Weather
Cloudy and mild tonight with drizzle and rain through Tuesday; cooler Tuesday.
More Weather Data on Page 2-A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolines

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TRUMAN REPORTED SET TO ACT ON COAL

Search Intensified For Missing Air Force Plane

Craft Lost In Arctic For 4 Days

Forester Reports Explosion, Smoke

WHITEHORSE, Y. T. — (AP) — More men and machines were poured today into the search for a missing U. S. Air Force transport and its 44 occupants.

Pace of the two-nation hunt, already ranking as the largest in the history of the frozen north, was stepped up as it entered its fourth day.

Reports of sub-zero temperatures brought new fears for the survival of any of the plane's occupants.

Temperatures at Snag, a tiny weather station twenty miles inside the Yukon territory from Alaska over which the huge transport made its last contact with the outside, were 10 below zero last night. Even colder readings were in prospect before morning.

The big, four-engine C-54 radioed its position from Snag last Thursday afternoon, about two hours after leaving Anchorage, Alaska, on a nonstop flight to Great Falls, Mont.

Aboard were 34 servicemen returning on furlough or for reassignment, an expectant mother and her two-year-old son, and eight crew members.

The search has been dubbed "Operation Mike," a name taken from the missing plane's commander, 1st Lt. Kyle E. McMichael, 28, whose wife lives in San Antonio, Texas.

As the long Arctic night called a temporary halt to the gigantic aerial search armada last night, officials anxiously awaited word from a ground party sent to investigate a lone clue to the plane's whereabouts.

It came from a forest ranger in an almost inaccessible spot approximately 40 miles to the southwest.

The ranger said he saw a large plane overhead late Thursday, then heard an earth-shaking thud, an explosion and saw billowing clouds of smoke.

Air Commodore Martin Costello of the Royal Canadian Air Force, search co-ordinator here, described the report as the "most highly probable" yet received.

Parachute crews stayed ready for an immediate take-off should the ground crew report back it has found the craft.

Nearly 50 U. S. and Canadian planes scoured the 1,200-mile long search area yesterday from Great Falls, Mont., to Snag. Thirty additional planes were to be thrown into the search today from Great Falls where 28-below-zero weather grounded all but a half dozen planes yesterday.

U. S. airmen, flying out of the Montana base, are concentrating on the 800-mile long stretch to Fort Nelson, B. C. Canadian planes cover the remaining 500-mile distance to Snag.

Air Force officers estimated that "Operation Mike" already involves more than 5,000 men at Great Falls and another 2,000 men in Canadian and Yukon Territory bases.

The vast armada not only must battle the sub-zero cold which penetrates both men and machines, but also must conduct its operations within a span of about seven hours of daylight each day.

The Arctic sun rises above the horizon about 11:45 A. M. (EST) and sinks again about 6:45 P. M. (EST).

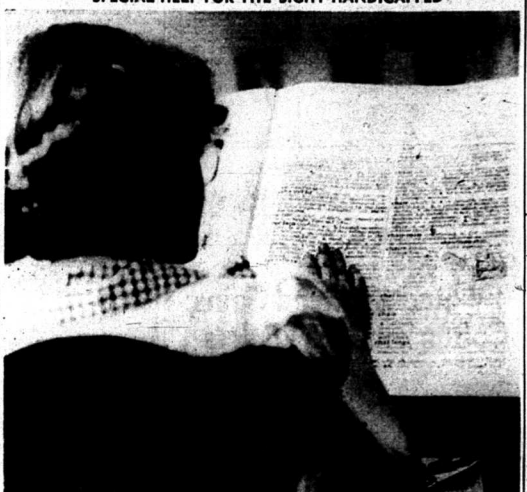
In Alaska time, the hours of sunlight are from 7:45 A. M. to 2:45 P. M.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SEIGENTHALER

Can't seem to get myself synchronized lately — my feet and arms start going to sleep before I do. . . There's many a slip between the hic-cup and lip.

SPECIAL HELP FOR THE SIGHT-HANDICAPPED



News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin Studio

This little girl has such poor eyesight that she'd never be able to keep up with classmates in regular school classes. So she's in the special sight-saving class at Elizabeth School, using specially-designed desks, reading from books with huge print, having regular eye-resting periods. She's one of eleven children with defective vision in the class. But there are many other Charlotte youngsters, nearly blind, who get no such attention in the public schools.

Our Forgotten 60,000: I

State Shirking Its Duty To Teach Handicapped Children

By TOM FESPERMAN
Charlotte News Staff Writer
(First of Six Articles)

THERE are more than 2,000 children in Charlotte who are mentally and physically handicapped that they need special education, but only 270 are getting what the State of North Carolina owes them.

Out of that 270, only 37 are in special classes while the others are being seen for inadequate weekly periods by itinerant teachers.

There is only one class for fifteen mentally subnormal white children, finally getting the kind of training that wasn't available to them during their early years.

There isn't even one class for mentally deficient Negro children.

Yet the most conservative estimates are that 1,000 white and Negro children here are so retarded in their minds that they need special attention.

Charlotte has some twenty ungraded classes for children who do not fit well into regular school work, but this doesn't constitute the special education due them.

There are eleven white children, horribly and permanently crippled, in a class for orthopedic cases here.

Not a single Negro child is getting this kind of education.

Yet there are hundreds of white and Negro children who are so crippled that special training is their urgent need.

There are about 230 white and Negro children who stutter badly, stammer, and some so backward in speech that they scarcely talk at all, who are finally getting some attention from two speech experts.

Yet there are many others here who need this training just as badly, but are denied the chance.

There is not a single class for children who are hard of hearing, yet there are probably 200 or more in Charlotte who are critically handicapped because they can't hear the teachers.

• • •

Haphazard Home Training Not Enough

IN all of North Carolina there are perhaps 4,000 handicapped children who are getting the special education they need, yet Dr. Clyde Erwin, the state's No. 1 public school man, estimates there are 65,000 children who should be getting this training. That means about 60,000 have been forgotten.

Where are all these children of Charlotte and the rest of North Carolina who are being almost totally ignored in the public school system?

What is happening to them?

The answers are obvious and simple. Many of the children are so terribly handicapped that they are remaining at home, under the care of busy mothers, all day every day, because they can't fit into the regular classes at school.

They are getting only the training that mothers are able to give them between chores, and without proper specialized preparation, and without proper equipment.

There are many children, mentally backward or nearly blind or nearly deaf or woefully unable to talk or unable to walk, trying their best to keep up with classmates who are not so unfortunate.

And most of these children are so far behind

See STATE on page 2-A

Gives Views To House Group

Acheson Would Continue Aid To Korea

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Acheson told Congress today that to stop economic aid to Korea now would be "most unfortunate." He said it would affect not only that young postwar republic but all of Southeast Asia.

It is "a safe bet," the Secretary added, that democratic South Korea can resist anything short of a "major attack" from the Russian-dominated northern half of the Korean peninsula.

Acheson outlined American responsibilities in Korea at an amicable session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

After that, Chairman Kee (D-W.Va.) ordered the committee into executive session for a closed-door discussion of the more touchy questions of U. S. foreign policy throughout all of Asia. This policy is now under fire from Acheson's republic critics.

Acheson's brief public testimony failed to produce anything but the mildest questioning by committee members.

The Secretary urged reversal of the House defeat last Monday of the $60,000,000 Korean assistance bill.

Speaking without notes or a prepared statement, he called for approval of a substitute proposal which ties Korean economic aid to extension of the China Aid Act of 1948.

Both aid programs expire Feb. 15, and would be extended until June 30 by the proposed legislation.

Acheson told the committee that the United States, as the principal sponsor of Korea's postwar government, has responsibilities to see Korea through its present difficult financial troubles.

"To stop aid now," he said, "would be a most unfortunate thing to do and would undo all that has been done."

There are unexpended funds of about $103,000,000 for China aid which he said could be used to some extent.

But the entire amount, he added, "could not be spent" by June 30 for economic assistance.

Acheson did not specify the exact sum that could be so spent but he indicated before that it would probably not exceed $30,000,000.

The State Department's program for Korea, Acheson went on, is now in its first year. The department, he said, will come to Congress in 1951 and 1952 for other funds in "smaller amounts" to put Korea on its feet.

After 1952, he said "we hope that Korea will be a self supporting nation."

Acheson was expected in advance to be asked about reports current this week-end that Moscow is making heavy demands on Chinese Communist leaders now in the Russian capital.

Telephone Workers Await Strike Plan

WASHINGTON—(AP)—More than 300,000 telephone workers looked to Union President Joseph A. Beirne today for more definite word on whether there will be a nationwide phone strike this week.

Coming here after a week of policy meetings at Cincinnati, Beirne scheduled a news conference this afternoon at which he was expected to give some details of his plans.

More than one-third of the members of the CIO Communications Workers of America will be free to walk off the job this Wednesday. The remaining members must wait another 30 days.

Atom Talks Started By 3 Powers

Uranium Rights Parley Subject

WASHINGTON— (AP) — Behind a tight secrecy curtain drawn by the State Dept., representatives of the United States, Belgium and Britain meet here today to talk about atomic energy.

Apparently authoritative information is that they want of discuss:

1. A possible increase in the $200 to $300 per ton price which the United States pays Belgium for the bulk of uranium produced in the Belgian Congo.

2. Detailed arrangements for division of the Congo's uranium output between the United States and Britain, with virtually all of it coming to this country.

Since the talks deal with uranium—used in making present day A-bombs—there is no apparent connection with a possible superbomb powered with hydrogen.

Various developments over the week-end indicated that President Truman may be near a grave decision on whether to build the H-bomb, and that he may rule in favor of it.

Chairman Connally (D-Tex) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has called for construction of the bomb as step to strengthen the peace.

"We want to preserve the peace of the world and the hydrogen bomb will serve that cause just as the atom bomb has done since it ended the war and gave us peace," Connally said in a week-end statement.

In Chicago, Atomic Scientist Harrison C. Brown warned that we may be ahead of America in building a hydrogen bomb. He added that the American public should rule on whether the U. S. makes such a bomb, "in full knowledge and understanding of the facts and terrible potentialities."

That contrasted with a statement by Rep. Elston (R-Ohio), a member of the Senate-House Atomic Committee, who told a reporter this country is "far ahead" of Russia in atomic development.

But another lawmaker, Sen. Mundt (R-SD) said in a New York speech that Russia is making A-bombs to the extent that "if dropped on 25 or 30 major cities, they could knock out the United States in 30 seconds."

The current Washington talks on uranium are evidently related to discussions among the United States, Britain and Canada which began last Fall to work out the terms of a new partnership in the production of atomic weapons. The American - British - Canadian talks are stalled now until after the British elections, diplomats here say.

Access to Belgium's Congo ore is one of the fundamental requirements for maintaining the present rate of atomic bomb production in the United States —whatever that may be.

Wartime agreements involving the three countries provided that Belgium would sell its uranium to the United States and Britain and that practically all of it except a relatively few tons used by the British in experiments would come to this country.

In addition, the United States obtains uranium from Canada and possibly other important sources. But the greatest known supply in the non-Communist world is in the Belgian Congo.

Atomic Group Studies H-Bomb

WASHINGTON— (AP) —The Senate-House Atomic Committee said today that it may make a recommendation to President Truman shortly on whether the United States should try to make a superpower hydrogen bomb.

Chairman McMahon (D-Conn) said the committee has had the issue under continuous investigation and consideration."

His announcement was made to reporters after a closed meeting of the committee with Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission's general advisory committee.

McMahon said the committee has taken no votes or action on the issue, but will meet again tomorrow for "further deliberations."

GI REPORTS DUE

WASHINGTON— (AP) —War veterans taking institutional on-farm training under the GI Bill must report their 1949 earnings by March 1, the Veterans Administration said today. Veterans who fail to do so may have subsistence payments suspended.

P. H. Batte Dies Of Sudden Illness

Charlotte lost an outstanding citizen in the death of Pryor Hamilton Batte, 55, general manager of The Charlotte Observer, whose body will be buried tomorrow at 3:30 P. M. in Jarratt, Va., where he was born.

Funeral services at Charlotte were held at 2:30 P. M. today at the chapel of J. M. Harry & Bryant Co., in charge of the Rev. Lee F. Tuttle, pastor of First Methodist Church, here, of which Mr. Batte was a member.

Death came to this leader in Charlotte's civic, industrial and commercial affairs at 5 A. M. yesterday at his home, 1708 Beverly Drive, four hours after he was stricken without warning by cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Batte was at his desk as usual throughout Saturday. He returned there Saturday night to give personal attention to operations of The Charlotte Observer. He appeared in his usual good health at that time. Only last Thursday evening, he acted as toastmaster at the annual meeting of the Charlotte Merchants Association, which he was re-elected as a director.

After news of his death was spread over the Carolinas, many expressions of sorrow came from over these states, where he had become widely known and admired during his career of about 27 years in Carolina journalism.

The body will remain at the Harry & Bryant Chapel until the departure of the funeral party in automobiles early tomorrow morning. The services at Jarratt will be conducted by the Rev. E. C. Smith.

Accompanying the body will be an escorting group of executives of The Charlotte Observer.

Active pallbearers at the services here this afternoon were members of the editorial staff of The Charlotte Observer: Charles Moss, Ed Charles, Walter Bewley, John Beard, George Rinhart, and Kenneth Cravens. The newspaper's executives were chosen as honorary pallbearers.

Mr. Batte was a son of Mrs. Susie Field Batte of Charlotte and Jarratt and of the late W. H. Batte, and was born at Jarratt Feb. 12, 1895.

After attending the public schools in Jarratt, Mr. Batte was graduated from a business college in Richmond, Va. After being employed about a year with E. I. du Pont De Nemours & Co. of Wilmington, Del., Mr. Batte became associated with The Wilmington (N. C.) Morning Star in the early 1920's. Within a few years he had advanced to the position of publisher of that daily newspaper.

Several years later he became identified with the Hill and La Varre interests, which operated daily newspapers, including The Columbia (S. C.) Record and companies in Spartanburg, S. C., and Augusta, Ga.

P. H. BATTE

A few years later he accepted the position of business manager of the two daily newspapers at Anderson, S. C., which are published by Willis E. Hall.

Mr. Batte's association with The Charlotte Observer began in September, 1925, as advertising director when he left the Anderson newspapers. Subsequently, Mr. Batte was advanced to the positions of business manager and general manager, the latter being the position he held at the time of his death.

During the years of his residence and business activity in Charlotte, Mr. Batte displayed a keen interest in the community's advancement. Through his energy, zeal and ability, he exerted strong influence for progress, especially in affairs of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, for which he served as chairman of various committees handling matters of major economic concern to this area.

During a long period of years, Mr. Batte also was active in the American Newspaper Publishers Association. Among other Charlotte organizations in which he held membership and was constantly active are Advertising Club, Sales Executives Club, City Club, Lions

See P. H. BATTE on page 2-A

Anti-Communist Front Formed At N. Y. Parley

NEW YORK — (AP) — Representatives of 60 national organizations, claiming a combined membership of 50,000,000, have laid the groundwork for a permanent organization to combat Communism in the United States.

The action was taken on the closing session yesterday of a two-day "all - American conference" sponsored by the American Legion.

The 150 delegates voted at Hotel Astor to form "a united front against a common enemy — world Communism."

The American Legion's commander, George N. Craig, stressed the role of religion in the battle against Communism, and invited all loyal Americans to join the fight. He named a seventeen-member national steering committee to direct the anti-Communist drive.

The conference heard Sen. Karl Mundt (R-S.D.) state yesterday that Russia now has a stockpile of atomic bombs which could "knock out the United States in 30 seconds" if war started.

Mundt urged a "phalanx-for-freedom" movement to co-ordinate the anti-Communist campaign, declared:

"This country is . . . permitting Russia to build up its bomb stockpiles, and we are doing nothing more than mildly deploring it."

The delegates voted to hold a second conference within 90 days to establish a "permanent pro-American, anti-Communist, unified and cohesive organization."

A resolution adopted unanimously declared: "World Communism is the greatest present threat to domestic security and peace on earth, and its No. 1 targets are God and our American way of life in the United States . . ."

The delegates included representatives of patriotic, religious, labor, business, civic, service, professional, educational, fraternal, veterans and social organizations.

The committee appointed by Craig on authorization by the delegates was instructed to "act as a clearing house and information center" on fighting Communism. It also was instructed to coordinate the work of the various organizations in the campaign and to enlist public support, without attempting to "control or supervise" the co-operating groups.

One of the resolutions adopted by the delegates said:

"Communism as practiced in the United States is not an economic or a political philosophy, but is in fact a deliberate revolutionary conspiracy inspired, directed and financed by an alien power."

White House Checking On Mine Idle

More Diggers Join In Strike

WASHINGTON— (AP) — The White House checked today on the number of coal miners at work and there were reports President Truman was ready to act quickly if strikers do not go back to the pits.

At a forenoon news conference, Charles Ross, Presidential press secretary, said "I can't answer anything at the moment."

He said Mr. truman had nothing to add to what he has already said about the coal situation. The President has repeatedly said he would step in if the situation required action from him.

Coal presumably was one of the matters reviewed at a conference Mr. Truman had with his staff. After it broke up, one of those who attended said he thought it unlikely that any action would be taken today.

GETTING REPORTS

It was learned the White House is getting reports on the happenings in the miners to week-end hints that Presidential action could be expected unless they get back to the three-day work week ordered by John L. Lewis, their union leader.

They apparently were not inclined to abandon the strike.

The Associated Press bureau at Pittsburgh reported reports from over the country showed at least 80,000 miners stayed at home this week-end when their whistles blew. This compares with 55,000 last week.

"The situation has now reached a point where at least the three-day work week must be put into full operation to avoid White House action," said a high White House official last night.

"Only the return of the men to work by tomorrow (Monday), or evidence by them that they are returning immediately will make it possible for the President to hold off," said the official — who declined to be quoted by name.

At another point, he said in his Sunday evening conversation with a reporter that the President might intervene "within 48 hours."

Lewis instituted a three-day week to bring pressure on coal operators for a great UMW contract demand, short of an all-out strike. The strike of the 80,975, who say they can't live on three days' pay, does not have official UMW authorization.

Mr. Truman has repeatedly said in recent weeks that a national emergency had not arrived, although a number of people in and out of Congress disagreed with him. The Taft-Hartley emergency provisions include the use of an 80-day injunction to keep the mines going.

The alternative action might be to set up a fact-finding board with power to make recommendations for settling the coal dispute. He did this in last year's steel strike, asking the parties to continue production while the Board studied the case.

The White House official discussing possible Presidential moves said the expected resumption of contract talks here Wednesday between Lewis and Northern and Western operators would not be considered in itself at this stage.

He noted that contract negotiations by themselves would not put men back to work at once.

NAACP, Church Council Targets Of Klan Group

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. —(AP)— A newly consolidated Ku Klux Klan — minus the big Georgia group — today set out to lick "1,100 pro-Communist organizations in the United States."

After completing a merger of three Klan groups here yesterday, spokesmen called for active war on Communism and what the Klan called "hate" movements.

The Klan singled out as targets the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people, B'nai B'rith and the National Council of Churches of Christ in America.

It called them the kind of groups "designed and intended to stir up racial and religious hate among the minority."

In New York, an official of the Federal Council called the Klan statement an absurd charge and said he assumed the issue will be taken care of locally.

An NAACP Spokesman pledged continued work toward equal rights for all American citizens "despite the organized bigotry of such groups as the KKK."

At national headquarters of B'nai B'rith in New York a spokesman said: "The Klan's statement calling the B'nai B'rith a hate group is pure nonsense. Actually the Ku Klux Klan and B'rith hates intolerance and the principles which the Ku Klux Klan espouses."

While the Klan credited the Roman Catholic Church with actively fighting Communism, it advised members against Catholic domination of the light.

Merged were the Federated Federated Klans of Alabama, the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the Association of Carolina Klans.

Spokesmen were listed as Hugh Morris of Birmingham, Ala., Thomas L. Hamilton of Louisville, Ky., and Bill Hendrix of Tallahassee, Fla.