

John Wayne and Republic No Longer in Partnership

By BOB THOMAS
 HOLLYWOOD (AP)—The long and successful association of John Wayne and Republic Studios has apparently hit the rocks. Wayne, top man on the box office heap for the past two years, indicates that he has come to an impasse with his old friend and boss, Herbert J. Yates, head of Republic. If their falling out becomes permanent, it will mean the end of a picture-making partnership that goes back to the early days of Wayne's 20-year acting career.

The actor confirmed the rift on the set of "Alma Mater," which he is making for Warner Brothers. "Yates will have to make me a damned good offer to get me to make another picture with him," Wayne said. "I'm fed up."

He added that his difficulties with Yates arose over the proposed filming of "The Alamo," a story of Texas' fight for independence.

The picture was originally slated to be made under the banner of Wayne's own production company for Republic release.

"Yates said that I should give up my company and make the picture for Republic," said the actor. "He said I owed it to Republic. How do you like that? I don't owe Republic anything. I've made a lot of money for the studio. I brought (directors) Frank Borzage and John Ford to the studio. Also Jimmy Grant, who wrote 'Bands of Two Jims,' one of the biggest hits Republic ever had."

The location site is another sore point with Wayne. He claims that Yates told Texans that the film would be shot in their state.

"But it would have cost a million dollars more to shoot it in Texas, instead of Latin America," said Wayne. "So when plans were changed, the Texans got up in arms. Yates sent me down there to square things, which I did. Then I found a Panama location myself."

India Studies Korea Truce

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—Authoritative Indian sources said today that the Indian government is working out a new Korean truce proposal providing for the screening of prisoners by neutral nations and voluntary repatriation of the POWs.

The question of prisoner repatriation is the sole issue holding up talks at Panmunjom.

Under the new Indian plan as reported here, the United Nations would agree in principle that all prisoners should be sent home in keeping with the Communist interpretation of the spirit of the Geneva Convention, but Red China and North Korea in turn would agree that no prisoner actually

would be sent home unless the screening showed he wanted to go. The Indian plan envisages Communist admission that prisoners should not be forced to return home against their will and agreement to abide by the screening verdict.

The prisoners would be transferred to new camps, administered by the neutral screening nations agreed on by the combatants. This is designed to meet Communist contentions that prisoners unwilling to go home have been influenced by Nationalist Chinese and South Koreans.

The U.N. Command has denied this Red contention and said no Nationalist Chinese are being used in Korea. The Indian plan, however, would specify that Nationalist Chinese and South Koreans would not be transferred to the new camps.

The rift follows a familiar pattern, Yates also had breakups with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, who were successively his top cowboy stars.

"But there's a difference," Wayne commented. "Yates built Autry and Rogers into stars. He didn't make me a star."

Asked for a rebuttal, Yates cited the "great mental strain and personal problems Duke (Wayne) has had during the past year." He continued:

"Duke was employed at Republic on May 11, 1952, when the going in our industry was rough. I have always found Duke a gentle-

man, a friend, always willing to cooperate, and he has beyond any doubt been helpful in establishing the success of Republic, the same as many hundreds of our employes have also been helpful.

"At no time have I, as president of Republic, attempted to take any credit for Duke's success; however, what Republic has spent in publicizing and establishing his name throughout the world must have been a contributing factor to his success. Republic has gambled millions of dollars on the picture Duke appeared in, and the boxoffice quality of these pictures must also have been a major factor in influencing those who rated him the No. 1 star of our industry."

CASUALTY LIST
 WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department today identified 87 battle casualties in Korea in a new list (No. 691) that reported 66 killed, 87 wounded, three missing and one injured.

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Illinois Governor Stratton Youngest Of New Executives

CHICAGO (AP)—William G. Stratton, aging "boy wonder" of Illinois politics, still can lay claim to being the state's youngest governor-elect since 1883.

Stratton, 38, brought a long political record into his successful campaign against Lt. Gov. Sher-

wood Dixon who was Gov. Adlai Stevenson's personal choice for the office.

In 1940, at 26, Stratton was labeled the "boy wonder" when elected congressman-at-large. He stood then with the Republican non-interventionists. Today he re-

turns close to the conservative wing of the GOP.

Now state treasurer, Stratton says he has "a number of bills in mind" for presentation to the next legislature, meeting in January but isn't ready to disclose a detailed program.

He makes one promise: "definitely, there will be no tax increases."

Stratton's father, the late William J. Stratton, was a GOP leader and served as Illinois secretary of state from 1928 to 1933. Stratton twice sought the office once held by his father but lost each time—once in the party primary. These were his only defeats in races for statewide office.

In 1946, he won his second term as congressman-at-large, defeating the Democratic incumbent by 365,000 plurality. During World War II Stratton served in the Pacific as a Navy lieutenant.

Killing Brings 150-Year Term

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ill. (AP)—An unemployed insurance salesman was sentenced to 150 years in prison yesterday after pleading guilty to the slaying of his former sweetheart in a Lawrenceville High School classroom.

A "blasted romance" was the

only explanation offered by Charles Petrach, 25, of Gary, Ind., for fatally shooting Miss Georgine Lyon, 25, high school librarian, Sept. 3.

In imposing sentence, Circuit Judge Ben W. Eoyakid stipulated that Petrach should spend every Sept. 3 in solitary confinement.

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 James M. (Jimmy) Barnes

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