

Outcome Of House Battle Hangs On Thin Balance

WASHINGTON (AP)—The outcome of the bitter House battle over labor racketeering controls hangs on a razor-thin balance today.

The result could be determined in a quick windup before nightfall—or drag on indefinitely. A half dozen votes could decide the issue.

The issue rested between a bill backed by Democratic leaders as a middle ground approach, and a more stringent measure personally supported by President Eisenhower.

As tempers flared, the House Wednesday defeated by an overwhelming 245-132 vote a measure carrying the official endorsement of the AFL-CIO and most other organized labor groups.

Sponsored by Rep. John F. Shelley (D-Calif.), the labor-supported bill skirted the issues of bans on secondary boycotts, "hot cargo" agreements, and other points stressed by the President as essential to effective labor legislation.

Its defeat had been a foregone conclusion. Both Democratic and Republican leaders opposed it as failing to meet the test of anti-racketeering curbs.

The House also killed, by a 215-160 vote, an amendment proposed by Rep. Adam Caltun Powell (D-NY) to prohibit segregation or denial of union rights on grounds of race, creed, color or national origin.

Critics charged the Powell amendment was designed to kill effective labor legislation by injecting civil rights issues. After a brief but sharp skirmish, the House agreed.

As battle was joined today, leaders estimated 10 or 15 undecided members held the balance of power in the teetering struggle over passage of a "tough" or "moderate" bill designed to insure the democratic rights of union members, require unions and employers to report their financial dealings, and cope with such disputed matters as boycotts, "blackmail" picketing and the duties of the National Labor Relations Board in minor side-line disputes.

Senate Finance Committee Slashes Vet Pension Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Finance Committee has slashed the 40-year estimated cost of a House-passed veterans pension bill by 21 billion dollars, it was learned today.

The effect of the cuts, voted by the committee in closed session Monday, would be to make the bill save \$10,974,000,000 of the 105 billion dollars which under present law will be paid in pensions between now and the year 2000. As it passed the House, it would have cost \$10,128,000,000 more than the law now provides.

The cut, estimated by the Veterans Administration and confirmed by several senators, is far deeper than newsmen were given to understand Monday after the committee voted.

Lightning Kills Pair

EL PASO, Tex. (AP)—Lightning ripped through a field headquarters in the desert north of here Wednesday, killing two New Mexico National Guardsmen.

Twelve others were injured. Names of the men killed were withheld by the Guard pending notification of next of kin.

Col. Glen Lovette, a New Mexico Guard spokesman, said the injured suffered principally from shock. He said all of them probably will be released from William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso today.

Witnesses said the lightning bolt struck and killed one man who was standing in a chow line, then ricocheted 30 feet to a command tent where the second victim was killed.

Col. Lovette said a number of men in the area escaped injury. The dead and injured were among Guardsmen who arrived at Ft. Bliss Monday for an annual summer encampment. They were in training 40 miles north of El Paso.

Treason is the only crime punishable by death in the state of Michigan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

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Local Soldier On Maneuver

Army Spec. 4 Wayne R. Anderson is participating in Operation Lead Dog, an arctic expedition being conducted by the Army Environmental Group in Greenland.

During its 100-day trek over Greenland's northwestern icecap, the group will conduct a series of experiments in arctic survival, make ice and snow studies and determine simplified methods of overland transportation in sub-zero weather.

Specialist Anderson, a field-radio repairman in the group, entered the Army in February, 1958, and received basic training at Fort Ord. He is scheduled to return to his regular duties at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in October.

The 23-year-old soldier, whose wife, Yuvonda, lives at 5370 Harlan Drive, attended Klamath Union High School. His mother, Mrs. Frances Anderson, lives at 2033 Main Street.

Flyer Beats Wagon Train

A Klamath Falls flyer, Don Derminer, on the board of the Klamath County Centennial Association, and of the Klamath Chapter, Oregon Pilots, took to the air at Independence, Missouri, last Sunday morning and flew above the Old Oregon Trail to Independence, Oregon, to beat the slow moving wagon train by several days as it moved across Oregon on the same route.

Derminer, who wanted to be in Independence, Oregon, next Saturday when the wagon train arrives at its destination, but is unable to do so, decided to coordinate purchase and delivery of a new plane with the flight over the old immigrant trail.

Flying time was 47 hours, 25 minutes. The pilot grounded at night and en route attended a Flying Farmer convention in Fort Collins, Colorado.

He picked up the plane he flew, a monocoque Silverie from St. Louis, Missouri, which he had purchased at the factory as a present for his wife Helen, first woman in Klamath County to receive her flyer's license. While in the Middle West he toured the Silverie and the Forney aircraft factories.

At Independence, Oregon, he was the first pilot to land on the new independence airstrip being readied for the big fly-in planned for next Saturday, August 15, to honor the wagon train travelers. Some 400 planes are expected to converge on Independence for the weekend festivities.

Derminer's flight put him in first place to make the Oregon Trail trip by air.

State Paper Wins Kudos

SEATTLE (AP)—The Roseburg News-Review was cited Tuesday for its coverage of last Friday's blast of an explosives-laden truck that killed at least 12 persons and wrecked a substantial part of the downtown area of Roseburg.

J. Richard Eimers, chief of the Portland A. P. bureau, told the annual meeting of the Washington-Oregon A. P. members that the News-Review is "an excellent example of the cooperation that makes the A. P. what it is."

Frank J. Starzel, general manager of the A. P., said "this is a concrete example of the A. P. principles in action."

In spite of the fact that the blast made it impossible for the newspaper to use its own plant, the News-Review made its staff available to the A. P. The paper published in Klamath Falls that day.

Charges Dropped Against Girl, 15

ELMIRA, N.Y. (AP)—A murder indictment against Jane Ann Shusko, 15, has been dropped and she has been transferred to Children's Court.

Her brother and six of her sisters died July 11 in a fire that police said she admitted setting in her house.

Justice Floyd E. Anderson dismissed the seven-count indictment Wednesday. The grand jury recommended this because of Jane Ann's age and "circumstances surrounding the case." The jury did not elaborate on the circumstances.

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SP.4 WAYNE R. ANDERSON — U.S. Army Photo

New Marine Commander Holds Medal Of Honor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Maj. Gen. David Monroe Shoup, selected to be the new commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, is a tough Marine of few words. He didn't talk his way to the top.

A quick look at the record tells how he got there. The citation which went with the Medal of Honor he won in World War II makes it clear he's a Marine's Marine. It reads in part: "He was shocked by an exploding shell, suffered from a painful leg wound and was exposed to terrific fire... but rallied his hesitant troops and led them across the reefs to reinforce hard-pressed, thinly held U. S. lines."

"Once ashore... took command of all troops, worked without rest under fire for two days... conducted smashing successful attacks against strong and fanatically defended Japanese positions."

Shoup, now 54, won the Medal of Honor as a colonel while commanding the 2nd Regiment of the 2nd Marine Division against the Japanese at Betio Island in 1943. This was perhaps the most bitterly contested island at Tarawa Atoll in the Gilberts.

Shoup's reputation in the Corps as a man of few words keyed his first meeting with reporters after Wednesday's announcement that on Jan. 1 he would succeed Gen. Randolph McC. Pate, who is retiring at the end of this year.

Reporters, noting that he wears glasses, asked whether he was near or far sighted. He answered: "Both."

Asked about his favorite hobby, he gave reporters another one-word reply: "Shooting."

Shooting at what? The general didn't say.

But when pressed for more information about this interest, Shoup said that when he heard recently that a Marine marksmanship team had won a championship, he felt so "exhilarated that I went out and fired 30 rounds in the air."

Beyond that, his recreational interests run to chess, checkers, billiards, poker and golf. That's the order in which he named them.

He is known in the Corps as an officer who can be tough on inefficiency, and who doesn't waste words any more than he would permit the Marines to waste money while he was fiscal director and inspector general of the Corps.

The son of a farmer, Shoup was born Dec. 30, 1904, in Indiana. His home town is aptly named Battle Ground. He entered military service in 1926 after graduation from DePauw University in his home state.

Shoup has served with the Marines in many parts of the world and was one of the first Marines to go overseas in World War II. He has commanded the 1st and 3rd Marine divisions. Three months ago he was named commanding general of the recruit depot at Parris Island, S.C.

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Detective Still Remembers Girl Who Perished In Fire 15 Years Ago

HARTFORD, Conn. (NEA)—After 15 years—when most of the people who survived have moved away or died or hidden the grisly memory of the Hartford Circus Fire in an anecdote—detective Lt. Thomas Barber still goes to the cemetery to see a grave marked only by a number.

"I didn't know her," he said. "I hardly knew any of them. But you'd think somebody would know a 7-year-old kid and bury her with a name instead of a state police morgue tag."

He says it flatly, factually, the way a veteran detective makes a report, because that is the only way it makes any sense.

"You walked into the armory that July and there were rows and rows of the burned dead on cots covered with blankets. Somebody had to identify a wrong body. And so many of them were little kids."

Those dead have been dead a long time. Two wars have ended since then.

Even the charred earth where the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey circus stood on July 6, 1944, has been buried under the mammoth Hartford housing project where people who can barely remember the fire are now raising children who will never remember.

There is still no authoritative statement on how the fire started. Official records begin when the flames were six feet high. But detective Barber says:

"I was there. And the first I noticed was a little ball of fire—about the size of an orange—burning through the canvas. The animal acts were just finishing. And there was this little orange ball of fire.

"Six minutes later it was all over."

For circuses are older than building codes and fire prevention societies. And until matinee time of July 6, 1944, the traditional method for water-proofing a big top, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, was with paraffin dissolved in gasoline.

In a moment the fire had flashed across the underside of the canvas, burning through halyards and pole ropes as it pursued the oily, waxy cloth.

The flaming tent roared and collapsed. Spectators high in the bleachers could not find enough exits. People at ringside were blocked ahead by animal chutes and behind by folding chairs crashing down at them like a prison wall.

It was almost over when the fire engines arrived—less than 10 minutes after the alarm. Had they been eight minutes earlier, fire prevention experts say, they could probably have done little.

Nothing could have stopped the fire in the canvas. Summer clothing cannot move quickly. High heels get caught easily.

The bodies were piled four deep. "Just the heat was enough to suffocate you," Barber said. "My jacket turned to a cinder on my back—from the heat alone."

The casualty list, now yellowing and brittle, can still rattle a flat-voiced, factual observer of human misery: 250 injured; 168 dead; 63 of them children under 15.

"I don't know. I think about her quite a lot. Go up to her grave at Northwood a couple-three times a year. You know: Decoration Day; Christmas; July 6."

"I was going to take my little kid," Barber said. "He was seven. Just the right age for circuses. And then I found I was assigned to work it. You know, pick-pockets and the other pests that always get into big crowds."

Barber hardly saw his family for a week. He was reassigned to the morgue detail in the armory where the quick came day after day to claim their dead.

"Nobody ever did take this one little girl," he said. "A pretty little kid, light brown hair. About seven. Number 1563. And nowhere near beyond recognition."

"I don't know. I think about her quite a lot. Go up to her grave at Northwood a couple-three times a year. You know: Decoration Day; Christmas; July 6."

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Murder Charges Face Youth, 16

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Police say a teen-age boy beat his 2-year-old step-sister to death because he couldn't stand her crying.

Russell Harris, 16, goes before Juvenile Court today for a preliminary hearing on a murder charge in the death of little Nadine Leary.

Police quoted Harris as saying he beat Nadine when she cried while he was baby-sitting with her Tuesday night.

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