

Former Prisoners Tell About Mass Rioting

Vienna—AP—The Austrian Association of Former Prisoners of war claimed Saturday that 1,300 prisoners were killed and some 3,000 injured in mass rioting in Soviet prison camps late last year.

Details of the alleged riots were given for the first time in a letter of protest delivered by the Association to Andrei Smirnov, Soviet ambassador in Austria.

The letter was signed by association Chairman Karl Bleyer and Deputy Chairman Rudolf Neumann. They said the riots took place at Norlsk, Siberia and Kengir in Kazakh.

AWARD CONTRACT

Portland—AP—The Corps of Engineers Saturday reported award of a \$93,305 contract to Herbert Brothers of Estacada for construction of derrick stone revetment along the right bank of the Santiam river near Jefferson.

Matter of Fact

By Joe and Stewart Alsop

THE BOOMERANG

The insane story of Harold Stassen's abortive effort to start a "dump-Nixon" movement is so very strange and richly comic that it deserves to be told in full and in detail. Like any good comedy, it can be divided into highly actable scenes.

Scene I: The grand organizer of the drive to renominate Vice President Nixon, Republican National Chairman Len Hall, telephones Nixon's obvious strongest potential rival, Massachusetts Gov. Christian Herter about 12 days ago. Hall says he wants Herter to put Nixon's name in nomination for the Vice Presidency and intimates that President Eisenhower shares this wish. Herter, who is perhaps not quite sure about the second part of Hall's statement, says that he is not adverse to the idea, but would like to think it over and talk about it with the President himself before giving his decision.

Scene II: On Friday a week ago, the greatest edges-into-edges-political picture in recent American history, Harold Stassen, drops in to see the President, and tells him that he thinks an Eisenhower-Herter ticket would be a lot stronger than an Eisenhower-Nixon ticket. The President presumably answers "umm, umm."

Scene III: Stassen then telephones Gov. Herter, to announce that he has broached the idea of an Eisenhower-Herter ticket to the President. The President's response, declares Stassen, was decidedly encouraging. Gov. Herter also answers "umm, umm." He still wants to see the President face-to-face and makes plans to come to Washington for that purpose immed-

Two Men Much Alike To Referee National Conventions in '56

Washington—(CQ)—Two men very much alike will referee the Democratic and Republican conventions this year.

But the contests ahead for each are as different in size as their home states—Texas and Massachusetts.

Rep. Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.), speaker of the House of Representatives, will have to swing his gavel hammer-fast to keep the wide-open Democratic National Convention in order, while the gavel wielded by his counterpart at the Republican Convention, Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (R-Mass.) may never even get bruised.

At age 24, Rayburn was elected to the Texas House of Representatives serving there until 1913 when he took his seat in the U. S. House of Representatives.

Martin at 24 became publisher of the North Attleboro Evening Chronicle, a daily he still owns. Three years later—at 27—Martin was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He served there from 1912-14 and in the State Senate from 1914-17. In 1924 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, has been there ever since.

Their political apprenticeships forged similar philosophies on party loyalty. Rayburn: "I am a team player and believe in working within the party organization." Martin: "A policy isn't worth the paper it's written on if it doesn't become law and it can't become law unless votes make it so."

For getting and staying elected, both subscribe to the face-to-face approach. Rayburn hosts a political USO at his two-story frame house two miles outside of Bonham in northern Texas when he is home and sees the voters in their own surroundings as often as he can. Martin patrols his 14th district with the thoroughness of a cop on a beat. Posters announce when he will drop in at the local post offices "to afford an opportunity for constituents to interview him on government business." Martin says: "I know my district so well that if a postmaster writes in for a new canceling machine, I probably know whether he needs it or not."

Both have been mentioned frequently in the past as Presidential timber and both have said they were not candidates. Rayburn: "To have been elevated to the high position (speaker of the House) that your father has brought me to is a distinction that should satisfy the ambition of any man. I am the one man in public life who has achieved every ambition he ever had."

Martin: "I am not a candidate and I do not expect to be a candidate, but the man doesn't live who doesn't want to be President of the United States."

As it is, as House speakers both men have held what is considered the second most powerful post in the U. S. The speaker becomes President if both the President and vice president die. Rayburn has been elected speaker seven times: 1940, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1949, 1951 and 1955. On Jan. 31, 1951, Rayburn broke Henry Clay's 125-year-old record of 3,056½ days in the speaker's chair. Martin was elected speaker in 1947 and 1953.

Their conception of the speaker's role may be in evidence in their chairmanship of the conventions. Rayburn, who has been speaker longer than any man in history: "My experience with the speaker's job has been that you cannot lead people by trying to drive them. Persuasion and reason are the only ways to lead them."

Martin: "In the final analysis, what resolves the great question of whether a man is a good speaker or a great speaker is his ability to be fair and impartial and to interpret the rules and do justice to all, even if it is adverse, as it must be at times to his own party and his own convictions."

Personally, both are unassuming and friendly. They prefer the "early to bed, early to rise" maxim of the farm to the Capital's gay whirl of parties. And both are thought of as bachelors even though Rayburn was divorced after a youthful marriage of less than six months.

While one has been speaker, the other has been minority leader. The offices for holders of those two posts are next to each other off a rose colored corridor leading from the entrance to Statuary hall in the Capitol. "Mr. Sam" currently occupies the slightly smaller office usually occupied by the minority leader. As he puts it, "We're too old to be always swapping offices."

But don't expect any of this personal brotherhood between "Mr. Sam" and "Joe" to spill over party lines at the convention.

After high school—with \$25 in his pocket—Rayburn entered what is now East Texas State Teachers college. Martin at 18 became a reporter on the North Attleboro Evening Leader.

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dled with men in power who have been fostering unprincipled programs and unprincipled policies." (Copyright 1955, Congressional Quarterly)

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SIXTH AND CENTRAL

Kelso Woman Dies From Burns Friday

Longview, Wash.—(AP)—Miss Betty Scott, 45, of Kelso, died Saturday in a Longview hospital as a result of burns suffered in a fire in her apartment early Friday morning.

Miss Scott was alone in the apartment when bedroom furnishings caught fire. Kelso firemen had to break into the room to carry her out. Neighbors earlier had attempted to remove her from the burning room.

Kelso Fire Chief Don Bashor said the fire apparently started from a burning cigarette.

Mail Goes Long Way Between Canby, Aurora

Portland—(AP)—As the crow flies, it's only four miles between Canby and Aurora. But, according to Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) it's 150 miles as the United States mail goes.

Norblad, in a letter to Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, said that mail originating at Canby is taken by truck 22 miles to Portland. There it's unloaded, reloaded and shipped to Albany, 75 miles south. Then the mail is trans-shipped again and sent back to Aurora, about 50 miles north of Albany.

The Oregon representative asked Summerfield if some "better arrangement" could be made.

BID AWARDED

Portland—(AP)—Olson Electric Company of Vancouver, Wash., has been awarded a \$50,666 contract by the Corps of Engineers for construction of an aerial communications and control cable system between The Dalles dam and the Bonneville Power Administration switchyard at The Dalles.



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