

Hearing Opens On Air Bases In North Africa

Contractors Defend Construction Work

WASHINGTON — (AP) — American contractors whose rush construction of secret air bases in North Africa has been criticized severely in Congress defended their work Wednesday "both as to quality and as to quantity."

J. B. Bonny, who heads a combine of five big private contractors on the multi-million-dollar project, was scheduled to testify before the Senate preparedness subcommittee Wednesday.

For months both Senate and House committees have been publicly criticizing waste and extravagance in building the African bases.

Representatives of Bonny and the contracting group said they have been trying to get a chance to deny these charges under oath for many weeks.

BONNY, in prior written protests, has contended that the congressional testimony, investigations and reports have been one-sided, unbalanced and misleading.

"We are proud of the work performed," Bonny said, denying that the contractors added to costs, did slipshod work or wasted taxpayers' money.

Lyman Wilbur, son of a former Secretary of the Navy and resident partner for the contractors in French Morocco, was another scheduled witness.

Secretary of the Army Pace stepped into the dispute on March 22 with a shakeup of officers of the projects and a threat to terminate contracts unless reforms asked by congressional probes were put into operation.

CHAIRMAN Johnson (D-Tex) of the Senate defense watchdog subcommittee has publicly criticized the North African air bases project as "one sordid mess."

Johnson said testimony indicated that original costs of about 300 million dollars had been upped to 455 million, that runway specifications were ignored and that there was inefficiency, kickbacks and graft.

The top secret projects was started soon after the Communists invaded Korea in June, 1950. It was placed under supervision of the Army Engineers.

Sites and plans for the bases were changed several times, Bonny said, so that instead of building one new field and reconstructing four old World War II bases, five new bases were finally started.

He said two of them were completed on the deadline and have



LEAVES SCHOOL OVER NEGRO GIRL — Robert McAlister, 23 (right) of Ithaca, N. Y., has left Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., by request because his school frowned on his pending marriage to a Negro co-ed, Miss Grace Cunningham, 22, (left) of Berkeley, Calif. He is continuing his studies by mail and announced the wedding for June 6 in Ithaca.

Executive Powers Limited, -- Warren

PORTLAND — (AP) — Gov. Earl Warren of California, campaigning in Oregon for the Republican presidential nomination, believes the powers of the President are limited by the Constitution.

In a discussion of the recent seizure by the government of the steel industry, Warren said at the Oregon Press Club's annual awards dinner:

"I DON'T KNOW the merits of the steel controversy... the facts are still in dispute. But I do know that we are passing through some sort of crisis when it is asserted by the government of the United States in one of its own courts that the President is not limited by the Constitution in times such as we are living in and that the courts are powerless to enjoin him from doing anything he desires to do."

Warren was referring to statements made by Assistant Attorney General Holmes Baldridge when the government was presenting its case on the steel seizure.

Warren added that he did not know how the Supreme Court will decide "concerning the right of the President to seize the steel industry in the crisis that confronted the nation, but we all can hope and pray that it will never

be in use by heavy bombers. Others are being completed.

"You can build air bases fast, or you can build them cheaply," Bonny said. "But not both."

Flash Brilliant In 31st Blast

Atom Device Set Off Atop Steel Tower

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — (AP) — An atomic device was detonated atop a steel tower before dawn Wednesday at the Atomic Energy Commission's Yucca Flat proving ground with a flash more brilliant than a desert sunrise.

THE NUCLEAR device was fired at the top of a 300-foot steel tower, producing a colorful flash far brighter than any seen during the 16 previous tests at the desolate Nevada desert firing range.

The flash was so brilliant that it awakened sleepers here, 75 miles southwest of the test site, turning a cloudy dawn to daylight for a few seconds.

The shock wave from the blast rolled across the desert moments later to rock this gambling resort.

As seen from here, the blast was 12 times as wide at the base as any previous flash in the Nevada desert and three times as wide as the final night test in the January-February series tests in 1951.

Wednesday's test was the first in pre-dawn darkness since then and the 31st known atomic explosion in history.

The atomic cloud that followed the detonation was visible here through heavy rainclouds for about eight and a half minutes. A number of residents turned out to watch the blast from their front lawns.

NO TROOPS WERE employed in the test although a number of military observers, mostly senior officers, were on hand.

A third test involving some 1,500 Army troops has tentatively been set for next mid-week.

Group Chops Foreign Funds

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday voted to cut \$1,010,000,000 from President Truman's 7 billion nine hundred million dollar foreign aid bill.

Chairman Richard (D-SC) said all of the cuts—aggregating 12.8 per cent—were from money requested for Europe.

The administration's request for 4 billion one hundred forty five million dollars for military assistance to Europe was trimmed to 3 billion three hundred sixteen million dollars—a 20 per cent reduction.

The committee voted a 10 per cent cut in defense support funds to provide the raw materials to spur European war production. The committee approved \$1,637,300,000 of the administration's request for \$1,819,200,000.

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee cut a total of one billion dollars from its measure last month but spaced the cuts throughout all foreign areas.

Abortion Trial On in Portland

PORTLAND — (AP) — The prosecution opened its case Tuesday against Mrs. Ruth Barnett and four of her employees, accused of operating an abortion establishment in downtown Portland.

A statement taken from Mrs. Edith Weigar, one of the defendants, shortly after the Barnett clinic was raided last summer, was read to the court.

In it Mrs. Weigar said that the clinic handled six patients daily and the prices sometimes were as low as \$50. She said she did not keep any records of patients' names or addresses.

Mrs. Barnett, a naturopath, and the four employees also are under indictment on charges of manslaughter by abortion. They have pleaded innocent to both charges.

NOT GOLDFLOCKS SLEEPING IN BED

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — (AP) — It wasn't Goldilocks Mrs. Dorothy McManney and her husband found sleeping in their bed recently when they awoke in the middle of the night.

They told a Municipal Court Judge here Tuesday the intruder was Bobby Aycock, 42, in court on a trespass count and a fourth offense charge of being drunk. Said Aycock to the Judge:

"I guess I lost my way. I normally sleep about eight blocks further up town."

Tarzan, Mate Squabble

HOLLYWOOD — (AP) — Actress Arlene Dahl and her husband, Lex Barker, the Tarzan of the films, announced Wednesday that their one-year marriage has hit the rocks.

The couple issued a formal announcement of their separation but added that no divorce action has been taken.

Allied Planes Rip Red Rail Lines in Hundreds of Places

SEOUL, Korea — (AP) — Allied war planes ripped up two Red rail lines in 340 places Tuesday and were back blasting them again Wednesday.

Fifth Air Force fighter-bombers opened 104 more gaps Wednesday morning in the stretch of main line north of Red Korea's capital, Pyongyang, broken in 170 places Tuesday.

Another 170 cuts were reported by pilots from the carriers Valley Forge and Princeton. They worked over an 80-mile segment of the East coast railway, centered on Hamhung.

Planes and warships supported front line troops. A raiding Allied patrol fought for two hours early Wednesday with Chinese west of Chorwon on the Western front.

Other tank-supported raiders destroyed four Red bunkers near Kumhwa on the Central front.

Thirteen other bunkers were reported closed by guns of the destroyer Evans in the clock bombardment of the end of the battleline.

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