

Harold Talbott May Get Position of Air Secretary

NEW YORK (AP) — Harold E. Talbott, a New York aircraft industrialist, said he has heard reports he will be named secretary of air under President-elect Eisenhower but he has no direct knowledge of such a plan.

The New York Daily News says Eisenhower has selected Talbott for the post and plans to announce the appointment on his return to New York next week.

The Washington Times-Herald said the general had six names, including Talbott, under consideration for the three service secretaries—Army, Navy and Air.

Quarried in New York Wednesday night, Talbott said the matter had been talked about and discussed by others but that he, himself, had no conversation with Eisenhower on the subject.

Aboard the cruiser Helena, Eisenhower's press secretary, James C. Hagerty, said "When we have any appointments to make we will announce them."

Talbott, 64, is a close personal friend of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, was finance chairman of the Republican National Committee when Dewey ran for president in 1948, and served on a GOP finance committee during Eisenhower's campaign.

Talbott's aviation career dates back to World War I.

In reporting on other possible appointments, the News said Charles B. Thomas of Los Angeles has been selected as secretary of the Navy.

Thomas—a Republican and former special assistant to the late Navy Secretary James Forrestal—commented in Los Angeles: "This is the first I have ever heard of such a thing."

Ridgway Sees NATO Success

PARIS (AP) — Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway said Thursday the military objectives needed to safeguard the security of Western Europe "are obtainable and so help us God they will be attained."

Ridgway made his remarks at an American Club luncheon only a few days before the opening of next week's Atlantic Alliance meeting.

Ministers from the 14 North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations are assembling in Paris for the meeting and the NATO military committee, which wound up its sessions Wednesday night, was reported to have approved Ridgway's military plans for next year and even 1954.

The supreme Allied commander said Western Europe is still "far short of the rock bottom minimum military requirements to defend itself."

Ridgway was referring to 1952 NATO military targets of 25 first line divisions and 25 reserve divisions. American Army men have said the European nations failed to provide all of the 25 reserve divisions. Next year's target is 70 divisions and 95 for 1954.

Ridgway served notice on the NATO ministers he would continue to press for those targets.

"Until we do have the minimum military essentials," the soldier said, "no commander charged with the responsibility of the safety of a continent could for one moment be satisfied and could for one moment stop pressing the political authorities concerned for what I believe to be necessary."



CAPTURED MOROCCO RIOTERS. Hands raised high before menacing guns of helmeted Makhazni police guards two Moroccans seized in the bloody riots of Carrières Centrales, Casablanca suburb, are marched off to prison. They were seized in fighting which brought death toll to at least 50. Police began a large-scale evacuation of French and other European residents from the native quarters as the French flew troop reinforcements into the city in an attempt to cope with the situation.

Russian Makes Trees Grow

LONDON (AP) — Trees grow three times faster in far off Kazakhstan, Moscow radio told the world Thursday.

A report from Central Asia said a member of the staff of the Kazakh Agricultural Institute has evolved a new method to speed up the growth of young trees. The broadcast said he uses extracts of the young tissues of the trees themselves as stimulants.

Oak, willow and maple trees have undergone the hastening process to date, with fruit bushes next, the radio said.

SIX EXECUTED

TAIPEH, Formosa (AP) — Firing squads executed six more convicted Communist agents Thursday, bringing to 54 the total of Reds put to death in Formosa since Nov. 26.



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'Jensen Rider' May Haunt GOP Sponsors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican-fathered device to trim the number of federal payrollers when most of them were Democrats may haunt the GOP when it takes over the reins of government next month.

It may have the effect of forestalling plans any Republicans might have to replace Democratic jobholders with Republicans after President-elect Eisenhower's inauguration.

Known as the "Jensen rider," it has been tacked on to most departmental money bills in the last two years. By current law, it is operative in most departments at least until next June 30.

In effect it says the federal payroll shall be cut about 10 per cent each year by forbidding the filling of more than one out of every four vacancies that occur. There are some exceptions.

Its author, Rep. Ben Jensen (R-Ia.), said he realizes the plan might pose some difficulties for the incoming Republican administration.

But Jensen said in an interview that if the plan was equitable and fair when Democrats were running the show, it ought to be equitable and fair for the Republicans.

"It isn't a political program at all," he said. "Most of the jobs affected are civil service jobs anyhow, so they aren't political in nature."

He conceded that under a Democratic administration Democrats applying for civil service jobs might fare better than Republicans, and vice versa.

"There have been and there still are just too many people on the federal payroll and we have got to start cutting down if we're ever going to have real economy," he said.

"You just don't cut down by wholesale firings of people with families and long tenure of good service. You do it through the process of attrition—by not filling vacancies when these people quit their jobs, which they do by the thousands every year. It's a very fair system and if I have my way it will remain in effect until we get this thing in hand."

Jensen estimated that around 300,000 federal jobs become vacant each year and, under provisions of his rider to appropriation bills, only about 75,000 of them may be filled.

The present payroll of approximately 2 1/2 million employees is at least 10 per cent too heavy, he said, adding:

"And unless the agencies themselves and a Budget Bureau take steps to cut down on employment, the Congress will have to keep cutting it down through an amendment such as mine."

Weatherman Loses Typhoon

TAIPEH, Formosa (AP) — The Control Yuan — watchdog agency of the Chinese Nationalist government — censured the weatherman Thursday charging he lost a typhoon.

It declared Cheng Tze-Chung failed to properly chart the course of a disastrous typhoon, so that it struck Formosa, Nov. 14 without warning.

The storm left 161 persons dead or missing, 392 injured, 9,720 houses destroyed and 14,020 damaged.

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