

Supreme Court Decision May Pave Way To Freedom for Three Turncoat GIs

Mitchell Dodges Discussion of Strike at Salem

Portland — (U.P.) — Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell concluded a three-day visit here last night with a question-answer period at the Central Labor Council in which he refused to enter the dispute between AFL machinists and the auto agency formerly owned by Interior Secretary Douglas McKay in Salem.

Mitchell was asked his opinion of the dispute by J. L. McGreen of the International Association of Machinists. He grinned and said, "I detect the overtones of politics in this."

Confidence Told
He said he wouldn't enter the dispute because "I couldn't possibly and I don't intend to know the merits of every individual labor dispute in this country."

He added that he had enough confidence in the strength of the machinists for them "to right any wrong done them."

Mitchell said he favored amendment of the Taft-Hartley labor law but doubted that Congress would act on President Eisenhower's proposed changes. He said the law has become such a political football that few lawmakers view it objectively.

To Seek Expanded Coverage
Mitchell said the administration would seek expanded coverage of workers under the minimum wage law. He hopes the next session of Congress will make more changes in social security legislation.

He told the council in a brief talk that the administration has done a good job in the labor field pointing to high employment and low number of strikes.

Earlier, in a press conference, Mitchell said he disagreed with Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, chairman of the Republican senatorial committee who recently accused labor leaders of using "violence and coercion" in political areas.

REASON ENOUGH
Providence, R.I. — (U.P.) — "Why are you crying?" a puzzled judge inquired when Mrs. Jacqueline Rodgers appeared in court on a speeding charge. She pointed to a courtroom blackboard bearing the words, "Fatalities to date—9," and sobbed, "My husband was one of them." The judge dismissed the case.

Decision In Toth Case
The Supreme Court's far-reaching decision was made in the case of Robert W. Toth, a Pittsburgh, Pa., veteran, whom the Air Force sought to court-martial for the ruling of a Korean civilian. The matter completely cleared Toth, since no American court under present law has jurisdiction over a crime committed overseas.

In addition to the turncoats, the cases in which the Army acted under the law thrown out by the Supreme Court involve Pvt. John D. Martin, Tule Lake, Cal., and Edward C. Kirby, Council Bluffs, Ia.

The Army would not state what effect the court's decision would have until the opinion was studied by Army lawyers.

However, the ruling apparently applies to the three turncoats, since they are now civilians, having received dishonorable discharges while they were embracing Communism in China. But there is still the possibility they could be tried in civil courts on treason charges.

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman scheduled a hearing late today to consider a plea for freedom filed by attorneys for three ex-GI turncoats.

The attorneys had sought writs of habeas corpus two months ago, but Judge Goodman deferred acting on them until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the Army may not try discharged servicemen for offenses committed while in the service.

Japan Mayors' Conference Set
Yokohama — (U.P.) — Forty-three U. S. West Coast and Hawaiian municipal officials and their wives will arrive tomorrow on a special flight for the Japan-American Pacific coast mayor's conference.

The group will land at Tokyo's Haneda airport aboard a Japan Airlines airliner.

A Japanese police guard and American military brass bands will be at the airport to welcome the American mayors.

Tokyo Governor Seiichiro Yasui and Yokohama Mayor Ryozo Hiranuma will greet the Americans shortly before they drive to Yokohama's new Grand Hotel in a motorcade.

Some 51 U.S. city officials will attend the conference sessions at the hotel with 33 Japanese mayors and city officials. The meeting gets underway Thursday.

The mayors will discuss ways to interest in local government and will exchange information on studies made on city problems in both countries.

Chamber of Commerce officials who also are attending, will meet separately.

Woman's Whim Frees Man on Assault Charge
Los Angeles — (U.P.) — A woman's whim set John E. Thompson free from felonious assault charges. The charges were lodged by his friend Lawanda Deakin, 28, last Oct. 30 for allegedly knocking her down, kicking her, choking her and then spraying her with a water hose.

Municipal Judge F. Ray Bennett dismissed the charge Monday when Lawanda told him she and Thompson were married on Nov. 2.

Military Code Provision Held Unconstitutional

Washington — (U.P.) — The Supreme Court, by striking down a vital part of the nation's military code, may have opened stockade doors for three ex-GIs who went over to the Communists in Korea.

The high court ruled unconstitutional Monday a provision of the 1950 Uniform Code of Military Justice under which the armed forces have arrested veterans charged with serious crime overseas. The tribunal's 6-3 decision in effect held that once a soldier becomes a civilian he must be tried in civil court rather than by court martial.

Immediate Freedom Demanded
The three turncoats, now in the Army stockade at Fort Baker, Calif., demanded immediate freedom in view of the Supreme Court's ruling. A hearing on their plea was set for today in federal court at San Francisco.

The three — William A. Cowart, 22, Dalton, Ga.; Lewis W. Griggs, Jacksonville, Tex., and Otho G. Bell, Hillsboro, Miss. — were arrested and held for courts martial on their return to the United States from Red China last summer. They had turned their backs on repatriation after the Korean armistice but changed their minds later.

UP TO DATE
Sequin Island, Me. — (U.P.) — The historic 160-year-old lighthouse here is substituting electric lights for its kerosene lamps, getting power from the mainland four miles distant.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.



DETONATING SIMULATED atomic bomb, Exercise Sagebrush, largest joint Army-Air Force training maneuver since World War II, is underway at Camp Polk, La. (International)

Mother Pleads Guilty To Murder of Sons

Galveston, Tex. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Ann Williams, pleaded guilty in two separate murder trials yesterday to charges of murdering her seven and nine-year-old sons and was sentenced to two life prison terms.

She first pleaded guilty before a jury that had been selected to try her for the murder of her seven-year-old son, Conrad. Then, in a second trial and before another jury, she again pleaded guilty to murdering her nine-year-old son, Calvin.

The woman was accused of killing the boys last Feb. 16, cutting up their bodies and burying them "as spoiled venison." She admitted that she did it and said it was because they were being taunted by playmates on account of their father, a convict.

SHUFFLIN' ALONG
Boston — (U.P.) — Old records show that more than a century ago, when it sometimes took clipper ships as long as 45 days to cross the Atlantic, one of the favorite shipboard sports, just as today, was shuffleboard.

ALL BUT ONE
Southbridge, Mass. — (U.P.) — All states in the union except South Dakota now require tests of driving ability and vision for new applicants for driving permits, a survey by the American Optical Co. disclosed.

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