

Virginia Ponders Steps To Bar Truman From Ballot

Gov. Tuck Asks Action From State Assembly

Other States Urged To Follow

RICHMOND, Va., (AP)—Gov. William M. Tuck asked the Virginia General Assembly today to enact legislation which would bar President Truman's name from the next Presidential election ballot.

The proposal, presented to a joint session of the State Legislature, was the Governor's answer to a President Truman program. Tuck invited similar action by the rest of the Southern States.

He said the Truman program resulted from "iniquitous influences" that had found their way into both major parties of the South to the Federal Government "sufficient power to create in America the counterpart of a Hitler or a Stalin."

Tuck recommended that the state's election laws be changed to eliminate the names of the President and Vice-President nominees from the ballot.

He said the measure would be a party preference. Thus the Presidential electors would vote for the party of their choice, not for the party of the President.

His proposed legislation also would bar Henry Wallace's third party from the ballot by limiting it to parties which participated in the last Presidential election.

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Writes Truman

Judge Webb Plans To Retire From U. S. Bench Monday

SHELBY — (AP) — Federal District Judge E. Yates Webb wrote President Truman today that he planned to retire next Monday. The 75-year-old jurist has served as judge of the Western district of North Carolina more than 28 years.

Judge Webb, former Representative in Congress and lifelong prohibitionist, said he mailed this letter to the President.

"I have been a United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina for more than 28 years. I am now more than 75 years of age, and this is to inform you that effective next Monday, March 1, I am taking retirement as provided in Section 975, Title 28, U. S. C. A."

While in Congress, Judge Webb was co-author of the Webb-Kenyon Act, which prohibited the importation of foreign-made liquors.

Judge Webb was born in Cleveland County May 23, 1872. His father, the Rev. O. M. Webb, was a Baptist clergyman.

He obtained his preparatory education at the old Shelby Military Institute. After that he went to the University of North Carolina where he received his A. B. degree in 1893.

It was there that he met his first wife-to-be, Miss Willie Simmons, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Simmons of Winston-Salem.

He was a law student at the University of North Carolina in 1894. He was married Oct. 28, 1928.

Specialization immediately arose as to a successor to Judge Webb and many persons close to his court began to look for a replacement.

His wife, Mrs. Webb, was a native of North Carolina. She was a member of the Baptist church.

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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U. S., BRITAIN, FRANCE TO CHASE COMMUNIST CZECH SLEAZES

Rural Police Tighten Up On Activity Of Bondsmen

No More Checks To Be Accepted

By TOM WATKINS

Charlotte News Staff Writer

The County Police Department today took the lid off professional bonding activities—the medium through which most prisoners obtain their jail release—by declining to accept the bondsmen's personal checks and demanding cash or bonds certified by the Clerk of Superior Court.

At the same time it was learned that civilian employees of the department, who were not under Civil Service had been discharged because of their disloyalty to the government.

The following notes to officers from Chief Lineberry was posted on Feb. 25, 1948, the date of the action.

"This is to advise that beginning Feb. 25, 1948, the date of the action, all checks for bonds must be cash or bonds certified by the Clerk of Superior Court."

"All bonds made by professional bondsmen this date will be rejected by the Clerk of Superior Court."

The situation has reached the point, in some instances, it was understood, where the bondsmen personally signed bonds which checks to be filled in when they find a person in custody whose release is desired.

Chief Lineberry took the position that the financial status of the bondsmen was not always known to the clerk and therefore a new system was being inaugurated through which the sergeants would accept only cash or certified bonds.

There have been cases too, it was understood, where bonds had been arranged for prisoners by persons in the community who had failed to appear in court and the appearance bonds were reduced.

While such matters as the release of prisoners are matters of court jurisdiction, Chief Lineberry said he felt that it was time to put the bondsmen on a "businesslike basis" in so far as the County Police Department was concerned.

Chief Lineberry said bondsmen are not permitted to confer with jail at all and that they must appear in court to confer with prisoners. He added that he was not accepting "in any way" any interference with the legitimate rights of the bondsmen, but that the bondsmen must appear in court to confer with prisoners from here out would have to be followed, and that this would be on a case basis and not by personal checks.

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CHOOSING Col. J. Norman Pease (seated) as President, Chamber of Commerce directors launched an aggressive program of industrial and civic development for Charlotte with election of officers which completed the annual reorganization. Appearing in this photograph with the new chief executive are, left to right, Floyd K. Kay, executive vice-president; J. Herbert Bridges, retiring after two years as president, and E. A. Terrell Sr., vice-president, filling the vacancy created by Colonel Pease's advancement.

New Directorate Holds First Meeting

By J. A. DALY

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Vigorous, thoroughly co-ordinated and widely varied activity for 1948 progress required the new Charlotte Chamber of Commerce when the directors today elected Col. J. Norman Pease, nationally-known engineer, as president.

This first meeting of the new chamber directors brought to close the administration of J. Herbert Bridges, head of a furniture company, who served two consecutive terms as president.

E. A. Terrell Sr., president of a widely known textile industry equipment manufacturing company, was elected vice-president for the new year. The new president, whom Mr. Terrell succeeds, was chairman during the past year of the Industrial Department.

Carl G. McCraw, executive vice-president of the Union National Bank, was re-elected treasurer. His presence prevented him from attending the board's meeting this morning in the directors' room of the Commercial National Bank.

The 27 members of the chamber body's 1948 directors, recently elected, are: R. H. Allison, H. G. Ashcraft, F. E. Bates, A. L. Beekholt, L. B. Blythe, James R. Bryant, McArthur Carson, Sidney F. Crowl, W. R. Cuthbertson, W. Carey Dowd Jr., George W. Lewis, James J. Harris, Harvey B. Hunter, Mark P. Johnson, Robert Lanster Jr., L. A. Love, John Paul Lucas, Carl G. McCraw, M. A. McDonald, R. H. Parker, J. Norman Pease, J. F. Rivera, Thomas L. Robinson, Frank G. Sherrill, I. W. Stewart, J. Terrell Sr., and John F. Wallington Jr.

Col. Pease called the board to meet in a special session next Wednesday at an hour and place yet to be selected. At that time, the board will work out the broad principles of the 1948 program. This was said to be a duty which he emphasized as activity and substantial additional financing.

When speaking briefly in acceptance of the presidency, Col. Pease said that the assurance of co-operation by the directors gave him confidence that outstanding accomplishments will be attained this year.

Mr. Bridges, as he relinquished the presidency, thanked the directors for their civic loyalty and congratulated them on their election to a duty which, he emphasized, carries "great responsibilities."

At the commercial body's annual meeting last week that overall aspects of the controversial episode will not be discussed, the directors were urged by Sir Geoffrey Layton, governor in chief of the British Far East Fleet.

Lt. Gen. A. E. Percival, commander in chief during the Malaya campaign, had taken the city's defenses a bluff in his report.

He said the city was not a fortress, that land defenses at the Singapore naval base were never finished, and that estimates of their costs had been "turbidly cut by the War Office."

He disputed a statement recently made after the Japanese had taken the city that her land guns could not be moved to Singapore to fire on the rear.

New Cabinet Is Termed Disguised Dictatorship

Statement Issued By State Dept.

WASHINGTON — (AP) —

The United States, Britain and France today jointly condemned as a "disguised dictatorship" of Communists the new Government set-up in Czechoslovakia.

In a declaration issued at the State Department here the three Governments also said the Communists seized power through a "crisis artificially and deliberately instigated."

With an apparent reference to earlier Communist power grabs, such as in Hungary, the three Western powers charged that the crisis was "a deliberate and calculated move to seize power by means of certain methods already tested in other places."

"The new Government," the statement said, "is a disguised dictatorship, which has suspended the free exercise of parliamentary institutions and the establishment of a disguised dictatorship of a single party, under the cloak of a government of national unity."

"This is the test of the joint declaration," the statement said.

The Government of the United States, France and Great Britain, the statement said, "are deeply concerned by the events which have just taken place in Czechoslovakia and which place in jeopardy the very existence of the principles of liberty to which all democratic nations are attached."

"They note that by means of a crisis artificially and deliberately instigated the use of certain methods already tested in other places has permitted the suspension of the free exercise of parliamentary institutions and the establishment of a disguised dictatorship of a single party, under the cloak of a government of national unity."

"The consequences of a development the consequences of which can only be disastrous for the world, and the way is clear for one more in the midst of the sufferings of the Second World War to be added to the cause of liberty."

Reds In Full Control Of Czech Republic

By A. I. GOLDBERG

PRAGUE — (AP) — Czechoslovakia is completely under Communist control and the way is clear for transforming the republic, modeled after the Soviet Union, into a satellite of the Soviet Union.

The pattern for the minority party in the United States, the Communist Party, is now the pattern for all parties who have fallen into Communist clutches.

The nation fell under complete Communist domination last night. The Communist Party, largest at the election but still a minority, won the election.

Pease Elected President Of Chamber Of Commerce

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Gov. Tuck

Presidential Poll Continues

Dwight Eisenhower is leading The News' Presidential Poll according to a tabulation of ballots received on the second day of the poll. President Truman is in fifth place.

Henry Wallace is in second place, and Senator Vandenberg and Governor Dewey are tied in third place.

Voting has been overwhelming Republican, and the pre-dominant flavor of the polling remains a heated protest of Truman.

Senator Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia is the only Democrat who is seriously in the running.

CLIP ALONG THIS LINE

Presidential Poll Editor, The Charlotte News, P. O. Box 300, Charlotte, N. C.

My present choice for President would be (mark an "X" in the space beside the name of one):

—DEWEY

—EISENHOWER

—MACARTHUR

—STANSEN

—TAPT

—TRUMAN

—VANDENBERG

—WALLACE

—WARREN

choice if he is not listed above.)

REMARKS

Ike Leads; Wallace Second

There is a little support for South Carolina's James F. Byrnes.

Eisenhower's recent withdrawal of his own name from consideration in the coming election failed to halt all his supporters. One wrote: "Eisenhower is the only man who people make himself available to the people."

Another: "General Ike is independent, understands this country's situation better, has fought for it, and most of the population of the United States loves a man of his ability."

One who voted for Eisenhower wrote: "I positively refuse to support Truman. He has sold the South short. Any man should know that the mores and customs of a people cannot be changed by legislation. That must come by patient, understanding and education. Eisenhower is the only man who people make himself available to the people."

A Byrnes supporter wrote: "I am a staunch Democrat but I am not a Communist. I will vote Republican. Byrnes is the only man capable of holding the line. He is a leader of the first round of 'straw' ballots."

Martin, Strom Thurmond, Eric Johnston received two votes each.

Arnall, Robert Young, William O. Douglas, Henry Kaiser, Charles Edwards received one vote each.

Heaven's saint in a vote, cut out the ballot and mail to the Presidential Poll Editor, cut out only the name of the candidate you wish to support, and on their honor to refrain from stuffing the ballot box. Another tabulation of ballots will be made tomorrow.

Delay Search For Aviators

MURPHY — (AP)—Airmen today awaited clearing skies before taking search planes for two men missing since Sunday.

Search planes were grounded at Chase Field because of fog. The search was poor flying conditions.

Robert Wells and Frank Dreher, former service airmen, have not been heard since taking off from Hot Springs, Ark., Sunday on a flight to Murphy.

Eure Files Papers To Succeed Himself

RALEIGH — Secretary of State Tamm yesterday paid the \$75 filing fee to the State Board of Elections a candidate to succeed him as the Democratic primary in May.

John Armstrong, chief inspector for the State Highway Patrol and a former State Highway Patrol commander, has announced he will oppose Eure in the Democratic primary in May.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued warm light and Friday.

Temperatures at 3 P. M. today: High and low last 24 hours: 78-58. Same today: 78-58. Same tomorrow: 78-58.

More Weather Data on page 12-A

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Defenses Were A Bluff

By ALVIN J. STEINHOFF

LONDON — (AP)—British commanders reported today that Singapore's defenses were a bluff and Japanese forces struck without any serious resistance.

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Story Of Singapore's Fall Told

He said a number of anti-air guns were altered to engage land targets, but that small caliber weapons had only 30 rounds of ammunition. There was no ammunition for the 15-inch gun, he reported. He declared the main cause of defeat was that the Japanese relied on air power to defend Malaya had never been made effective.

He said the city was not a fortress, that land defenses at the Singapore naval base were never finished, and that estimates of their costs had been "turbidly cut by the War Office."

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ASKS CORRECTION

Japanese troops numbering 100,000 on Singapore Island and in south Malaya, overwhelmed 55,000 British troops, many of them non-combatant, Percival said. He said official statements had given figures "very different from those" and that he asked to see them corrected now.

Admiralty dispatches published today as a supplement to

Reds In Full Control Of Czech Republic

By A. I. GOLDBERG

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The London Gazette, told of the sinking on Dec. 10, 1941, of the Republic and the Prince of Wales, and said both were sunk by a Japanese submarine. The Japanese forces had landed at Kuantan on the east Malayan coast.

A British task force, including the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mary, was sent to Kuantan. The task force steamed north to attack Japanese landings. The force commander turned back toward Singapore, but first decided to investigate a number of barges on junks. More than 50 Japanese planes struck the dispatches said. Six hundred and four officers and men were lost.