

Germans Seek 'Strong Man' As Allied High Commissioner

BONN, Germany (AP) — West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has urged the United States to appoint a "strong man" as new U. S. high commissioner to Germany as soon as possible, Allied sources reported today.

They said he asked that the job be given to a forceful figure who could give a much-needed boost to lagging plans for German rearmament and West European unification.

Adenauer's request is regarded as actually a distress signal. He needs to get ratification of West Germany's treaties of alliance with the West. And he thinks France and other partners of the six-nation European army project need joggling from the United States to get on with the job.

The Chancellor is reported to have sent a direct request to Eisenhower, and an appeal indirectly through two men who have served as U. S. high commissioners—John J. McCloy and Walter L. Donnelly. Donnelly retired as high commissioner Dec. 31.

There is wide speculation here as to who might get the tough post. Among those mentioned in diplomatic circles and in the German press are William H. Draper Jr.,

President Truman's special ambassador to Europe and chief of the Mutual Security Agency for the continent; Robert D. Murphy, present U. S. ambassador to Japan and a career diplomat; and George F. Kennan, former U. S. ambassador to Russia.

Both Draper and Murphy served on the staff of Gen. Lucius D. Clay when Clay was U. S. military governor of Germany. Draper was Clay's chief economic adviser and helped put the country back on its feet. Murphy was the general's political advisor. Kennan worked in Germany before the war and is an expert on East-West problems that form a big part of the job here.

As Adenauer and other German and American officials here see it, Eisenhower holds the key to the solution of the European army and intra-European bickering. Time is critical for Adenauer, this proponent of West German rearmament and integration with the West will be 71 Jan. 5. He will be embarking on a critical year of his political life when his whole program may succeed or fail. Though hale, hearty and alert, he faces major political battles, including a national election campaign.

He still must fight for final parliamentary approval of the pact he negotiated with the West—the peace contract with the U. S., Britain and France, and the European army pact under which West Germany would raise a half million soldiers for common defense against Communist aggression.

Not only must Adenauer steer the pact through the third and final reading in the Bundestag (lower house of Parliament) but he has become embroiled in a battle over his constitutionality—especially over the question of German rearmament.

There is nothing in the Federal Constitution specifically forbidding rearmament; neither is there any mandate for it. If the Federal Supreme Court rules that a change in the Constitution is necessary, the pact would then require a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

Adenauer cannot command such a margin in the present legislature against the powerful opposition of the Socialists.

Cross Takes Maine Post

AUGUSTA, Me. (AP) — A mild-mannered florist became Maine's 55th governor early today in a candle-lit midnight ceremony beside a gaily-trimmed Christmas tree in his 112-year-old family home.

Burton M. Cross, a Republican, took the oath of office as acting governor from State Supreme Court Justice Robert B. Williamson with 25 relatives and friends looking on.

As state Senate president, Cross, who is also Maine's governor-elect, will complete the term of Gov. Frederick G. Payne (R). Payne resigned at midnight to take his seat as Maine's junior U. S. senator when Congress convenes Jan. 3.

Cross will be inaugurated Jan. 8 for a full two-year term.

Sitter Claims New Record

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — William L. (Happy) Howard's flagpole sitting record of 196 days may be challenged in some quarters. That is because he did the sitting in two states. He set out to break the record June 1 across the Columbia River in Washougal, Wash. But after several months interest in the project lagged there and Howard, who stayed on top of the pole, was moved by truck to a Portland amusement park.

He climbed down on Christmas Day announcing that he had set a record. The previous record, he said, was held by Emma Leach of Eugene, Ore., who stayed on top of a pole above a San Francisco used car lot for 152 days.

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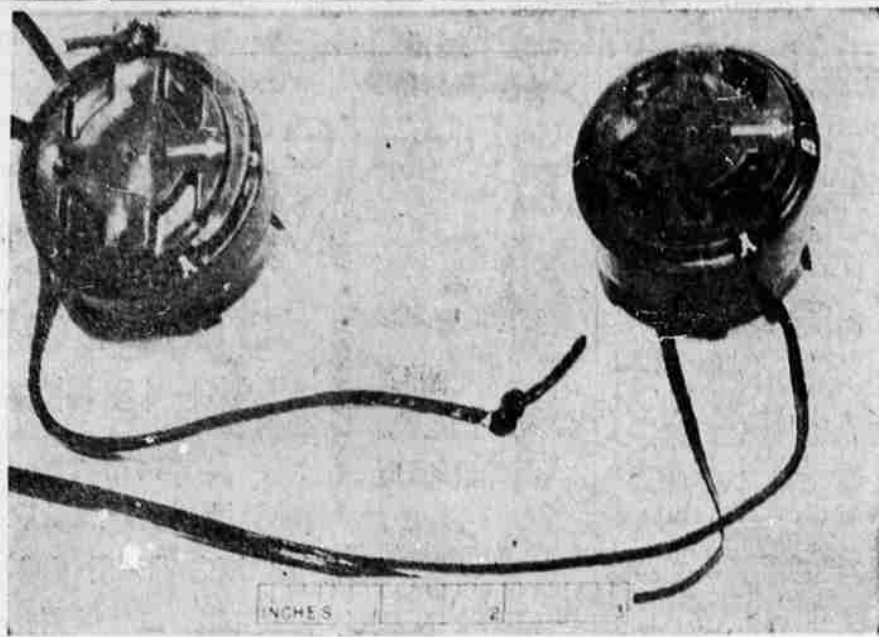
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MIGHTY MIDGET MINE — A newly developed midget land mine, made of plastic and weighing only 4 1/2-ounces, will soon be sent to troops in Korea the Army announced in Washington. The mine is capable of inflicting as much damage as the nine-pound anti-personnel mine of World War II. Two are shown here with a three-inch rule to mark their size.

HST Pardons Andrew May

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Truman has granted a full pardon to Andrew J. May, former Kentucky member of Congress who served nine months in prison on his conviction of accepting bribes for influence in awarding of munitions contracts.

The action, returning full citizenship rights to May, was disclosed Thursday by the Justice Department. May headed the House Military Affairs Committee for many years. He is a Democrat.

Truman also signed a Christmas pardon for J. Parnell Thomas, former Republican House member from New Jersey who once chaired the Un-American Activities Committee. Thomas served a prison term for padding his government office payroll.

On Christmas Eve, Truman granted pardons to an estimated 8,940 persons who were (a) convicted of desertion and dishonorably discharged from the armed services after court martial between the end of World War II and the outbreak of fighting in Korea, and

(b) those convicted of federal law violations who served their prison terms and served honorably in the armed forces for a year since Korea.

Eight Die In Japanese Blast

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — Eight persons were killed and 21 injured Friday in the second explosion in downtown Nagoya in five days. The explosion occurred in a camera shop. Six nearby houses were wrecked and burned.

An explosion in a chemical plant Monday killed 21 persons and injured more than 200.

Youth Recovers Heart Use

SEATTLE (AP) — A 20-year-old man who had been deemed to die within five years because of a malformed heart cherished today the greatest Christmas gift of all—that of a normal life.

An unnamed Seattle surgeon and the sisters of charity of Providence were the donors.

A brother, a year younger, will undergo the same corrective surgery in the near future, through the generosity of the surgeon and the sisters.

It was just six weeks ago when Frank Gunderson of Thompson Falls, Mont., walked into the surgeon's office. He had been sent by his hometown doctors, who said that without an operation young Gunderson had only four or five

more years to live.

In the youth's pocket was his life savings of \$140. Gently, the surgeon explained that repairing a heart artery which failed to close normally at birth was costly—far more than \$140.

But the surgeon told the Providence sisters of the case, and they agreed to donate the needed care. On Dec. 13, Frank's abnormal artery was cut, and the two ends were sewn shut in a delicate piece of surgery. The malformation is known technically as patent ductus arteriosus.

Alfred Gunderson, 18, has the same affliction. Their mother and another brother died of heart conditions. The father is crippled with arthritis.

Frank's amazing recovery, the surgeon said, has meant he can expect to live a normal life, with possibly 40 to 50 years still ahead of him.

Alfred, here with his brother, will take the first step on the same road soon.

Stricken Ship Limp Home

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A freighter limped up the Mississippi River today after colliding with another freighter in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday.

Two tugs were sent to help the SS Bacchus, a Dutch-owned ship, make its way up the river to New Orleans for repairs.

The Bacchus and the SS Holberg, Norwegian-owned, crashed about three miles from the mouth of the Mississippi River in a heavy fog. A gaping hole was ripped in the Bacchus' hull, steering apparatus was damaged and the ship took 30 feet of water in one hold.

The Bacchus was on its way to New Orleans from Houston when the crash occurred. It apparently was in no danger of sinking. The Holberg proceeded back to New Orleans after the accident.

Airlines Set Safety Mark

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's scheduled airlines apparently compiled their best safety record this year with 0.28 passenger deaths for each 100 million passenger miles, the Civil Aeronautics Board said yesterday.

The death rate was an estimate, based on latest available statistics for the year not quite ended. The rate for 1951 was 1.3 deaths for each 100 million passenger miles. The previous low record was 1.1, set in 1950.

Tax Probers Rap Treasury, Justice

WASHINGTON (AP) — House tax fraud investigators, rapping both the Treasury and Justice Departments for what they termed a failure to correct mistakes in tax collection procedures, have laid the groundwork for broad new inquiries.

In a final report based on 19 months of investigation into the scandal-ridden federal tax system, they turned over to their successors in the new Republican Congress a program of reforms they said were still needed.

The outgoing members of the House ways and means tax investigating subcommittee proposed further inquiries involving:

1. The alcohol tax unit of the Internal Revenue Bureau, whose "powers extend over a significant area of American industry." The unit is charged with supervision and control of the liquor industry.
2. The tax division of the Justice Department. This division was chided for what the committee called failure to eliminate time-consuming handling of tax cases. The group raised the question whether it is "the proper agency...to formulate tax litigation policy."
3. The functioning of the revenue bureau under the reorganization program which took effect last March, and which eliminated the offices of collector of internal revenue—political plums before the reorganization plan placed them under civil service.

Rep. Kean (R-N.J.), who will succeed Rep. King (D-Calif.) as chairman of the subcommittee after Jan. 3, has said the subcommittee will act promptly to start public hearings on the alcohol tax unit, and will look into possible "political infiltration" of the reorganized

revenue bureau.

The subcommittee's final report dealt primarily with reforms already effected as a result of its hearings over the past year and a half.

In a series of legislative and administrative recommendations, however, it suggested stricter policing of both taxpayers and government agents.

One way to "reduce possible corrupt practices in the bureau is to minimize the opportunities and temptations," the subcommittee said.

As safeguards, it recommended:

1. A larger tax enforcement staff, with higher pay and assurance of non-political merit promotions for agents.
2. Requirements for detailed

record keeping by taxpayers to substantiate their tax return claims, and to reduce the degree of discretion permitted agents in allowing deductions.

3. A requirement for disclosure of the source and nature of a taxpayer's income—a weapon intended for use against racketeers and tax evaders.

4. Elimination of the practice of claiming tax deductions, as business expense, of tax-free benefits to key employees and "overly liberal" expense accounts constituting a form of tax-free income.

5. Full and publicity by the bureau on tax compromises and administrative decisions affecting taxpayers. The bureau already has instituted a policy of limited publicity.

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