News About Servicemen

COMMENDED

Pvt. Curtis E. Mason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis W. Mason, route 1, box 303E, Eagle Point, recently received a letter of commendation from the brigade commander, Col. J. A. Cook. Pvt. Mason was selected the outstanding trainee of his basic training company cycle. He is a graduate of Eagle Point high school.

FOOD SERVICE COURSE

Two valley men recently completed the food service course while serving at Ft. Ord, Calif.

The men are Donald D. Wallace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford H. Wallace, Phoenix, and Lester J. Schleigh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Schleigh, route 3, Medford.

The men, both privates and graduates of Phoenix High school, entered the Army last September. Wallace's wife, Carole, makes her home at 961 Lozier lane.

COMPLETES COURSE

Central Point – Ronald E. Brood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert F. Brood, 4922 Gebhard rd., recently completed the eight-week basic Army administration course while stationed at Ft. Ord, Calif.

Brood, a private, is a graduate of Crater High school and Oregon State college. He was formerly employed at Burk's in Medford. His wife, Harriet, lives on Route 2, Central Point.

COMPLETES CRUISE

Navy Cmdr. John M. Gates, Old Military rd., recently completed a two-week reserve training cruise aboard the Pacific Fleet attack aircraft carrier USS Lexington. The ship engaged in training exercises off the coast of southern California.

RIVER EXERCISE

Army Sgt. Phylip L. Lausten ,son of Mrs. Ethle Ellestaid, 185 Second ave., Central Point, recently participated with the third Armored Divisions' Third Artillery in a large-scale river crossing exercise in Germany.

Sergeant Lausten, a wire chief, was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash., prior to his transfer to Europe.

ASSIGNED

Robert L. Gemaehlich, son of Mrs. E. L. Stowell, 2495 West Main st., is serving with the U.S. Air Force at Schilling Air Force base, Kan.

Gemaehlich, an airman second class, was previously assigned to the base at Carswell, Texas.

He is currently boom operator with the 310th Air Refueling squadron.

HELICOPTER TRAINING

Lt. William E. Todd, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Todd, 843 East Ninth st., recently entered the helicopter flight training class at Helicopter Training group, Ellyson field, Pensacola, Fla.

Lt. Todd, who attended San Jose State college prior to entering the Navy, will undergo eight weeks of training. He is scheduled to complete the course next month.

Mrs. Todd is the former Miss Joan C. Haring, Medford.

Cloud Seeding May Increase Lightning Strikes

New York –(Science Service)– Seeding clouds with silver iodide strewn from airplanes may increase the chances of lightning in summer clouds over the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Drs. A. R. Kassander and L. J. Battan, director and associate director of the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, reported to the American Meteorological Society meeting here results of a cloud seeding program in Arizona.

On 16 days in 1958 when seeding was done, 1,265 lightning strokes were counted, while on non-seeded days only 138 were seen. The probability of this result by chance is less than two per cent.

The cloud seeding program, supported in part by the National Science Foundation, involves throwing silver iodide into clouds on one of two successive days according to a randomized scheme arranged beforehand. This means in effect that the determination to seed a cloud is made on the basis of a coin flip, a procedure adopted to prevent biasing of results and permit application of statistical tests.

The seeding was done at between 18,000 and 20,000 feet along a track upwind from the mountain range. The silver iodide particles were carried into the cloud area by winds.

For the years 1957 and 1958, comparisons were made of rainfall on 32 seeded and 32 non-seeded days. Although rainfall averaged higher on seeded days, statistical tests showed this result could have been due to chance. However, Drs. Kassander and Battan believe the results are "suggestive." They conclude the evidence shows that seeding caused important changes in natural cloud processes.

De Gaulle Faces Growing Opposition

Paris–(UPI)–President Charles de Gaulle Tuesday faced a growing wave of opposition from the same extreme right-wing elements which hailed him as the savior of France last year.

Thus far, there have been no direct attacks on De Gaulle himself. The target has been rather his right-hand man, Premier Michel Debre.

In Algiers, French Algerian rightwingers staged a noisy demonstration against Debre Monday. In Paris, anti-Semitic slogans again were scrawled on walls – Debre's grandfather was a rabbi.

It was the chonic problem of Algeria which lay behind the opposition.

Rep. Porter Quietly Suffers Rebuke In Denial of Foreign Affairs Post

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)–At the outset of his second term in Congress, Rep. Charles O. Porter, (D-Ore.) has quietly suffered a stinging rebuke from some of his elders in the House of Representatives.

A. Robt. Smith

Porter was denied a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee and kept on the relatively minor Post Office and Civil Service Committee. This would be of no special significance if it weren't for the fact that there were seven Democratic vacanceis on Foreign Affairs, and only two of them were given to men wno outrank Porter in service. A third vacancy went to a well-known freshman, Chester Bowles, ex-ambassador to India, while four vacancies went to other congressmen whom Porter outranks, three of them unknown freshmen.

In other words, when the Democratic Committee on Commitees was making assignments recently, Porter was passed over on three occasions in favor of freshmen who have no special distinction – except, perhaps, that they had the support of powerful veteran congressmen who have a big hand in running the House.

Blamed McCormick

Porter was mighty sore when he learned he had lost out. He privately blamed Rep. John McCormick (D-Mass.), second only to Speaker Sam Rayburn in running the House. In an interview, McCormick denied passing the word to rebuff Porter. He said:

"I didn't campaign for him or against him."

McCormick did throw his weight behind three other candidates for seats on Foreign Affairs, but he declined to identify any except Bowles.

Porter got off to a bad start with McCormick shortly after arriving here two years ago fresh from his victory over Harris Ellsworth. It was just as he was getting into the case of Gerry Murphy, the missing Eugene flier who ran afoul of the Dominican Republic dictatorship of Gen. Raphael Trujillo.

McCormick, Porter heard, was about to receive an honor from Trujillo. So he wrote McCormick a letter, pointing out that he was about to lambast Trujillo in a House speech and suggesting maybe McCormick might wish to reconsider accepting the proffered honor. McCormick fired back a reply to the Oregon freshman, saying his proposal was "obnoxious" and "presumptious."

Porter went through with his speech, and went on to gain fame throughout Latin America as a champion of democratic elements in countries ruled by dictators.

Incident Now Closed

McCormick feels Porter should have come to talk to him face-to-face instead of writing him a letter "for the record." He said he sent his reply in writing also "for the record." But he claims that incident is now closed. A few days ago Porter had a long private talk with McCormick and another with Speaker Rayburn about his being shut out of Foreign Affairs. Possibly he mended some fences by so doing.

A member of the Democrats' Committee on Committees explained in an interview that in filling vacancies, the committee members vote by secret ballot for their choices among the applicants after openly debating each applicant's qualifications. Results are then posted. Those getting the highest number of votes get the vacant seats.

When they came to Porter's name, some argued for him, some against. Chairman Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.), one of Rayburn's lieutenants, remained silent. According to this committee member, there was no noticeable effort by the leadership to keep Porter off.

"Charlie just didn't get enough votes," he said.

But why would Porter, known by now to many of his colleagues, get fewer votes than three virtually unknown freshmen?

Besides the presumption that these three had powerful backing which Porter lacked, there was this explanation by one congressman who was present and heard the objections voiced by those who opposed Porter:

"Not enough congressmen know Charlie well enough. They think he is brash. It's not until they get to know him well that they recognize that he has a good legal mind and has good ideas."

Another Explanation

Another liberal congressman with a fatherly feeling for the 39-year-old Oregon legislator had this explanation for Porter's setback:

"Charlie hurts himself. He's just a little too cocky."

The substance of these explanations was that Porter, in his first term when most freshmen are getting adjusted to their new responsibilities, created the impression among some of the older House members of a young fellow too eager to make a name for himself without showing the expected deference for his seniors.

Porter isn't the first one to get kicked around for rubbing his elders the wrong way, nor is he likely to be the last. For the 436 House members, much more than the 98 senators, are herded through their legislative chores by a small clique of powerful leaders–Rayburn, McCormick and a few committee chairmen. One lone congressman is at their mercy if he defies or displeases them greatly. Rayburn is said to have given this classic advice to new congressmen:

"If you want to get along, go along."

Porter's reaction to this advice is this:

"One has to be the fellow he is, and I was never a 'go along' sort of fellow. Oregon is a small state. We don't have a big delegation in Congress. That makes it more important that we speak up for principle. The big states are the ones with the 'go along' boys. They are the machine-run states. Oregon is not."

Porter is not without his admirers in the House and in the State Department for his outspoken role in Latin affairs. In contrast to editorial criticism of his recent comments in support of Fidel Castro in Cuba, Porter this week received a compliment from the chief U. S. diplomat in Havana, Daniel M. Braddock.

One of Porter's supporters in the House said this of the congressman's dilemma: "There is less democracy practiced in Congress than anywhere in the country. What we need are more Charlie Porters."

Porter Not Alone

Manifestly, Porter is not alone is feeling frustrated by the leadership of the House. A group of liberals, many of them westerners, has determined to affiliate closely through periodic dinner meetings to discuss with experts various issues they are concerned about. One of their leaders said they had 70 at their first get-together and expect as many as 100 when it gets going. About 40 were freshmen elected last November.

This group hopes, through unity, to offer greater pressure on the more conservative Democratic leaders to force action on a liberal legislative program. Reps. Edith Green and Al Ullman, as well as Porter, are counted in this group.

Whether they succeed or not in this 86th Congress, nothing is in immediate sight in replacement of the ancient seniority system which seems to assure that the rulers of the House are men who've been around a long time. Since time and age seem most often to beget conservatism in politicians, the struggle of the younger liberals with the elder conservatives is not likely to pass soon from the scene.

So whether Porter gets a seat on his choice committee next time around may depend on whether he can "get enough votes" by convincing enough of his key colleagues that he is neither too brash nor too cocky to perform effectively for the House in his chosen field.

But whether he succeeds or fails in his committee aspirations, Porter will continue to have the House floor rights any congressman has to promote and defend those causes most dear to his heart for as long as the voters of Oregon keep in that high office.

In pursuit of the favor of his constituents, Porter has planned a six-day swing through Oregon Feb. 13 through Feb. 18. Before going to Oregon, Porter is making his second visit to Venezuela at the invitation of the new President-elect Romulo Betancourt this week. From Caracas he flies to Oregon to address a statewide Democratic gathering in Salem Friday. After that he goes to Eugene, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Medford, Albany and Portland, then back to Washington, D. C.

COSMIC RAY EXPERT DIES

Madrid, Spain –(UPI)– Prof. Arturo Duerier, 58, cosmic ray expert, died Tuesday after a heart attack. He was a member of the University of Madrid faculty.

Digging the Suez canal required 10 years, from 1859-69.

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