

'Silent Treatment' Before

Merger Is Ignored By Officials Show Not Put Up To Legislators

By TOM FESPERMAN
Charlotte News Staff Writer

City and County officials are killing proposed government consolidation with the silent treatment.

Mecklenburg legislators told the News today that local authorization of a bond issue to finance a merger of the two governments here during the current Assembly, which will adjourn in about two weeks.

More than they said, local officials haven't even mentioned consolidation during the General Assembly.

So it appears certain that nothing will be done toward consolidating parts of the two governments here during the current Assembly, which will adjourn in about two weeks.



Lined up aboard the Troopair in St. Petersburg, Fla., are the skipper of the missing yacht and members of his all-girl crew: front row (left to right) Dottie Sherrill (wearing cap), Betty Gilchrist, Myrna Bibbs and Marjorie Hall. Back row, Pat Fenner, Helen Hobbs, Skippy Le Hederman, Janice Koutforn and Clerice Willis. Miss Sherrill has been identified as a former resident of Statesville. (Acme Telephoto.)

Missing Schooner Reported Seen

MIAMI, Fla.—The Coast Guard received a report today that a fishing boat, missing schooner Troopair and its eight-girl crew and male skipper off Florida's coast.

The Coast Guard announced the unconfirmed report at St. Petersburg. It was received by a fishing boat on the morning of March 28.

The Troopair, a schooner bearing on Venice. The schooner was proceeding under auxiliary power. Coast Guard officials said that under prevailing weather conditions it would take the Troopair "some time" to reach the port at St. Petersburg.

Coast Guard planes searching for the ship reported rough seas and a 20-knot wind, equivalent to about 25 miles per hour. A 900-foot ceiling and visibility of four miles hampered the air search.

But the several planes engaged in the hunt outlined their meager success in crossing the area.

The skipper, a former resident of St. Petersburg, to Havana, has been missing for three days. Small craft weather warnings are being over the area of the lower Florida Keys. The wind has been building up since Monday.

SEARCH WIDENED

The Coast Guard today ordered the search widened to the west and northwest.

While some expressed fears that the schooner and its crew were in danger, Coast Guard Lieutenant John Web-

Food Going Under New Price System

(For news of Charlotte's reaction to the food pricing plan, turn to the second front.)

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The nation's retail and wholesale grocers today set about shifting the huge volume of food items—costing the public \$20,000,000,000 a year—to a new method of price control.

They are under Government orders to complete the transfer before April 5 and April 30.

The Office of Price Stabilization (OPS) announced that regulations last night, putting under 60 per cent of all foods under "margin" percentages which the agency said are those in effect before the Korean outbreak. A factor added the "margin" percentage most decreases that increase the ceiling price.

Here is what the new system means:

First, it means a great many up and down movements in food prices, depending on the store, the quality, and the kind of food.

Price Director Michael V. Disalle said "We are sure that there will be some price decreases that increase the ceiling price."

That was cheerless news for the housewife, but Disalle added that "a large part of the increase in farm prices can be cancelled out if farm prices continue to move up."

Under present law, the wholesale price of a commodity and the products must be allowed to rise when necessary to reflect higher farm prices. Disalle said that "the new system means that the price of a commodity can be reduced if the price of the commodity falls below the ceiling price, figured by the district OPS office and posted on big charts in the stores."

OPS officials said this was "the most important aspect" of the new system.

They said this system of "community pricing" may be reached in about six months. They said they'd like to order it immediately, because it is the most effective and enforceable system of price

control. But they said food prices, in reflecting fluctuations in farm prices, will keep going up and down so rapidly for a while that the posted ceilings might be out of date before the poster could be printed and tacked to the wall.

Disalle said that the new "margin" or "margin" regulations will keep food prices under effective control for the next few months—except for changes reflecting farm price fluctuations.

The OPS is following the same pattern that the wartime OPA followed—margin controls and then community prices—but the OPS, profling by OPS experience, is considerably ahead of the OPA in its timetable.

April 30 is the deadline for grocers to complete their change-over. Any time after April 5, however.

See FOOD on page 14-A.

British Protest Berlin Shooting

BERLIN—(AP)—The British set a sharp protest to Soviet authorities today concerning yesterday's shooting attack on American Ambassador's buses by East German Communist police.

The buses carried 73 Americans, none of whom was hurt.

The protest, by Maj. Gen. K. Bourne, British commander in Berlin, was submitted to American officials prepared to register their protest verbally at a face-to-face meeting with the Russians.

Gen. Bourne's letter demanded that "the culprits be brought to account."

OUR WEATHER

Shiners and warm today and tonight. Friday, partly cloudy and cooler.

Sunrise, 6:15 A. M.; sunset, 6:45 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 14-A

"LIGHT AS AIR"

When you hear the expression "light as air," you probably think of air as having no weight. But it does weigh something—and it weighs a lot, too.

If it had no weight, the atmosphere would not be held to the earth by the pull of gravity, and without air, life as we know it could not survive.

Second, the new system means that Disalle's OPS now has paved the way for definite dollar-and-cents ceiling prices, figured by the district OPS office and posted on big charts in the stores.

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Church Group, Government Agencies Join National Campaign Against Crime Pushed

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The crusade against crime, spearheaded by the Kefauver committee and other agencies, gained momentum today as the national Protestant group urged church action to strengthen the country's "moral fiber."

Hailing the official crackdown on organized crime, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., asked churches everywhere to help halt the "moral delinquency in our society."

The council's interim policy-making general body condemned crime, gambling and racketeering, as well as "illegalized race track wagers, lotteries, bingo and the like."

The board pointed out that persons who patronize bookmakers and gambling houses "contribute to the coffers of the syndicate and help to corrupt government."

The council represents 29 denominations, including nearly 70 per cent of American Protestants.

Swelling the national crime-busting campaign was an order by New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey calling for a grand jury investigation of the Mafia in Florida, Springs, N. Y., a racketeer spa.

Dewey created a five-member crime commission to "investigate generally the relationship between organized crime and any unit of Government anywhere in the state."

The Illinois five state Senators introduced a bill in the Legislature proposing a "Little Kefauver" committee to ferret out syndicated crime, gambling and racketeering.

John Croft, one of seventeen mission witnesses for whom the Senate issued arrest warrants last month, was put under \$10,000 bond for possible contempt charges after he refused to answer some questions of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee behind closed doors in Washington.

Croft has been linked to gambling operations in Northern California.

Committee Three Found Guilty In Atomic Spy Trial

NEW YORK (AP)—A Federal court jury today convicted three American citizens—two men and a woman—of being atom spies for Russia.

It returned its verdict at 11 A.M. (EST) after deliberating the fate of the three defendants for seven hours and 18 minutes.

The convicted trio, accused of the capital offense of wartime espionage, were Julius Rosenberg, 34-year-old electrical engineer, his petite, dark-haired wife, Ethel, 35, and radar expert Morton Sobell, 33. All five from New York City.

Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman April 5 for imposition of sentence. The death sentence was not mentioned during the trial but Judge Kaufman told the jury last night he alone would determine the severity of sentence.

The Government's star witness in the sensational case was David Greenglass, brother of Ethel Rosenberg, Greenglass had pleaded guilty to the espionage indictment, is awaiting sentence for his part in the plot.

GRAND JURY NAMED

The espionage indictment also named a fifth defendant, Anatoli A. Yakovlev, who is now believed to have fled to the sanctuary of Russia.

Greenglass is a former Army technician who served at the

Manhattan Project. He was known to be so shocked that he could not find words to describe the loathsome offense.

The jury had weighed the fate of the three defendants for one hour and two minutes today after they had been locked up for the night at 12:45 this morning.

The trio was accused of relay-ing atom secrets to an international Red spy ring headed by Klaus Fuchs until his arrest in England early last year. The secrets, the Government contended, included drawings of the atom bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945.

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House Group Opposes Redevelopment Bill

RALEIGH—(AP)—Legislation to speed up the redevelopment process was approved by a House Judiciary Committee today.

The measure, amended so that it would apply only to cities with a population of 25,000 or more, would authorize the city to set up redevelopment commissions.

These commissions would acquire slum areas, clear them and redevelop them into new areas. The property either could be transferred to the city or sold to private enterprise for development.

The work would be done with Federal loans.

The committee also gave its approval to a measure which would allow non-certified public accountants to continue to do accounting work but not to certify public accounts.

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Board of Education could be nominated in no partisan way. In this case, however, final confirmation by the Legislature is required.

Both measures have been approved by the House.

Bill To Eliminate Gag Rule Killed

The House today passed a proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate the so-called "gag rule" in the Legislature was killed by a Senate committee today.

With only brief discussion, the Committee on Constitutional Amendments voted an unfavorable report to a measure sponsored by Sen. Thomas B. Sawyer of Durham. The amendment would have been submitted to the voters.

Senate Group To Study Education Problems

RALEIGH—(AP)—Two local education matters decided by school officials as setting procedure referred to a sub-committee for study today by the Senate Education Committee.

One of the measures would allow Republican Transylvania County to elect its members of the county board of education without confirmation by the General Assembly.

The other would provide that members of the Person County

Education Committee would be required to make available for public inspection all court records except in certain cases.

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Australians, Canadians Carry Ball MacArthur Peace Offer Rejected

By OLEN CLEMENTS

TOKYO—(AP)—Australians Digors and Canadian Princess Elizabeth set off to strike today on the muddy central Korean front.

But elsewhere in the central and western sectors, the Communists fought their stiffest defensive action of weeks. They were dug in about four miles south of the Pgd Korean border in both areas.

The Red stand came as China rejected General MacArthur's bid to talk peace with the Communist commander in Korea.

MacArthur's headquarters told of Red troops and supply movements which indicated the Communists might be massing for a Spring offensive. It added: "When April's seasonal rains bog down the Allied heavy weapons, OFFER SPURNED

is a striking procedure spurring MacArthur's peace talk offer. Red China said it was unimportant and insulting and "worth a single line of ink." It added: "The entire Chinese people will fight unrelentingly until the aggressor is completely driven from Korea."

The British Commonwealth forces, backed up by the rugged, Aussie and Canadian troops, forded rushing streams and scrambled over hills during twelve days of rain.

Kapung is twelve miles south of the border and twelve miles southwest of Chumson on the road to Seoul.

AP Correspondent Nate Polowetz reported the advances were significant. He said the distance could not be disclosed. He added: "Only the difficulties of the going determined the speed of their advance."

Field dispatches said the Chinese were moving south of the line in the Chumson area. They were digging defensive positions in the northern hills overlooking the Chumson basin.

The Reds poured heavy mortar fire into Allied tanks striking up the Pukhan and Soyhan river valleys, respectively, and the border, eight miles away.

Two tank-infantry patrols discovered newly laid minefields north of Chumson. Reds were watching the area from machine gun and mortar emplacements.

REID DUG IN

Between 7,000 and 10,000 Reds were reported dug in along the entire 160-mile border. At least 80,000 more backed them up along a 20 mile, deep stretch of Red Korea.

In the air, F-86 Sabre jets of the U. S. Fifth Air Force tangled Thursday with 23 Russian MiG-15 jets in three separate encounters over northwest Korea.

See AUSTRALIANS on page 14-A

U. S. Casualties Set At 57,120

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Announced American casualties in Korea rose to 57,120 today, an increase from 56,000 last week.

The total, representing casualties reported to the next of kin through March 28, included 10,551 killed, 37,918 wounded and 10,051 missing in action.

The wounded figure included 1,004 who have since died and 111 returned to U. S. military control and 19 are known prisoners of war, leaving 9,550 currently missing.

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