ON THE INSIDE

Business ..... 2B Radio & TV .. 2B
Classified ....8-11B Rental 12A
Comics ..... 6B Sports 4-7B
Crossword ..... 2B Theaters 10A
Editorials ..... 8A Wishing Well .. 3A
Features ..... 2B Women 6-7A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS ★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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Severe Winter Storm Lashes Eastern U. S.

COUPLE TELLS OF ROBBERY

Bandleader Xavier Cugat and his wife, Abbe Lane, tell police how a shabbily dressed man kidnapped and robbed them as they left Hollywood's Pan Pacific Auditorium, where the Cugat band is playing. Cugat said the stolen items included a $2,600 wristwatch, his wife's $9,000 ring, and other jewels in total value of $20,000. (AP Wirephoto)

Molotov On Way

'Big Three' Arrive In Berlin

BERLIN (AP)—U. S. Secretary of State Dulles, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden reached Berlin today for a big four conference opening Monday. Communist secrecy cloaked the movements of Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, but he was expected in East Berlin by train tomorrow.

The three Western ministers arranged a get-together to set up strategy for the meeting. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said the three would hold a pre-conference tal ktomorrow at French headquarters.

Dulles, who flew to this divided city in President Eisenhower's plane, Columbine, said in a prepared statement the Western Powers "hope to unite Germany by giving the German people as a whole the right which our civilization treats as fundamental, including the right of a people by free elections to choose for themselves their own sovereign government."

DULLES FIRST

The American secretary of state was the first to arrive. He was greeted at the airport by a large delegation of Western officials and an American tank unit fired a 19-gun salute. Dulles was followed shortly by Bidault, who came in by train from Paris. Eden stopped off in Duesseldorf on his way to Berlin and told reporters at the airfield there: "Nobody can expect a full solution to the problem (of Germany) can be found in a matter of a few weeks."

Departing from Washington, Dulles had been cautious about the parley's prospects.

He told reporters:

"If the Soviet leaders come to Berlin with a genuine desire to create conditions of peace, they will find us openminded and cooperative, and we can together do much good for Germany and Austria and indeed for Europe and the whole world."

But he queried: "Will Germany and indeed all Europe be unified for peace? Or will divisions be imposed which will make Europe again the breeder of war?"

MOLOTOV SILENT

There was no matching statement from Molotov.

From the conference sidelines, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was more optimistic than anyone else. He told the foreign affairs committee of the Bonn Parliament that there existed a real chance for unification of West and East Germany in the Berlin talks.

AMBULANCE MAKES 3 TRIPS FOR SAME MAN

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—(AP)—A Memorial Hospital ambulance made three runs to the same corner last night and picked up the same man three times and took him to the hospital. The third time he stayed.

The man was Eldon H. Hartman, 43, South Bend.

At 5 p.m., he fainted at the corner of Kendall and Prairie avenues. He was taken to the hospital, treated for scalp lacerations and released.

At 6 p.m., the same thing happened. After being treated for reopened lacerations, Hartman was again released.

At 8 p.m., Hartman again fainted at the same corner, but this time he suffered a new cut on his head and this time the hospital kept him for observation.

Doctors attempted today to find the source of his trouble.

They said he was not drunk and Hartman said he had not been ill recently.

He lives near the corner where he fainted.

Bonding Fund Set For School Bus Drivers

RALEIGH (AP)—Meeting in a special session, the State Board of Education acted quickly today to relieve school bus drivers of any worries they may have over operation of the state's new financial responsibility law.

The board hastily adopted a resolution creating a $100,000 bonding fund for the drivers which will be placed on deposit with the state treasurer. This will satisfy the letter of the financial responsibility law which requires drivers involved in accidents causing more than $100 damages to supply proof of financial responsibility or else lose the right to drive until all claims resulting from the accident are satisfied.

Many school bus drivers had be worried over the situation and so had been hesitant about driving since it involved the risk they would lose their driving licenses in case of an accident. Without action by the board the only way for them to avoid this risk was to buy liability insurance. Such insurance costs more than most of them would be willing to pay since they receive only $22 a month for their part-time bus driving jobs.

Board member A. McL. Graham of Clinton said he regarded the board's action in posting the bond as a "stop gap measure" to meet the situation until the Legislature can meet and change the law. He said he expects the Legislature to amend the law to exempt state drivers since the state will pay for damages, up to $8,000, which result from the negligence of its employes.

Phone Links Restored For Big Four Meeting

BERLIN (AP) — Telephone connections between Communist East Berlin and the Allied west sector, cut off by the Russians 19 months ago, were restored today for the Big Four Conference.

German communications officials said 48 lines are available for official Allied use and 20 lines for the world press. The press lines connect the allied press center in the American sector and Communist press headquarters in the Soviet sector.

OUR WEATHER

Rain this afternoon. Possibility of freezing rain by 6 p. m., likely changing to sleet, which will end about midnight.

Low temperature this morning 42 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight 28 degrees.

High temperature yesterday 64 degrees.

High temperature expected today 48 degrees.

Sunrise 7:28 a.m.; sunset 5:41 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 4-A

LATEST IN ATOMIC ATTIRE

This plastic, balloon-like suit is the newest thing in wearing apparel at the General Electric Co.'s huge plutonium producing plant at Richland, Wash. It provides protective barrier against radiation in "hot" areas, permitting a man to determine the extent of contamination and do cleanup and maintenance work in such areas. The "train" in rear, a flexible plastic tunnel from suit to wall entrance, provides air and serves as entrance and exit. The air mask worn is used only if the suit accidentally becomes torn or punctured. (AP Wirephoto)

PRO-REDS ABANDONED

Balky Korean Prisoners Freed

By BILL SHINN

PANMUNJOM, Saturday (AP) — The Korean War prisoners who stirred world wide controversy by their refusal to go home were turned loose today.

Twenty-one Americans, 1 Briton and 327 South Koreans who chose communism were abandoned by Indian guards in a flimsy neutral zone compound at 12:01 a. m. (10:01 a. m. Friday, EST).

The pro-Red POWs said they would stay until their food runs out, echoing the demand of the Communist command that Indian troops stay on.

The U. N. Command liberated as civilians the nearly 22,000 anti-Red captives returned to it Wednesday by the Indian Command—a course the Allies assert was required by the armistice.

CAMP QUIET

When official freedom came, more than 14,000 Chinese anti-red POWs already were aboard American ships en route to Chinese Nationalist Formosa. More than 7,500 anti-Communist North Korean were in South Korean army reception centers.

An Indian officer said the pro-Communist north camp was "absolutely quiet." There was no celebration among the Koreans. A ROK official said most were asleep.

Some of the freed prisoners had been in stockades almost from the start of the Korean War 3½ years ago.

Allied insistence that no prisoners be forced to go home against their will was a major stumbling block in the prolonged armistice talks.

The pro-Red American, British and South Korean POWs staged a sitdown strike in their compound. The purpose was to back the Communist position that they should be held until their fate is decided by a Korean peace conference. But it was considered likely that when their food runs out they will march north—and vanish behind the Iron Curtain.

FINAL APPEAL

The Indian Command made a final appeal Friday for the Reds to accept the pro-Communist prisoners, but it was rejected.

Instead, the Reds warned Indian Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya they would consider the Indians responsible for seeing that there is no "abduction and dispersion" of the pro-Reds.

The Indian commander then met with leaders of the pro-Red compound, U. S. Sgt. Richard G. Corden of East Providence, R. I., British Marine Andrew Condron and three leaders of the South Korean POWs.

"He gave them his position," an Indian spokesman said, "namely, that by midnight we shall withdraw our guards, withdraw our custody and shall have nothing to do with them."

SAY TRUCE WRECKED

The Reds also bitterly accused the Indian command of "completely" wrecking the truce terms on POWs.

While the Reds were protesting, Gen. Hull, wrote Thimayya praising the "humane, efficient and expeditious manner in which anti-Communist Korean and Chinese personnel were transferred.

The 21 Americans, 1 Briton and 327 Koreans who chose communism over going home were placed in the ironic position of being rejected by the Communists because of the Red stand that the Indians had no right to free them.

The Reds contended that India as chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, should keep them in custody until their fate was settled by a Korean peace conference. Earlier this week, the Reds refused to accept the 349.

The U. N. Command held that the armistice required unrepatriated POWs to be freed as civilians at midnight Friday.

The Indian command, caught in the middle, decided to return the prisoners to their captors, but emphasizing that in its opinion any change in their status would be an armistice violation.

Parts Of Ike's Budget Plan Face Battle

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Portions of President Eisenhower's unbalanced 65 1/2-billion-dollar spending budget for the next fiscal year today appeared to face some stiff bipartisan congressional trouble.

"Too much," said Chairman Tabor (R-NY) of the House Appropriations Committee.

Rather risky, commented House Democratic Leader Rayburn of Texas, referring to a cut in planned national security spending. Many Congressmen, however, praised the emphasis on air power and new weapons. Rayburn agreed it was proper to put emphasis on both.

Some Republicans and Democrats joined in commenting that the President's stand against cuts in corporation and excise tax rates was likely to face severe fire from a Congress anxious to cut taxes in a year when many members face re-election campaigns.

There was some criticism of plans for continued heavy foreign aid spending and, from a few Democrats, of proposed cutbacks in Army and Navy manpower.

And there was bipartisan unhappiness over the fact that the budget projects a federal deficit through the 1955 fiscal year starting July 1.

The reduced spending estimates came in for general praise, although there was some criticism of specific cuts.

The bulky document picturing the government's financial plans

See OPPOSITION on page 4-A

Voting Age Change Backed

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Senate judiciary subcommittee today approved a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 as recommended by President Eisenhower.

Only the three Republican members—Chairman Langer (ND) and Sens. Dirksen (Ill) and John M. Butler (Md)—were present. All favored it.

The voting was left open for the two Democratic members of the subcommittee—sens. Kilgore (W. Va) and Kefauver (Tenn)—to cast their ballots later if they wish.

Kefauver is among the sponsors of the proposed amendment. Kilgore offered such legislation nearly 10 years ago and is listed as a supporter.

The subcommittee action sends the proposed amendment on to the full Judiciary Committee where as a supporter.

The subcommittee action sends the proposed amendment on to the full Judiciary Committee where it is expected to encounter some opposition.

EVENING PRAYER

Help us, O God, so to worship Thee that we may be able to smooth the road for those who come after us and provide refreshment and strength for pilgrims who toil along life's winding way. In Christ's name. Amen.

Emma Jo Must Wait

CARSON CITY, Nev. —(AP)— A legal barrier today delayed the marriage of a woman freed after almost three years in prison for a murder the Nevada Pardons Board ruled was not committed.

Emma Jo Johnson's divorce from Russell Johnson isn't final, but her attorney says it will be taken care of by Monday.

That will leave Emma Jo, 35, free to marry Jack Wengert, 44, a bartender-chef who has waited for her since 1951.

Mystery writer Erle Stanley Gardner and others collected evidence that convinced the pardons board that Mrs. Jane Jones, 72, whom Emma Jo was convicted of murdering actually died of a brain tumor. Emma Jo had been sentenced to 10 to 12 years for second degree murder.

District Judge A. S. Henderson, who heard the trial, the prosecutor and the jury foreman called the pardons board action "utterly amazing."

ACQUITTED

James L. Cooper (above), New Orleans restaurant operator, last night was found innocent of the murder of his estranged wife, Amelie (Diddie) Woolfolk Cooper, 29-year-old socialite and former television actress. She was found beaten and strangled to death in her apartment Nov. 30, 1952. (AP Wirephoto)

Only Slight Drop Recorded In Living Cost

WASHINGTON (AP)—The cost of living dropped less than one-tenth of 1 per cent in December, a minor movement which the Bureau of Labor Statistics saw as evidence of "continued stability" in the economy.

The decline was the second consecutive monthly drop. BLS Commissioner Ewan Clague said, however, that the price trends definitely "are not behaving like a business recessions."

Together the Novermber and December drops totaled one-half of 1 per cent. They brought the consumer price index near the end of 1953 to 114.9, using the 1947-9 averages as 100.

This was even-tenths of 1 per cent higher than a year ago and 1.5 per cent higher than in February when price decontrol began.

Looking ahead a bit, Clague said the index normally would show declines for January and February also, but recent strength shown in both food and commodity prices does not indicate that the full seasonal drop will occur.

Retail food prices averaged higher in 31 of the 46 cities surveyed in mid-December. This halted a decline in food costs which had gone on since August. The food index rose 0.3 per cent.

Clague said the recent upward spurt of coffee prices was not reflected in the mid-December survey.

FREE WOMAN NOW

Smiling through her tears, Emma Jo Johnson, 35, formerly of Los Angeles and Honolulu, tells a reporter the strange story of how she spent almost three years behind bars in the Carson City, Nev., prison for a murder which was never committed. Mrs. Johnson was freed by the Nevada Pardons Board following intervention by author Erle Stanley Gardner and his "Court of Last Resort". (AP Wirephoto)

Heavy Snow Due North Of N. C.

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Weather Bureau today forecast that from eight to 12 inches of snow would accumulate in a belt from central Virginia to southern New Jersey by late tonight.

The forecast, issued shortly before 11:30 a.m. EST, supplemented two earlier ones. The one immediately preceding it forecast four to eight inches of snow from Virginia to New York state.

The third bulletin said the storm, which formed during the night over Georgia and the Carolinas had continued to intensify.

It said the 8-12 inches of snow would accumulate in a belt extending from central Virginia northward through Maryland, Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey by late tonight.

Heavy snow and glaze were predicted for West Virginia and snow in lesser amounts was expected to reach western Pennsylvania.

WARNINGS UP

Northeast storm warnings were ordered at 8 a.m. for coastal and inland waters from Cape Hatteras northward to Block Island.

At 10:30 a.m. the storm was centered in North Carolina and was expected to continue a slow northeastward movement toward the coast and move into the Atlantic Ocean late tonight, the bureau said.

SECOND MULLETIN

The second bulletin said:

"The disturbance in the Southeast has intensified during the past few hours and remains centered in the area of northern Georgia.

"Meanwhile the cold air has become more strongly entrenched in the Middle Atlantic states and the sleet and freezing rain from West Virginia eastward to the coast has changed into snow in most sections.

"This trend is expected to continue and heavy snow is expected to fall today and tonight from northern Virginia northward into New York State with amounts ranging from 4 to 8 inches."

This was the picture in the earlier report:

"Cold Arctic air has moved into most of the eastern half of the country with the exception of a few of the Southeastern states.

"As the cold air swept southward, a disturbance moved out of the Gulf of Mexico and early this morning was located in Georgia and the Carolinas.

"Associated with this disturbance is a widespread area of freezing rain and sleet extending from the lower Mississippi valley across parts of Tennessee and Kentucky, through West Virginia, Maryland, Northern Virginia, Delaware and southern New Jersey.

"Moderate to heavy snow is likely to fall over eastern Pennsylvania and southeastern New York state as the disturbance continues to move northeastward today and tonight."

CONTROLS TO BE LIFTED

VIENNA —(AP)— The British high commissioner in Austria, Sir Harold Caccia, informed the Austrian government today all British controls over Austrian radio stations in the British occupation zone would be abolished.

Charlotte Gets Soaking From Disturbance

Storm clouds dumped tons of water on Charlotte today, and the Weather Bureau forecast no let-up before late tonight or tomorrow morning.

While much of the nation to the north of the state is being buried in a heavy snowfall, Charlotte is getting the soggy end of the deal. A cold mass of air rushed down from the north during the night while a storm formed over the Carolinas and Georgia.

The result is expected to be icy highways and rain, and more rain. The Weather Bureau said the plunging temperature should have hit freezing by 3 p.m. today, with an icy glaze forming on highways to the north and west shortly afterward.

It said highways would probably not become really hazardous until later in the afternoon and evening.

By noon today, the deluge of rain had reached a half inch since 7:30 o'clock this morning. Not content with that, the Weather Bureau said the downpour should continue, pouring another three-quarters of an inch on the city by midnight.

NO SNOW HERE

No sleet or snow is foreseen here, as the storm built up its rain reservoir before the cold wave swept through at about 7 a.m. today. Further to the north, the cold wave beat the rain to the punch, causing sleet and rain to turn to snow.

At 7 a.m., when the cold front passed over the city, the mercury at Municipal Airport stood at 51 degrees. In an hours time it had dropped 13 degrees to 48. The low temperature expected here tonight is 28 degrees.

CLOUDY TOMORROW

The skies should remain cloudy through tomorrow, but the rain is expected to grind to a halt. Another inch or more is predicted for Monday.

While no snow is predicted for Charlotte, observers looking out from the tall office building windows report they have seen a few tiny snowflakes mixed in with the rain. The snow apparently melts before it reaches street-level, however.

Yadkin Flood Area Warned

CHARLESTON, S. C. (AP)—Residents of the Upper Yadkin River in North Carolina were warned by the Charleston Weather Bureau today that a flash flood is expected to send the river six feet out of its banks late this afternoon and tonight.

Weatherman Eugene J. DeVeaux, river forecaster, said heavy rains falling over the area from Patterson, N. C., to Badin are causing the river to rise at the rate of 1½ feet an hour.

Normal flood stage for the Yadkin in that area is 14 feet and by 11 a. m. today the river had risen to above 11 feet at Wilkesboro.

The entire river valley from Patterson to Rockingham will be effected, DeVeaux said.

The heavy rains, accompanying a low pressure storm over North Carolina, also will cause rapid rises in South Carolina where the Yadkin River becomes the Pee Dee and eventually joins with the Waccamaw near Georgetown.

Heavy rains of the past 48 hours early today also forced many western North Carolina streams out of their banks as they flooded lowlands and covered portions of highways at a number of points.

The rain-swollen French Broad River covered parts of roads in Transylvania County and was expected to crest early tonight in Henderson County, threatening roads there. It posed no real threat in the Asheville area.