

Threat to Kill Rocks Hearing

Ex-FCC Official Causes Uproar

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Clifford Durr, frail former federal official, grabbed ex-Communist Paul Crouch and shouted, "I'll kill you," Saturday after Crouch testified Durr's wife was a pawn in a Red plot reaching into the White House during the New Deal.

A tense three-day hearing by the Senate internal security subcommittee on alleged Communist activity in the South ended on this violent note after seven persons were accused of past Communist ties. Several were threatened with contempt action by Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.).

Durr, a former Federal Communications Commissioner, is the husband of attractive Mrs. Virginia Durr, a sister-in-law of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Black.

Durr grappled with Crouch as he left the stand after testifying Mrs. Durr "had full knowledge" of a conspiracy by a Communist espionage ring that allegedly piped out secret information from the White House from 1934 to 1952.

"You dirty dog! I'll kill you for lying about my wife," Durr yelled as he grabbed Crouch.

Attorneys and U. S. marshals dragged Durr from Crouch. White-faced and trembling, he was then led from the courtroom by friends. He had attended the hearings Saturday under the eye of a physician.

Crouch Friday charged that Durr had been a Communist while Durr was acting as an attorney for Aubrey Williams, president of the Southern Conference Education Fund, which was under investigation.



(AP Wirephoto)

SHOWS WHERE BULLET STRUCK—Representative Alvin M. Bentley, Michigan Republican who was felled in the House chamber shooting March 1, Friday showed newsmen where a Puerto Rican fanatic's bullet entered his chest. Bentley's condition was regarded as critical immediately after the shooting. Friday, at Casualty Hospital, he said there will be "quite a bit of repair work before I'm through here."

Morse Wants Vancouver Listed as Unemployed Area

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Morse (Ind.-Ore) urged Saturday that Vancouver, Wash., be classified as an unemployment area eligible for preference in award of government contracts.

Morse also mentioned Portland, Ore., in letters to Secretary of Labor Mitchell and Defense Mobilization Fleming, but Portland has been so classified.

The Labor Department announced Saturday that Portland was

among new areas added to a group where at least six per cent of the work force is jobless. These areas are eligible for special consideration in the award of government contracts.

In his letters, Morse wrote: "Portland has had serious unemployment for many months."

It is also pertinent that retail sales in Portland in 1954 have been consistently below the retail sales in comparable weeks in 1953.

URGES CHANGE
Morse also urged a change in present policies under which no labor area classification is made for communities which are not part of metropolitan centers of at least 50,000.

"My own state is composed of many small cities and towns which cannot qualify under present policies as distress areas," he wrote. "Yet there are several counties with covered unemployment of 20 per cent or more."

He said that while there has been the usual spring upturns in employment and business they are "not as strong and definite" as usual.

'AN INFECTION'
Morse said the problems are not Oregon's alone, for "the Pacific Northwest has been among the most severely hit areas in the economic slowdown that has affected the nation since the summer of 1953."

"Unemployment and declining sales are an infection which cannot be localized. In the interests of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and the nation, prompt action should be taken to classify Portland and Vancouver in Group 4 and modify present policies so that small communities may receive the economic boost they need so badly."

Most Major Industries Hit

Employment Still Down

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment has continued to mount, the Labor Department says, and by mid-March was being felt in almost all the nation's major industrial areas.

In a report issued yesterday, the department's Bureau of Employment Security (BES) said it found that joblessness had spread by mid-March from the auto, farm machinery, aircraft and household appliance manufacturing fields to a "wide range of industries" such as basic steel, textiles, shipbuilding, electronics and electrical equipment.

BES said, however, there were signs the increase in joblessness had slowed down. It reported a slight drop early in March in insured unemployment.

MARCH 'THERMOMETER'

March was designed by President Eisenhower as an unemployment thermometer. He told a news conference Feb. 17 that an upswing in employment generally is noted in March. If this trend should fail to develop this year, the President added, the government might have to take measures, perhaps including tax reduction.

Last Monday night the President went to the nation with a radio and television appeal against a Democratic drive to cut income taxes. In that speech he said economic conditions "do not call for an emergency program that would justify larger federal deficits and further inflation through large additional tax reductions at this time."

Eisenhower said "some unemployment" has cropped up in var-

ious parts of the nation, but he contended that the country as a whole "continues to be prosperous." The President said joblessness is no higher than it was in the spring of 1950, the eve of the Korean War outbreak.

The Census Bureau's most recent unemployment count was 3,671,000 for February.

OPTIMISTIC SIGNS

But there were some optimistic signs even as BES reported that virtually all the 149 major job areas surveyed reflected "adversely-affected employment conditions" between mid-January and mid-March.

For one thing, BES said in a separate report that there had been a slight drop—12,500—in joblessness among workers covered by unemployment compensation. This brought the total as of March 6 to 2,200,600.

Furthermore, BES reported that during the following week new claims for jobless pay totaled 310,600—8,200 fewer than were filed during the week ended March 6.

Unemployment compensation figures give only part of the job picture, since not many more than half the nation's workers are covered by this program.

BES, in its discussion of the situation in mid-March, also said the employment drop-off had slowed in the industries that bore the brunt of the winter unemployment.

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

BES said employment in the trade and construction fields dropped a bit in almost all the areas it studied, but the bureau emphasized this was normal in winter.

The bureau groups industrial areas according to employment conditions. In its latest report, BES shifted 40 of the 149 major labor market areas into classifications showing greater "surpluses" of workers.

Hartford, Conn., the only area in the country to report a labor shortage in January, was listed as having a "balanced" labor

Oil Well Fire Out of Control

LEGAL, Alta. (AP)—Flames fed by natural gas pouring from the ground at 7,000 cubic feet a day continued unabated Saturday as emergency crews watched the second day of Alberta's latest oil well fire.

Flames towered 150 feet into the air over the red-hot, twisted remains of a drilling rig which buckled Friday. An explosion set off the fire near this farming community 33 miles north of Edmonton.

The oil well, owned by Imperial Oil Ltd., was being drilled by Parker Drilling Co. Work had been under way for about two weeks before the well blew out of control Friday.

No one was injured in the blast which could be heard for 10 miles.

It was believed underground mud gave way and the natural gas streaked to the surface. It exploded when it reached hot running motors of the drilling rig.

Air Crackup Under Study

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Air Force investigators studied Saturday whether engine trouble caused the crash of a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" which took the lives of 18 servicemen, including some "aerial hitchhikers."

The Giant Air Force plane crashed and exploded in flames Friday—17 minutes after it had taken off from Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, on a flight to Mitchel Field, Long Island, N.Y.

Flying through rain and wind, the plane went down in an open field near the hamlet of Lothian, about 15 miles south of Annapolis.

Investigators from Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, poked through the ruins during the night and a board of inquiry was created. It did not disclose any preliminary findings.

Population Gains

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Census Bureau Friday estimated there were 161,331,000 Americans on Feb. 1, including members of the armed forces. This was an increase of 1.7 per cent over Feb. 1, 1953, and 6.7 per cent over April 1950, when the last census was taken.

LAW ABIDING

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Magistrate George Ober, late for a court hearing, drove into the county garage and asked a jail prisoner working there to put his car in its parking space.

"I couldn't do that," the prisoner replied. "You took my driver's license away from me."

Collie Keeps Child Warm

PALMYRA, Ill. (AP)—A 3-year-old boy, protected from heavy rains by his dog, was found early Friday after 250 searchers had combed woods near his home for eight hours.

Danny Pratt had been missing since his mother, Mrs. Leonard Pratt, gave him permission to go play with neighbors' children.

When a party led by coal miner Jim Stantling found the youngster, he was bruised about the face and soaked by rain, but his year-old collie Corsy was lying on top of him, trying to keep him warm and dry.

Danny was taken to a hospital at nearby Carlinville for examination.

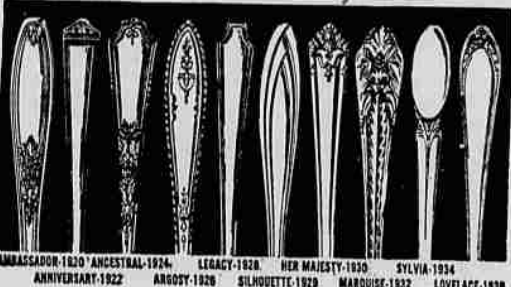
Adlai Ignores McCarthy Job

NEW YORK (AP)—Adlai Stevenson said Saturday he will not reply to Sen. McCarthy's "count indictment" of the Democratic Party, declaring "I will stoop to the senator's level."

Stevenson said he had read charges of Sen. McCarthy's Friday night in Milwaukee, which accused the Democrats of "treason" and called Stevenson the "attorney for the defense."

Stevenson flew here from London with his son, John Paul, and Mrs. Carol Evans, his secretary. He currently is on a six-day tour.

While saying he planned to reply to any of McCarthy's "countdowns," the unsuccessful Democratic presidential candidate did say, however, it was "the first I heard of it" when asked for comment on McCarthy's "countdown." Stevenson had given the task of formulating America's postwar policy to Italy.



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