

# Capital Journal

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## McCARTHY WINS ARMY BOUT

Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens has agreed to Senator Joe McCarthy's demands for information after being told that his orders to the contrary put him into the untenable position of defying congress. This cancelled a dramatic climax of a television showdown between the two on the dispute over the promotion and honorable discharge of Major Irving Peress after pleading constitutional immunity in response to questions as to his political beliefs.

The army has corrected conditions which sanctioned Peress' attitude. All facts in the case will be turned up and made public by Army investigators. Stevens has withdrawn his orders forbidding officers to discuss the case before the McCarthy committee. And if McCarthy wants to again question Brig. Gen. Ralph W. Zwicker, he can do so.

It was McCarthy's insulting attitude in his questioning of Zwicker that gave the publicity which McCarthy is seeking to the incident. His questioning left some facts undisclosed, though it is evident that he did know but could not tell. He was evidently governed by precedent set by a previous case.

The White House says neither the president nor vice-president had a hand in arranging the McCarthy-Stevens meeting. But after the Army secretary came out of it, as he told newsmen he does not "consider that I am a person who capitulates or retreats."

The "memorandum of understanding" that resulted from the meeting, besides the specific agreements on further information for McCarthy's subcommittee, contained a statement that the Army was in agreement with the subcommittee on the importance of rooting out communists from the armed services and that the Army's own investigation of the Peress matter would continue.

The transcript of the Zwicker quiz shows that McCarthy, among other things, told Zwicker that he was "not fit" to wear his uniform and said the senator could not "help impugning" either the general's "honesty or . . . intelligence" as a result of some of Zwicker's answers. —G. P.

## THE MYSTIFYING SACK MURDER

The chap who said "truth is stranger than fiction" could if he were still around cite the Goldie Goodrich Sack murder case in Portland in support of a contention that has been proved many times before.

Few detective stories contain more elements of mystery than the Portland case, now a week old, which has finally resulted in the indictment of the woman's husband, George F. Sack. The experts, who have been giving the cause of death their closest attention ever since the body was found, now say asphyxiation was the cause of death but they still do not know how it happened.

Rightly or wrongly, officials and public have been convinced that they knew how the former Yamhill county woman met her death from the beginning. Two of Sack's previous wives died by violence in the middle west many years ago. He was accused of murder but not convicted. And the license plates on the automobile from which the woman's body was dumped behind a clump of bushes east of Portland were identified as Sack's.

First the suspicion was poison, but an examination of the contents of the dead woman's stomach failed to substantiate this theory. Nor were the marks on her body such as to cause death. For several days the investigators were stymied. Now they seem convinced that they know the cause of death.

Still to be convinced will be the jury, and maybe after them the supreme court. For here is a different type of murder mystery, one which the public assumes is actually no mystery at all, but extremely difficult to prove.

A further complication sure to arise is how the defendant can get a "fair and impartial trial," anywhere in Oregon, so thoroughly have the Portland papers plastered the state with the lurid details of his past, which probably should not reach the jurors at all, but which already have.

## COMMITTEE VOTE ON WARREN

"The mountain has labored and brought forth a mouse." This comment seems appropriate to the tardy action of the Senate's judiciary committee which has just reported out the nomination of Earl Warren to be chief justice, by a vote of 12-3 after listening to the testimony of one Rodrick J. Wilson, a California enemy of Warren who was at the time of testifying a fugitive from justice.

The testimony was behind closed doors but, senators who commented afterward said it didn't amount to anything, a fact which will surprise no one, for everything about Warren has been known for years. Senator Welker of Idaho called it "a mass of hearsay and conclusions that would not under any circumstances be regarded as legal and competent evidence."

The three Democrats who voted against Warren said they were not influenced by the testimony. One was protesting because the committee's request for an F.B.I. investigation of Warren hadn't been complied with. Another said Warren did not have judicial experience to qualify for such an office. The third said his vote was a "protest against procedures" in the committee and that he will vote for Warren when the matter reaches the Senate floor.

Seldom has the Senate looked more foolish than in the way it has handled the Warren matter, principally because of Senator Langer's use of the nomination for purposes of badgering the administration on patronage questions.

## THAT BREADLINE IN PORTLAND

Senator Morse certainly rang the publicity bell when he declared that conditions are so bad in Oregon a breadline is operating in Portland, which subsequent investigation proved was true.

Still further checking reveals that it is operated by the Blanchet Men's Club, a Catholic organization presumably named for the famous pioneer Oregon priest, and that it was organized February 11, 1952. This, some will recall, was not during the Eisenhower recession but during the Truman boom. Further, it develops that the organization was serving 600 to 700 meals daily by April, 1952, some nine months before Eisenhower took office. Today, aided (?) by the publicity engendered by Morse, business has increased to about 1000 meals a day.

It is good that although such was not his intent, Morse has caused attention to be focused on one of the most worthwhile Christian enterprises that has come to public notice for some time, though this may cause demands for the free food to increase to a point where this organization cannot meet them. Its resources are obviously limited.

If the fact that this breadline came into being during the Truman administration causes any embarrassment it needn't. Human need has a way of developing under all administrations. It is unfortunate that it is ever exploited for political gain by anyone, Republican, Democrat or independent.



## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Selling Your House, Buying New One Presents Problems

By SAUL PETT  
For HAL BOYLE  
NEW YORK (AP)—I have a problem like one I can afford. Then I'll find a prospect who looks like he can afford my house. Then I'll persuade him to buy the house I saw and we'll stay just where we are, and one more complaint out of you kids and I'll tell you about when I was a boy and we slept nine to a room, not counting the cats.

This problem, of course, is one many people have had to deal with and, I suppose many survived it. But I'll bet all of them were just as uneasy as I am since it defies logic, challenges faith and would split the orthicon tubes of the latest IBM electronic calculator.

It's simply this. I want to sell my house. I want to buy another house. Which do I do first? I want to sell my house as much as the traffic will bear a healthy, normal American trait and at the same time buy a good, solid, charming, comfortable house for as little as I can get away with another healthy, normal American trait, and in the whole transaction, I want to sell and buy without having to add any cash, or let's say, not much cash still another H.N.A.T.

There's nothing wrong with our house. It's relatively new, well-built and attractive. But we need more space and my wife thinks she would prefer another town she has in mind. We're willing to take an older house for more space but not for more cash, or let's say, not much more cash, you understand, please do, it's important.

But how do I know how much we can afford on the next house until we know how much we're going to get for our house? This, of course, has always been a perplexing problem. It's especially thorny now when the real estate market is a little woolly.

It's not just the money. The question of timing is tantalizing. How can I tell the owner of the house I might buy, whoever or wherever he is, can take over when I can move in but if you'll just hold your breath, I'll race right back, put my house on the market and after a few weeks or months I'll be able to let you know when I'll want your house so that you can then know when you'll be able to occupy the house or apartment or jail you're planning your next move to, can I do that, huh?

Above all, don't put yourself in the position of where you have to sell, an experienced friend tells me. "You'll take a licking."

Above all, don't put yourself in the position of where you have to buy, another experienced friend tells me. "You'll pay through the nose for the next one."

The alternative to the first position having to sell is maintaining two houses at the same time and paying mortgages, taxes, insurance, etc., on both. The alternative to the second position having to buy is putting your furniture in storage, living in a hotel long enough to find an apartment you can occupy temporarily while looking for the house you can afford, and meanwhile the bills are piling up, the kids are being scarred for life by all the dislocation and pretty soon you can no longer afford the house you thought you could afford in the first place, if you could have found it.

So, what do I do? Do I set up a two-way radio station in my house and then go racing off with a walkie-talkie and the minute I see back to my wife who, in the meantime, has been joyfully holding a prospect back home without telling him our price?

Or, maybe the best thing to do is this: I'll find a house that looks like a prospect who looks like he can afford my house. Then I'll persuade him to buy the house I saw and we'll stay just where we are, and one more complaint out of you kids and I'll tell you about when I was a boy and we slept nine to a room, not counting the cats.

The Bulletin believes in the maximum development of this region's power resources, although others are flirting with the idea—made what we think was a rather dangerous point at a party meeting in Portland recently.

Carson said he believed foreign aid funds should be cut by the Federal government if it is otherwise impossible to both finance Pacific Northwest power development and balance the Federal budget.

## There's Got to Be Showdown on Joe

### Asorian-Budget

Wonder how an old army man like President Eisenhower feels to have Sen. McCarthy abusing general and calling the president's own secretary of the army a "dupe"?

The president must resent this sort of thing tremendously, and McCarthy's attack on the army must bring closer a showdown with the president which seems inevitable.

Apparently McCarthy, in his attack on the army and certain army officers, is employing his standard method of making accusations with insufficient evidence or with no evidence at all, in hopes that some of his accusations will stick.

Some day President Eisenhower is going to face the duty of repudiating McCarthy and the McCarthy method.

The U. S. senate also faces a duty of correcting its rules to limit the power of such an irresponsible member as McCarthy to label and slander citizens. He is permitted to commit offenses, under senatorial immunity, which would bring any ordinary citizens into court to defend damage suits.

## Salem 10 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL  
February 25, 1944  
Senator Charles L. McNary, Oregon's representative in the United States senate, had died in Florida at the age of 69.

Marion county commissioners had inspected the county's ownership of property at the old, historic Golden Ferry site on the Santiam river between North Santiam and Marion. Here a ferry had operated 50 years ago to care for traffic going to Seio and other Lin county points.

Miller's were featuring needs for a "National Sew and Save Week," a wartime measure. "Sew and be a soldier on the home front."

Henry's Photo shop, 469 State street, had advertised "old master 1928 copy" violin for \$300.

Montgomery Ward were selling men's oil tanned work shoes for \$3.79.

W. E. Banks, Southern Pacific freight agent had advertised: "Wanted, carpenter's helper: If you can handle a hammer and a saw and know a bit about carpentering (you need not be skilled) Southern Pacific has a good job for you as a carpenter's helper."

Germans had flooded large parts of Holland to impede the allied invasion.

American diplomats, newspapermen, wounded soldiers and civilians were on neutral ground in Spain en route to Lisbon after internment for over a year on German soil.

## THE WORLD TODAY

### GOP Sure to Lose In McCarthy Clash

By JAMES MARLOW  
WASHINGTON (AP)—No matter who won the skirmish between Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) and the Eisenhower administration's secretary of the Army, Robert T. Stevens, the Republicans as a party were bound to lose if the fighting became a public, televised clash.

The Republicans had campaigned in 1952 on a promise to get Communists out of the government. And McCarthy was demanding information on why it took the Army, under Stevens, more than a year to get rid of a major who had refused to answer questions about membership in subversive organizations.

A wide-open fight between McCarthy and Stevens on this point, in an election year, might have split the party into McCarthy Republicans and Eisenhower Republicans. The showdown was avoided.

Stevens, who had ordered his generals to stand back while he handled the senator personally in a public hearing scheduled for today, agreed to give McCarthy what he wanted after talking with the senator two hours yesterday behind closed doors in the Capitol. McCarthy then called off today's hearing.

Afterwards, Stevens was represented as surprised that the outcome was considered a defeat for him. But the general impression was that he yielded and, in so doing, created a bit of a mystery.

Did he decide on his own to back down? He seemed determined not a minute before he saw McCarthy yesterday, to go through with the showdown today, for when a reporter questioned him, he said: "I have no comment on anything. Tomorrow I'll have plenty of comment."

Or did President Eisenhower, who returned to Washington just shortly before the face-to-face Stevens-McCarthy meeting, tell his Army secretary not to force an open break with the senator? Or did Vice President Nixon arrange it? He was close by while Stevens talked with McCarthy.

The White House said the President did not set up the meeting. Sen. Mundt (R-S.D.) said the idea for the session was his—not Eisenhower's or Nixon's.

Stevens said later he is not a man who surrenders. No matter what name is placed on his action, the fact is he gave McCarthy just what McCarthy wanted:

McCarthy wanted the names of the Army people who handled the case of Maj. Irving Peress, a New York dentist, who received an honorable discharge this month after refusing, 14 months before, to answer questions about membership in subversive organizations.

2. McCarthy wanted to question two generals who had had some part, even though remote, in handling the Peress case. Stevens had told the generals not to appear before McCarthy because, he said, the senator was "abusive."

Stevens, after his session with McCarthy, not only agreed to give the name of all those connected with the Peress case but let McCarthy call them for questioning. And he said McCarthy could question the generals too. Stevens said he's "confident" now officers will not be "abused."

Before it can be established whether this was a surrender or a truce, this question must be answered: Will McCarthy pursue this investigation and call the witnesses or will he let the Army make its own investigation and, perhaps, give the public a report?

It's possible the Eisenhower administration, which has had several bouts with McCarthy in the past year, may have decided to have it out with him once for all in this case and then suddenly changed its mind for strategic reasons.

Several months ago, in discussing foreign affairs, Secretary of State Dulles said that, if war came, the Eisenhower administration would choose its own battleground. In this dispute with McCarthy the Army had no choice of battleground. McCarthy chose it.

These are the facts as given by the Pentagon itself: Peress was commissioned a captain in October 1952 and a few days later refused to answer the questions on subversive organizations. Nevertheless, two months later he was called to active duty. In October 1953 he was made a major. On Dec. 20, 1953, Stevens said, the Army decided to let him out because of an investigation it had made of him. On Jan. 18, 1954, the Army told him he must leave by April. On Jan. 30 McCarthy called him for questioning. The dentist refused, citing the Fifth Amendment, to answer questions. Two days later he asked for and got an honorable discharge.

McCarthy's long to know why it took the Army so long to make up its mind about Peress. Stevens already has acknowledged there were soft spots in the Army's handling of a case like this.

CHARITY IN ORDER HERE  
Albany Democrat-Herald  
We still think the armed forces ought to go easy on the lads who break under torture and say what their inhuman captors order them to say. Maybe the boys should have trial by juries made up of men who had undergone similar treatment and had not cracked.

IT ISN'T WORTH IT  
J. Edgar Hoover  
It can reasonably be estimated that \$20 billion annually is the cost of crime in this country. That represents a cost of \$429 annually for each family in the U. S.

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Stevens Cleared with Ike Before Defying McCarthy

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Sincere Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens got himself in the predicament of being summoned before the TV cameras of Senator McCarthy's committee today (Thursday) only after an amazing series of backstage events, including a telephone call to his chief, the President, at Palm Springs, Calif.

The events illustrate what happens to an official, whether Democrat or Republican, if he either appeases or stands up to McCarthy.

Stevens' phone call to Eisenhower in California was for the purpose of asking Ike whether he should issue a statement throwing down the gauntlet to McCarthy and charging him with "unwarranted abuse of our loyal army officers." Ike gave the green light. As a result, Stevens is now getting the full force of McCarthy's well-known penchant for revenge.

But some months before, Eisenhower had issued a contrary order to Stevens and to other cabinet officers—namely, to cooperate with McCarthy and give him whatever he wanted. It was the President's position at that time that McCarthy was a problem for the Senate of the United States to deal with, not the executive branch of the government, and that he, Eisenhower, would cooperate with McCarthy's probes.

How Probe Started  
That was how McCarthy happened to get carbon copies of the Army's investigation of itself at Ft. Monmouth. The Army, leaning over backward to check its own security, had started a probe of Ft. Monmouth and dutifully sent the McCarthy committee carbon copies of its preliminary findings—in obedience with Eisenhower's order.

It was McCarthy's aides who spotted these carbons and notified their chief, then on his honeymoon, to come back to Washington. A big spy scandal was brewing, they figured, and the Senator could ride the headlines.

So McCarthy flew back, and has been getting headlines on the Ft. Monmouth investigation almost ever since. Stevens Leaned Backward  
At first the Secretary of the Army did his best to cooperate. Stevens is a millionaire textile manufacturer with no great understanding of politics, but a sincere desire to serve his country. He inherited probably the biggest textile business in the world, was also a director of General Electric, General Foods, New York Telephone, Whitney Chain, Owens-Corning Fibre Glass and Mutual Life Insurance, but was willing to give all these up to serve as secretary of the army.

At first, however, Stevens served McCarthy more than he served the Army—with the result that some of the highest members of the military establishment including the Army policy board, got pretty sore at him.

Furthermore, some of the reputable newspapers of the country, including the New York Times and the Washington Post, published a series of articles showing that there was no espionage at Ft. Monmouth.

McCarthy had made headlines when, on emerging from closed-door committee sessions, he announced that he was developing information leading to "extremely dangerous espionage." This, he said, "might envelope the whole Signal Corps." It might rival, he said, the Rosenberg case.

Stevens meanwhile said nothing. He failed to defend the Army. But when the staunch Republican New York Herald

published a series of articles showing that there was no espionage at Ft. Monmouth, McCarthy had made headlines when, on emerging from closed-door committee sessions, he announced that he was developing information leading to "extremely dangerous espionage." This, he said, "might envelope the whole Signal Corps." It might rival, he said, the Rosenberg case.

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President Eisenhower  
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