

Dulles Opens Way for Possible Talks With Reds On Far East Problems, Cease Fire in Formosa

United States To Seek True Meaning in Chou's Proposal To Negotiate

Washington—(U.P.)—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles opened the way today for possible U.S. talks with Red China on Far East problems, including a Formosa cease fire.

Dulles told a news conference that the United States intends to "try to find out" if Communist Chinese Premier Chou En-lai's offer to negotiate a peaceful settlement in the Far East is sincere or "a propaganda game."

He said he does not rule out the possibility of direct talks with Red China so long as they do not infringe on the interests of Nationalist China. He also said that release of imprisoned American airmen and an immediate cease fire in the Formosa area were not required before talks could be held with the Chinese Communists.

George Prods State Department To Seek Far East Meeting

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Walter F. George (D-Ga.) prodded the State Department today to seek a Far East conference with Red China without insisting that Nationalist China be present.

But he added that a "de facto cease fire"—that is, an informal halt to the shooting—in the Formosa Straits should be an advance condition to any such negotiations.

George, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also urged the administration to discuss the Formosa crisis with "our friends" in Europe and Southeast Asia. He told reporters agreement among these nations might help the United States deal with Nationalist generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek "who may be stubborn."

U.S. Has Obligations

George insisted that neither the Nationalists nor Communists would be waiving any rights or claims if such a conference were held. In addition he pointed out that the United States has obligations to Chiang, in the mutual defense treaty with the Nationalists, and "we couldn't think of violating it."

George first proposed in a Saturday night speech that the United States accept the bid of Chinese Communist Premier Chou En-lai to negotiate.

Chou made the offer earlier at the Bandung conference. The State Department responded that the United States could enter such a conference only if the Formosa-based Nationalists were represented. Chou in turn said Monday that his proposal did not affect the Communists' demand to "exercise their sovereign rights in liberating" Formosa.

Ridgway Says Russia Ready for Combat

Washington—(U.P.)—Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway told a congressional subcommittee in secret testimony Feb. 7 that the Russian army is "equipped and disposed to undertake a major war with little warning."

He called the Soviet Army "the most powerful land combat force in being today" and said it "is kept in an excellent overall state of combat readiness."

He also warned that other Communist bloc armies in Europe and Asia "are undergoing modernization programs" and gradually being molded into effective modern forces.

Ridgway's testimony before a House Appropriations Subcommittee was made public last night.

Portland—(U.P.)—The governor's Red Hat Day committee has set Sept. 23 at Red Hat day for Oregon's 300,000 nimrods.

Man of Many Names Admits Faking Hurts In String of Attempts to Get Damages

A faked injury racket that has bilked bus line and theater operators out of almost \$2,000 during the past three years came to an end here this morning when Parnell Belmont, 34, Princeton, Ind., pleaded guilty in circuit court to a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Belmont is charged with obtaining \$184 from an insurance company for an accident he faked while on a Greyhound bus going through southern Oregon to San Francisco. The complaint was brought by J. P. Tobin, of J. P. Tobin and Company, Medford.

Police Get Tip
Belmont was arrested in Evansville, Ind., and was returned here through extradition by sheriff's deputies. The arrest followed a tip given Evansville police by an insurance company investigator.

Details of the racket worked by Belmont under seven or more phony names were revealed here this morning by District Attorney Walter Nunley.

Admits Charges
In signed statements, Belmont has admitted using fake injuries to collect settlements from bus lines and theaters in a dozen or more west coast, southwest and midwest states.

In the local charge, Belmont claimed he tripped and fell on a bottle in a bus. He was examined by a Medford doctor and received \$184. In a signed statement given here, he admitted that he received no such injury.

The local statement said Belmont was using the racket to collect enough money to marry a girl in San Francisco. But the statement given in Evansville said he was living with his wife in Indiana.

Bill Providing for Income Tax Boost Returned To House

Lowry Votes 'No' In Senate Debate

Salem—(U.P.)—A bill to bring in an added \$45,000,000 in state income taxes, most important to come before the 1955 Legislature, was back in the House today after a stormy passage through the Senate.

The measure, putting a 45 per cent surtax on state income taxes, passed the Senate yesterday with only six dissenting votes but only after a heated debate waged for nearly three hours.

The measure would decrease personal exemptions from \$600 to \$500 and would bring in nearly 60 per cent more income to the state.

Only no votes were recorded by Sens. Steen, Lowry, Ulett, Housell, Brown and Johnson.

Two Motions Beaten
Because of Senate amendments, the bill went back to the House, where the tax committee moved by Rep. Loran L. Stewart (R-Cottage Grove) to study the Senate version. Should the House refuse to concur, a conference committee would be appointed with two members from each chamber.

The vote came in the Senate yesterday only after defeat of two motions to send the bill back to the Senate Tax Committee.

Wants Sales Tax Vote
Sen. Lowell Steen (R-Milton-Freewater) first moved to send it back with instructions to amend it to provide that it would not go into effect until the people had had a chance to vote on a sales tax.

When that move failed, Sen. John P. Housell (R-Hood River) moved to send it back to committee without specific instructions, but with a suggestion that the committee adopt the proposal Gov. Paul L. Patterson made in his inaugural address last January that the state eliminate the federal income tax offset when computing state income taxes.

Opinions Given
Sen. Lee Ohmart (R-Salem) voted against re-referral and for the measure, House bill 576. He said he favors a sales tax as a "good third leg" to the state's tax system, but the Legislature must balance the budget and it must adopt a program least likely to be referred to the voters. He said a sales tax was most likely to be referred.

Sen. Robert D. Holmes (D-Gearhart) said the income tax has done a good job of financing the state government and he would be opposed to a sales tax.

Sen. Philip Lowry (R-Medford) who joined with Sen. Steen in bringing in a minority report from the Senate Tax Committee, said he thought the people were ready to accept a sales tax rather than an increased income or state property tax and they should have a chance to vote on it.

The minority report lost by the same vote that finally passed the bill—24 to 6.

Arizona Designated As Disaster Area

Washington—(U.P.)—President Eisenhower designated drought-stricken Arizona today as a major disaster area eligible for emergency feed benefits.

Several other Medford High boys have received the Navy scholarships in recent years.

Accommodations Needed For DeMolay Delegates

Some 400 to 500 high school age boys are expected here during the state DeMolay state convocation to be held in Medford May 6, 7 and 8, it was announced today.

Those in charge reported that housing for the delegates will be needed, and they requested that those having extra sleeping accommodations which could be used by the boys get in touch with Ken Piland, master counselor, telephone 2-8953; Earl Knight, at 2-2932, or Frank Little, 2-4225.

Salem—(U.P.)—A proposal to set up an interim committee to study administration of the workmen's compensation law was turned down yesterday by the House.

Coming of Television Does Not Decrease Reading by Students

The coming of television hasn't affected teen-age reading habits in Medford, according to figures released by the Medford High school librarian, Mrs. John Patton.

In the school year 1952-53, a total of 10,987 books were checked out to the 878 students in school, an average of 12.5 books per student. Sixty-one books per day were checked out of the library.

In August, 1953, KBES-TV began operations, giving the valley a new medium of entertainment, prophesied by some to be the ruin of young people's interest in the printed page.

Figures for the school year 1953-54 show, not a decline, but an increase in student reading. Books checked out totaled 12,531 in a year when senior high population reached 907. An average of 13.9 books per person were borrowed, 69.6 books per day leaving the library.

Assemblies of God Opening District Convention in City

Christ's Ambassadors, the youth organization of the Assemblies of God, will hold a rally tonight at 7:30 o'clock to open the 19th annual district council of the Oregon Assemblies of God at the Medford Assembly of God, 1108 West Main st.

The rally will emphasize the missionary program of the youth group. Music will be furnished by the Canyonville Bible Academy choir, Canyonville.

The Rev. Ralph M. Riggs, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, will be the speaker.

All of the morning and evening services of the convention are open to the public, according to the Rev. F. Wildon Colbaugh, host pastor.

The morning devotional periods will begin at 10 a.m. The Rev. Levi Larson, of Evangelistic Temple, Salem, will be the morning speaker Wednesday.

The Rev. James Baker, missionary to Formosa, will be the Thursday speaker, and the Rev. C. K. Barnes, of Pendleton, will speak on Friday morning. Mr. Riggs will be the speaker at each evening service.

The Women's Missionary council met at 2 p.m. today. Some 400 or more persons from throughout Oregon are expected at the sessions here this week.

High School Senior Gets Navy Scholarship

Macy Overstreet, a senior at Medford High school and son of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Overstreet, 300 Mae st., has been chosen as one of 21 Oregon boys who will receive Navy scholarships for four years of college, it was announced in Portland today.

The award will provide them with tuition expenses, plus \$50 per month expense money. They will take Navy reserve officer training corps courses during college, and on graduation will serve for a period as Navy officers.

The announcement was made by Lt. Cmdr. Paul O. Parris, officer in charge of the Portland Navy recruiting station.

Several other Medford High boys have received the Navy scholarships in recent years.

Baseball

Washington 2 9 0
Cleveland 3 5 1
McDermott and Fitzgerald; Lemon and Hegon.

New York 5 9 1
Chicago 0 1 1
Bob Turley (3-0) and Berra; Fortieles, Conesga (3), Chakales (9) and Lollar.

Detroit 3 5 0
Baltimore 2 10 1
Palica (12) and Smith; Garver (2-2) and House, Wilson (3).

Local Water Supply Outlook for Summer Considerably Better

Precipitation and below-average temperatures in April have considerably improved the irrigation water picture in southern Oregon, reports indicated today.

Jack Hoffbuh, manager of the Medford Irrigation district, said that at Fish Lake low temperatures have averaged 17.6 degrees in April, compared to average lows of 28. These colder nighttime temperatures have aided in keeping snow on the ground for later runoff, he said.

Precipitation at the lake for the season is almost 5 inches below normal, he said, but there is still snow on the ground, whereas it was all gone at this time last year.

Storms Drop Moistures
Storms in southern Oregon last night dropped considerable amounts of snow in the hills. Sixteen inches, with a water content of 1.44 inches, fell at Fish Lake. Crater Lake had .82 of an inch of precipitation, and now has a total snow pack of 142 inches, compared with 147 inches on April 30 last year, according to park headquarters.

The same storm brought 11 inches of new snow to the Green Springs area and eight inches to the Siskiyou summit.

Only .06 of an inch of rainfall was measured at the Medford weather bureau, and .11 of an inch fell in Grants Pass. But precipitation elsewhere was considerably heavier. Snow covered hills surrounding the valley this morning.

May Need Heating
The forecast is for continued cloudiness and precipitation, although in Medford it is expected to clear this evening, with temperatures dropping below freezing. This may necessitate heating in the valley's orchards.

Fish Lake reservoir has about 3,551 acre feet in storage, compared to a capacity of 8,000 and 7,527 last year at this time. Four-mile lake has storage of 9,927 acre feet, compared to last year's capacity storage of 16,123 acre feet.

Emigrant reservoir is a little better than half full, with 4,486 acre feet in storage compared to a capacity of about 8,300 acre feet. If rainfall continues, it may fill, according to Robert Kent, manager of the Talent Irrigation district, although it would take well-above-average precipitation to do it.

Hyatt reservoir has stored

water about 11,031 acre feet, with a capacity of 16,100 acre feet.

Rainfall through April, while below normal, has been scattered, and with the low temperatures has kept soils fairly damp, lessening the requirement of using stored water.

These factors combined mean the outlook for irrigation water during the summer is considerably better, than the rather gloomy forecast of April 1.

Breeder House At Oregon State Destroyed by Fire

Corvallis—(U.P.)—Fire early today destroyed a turkey breeder house at Oregon State College, killing 1400 one and three-week old turkey poults.

College officials placed the loss at \$80,000. In addition to the \$40,000 building and the poults some \$20,000 in feed and equipment was lost.

Also destroyed were three turkey research projects.

Outside City Limits
The fire was discovered about 3:30 a.m. by Mrs. Walter R. Hodges, wife of the college farm foreman. The Hodges live on the college farm about a mile west of the main campus. Mrs. Hodges called the Corvallis fire department but the firemen didn't respond because the turkey farm is outside the city limits.

A trailer house occupied by Billie Forrest, a sophomore in agriculture from Salem, was moved to safety. Also saved were 900 nine-week old poults.

The breeder house was built in 1947 with two sections added in 1948.

College officials said cause of the blaze was not determined.

Final Classification Of Land Announced

The Jackson County Land Classification committee has made the final classification for 1955, it was announced this morning. Final classification was made at a meeting held Monday.

It leaves the area classified as grazing lands exactly as it was advertised in the original announcement. All undeveloped and unimproved land within the "non-patrol" boundaries in the Ashland, Medford and Sams Valley areas has been classified as grazing land, and will be given fire protection by the state forest patrol starting July 1.

Changes in classification requested by individuals at a public hearing will be considered after a survey of the area has been completed this summer. Changes cannot be made in time to change the 1955 tax rolls.

Official forms for requesting reclassification of land will be available at State Forest headquarters and the county agent's office after July 15. The committee will consider them before Jan. 31, 1956.



\$50 PRIZE FLOAT—The float shown above, prepared by the Royal Neighbors of America Juveniles, won a \$50 sweepstakes award for originality and theme portrayal last Saturday in the annual Pear Blossom Festival parade. The float represented pear blossom time in the valley, with accompanying orchard heating, and was drawn by two youngsters dressed in black and labeled "smudge pots." The little girl on the float is seated under a blossoming tree which has a birdhouse and a sign which said, "I like making my home in the Rogue Valley."



BEST IN DESIGN—The Medford Lady Lions float, shown above, won \$50 for the best design in the festival parade last week.



BEST COMIC FLOAT—The clowns and animal cage float, entered by the Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce, won the third sweepstakes award of \$50 for the best comic portrayal. (Photos by Brainerd).

Grants Pass and Portland Schools Get Bomb Threats

Portland—(U.P.)—Washington high school was evacuated in a fire drill basis today after another in a series of bomb telephone threats was made about 11 a.m.

Portland—(U.P.)—Jefferson high school today was the subject of the second bomb threat in two days. The school was evacuated after an anonymous threat before 9 a.m. but classes were resumed later.

The latest threat followed a warning that persons convicted of extortion bomb threats could receive up to five years in prison. Grants Pass high school reported a threat yesterday afternoon.

Two telephone calls were received at Jefferson today within 25 minutes.

Vice Principal Roy C. Malo said the threats probably were the work of a trickster, but police were ordered to conduct a thorough search.

The first call came at 7:54 a.m. It was received by Rosa Lee Lloyd, student secretary working at the switchboard.

"I'm not fooling this time," the caller said. "There's going to be a bomb go off today." A second call was received minutes later.

Classes were suspended yesterday shortly after 1 p.m. after the caller said "there's a bomb in the cafeteria and I want \$75."

Statehood Bill Cleared for Debate
Washington—(U.P.)—The House Rules Committee today cleared for floor debate a bill to grant statehood to Hawaii and Alaska.

It sent the bill to the floor under a procedure barring amendments.

House Democratic leaders have not announced yet when the bill will be called up for House action.

Weather
FORECAST: Partly cloudy through Wednesday. Considerable clearing with freezing temperatures tonight. Low 25; high Wednesday 55.
Highest Yesterday 51
Lowest this Morning 36
Prec. to 10 a.m. Today56