Senator Says Weeks Making 'Grab' for CAA

By J. W. DAVIS

Washington (AP) — Sen. Monroney (D-Okla) Monday accused Secretary of Commerce Weeks of making a "grab for control" of civil aviation, and announced a senate investigation.

The situation grew out of the replacement of Frederick B. Lee as chairman of the civil aeronautics administration (CAA), a part of Weeks' department.

Weeks and Undersecretary of Commerce Lewis S. Rothschild were were named specifically in Monroney's statement that the senate commerce committee, under Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash), would look into the whole matter.

"In the president's illness," Monroney said, "Weeks and Rothschild are trying to assume Czar-like powers to control civil aviation.

"Lee was fired because he didn't knuckle under and let the commerce department dictate to him what should be done about civil aviation.

To Get Judge Job

"This is all part of a pattern which included the blocking of Josh Lee as a member of the civil aeronautics board (CAB). Ross Rizley of the board is to be appointed a federal judge and Weeks will have another position to fill in his grab for control over aviation."

To succeed Frederick Lee, Weeks picked Charles J. Lowen, Jr., a Denver Republican who has been serving as deputy to Lee since last May. Monroney suggested Lowen may be in for a hard time when the appointment comes up for confirmation by the senate. The job pays $15,000 a year.

(Picture on wirephoto page.)

Former Solons

Frederick Lee is a Vermont-born Republican who has been with the CAA for 10 years, and its administrator since March 1953. Josh Lee is a former Democratic senator from Oklahoma, and Rizley, now chairman of the CAB, is a former Republican representative from Oklahoma who has served in the post office and agriculture departments.

There was no immediate reply fro mthe Commerce department to Monroney's announcement.

Frederick Lee said over the weekend Weeks had told him there was "an apparent lack of satisfactory working relations between his office and Lee." President Eisenhower accepted Lee's resignation Saturday.

Appropriation Bill

Monroney said he believes Lee was fired because he testified in favor of a bill, opposed by Weeks, to authorize a federal appropriation of 64 million dollars for each of the next four years to aid airport construction.

"Fred Lee could see the need for federal aid in building these airports," Monroney said. "We are only three years away from commercial jet transportation and yet there are only seven airports in the country which can handle those planes.

The senator also noted that several aviation organizations have opposed dropping Lee as CAA chairman.

He described the failure to reappoint Josh Lee to the CAB as an administration blow to small feeder airlines which Lee had championed as a CAB member.

BPA Construction To Be Explained

PORTLAND (AP) — Contractors will learn Wednesday the details of the $6,846,000 construction program the Bonneville Administration has planned for the coming year.

The administration will hold its annual conference with contractors here, explaining the planned work: 157 miles of right-of-way clearing, 307 miles of transmission line construction, six new substations and additions to 28 other substations.

NEW PORT STARTED

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Anastasio Somoza has inaugurated a new Pacific Coast port named Port Somoza. It lies about 30 miles from Managua between the coastal towns of Corinto and San Juan Del Sur.

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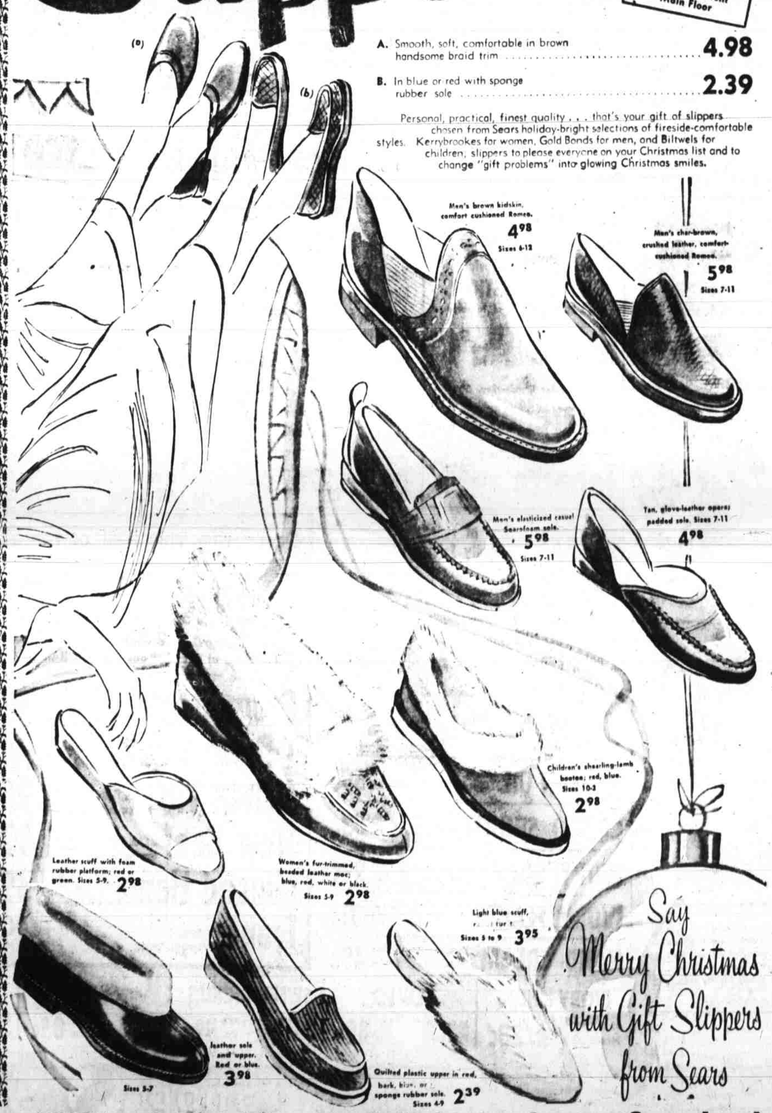

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Commies Said Likely to Gain In French Vote

By CARL HARTMAN

PARIS (AP) — French Communists Monday seem likely to gain a score of seats in the Jan. 2 election for the national assembly, though they may actually poll fewer votes than in the last election.

The prospect emerged as non-communists continued to pile up rival candidacies before the midnight deadline for filing. The situation arises from the French election law, passed five years ago partly to cut down communist parliamentary representation.

The law succeeded then, but rivalry among anti-communists promises to reduce its efficiency this time.

Can Divide Up Seats

It provides that parties may form alliances and an alliance winning a clear majority in any district can divide up that district's seats—sometimes as many as 11. If no alliance gets a clear majority, the seats are divided according to each party's voting strength, a system that favors the communists since they get more votes than any other single party.

The alliances worked so long as the middle-of-the-road groups stayed together. They captured 40 out of 95 districts in 1951, leaving more than a million communist voters with no representation at all. But this time there are two or more rival anti-communist alliances, plus many independent candidacies, in 40 districts.

Expected to Gain

It seems virtually certain that the communists will pick up seats in some of the districts where they were frozen out five years ago.

Communist representation was reduced from 174 seats in 1946 to 103 in 1951. Experts were estimating today that they may get 20 to 30 more this time. While it seems unlikely that the communists would be taken into any governing coalition, every seat they control makes it that much harder for any French premier to piece together a working majority among the remainder of the 627 deputies.

There was a prospect that the communists would lose some of their huge popular support at the same time as they add to their numbers in parliament. In 1951 they won nearly 5 million votes—about one-fifth of the number cast, and more than any other single group.

Since then, there have been some spectacular changes in the party. Maurice Thorez, its most popular leader, suffered a stroke and has never returned to full activity. Auguste LeCoeur, once considered his heir apparent, had a fight with the French politbureau and was forced out. So was Andre Marty, once venerated as a veteran of the party's battles.

Jackson County Pear Crop Sets Record for Year

MEDFORD (AP) — The Jackson County pear crop reached a record 3,250,000 boxes this year, not including gift fruit packages.

C. B. Cordy, county horticultural agent, said the county is a uniform producing area, and the total, while a record, was not greatly above average.

Winter pear production was below normal, but Bartlett pears made a sizeable increase to 1,300,000 boxes, of which 200,000 were sold on the fresh fruit market. The entire crop was sold.

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