

Texan's Deals To Get Airing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Investigations Subcommittee voted unanimously Thursday to stage a full scale public airing of the scandals flowing from the Billie Sol Estes case.

Chairman John L. McClellan, D-Ark., pledged a "full, thorough and complete" investigation of alleged influence deals by the Texas financier.

He said there was no sign of partisan discord among the subcommittee's members over plans to follow the trail of evidence which could lead to the doorsteps of people high in government during both the Kennedy and Eisenhower administrations.

McClellan said the public hearings will start just as soon as his expanded investigating staff can wade through a mountain of documentary evidence, but that it is impossible now to set the starting date. He reportedly hopes to get the hearing under way before the end of the month.

Staff Expanding
He said the subcommittee, at a 90-minute meeting behind his closed office doors, voted unanimously to authorize the public hearings to start "at such time as in my discretion the staff is properly prepared."

The steadily expanding staff has been on the job for a month in a preliminary investigation which, he said, has now dug up evidence from which it "became apparent that the facts as they had developed and were developing warranted a full, thorough and complete investigation with resultant public hearings."

McClellan said Estes whose complex financial manipulations in government farm programs and other fields built a fortune, will be a witness but that it is questionable how much information Estes will give.

Estes is awaiting trial on federal and state fraud charges growing out of the collapse of his financial empire.

"He will do what his lawyer tells him to do," McClellan said, adding "you can hardly expect him to come in here and testify against himself."

Some Cooperation
McClellan said he has the impression that Estes' lawyer is advising him to cooperate in some phases of the inquiry, but that under the lawyer's instructions "in most areas he would not be likely to cooperate with doing violence to his defense in the criminal cases pending."

Both McClellan and Sen. Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, the subcommittee's senior Republican member, have declared they hope partisanship will not be a problem.

McClellan and Mundt also teamed up in requesting the usual authority for the chairman to order balking or questionable witnesses to be quizzed in closed door session in advance of public hearings. They explained this is a precaution not used very often, but valuable in cases of witnesses who, as Mundt put it, seem prone to "spread a lot of names in the record without any evidence."

Both senators have said they want the hearings to be objective, with no punches pulled.

Bill Approved
WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Tuesday approved a bill that would make a major change in the Uniform Code of Military Justice by giving commanders a stronger hand in punishing errant officers and men without resort to a court martial.

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ROBERT WEBSTER
Changes Mind About Russia

Turncoat To Return

WASHINGTON (AP)—State Department officials said Wednesday they have granted permission for the return to the United States of Robert Webster, a former U.S. plastics specialist who renounced America for Russia.

Officials said Webster, 33, of Cleveland, Ohio, apparently changed his mind some months ago about the desirability of living in the Soviet Union, and has been seeking clearances to reenter the United States.

Webster has been in Russia since 1959 when he went to Moscow to help set up an exhibit and demonstrate plastics for the Rand Development Corp. He left his wife and two children in this country. She has since obtained a divorce.

3-Semester System Set

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—As an experiment, high school classes in a northeast Georgia town will begin operating on a three-semester, 12-month basis.

"There's no use in wasting a child's mind after he's 14 years old," during a three-month summer vacation period, said Kermit J. Harris, superintendent of the school in Tallulah Falls, where the system will be tried.

The program, approved by the State Board of Education, is expected to start this fall on an optional basis. It is designed so that a pupil can finish four years of high school in three years.

Harris said he felt a youngster who stayed out of school all summer is like a person having to learn to walk again after staying in bed three months.

Honorary Doctorate

PORTLAND (AP)—Labor Secretary Arthur Goldberg will receive an honorary doctorate of laws degree from the University of Portland at graduation exercises May 27. Goldberg also will be the commencement speaker.

Yugoslavia, Soviet Ties Good, K Says

Premier Continues Tour of Bulgaria

VARNA, Bulgaria (AP)—Premier Khrushchev says the Soviet Union's long-strained relations with Communist Yugoslavia are once again good.

"Our relations with Yugoslavia were rather strained previously," Khrushchev declared Wednesday, "but now I can say with satisfaction that our relations are normal and I would even say good."

Crowd of 30,000

Speaking before a crowd of 30,000 Bulgarians in the main square of Varna, a Black Sea resort city, Khrushchev declared that the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are in harmony on many questions and commercial ties between the two countries are improving continuously.

"We are also ready to develop scientific and cultural relations with Yugoslavia in the interests of strengthening peace," he said.

Tito's independent brand of communism caused the first split in Communist ranks after World War II, and the United States has sought to encourage Tito's independent course with large-scale economic and military aid.

Khrushchev also held out the olive branch to another of Bulgaria's neighbors, Western-ally Turkey.

'Sea of Peace'

The Soviet Union looks forward to the time when the Black Sea will become "a sea of peace," Khrushchev said.

"Isn't it time for the ruling circles in Turkey to understand that military preparations are useless? It is time to transform launching sites into peaceful corners."

Talking with Western newsmen, Khrushchev confirmed that the Soviet Union is preparing a new series of nuclear tests of its own.

"We are forced to renew our tests because, despite our appeals, the Americans did not refrain from renewing theirs," he said.

Press Aide Ends Red Tour, Says Quick Results Unlikely

MOSCOW (AP)—White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said Thursday he sees no immediate prospect of an increased flow of information and ideas between Russia and the United States.

Salinger, ending a week-long visit here, said he thought his talks with top Soviet officials, including Premier Nikita Khrushchev, might produce results along those lines but it would be a matter of time.

Salinger said the idea of an exchange of television appearances by Khrushchev and President Kennedy was "on the shelf."

It had been understood here that the Russians told Salinger the international climate at the moment is not suitable for such an exchange.

Salinger, who was the guest here of Izvestia's Editor Alexei Adzhubei, was scheduled to start home Thursday afternoon. He told U.S. correspondent his efforts to arrange an easing of restrictions on their work in the Soviet capital had borne no immediate fruit.

He said, however, he is convinced it is in the interest of both countries to continue such efforts even if they are not immediately productive.

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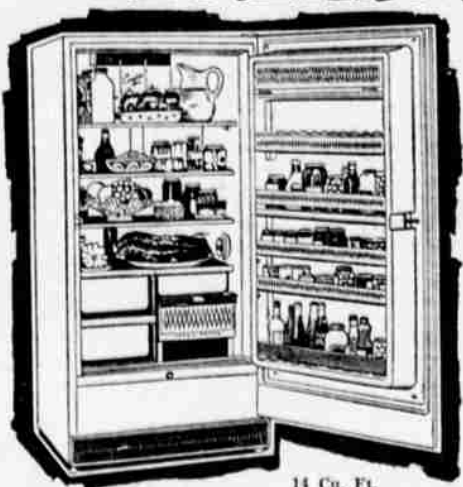
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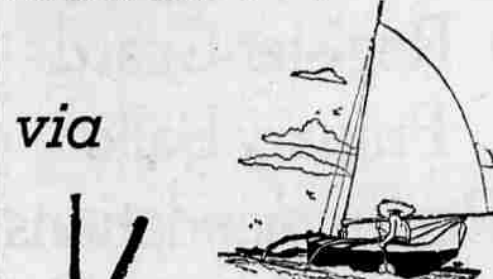
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