

Johnson Sets 2-Week Visit To Mideast

To Assure Allies Of U.S. Support

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was to depart Wednesday for the Middle East on a two-week mission aimed largely at reassuring Iran, Greece and Turkey of U.S. support despite shifts in foreign aid emphasis.

Accompanied by his wife, Lady Bird, Johnson will visit those countries plus Lebanon and Cyprus. Then he will conclude his 16-day goodwill journey with a two-day stop in Rome for talks on Italian-American cooperation in space.

President Kennedy was scheduled to give Johnson a ceremonial send-off Wednesday afternoon on the White House lawn. The vice president and his wife were to fly by helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for a 4 p.m. takeoff aboard a presidential jet transport plane.

Johnson's manifold mission is to reaffirm in the Middle East nations he will visit, America's close economic and military support, friendship and general backing. Each of the five countries can trace its independent status to past U.S. help against Communist or other dissension, internal or external.

On that basis, administration officials look upon Johnson's trip as something more than a routine goodwill mission. They feel that as this country's second-ranking official—and with the ebullience he has shown on past overseas ventures—he can convince these American Allies of his country's steadfastness toward them.

Johnson will dine with the Shah of Iran, and will meet and eat with presidents, prime ministers, and with other key officials. But he and his wife also plan to visit with the people.

Their first major stop, Thursday, will be at Beirut, Lebanon, where they will pay a one-day courtesy call on the president and prime minister. Johnson probably will emphasize that the United States is still as much in support of this uncertain land as in 1958 when U.S. Marines were sent there during a severe political upheaval.

Union Group Asks Hatfield Aid in Strike

SALEM (AP) — Six officials of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union Tuesday asked Gov. Mark Hatfield to help settle a dispute with the Bate Lumber Co., at Wallowa in Northeast Oregon.

Fighting erupted on the picket line at the Bate mill July 23. The strike began June 16. The union committee, headed by Earl Hartley of Portland, executive secretary of the Western Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers, asked Hatfield either to arbitrate the dispute or to appoint a fact-finding board.

Hatfield, who met with the delegation for an hour, took the matter under advisement. Hartley said the committee turned to Hatfield because the union is "exploring every avenue" for a settlement. Negotiating sessions broke off some weeks ago.

Others at Tuesday's meeting included Russ Chandler of Baker, secretary-treasurer of the union's Blue Mountain District Council, union officials from the Coos Bay, Eugene, Bend and Portland districts, and Warner Nunn, Hatfield's executive assistant.

BLM Asks Bids On Gravel Work

Bids have been called by the Bureau of Land Management for the production of aggregate material from the Nelson Ridge Quarry east of Blachly.

The job calls for production of 30,000 cubic yards of crushed aggregate, in two sizes, and the stockpiling of the material at three sites.

Bids will be received at the office of the Bureau of Public Roads, 824 Morgan Building, Portland, until 1 p.m. standard, 2 p.m. daylight, Sept. 4. Information is available by calling Capitol 6-3361, Portland.

All bids on a previous call were rejected and the requirements have been changed.

Pershing Rocket Lands on Target

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A Pershing artillery missile testing a quicker, explosive nose cone separation device has been fired successfully on a short range flight.

The two-stage, solid-fuel rocket hit a target about 200 miles down range Tuesday night in its first test flight in more than two months. Since the last shot in June technicians worked to correct problems which plagued the missile in three of the five previous launches.



Quake Scene

This was the scene in the central square of Ariano Irpino, Italy, Wednesday morning after inhabitants spent the night away from their homes in fear of another earthquake. Most are covered with blankets. Thousands of Italians spent Tuesday night out of doors after a severe earthquake hit southern Italy. At least 15 persons were killed and dozens injured.

Zestful Irish Jam Around Ike, Mamie

DUBLIN (AP) — Thousands of Dubliners in President Kennedy's ancestral homeland broke through police lines Wednesday to show how they like Ike.

The crowd surrounded visiting former President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he emerged from his hotel to go to a luncheon given in his honor by President Eamon de Valera.

They slapped Eisenhower's back and shouted, "We like Ike... Good old Ike... Have a good time."

Eisenhower grinned and laughed and spread his arms wide to shield his wife, Mamie, from the enthusiastic crowd.

Dublin police had cordoned off the streets near the entrance to Eisenhower's hotel. But apparently they did not reckon on the crowd's zestfulness nor the effect of the Eisenhower grin.

Eisenhower's smile served to spur the crowd on. Police were lost in the shuffle. They forgot their efforts to keep strict order and merely tried to clear a way for Eisenhower and his wife to their waiting limousine.

A police motorcycle honor guard stood by to take the Eisenhower party from the hotel to the luncheon.

Lafferty Seeks More Signatures

PORTLAND (AP) — A. W. Lafferty will try Thursday night to obtain more signatures in his effort to gain nomination by convention as an independent candidate for U.S. Senator.

Lafferty recessed the convention Tuesday night after failing to get signatures of 250 registered voters.

Some 125-200 persons attended his convention but not all voted.

Lafferty, 87, who represented Oregon in Congress from 1911 to 1915, said he was disappointed because "a lot of people who said they would be here never showed up."

He has until Aug. 28 to obtain the needed signatures.

Second Body Found Under Garage Floor

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A steamer trunk has yielded a second body from under the cement floor of a garage in San Francisco's Ingleside district.

Police, who unearthed the trunk Tuesday night, said they assumed the decomposed body is that of Mildred Arneson, 58, wife of 70-year-old Jay Arneson, whose body was found about 12 feet away Monday night.

The bodies were found under two recently laid layers of cement flooring of the home of a couple police say took over the Arneson's Santa Rosa, Calif., motel after their disappearance.

Postal Union Boosts Dues

PORTLAND (AP) — Members of the postal workers union will pay monthly per capita dues of \$1 next year, following approval of a 25-cent increase Tuesday at the organization's national convention.

The vote, by the United Federation of Postal Clerks, AFL-CIO, was 535-221.

E. C. Hallbeck, president, said that the increase still will leave the organization's dues below those of AFL-CIO unions of comparable size.

Two postal employees in Portland, carrier Ted L. Popa and clerk Owen W. Dickens, received cash awards of \$250 for designing and building plastic models of floors for a new building.

Their ideas saved the department several thousand dollars.

Ben-Gurion Visits

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel and Mrs. Ben-Gurion arrived here Tuesday night on a visit to Scandinavia. They were met at the airport by Prime Minister Tage Erlander and his wife Aina, who earlier this year visited Israel.

Mrs. Arneson and her husband were divorced but she continued to care for him because he was an invalid.

Climax of Long Search

Arneson, a World War I Army major, had been buried under the concrete in the garage of the modest frame house. Police said he had been strangled with a black belt still around his neck. They said they had not yet determined the cause of the woman's death.

Investigators arrested the owner of the house, Ralph Kroeger, 61, a hod carrier, and issued a warrant for the arrest of Kroeger's wife, Iva, 44.

Chief of Inspectors Dan McKlem said Kroeger also denied knowing the whereabouts of his wife. FBI agents said she had been seen nearby last Friday in the company of a boy, possibly her grandson.

Discovery of Arneson's body and the subsequent unearthing of the trunk climaxed a long police search for the Arnesons. Mrs. Arneson disappeared last December after telling friends she would sell the Arneson's Santa Rosa motel and go to Brazil. Arneson dropped from sight in January.

'For Some Plumbing'

A chance remark by a construction worker, Walter Hughes, 38, led to the discovery of the bodies in the Kroeger home. He was questioned by police and released.

Hughes casually remarked to another Santa Rosa motel operator, Mrs. John Dodge, that he had driven Mrs. Kroeger and Arneson to Mrs. Kroeger's home last January—and had dug a hole in the basement floor there "for some plumbing" at Mrs. Kroeger's request.

Mrs. Dodge recalled that Arneson had been missing since mid-January and called Santa Rosa authorities, who alerted San Francisco police. They entered the Kroeger home with a search warrant Monday night and found Arneson's body one hour and 45 minutes later.

Vietnamese Report Major Victory

By PETER ARNETT
Of the Associated Press

SAIGON, South Viet Nam—South Vietnamese troops Wednesday reported 134 Red guerrillas killed in the first success of the government's major offensive to break the back of the Communist force in the Mekong River delta.

Military sources said the government's 1st Airborne Battalion encountered a large concentration of Viet Cong guerrillas Tuesday night a few miles south of the operation's command post at Bac Lieu, in southern Ba Xuyen Province.

An estimated 300 guerrillas ambushed the government bat-

talions after U.S. Marine helicopters had ferried the South Vietnamese troops into the area. The paratroops fought their way out of the ambush and chased the fleeing guerrillas through the flooded rice fields.

Air Force Kills 80

Government troops counted 54 dead guerrillas. The Vietnamese air force claimed its follow-up strafing attacks on the fleeing guerrillas killed 80 more. American sources could not confirm the government claims.

Government casualties totaled six killed and 14 wounded.

Government forces also cap-

tured a small store of Communist arms and fuel in the clash, the first time South Vietnamese troops have met a sizable Red force since they opened "Operation Big Pacification" last week.

The first phase of the drive to clean out or scatter the heavy Viet Cong concentrations controlling most of Viet Nam's southern tip ended last weekend in disappointment for its American planners.

Frustrating Start

Gen. Paul D. Harkins, commander of U.S. forces in Viet Nam and Thailand, and his high command had worked on the planning for three months and were highly optimistic when it

got under way. But for four days, 4,000 government troops backed by fighter planes, U.S. helicopters and navy units pushed through Ca Mau peninsula at the tip of Viet Nam without making contact with any Viet Cong concentrations.

The estimated 2,000 guerrillas in the region melted into the thick mangrove swamps. American sources reported the drive netted only 60 Viet Cong dead.

The operation's second phase opened Tuesday as the government force turned northward to the river delta in Ba Xuyen Province, believed infiltrated by some 1,600 Red guerrillas in recent weeks.

Investigators Give Firms '2nd Chance'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate antitrust investigators have voted to issue "second chance" subpoenas to four steel companies that refused to hand in reports on their pricing practices.

The action came Tuesday at a closed-door session of the Senate antitrust subcommittee. Chairman Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., said the vote was 5 to 3.

Before the session, Kefauver said he would ask the subcommittee to approve contempt of Congress citations against the National, Republic, Bethlehem and Armco steel corporations.

Party Line Vote

Instead, the senators decided to issue new subpoenas, giving the steel producers a second chance to comply. Kefauver said. He said the subpoenas will go out immediately, not only to the companies but to their chief officers as well, and will be returnable in 10 to 12 days.

The subcommittee's five Democrats voted to issue them, with the three Republican members opposed, Kefauver said.

The original subpoenas were issued last April after the steel industry's short-lived price increase. The \$6-a-ton boost was announced and then rescinded under White House pressure.

Eight Agree to Appear

Kefauver said at that time detailed information on production costs was essential for "an intelligent evaluation of the need for price increases."

He said last week that eight steel companies, including U.S. Steel Corp., had indicated they would comply with the subpoenas, although they strongly objected to submitting cost figures.

Kefauver said he advised the eight they need not produce the data until the question of compliance by the noncomplying companies has been finally determined.

Border Campaign

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — An Interior Ministry spokesman says Thailand and Malaya soon will launch an intensified campaign to rid the jungles along their border areas of Communist guerrillas.

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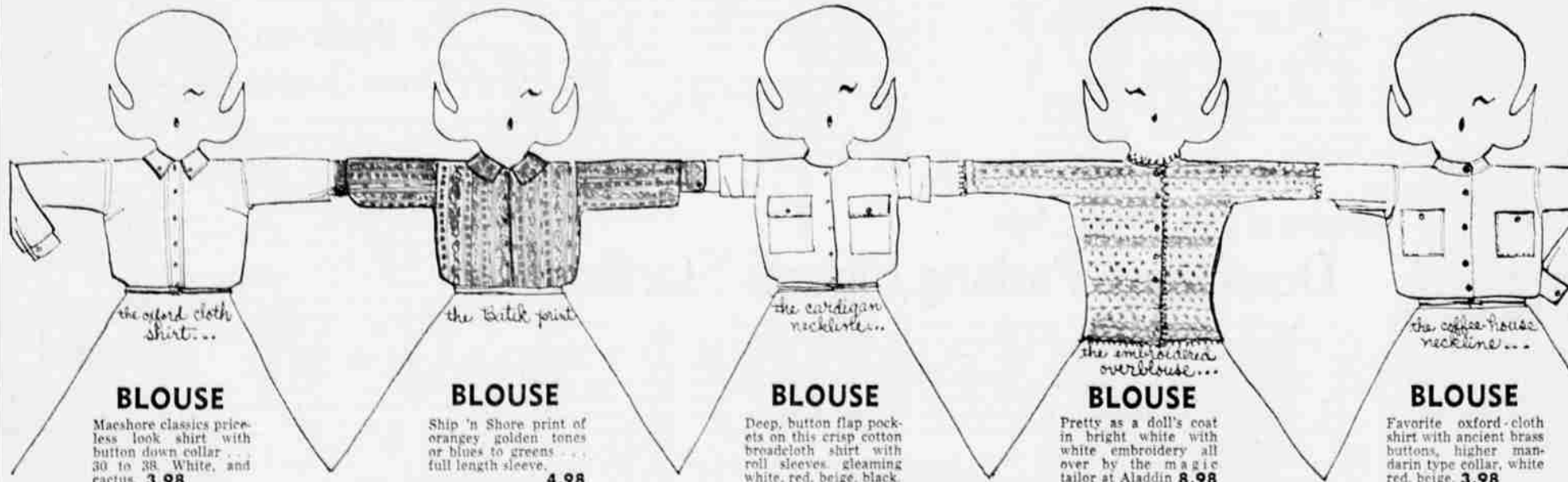


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