



PRESENT CHECK—Bill Schei, president (second from left), and Hal Edwards, vice president (second from right), present Ray Reter (center), Hilla Temple and member of the board of governors of the Shriners' hospital for crippled children, Portland, a special donation check for \$1,370 to purchase a new anesthetic machine. Looking on, left, are Glenn Linn, secretary, and at right, L. C. (Les) Taylor, chairman of the Shrine Circus committee. The new machine will supply the Shrine hospital surgery department with the most modern type of this equipment available. —(Brainerd photo)

Neuberger Sees Court Martial in Haircut Case 'Absurd and Petty'

Washington — Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) took the floor of a civil rights-conscious Senate today and struck a blow for freedom of haircuts. The senator called the court martialing of an airman for refusing to get a "white sidewall" haircut "absurd, petty, frivolous, cavalier, humiliating" — and a prime way to cut Air Force enlistments.

There is no better way to drive self-respecting enlisted men out of the service than to discipline a man because he does not want his hair cut "according to the absurd specifications" of his unit commander, Neuberger said.

"Do we want robots in the armed services or men of initiative and independence?" asked the senator.

"This whole incident smacks of the old goose-stepping Prussian army of Von Moltke and not of the citizen army of a free and democratic republic," he said.

He advocated punishment for the "blundering and discipline obsessed superiors" of the airman, rather than for the man himself.

Other members of Congress ridiculed the case, but the Pentagon's boss barber expressed no surprise.

An Air Force court martial Monday at Fuchu, Japan, convicted Airman 3C Donald Wheeler, Cortez, Colo., of refusing to obey an order to get a "white-wall" trim when he was assigned to the honor guard at the U. N. Far East Command Headquarters in Tokyo.

Three members of the House Armed Services Committee sharply criticized the Air Force.

Rep. Melvin Price (D-Ill.) said the Air Force looked "ridiculous" and was giving people "a bad picture of military discipline."

He said both the Air Force and Wheeler carried the whole affair too far.

Rep. William G. Bray (R-Ind.) a veteran of 32 years in the Army and reserves, said the haircut order looked unreasonable to him. He said if unit commanders can specify what kind of haircuts their men must have soon they will order heads shaved or "Mohican haircuts" — shaved scalps except for a strip

of hair down the middle.

Pentagon Opinion

Rep. Clyde Doyle (D-Calif.) huffed at the Air Force: "How ridiculous can you get?"

But Rep. James E. Van Zandt (R-Pa.), another Armed Services Committee member, stuck up for the Air Force.

"As a veteran I know that unless you have discipline you aren't going to have a military worth a damn," he said.

Joseph Abbate, manager of the Pentagon barber shop, said the Wheeler case was nothing new. He said when he was a barber at Ft. Myer, Va., from 1929 to 1943 both the late Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and George S. Patton were sticklers about haircuts.

He said corporals would personally escort rookies to the barber chair and stand over them to make certain their hair was cut to suit the general's.

Once, Abbate said, one man with Rudolph Valentino sideburns refused to have them removed.

"In the brig for two months," he said, shrugging his shoulders.

CP Rural Firemen Called to Five Fires

Central Point—Central Point rural firemen extinguished five grass fires yesterday and one this morning.

Largest was about five acres in the game commission management area in the Camp White district at 12:30 p.m. yesterday. Another of about three acres was at the Von Williams place on Old Highway 99 north of Central Point about 11:30 a.m.

There were small fires about 3 p.m. at the M. W. Kohn property, Orr dr., and at Thomas Culbertson Sr., place, Corey rd.

A grass fire was put out about 4:20 p.m. in a ditch at the Oregon Veneer plant at White City.

Firemen were called to a blaze in grass at the Padgham Glass and Millwork company plant at White City about 10 a.m. today.

Concord, N. H.—Dr. Robert Chambers, biologist and inventor of a device for dissecting living cells, died here Tuesday after a long illness. He was 75 years old.

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