

Cooley Blasts Brannan Plan

Washington, April 5 (AP)—The democratic chairman of the house agriculture committee denounced the administration's Brannan farm plan today as an untried idea based on "principles of a consumer subsidy."

Rep. Cooley of North Carolina, who blasted the plan in a statement, thus demonstrated a democratic party split on farm policy.

Only yesterday Secretary of Agriculture Brannan and Senator Humphrey (D., Minn.) argued warmly for the secretary's plan before a statewide meeting of farmers in Milwaukee.

Cooley's vigorous anti-Brannan stand took on more significance in view of the fact that last year he led an unsuccessful fight to give the plan at least a trial.

The agriculture chairman explained his altered position did not mean that he would refuse to use the Brannan subsidy approach, in cases where this seemed to be the only way of meeting a specific problem.

The Brannan plan proposes that perishable farm commodities be sold at whatever price the markets will pay; and that the government later make production payments or subsidies to farmers to bring their income to a predetermined level considered by the government to be fair.

Van Zeeland Seeks Cabinet

Brussels, Belgium, April 5 (AP)—Paul Van Zeeland, ardent advocate of restoring King Leopold to his throne, was given the tough job today of trying to form a new Belgian government.

Van Zeeland, a social Christian (Catholic) party leader was named premier-designate by Prince Regent Charles in the hope of solving the month-old political crisis over proposals to bring Leopold back from exile.

Political sources said Van Zeeland probably would try to form a cabinet composed entirely of social Christians and immediately call for a joint session of parliament to invite the king to return. Pro-Leopoldists have a seven-vote majority in a combined session of the upper and lower houses but lack a majority in the important lower chamber.

Socialists, led by former Premier Paul-Henry Spaak, have promised bitter industrial strife if Leopold returns. The king has been in exile in Switzerland since the end of the war because of unpopularity among many Belgians for surrendering to Hitler's army in World War II.

In an advisory plebiscite last month, 57.7 per cent of the voters favored Leopold's return. Socialists and liberals contended this was not a big enough majority to insure unity.

Yesterday Liberal Leader Albert Devezé, who favored a compromise move by restoring Leopold to the throne on condition he abdicate in favor of his son, Prince Baudoin, gave up the job of trying to form a government.

Four Areas Vote for Merger; Four Reject

Portland, April 5 (AP)—Four suburban areas voted to merge with the city yesterday but four more heavily populated zones rejected the proposal.

Unofficial ballot tallies incorporated one southeast section and three southwest portions by ballot. The Multnomah business district, capitol hill area and two residential districts turned down the proposal.

Veteran Employee Retires
Roy V. Hollenberg, traffic manager and accountant for the state highway commission here, retired today after 30 years of continuous service.

He started in as a clerk in 1919, and became traffic manager in 1935.

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U. S. Slashing Foreign Staffs

New York, April 5—The New York Times said today the United States is reducing its diplomatic staffs in all eastern European countries and "otherwise reviewing all personnel policies in that part of the world."

A Washington dispatch to the Times by James Reston reported "a drastic cut" has been ordered by the state department in Hungary and Romania.

"Lesser but still severe" reductions in Poland and Czechoslovakia were reported.

These decisions were made in Washington, the story said, "mainly as a result of pressures of various kinds by the eastern European governments."

"By June 1," the dispatch said, "the United States missions in Budapest and Bucharest will be 50 per cent smaller than they were on March 1 of this year. Meanwhile, the embassies in Prague and Warsaw have been asked to cut personnel to a minimum."

The explanation was, in part: "Hungary has formally requested the United States to reduce all categories of officials in that country. Poland has requested that United States military personnel in Warsaw be reduced. Romania has made no formal request, but has achieved the same end by refusing to grant visas to replacements of the present United States staffs."

The Times said "the extent of the pressures on the United States to get its officials out of communist Europe differs, but the general trend is the same all over the area."

Truman Ponders Gas Bill Veto

Key West, Fla., April 5 (AP)—A stream of telegrams poured into the winter White House today for and against the controversial natural gas bill.

Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross gave no count as to their number or the percentage for or opposed to a veto.

He said Mr. Truman is awaiting recommendations from the budget bureau and federal departments concerned before making a decision, and that the decision may await his return to Washington Monday.

Mr. Truman is flying back Monday morning on the air force Constellation, the so-called "Dew Drop," in order to make his regular plane, the "Independence" available to the president of Chile, who is paying a state visit next week.

Mr. Truman is leaving Friday, driving to Miami to board a train for Washington.

Margaret hasn't decided whether to go home with mother or dad.

Some of the president's closest advisors were urging him to veto the natural gas bill, which squeaked through the house by a two-vote margin.

Public Hearing on New Apartments

A special meeting of the city planning and zoning commission will be held Wednesday night at City hall to have a public hearing on the proposed apartment house project at the southwest corner of South High and Kearney streets.

A spirited hearing is expected. The application is by William E. Healy and Paul Murphy who have plans to erect a building to house 120 living units and to cost over \$1,000,000.

While many property owners signed the petition for the change of zone necessary there is some strong opposition on the part of others.

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ONE FULL WEEK OF TOP NOTCH ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring The Jibobill Trio

With 2 Floor Shows Nightly

Shattuc's Chateau

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Queen Diane—Diane Dailey, 19, a graduate of Hollywood high school, has been named "Girl of the Golden West" and will reign over the 40-day Western Harness Racing association meeting at Santa Anita (California) track. (AP Wirephoto)

Gas Tax Hike Lost, Missouri

Kansas City, April 5 (AP)—Missouri voters turned down a plan to increase the state gasoline tax from two to four cents yesterday.

It was the sixth time since 1938 that Missourians rejected an increase. Missouri has the lowest state gasoline tax in the nation.

Unofficial returns from 3,509 of 4,599 precincts in a special referendum election showed 149,292 for the hike and 463,092 against it.

The election was on approval or rejection of a law passed by the state legislature last year. The measure was forced to a popular vote when opponents of the increase filed petitions carrying more than 200,000 signatures.

One cent of the increase would have been used exclusively for rural roads.

President Truman voted by absentee ballot from Key West, Fla. He announced he was voting for the gasoline tax increase.

Floods Menacing New Hampshire Town

Lancaster, N.H., April 5 (AP)—Sharply rising waters of Israel river threatened the entire business district early today before dynamite blasted sections of a three mile ice jam.

The jam backed water into business and residential sections, causing the evacuation of four families and flooding of half a dozen business establishments.

Swirling waters threatened to knock out a bridge at the center of the business district. The structure carries toll telephone lines to the north and south country.

Lire Chief Jason Gessner, who described the flood as the worst in a quarter century in this community of 3,500, said the river receded slightly after the blasting.

Plug Leaks in Berlin Offices

Berlin, April 5 (AP)—A drive to plug leaks on security matters within American official circles has been started by the U.S. high commission in Germany.

A team of security experts is tightening the control system at the Berlin headquarters now.

The drive was ordered after U.S. officials were puzzled as to how an occasional fact contained in a supposedly secret document turned up in the Soviet-licensed press. Eastern newspapers frequently spin out an isolated fact into a web of exaggerations.

All officers are being inspected to determine how documents with top secret value are filed, through whose hands they go, and whether they are properly destroyed once their value is ended.

Small safes with ordinary keys are ruled out.

An old rule that German employees may not handle confidential documents is being impressed anew on all officials.

Labor Cold to Peace Proposal

Washington, April 5 (AP)—Philip Murray's "friendly offer" of peace among the nation's big labor groups has met with sparse—and somewhat chilly—response from the American Federation of Labor and the United Mine Workers.

The CIO president wrote major union groups yesterday proposing that they join his organization in setting up a standing committee with authority to work together on economic, political and legislative problems, and plan for eventual merger.

He called it "the most significant proposal of its kind that has been offered by the CIO to the AFL and these other organizations since the CIO was originally organized."

It went to AFL President William Green; John L. Lewis, president of the UMW, and to the heads of the International Association of Machinists, the Railway Labor Executive association, the Railroad Trainmen, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

"I have every reason to expect the hope that a favorable reply will be forthcoming," Murray told reporters.

Green was in New Orleans for a meeting of the Louisiana State Federation of Labor.

Youth Acquitted of Slaying Fiancee

Iowa City, Ia., April 5 (AP)—Robert E. Bednasek was found innocent today of the charge that he strangled pretty Margaret Anne (Gee-Gee) Jackson in a University of Iowa off-campus rooming house the early morning of last Dec. 11.

This meant that the jury accepted the defense story that the pretty coed's death was "a tragic accident." The state had asked conviction for first degree murder and the death penalty.

The four men and eight women who decided against the

state's theory that the beautiful blonde's death was "cold, calculated murder" motivated by jealousy had taken the case approximately 23 hours earlier.

Bednasek himself had appeared confident even before he received word that a verdict had been reached. Sheriff A. J. Murphy said he had to wake Bednasek up to give him breakfast, so soundly had the young man slept.

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Hampshire junior lambs—John Ahlstrom, representing Josephine county, Ore.; Southdown senior lambs, Bruce Field, Jackson county; Vernon Holmes, Linn county; Robin McKinley, Linn county.

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