

Virginia Special Session Meets On Poll Tax Issue

RICHMOND, Va. (UPI) — A "lame duck" special session of the Virginia General Assembly meets Tuesday to consider legislation which would short-circuit the anticipated federal ban on the poll tax.

The controversial poll tax is expected to be outlawed in federal elections next year with passage of the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Thirty-six of the necessary 38 states have ratified the anti-poll tax amendment which passed in the 87th Congress with bipartisan support.

Virginia is now one of five states to require a poll tax of its electorate. The others are Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas.

Gov. Albertis S. Harrison, who called the special session, wants the poll tax kept on the books in state and local elections as does U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd, D-Va., czar of Virginia's Democrat organization.

Requires Two Books
This would require maintaining two sets of books at the polls—one for those paying the \$1.50 poll tax and another for those fulfilling requirements for voting in federal elections but refusing to pay the poll tax.

Last week Harrison handed down the administration's package bill to the appropriate legislative committees, called into session a week early. The bills would permit Virginians who refuse to pay the poll tax to vote in presidential and congressional elections by filing a certificate of residence six months before the election—the same cut-off date as for paying the poll taxes. Those failing to pay the poll tax could not vote in state or local elections.

Harrison and the state attorney general believe the proposals would prove compatible with the U.S. Constitution.

Harrison said he hopes the special session will last less than five days. Figured on a four-day basis, cost of the session would be approximately \$20,000.

Considerable opposition has been voiced in the state to retention of the poll tax at any level. However, Harrison's proposals are expected to clear both houses which are dominated by conservative Byrd-organization Democrats.

Stiff Opposition
Clamoring against retention of the poll tax are most Republican politicians in the state: Negro and labor organizations, church groups and women's clubs. Leading the anti-poll tax forces is Rep. W. Pat Jennings, D-Va., and a dissident Democrat faction calling themselves "Virginia Democrats for the Repeal of the Poll Tax."

Democrat Sen. Edward L. Breeden Jr., a Norfolk lawyer, has drafted a resolution calling for a referendum on a constitutional convention to repeal the poll tax for all elections, and Republican lawmakers plan to introduce anti-poll tax legislation this week. Such legislation, however, is expected to be buried in the privileges and elections committee on which sits Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., son of the U.S. senator.

Administration Democrats say they want the poll tax merely because it is a convenient way to keep voter lists up to date. Republicans charge the Democrats with trying to manipulate the electorate and perpetuate the Byrd organization.

Senator Byrd said he considers the poll tax a simple and non-burdensome way of determining which Virginians are eligible to vote. He indicated he did not like annual registrations as a means of maintaining up-to-date voting lists.

Polo is played, on the same principle as hockey or association football, with four players on each side, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica.

33 Fellowships Win Approval

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The U.S. Office of Education announced Saturday it has approved 30 graduate fellowships at Oregon State University and 23 at the University of Oregon for the 1964-65 academic year.

The Oregon fellowships include four in German, three each in elementary education and comparative literature, two each in chemistry, mathematics, business administration, economics, English and anthropology and one in physics. Oregon State will receive three each in chemistry and biochemistry and quantitative biology, and two each in geology and plant physiology.

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WRAPPED UP IN PROBLEM — Mrs. Edward L. Wilburn nervously handles a 13-foot python and one of two boa constrictors which her son Gary left for her to sell when he moved from St. Louis. Fletcher Sapp, a friend of her son, holds one of the boa constrictors and Charles Hoessle, employe of St. Louis Zoo, holds head of python wrapped over shoulders of Mrs. Wilburn. —UPI Telephoto

Red Searchlights Endanger Airliners

BERLIN (UPI) — The Communists threatened two American airliners over Berlin last week by turning searchlights on them as they were making their landing approaches, Western officials said Saturday.

Few Use SBA Fund

PORTLAND (UPI) — Eugene Foley, director of the Small Business Administration, wondered Friday why more of the Oregonians haven't taken advantage of the financial aid programs offered by his agency.

"Only 65 small firms in the state have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by Small Business Investment Company financing. I would like to see many hundreds more follow suit," he said.

Foley said that more than \$1 billion of the agency's funds are now "out" around the country. Foley addressed a luncheon meeting of SBA officials and small business investment companies and talked in the evening to a group of lumber industry representatives.

Judge Avoids Skirt Decision

ANCONA, Italy (UPI) — A judge here refused today to decide when a short skirt ceases to be fashionable and becomes an immoral invitation.

The judge dismissed charges of soliciting against three young women who were arrested because they sat on a park bench here, in short skirts and with crossed knees.

Police said passersby complained that the girls were showing a "scandalous" amount of leg.

The Western allies filed a sharp protest with the Soviet officer at the Four-Power air safety center, a Three-Power statement said.

The searchlight tactics might indicate the Communists were switching their pressure on allied access right to the air corridors from the highways where the Soviets held U.S. and British military convoys in a series of incidents in the last month, informed sources said.

The searchlights were turned on Pan American airliners as the pilots were bringing them down on their approach runs to a landing at Tempelhof Airport, an allied spokesman said.

The first incident occurred about 6:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. EST) Thursday, and the searchlight technique was repeated on Friday night.

After the second incident, the U.S., backed by Britain and France, protested to the Soviet representative at the air safety center.

The allies said the Communist action "constituted a hazard to the flights," a spokesman said.

The searchlights flared up on the airliners as they were over the western edge of Berlin. The planes were at a height of about 600 yards, informed sources said.

It was not known whether the lights were operated by East German or Soviet troops. Both have bases near the flight.

Though it seems to be a single star, Polaris (the north star) actually is a system of three stars, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Bugged Phone, Red Letter 'X', Sleuth Vs. Sleuth, All Lend Sense Of Melodrama To Otepka Case

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A "bugged" phone, a red letter "X," a purloined typewriter ribbon, sleuth hunting sleuths and charges of untruthfulness and malice.

These are the ingredients of what has become known as the "Otepka Case" — Washington's latest fight involving State Department security and relations between Congress and the Executive branch.

In its highest aspects the case raises the issue of whether the State Department can forbid its employees to give certain information to Congress.

On a lower plane it is a snarling office quarrel. But the fact that it takes place among security agents lends a tone of melodrama.

The central figure is Otto F. Otepka, 48, a sad-eyed veteran investigator and chief of the evaluations division of the State Department's Office of Security. The division handles security clearances for department employees.

On Sept. 23 Otepka was notified of the department's intention to dismiss him on 13 charges. Three of these accused him of giving documents concerning loyalty to J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel of the Senate internal security subcommittee, which has been investigating State Department security.

A directive signed by former President Harry S. Truman March 13, 1948, closes govern-

ment loyalty files to Congress to protect individuals unless the President opens them. The directive is still in effect, and the State Department recently invoked it to deny information to the subcommittee.

Eight other specifications charged Otepka with unauthorized declassification and "mutation" of documents by snipping off the "confidential" labels before allegedly giving them to Sourwine.

Two others accused him of preparing lists of questions for the subcommittee to use in interrogating his boss, John F. Reilly, State Department security chief. The department called this a "breach of the standard conduct expected of an officer."

Before going deeper into the story it is necessary to understand a Washington institution known as the "burn bag."

A clever spy can learn much from an official's waste basket. Because of this, government trash, including carbon paper and used typewriter ribbons, is placed in brown paper sacks called "burn bags" which are collected and taken to an incinerator. The burn bag is a brooding presence under the desk of employees high and low in most agencies of the government.

The State Department said that for some time Otepka's burn bags had been under surveillance. A friendly secretary had been graciously offering to take them to the depository for Otep-

ka's secretary. On the way she marked each one with a red "X." Then she made a phone call. Within minutes the bag was recalled and turned over to security chief Reilly.

The evidence against Otepka, the department said, was obtained from bits of paper pieced together, carbons which were held up to the light and a used typewriter ribbon — all from the paper bags.

On Oct. 14 Otepka, in a written answer, denied all the charges and made some of his own. He denied clipping the documents. He said such information as he had given the committee did not fall under the Truman directive but was a matter of telling the "whole truth."

"I have reason to believe," Otepka wrote, "that my office telephone has been tapped and that my desk and my safe have been surreptitiously opened and searched."

Accuser Becomes Accused
The next chapter involved a dramatic turn in which accused suddenly became the accused. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., a member of the subcommittee, declared that Reilly and other security officials had, in effect, denied knowledge of tapping Otepka's phone but had subsequently amplified their testimony in letters conceding that an attempted phone tap was made. Reilly and Elmer D. Hill, chairman of security's di-

vision of technical services, were placed on administrative leave by the State Department. Reilly and Hill both stated they considered their original testimony accurate. They said their additional statements were made to avoid any misunderstanding.

Otepka, in a later written appeal from his dismissal, charged Reilly and others with "untruthfulness," "malice," and "overzealous attempts to build a case against me." He asked that all concerned take lie detector tests, and offered to take one himself.

His appeal is still pending. State Department officials regard the case as an "echo" of the era of the 1950's when the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy was charging that the State Department was riddled with Communists.

Diplomatic officials argue that the department cannot function if personnel are the subject of security "witch hunts" by security men who go to Congress outside channels. Members of the subcommittee argue that what is at stake is Congress' right to full investigation of the administrative branch of government.

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