Weather
Partly cloudy and warm with showers tonight; Friday mostly cloudy and colder with showers.
More Weather Data on Page 1-A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

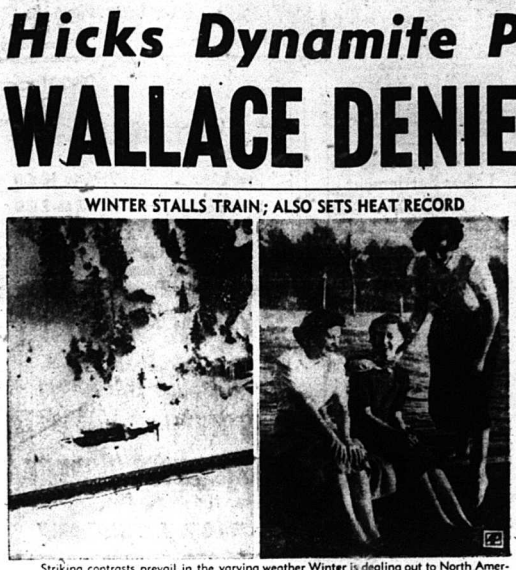
Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolines

Established Dec. 8, 1888 — Charlotte, North Carolina Thursday, January 26, 1950 — 32 Pages—Price Five Cents

Hicks Dynamite Plot Hearing Slated For Feb. 2

WALLACE DENIES SENDING REDS URANUM

WINTER STALLS TRAIN; ALSO SETS HEAT RECORD



Striking contrasts prevail in the varying weather Winter is dealing out to North American areas. Left: A train (center) stands nearly buried and completely stalled in Fraser canyon 20 miles east of Vancouver, British Columbia. The scene is not very for north of the United States-Canadian border. In the foreground is the edge of a snow-covered trestle. At the same time, the warmest January day in the history of the weather bureau was recorded at St. Louis, Mo. The mercury went up to 75 and three student nurses at Washington University School of Nursing went to a St. Louis park to cool their heels in the lake (right). (AP Wirephotos).

Minus 43 In Montana, Plus 81 In Ohio

Nation's Weather Is Varied

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nation's weather was on a climatic binge today.

Most of nature's elements appeared on the loose, fashioning a crazy-quilt of contrasts across the country.

The late January weather picture:

There was bitter cold and mountainous snow over the Northern plains.

Cotton was blooming in Orangeburg County, S. C., five months ahead of schedule. At East Point, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, a quince tree was abloom.

A new storm struck the Pacific Northwest and the coldest weather in 60 years hit eastern Washington.

In Virginia, there were budding and flowers were blooming as January heat records toppled in many communities. The mercury climbed to 78 at Richmond and 78.3 at Norfolk yesterday, all-time top marks for the date.

Rain pelted wide areas. Freezing rain splashed many sections and travel skidded to a crawl.

Fog blanketed the area of New York City and New Jersey. Air travel and shipping was at a virtual standstill. The big liner Queen Mary was halted at Ambrose Light, unable to reach the inner New York harbor because of fog.

Airlines in the Boston, Laguardia, Idlewild and Newark were blanketed by the fog and the ceiling was 100 feet and visibility 1-16th of a mile. All departures from LaGuardia, which normally handles 350 planes daily, were canceled and incoming planes were rerouted.

Winds of tornadic intensity ripped through an area near Ironton, Mo., last night, demolishing one house and partially disrupting communications. Warm winds whipped up the worst dust storm in years in Texas and damaged tomatoes and other crops in the lower Rio Grande valley. Small craft warnings were hoisted from Brownsville, Tex., to St. Marks, Fla.

Weather Bureau forecasters predicted a new blast of freezing weather for Southern California.

But it was far below freezing—and below zero — in the Northern Plains. The icy air moved into the Central States and south as far as Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, Tex.

Temperatures dropped quite rapidly over some of the Midwest areas where they had reached into the 60's and 70's yesterday. The cold line was expected to extend into the Ohio River valley and into Western Pennsylvania by tonight, the Weather bureau said.

Early today, the mercury was in the sub-zero reaches in Montana, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Iowa. It was headed for near zero in other parts of the Central and Southwest states. Lows included -42 at Glasgow, Mont.; -32 at Dickinson, N. Dak.; -24 at Norfolk, Neb. In North Dakota highway crews worked to clear thousands of miles of snow-blocked highways.

As the new snowstorm hit the Pacific Northwest, the mercury tumbled to -29 at Harrington, Wash., and -22 at Spokane. Snow falls of three to five inches were

See U. S. WEATHER on page 2-A

Lawyer Says Gubitchev Sought No U. S. Secrets

NEW YORK—(AP) —Valentin A. Gubitchev's lawyer said today that the Russian's behavior on the day of his arrest was not that of a spy but of a "crazy man wanting desperately to be with a woman."

The woman, said Defense Counsel Abraham L. Pomperantz, was Judith Coplon—now on trial with Gubitchev on charges of plotting to spy for the Russians.

Pomerantz addressed the jury after Raymond P. Whearty, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, declared in his opening remarks that the Government would prove its charges against both defendants.

"I promise to prove to you," Pomerantz countered, "that Gubitchev never asked Miss Coplon to bring up (to New York) a solitary piece of paper from her work in Washington."

LAWYERS DISAGREE

Pomerantz conferred earlier with Miss Coplon's lawyer in an effort to iron out differences over how the defense should be conducted.

In his half-hour address, Pomerantz poured ridicule on the Government's charge that the furtive meetings and sudden partings of the defendants in out-of-the-way places suggested that they were plotting to spy.

He declared that "no spy but a lunatic or Mack Sennett comedy spy" would act as Gubitchev acted.

On the day of the Russian's arrest, the lawyer went on, he not only was "crazy" in his infatuation with the ex-Government girl but also afraid that his wife would learn of their relations.

Whearty's opening address took 40 minutes.

"In the last days of December, 1948," the prosecutor said, "information was received by the FBI that Judith Coplon might be engaged in espionage activity."

Miss Coplon, a Brooklyn-born honor graduate of Barnard College, was a political analyst in the Justice Department at that time.

Whearty said an investigation began Jan. 3, 1949, and the FBI started watching the young woman's movements three days later.

The prosecutor told how agents shadowed Miss Coplon during New York meetings with Gubitchev.

When arrested last March 4, Whearty said, Miss Coplon had in her purse 34 "data slips" that proved to be extracts of FBI reports on Soviet Embassy matters.

Also in the handbag, the prosecutor said, were a crocy mosaque deliberately sent to Miss Coplon's desk earlier that day, as well as a document "which told of Miss Coplon's unsuccessful effort to secure access to a top secret FBI report."

FRENCH MINERS KILLED

ST. ELOY, France—(AP) — Thirteen miners were reported killed and approximately 20 injured today in a coal dust explosion in a mine near this city in central France.

4th Arrest May Be Made In WBT Case

Union Leader Is Silent On Charge

By DONALD MacDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Preliminary hearing on two counts of alleged conspiracy filed last night against Sterling L. Hicks, latest arrest in the sensational WBT dynamite attempt, will be held in County Recorder's Court on Feb. 2.

The prominent labor leader, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Charlotte local, and member of the Park and Recreation Commission is free under $5,000 bond.

His bond was signed last night by A. W. Hingle. Hingle is a close friend and associate, a former technician released from work with Hicks recently by the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Co.

City Police Chief Frank Littlejohn said today he expects to call for the arrest in Columbia, S. C., of the man who drove "Chud" Lovell to Charlotte.

The police chief said the man could be extradited and brought to Charlotte. Here, he said, he would perhaps be charged in the alleged conspiracy against WBT. The unnamed person would be the fourth arrested since the case opened.

STERLING HICKS

The 51-year-old Hicks last night denied any guilt in planning the Sunday morning attempt to wreck the radio station's 425-foot tower.

Offering no resistance to officers who arrested him at his home, 2009 Idlewood Circle, Hicks would not talk with reporters. All he would say was "I have no comment. I have absolutely nothing to say about this."

Police allege that planning for the bombing attempt took place in Columbia, S. C., involving Hicks, Burris Boyd, and C. M. (Chud) Lovell.

But officers quoted Hicks as saying last night:

"I haven't even been to Columbia for two or three years, and I don't know anything about this business."

Hicks told The News by telephone this morning that he had no comment to make on the case.

TO CONTINUE PICKETING

When asked if the union intended to continue picketing WBT's uptown studios, Hicks replied emphatically:

"We have no intention of discontinuing the picket line. No indeed! The picketing will continue; the controversy is still going on."

A member of the Charlotte Parks & Recreation Commission and a deacon in the First Christian Church, Hicks has been named by Lovell as the man who promised to give him $250 if the radio tower was wrecked.

City and County Police Chiefs F. G. Littlejohn and Stanhope Linberry said Lovell picked the local man from a group photograph.

In addition, three witnesses have identified the same photo as the man they saw with Lovell in Columbia some days before the

See HICKS on page 2-A

Buried Twice In Coal, Workman Not Injured

BANGOR, Me. —(AP)— John C. Beede, 35, was buried almost up to his neck in coal twice today and was rescued, apparently not seriously hurt, by fellow workers who toiled six hours removing a bucketful at a time.

Beede fell into a tower coal chute at the Citizens Utilities Co. gas works as he kicked at frozen lumps of coal he was shoveling. Nine workers got him clear to his knees when a cave-in pinned him a second time, and they had to start digging all over again.

Coal Operators Offer To Renew Pact Talks

PITTSBURGH—(AP)—The soft coal industry today renewed its offer to John L. Lewis to negotiate a new contract.

The operators said the offer was made because "employees are being deprived of badly needed earnings" and "an acute shortage of coal" exists.

The offer was made in a letter sent by the operators negotiating committee of the National Bituminous Coal Wage Conference.

The industry said it sought a contract based on the same demands it listed in previous fruitless contract negotiations. They are:

1. That the contract run until 1952.
2. That no wage increases be sought.
3. That the contract contain a no-strike pledge.
4. That it eliminate the clause that in the past permitted miners to work only when "able and willing."
5. That memorial strikes be banned.

Royalty payments would continue to be 20 cents per ton.

About 88,000 miners in six states now are striking in dissatisfaction over their failure to get a contract and work a normal five-day week.

Lewis ordered a three-day week last Summer in an effort to cut production and bolster his bargaining position.

The operators' letter was prepared under the leadership of President George H. Love of Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Co. Love is chairman of the negotiating committee.

Lewis' United Mine Workers have listed these contract demands:

A boost in the basic daily wage from $14.05 a day to $15; and a 15 cents a ton increase in the payments operators make into the UMW welfare and pension fund.

Almost the entire industry is solidly unified in resistance to those demands.

Lewis has signed up several small operators in Kentucky and other states. The tonnage represented by the so-called Kentucky agreements is only a small fraction of the nation's total.

Big operators refer to mines whose owners agreed to Lewis' terms as "gopher holes."

FBI Chief Says Spy Activity Increasing

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The FBI says the job of protecting the country from spies is greater now than at the peak of World War II.

Asking for an enlargement of his force, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said in a Congressional hearing that the end of the war seems only to balloon the work of his agents in security.

Hoover's report was contained in House Appropriations Committee hearings made public today.

In the same hearing, Immigration Inspector Watson M. Miller said there are approximately 3,000,000 aliens in the United States—some 2,500 of them deportable and free under court bond, but whom no other nation will accept.

Assistant Commissioner W. F. Kelly said border inspectors found it almost physically impossible to carry out required examinations at border stations.

As one example of the problem, he explained that between 8,000 and 11,000 persons in Canada who are officially listed by the Canadian Government as subversive.

Kelly estimated there are thousands of aliens now in the United States unlawfully, and of whom the Immigration Service has no knowledge.

Hoover said internal security problems are growing steadily, with the FBI's work load at a record high, and declared:

"The need, I think, is paramount to control the dangers that are inherent in Communism and the subversive activities of foreign-inspired espionage groups that are operating in this country.

"The Communist Party, as you know from the recent trial in New York and the conviction of the eleven Communist leaders, has as its aim and its program and objective to bring about the forcible overthrow of the government.

"Allied with the Communist Party are a number of infiltrated Communist front organizations. There are certain foreign nationality groups that participate in this operation and, in addition, the activities of foreign countries that are designed to infiltrate our country and obtain confidential information about secret operations that they have no right to have."

Hoover said "one of the effective means of meeting the security menace has been limited wire tapping."

Although it has been subjected to strong criticism, he defended wire tapping as a modern technique necessary in combating subversion.

"The facts," Hoover added, "contradict the hysterical utterances of those who would have us believe that wire tapping by the FBI is unrestricted and is utilized on a wholesale scale."

Then, repeating what he has previously stated, Hoover said the FBI has less than 170 taps in existence and all of them confined to internal security cases.

Major crime is also on the uptrend, Hoover reported. He said that in the first nine months of 1949 the number of major crimes was nearly 12 per cent larger than in the last pre-war year.

Hoover asked for $57,400,000 to run the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the fiscal year starting July 1. This is an increase of $594,850 over the current fiscal year.

NC Coal Stocks Dropping Fast

RALEIGH—(AP)—Coal stocks in North Carolina are well below normal but there is no immediate prospect of actual suffering or extensive industrial curtailment, a survey indicated today.

The State's two largest power companies, Duke Power Co. and the Carolina Power & Light Co., indicated that their coal stocks are sufficient for the present and the immediate future.

The two power companies, which use both steam and hydroelectric generating plants, supply power to a large percentage of the State's industrial plants and domestic power consumers.

J. S. Correll, Raleigh coal dealer and vice-president of the North Carolina Retail Coal Merchants Association, estimated that the coal supply here is sufficient for a week or ten days. This situation is fairly typical of the State as a whole, he added.

"The only thing that has kept the situation from becoming critical here is the weather," he said.

COLD WEATHER

Cold weather might result in an acute shortage, he said, because shipments from the mines are running well below normal.

Although there have been difficulties at time, the State's Division of Purchase & Contract has been able to keep State institutions supplied with coal, said Director Charles Williams.

"It looks like a day-to-day proposition," said Williams. "You may be all right today and in another position tomorrow."

70TH BIRTHDAY

GEN. MACARTHUR

MacArthur Doubts War Imminent

By TOM LAMBERT

TOKYO —(AP)— General MacArthur, the man who has ruled Japan since the rising sun set more than four years ago, was 70 years old today.

Physically well and mentally tough, the supreme Allied occupation commander talked a little about his increasingly difficult job — but not for publication.

His views are pretty well known on the rising red tide in Asia, peace for Japan, the importance of Formosa in the U. S. defense perimeter, the Soviet threat in Korea and the Communist threat in China.

PROUD OF WORK

Wallace said it is "not for me to pass judgment upon my conduct," but added:

"I state unhesitatingly that I am proud of my participation as Vice President of the United States during the years when the war situation was most critical, and I am proud to have been associated with the Administration whose policies were so effective in making available the essential materials when they were most needed."

Wallace's point No. 2 was a reference to testimony from Lt. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, retired, that he did not know Wallace certain wartime reports on the A-bomb project.

Groves directed the Manhattan project. He is to be recalled later on for further testimony.

Wallace said he had been "attacked" before the committee and "with even more violence in certain newspapers and by certain radio commentators." He added that he felt it was "not so much an attack on me as it is upon the Democratic Party and upon President Roosevelt."

Wallace said the subject of uranium shipments to Russia was never discussed at any meeting of the Board of Economic Warfare which he attended.

"The most important point to remember, however, is that shipments to Russia were not the responsibility of BEW. But the responsibility of the Lend-Lease Administration, which, in 1943 was under the direction of E. R. Stettinius Jr."

He told the committee BEW's responsibility was limited to approving or denying applications for materials "in accordance with the recommendation of the Lend-Lease Administration."

ABROAD AT TIME

Wallace said it was continued, "the licenses for uranium oxide and uranium nitrate are said to have been issued in January and April, 1943. I want to point out that I personally was in Latin America from March 14, 1943, until April 25 of that year. In any event, I knew nothing about the issuance of the licenses or the shipments until the matter was stirred up in the press in 1946."

Wallace recalled that Groves testified he showed Wallace an atomic report in August, 1945—but did not show him later reports.

"The implication was clear that, in his opinion, I was not to be trusted with atomic information," Wallace said.

Wallace said it was true that Groves brought him no other reports. He added:

"There was no reason why he

See WALLACE on page 2-A

Link With Shipments Disavowed

Ex-Vice President Before Committee

By KARL BAUMAN

WASHINGTON— (AP) — Henry A. Wallace said today he had "absolutely nothing to do with" wartime uranium shipments to Russia.

Wallace, wartime Vice President, testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He asked to be heard after Radio Commentator Fulton Lewis Jr., said in a broadcast last month that Wallace helped the Russians get supplies of atomic materials. Uranium is used in making the A-bomb.

Lewis was sitting in the room as a spectator when Wallace took the witness chair.

Committee members told reporters there had been no talk of having Lewis take the stand later.

WOULD FACE ACCUSERS

When Wallace asked to be heard he said he wanted to meet his accusers "face to face."

In a statement, Wallace told the committee he did not even know the Russians were asking licenses for the shipments. He added:

"I did not know that lend-lease with the Manhattan district, that they be issued, and the agency which I headed the Bureau of Economic Warfare, had no discretionary authority with respect to them."

The Manhattan District was the Army's name for the wartime atomic bomb project. The Board of Economic Warfare (BEW), Wallace headed, had control over exports and imports of war-critical materials.

Wallace said the testimony before the committee had raised two important questions concerning him:

(1) "It is strongly implied, if it is not actually said, that I was responsible for the licensing of uranium and heavy water for Russia in 1943; and (2) as a wartime Vice President, I could not be trusted with certain confidential information regarding the atom bomb."

Wallace said it is "not for me to pass judgment upon my conduct," but added:

"I state unhesitatingly that I am proud of my participation as Vice President of the United States during the years when the war situation was most critical, and I am proud to have been associated with the Administration whose policies were so effective in making available the essential materials when they were most needed."

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See WALLACE on page 2-A

McCloy Fears Reds Plan Creeping Berlin Blockade

NEW YORK — (AP) — John J. McCloy, American high commissioner for Germany, is reported today to believe that the increasing Russian restrictions on Berlin traffic mark the beginning of a creeping blockade.

A source familiar with McCloy's views said the high commissioner believes the new restrictions are a form of continuous arm-twisting designed to try to keep the Western sector from becoming too prosperous.

It was said that McCloy did not believe the Russians would reimpose the Berlin blockade in the same form as last year but that they would try some new tactics along the same line.

McCloy has been in the U. S. for consultation with the American Government.

McCloy was understood to feel that the concept of a unified Western Europe had the firm support of Chancellor Adenauer and most of the people in the Western zones.

He was reported also to feel that the great body of German opinion would support some transfer of sovereignty in order to make the idea of Western Europe work. He was reported as feeling that without the strength of a combined Western Europe it would be hard to combat the threat from the East.

Soviet propaganda aimed at the Western zones is reported to be increasing in quality and quantity. The Communists are said to be playing up Red success in China and making a great play on trade with the Far East.

Western Commanders Protest Traffic Delay

BERLIN, —(AP)— The American British and French Commanders in Berlin joined tonight in a new strong protest to the Russians over the hindrance of truck traffic between the city and Western Germany.

The decision to send a sharp note to the Soviets was reached after a three-hour special meeting of the Western Kommandatura.

A previous protest has been ignored until now.

The action came as the Russian guards on the Helmstedt border appeared to be tightening a "baby blockade" to the point where only one truck was being passed through every fifteen minutes.

An American Army truck convoy crossed early today without difficulty, but nearly 400 German trucks were caught in the jam which began five days ago.

Tydings Agrees To Quiz Matthews In Denfeld Case

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Chairman Tydings (D-Md) today agreed to call Secretary of the Navy Matthews before the Senate Armed Services Committee next week for questioning about the ouster of Admiral Louis Denfeld as top Navy commander.

Senator Knowland (R-Calif) was pressing a formal demand for Matthews' appearance when Tydings broke in:

"That won't be necessary."

Later the chairman promised to "do all in my power" to have the Navy Secretary appear "next Monday or Tuesday" at a closed session of the committee.

Prior to the committee meeting today Knowland and other Republicans claimed enough Democratic support to force the session with Secretary Matthews. Tydings had opposed it.

Knowland and other Republicans, including Senator McCarthy (R-Wis), have been sharply criticising Matthews for his testimony that Admiral Denfeld never was issued a commission for a second two year term as chief of naval operations.

McCarthy had gone as far in Senate floor speeches as suggesting impeachment of the Navy secretary.

Knowland's demand today was for the secretary to "clear up the testimony previously given."

There was tension at the open committee session today as Tydings first steered approval of two defense appointments.

They were:

Karl R. Bendetsen, San Francisco attorney and World War II veteran to be Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Lt. Col. Charles H. Bonesteel to serve as director of the European arms aid program in London with a special $15,000 a year salary.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SIEGENTHALER

See where old Gargantua died. I know a certain fellow that could take his place and nobody'd ever know the difference . . . Your Jokes never seem as funny when you tell them to your own wife.