

Mendes-France Handed Setback in Vote by National Assembly

Enemies Team To Defeat Choice for New President

Paris—(U.P.)—Premier Pierre Mendes-France suffered a sharp political setback in the National Assembly Tuesday night.

His political enemies and some of his friends teamed to reject his choice for the 1955 assembly president and elected Pierre Schneider, a member of the Catholic Popular Republican (MRP) party.

It was a telling defeat for the Premier on his 48th birthday and a hint of coming political troubles when he returns from his series of important conferences in Italy and Germany.

Mendes-France's own choice was Socialist Andre le Troquer, the assembly president in 1954. Schneider's Popular Republicans are regarded as Mendes-France's bitterest political enemies.

Cuts Majority
The vote cut into the Premier's left-of-center majority while he was in Rome trying to sell his controversial plan to pool European arms production and United States military aid.

The vote did not mean the automatic downfall of Mendes-France after he returns home, but his enemies sought to assign great political significance to the result.

They pointed out that his majority, which first began to form last year when Le Troquer was elected, has been whittled down into a minority by the right-of-center coalition of the MRP and other groups.

Schneider, a 49-year-old former resistance hero from Reims, was elected on the third ballot after the assembly deadlocked on the first two. He finally polled 232 votes to 188 for Le Troquer and 86 for Marcel Cachin, 85-year-old Communist dean of French lawmakers.

Reds Desert Troquer
The Communists voted for Le Troquer last year. But by sticking to Cachin throughout the balloting this year they clinched the victory for Schneider. An absolute majority is required on the first two ballots, but the man with the most votes wins in the third ballot.

Schneider, although a member of the MRP, abstained in the recent showdown vote on the Western European Union. Most of his party voted no.

Some of Mendes-France's own Radical Socialists contributed to the defeat of Le Troquer. The 20 blank or void ballots were mostly from Radical Socialists who did not like Troquer.

Penn Station Bombed; Police Hunt 'Crackpot'

New York—(U.P.)—Police searched today for a "crackpot" who set off a homemade bomb in Pennsylvania station Tuesday at the height of the evening rush hour.

No one was injured. Police believed the bomb was planted by the same person who set off bombs in the Port Authority Bus Terminal and Radio City Music Hall last November. Four persons were injured in the Music Hall explosion.



SMILING HAPPILY, Jack (Dragnet) Webb signs papers in Chicago for license to marry Dorothy Towne after his divorce from Actress Julie London became final. (International Soundphoto)

Jack Webb, Bride on Chicago Honeymoon

Chicago—(U.P.)—Television star Jack Webb and his new bride, actress Dorothy Towne, honeymooned in Chicago today and shopped for household antiques.

An extended honeymoon trip was out for TV's Sgt. Joe Friday for the time being. Webb said he had to return to Hollywood tomorrow to finish up work on his television series.

The Webbs said they will go on a belated honeymoon after Webb completes a movie in New Orleans. They were married yesterday in a ceremony at the Ambassador East Hotel here.

Pope Meets Mendes In Private Audience

Rome—(U.P.)—Pope Pius XII today received French Premier Pierre Mendes-France in the first audience the pontiff has granted since Nov. 25.

Mendes-France interrupted talks with Italian leaders to become the first French Premier received at the Vatican since the late Pope Pius XI granted an audience to Pierre Laval in January, 1935.

The 78-year-old Pope, steadily recovering from a near fatal collapse on Dec. 2, descended from his fourth floor bedroom to his private library one floor below.

The topics of private audiences are never disclosed, but it was believed the two probably used the opportunity to touch on the question of European unity.

Because of its consumption of rodents, the barn owl is considered one of the most valuable birds of prey. It is seldom seen in the daytime.

139 Persons Escape Death in Series of Airplane Accidents

By UNITED PRESS
A total of 139 persons, including 69 paratroopers and Air Force men who bailed out of Flying Boxcars, have escaped death in four near plane tragedies.

The most spectacular of the widely scattered mishaps Tuesday occurred near Nashville, Tenn., and Miles City, Mont., when the air was dotted with paratroopers drifting down from stricken C-119 Flying Boxcars.

A giant United Airlines DC-7 blew all four of its tires as it

landed at Chicago's Midway Airport, but the 54 passengers and five-man crew were not injured.

At Rhinelander, Wis., a private twin-engine DC-3 carrying 11 persons made an emergency landing in a field when both of its engines failed.

Some Fatalities
There were some fatalities in the crash of air accidents, however. Two men were missing in the crash of the C-119 at Memphis and two Navy TV-2 jet trainers collided near Corpus Christi, Tex., killing a student pilot.

At Tucson, Ariz., hope faded for four persons aboard a private plane which has been missing five days.

Both of the C-119s were helping to ferry 3,000 troops of the 503rd Regimental Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division, from Ft. Campbell, Ky., to Alaska for "Operation Snowbird."

Near Memphis 37 of the 39 men aboard—five crew members and 34 paratroopers—bailed out before the twin-engined transport crashed and burned.

The plane developed trouble at 10,000 feet shortly after taking off from Sewart Air Force Base.

The mass jump, at 6,000 feet, was conducted so calmly that several of the paratroopers thought they were going through a practice drill.

Fire in Engine
In Montana the paratroopers hit the silk when fire broke out in the C-119's engine. The crew stayed with the plane, however, and landed it at Miles City.

The Chicago accident occurred as a 120,000-pound plane settled down after a non-stop flight from San Francisco.

The pilot, J. W. Hawes of San Francisco, said one of the propellers "did not seem to reverse properly" and he applied full emergency brake power, locking the dual tires on each of the main gears.

The plane which ran into trouble over Wisconsin was en route from Cleveland and was owned by the Reserve Mining Company. One of the passengers was the company president, W. M. Kelly.

Criminal Matters Heard in Court

Several criminal matters were heard in district court yesterday and today, according to court records.

Oscar Freeman Stallworth Jr., 20, route 4, Grants Pass, was bound over to the grand jury this morning on a charge of burglary not in a dwelling. He was released after \$500 cash bail was posted.

Stallworth is charged with burglary of the Rogue River grade school on Mar. 7, 1954. Entry to the building was made through a second story window and a large amount of food was taken from the school cafeteria, officials said. The youth was arrested by sheriff's deputies and Police Chief William Peters, Rogue River.

Yesterday, Ronald Edward Snyder, 21, Box 296, Prospect, was arraigned on a fugitive complaint from Del Norte county, California. He was ordered held for officials from Crescent City. Snyder is charged with forgery involving a \$31.25 check.

A 17-year-old Ashland youth pleaded guilty to a charge of illegal possession of intoxicating liquor and was fined \$50 and \$5 costs. Six others involved in the case had already paid their fines. Three of them are in the service, officials added.

Tides occur in lakes, too. At Chicago, for instance, there's a two-inch tide in Lake Michigan.

Communist Rebels Appeal To Italian Members To Revolt

Rome—(U.P.)—A group of Communist rebels broke today with party boss Palmiro Togliatti and circulated an appeal to their 2,000,000 Italian comrades to "revolt" against his "personal rule and political tyranny."

The party splitting appeal, circulated clandestinely among delegates to the fourth Communist National Conference here, was drafted by members of the party's old guard. They were said to include one of the party's founders. He was reported a virtual prisoner of his "comrades" in a village of the Red dominated Emilia region.

Conference Forced
The serious rift in the largest Communist party this side of the Iron Curtain came as hand-picked speakers at the conference were trying to smooth uneasiness among the party's rank and file over Togliatti's "peace" policy and the role of "bourgeois elements" in the party leadership.

Unrest among the membership forced Togliatti to call an advisory national conference instead of the originally scheduled full fledged congress which would have had power to topple him and elect a new leader.

Accusations Made
The pamphlets, also distributed to newspapers, charged the Togliatti leadership with "suffocating and refusing political discussion" and accused him of entrusting high party posts to former Fascists.

They said Togliatti had sacrificed party organization to his parliamentary tactics and political exploitation of the Wilma Montesa "scandal of the century."

Those signing the manifesto were reported to include an old time Communist named Seniga, formerly the secretary of Pietro Secchia, No. 2 Communist leader, and a man named Cicchini who was described as Togliatti's former adviser.

Sammy Davis Wows Night Club Audience

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Sammy Davis Jr., the night club star who lost his left eye in an automobile accident, made an exciting comeback last night at Hollywood's most star-packed night club opening in years.

June Allyson, Dick Powell, Humphrey Bogart, Liberace, Anna Magnani, Judy Garland, Dorothy Dandridge and Marilyn Maxwell were among the many celebrities who jammed Ciro's night club on the famed Sunset Strip.

The celebrities cheered, wept, applauded and gave Sammy a standing ovation after he showed them his talent was not damaged by the accident.

Arizona Heads GOP Campaign Committee

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) is the new chairman of the GOP Senate Campaign committee.

He said after his election yesterday that the 1956 election battle already is underway and will be fought on the basis of Republicans "united" and Democrats "divided."

Goldwater succeeds Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) in the campaign post.

He said most "minor differences of personality and opinion have been resolved within the Republican party."

This "closing of ranks," he said, will enable the GOP to "move forward to victory in the 1956 elections" and recapture control of the Senate from the Democrats.

Auto Crashes Kill Three in Portland

Portland—(U.P.)—Three persons were injured fatally in three accidents here last night and early today bringing the city's 1955 traffic death toll to six.

Victor G. Fong, 39, was killed in a two-car collision last night. He was a passenger in a car driven by Herman R. Chinn, 36, who was in critical condition.

Robert J. McCann died in a local hospital about 7:30 a.m. today a few minutes after his motorcycle struck an oil truck. Glenn C. Bristol, 67, Portland, died at a local hospital early yesterday evening after he was struck by a car.



Mystery Man Call Due

First telephone call in the March of Dimes contest to identify the "Polio Mystery Man," shown above, will be made over Ashland radio station KWLN at 6:15 p.m. today. Second call will be made over station KBES-TV at 8:30 p.m. Thursday. Only persons who have sent their name, address and telephone number to March of Dimes Mystery Man, PO Box 531, Medford, will be eligible. Clues are: He was born in a year of great financial panic. His birthplace was approximately seven miles east of the county seat of Jackson county. Start with a popular brand of cigarettes, make a real estate deal, and you have his first name. One call will be made nightly until the man is identified, at which time another contest will start. Prizes are offered to the person making identification and the polio fund will be aided by contributions included by those sending in their names. Persons desiring to give prizes to the contest are asked to call John Duffy at 2-7111. A coupon for convenience of those entering the contest appears elsewhere on this page.

March of Dimes Mystery Man Contest Post Office Box 531 Medford, Oregon

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Democrat Wins Special Election in Florida

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—(U.P.)—Democrat Paul Rogers easily defeated a Republican opponent in a special election to fill the congressional seat of his father, the late Dwight L. Rogers.

Unofficial but complete returns, except for absentee ballots, in the election yesterday gave the 33-year-old West Palm Beach attorney 30,067 votes to 21,822 votes for Republican J. Herbert Burke.

1800 Hepatitis Cases in Oregon

Portland—(U.P.)—About 1800 cases of infectious hepatitis were reported in Oregon last year, according to Dr. Harold Erickson, state health officer.

He told a meeting of the State Board of Health that Oregon's hepatitis rate was four times the national rate and that there were nine times as many cases last year as in 1950.

He said intensive investigations are now being conducted throughout the state in an attempt to bring the disease under control, although there "is still a great deal to be learned about how infectious hepatitis is spread."

Deaths from diphtheria hit an all time low for the state last year, Dr. Erickson said, adding that most other diseases were at or below normal.

The Board of Health elected Dr. Tom Dunham of Salem as president; Dr. Charles Hunt of Eugene, vice-president, and Dr. Thomas Griffith of The Dalles, second vice-president.

Former OSC Speech Department Head Dies

Corvallis—(U.P.)—Charles B. Mitchell, 68, retired head of the speech department at Oregon State college, died yesterday at Good Samaritan hospital here of a heart condition. He had been ill for several days.

Mitchell came to Oregon State in 1920 and established the first speech department in the Pacific Northwest. He retired in 1952 but continued as a part time teacher and adviser to the department through 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel, and a son, Joseph B. of Portland.

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