



Hearings On US Defense Plants Start

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. McCarthy's Investigations subcommittee today begins a series of open hearings on communism in defense plants.

It was uncertain whether the Wisconsin senator himself would be on hand.

McCarthy's sore elbow was reported troubling him again yesterday. He did not appear for closed-door hearings in the afternoon which laid the groundwork for public testimony in the new investigation.

Witnesses scheduled for today include Herman E. Thomas, of Allentown, Pa., a former FBI undercover agent, and a number of workers in a Bethlehem Steel Corp. plant at Bethlehem, Pa.

Seven such workers testified in private yesterday, but Sen. Potter (R-Mich.), who presided some of the time in McCarthy's absence, said some of them were dismissed.

Sen. Mundt (R-SD), who con-

ducted the first part of the session, said Thomas named several men who are now working at the Bethlehem plant, but did not say the former FBI agent called them Communists.

Mundt said the first of these men, the only one he heard, "took the Fifth Amendment." Potter later said others also declined to answer questions, invoking the constitutional guarantee against forced self-incrimination. He said

the Bethlehem plant holds some secret defense contracts.

Thomas, who for 10 years was an undercover man for the FBI in the Communist party, appeared before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee last Oct. 13.

At that time he named 230 persons, mostly in Pennsylvania, whom he testified he had known as Communists. Mundt said he believed these were different from the men Thomas testified about yesterday.

The three subcommittee Democrats, all reported out of town, were not on hand for yesterday's closed hearing, the first held by the group since McCarthy was condemned formally by the Senate for his conduct.

US Envoy To Question Reds

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Charles E. Bohlen is expected to press again soon for data on three Americans held inside Russia longer than any other U. S. citizens believed detained behind the Iron Curtain.

Bohlen, in Washington since Thanksgiving week for consultations, leaves from New York City tomorrow for the Soviet capital.

One task awaiting him there, U. S. officials said, will be another presentation to the Soviet government—the eighth this year—seeking information about William T. Marchuk, William A. Verdine and John H. Noble.

Marchuk and Verdine have been held for five years, Noble for nine. Recently repatriated, Austrian soldiers have reported seeing them in Soviet jails.

Marchuk and Verdine got into Russia after going AWOL from the Army in 1949. Marchuk, of Breckinridge, Pa., was a private as was

Verdine, whose home is at Starks, La.

Noble, of Detroit, was arrested in 1945 at Dresden, Germany, in the Soviet zone along with his father Charles Noble. The father was released and returned to the United States with the rest of his family except for John, who was a minor at the time.

CAPTURED

TOKYO (AP)—The newspaper Nihon Keibai said today 438 South Koreans, mostly youths trying to escape the draft, were captured in the last two months trying to slip into Japan.

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Joan Crawford To Be Hostess

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Actress Joan Crawford will say "hello" to guests at a cocktail party and get paid a reported \$10,000 for doing it.

She'll act as hostess at the opening of the Hotel Riviera in Las Vegas April 8. Her agent confirmed the engagement today and said the star's sole duties will be to appear and greet guests at the party.

AMNESTY

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—With three days left before the amnesty deadline in Tunisia, a total of 1,404 rebels have surrendered, a joint French-Tunisian statement said Monday.

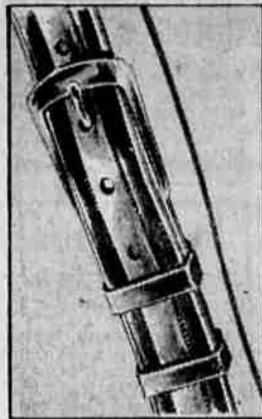
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