

like Cleaning House

Hundreds Lose Civil Service Status

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower today stripped Civil Service job protection from scores of several hundred policy-making government officials appointed by Democratic administration.

The President signed an executive order opening the way for naming men of his own choosing to such positions in various federal agencies.

When the Republicans went into office after two decades of Democratic rule under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, new department heads protested they had power to choose a handful of their assistants. Other positions had been placed under Civil Service.

Eisenhower announced March 5 that he was going to issue an order "to provide the heads of agencies with greater freedom in determining who should occupy their jobs in question."

The White House statement said that Civil Service, with its various protections against a job holder being ousted, was never intended to cover "those positions where the duties are such that there must be a close personal and confidential relationship between the incumbent of the position and the head of the agency."

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said today's order removes "more than five hundred" present policy-making officials from Civil Service status.

Asked for more precise estimate, Hagerty said he was unable to provide one.

Asked whether the number of officials affected might run into the thousands, the secretary replied that would depend on how the order is administered by the various federal agencies.

Pointing up the administration's vigorous assurance of freedom of action, Federal Security Administrator Oveta Culp Hobby recently said she would make no decisions unless she had been given into office by the Democratic administration. She said she was necessary that she be able to choose her own top aides.

Press Urges Repeat Of Law On Secrecy

By C. A. MCKINNEY, Editor, The News

RALIGH (AP)—The board of directors of the North Carolina Press Association approved a resolution here yesterday asking the General Assembly to repeal a law adopted last week after a two-day fight with capital newspaper reporters.

The resolution asked a public hearing on the repealer bill, and further commended the corps of capital newspaper reporters for their efforts in the fight of the appropriations subcommittee to shut the door to the public on its budget deliberations.

The association directors and some 25 other newspaper representatives voted down a resolution being brought by Publisher John Horn of the Rocky Mount "Telegraph" to repeal the law. The Legislature for a conference, Mr. Horn's move got only a scattering of votes.

Even so, the resolution was couched in conciliatory terms. It "respectfully petitions" the General Assembly to repeal the law. The directors also adopted a lengthy statement explaining their position and criticizing the subcommittee's amendment permitting secret budget hearings.

Meimar Jones, NCPA president, said the meeting by saying "it is here because we believe a principle is involved—a principle a whole lot bigger than the secrecy matter. It is the right of the people to know how the Legislature spends their money, not only this but all the time."

"My own feeling is that we can't do it more strongly" action that was taken last week. We can be conciliatory without bugging an inch from the principle. And we can be calm. If you're right, you don't have to scream to be heard."

WETHERS DISAGREES After President James listed several alternative courses of action, the secretary-treasurer of the N. C. Association of Dates, Danforth, said he would send a telegram from Lee B. Wethers, publisher of the Shelby Daily Star and former State Senator, saying he disagreed with the stand taken by the newspapers in the dispute over secret legislative sessions.

Other legislators from Ben Adkins, editor of the Gaston Gazette, and Stanley A. Cook of the Business Daily Times-New are among the papers' position.

At that point the managing editor of the Raleigh News & Observer, J. B. Ragan, said he would support the N. C. Press Association should press first for repeal of the secrecy amendment.

"It is a legal test on constitutional grounds would be feasible."

William C. Lassiter, Raleigh attorney who is conducting the constitutional test would be "ineffective and doubtful." The effective remedy, he added, is public opinion.

Eric Rodgers, Scotland Neck publisher, said he had "often been asked to public opinion in 35 years newspaper work, and added that "I was probably in the wrong sometimes. I suspect all of us have been."

Mr. Rodgers went on to say that he had covered sessions of the Legislature.

Lord Jean, he thought the welcome guest in our homes as "Two was in the Bethany home many weeks. Make our homes each a Bethany. In Thy name we ask."

AMEN

NEW U. N. CHIEF

Swede Accepts United Nations Secretary Post

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Swedish Deputy Foreign Minister Dag Hammarskjöld today accepted a Security Council post as United Nations Secretary General.

The Swedish diplomat was nominated by the Security Council yesterday to succeed Norwegian Trygve Lie in a surprise agreement between the Soviet Union and the Western members.

Previous avertures had been made to Swedish officials, Government sources said.

Hammarskjöld conferred throughout the morning with Premier Tage Erlander and key members of the cabinet.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—U. N. delegates today viewed the East-West agreement on new U. N. secretary general and Communist Chinese proposals to settle the Korean peninsula.

The agreement was seen as a major step in the Soviet Union's new post-Stalin peace offensive.

With Andrei Y. Vishinsky making his first U. N. appearance since his return from Moscow, the Soviet foreign minister, to fill the post Hammarskjöld had not previously been mentioned publicly as a possible choice.

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Committee Delays Liquor Referendum

RALIGH (AP)—The House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns today delayed its vote on a bill providing for a statewide liquor referendum.

The committee, headed by Rep. Joseph M. Gufford, committee chairman, has promised that the bill would be brought up for consideration today.

At the session he told the committee: "I refer to you for whatever action you want to take House Bill 100."

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Van Fleet Says Orders Stopped Landing Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gen. James Van Fleet testified today he was stopped by orders from making an amphibious landing behind the Communist lines in June, 1953.

The former Eighth Army commander told senators he was ready to go with the operation when he received stop orders from Gen. William H. Tunney, then the Far Eastern commander with headquarters in Tokyo.

Van Fleet said the Eighth Army had smashed two Red Spring offensives and he recommended "that we follow up with an amphibious landing on the east coast."

Van Fleet's testimony was given to a Senate Armed Services subcommittee as it opened a televised inquiry into ammunition shortages in Korea.

SHORTAGES UNDOUBTED At the start, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Me.) declared: "There is no doubt that there were shortages" despite the Pentagon's denial that there were any of consequence.

She said the inquiry would attempt to pinpoint responsibility.

Sen. Charles McNair (R-Ore.), chairman of the subcommittee.

She said she was gratified by recent reports that ammunition shortages in Korea had been cured.

But she insisted that would not show the inquiry into why it ever existed.

She said that shortage during the 22 months when Van Fleet led the Eighth Army had caused restrictions or limitation upon the fighting "men in the frontline."

Sen. McNair (D-Va.) asserted that he was not going to let the Pentagon leaders "blame the industry for not demanding huge additional appropriations."

He always "has wanted a congressional investigation."

SEE WORLD SUPPORT "I am authorized to state, that the United States government expresses its full solidarity with this noble act of the government of the Chinese People's Republic."

The reaction of authorities here was that if this reference to Red Chinese membership in the U. N. is just a "pious hope," as seems likely, it would not make any great difference to those prospects.

But if it is being thrown out by the United States, it would be a condition of a truce proposal.

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Molotov Endorses Chinese Proposals

MOSCOW (AP)—Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov pledged Soviet assistance today in trying to bring about an armistice in Korea on the basis of proposals by Chou En-lai, the Chinese premier.

Molotov's statement was the first official Soviet comment on the latest Korean developments. It appeared in the form of Foreign Ministry announcement issued through the official Soviet news agency Tass and broadcast by Moscow Radio.

Molotov said the Soviet government recognizes the complete "illegitimacy" of the new proposals and expresses its readiness to fully assist in realizing them.

TWO PROSALS There have been two proposals—one from North Korea for the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners, and another from Chou En-lai in Peiping for the repatriation of other prisoners of war.

Under the latter proposal prisoners willing to return home would be handled by neutral nations.

At the same time, Molotov strongly suggested the Chinese Communists and the North Korean Communists be represented in the United Nations.

He declared this would greatly assist in settling all issues of the Korean peninsula.

From this it is obvious the USSR intends to continue its fight for the principle of forcible repatriation of war prisoners to the Communist side.

Information said this is a critical point on which the plan put forth by Chinese Communist Premier Chou En-lai must be spelled out in detail.

Chou's plan was generally assumed here to have the support of the Korean people. In fact, it had not.

The speculation, though highly interesting, did not find wide support here.

And today, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov pledged his government's support of Chou's plan. He seemed to add that the Chinese and North Korean Communists should be represented at the United Nations in order to make it easier to reach an agreement.

The reaction of authorities here was that if this reference to Red Chinese membership in the U. N. is just a "pious hope," as seems likely, it would not make any great difference to those prospects.

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Red Approval Strengthens Bid For Korea Truce

Several Critical Points Unanswered

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia's endorsement of Red China's Korean truce proposal here as making the offer more convincing.

This government was reported determined to stand firm on the principle of forcible repatriation of war prisoners to the Communist side.

Information said this is a critical point on which the plan put forth by Chinese Communist Premier Chou En-lai must be spelled out in detail.

Chou's plan was generally assumed here to have the support of the Korean people. In fact, it had not.

The speculation, though highly interesting, did not find wide support here.

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Added Axle Loads Given Permission

RALIGH (AP)—In the face of a warning from the Highway Commission's committee today approved a measure which would permit heavier axle loads on trucks using the highways.

Chief Engineer W. H. Rogers Jr. told the committee that the measure would be "critical."

Later in answer to questions Rogers said he would allow "accelerate damage to the roads."

The measure would not change present gross weight limits. Under the bill, however, it would allow "excess" axle loads.

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