales from July 1 until Jan. 1 totaled \$23,703,391.

Court Rejects Bail Release For Sheppard

CLEVELAND (UP) — Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was refused permission to be released under bail today while he awaits outcome of his appeal for a new trial.

A three-man Court of Appeals unanimously rejected his bid for bonded freedom. Their ruling said there was no precedent for the action, and that the convicted wife-killer should remain in jail custody while his attorneys carry forward their fight for a new trial.

He was granted permission by Common Pleas Judge Harry A. Hanna to attend strictly private funeral services tomorrow afternoon for his father, who died last night.

The father, Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, 65, died last night heartbroken and tired of living in Bay View Hospital, which he founded after World War II for the medical practice of his three osteopathic sons and himself. His death followed an attack of pleurisy which sent him to bed on Dec. 20, the day before his son was convicted of second-degree murder for the slaying of his wife.

Three appellate judges heard Dr. Sheppard's appeal for bail on Monday. At that time, they granted stay of execution of the life sentence until his attorneys filed their brief for a new trial. The lawyers have until March 12 to prepare that brief.

One of the reasons advanced for Dr. Sheppard's release was to be at the bedside of his ailing father.

Straw shoes for horses were used in Japan until the 19th century when iron shoes were introduced.

Lean Years Over for Farmer, Benson Predicts

By WHITNEY SHOEMAKER
WASHINGTON (U) — Secretary of Agriculture Benson said Wednesday the trying years appear to be over and he forecast "a great decade ahead for American farmers."

Replying to critics who see no lift to dipping farm receipts in administration policies, he gave this appraisal:

"The small changes in farm income and farm prices between 1953 and 1954 suggest that most of the postwar adjustment has been completed and that we are in a period of comparative stability."

Benson offered his assessment of farm developments and prospects during a Senate Agriculture Committee session at which he and a State Department spokesman were quizzed closely on how the government seeks to rid itself of tremendous surplus purchases.

The secretary estimated surplus stocks now amount to about seven billion dollars. It was partly in hope of avoiding such pileups in the future that the Eisenhower ad-

ministration drove across a system of flexible price supports in the last Congress.

Avert Price Dips
The theory is that flexible props will discourage production in time of surplus, encourage it in years of shortage and thus avert perilous price dips.

Benson said all administration farm programs are working well. He calculated farmers' net income this year should run close to the 12½ billions of last and that prices should average about the same as at present.

He told the committee a program for "the low income farmer" is in the mill. President Eisenhower probably will send Congress a message on the subject, he added, although "it will contain nothing sensational."

Prosperity Ahead
Agriculture, Benson said, will benefit from "the growth and prosperity ahead of us to the extent it continues to apply science and technology to its production and merchandising."

Sen. Eastland (D-Miss) pressed for comment on surplus disposal, contending the State Department has hindered sales abroad by consulting beforehand with competing nations. He said this permitted competitors to sneak in with lower bids. But Asst. Secretary of State Samuel C. Waugh denied the procedure had interfered with surplus exports.

Replying to a question by Com-

mittee Chairman Ellender (D-La.), Benson said earlier there had been some sharp differences of opinion between State and Agriculture Department officials on exports.

But he reported a "generally good working relationship" recently.

Surplus Disposed of
The secretary said \$1,400,000,000 worth of government-held farm commodities had been disposed of in 1954. Under further questioning by Ellender, he reported loss of more than 716 million dollars in disposal transactions from Jan. 31, 1953, to Nov. 30, 1954.

Ellender noted that Eisenhower told Congress some \$2,300,000,000 of government-held surpluses had been unloaded in that period.

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