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TRUMAN ASKS OPENING OF PALESTINE

Seven Die As Blasts Touch Off Refinery Fire

Harold Ickes

By HAROLD L. ICKES
(Former Secretary of the Interior)

Certain citizens of Georgia went into the Federal Court in that State recently to find out whether or not there is a republican form of government there as guaranteed by Section 4 of Article 4 of the Constitution. Eugene Talmadge is claiming the Democratic nomination for Governor although he received only a minority of the votes cast in the primary. This extraordinary claim is based upon a cunning device known as the "county unit system."

This would seem, to one not addicted to judicial hair-splitting, to be a wanton disregard of Section 1 of Article 14 of the Constitution which provides that "No state . . . shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." Section 2 of the same Article even provides a penalty if the rights of citizens of the United States shall be denied "or in any way abridged . . ." and Article 15, Section 1, apparently assumes that, generally speaking, "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state." And yet, a three-judge Federal Court in Atlanta, although agreeing that there was no remedy in law for the citizens of that state whose right to vote had undoubtedly been abridged. These sympathetic judges could do nothing about it because the complainants had gone into court too late, although they got in as fast as they could after the primary election. This was as much as to say that a murderer may not be reached by the law unless the victim speaks up in time.

SKULDUGGERY APPROVED

The judges reasoned that since the Constitution provided for two Senators from each state regardless of population, and since, under our cumbersome and shopworn electoral system, there might be an inequality in voting that would result in a President being declared elected who had received only a minority of the popular vote, therefore it was perfectly legal for the State of Georgia to thumb its nose at Constitutional guarantees against abridgment of the right of citizens to vote. "So sorry, please" in effect said these wise men, in substance they gave judicial sanction to Talmadge's political skulduggery. Minority rule by crooked means in Georgia seems to be more precious in the eyes of the law than the right of the citizens of that State to enjoy a republican form of Government.

The reasoning of these "learned" judges falls short of common sense. It is true that the Constitution, which was a compromise, arrived at in gain the support of enough colonies to create a nation at all, does provide that any state, regardless of population, is entitled to two Senators. It is also true that there is a lack of true representation in the electoral college. But, it might be asked, "What has either fact get to do with the case at bar?" The same Constitution that sets up two Senators for each state regardless of a disparity in population, in equally positive language says that there shall be guaranteed "to every state in this union a republican form of Government." The Constitution also contains the positive language already quoted denying any abridgment of the right to vote including the right to vote for the Governor of a state.

It does not have to be argued that to limit the voting power of one citizen to one-tenth or one-half of that of a fellow citizen is an abridgment of the right to vote. I have often wondered why, at times, judges would rather engage in a flagpole-sitting contest, than in trying to make the law a reasonable and common sense guide for people who want to respect not only the law but its interpreters. The Constitutional provision for state equality in the number of Senators and the one forbidding an abridgment of the right to vote are not mutually exclusive. They are not even in the same category. Either can be enforced by the courts without reference to the other. Both should be. I would not have thought that such a jigsaw conclusion could have been arrived at by any three Federal judges in the country holding that, because each state may elect two Senators regardless of population, Georgia has the Constitutional right to give a voter, let us say, in a hill-billy county ten times the voting power of a voter in Atlanta. No amount of judicial mumbo can make this anything other than it is. It is nothing less than an abridgment of the right of the citizens of Atlanta to vote.

Upwards Of 140 Other Persons Hurt

Marcus Hook, Pa., Scene Of Tragedy

MARCUS HOOK, PA. (AP) —Seven persons were killed and upwards of 140 others injured by fire and thunderous explosions which roared through a unit of Sun Oil Co.'s $13,000,000 aviation gasoline refinery seven hours before subsiding early today.

Sun Vice-President Arthur E. Pew Jr., estimated damage to the world's largest alkylation plant at $300,000. He said "a packing gland which failed, caused gas to escape and flash," touching off the series of explosions felt 20 miles away in Philadelphia.

UNDER CONTROL

Boiling up in huge clouds of smoke lit by darting tongues of flame, the fire swept unchecked for four hours after the first blast at 6:10 P. M. yesterday. It was then brought under control but was not extinguished until this morning.

Many of the injured were volunteer firemen. The heaviest casualty toll occurred when flames, racing out of a pump room, reached a 125-foot fractionating tower. It went up with a roar, the shock rocking the countryside for miles.

All of the deaths occurred in hospitals here and in nearby Chester, Pa. Many others of the 69 admitted to hospitals were reported in critical condition.

The dead:

Michael Burke, 39, Chester, foreman in the section where the blast occurred.

Dewitt Haynie, Woodlyn, Pa., carpenter.

Woodburn M. James, 47, Claymont, Del., mechanic.

Glenn Jones, 33, Linwood, Pa., operator.

William Gallagher, 48, Twin Oaks, Pa., mechanic.

Griffith Davis, 43, Chester.

William Ward, 20, Linwood, Pa.

MAN DROWNS

An eighth man, Leland Bailey, 49-year-old ship's cook, died during the blaze but a company spokesman said investigation disclosed he slipped into the Delaware River while boarding a ship and drowned. The spokesman discounted first reports that Bailey had been blown overboard by the blast which occurred a half-mile from the vessel.

Nineteen of the fire victims were reported in critical condition and hospital authorities said several were not expected to live. In addition, Joseph Risso, 52, a Marcus Hook policeman, was reported in critical condition after he was struck by an automobile while directing traffic after the fire.

CLOTHES AFIRE

Alex Petrovich of Boothwyne, a fire victim, said "it was horrible. Men were screaming, their clothes afire."

Meanwhile, tankers loading and unloading gasoline at the company's wharves along the Delaware River quickly pulled away to escape flying sparks that threatened to touch off their cargos.

Shortly after the initial blast shook this Delaware River industrial community of 4,000, all available fire fighting equipment was summoned from nearby cities. Flames fed by the high-octane gasoline spread to the base of a 125-foot fractionating tower causing it to collapse, spraying flaming gasoline over fire fighters.

The fire was visible for a distance of 30 miles and residents of Wilmington, Del., fifteen miles south of here, said the explosion shook homes in that section.

Barney Oldfield

Famed Racing Driver Dies In California

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—(AP)—Barney Oldfield, former famous automobile racing driver, died of a heart attack at his home here today. He was 68 last January.

His wife, Mrs. Bessie Oldfield, found him dead in bed this morning. She reported he was alive and apparently well when she arose and left the room to get the morning paper. When she returned a few minutes later, she was unable to arouse him.

The former speed driver complained yesterday, friends said, of a pain in the back of his neck but refused to have a doctor called, saying he would visit his physician today.

Chinese Dollars Hit Record Low

SHANGHAI—(AP) — Chinese dollars touched an all-time low—4,700 to $1 U. S.—today in a catastrophic jump of 600 points, then slumped back to 4,100 to $1.

The convulsion was attributed to such unconfirmable rumors as: The Government intends to revise the official exchange rate of 3,350 Chinese dollars to $1; the Government plans to check black market dealings in U. S. currency altogether, and that a new Chinese currency may be introduced.

Hawaii-To-Cairo

Dreamboat Roars Away On Flight Over Arctic Area

By DON WHITEHEAD

HONOLULU (AP) — The Pacusan Dreamboat thundered down the runway today and took off at 5:51 A. M. (11:21 A. M. EST) on its 10,300-mile flight over the Arctic regions to Cairo.

Carrying the heaviest load ever lifted by a plane, the B-29 rose slowly into the sky after about a 7,000-foot run and headed out across the Pacific.

The great ship's load totaled 148,400 pounds, 77,352 of it gasoline.

Col. C. S. Irvine, commanding the flight, said his crew relaxed then, confident of success as the plane climbed higher.

(The Associated Press listening post in San Francisco heard the Dream Boat report by radio that it was proceeding normally at 1,400 feet elevation.)

Lt. Col. Beverly Warren of Omaha, Nebr., was at the controls as the ship rushed down the runway and was airborne. He is an expert at taking off heavily loaded B-29s and he needed only half the available runway to get the wheels off the Navy's John Rogers Airfield. The runway of the Army's adjoining Hickam Field also was available but he did not need the extra distance.

The Dream Boat was expected to make landfall at Sitka, Alaska, about 11 hours after the takeoff and then head for Juneau.

From Juneau the plane will fly just south of Whitehorse, B. C., and then directly across the magnetic North Pole across Greenland to London.

The plane's route will take it about 30 miles from Paris, over Bern, Switzerland and thence to Venice. It will cross Italy and proceed on to Cairo.

Outlook Gloomy

Cabinet Considers Meat Situation

WASHINGTON —(AP)— President Truman met with his Cabinet for 45 minutes today and the meat shortage was a topic of discussion again.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson told newsmen after the Cabinet session, that the meat situation was discussed, as it was at last week's meeting, but he declined to go into detail.

NO STATEMENT

Asked if he agrees with President Truman's statement yesterday that the meat scarcity may get worse this Winter, Anderson replied that he had not had an opportunity to read the statement. Pressed for his views on the supply outlook, the Secretary replied:

"I think there have been enough statements on the meat situation."

Economists in Anderson's department predicted meanwhile that meat supplies will not catch up with demand before 1948 — and by then people may not be able to afford as many steaks and roasts as they would like.

That doubly discouraging forecast for meat-hungry Americans came as the Price Decontrol Board suspended at least until next week a third decision on the future of ceiling prices for milk and other dairy products, now free of OPA jurisdiction.

OPA Administration Paul Porter sat in the Cabinet meeting, but told reporters afterward that he had "no news" because he had just returned to Washington from New Mexico.

Anderson was asked if he had any comment on a statement by Representative Spence, Democrat, Kentucky, that he had "gathered the impression" that the Government might take some remedial action to ease the meat shortage.

Anderson said he had no idea what Spence could have meant.

When reporters asked if that meant the Government is planning no action, Anderson said: "I have some suggestions and I have made them." He said these are being "studied" and worked over, but he declined to elaborate.

Red Scores U. S., Britain

PARIS —(AP)— Russia in angry words today accused the United States and Britain of violating their Big Four agreements by voting for an Australian amendment to set up an international commission for supervision of Italian reparations payments.

The Italian economic commission of the peace conference, which still must fix the amount Italy is to pay neighboring Allied states, passed the amendment, 12 to 8, with France, China and the Slavic states opposed.

Under the amendment, an international body consisting of the Big Four and countries receiving reparations would supervise payments other than those to Russia. These would go to Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, Ethiopia and Poland.

A. A. Arutiunian of the Soviet Union, visibly angered, declared that the United States and Britain had violated an agreement to a section of the Big Four foreign ministers' treaty draft.

CHARGE ANSWERED

American Delegate Willard Thorp and British spokesman Glenvil Hall both protested that the amendment was a new article and not a change in an agreed upon portion of the draft.

At one point Australia refroved the name of the Soviet Union from the list of members of the proposed body after Russia protested that she was not concerned with non-Russian reparations. When this led to further protests, Australia re-inserted Russia's name, whereupon Arutiunian branded this an "electoral maneuver."

Republican Claim

Agreement To Stop May Inquiry Charged

WHEELING, W.Va.—(AP)—Thomas B. Sweeney, Republican seeking to unseat Sen. Harley M. Kilgore, Democrat, West Virginia, in the Nov. 5 elections, said in a statement today Kilgore had entered into a secret agreement at the White House yesterday to stop the investigation of Rep. Andrew J. May's war contract activities.

Kilgore, recently named chairman of the Senate War Investigating Committee, said in Charleston the group is ready to hear testimony from May any time the Congressman "is physically able."

May was stricken with a heart ailment after the committee summoned him to testify during its inquiry into the Garsson munitions combine.

Sweeney's statement said he had "been informed by an unimpeachable source that any further investigation (of May's activities) will be sidetracked at least until after the election, and perhaps for all time."

The statement declared Kilgore visited the White House yesterday "and after a conference with the President agreed that the Mead Committee, of which he has recently been named chairman, would take up the investigation of veterans' housing.

"The committee is, in effect, a 'lame duck' committee, so the effect of Sen. Kilgore's secret agreement is to kill the May investigation."

Wallace Hits Back At Baruch

Atom Bomb Issue Disputed

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Grave danger confronts United Nations efforts to set up international atom controls, Bernard M. Baruch and Henry A. Wallace virtually agreed today.

But they bitterly disputed the cause.

Wallace, ousted Secretary of Commerce, blamed Baruch. He declared that with nations already launched on a frantic atomic bomb race," Baruch has adopted a "stubborn and inflexible" approach to negotiations involving Russia.

BARUCH BLAMES WALLACE

Baruch, American member of the U. N. Atomic Energy Commission blamed Wallace. He asserted the former Cabinet officer perpetrated "errors" which caused public confusion in his criticism of the United States control plan.

The "errors," Baruch charged, are "gravely dangerous to the delicate negotiations now underway."

While President Truman put the whole controversy down as a matter between Baruch and Wallace, the Government actually appeared to be caught between its international negotiations and the domestic controversy which the highly personal charges of the two men seemed certain to arouse.

Wallace, whom the President removed from the Cabinet last month because of his split with Secretary of State Byrnes over Russian relations, had the latest word in the row with Baruch.

POINTS LISTED

In a statement last night, Wallace declared that atomic energy negotiations in the United Nations have reached an "impasse" on two basic points of disagreement, which he attributed indirectly to Baruch's "stubbornness." The two points, he said, are:

1. Whether the United States should "continue its production and stockpiling of atomic bombs during the negotiation" of a treaty leading to full international control.

2. Russia's "refusal to agree to an international system of inspection to control atomic energy production."

Beyond these, Wallace said, the United States has insisted "unnecessarily" on the great powers giving up their veto over atomic energy control matters despite Russia's flat refusal to do so. This, Wallace argued, has "served as a barrier to the successful negotiation of an international atomic energy control treaty."

Charging Baruch with preoccupation with "procedures," Wallace said the New Yorker is "unable to distinguish the fundamental, critical issues" from procedural questions and asked: "When are you going to get down to business, Mr. Baruch?"

Furthermore, he said sharply, "one thing is clear" about Baruch's atomic control proposals: "They have not solved the problem."

Wallace also called into question again the main course of American relations with Russia—the basis of his dismissal from the Cabinet—by declaring that the root cause of atomic energy difficulties is "the absence of attitudes of mutual trust and confidence between the United States and Russia."

ORIGIN OF FEUD

While the row has only just developed into bitter personal feuding between Wallace and Baruch, it had its origin in a letter the then Secretary wrote Mr. Truman on foreign policy July 23.

At that time Wallace criticized the atomic control plan which Baruch was presenting to the U. N., saying that under it the country offered no assurances to Russia or other nations as to the exact conditions under which the bomb would be given up.

Wallace made the letter public last month, shortly before the President asked his resignation, and Baruch went into action.

First he issued a statement with the approval of the President that there would be no change in the American atomic proposals. Then he challenged the accuracy of Wallace's criticisms, mainly on the point of assurances to other nations.

On Sept. 27 Wallace and Baruch had a three-hour conference. During that meeting, Baruch said Wallace acknowledged that he was wrong about the assurances—that Baruch did in fact plan on an atomic treaty which would lay down the exact terms and generally fix the stages at which the United States would relinquish the bomb.

39 Killed In Airliner Crash

AERIAL VIEW OF BURNING AIRLINER—This is an airview of smoke boiling up from the burning wreckage of an American Overseas Airlines plane shortly after it crashed near Stephenville, Newfoundland, with 39 persons aboard. Later a search party reached this scene and reported there were no survivors. Mrs. Downing was made by Navigator Robert Alder aboard an Air France plane flying over the wreckage about an hour after the crash. (AP Wirephoto).

MOTHER, CHILDREN ON FALLEN PLANE—Mrs. Helen Kent Downing (second from left) of Thomason, Ga., and her two daughters, Laura Elizabeth (left) and Barbara Kent (right), were listed as passengers on the American Overseas Airline plane which crashed near Stephenville, Newfoundland. With Mrs. Downing are her children in this picture is her husband, George Downing, an official of the Coca-Cola Co. now in Germany. They were flying to Germany to join him. (AP Photo).

39 Lost Lives

Inquiry Into Air Accident Slated

GANDER(Nfld. —(AP) — Aviation officials were at a loss today to explain the crash of a Berlin-bound American Overseas Airlines plane in which 39 persons lost their lives yesterday in the Newfoundland wilderness.

A board of investigators from the Civil Aeronautics Administration awaited the arrival of a U. S. Coast Guard helicopter in which they planned to visit the scene of the crash, which occurred about ten minutes after the doomed plane took off from Harmon Field near Stephenville. The disaster was the worst in commercial airlines history.

A rescue party of U. S. Army personnel and a doctor, who rushed to the scene soon after the crash occurred, reported that all 31 passengers an eight crew members were burned beyond recognition. The passengers included six children ranging from three months to eleven years old and their mothers. Nine of the twelve women aboard were en route to join their husbands—most of them with occupation troops abroad.

The four-engined DC-4 crashed and burned about twelve miles from Harmon Field, where it had made an emergency landing due to bad weather at Gander Airport, sprawling international air terminal on the other side of the island.

BASE CLOSED IN

The giant Skymaster, which began its journey from New York, had landed at Harmon Field at 3 P. M. (EST) Wednesday to refuel and give the crew a 12-hour rest. Under normal weather conditions it would have refueled at Gander Airport, but the base was closed in by rain and fog.

The crash occurred shortly after 3 A. M. (EST) Thursday in a highly inaccessible wooded area traversed by a 1,200-foot high range of the Table Mountains.

Lt. Fletcher Brown Jr., Coast Guard helicopter pilot from the air-sea rescue base at Argentia, flew through a gale to Gander last night and then took off for Harmon Field, but stormy weather forced him down at Buchans, about half-way to his destination.

VFW Would Aid Former POW's

WASHINGTON —(AP)—The Veterans of Foreign Wars proposed today that enemy assets held by the alien property custodian be earmarked to pay damage claims by wartime prisoners of the Germans, Italians or Japanese.

Under a bill which the VFW announced it will back before Congress, a three man "prisoners of war mixed claims" commission would pass on the claims. Cash awards could be made to any U. S. prisoner maltreated while in the enemy's hands.

British Urged To Let Jews Move Into Holy Land

Would Not Wait For Settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) President Truman called on Prime Minister Attlee of Britain today to open Palestine immediately to Jewish immigrants from Europe — without waiting any longer for a British-Jewish-Arab settlement of Palestine's future.

In a public Yom Kippur day statement released here, the text of which was cabled to Atlee, Mr. Truman also endorsed the Jewish Agency plan for creation of a Jewish state in an "adequate area" of Palestine and rejected outright the plan for an Arab-Jewish division of the Holy Land which Britain and many of Mr. Truman's own advisers have been supporting.

He reaffirmed his support for the earliest possible immigration of 100,000 Jews into Palestine, but urged that "substantial immigration" should begin at once before Winter brings new suffering to the masses of Jewish homeless in Europe. In this projected endeavor he promised American assistance in the form of shipping and other economic aids.

The President thus divided the Palestine problem into two parts: Immediate and long range. He evidently abandoned the British thesis that some overall settlement must be worked out before any substantial number of Jewish immigrants could be permitted.

AID PROMISED

In addition to promising aid in getting Jews from Europe to Palestine, Mr. Truman also reaffirmed his intention to ask Congress — meeting next January —to "liberalize" American immigrants to allow entrance of thousands of additional displaced persons.

"Furthermore," he said, "should a workable solution for Palestine be devised, I would be willing to recommend to the Congress a plan for economic assistance for the development of that country."

The President's statement, released by Press Secretary Charles G. Ross with the announcement that its contents were cabled to Atlee, expressed Mr. Truman's "deep regret" that the meetings of the London Palestine Conference are not to be resumed until Dec. 16.

The President said that in the light of the "terrible ordeal which the Jewish people of Europe endured during the recent war" and the crisis now existing, "I cannot believe that a program of immediate action along the lines suggested above could not be worked out with the co-operation of all people concerned."

He added that "the Administration will continue to do everything it can to this end."

Britain 'Regrets' Truman Pronouncement

LONDON—(AP)—A spokesman for No. 10 Downing St. said tonight Britain "regrets" President Truman's new pronouncement on Palestine and believed it would "prejudice" a settlement of the problem of Palestine's future.

The spokesman at No. 10—Prime Minister Attlee's residence—said Attlee received the President's communication last midnight and immediately cabled Mr. Truman asking that it be delayed pending study by Attlee and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin.

"This request was not complied with," the spokesman said sharply. He authorized reporters to say that he made his statement after consultations with Mr. Attlee.

In his cabled request to Attlee, the President urged that Britain authorize immediate "substantial" immigration to Palestine. An Arab statesman in London said, prior to the comment from No. 10 Downing St., that President Truman would have to be more than 100,000 American troops to enforce his proposal. A Foreign Office spokesman said earlier tonight that Britain could take no decision on the President's call for new immigration until "the whole political future" of Palestine was settled.

WEATHER

Fair and slightly warmer this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow.

Temperature at 7:30 today 68
High and low last 24 hours 70-38
Sunset today 6:01
Sunrise tomorrow 6:45