

Heads Of House Groups Concerned Over Lobby

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heads of two potent House committees share President Eisenhower's concerns about what has been called the munitions lobby, but they doubt that a congressional probe would solve anything.

They agreed lobbying activities have had the result of forcing defense costs higher, but they pretty well agreed also that the average citizen himself unwittingly is a strong force behind the drives.

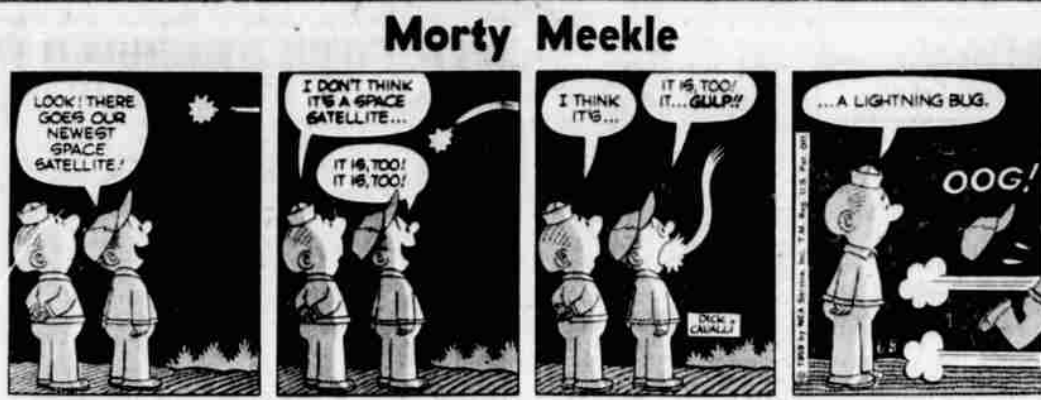
These views came from Chairman Clarence Cannon (D-Mo.) of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairman F. Edwards Hebert (D-La.) of a House Armed Services investigating subcommittee.

But they and other Congress members who were interviewed had differing ideas on what constitutes a munitions lobby—if any, and to do that, seeking congressional appropriations to provide the money. Some push newly developed planes, or missiles, or guns as the best and most necessary weapons of defense.

Hebert referred to advertising as one of the stronger ways the lobby works. He and Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) criticized some firms' hiring of high-ranking military officers as they retire. Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) referred to executives from business and industry who hold temporary but important posts in the Pentagon.

But Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.), Senate majority leader and head of a Senate Preparedness investigating subcommittee, discounted the idea of a munitions lobby as such.

"I don't know any who deserve that label," Johnson said. He saw no need for an investigation, and was joined in that



California Entertainer Killed In Shooting Mishap

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A woman entertainer who faced death daily holding targets in a trick shooting act was accidentally shot to death Sunday by a 9-year-old boy who came to see her perform.

The shot came at a frontier town exhibit at the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Exposition in Point Park. It ended the life of Mamie Alice Peniman, 38, of Sun Valley, Calif.

The youth, who thought he was playing with a stage prop, started to run but was halted by his father. The victim's husband, Frank, 40, rushed over and slapped the youth, shouting, "You shot my wife."

The exposition, crowded with Sunday visitors, took on a tense and tragic air as police rushed to the scene.

The boy's mother, who permitted him to handle the .22 caliber rifle, stood stunned. The victim's 8-year-old daughter wept.

The shot came a few minutes before Mrs. Peniman was scheduled to go on stage and step in front of her husband's blazing guns as he fired at targets she held in her hands and mouth.

Police took young Frank Monaco of nearby New Kensington, Pa., into custody for questioning. No charges were preferred.

Mrs. Peniman performed with her husband and daughter, Mary Alice. He is known professionally as "Wild Bill Cody." They joined the exposition last week after touring with a Wild West show.

Mr. and Mrs. John Monaco said they had taken their boy to the exposition for a Sunday outing. After visiting several other exhibits they went to the frontier village.

Young Monaco and his mother walked into a jailhouse cell. He saw two rifles and asked his mother if he could examine them.

Mrs. Monaco said she thought they were part of the display props and agreed. Police quoted her as saying the boy picked up a rifle and pressed the trigger.

Congressmen Rap Potomac As Disgrace To Capital

WASHINGTON (AP)—Many congressmen agree the most obvious "mess in Washington" is the Potomac River.

Rep. James C. Wright (D-Tex.) said it was a disgrace.

Rep. Charles S. Gubser (R-Calif.) said "the very stream which waters the roots of American history" is polluted.

House debate on a water pollution bill spotlighted the problem last week.

Gubser told the House that down by the Lincoln Memorial "We would inhale the air made putrid from raw human sewage flowing down our beautiful Potomac from our federal city of Washington."

Once the Potomac was a clear, sparkling stream for 287 miles—past Virginia and Maryland farms, past Washington, past Mount Vernon — to Chesapeake Bay.

Now you don't swim in it around

Washington unless you fall in, Wright told a reporter.

"The most polluted river west of the Nile" is Sen. John F. Kennedy's term for the Potomac.

Rep. Richard E. Lankford (D-Md) called it "one of the most polluted, one of the most neglected and one of the least developed."

Lankford, with other congressmen from the Washington area, has introduced a bill authorizing a 75-million-dollar appropriation to build sewer lines and filtration plants.

Rep. John R. Foley (D-Md) said Congress must do something. He noted that the U.S. Public Health Service has threatened to take legal action under the Water Pollution Control Act.

He added: "In a city of monuments to heroes of American history, there's a monument to man's shortsightedness—the most polluted interstate river in America."

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