

Army Chief of Staff Testifies On Eisenhower's Defense Fund

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President Eisenhower spoke out at his news conference as the Senate preparedness subcommittee, headed by Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, heard Gen. Maxwell Taylor, Army chief of staff, tell about his "reservations" on the President's

defense budget. In an opening statement, Johnson noted that the subcommittee has been studying the nation's preparedness for more than 15 months.

"Throughout these hearings I have been unable to escape the conclusion that we are not doing enough, fast enough or thoroughly enough," Johnson said, restating a view that he has expressed frequently.

Budget vs. Defense
"The problem of our preparedness effort has been brought home to us sharply and dramatically by the Berlin crisis. I believe we can all agree that there are few major steps that we can take between now and May to increase the strength of our military arm," said Johnson.

Johnson stressed that the nation's defense problems will not end with the Berlin crisis. The objective of the subcommittee's present inquiry, he said, is whether the defense program is based on the considered judgment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as to what the nation needs "or whether it is based on other considerations."

That is the Democratic theme—that budgetary considerations, not military needs, have dictated the defense budget.

Gen. Taylor was the first member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be called for closed-door questioning by the subcommittee.

The warmth and vehemence with which Mr. Eisenhower struck back at congressional proponents of boosting the size of the armed forces produced some of the strongest language he has employed to date in his tug of war, largely with the Democrats on Capitol Hill, over the proper defense policies for his country.

Favors Fewer Troops
He saw no reason why the scheduled reductions in the Army and Marine Corps should not go through by June 30. He said an hysterical report was being made to relate the Berlin situation to the size of our ground forces.

A reporter asked whether he had the right to thwart the will of Congress by not spending all the money appropriated for defense. Eisenhower said heatedly that, after all, he was the commander in chief and he had to use the armed forces as given to him.

Then he added that while he was not going to try deliberately to thwart the will of Congress, he thought Congress sometimes was mistaken and sometimes in the past had made some very serious mistakes on defense matters.

In a growing emotional voice, he said that if additional—and in his opinion, underground—forces were forced on him, he would put them somewhere nice and keep them out of the way.

As to the merits of a balanced budget versus national security, he said quickly there

was no contest—defense would come first.

The chief executive stood firm on his defense budget of \$40,900,000,000 for fiscal 1960 after being asked whether he saw anything on the international horizon to warrant hiking the budget or delaying the Army and Marine manpower cuts.

By June 30, the Army is scheduled to drop 30,000 men to a total power of 870,000 troops. Eisenhower said this was no small Army in his estimation. The Marine Corps also is scheduled to cut 25,000 men down to a total of 175,000.

Unemployment Totals 4,749,000

Washington—UPI—Unemployment increased by 25,000 to a total of 4,749,000 last month. The government said the change was so small that it was insignificant.

Employment also rose 16,000 to 62,706,000 in February. A joint report by the Labor and Commerce departments said the stability marked the usual pause between heavy winter cutbacks in jobs and the normal spring pickup in the economy.

Compared with February, 1958, in the depth of the recession, last month's jobless total was down 724,000 while the number of persons holding jobs increased by 734,000.

But unemployment last month was still 1,500,000 over the figure for February, 1957, before the business downturn began.

Hours of work in manufacturing industries were steady at 39.8 a week last month. Earnings of factory workers were unchanged at an hourly rate of \$2.19.

Steam Boiler Gets Explosion Blame

Portland—A steam boiler, not an oil burner was the cause of an explosion last Sunday in Fair Lawn, N. J., which killed a three-year-old boy and injured six persons, oil heat industry sources said today.

Leonard Gassner, executive secretary of the Oil Heat Institute of Oregon, said the wire service stories were incorrect. He was informed by Fire Chief Danore of Fair Lawn that a steam boiler was the cause. Chief Danore told Gassner by phone: "Oil or any other fuel had nothing to do with the explosion. It was caused by a steam boiler, but we do not know why at this time. Perhaps it was due to our hard water causing a deposit in the tank. We are investigating."

Gassner said the story has caused great concern among oil heat dealers all over Oregon, because some newspapers displayed the story prominently.

Break for Injured Workers Sought

Salem—UPI—Rep. Keith Skelton (D-Eugene) says that he wants a better break for the workman injured in Oregon.

Skelton is co-author of a bill which would change the workmen's compensation program. He told the House Labor and Industry committee Tuesday night that about two per cent of injured workmen in Oregon have received 25 per cent of the money paid under workmen's compensation.

The bill would require employers in hazardous industries to protect workers from financial loss due to injuries and would extend coverage to non-hazardous industry employees with 10 or more employees. The bill would abolish the employers' liability law and eliminate jury trials on appeals to the courts from injury awards.

Mrs. Cecilia Galey, chairman of the Unemployment Compensation commission, said the proposed change would result in higher administrative costs and reduce workmen's rights. Opponents also contended the measure would increase the insurance rates.

Bar Supports Bill at Hearing

Salem—UPI—A bill which would create a fund to indemnify persons who might lose money through defalcation by an attorney received support of the Oregon State Bar at a House Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday.

The bill would provide for payment of \$15 a year by attorneys into a fund to be used to purchase insurance.

Glenn R. Jack, Oregon City, who suggested the indemnity plan several years ago, told the committee defalcation "by a very small percentage of lawyers" is a problem. He said "if lawyers do not take the initiative to cure this evil we recognize, it will be forced on us."

Robert H. Bennett, Portland attorney, opposed the bill by saying the provision for indemnification of a client would remove the strongest driving force for punishment of the offender. He said plenty of remedy exists at present for improper action by attorneys.

Estacada Youth Enters Innocent Plea

Oregon City—UPI—Duan E. Marvin Anders, 17, Estacada, Tuesday entered a plea of innocent to a charge of first degree murder in connection with the death of his father, Hector Anders. Trial was scheduled for March 30.

"They spotted the story as being erroneous because records of the National Fire Protection association show that oil is not explosive," he reported.

House Trailer Damaged in Mishap

Extensive damage occurred to a house trailer after it broke loose from the towing truck yesterday, state police said. No injuries were reported.

The accident occurred at the intersection of Highway 99 and Colver rd. near Talent, state police said. Ralph Glenn Lisson, 31, of 3761 South Pacific highway, was driving the truck towing the trailer, when it apparently became detached from the truck.

Lisson tried to stop and the trailer whipped to the left side of the truck, flipped over and slid on its side into a roadside ditch. No one was in the trailer at the time, officers said.

Holmes Honored at 'Going Away' Party

Salem—UPI—About 100 friends of ex-Gov. and Mrs. Robert D. Holmes, many of them members of the Legislature, gathered at a Salem cafe last night for an informal "going away" party.

The Holmes are expected to vacate their Salem home and move to Portland this weekend. The former chief executive has opened a public relations office in Portland.

The oldest farm in the U. S. is said to be near El Paso, Texas. It has yielded crops each year since 1540.

Marshall Taken To Walter Reed

Washington—UPI—Gen. George Marshall was flown from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Washington today so he could be treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for the stroke he suffered earlier this year.

The Army said the transfer was "made possible because of the improvement in Gen. Marshall's condition." It said that at Walter Reed, the five star general "will have available the finest of specialized medical care."

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Ike Says Jobless Pay Benefits Up To States

Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower told his news conference today that further extension of unemployment compensation benefits is now primarily the responsibility of individual states.

He said he would be willing to listen to arguments to the contrary. But with most of the state legislatures in session this year, he thought they should shoulder the principal responsibility for extending the length of jobless pay where necessary.

Benefit Period Extended
During the recession last year, hundreds of thousands of unemployed found themselves without money when their normal 26 weeks of jobless pay ran out. The federal government stepped in through legislation and made possible extension of the benefit period. This temporary plan expires at the end of this month.

Eisenhower was asked today to define his position on various proposals before Congress to extend again the federal government's participation in the unemployment program.

He said the extended program was undertaken as an emergency plan last year because most of the state legislatures were not in session.

Other news conference items:—He reiterated his endorsement of statehood for Hawaii without going into any detail.

—He said he wanted no "yes" men in his Cabinet. This came up when a reporter cited an opinion that the position of defense secretary had gone down in prestige as far as planning for the military was concerned.

McElroy Not "Yes" Man
Eisenhower was asked on this point whether Secretary Neil H. McElroy took orders from the White House and the State Department or whether he functioned as an adviser to the President on modern strategy.

The President said quickly that McElroy occupied the defense post because he respected him and thought highly of his judgment.

He said that if McElroy was a "yes" man, he would not be secretary of defense and, for that matter, Eisenhower did not want that kind of subordinate anywhere.

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