

Move to Expand 'Fair Trade' Law

Policing Agencies
Oppose Proposals

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Government policing agencies joined forces Thursday against congressional proposals to give federal sanction to compulsory "fair trade" retail price-fixing agreements.

Lining up against proposed "fair trade" exemptions from the anti-trust laws were the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Two House committees jostled, meanwhile, over a score of proposals to enlarge "fair trade" laws by making them binding on retailers who do not sign price-fixing agreements as well as those who do.

A JUDICIARY monopoly subcommittee called James W. Cassidy, assistant general counsel for the Federal Trade Commission, while the Interstate Commerce Committee heard from Justice Department and other witnesses.

Forty-five states have "fair trade" laws under which manufacturers, jobbers and retailers may contract to sell brand-name goods at not less than an agreed-on price.

Under the federal Miller-Tydings act, these state laws apply to certain brand-name commodities, moving in interstate commerce and exempt "fair trade" price-fixing agreements from the anti-trust laws.

BUT THEIR effectiveness came in doubt when the Supreme Court ruled recently in two instances that "fair trade" agreements do not apply to non-signers and therefore are not compulsory against all retailers.

Assistant Attorney General H. G. Morrison Wednesday told the judiciary subcommittee that "fair trade" agreements were an affront to the American people.



THANKS FOR THE VALENTINE—Marie Wilson, who portrays bird-brained Irma Peterson in "My Friend Irma" on TV and radio, has a Valentine for her fans. She intends to shuck the dull costumes she now wears and appear in something a little more exciting. Says Marie: "The dialogue won't get any deeper, but the cut of my gowns will. There'll be some sweaters, too."

Atom Funds Low In Great Britain

LONDON — (AP) — Work on Britain's first atom bomb is pushing ahead so quickly that the money is running out.

The Ministry of Supply, the government department responsible for making the bomb, asked Parliament Wednesday for another 800,000 pounds—\$2,240,000. This is in addition to the one million pounds—\$2,800,000 already voted by Parliament this year.

The request said that the extra cash was needed for the production of uranium "because work is

progressing more quickly than expected."

Britain imports uranium, key material in making the atom bomb, mainly from the Belgian Congo and from Canada.

A ministry spokesman declined to say whether the money was needed to buy more uranium or to process uranium already in this country.

But the request lends weight to reports that the first "made in Britain" A-bomb will be exploded soon—possibly this summer.

Meat Packers Score Controls

Government Curbs
Said 'Unenforceable'

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — The United States is the best equipped nation in the world to render meat controls ineffective in peacetime, Douglas Allen of San Francisco told the Western States Meat Packers Association Thursday.

Allen, vice president of the association's board of directors, declared millions of home freezers and nearly 12,000 frozen food locker plants all over the nation could make the enforcement of regulations extremely difficult.

He called the government's meat price control scheme "ill advised, ineffective and ominous," and pledged that the association would do anything in its power to knock out price controls this year.

"PRICE CONTROLS are unworkable, impracticable and unenforceable," he said. "It is impossible for any government agency to keep pace with the rapid and varying changes that form the basic pattern of our products."

The association board of directors voted in favor of decontrol of meat.

Under the price controls, ceilings are set on grades of meat, on the many cuts of meat in the various grades and in accordance with the size of the market selling meat.

E. FLOYD FORBES of San Francisco, association president, said the removal of controls would mean cheaper meat and lower shoe prices.

An Ogden, Utah, packer, C. F. Moore, charged government graders with arbitrarily upgrading a carcass by one grade, simply on the basis of its fatness.

Fred J. Beard, chief of the Agriculture Department's meat grading service, replied that it is up to the packing industry to establish a new set of standards that will be more specific about grades.

But Your Honor You Can't Tell By Their Teeth

SAN FRANCISCO — (AP) — Sure, a woman may lie about her age. And it's a man's fault if he's fooled, especially if he's already been married three times.

That's what Superior Judge Melvyn I. Cronin said Wednesday granting Max Kornhaber, 57, a divorce instead of an annulment from Anna, 72, whom he married four months ago.

Kornhaber, a painter, told the judge his wife said she was 50. Judge Cronin snapped: "A man of your experience should be a better judge of a woman's age."

Japs Deny 'Dollar' Deal

TOKYO — (AP) — A Japanese government official emphatically denied Thursday that Japan tried to bargain its signature on the U.S. Japan Security Pact for dollars.

A Tokyo newspaper reported that Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's government had requested the U.S. to make a 700 million dollar "political investment" in Japan as a condition for signing the treaty.

The newspaper said the request was made to John Foster Dulles, architect of the Japanese Treaty.

Takashi Hitomi, chief of the planning section of the Japan Economic Stabilization Board, said, "There is absolutely no truth to the report."

American sources in general headquarters also discounted the newspaper story.

Legislators Quit Race

PENDELTON — (AP) — Umatilla County will have at least two new legislators at the 1953 session of the Oregon legislature.

Both Rep. C. L. Lieualen and Sen. Art Lindberg, Republicans, have announced they would not seek re-election.

Indian Bureau Switch Slated

State Governments
To Provide Services

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Supervision over some 43,100 Indians in Oregon, Washington and California will be taken from the Indian Bureau under legislation scheduled to go before Congress soon.

The program in the three states will cover periods ranging from six months to three to five years. Indian Commissioner Dillon S. Myer said Wednesday.

Myer said some 43 groups and bands in the Grand Ronde-Siletz Indian Agency of Oregon will be the first affected and action can be completed within six months after Congress acts. Legislation for the area will be given to Congress within two weeks.

The Bureau already has ended most of its supervisory activities in the area, he said. It still is providing some medical care through a contract doctor and is supervising trust lands and funds.

Myer said the bureau has an agreement with Washington State and California Indians to end supervision at the earliest possible date, but it may take three to five years in California.

State governments will take over schooling, police protection and other services once provided by the Indian Bureau when the bureau moves out.

Special Deputy Pleads Guilty to Extortion

PORTLAND — (AP) — An Indian Service special deputy pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to extortion—taking money from a truck driver transporting Christmas trees through the Klamath Indian Reservation.

The government's charge said the special deputy, Darrell Campagna, told the driver he was trespassing and would have to pay. Less than \$100 was involved. Sentencing was set for March 5.

General Dean Gets Valentine In POW Camp

PANMUNJOM — (AP) — Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, captured hero of the early days of the Korean War, recently received a king-sized valentine, it was disclosed Thursday.

Lt. Harold T. Bratchell, United Nations postmaster at Panmunjom, said Dean's valentine came in an 8 by 10 inch envelope several days ago. He said he didn't know who had sent it. "He gets lots of mail," Bratchell said, "from publishers, friends and the like."

Pelton Dam Tests to Start

PORTLAND — (AP) — Portland General Electric Co. said Thursday it has awarded a contract for test drilling the Pelton damsite on the Deschutes River in Central Oregon to the Diamond Drill Contracting Co., Spokane, Wash.

The drilling company's low bid was \$16,902.

Test drilling was scheduled to start at the main damsite Thursday under supervision of G. V. Single, resident engineer. Later, test drilling also will be done at the location of the re-regulating dam three miles downstream.

A PGE spokesman said survey work will be completed about May 1.

John C. Veatch, Sr., chairman of the Oregon State Fish Commission, said his group would take no legal action to prevent the test drilling inasmuch as it would be only preliminary and would not interfere with river flow.

Cuban Assassinated

HAVANA, Cuba — (AP) — Former Interior Minister Alejo Gossio Del Pino, 45, was assassinated Tuesday night by men in an automobile who fired eight bullets into his body while he was in a cafe. Two men with the slain politician were wounded.

Commies Jab At U.N. From

Weather Restricts
Allied Air Action

SEOUL, Korea — (AP) — Communist troops jabbed at Allied positions all across Thursday, hitting with a company at one point and a platoon at another.

Stormy skies restricted war. But F-86 Sabres let cover for fighter-bombers which tried to break through protective screen. Maj. Amell of East Lansing, Mich., credited with downing a North Korean plane.

On the ground, pre-attacks knocked Allied men out of two positions west of Yoncheon on the Front and one near the Valley in the east. All recaptured without troops.

East of the Munsong River, Reds hurled 700 rounds of mortar and artillery fire at division in the 24 hour dawn.

The North Korean War unique broadcast by the Pyongyang radio, said Red batteries on the West Coast Allied warships offshore was no Allied confirmation. Allied warships were attacked Red targets in the Hungnam, Songjin, Koko and Sinsak. The naval gunfire said sea-borne artillery yards, bridges, box locomotives, supply posts and Communist troop positions.

Film Actress Obtains
Final Divorce Decree

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Joan Fontaine obtained a decree of divorce from Producer William Wyler. She was granted an instant decree Jan. 25, 1952, testifying he deserted her. They were married in 1946 and custody of their daughter was given to Fontaine.

Shows Lack of Confidence in Nation's Voters

Outdated System Elects President

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of four stories on the voters' struggle to pick a president.

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — (AP) — For 165 years the voters have been in a long and not very energetic struggle to get a word in edgewise in picking a president. This election year is a good time to see why.

The 55 men who met in Philadelphia in 1787 to make the Constitution saw to it the people couldn't vote directly for the president. We still don't. We have to vote for electors who vote for the President.

WE CAN'T even choose the candidates. The professional politicians see to that. They do it for us as they will once again at the Republican and Democratic national conventions in Chicago this summer.

Those 55 conservatives of 1787 agreed with George Mason of Virginia who thought "it was as unnatural to refer the choice of a proper character for their chief magistrate to the people as it

would be to refer a trial of color to a blind man."

The only point they conceded was in letting us vote directly for the members of the House of Representatives. Until the constitutional amendment of 1913 we couldn't vote for Senators. The state legislatures picked them.

AND THE 55 men worked out a plan—in Article Two, Section One, of the Constitution—which it was expected, would let Congress itself pick the president 19 times out of 20. Each state would select a group of electors who'd vote for a president.

If the electors in each state voted thought they would, any one candidate would have a time getting a majority of the electoral votes.

And when no one did, the House of Representatives would choose the president from among the top runners.

Actually, it worked out that way only twice. In 1800 the House chose Thomas Jefferson over Aaron Burr when both tied in electoral votes; and in 1824 the House named John Quincy Adams over Andrew Jackson when neither got an electoral majority.

But on the important question—

who'd elect the electors, and how?—the 55 constitution-makers left that up to each state legislature to decide.

IN THOSE earliest days, when only one-seventh of the adult males had the right to vote, a few legislatures kept the right to themselves.

Eventually—but it wasn't until Civil War days, and the South Carolina legislature was the last to yield—all the legislatures let the people vote for electors. This change came as more people voted and the big political parties emerged.

So now the electors of the party getting the biggest vote in each state vote for that party's presidential candidate.

This would seem to mean the electors have become mere rubber stamps, which they are most of the time, and harmless parts of an old-fashioned election system which we have been too lazy to change. It isn't quite true.

Under the Constitution the number of electors in each state is limited to its total number of

Senators and Representatives in Congress.

SO IT'S possible, because the population of some states is greater than in others, for a candidate to get a greater popular vote—total vote for electors—than the man who wins the election because he got more electoral votes.

It's happened and could happen again. In 1888 the popular vote for Grover Cleveland was 5,540,329 to 5,439,825 for Benjamin Harrison, who won the presidency because he got 233 electoral votes to 168 for Cleveland.

And, although the electors almost always vote for their winning party's candidate, there's no law, except in a few states, which says they have to.

TO ABOLISH this system would be a slow, tedious process, requiring a constitutional amendment.

It's not an issue this year. In 1952 more attention is being given another question: How to strip the political bosses of some of their control over choosing presidential candidates and letting the people express some preference.



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