

Senators Demand Like State Position On Isles' Defense

Conflicting Views Add to Confusion

Washington (U.P.)—A number of Democratic senators today demanded that President Eisenhower make clear that the United States will not defend the Quemoy and Matsu Islands.

Led by Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.) who proposed evacuation of Chinese Nationalist forces from the off-shore islands, they asked for a public declaration by President Eisenhower.

Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.), on the other hand, urged Mr. Eisenhower to make it crystal clear to the Red Chinese that the islands will be defended. McCarthy was confident that the Reds would not attack in face of such a warning.

President Silent

The Democratic demand was counter to the stand taken by Sen. Walter F. George (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has said he is satisfied with Mr. Eisenhower's tactics in the Far East crisis.

The President has not said whether he will order U. S. forces to the defense of the small islands off the China coast.

The demands by the Democrats and McCarthy came in the wake of more confusion over the President's intentions and fresh debate between Democrats and Republicans over whether either represents a "war party" or an "appeasement party."

The confusion over the islands was further compounded by Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R-N.J.). He repudiated today a statement he made last night that Mr. Eisenhower does not think Russia will support a Red Chinese attack on the islands.

His Own Opinion

Smith said he was wrong in representing Mr. Eisenhower as having said that at a White House conference yesterday. Smith said it was an expression of his own feeling.

Shortly before Smith repudiated his impressions of Mr. Eisenhower's remarks yesterday, another senator disputed them.

This senator, who asked that he not be identified, said Mr. Eisenhower gave the impression that the administration does not know whether Russia would back up Red China in a Matsuo venture.

San Francisco (U.P.)—Retired Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault believes the Communists will be able to launch an attack on Quemoy and the Matsu within a month.

The one thing holding them back from an advance on the off-shore islands is their lack of airfields in Fukien province capable of handling jet aircraft, Chennault said here yesterday.

John Harr Name RR School Chief

Rogue River—John B. Harr, 40, superintendent of schools at Prospect for the past three years, has been named superintendent of schools and high school principal at Rogue River, it was announced today by Robert C. Gail, of the Rogue River school board.

Harr succeeds Leonard Walsh as superintendent, and James Hayden as high school principal. Walsh, who has been with the Rogue River schools for three years, also served as grade school principal. His successor in this post will be named at a school board meeting set for April 7.

Harr, a native of Jackson county, is an Air Force veteran of World War II. Prior to serving at Prospect, Harr taught in eastern Oregon and at Jacksonville for five years.

Big 'Quake' Philippines

Manila, P.I. (U.P.)—A series of jolted Mindanao island with destructive, crumbling thousands of building square mile lake dropped six feet and a fort settled four feet into the trembling earth.

Reports from Lanao province in the southern Philippines said at least 164 persons were killed. Sixteen were reported missing. The quake apparently centered in Minadnao, the southernmost and second largest of the Philippine islands. Strong shocks also were felt on Panay island, 200 miles to the north.

The report from Lanao was made by the Fourth Military Area command. It said that 37 houses were destroyed in five districts around Lake Lanao and that about 5,000 persons were homeless.

There were no reports of casualties from the other stricken province of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental and Surigao.

The Army did not mention the number of injured, but the Philippine News Service said "scores" were injured.

Indochinese Guerillas Block Saigon Supplies

Saigon, Indochina (U.P.)—Factional rebel troops seized a string of government outposts today and began a blockade of Saigon's main food supply routes.

Buddhist troops of guerrilla General Ba Cut slipped in between Saigon and the rice producing areas to the west, isolating the capital of South Viet Nam from its main food supplies.

Another rebellious sect, with Binh Xuyen, a gang of former river pirates, blockaded the capital's packing and slaughter houses, threatening the city's meat supplies.

Sanitary Authority Bill Is Endorsed

Senate Bill 434, which would provide legal machinery to aid in the solution of sanitation problems, was endorsed here last night by members of the sanitation study committee of the County Public Health association.

The bill, introduced into the Oregon legislature by Senator Philip Lowry of Jackson county, is permissive legislation which would leave establishment of sanitary authorities to a local basis.

Committee members and others interested in the bill were asked to write to Lowry, Representatives E. H. Mann and A. E. Littrell, and members of the legislative committee on local government, who now have the measure under consideration.

Members of the committee are Senators D. R. Husband, Truman Chase, Phil Brady, Joseph K. Carson Jr., J. O. Johnson, Lee Ohmart, and Monroe Sweetland. Husband and Johnson are co-sponsors of the bill. Letters should be addressed in care of the Senate Chambers, Salem, Ore.

Official Fire Season In Woods Starts Today

The official fire season in southern Oregon forests begins today, District Forest Warden Ted Maul reminded woods users.

From now on, permits will be required for all burning in the patrol district, as well as for logging operations.

Permits can be obtained at the district headquarters on Table Rock road, or at guard stations of the State Forestry department.

Philippines

Governor of Misamis Occidental province said Philippine military officials re-surfaced Lake Lanao dropped six feet and the lake is about 15 miles long and eight miles wide.

Head of the Red Cross at Lanao said the quakes struck between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m. shattering houses in that area. A three-minute shock rocked Ozamis City, 50 miles across the Iligan Bay from Lanao, causing wide destruction.

Great crevices opened in the earth at Ozamis and the city's mayor reported old Fort Santiago sank four feet into the earth. It was built by the Spaniards in 1706.

Portland (U.P.)—Bill Geitz, Portland seismologist, today said he obtained readings for almost two hours on yesterday's quake in the Philippines.

Geitz said the first shock was recorded at 10:34.16 a.m., and the secondary at 10:44.18. Readings continued until 12:16 p.m. No intensity readings were available.

Robert McCormick, Chicago Tribune Publisher, Dies

Chicago (U.P.)—Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune and one of the nation's most widely-known and controversial journalists, died today. He was 74 years old.

The vigorous publisher died at his Cantigny farm home near suburban Wheaton of heart failure following complications. He had been in ill health for some time and underwent an operation for abdominal adhesions last January.

His death came a little more than 24 hours after the death of another of the nation's great journalists, Joseph Pulitzer, editor and publisher of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The vigorous publisher's health first showed signs of weakening in April, 1953, when he returned from an air tour of Europe. He caught pneumonia and was hospitalized for a while.

Mickey Jelte Guilty After Second Trial

New York (U.P.)—A jury of ten men and two women convicted Minot F. (Mickey) Jelte, 25-year-old heir to a \$3,000,000 oleo fortune, today of two charges of compulsory prostitution.

The former social registerite blanché as Jury Foreman Jesse J. Berlin brought in the adverse decisions.

The climax to this second trial for the oleo heir—he was convicted at his first trial one also—came in the early morning hours as reporters and a scattering of spectators, the defendant's attorneys, the prosecutor and his staff lounged about the courtroom.

Jelte got a 3-to-6 year sentence at his first trial two years ago. He will remain at liberty under \$45,000 bond until his sentencing on April 28. Jelte faces up to 40 years' imprisonment—20 years on each count.

Washington (U.P.)—President Eisenhower paid tribute to Publishers Joseph Pulitzer and Col. R. McCormick today as "staunch champions of a free press so essential to our own freedom."

At the time of his death he was also president of the Tribune Company, which owns the New York Daily News. Recently, he purchased the Washington Times-Herald in an attempt to bring an "Americanism" viewpoint to the nation's capital.

The "Colonel," as he was known in Chicago, was one of the city's most controversial figures for decades.

State Income and Cigarette Tax Bills Passed by House

One-Vote Majority OKs Income Measure

Salem (U.P.)—A plan to raise income taxes in Oregon by some 30 per cent was approved in the House today by a vote of 31 to 29. Change of one vote to the minority side would have defeated the bill.

A 41 to 16 vote on a cigarette tax bill cleared the House calendar of its most significant issues this session and sent them to the Senate where speedy action was predicted.

The two bills passed today were the keystones of the tax program built to balance the state's budget. The income tax measure would bring in more than \$20,000,000 and the cigarette tax would raise an estimated \$10,100,000 for the biennium.

Loss of the measures through referendum would mean \$30,000,000 would have to be raised by an estimated four mill state property tax that is already on the statute books but which has not been collected since 1941.

The income tax plan which squeaked through the House would call for an across-the-board increase in the rates charged each income bracket plus a reduction in the personal exemptions from \$600 to \$500.

Dial Phone Service Begins Tomorrow

Dial telephone service for Central Point will be inaugurated at 11 p.m., Saturday, April 2, it was announced today by J. H. Creager, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company manager. A telephone company news release issued yesterday erroneously gave March 31 as the inauguration date.

A four-way conference call between Mayor Don Faber of Central Point, Mayor Earl M. Miller of Medford, the Central Point Fire department, and Oregon Congressman Harris Ellsworth, the latter speaking from Las Vegas, Nev., will start the service and will be part of a one-hour "cutover" program to be telecast by KBES-TV, starting at 11 o'clock.

Manager Creager said assignment of 2-letter, 5-digit numbers in Central Point (prefix NOR-mandy 4) is a step in the establishment of a uniform nationwide numbering plan which will permit speedy long distance dialing by operators at first and eventually by the customers themselves.

19 Rubber Factories Closed by Strikes

New York (U.P.)—CIO rubber workers shut down 19 plants of the U.S. Rubber Company across the country today following expiration of their collective bargaining agreement at midnight.

Company and union officials agreed there had been no breakdown in negotiations. A union spokesman said they had agreed "amicably" at midnight and would resume on Monday with what he expected would be similar friendliness.

More Malay Troops Planned by Anzacs

Canberra, Australia (U.P.)—Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies announced today Australia, New Zealand and Britain will send strong new military forces to Malaya to halt "Chinese Communist aggression."

He said a British Commonwealth "strategic reserve" of Army, Air and Navy forces will be established in the Southeast Asian Peninsula "ready to fight" because of the threat to the area by Red China.

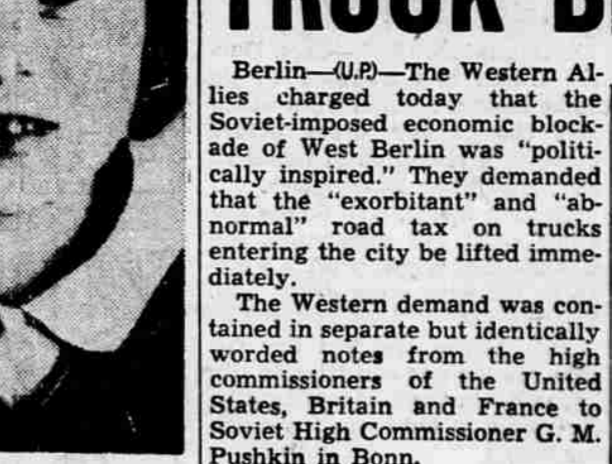
In the present state of Communist thinking, he said, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaya are constantly exposed to attack either from without or within.

"I call on all Australians to realize the truth that we cannot defend Australia around our shores, but if there is to be a war for our existence it should be as far from our own soil as possible, Menzies said.

Upward Building Trend Continues During March

The upward trend in the valuation of building permits granted by the city of Medford continued during March when they amounted to \$282,060, according to Herbert Mackie, building superintendent.

The March, 1955, total compared with permits amounting to \$154,008 granted during March, 1954.



FOUND MURDERED—The brutally mutilated body of 7-year-old Barbara Gaca was found yesterday, after an eight-day hunt for her had failed. The Detroit, Mich., youngster had been kidnapped and assaulted, and her body wrapped in a blanket and dumped in a field. An intensive police search for her abductor is under way.

Little Girl's Body Ravished, Stabbed, Physician Reports

Detroit (U.P.)—The physician who conducted the autopsy on the ravished body of Barbara Gaca said today the seven-year-old girl had been attacked by "a sadistic sex fiend" before the body was abandoned.

An eight-day search for the girl ended Thursday when a group of railroad workers found her mutilated body wrapped in a blanket in a dump near the end of a lonely lovers lane, about eight miles west of the city limits.

Dr. Richard E. Olsen, examining pathologist, said the brown-haired girl was stabbed 15 times, raped and strangled last Thursday, the day she was reported missing while enroute to school.

Convicts' Release Set by Governor

Salem (U.P.)—Gov. Paul Patterson said today he would release as soon as possible 10 convicts at Oregon state penitentiary who had been convicted under the bad check law ruled unconstitutional this week.

The Oregon Supreme court held that a 1949 law regarding writing of insufficient fund checks with intent to defraud was unconstitutional because it left up to grand juries or courts to decide whether the crime was a felony or a misdemeanor.

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Hearing Conducted On Burglary Charge

Preliminary hearing was held in district court this morning for Clifford Quentin Gee, 29, Harlow, Ore., who has been charged with a burglary committed Sept. 8, 1954, at the home of Hartford H. Smith, Rogue River.

April Fools Day OK With Kids; Oil Burns

Wilmington, Calif. (U.P.)—April Fool Day seemed more like Christmas to youngsters in this area today when they learned 15,000 gallons of castor oil had gone up in smoke. The fire was started by an electrical short.

April Bows in With Storms Of Dust, Snow, Cold, Rain

By UNITED PRESS
April bowed in today with one of the worst dust storms on record and a cold snap that dropped temperatures as much as 30 degrees.

The beginning of the first full month of spring thus carried on the violence and destruction which have marked the young season since its start March 21.

Winds died somewhat today over five Southwestern states where a "black blizzard" spread a massive dust cloud 400 to 500 miles wide and 14,000 feet high. But the red silt still clogged the air and may take several days to clear.

Woman Dies in Flames As Restaurant Burns

Grants Pass (U.P.)—A 54-year-old woman died early today when fire destroyed a restaurant building about 12 miles south of here on the Redwood highway.

Weather

FORECAST: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday. Cooler tonight. A little warmer Saturday. Low tonight 32. High Saturday 58.
Highest Yesterday 66
Lowest this Morning 41
Prec. to 10 a.m. Today, Trace

WESTERN ALLIES PROTEST BERLIN TRUCK BLOCKADE

Berlin (U.P.)—The Western Allies charged today that the Soviet-imposed economic blockade of West Berlin was "politically inspired." They demanded that the "exorbitant" and "abnormal" road tax on trucks entering the city be lifted immediately.

The Western demand was contained in separate but identically worded notes from the high commissioners of the United States, Britain and France to Soviet High Commissioner G. M. Pushkin in Bonn.

Washington (U.P.)—The United States and the Allies could quickly revive the Berlin airlift if the Communists decide on another complete land blockade of the German city, American officials said today.

However, they added that they do not believe the Russians will go all the way and close off the city to land, barge and rail traffic.

The officials said Allied air success in breaking the Berlin blockade of 1948-49 probably would curb any Russian desire to try it again.

But they conceded the new taxes on trucks which carry 50 per cent of the traffic in and out of Berlin would have a "serious effect."

Rearmament Treaty For Germany Given Overwhelming OK

Washington (U.P.)—The Senate today overwhelmingly approved the Paris agreements to rearmed West Germany and admit her as a full partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Senate ratification came after only short debate on whether the former enemy nation, destroyed 10 years ago by Allied might, should be admitted to the West's defense community of free nations.

The United States is prepared to rush arms and supplies to West Germany when all the NATO powers have accepted her. The major Western European powers have.

Complaints Dismissed On RR Overcharging

Washington (U.P.)—The Interstate Commerce Commission today dismissed government complaints charging that railways over-charged the government by nearly three billion dollars during World War II.

The commission said it found the defendants did not violate the interstate commerce act practices between 1941 and 1946, through their rates, charges, or the period covered by the complaints.

More than 700 railroads as well as some electric lines, terminal and switching railroads, and stockyard companies named as defendants in the 17 complaints filed between June 20, 1946, and October, 1948, while Tom C. Clark, now a Supreme Court justice, was attorney general.

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