

Senators Pump General on Koje

Sharp Questions
Fired at Ridgway

By EDWIN B. HAAKINSON
Associated Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON — (AP) — Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway came under sharp questioning from senators Tuesday about the Koje Island incidents which one lawmaker told him had brought shock and a sense of shame here at home.

The queries were fired at the former U.N. commander in the Far East behind closed doors, but Sen. Russell (D-Ga.), presiding at the session, sent reporters a copy of a statement he made.

In the statement, Russell congratulated Ridgway "for the magnificent job you have performed as a leader of our fighting men in a grim and bloody war." But used such words as "bewildering" and "shocking" in reference to the "kidnaping" of a U.S. general by Communist prisoners on Koje Island.

RIDGWAY, given a celebrity's welcome to the capitol, was technically before the Senate Armed Services Committee which Russell heads.

However, all senators had been invited to attend and more than one-third of the membership was on hand when the doors were closed.

While this meeting was going on, it was announced that Ridgway will address a joint meeting of the Senate and the House at 9:30 a.m. PDT Thursday.

Ridgway is en route to Europe to replace Gen. Eisenhower as head of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces.

SEN. ROBERTSON (D-Va.), one of the first to leave the closed-door meeting of senators, told reporters Ridgway was unable to shed much light on the Koje incidents although questioned extensively.

"He told us he had left before a detailed report was received on what actually did occur."

Robertson said the general confirmed reports that the Chinese Communists "have been building their troop strength" during the truce talks.

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS — The Santa Clara Market was none-the-less surprised at this Tuesday a.m. caller which figured in a two-car accident before careening into the building. As a result of the mishap, Mrs. Lorraine Nelson, 19, and Miss Barbara Nelson, 18, were admitted to a Eugene hospital. State police reported Miss Nelson was driving the car. E. L. Bailor, 488 River Loop 2, the other driver, escaped with minor injuries.

Eisenhower Given High French Honor

PARIS — (AP) — France conferred its highest honor—the Medaille Militaire—on Gen. Eisenhower Wednesday in a farewell tribute within the shadow of Napoleon's tomb.

The Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in Europe received the award from Premier Antoine Pinay in the Court of Honor of Les Invalides.

The last foreigner to receive this mark of France's highest esteem was Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1946.

TWO HOURS earlier, Eisenhower became an honorary citizen of Louveciennes, the village of 2,400 inhabitants in whose area SHAPE headquarters is located. The general drove to the Arc de Triomphe after the Invalides ceremony and placed a wreath of red roses on the tomb of France's Unknown Soldier.

The Medaille Militaire is awarded to commanding officers only after they have received every other high decoration. It customarily is reserved for enlisted men

and non-commissioned officers and is rarely awarded. With it goes a yearly allowance of 750 francs, or about \$2.

Premier Pinay kissed Eisenhower on both cheeks after affixing the decoration.

IN A SPEECH, he lauded the American general for his "splendid human and military qualities" during World War II.

Recalling that Gen. Eisenhower, after fulfilling his mission of liberation, had returned when peace "was again menaced," Pinay said: "By the nobility and the loftiness of his vision, his inspiring faith in the possibilities, the resources and the destinies of the free peoples, his understanding of the problems of the international cooperation, he instilled in the forces placed under his orders the spirit of emulation, solidarity and unity which should inspire the 14 nations of the Atlantic Pact in their effort at collective security to assure their common defense and preservation of peace."

FRANCE ROLLED out all the panoply of her power for the brilliant ceremony.

Thousands lined the route to the Invalides.

Troops guarded the way. In the courtyard, Republican guards in bright blue uniforms and silver helmets topped by red plumes stood at attention on horseback.

Patrols Clash On War Front

SEOUL, Korea, — (AP) — A United Nations tank — infantry patrol fought a six-hour battle with Red forces east of the Panmunjom truce site on the Korean Western front Tuesday.

A U.S. Eighth Army staff officer said the Allied tanks ran into small arms, mortar and rocket fire from a Red force of undetermined strength.

The U.N. force dug in and pounded the Reds with artillery, mortar and tank fire before disengaging.

A delayed report from the central front said a Red ammunition storage bunker was destroyed and 31 others were damaged by U.N. tanks Monday.

Another U.N. tank force on the central front battled the Reds twice on Tuesday.

Three Communist probing attacks were repulsed on the eastern front.

Night-flying B-26 pilots reported the destruction of 67 Communist tracks. Eleven Okinawa-based Superforts flew through light anti-aircraft fire and hit a Red rail bridge in Northwest Korea.

Judgeship Measure
WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee Tuesday approved a compromise bill providing for 16 new federal judgeships, including two additions to the Ninth Circuit court in the Far West.

House Members Defend Selves

Congressmen Want
Equal Tax Status

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Congressional feelings were showing lumps Wednesday from the hometown needing a lot of lawmakers are getting for voting themselves income tax relief.

In a word, the reaction on Capitol Hill might be summed up as: "Yow-w!"

MOST HOUSE members were reluctant to stick their necks out on so touchy an issue. But privately they feel they have been badly misunderstood in voting to make their expenses, while away from home, deductible as business expense for tax purposes.

It's no more than everyone else is allowed, they contend. They have to keep up two homes, one here and one back in their congressional district. And they have to travel back and forth on their constituents' business, they say.

The Internal Revenue Bureau has ruled in effect that a member of Congress has two homes for tax purposes—in other words, he's never away from home on business.

THAT'S NOT fair, complained Rep. Steed (D-Okla.), adding: "What the average member of Congress seeks is only to put himself on a footing of equality with other taxpayers. A lot of my constituents don't even know I pay heavy income taxes, and I can't even claim legitimate expenses as a deduction."

Congressmen now get \$12,500 a year, plus a \$2,500 tax-exempt allowance. However, Congress voted to make the \$2,500 allowance taxable effective Jan. 1.

Pace Speaks At West Point

WEST POINT, N. Y. — (AP) — Army Secretary Frank Pace says "the current period of partial mobilization may well last indefinitely."

Pace adds that a peacetime Army, within our generation, "will be less than three or four times its pre-war size," he told cadets of the United States Military Academy Tuesday night.

The Army secretary addressed a dinner closing Tuesday's jubilee convocation, the last major event in West Point's observance of the academy's 150th anniversary.

President Truman participated in the day-long activities but returned to Washington by train before the final dinner.

In an afternoon speech, Truman told the cadets he believed the free world was "well on the way" to preserving its freedom. However, he said, "we must also be alert and ready to meet treachery or a renewal of aggression if that should come."

6 Miners Killed
FRUGERES, France — (AP) — Six miners were killed Tuesday and six were trapped in a gas-filled mine pit 1,800 feet below the surface and believed lost. Eight miners scrambled to safety when deadly coal gas fumes filled the underground chamber at the Brassac Mine.

Forces Clash on Foreign Aid

Taft Picks Up 7 Delegates

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

While some Taft and Eisenhower supporters collided in their quest for presidential-nominating votes, others locked in House debate Wednesday on the issue of foreign aid spending.

Forces of Sen. Taft of Ohio won seven of Montana's eight Republican delegates at a convention in Helena Tuesday night.

Gen. Eisenhower's backers got one after blocking a move to instruct the delegation for Taft.

BUT IN AT least five other states — Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Minnesota and Texas — signs of the continuing struggle were patent.

At Annapolis, Maryland, Gov. Theodore McKeldin said he wants the state's 24 delegates, to be picked at a Baltimore meeting Saturday, to be uninstructed and uncommitted. McKeldin, expected to head the group as "favorite son," reportedly favors Eisenhower.

McKeldin, once widely labeled an Eisenhower man, lately has been complimentary to Taft. Intimates insist, however, he still personally prefers Eisenhower.

Washington's GOP convention at Spokane Saturday will wind up one of the bitterest battles in years for its 24 votes. Eisenhower leaders claim at least 16, but Taft backers predict an even-steam split.

Eisenhower partisans expect to get all 22 of Connecticut's GOP delegates to be chosen at a Hartford convention May 26-27. Taft backers are frankly pessimistic of their chances.

In Minnesota, a fight over the GOP national committeeman post comes to a head at a state committee meeting Saturday. Incumbent Roy Dunn is a Taft man. He is opposed by George F. Etzell, backed by Gov. C. Elmer Anderson who is supporting Eisenhower.

At Austin, the Texas State Supreme court had under advisement a suit aimed at deciding which set of contesting delegates should be certified to the May 27

state GOP convention. Arguments involved Taft and Eisenhower forces.

Taft's 7 to 1 delegate victory over Eisenhower in Montana puts him ahead of the general 384 to 339 in the Associated Press tabulation of nationwide delegate strength.

At Montana's Democratic convention a 12-man uninstructed delegation was named. Eight votes were uncommitted, two favored Gov. Stevenson, of Illinois and one each favored Sens. Kefauver of Tennessee and Kerr of Oklahoma.

Democratic delegate tally with 115, compared with 92½ for W. Averall Harriman of New York, mutual security director.

These tabulations are based on concessions, pledges, instructions and statements by delegates willing to say how they stand. GOP nomination requires 604 votes, Democratic 616.

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