

Petitions Calling Vote To Circulate Here Soon

20 Counties In N. C. Now Dry

By TOM FESPERMAN Charlotte News Staff Writer

The Allied Church League is making definite plans to seek an election in an effort to outlaw the sale of beer and wine in Mecklenburg County.

The Rev. I. M. Ellis, state president of the League, declined to say today whether the election would be sought, but he declared, "We intend to get it on the ballot."

He added that yesterday's victory in Cumberland County, which has ABC wine and liquor laws, was "very hopeful of the future outcome in other ABC counties such as Mecklenburg."

If dry leaders are successful in beer- and wine-licensing here, in Mecklenburg, they would find themselves in the same position as Cumberland County residents who are unable to buy liquor legally, but able to buy beer or wine.

It was expected that Mecklenburg would be one of the centers of discussion at a meeting of the ABC's Executive Committee in Thomaston, S. C., today.

The law which prevents another ABC referendum in Mecklenburg before June 14, 1950 (three years after the last ABC election) has no effect on county elections.

The League officials, spurred by their severest test yet today, yesterday, convened to plan more prohibition campaigns in the Carolina.

Mr. Ellis said that a total of twenty counties now have made beer and wine sales illegal.

The Church League and other forces have collected over 100,000 petitions in eleven more counties.

"We hope to have at least 40 counties on our side by next March," he said.

The three counties which voted against beer and wine yesterday were Cumberland, McDowell and Cherokee.

Three counties—Cumberland, McDowell and Cherokee—voted yesterday, bringing to seventeen the elections won by Dry forces this year.

Three counties—Ashe, Yancey and Mitchell—already had made beer and wine sales illegal.

Denies She Fatally Shot Betty Smith

Protection Is Ordered By Court

SHELBY — A few minutes after Mrs. Pratt Dover Howell repudiated her earlier confession that she killed her husband, Judge L. H. Hamrick Jr. ordered her held in protective custody at the Cleveland County Jail following a preliminary hearing this morning.

Judge Hamrick directed Jerry Runyan to provide living quarters for Mrs. Howell and two children, Melba, three, and a son, seven, in a new apartment, located in the same building as the jail.

Mrs. Howell testified that she did not kill Betty Smith and that her confession was prompted by fear of her husband, Robert, came as the most dramatic development of the baffling case.

Robert Howell, 27-year-old, middle-aged service station attendant, previously been charged with the murder of fifteen-year-old boy and mother, whose party-clad body was found in an upstairs bedroom of the Howell home the morning of Aug. 18.

Howell was released Saturday under \$10,000 bond following a preliminary hearing Friday at which Judge Hamrick ordered him and Sellers held for Superior Court trial in November. Sellers was released on \$5,000 bond.

Howell said he was not involved in the case. He said he had already allowed Howell bond, and that it was a matter of time before he would be released.

Howell said he would immediately prepare a brief and present it to Superior Court. Justice in an effort to have Howell returned to custody.

A ripple of surprise swept over the packed courtroom as Mrs. Howell testified that she had no recollection of the case.

Dressed neatly in a green silk suit, she sat in the courtroom and looked at the judge with a calm expression.

She said she had had her husband for 10 years and that she had never seen him in a jail or in a courtroom.

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Close Contest For Senate

Long Takes Lead In Louisiana Race

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Russell Long, 29-year-old son of the late Huey P. Long, today pulled 1,500 votes ahead of Judge Robert F. Kennon in the race for the United States Senate.

Long gained steadily as rural returns from yesterday's Democratic primary election were completed. (Special returns from 1986 of 1983 precincts gave Long 240,222, Kennon 238,722. About half the parish county returns were complete and most of the missing boxes were in rural areas.)

The contest in yesterday's Democratic primary election was for the Democratic nomination to succeed Kennon to election in Louisiana.

Kennon showed his greatest strength in the city of New Orleans. The lead shifted during the count but night as returns came now from urban areas, now from the traditional Long rural strongholds.

Most of the parishes (counties) unreported are rural.

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Little Hope For Benes

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP)—Czechoslovakia today mounted a death watch today for one of her best-known statesmen.

The 45-year-old co-founder of the Czechoslovakia Republic lapsed into unconsciousness early yesterday during the night spread through Prague today and a public address system in a large Prague factory told employees Benes was dead.

None of the rumors could be confirmed. The Czechoslovak Press Bureau said that the Benes family had no confirmation of the death.

The three doctors attending Benes said in a noon bulletin: "The patient kept a quiet night considering his condition and there has been no change."

An official bulletin signed by the Benes family said that he died last night the former president's condition was deteriorating.

Benes, who resigned the Czechoslovakia in June, has been in poor health since he returned to his home. She said she had told her husband that she was not going to marry him.

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New Storm Is Watched

MIAMI, Fla.—(AP)—A new tropical storm in the Caribbean is being watched, as an Atlantic hurricane, called the "Cuba" storm, is expected to strike the Florida coast.

The Caribbean storm was discovered yesterday some 1,800 miles west of Miami as September—"hurricane month"—was arriving.

A ship reported it experienced 50 to 60 mile an hour winds at the storm passed between Martinique and St. Lucia last night the highest winds experienced were 43 miles an hour.

"It doesn't look like there is much to be done," said Chief Forecaster Grady Norton. "But these baby storms grow as they come along and will be watched with care."

Storm warnings raised over Guadalupe and St. Lucia in the Windward chain were lowered before midnight.

A suspicious condition was located yesterday near the Gulf of Brownsville, Tex., in the Gulf of Mexico, but Norton said the area was a squally one which had faded out and was no longer being watched.

The Atlantic seaboard breathed easier as a hurricane with winds of 75 miles an hour passed off the New England coast.

Nova Scotia and was considered no longer a threat to the United States.

Norton said a cold front was pushing south from the north and west which would cause it to expand in size and force.

GI Leave Bond Deadline WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Defense Establishment warned that the deadline for filing applications for GI terminal leave bonds.

GI terminal leave bonds, which were issued as of July 31 it had issued a total of \$270,000,000.

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3 Others Also Nabbed

Robert Mitchum Held On Narcotics Count

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Movie hero Robert Mitchum was arrested today on a narcotics charge in a Hollywood home early today.

Mitchum, Real Estate Agent, Robin Ford, actress Lida Zeeva, 20, and dancer Vickie Evans, 25, were booked on suspicion of violating State and Federal narcotics laws.

The screen leading man and Ford, also 31, were cast in the underground roles of marijuana smokers by arresting officers.

Det. SAs A. M. Barr and J. B. McKinnon of the Los Angeles narcotics detail said that both men were smoking marijuana—containing more than 100 times the amount of pot—when the officers broke into the home.

Mitchum surrendered a package containing 13 more of the cigarettes, Sgt. Barr said. The package was not expected to give up several.

The home was rented by the young women, the officers said. At another apartment which Mitchum maintains, Sgt. Barr said he found another refer.

Sgt. Barr said all face prosecution on felony charges, although the charge against Mitchum may be the technical one of being in a place where narcotics are sold.

The four suspects were nabbed and held at \$1,000 for each—which was not expected to be long—forthcoming. Officers explained there was no reason for getting Mitchum and Barr because they were not worried about those people skipping town.

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Four-Power Officials Confer On Berlin Crisis

End Of Blockade Believed Talked

By RICHARD KASISCHKE BERLIN (AP)—The four military governors of Germany opened their second conference on the Berlin crisis today, apparently armed with experts' findings on possibilities of ending the 70-day Berlin blockade.

The French-led negotiator, Der Kurier reported that the "technical difficulties" which the Russians have said must be met to block the only rail line from Berlin to western Germany already have been overcome.

The newspaper quoted a leading official of the German Railway Administration at Magdeburg as saying "the double railway line between Berlin and the east, which is capable of carrying all freight and passenger traffic."

The new session of the military governors was held in the main Berlin conference room. Three groups of four-power experts met earlier today.

The Soviet military administration closed the railway from Berlin to Germany, claiming extensive repairs were needed. This was the beginning of the Berlin blockade.

The Kurier said "a resumption of normal traffic in the city is expected if the negotiations in Moscow make an easing of the blockade possible."

"In such a case" the newspaper added, "a new international train running from Berlin to the east, operated by the eastern zone railway authorities, will be put into service immediately."

The newspaper said a special all-German transport official, called Chief Forecaster Grady Norton, "But these baby storms grow as they come along and will be watched with care."

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European Union Proposed Backed

Inter-Laken, Switzerland (AP)—Winston Churchill said today that the European Community has approved a proposal to convene a conference in London for a European union.

In a telegram to the second annual Congress of the European Parliament in London, the former British Prime Minister said, "The support of several governments for the assembly has already been secured, and it is likely soon to follow."

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Three Pay For Pelting Wallace

Local Egg Bosses Fined \$25, Costs

By RAY STALLINGS Charlotte News Staff Writer

Three men charged with throwing eggs and attacking Wallace yesterday were fined \$25 and costs in city police court this morning.

Judge E. M. Currie assessed the fines after hearing testimony from police officials.

Det. Sergeant Ross, who showed an even dozen eggs swung in a city police court this morning.

Huntley testified that kids were passing out eggs among the crowd, and said he threw one at Wallace because I disagree 100 per cent with what he was doing.

Judge Currie commented, "Well, I disagree with him 100 per cent too, and maybe more, but that is no excuse for the action of the crowd did not reflect any honor on Mecklenburg County."

Hefner said he bought eggs from someone in the crowd, but he did not throw any.

Attorney David, defending Hefner, labeled the egg-and-toilet paper pelting Wallace as "just cheap type advertising by a Negro woman standing on a car near Wallace. He was striking her with toilet paper."

He charged that Wallace "came down here to create a scene."

The real disturbers, he said, were those who hooded their faces and "wanted to hear what the fool had to say," he concluded.

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Section Of Church Report Approved

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (AP)—The World Council of Churches approved today a section of a report which holds that churches are overburdened with officialdom.

The council returned to a subcommittee for further study and amendment, however, other sections of the report.

The section approved said churches fail to give enough attention to the needs of the people.

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Schacht Acquitted By German Court

STUTTGART, Germany (AP)—A German appeals court today acquitted Hjalmar Schacht, former German financial wizard, of charges that he was a major Nazi offender. He was ordered freed.

He had been serving an eight-year term after conviction on a charge by a Stuttgart denazification court last year.

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