

UNEXPLAINED BLAST ROCKS LARGE VALLEY AREA

Kefauver Enters Florida Primary Against Russell

Atlanta—(U.P.)—Sen. Estes Kefauver challenged Dixie's powerful anti-Truman bloc Thursday by announcing he will oppose Georgia's Sen. Richard B. Russell in Florida's presidential primary.

Kefauver, who defeated President Truman in Tuesday's New Hampshire Primary, will oppose Russell in Florida's May 6 presidential primary, which is not binding, and also in a separate election on May 27 for the sunshine state's Democratic convention delegates.

Russell already has filed as a candidate in the popularity contest and a slate of the Georgia Democrat's candidates has been entered in the delegates' election.

It was reported in Florida that Kefauver's slate of delegates will be filed by the end of the week.

Kefauver's entry into the Florida primary brings him face to face with a powerful move in Dixie to overthrow Mr. Truman's control of the Democratic party. Step number one in this movement is to seek the Democratic nomination for Russell.

The Dixie rebellion excludes any support for Kefauver. Talmadge maintains the New Hampshire primary was not a personal victory for the crime-busting senator but rather a protest vote against President Truman. He said the outcome actually helped Russell by showing the president's weakness.

Talmadge bitterly attacked Kefauver in his personal political newspaper last week. He branded the Tennessee senator "the darling of the Communists and all the left-wing radicals." Kefauver will have an uphill fight in Florida just as he had in New Hampshire. Most of the state's congressional delegation backs Russell.

Furthermore, the lanky Tennesseean will not have the support of Gov. Fuller Warren who has been a bitter Kefauver critic since the senator's crime investigating committee took a look into organized crime in Florida. The committee had some unflattering things to say about Warren.

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Performance of America's Allies To Play Big Part In U. S. Military Aid

Lovett Assures Doubtful Congress Nations Face Test

Top Spokesman Plea For Foreign Aid Bill

Washington—(U.P.)—Defense Secretary Robert A. Lovett assured a skeptical Congress Thursday that U. S. military aid will depend on the "performance" of America's allies in building defenses against Communism.

Lovett gave his assurance as the administration sent its top spokesmen to Capitol Hill to plead for President Truman's \$7,900,000,000 foreign aid program.

Acheson To Testify Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Mutual Security Director W. Averell Harriman and Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also were scheduled to testify before a joint session of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees and the House Foreign Affairs committee.

Obviously mindful of congressional criticism that some Western European nations have been "dragging their feet" in rearmament, Lovett said "the first criterion" in granting U. S. military assistance will be the "performance of nations in raising effective forces."

Performance To Be Test "I assure you that no program for any nation is to be considered as a commitment or a promise on the part of the United States," he said. "Performance will be the test."

Lovett's prepared testimony dealt almost exclusively with the need for \$5,350,000,000 in "direct military aid" which Mr. Truman has requested for Allies in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Near East and Latin America.

The remainder of the multi-billion dollar mutual security program would be made up of \$1,819,000,000 in "defense supporting" economic aid to help Western Europe increase its military potential, and \$656,000,000 in outright economic and point four technical assistance, mostly for Asiatic countries.

Military Position Improves Lovett said that North Atlantic defenses moved from "the planning to the operational phase" at the recent NATO conference in Lisbon, when member countries promised to have 50 divisions ready to defend Europe by the end of 1952.

In a review of rearmament progress under the North Atlantic Treaty, Lovett said the military position of Western Europe has "improved appreciably during the past year."

Tanker Deal Facts Claimed Withheld

Washington—(U.P.)—Three members of the former Maritime Commission testified Thursday they would have blocked a profitable surplus-tanker deal involving Newbold Morris if they had had the "full facts."

The three told Senate investigators they would not have allocated three surplus tankers to a group headed by former Rep. Joseph E. Casey, D-Mass., had they known it would sell them to a Chinese-financed firm represented by Morris' New York law firm.

The witnesses were Vice Adm. W. W. Smith, chairman of the commission at the time in early 1948, and former commissioners Grenville Mellen and Joseph K. Carson.

United Asks Non-Stop Portland-Spokane Trip

Portland—(U.P.)—United Air Lines said Thursday it had asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to start non-stop flights between Portland and Spokane.

The air line said it had specifically requested permission from the CAB to lift a restriction which calls for a stop at Pendleton on all its flights between the two cities.



EARNING THEIR NICKNAME—These smoke-eaters are really earning their famous nickname as they crawl on the roof of a two-story Minneapolis house in an effort to put out fire which left 17 persons homeless. All the occupants escaped without injury.

Union Issues Statements To Clarify Stand On Strikes at Two Mills in Jackson County

The union which has struck two mills here in recent weeks issued statements today to clarify its position in regard to the strikes.

Gene Tedrick, business agent for Local 3030, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, AFL, issued the statements on behalf of the union's members.

The two mills now being struck are the Southern Oregon Planing Mill, Central Point, and Jackson Creek Lumber company, near Jacksonville. Regarding the planing mill strike, Tedrick said:

"The strike is not for wages or over working conditions but is solely over a question of seniority; the union remains the bargaining agent for employees, despite the fact that the company has terminated its working agreement; the company has refused to negotiate settlement of the strike despite union offers to negotiate, and the union has filed charges of unfair labor practices against the company with the National Labor Relations board."

Has No Comment The company has stated that it will negotiate a settlement only if the striking employees return to work.

A spokesman for the firm said today he has no comment to make regarding the labor union's statement. The matter has been placed in the hands of an attorney, he said. The plant is operating and "we're minding our own business," he added.

"We're sorry the strike started, and we think that 80 to 90 percent of the employees are too. But it's gotten out of hand now, and we're letting our attorney handle it," he said.

The union's statement regarding the Southern Oregon Planing mill strike said, in part: "Statement Given"

"We union employees... continue to picket the plant while waiting for the company officials to begin negotiations with our local union committee on grievances over alleged seniority rights violations out of which the strike has arisen. The company has been notified... that we are ready at any or all times to meet... in order to bargain and bring about a settlement of the present dispute. Local Union 3030 is the sole collective bargaining agent for the workers of the Southern Oregon Planing Mill company. This is a fact that can only be changed through an NLRB election at the request of the employees..."

"Although the plant is operating at about one-third capacity, only five of the workers who are members of (this) union crossed the picket lines to date. The majority of the rest... are recently-employed workers..."

A very great majority of workers seeking employment respect our picket lines..."

"We have been informed... that the U. S. conciliation service has been notified in regard to the deadlock caused by the management's refusal to negotiate a settlement and end the strike..."

"Up to the present date, the company has not been able to submit to us a satisfactory rea-

son for not wishing to meet with our representatives... By failing to confer on the issues at hand, we feel that considerable unnecessary and injudicious animosities have or could arise, causing a loss to be sustained by both management and labor, by any delayed settlement..."

The second statement issued by Tedrick concerned the strike at Jackson Creek Lumber company, which is under the same management as the other mill, but which was struck for different reasons.

This statement said, in part: "The complete cause of the strike is failure to recognize a collective bargaining agency. This merely means a written agreement to wages, hours and working conditions. There is no dispute for higher wages as is popularly believed."

"Three regularly employed people are going through the picket lines and the rest are people from towns in the vicinity usually employed by other mills."

"We cannot understand the company's position in not recognizing us when in a letter of March 3 they said, 'The union affiliation or lack of affiliation of any employee is no concern of this company. We respect and will encourage the protection of your rights under... the Labor Management Relations Act...'"

The management has said it would recognize a union only after an NLRB election.

A third mill, the Singleton Planing mill in Central Point, which was picketed for some time over alleged use of "hot" equipment from one of the other struck plants, resumed operations yesterday, it was reported. Pickets did not reappear at the mill.

Allied Tanks Raid Enemy Positions on Central Front

Seoul—(U.P.)—Allied tanks, rumbling across the thawing rice paddies in Kumsong valley, raided Communist positions on the Korean east-central front Thursday. The medium tanks shelled 56 trenches, destroyed nine enemy bunkers and knocked out two machinegun positions. Tank crews fired 302 50-millimeter shells and nearly 7,000 rounds of machinegun fire.

Enemy Strength Growing United Press War Correspondent

Wendell Merrick reported enemy strength was growing in the Kumsong area and that one tank had been destroyed.

"They threw more shells at us than I've ever seen," Merrick said. Communist troops on this front also are trying to take Allied prisoners. Wednesday night, he said, an Allied patrol was trapped in a Communist ambush, but escaped.

Pfc. Raymond Brunelle, Southport, Me., was grabbed by the arms and a voice told him, "come along." Then another Chinese grabbed him. Brunelle shook off both Communists and fled. MIGs Refuse Fight

United Nations aircraft sought to inflict further punishment on the Communist air force, but the Russian-built MIGs refused to come out and fight. In three days of furious dogfights between the Yalu river and Pyongyang, North Korean capital, American Sabrejets shot down 15 MIGs, four of them Wednesday.

Construction Workers Allowed Pay Increase

Washington—(U.P.)—The Wage Stabilization board set a 15 cents an hour ceiling Thursday on pay increases this year for more than 3,000,000 construction workers.

The board also approved health and welfare plans for building trades workers with a 7½ cent an hour limit on employer contributions.

Both policies, adopted on the recommendation of the WSB's construction commission, differ from the rules in effect for other industries.

Management members of the board dissented from the health and welfare policy.

The 15-cent general increase permitted if workers can negotiate such increase, correspond to the board's cost-of-living raises allowed employees in other industries.

OTI Students End Walkout; Dispute Remains Unsettled

Klamath Falls, Ore.—(U.P.)—More than 300 students at Oregon Technical Institute who stayed away from classes for three days in protest to policies at the vocational school ended their walkout Thursday, but the dispute was not settled.

The 300 represented more than half the student body.

To Air Grievances The student body met Wednesday and watched a four-man group of state officials discuss problems with student representatives. At the end of the session, the students agreed to return to classes while a committee, to be named Monday, talks over grievances with the administration.

Students protested the instructor-student ratio at the state institution. Representatives of OTI

administration pointed out that the state legislature's Joint Ways and Means committee set an arbitrary rule that there should be one instructor for every 15 students.

Winston Purvine, director of Oregon Tech and a member of the administration's panel, said that student enrollment had dropped off, requiring the dismissal of two teachers.

Problem for Legislature He said any change in the rule was not up to the students or the school's administration, but a problem for the state legislature to iron out.

Student charges of incompetence in the faculty were answered by Purvine when the school head said that every accusation of inefficiency was fully investigated by his office.

Weather

FORECAST: Rain and occasional gusty south wind tonight, becoming showery Friday. Continued cool. Low tonight 35-38. High Friday 45-55. Temp. Highest yesterday 47. Lowest this morning 28.

Mysterious Blast Heard in Widely Separated Points

Source, Location Not Known by Agencies

A violent explosion rocked a large part of the Rogue valley at 11 p. m. yesterday. Efforts to determine its source and pinpoint the location this morning failed.

The blast was heard in as widely separated points as Jacksonville, Sams Valley and Shady Cove, and it was loud enough in Medford, Central Point and the Camp White area to wake sleepers.

Windows rattled in Jacksonville, and Eagle Point residents heard the "sharp blast" plainly. Residents of Medford generally agreed that the sound came from the north or northeast. At Camp White it sounded as though it was from the east.

Floor Heaves One resident of foothills road said her floor "heaved up" as the blast was heard. A frequent comment was that "thought something hit the house." Some reports indicated it was a double blast, one followed by a second.

In the Dodge bridge area, northwest of Eagle Point, reports indicated that the explosion was heard and felt with considerable "depth."

Mrs. Howard Short, of the Eagle Point Irrigation district office, reported that she and friends had heard a similar blast about two weeks ago which "seemed to tear the earth apart" and which was followed by another. There have been no other public reports of such an explosion.

Speculation that blasting was being done by the GMC mining corporation west of Eagle Point was denied by officials of the firm.

Road Blasting Report Another report indicating that blasting was being done at night on a road on Roxy Ann butte, east of Medford, was not confirmed. The county engineer's office knew nothing about it, nor did the public works department of the city of Medford.

State police, city police, sheriff's office and other official agencies were swamped with telephone calls, both last night and this morning, inquiring about the explosion, but they have no explanation. A sheriff's deputy was assigned today to try to trace down the blast.

The control tower operator on duty at the airport last night said the blast was at 11 p. m. It was heard loud and plain there, and lasted about a second. He saw no flash accompanying it.

Capt. Douglas Coleman, commander of the Air Force refueling detachment at the airport, said there were no jet planes in the area at that time last night, as far as he knows. (Shock waves from high-flying jet aircraft have sometimes been credited with causing such unexplained "explosions.")

Officials of the California Oregon Power company had no explanation for the blast, and a report from the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, which operates a radio network, failed to explain the blast.

The explosion apparently was not heard in Brownsboro or in Gold Hill, but in most of the intervening area it was heard distinctly.

Second Emmanuel Bribe Trial Given to Jury

South Bend, Wash.—(U.P.)—Judge John J. Langenbach Thursday allowed the second bribery trial of Samuel Emmanuel, resigned state land board secretary, to go to the jury.

But the Pacific county jurist again said there was a "close question as to whether there was a duty imposed on the defendant at the time the state alleges he asked a bribe."

Communists Insist Armistice Outlaw Possible Blockade

Change of Mind By Enemy Noted

Panmunjom—(U.P.)—The Communists, in a surprising change of mind, insisted anew Thursday on a Korean armistice broad enough in scope to outlaw a possible American blockade of China or Formosa.

The new attitude on the part of the Red truce negotiators came to light during an interpreters' session—the lowest level of the negotiations.

Assurance Repudiated Communist interpreters working over an agreement tentatively reached on truce supervision repudiated an earlier assurance that they would drop all attempts to stretch the scope of the armistice.

They had originally opposed including the word "Korea" in a paragraph prohibiting a naval blockade of the war-torn peninsula. Such a deletion would have had the effect of extending a blockade ban to the coasts of China or Formosa, if desired by either party.

However, they withdrew the proposal to delete the word "Korea" and indicated their willingness to reinstate the word again.

Reversal of Discussion Brig. Gen. William P. Nicksols, an Allied spokesman, said the Communist announcement was a "complete reversal of the staff officers' discussion Wednesday."

While prisoner exchange and armistice terms discussions remained deadlocked, Peiping radio spat out a sarcastic recipe for quick settlement of the talks: "Let Acheson call off his insect soldiers and instruct his human ones to quit stalling, and matters in Korea will be settled very quickly."

Germ Charges Renewed The broadcast then renewed charges that the Allies were waging germ warfare and that UN negotiators were holding up truce bargaining.

Earlier, United Nations truce negotiators demanded that the Communists turn over anew, "complete and bonafide" list of Allied war prisoners.

Seeking an accounting of 53,000 missing UN soldiers known to have been captured by the Reds, Rear Admiral R. E. Libby said an accurate list was needed if prisoner exchange discussions were to have any "definite and concrete meaning."

Californian Succeeds Leavitt as Park Head

John B. Wosky, who has been assistant superintendent of Yosemite National park in California, will succeed Ernest P. Leavitt as superintendent of Crater Lake National park, according to a United Press dispatch from Washington Thursday.

Leavitt announced Wednesday that he will retire on March 14 after 42 years with the park service.

Bill To Restore Crosses In Hawaii Killed by Vote

Washington—(U.P.)—A House Interior subcommittee Thursday killed legislation to force the Army to restore white crosses on graves of 13,000 war dead in Honolulu's National Memorial cemetery.

Action by Voice Vote The action was taken by voice vote in open session with no objection from any of the seven subcommittee members present.

The vote followed testimony by Col. James B. Clearwater, Chief of the Army Quartermaster Corps memorial division, that restoration of the crosses

would be contrary to policy established for national cemeteries.

The Hawaiian cemetery, in the famous Punchbowl Crater above Honolulu, was opened in January, 1949. Until last fall the Army used white wooden crosses as temporary grave markers.

Replaced by Markers Last fall, however, the crosses were uprooted and replaced with permanent flat markers of stone. This action evoked protests from Hawaiian groups and resulted in introduction of the legislation killed today.