

Red Units Draw Near Laos Center

Screening Troops Within 9 Miles Of Capital City

SAIGON, Indochina (AP)—Ten thousand Vietminh invaders of Laos advanced today to a point on the Hou River only 37 miles north of Luang Prabang, the royal capital that the French and aging old King Sisavang Vong have vowed to defend.

A vanguard of 1,500 regional troops was within nine miles or less of the town, screening the advance of the rebel regulars of Vietnam Division 308, but so far had not opened an attack.

The main force of the division, directed last week from the stage of Dien Bien Phu for the thrust into Laos from north Viet Nam, had advanced 19 miles. At that pace, it was only two days' march from Luang Prabang.

French Union briefing officers said the objective of the Communist-led forces had not been ascertained. The division was withdrawn from the mountains around Dien Bien Phu, leaving others to maintain pressure, when the rebels found that stronghold heavily fortified by the French.

REINFORCED

The garrison of Luang Prabang has been reinforced in the last few days. Military observers speculated that any assault might not come before early next week.

Aside from the Palangs of the King and Crown Prince Savang the town is a collection of frail wooden buildings and huts. It lies on the Mekong River, the Hou, on which the rebel division massed, flows into the Mekong north of the town. A jungle path leads 15 miles south to Vietnam, the administrative capital of Laos.

Luang Prabang has little strategic value, but the Reds could make much propaganda in South-east Asia if they could seize it and capture the King or his son.

In southeast Viet Nam, where French Union troops made a landing last month to regain a rich strip of coastal rice country from the rebels, a consolidation of gains was reported. Army headquarters announced that 35,000 inhabitants had returned to their homes since the first flurry of action established the French beachhead at Tuy Hoa. Many had been ordered to the area by the retreating Reds.

Govs To Visit Korea

Eisenhower's Suggestion, a group of state governors will go to Korea about April 1 to appraise the situation there and report to the American people.

The White House made public today an Eisenhower letter to Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado, chairman of the Governors Conference, saying that such a trip "would be highly beneficial."

James C. Hagerty, presidential press secretary, said in response to a question that Thornton and members of his executive committee have agreed to make the trip.

Names of the governors who will accompany Thornton will be announced later.

YOUTH IS AN IDEA

LEE, Maine—Irma Gifford goes skating with the "rest of the kids." He's 83 years young.

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Unstead Hits At Road Building 'For Votes'

RALEIGH (AP)—Gov. Unstead today does not believe "in any road building program that is voted for anybody at any time."

At his news conference, the governor also repeated his hope that state officials appointed by him will support Sen. Allen A. Lemon in the present senatorial primary campaign. He added, "But I do not expect to undertake to threaten anybody into doing so."

OUR WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and warm today with scattered showers beginning late this afternoon. Partly cloudy and windy, turning cooler tonight and Friday.

Low temperature this morning 49 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight 32 degrees.

High temperature yesterday 77 degrees.

High temperature expected today 63 degrees.

Sunrise 7:13 a.m.; sunset 6:02 p.m.

BLOODY TAX MONEY

Robert Friel of Council Bluffs, Iowa, is shown dragging a tubful of blood-drenched money into the office of the Internal Revenue Collector in Des Moines. (AP Wirephoto)



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Irate Citizen Pays In 'Blood Money'

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—An irate taxpayer, who paid part of a \$152,342 federal tax claim with a tubful of silver dollars over which he had poured two buckets of blood, threw the U. S. tax office into a furor here yesterday.

The taxpayer, Robert Friel, 27, of Council Bluffs, said he staged the dramatic incident to "raise hell" with tax collectors because he said they had harassed his parents during an investigation of his finances. He said he got the blood from a packing house.

He drew the ire of Iowa Internal Revenue Director Frank Halpin, who accused him of defying U.S. laws. But after the Silver Service ruled that the secret dollars were not defaced unless they were permanently damaged, Halpin permanently damaged.

'Twas Only Decent Gown She Had

PENSACOLA, Fla.—A woman who was charged with vagrancy and loitering last night after detectives found her on a suburban street while hitchhiking.

She said she told them she was Daisy Weathering of Prichard, Ala., and was thinking her way to Jasper, Fla., to visit her husband.

The evening gown, the "only decent thing" she had to wear.

Ex-Wife Wants Flynn Jailed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An attorney for Ezra Flynn's ex-wife, Nora Eddington Flynn Haysnes, has reported he will ask that the film star be fined and sent to jail for non-support of his children.

Attorney S. S. Hahn says that he will demand 60 days in jail and a \$6,000 fine for Flynn at a hearing on Feb. 19, in Santa Monica Superior Court. Hahn said any order of the court could be applied by the grand jury several times in an investigation the newspaper said the Justice Department has been conducting for "the last several months."

The swashbuckling motion picture actor is \$6,000 behind in \$550 monthly payments for support of the two daughters of himself and his ex-wife Nora, Hahn said. "He has made money and has neglected them deliberately."

The governor said he is working on the appointment of an advisory committee to help develop a water resources plan for the state. The committee will work with the Water Resources Commission of the State Board of Conservation and Development.

David S. Weaver, director of the North Carolina State College Extension Service, and E. B. Garrett, state soil conservationist, already have agreed to serve on the seven-member advisory group, he said.

Unstead said he hopes other agencies such as the Neuse River Watershed Authority will work with the other two groups.

Big Four Conference Close Seen in Week

House Action Is Sought On Coffee Control

Bill Would Impose Speculation Curbs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Angelo (D-Ore) said today he will ask early House action on a bill to impose government controls over speculation and futures trading in coffee.

Without a record vote or debate, the Senate voiced approval of the measure yesterday, apparently reflecting nationwide concern over recent increases in coffee prices.

Angell said he believes government regulation "would control any skulduggery or price fixing in coffee."

Chairman Hope (R-Kan) said the House Agriculture Committee probably would consider the coffee controls measure during the next week.

The legislation will not halt two current investigations into causes for the recent jump in coffee prices.

One is by a Senate banking subcommittee headed by Sen. Beall (R-Mo), who supports the coffee controls. The other is by the Federal Trade Commission.

The coffee and sugar exchange in New York asked a members committee to cooperate with the Beall subcommittee by providing lists of traders and information on transactions. Beall had asked the exchange for the information and said the group would issue subpoenas for it if necessary.

"We have received few complaints over here (in the house) on coffee," Hope said. "We've had 100 times as many complaints about the high price of butter and the large surplus being piled up under government price supports."

Hope said his committee probably would hold brief hearings if coffee traders or other interested parties ask for them.

Angell said his bill is intended to be sponsored by Sen. Gillette (D-Iowa) and approved by the Senate.

It would add coffee to a list of some 30 other food and farm products in which trading is supervised by the Commodity Exchange Authority (CEA), under the Agriculture Dept.

ATTACKS CONTINUE GOP Paying Little Heed To President

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fresh sensational charges that Democrats had consorted with Communists today President Eisenhower's advice to Republicans to soften their political blows may be ignored outside his own Cabinet staff.

Retorting his characterization of Democratic administrations as "20 years of treason," Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) said he will not change his tactics to win Democratic support for parts of Eisenhower's program.

"The price is too high," he told a Lincoln Day audience of some 6,000 persons in San Mateo, Calif., last night. Referring to the Democrats, he declared that "we can't whitewash them or we would be guilty of a crime worse than theirs."

McCarthy and Sen. Jenner (R-

IN RAIL BATTLE

Young denied he sought to take grounds that they would cut com-

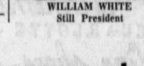
Young denied he sought to take grounds that they would cut competition.

Young made himself available for election to the Central board by resigning his post with the C&O last Jan. 19.

The largest single holding of New York Central stock is that of the C&O, which owns 800,000 shares, acquired while Young was head of the C&O. This represents about 12 1/2 per cent of Central stock, but the C&O has not been allowed to vote it. Under an ICC order the shares are held by the Chase National Bank as an independent voting trustee.

Reliable sources figure holdings of Young and his associates amount to about 300,000 shares, or about 5 per cent of the total shares.

The largest holding among present directors of the railroad is that of Harold S. Vanderbilt, who



WILLIAM WHITE still President

Nothing New Is Expected From Molotov

German, Security Issues Threshed Out

BY JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

BERLIN (AP)—The French delegation here is thinking in terms of a break-up of the Berlin conference in a week, it was learned today.

Western ministers in the Big Four meeting have said the subject of German unification and European security has been exhaustively discussed.

The general assumption is that Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov's proposal yesterday for an all-European security treaty, to split Western Europe from the United States, is his last major announcement on the issue, regardless of how much more talking is done. The West rejected the Molotov plan.

The Big Four met in secret session today on the possibility of Asian settlements and on disarmament conference proposals. Tomorrow the ministers will tackle conclusion of an Austrian independence treaty with Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl invited to sit in.

Western delegates estimate three or four days of discussion should be enough to wind up talks, and any action which may be possible, on the Austrian issue. That there is wide speculation here that a breakthrough sometime next week, French officials believe it will come by Thursday, Feb. 18.

Molotov's security pact offer appeared light-hearted, considering the popular appeal for West Europeans—particularly Frenchmen—despite its rejection by the Western diplomats. Some nibbling at it may develop long after this Big Four session winds up.

French observers deemed the Soviet proposal's clause calling for the neutralization of Germany would mean fresh trouble for Foreign Minister Georges Bidault in his fight to get the six-nation European Defense Community Treaty ratified by France's banking Parliament.

The Soviet foreign minister's avowed aim is to do away with both that treaty, which would arm West Germans along with French, Italian, Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourgians under unified command, and the 14-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In yesterday's regular meeting at West Berlin's old Allied Control Authority Building, Molotov offered Europe a 30-year collective security pact in return for expelling United States armed forces from the continent and shattering the Western alliance.

He sought to promote a European security conference at some time in the future. This proposal was certain to invite hesitant French parliamentarians—regarding their opposition to traditional French fears of a revival of German militarism—to delay yet more months on EDC. And to such an interval a rising impatience could be expected in the U. S. Congress, which votes the funds that have been the backbone of Western defense.

Young Chairmanship Rejected Railway 'War' Threatened

NEW YORK (AP)—Rejection of Robert R. Young as a director and chairman of the board of the New York Central Railroad threatened today to touch off a wide-open battle for control of the vast rail system.

Young, who controls the railroad's largest individual stockholding, denounced the present board of Directors after its action yesterday.

In a statement from his Palm Beach, Fla., home, he declared: "The real issue is whether the owners of the properties are to be made to continue to submit to a Morgan ownership board with countless conflicting interests or whether they are to enjoy what every honest business under our American system must have if shareholders and the public are to be served instead of being damned."

"That is an ownership board with a strong ownership in its chair. The New York Central owners, I am sure, on May 29 will give the right answer."

The railroad's annual meeting, at which all shares can be voted in an election for a new board of Directors, is scheduled for May 29 in Albany, N.Y.

Young had requested that both he and his associate, Allan P. Kirby, be named to the board.

After a five-hour secret meeting, the directors announced: "The board unanimously decided that it would be minimal to the best interest of the company to grant Mr. Young's request."

The board said it rejected only the request that Young and Kirby be made directors but also that "Mr. Young's insistence that he must become its chairman and chief executive officer."

Hollywood Talent Scout Found Beaten To Death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The body of a handsome young motion picture talent scout, bound hand and foot, was discovered last night in the bed of his suburban Sherman when he went to his house last night, looking in, saw a police officer.

Police said the victim, identified as David L. Johnston, 30, had been bludgeoned with a piece of fire wood. Police L. E. W. Smith said the house was "a near the body. Johnston's hands were tied behind his back and his ankles tightly bound."

Smith said bottles and glasses up a flight before he was slain.

Detectives said Johnston's ex-dinked party before the killing

Finland To Buy Lint, Tobacco

WASHINGTON (AP)—Finland will be permitted to buy three million dollars worth of surplus U. S. tobacco and two million dollars worth of surplus cotton with its own currency, the Foreign Operations Administration announced today.

Congress earmarked 100 to 225 million dollars of the current year's foreign aid funds to finance disposal of surplus farm products in this way. Today's announcement brings the total allotments under high Truman administration officials.

The Post said in a copyrighted article that Grunewald, who last year served a jail term for contempt of Congress, has been fined the grand jury several times in an investigation the newspaper said the Justice Department has been conducting for "the last several months."

Paper Reports Grunewald Quizzed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Post said today Henry W. (The Dutchman) Grunewald, onetime Washington wirepuller, has been questioned before a federal grand jury here "on his contacts with high Truman administration officials."

The Post said in a copyrighted article that Grunewald, who last year served a jail term for contempt of Congress, has been fined the grand jury several times in an investigation the newspaper said the Justice Department has been conducting for "the last several months."

IT MIGHT AS WELL BE SPRING

It might as well be spring, with the mercury nears 75. Such activity came to an end today as cold air moved in from Canada to put the chill on any toes which still might be uncovered. (AP Wirephoto).

Comic Dictionary

CARAT The unit of measurement by which a man's love is measured.

Evening Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, we are grateful that Thou didst reveal Thyself through the deeds of Thy Son. Help us today to forget precept and to teach the way of eternal life through example. Cleanse the windows of our souls today so that the beams of Thy Divine Light may shine afar. In Christ's name, Amen.

