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STRIKE CURB BILL RIDES OUT TEST

21 Feared Lost In Overdue Air Transport

Hal Boyle

Bennett Kept Faith Despite Torture

(This is the fifth of a series of columns on Chester Bennett, American hero of Hong Kong.)

By HAL BOYLE

HONG KONG — (AP) — Chester Bennett, American hero of Hong Kong, was imprisoned for five months before a Japanese headman's axe ended his long misery.

MR. BOYLE

After his death, a Chinese who had been a fellow prisoner sought out Marcus Da Silva, Portuguese lawyer who was Bennett's partner in espionage, and gave him the American's last message:

"Marcus, I kept faith. I didn't talk."

Da Silva himself had been kept a prisoner for 47 days in Kowloon gendarmerie across Hong Kong Harbor, most of the time in solitary confinement. The frustrated Japanese were unable to prove his part in the conspiracy or make him talk. When a Chinese gendarme finally tried to blackmail him by offering him freedom in return for $5,000 Da Silva sent word out to his wife, who got in touch with one of the most colorful figures in China.

"She went to Hattors, chief of the Jap Foreign Affairs Department in Hong Kong, and complained of this attempt to blackmail me," Da Silva said. "He released me and ordered the Chinese gendarme arrested."

Da Silva fled with his family to Macao, nearby Portuguese colony, and realizing too late they had made a mistake in releasing him the Japs sent four agents to Macao on a fruitless mission to kidnap him and bring him back

RUTHLESSLY TORTURED

Bennett was ruthlessly tortured until his big framed body was broken by agony. The Japs starved him, beat him until he fell, and then stood him up and beat him again. They tied him up by his hands for hours until he fainted.

"Three times they tied him down to the floor and gave him "the water cure" for "prisoners who refuse to co-operate." They sealed his mouth shut and then taped a water hose to his nostrils and bloated his body with fluid while he fought for breath.

Then they put a board across his stomach and two husky Jap guards planted a teeter-totter on it, forcing water and blood out his nose, his mouth, his eyes and his ears until he collapsed. But, although his big body writhed in agonized constrictions against his rope bonds, he never told his secrets.

Rope burns which developed on one leg became so bad the Japanese were about to amputate it when his execution was ordered.

"The Japs never were able to prove spy activities against Bennett," said Da Silva. "But they had learned from Chinese workers on food trucks going into the prison that he had smuggled money in to British internees."

The Chinese workers had brought out promissory notes from prominent internees to Bennett, who cashed them with wealthy Swiss and Indian traders and sent money back into camp so the prisoners could buy extra rations.

"They probably wouldn't have executed Chester for this alone," said Da Silva, "except for the arrival in September of Japanese 'Thought Police' from Tokyo. They immediately put the harshest kind of penalties into effect.

"Chester never had a chance after they came. He was one of the grandest fellows ever. He never got a cent for his work and he gave his life to it."

GIVEN "TRIAL"

Bennett and 32 other defendants were given a trial on Oct. 26, 1943. The day before the trial started, the Japs began making black execution masks in the prison workshop.

The defense was given no opportunity to present evidence. Throughout the four-hour trial the defendants were forced to stand stockstill in footsteps painted on the floor before the judges' bench. Four men who shifted their feet were beaten immercifully.

Once during the trial Capt. Yamaguchi, prison commandant who doubles in brass by acting as judge, left the courtroom. The presentation of evidence continued in his absence. At another point he fell sound asleep.

When this parody of justice was over Capt. Yamaguchi arose, yawned and serenely read the verdict which had been obligingly written for him before the trial began:

"Death to all the defendants!"

DutraInaugurated As Brazil Leader

RIO DE JANEIRO —(AP)— Gen. Eurico Gaspar Dutra was inaugurated today as Brazil's sixteenth President in a traditionally colorful ceremony in Tiradentes Palace, Brazil's Parliament Building.

The 60-year-old Army leader and former War Minister assumed his first political post following 40 years of military service.

Dutra officially became President-elect Jan. 28 when the Superior Electoral Tribunal proclaimed him winner by a margin of more than 1,000,000 votes over his nearest rival, Air Gen. Eduardo Gomes, in last December's 5,000,000-vote election.

EMPEROR'S GRANDSON—Here is the first photo of Nobuhiko Higashikuni, the ten-month-old grandson of the Emperor of Japan. The Emperor's first grandson, he was born on March 10, 1945, in a palace air raid shelter, in the midst of an air raid. His mother is Princess Teru, first daughter of the Emperor and Empress. His father is Moriatsu Higashikuni, first son of former Prime Minister Higashikuni. (Acme Photo.)

Wreckage Of Ship Hunted In Wyoming

Little Hope Held For Occupants

DENVER — (AP) — Hope for the lives of 21 persons aboard a missing United Air Lines transport virtually was abandoned today after an aerial search disclosed what was believed to be the wreckage of the plane high on the snow-covered Elk Mountain, 65 miles northwest of Laramie, Wyo.

Capt. Frank Crismon, assistant supervisor of flight operation here, led the aerial search which began at daylight when the plane was several hours overdue here in a flight from Seattle to New York.

About mid-morning he said he sighted a long, wide gash in the deep snow near the top of Elk Mountain, which towers 11,125 feet in the eastern fringe of the Rockies. He said broken clouds and a stiff wind made close approach to the peak impossible.

NO SIGN OF FIRE

Crismon did not report any signs of fire or a definite sighting of the smashed plane but said he was convinced that what he saw marked the crash of the transport. UAL officials here speculated that the body of the plane might be buried in the deep snow.

Crismon returned to Cheyenne about 100 miles east of Elk Mountain, to organize a ground search party but it was expected to be many hours before they could reach the remote Medicine Bow Range area.

Eighteen passengers and a crew of three were aboard the two-engine Douglas transport, including twelve Army personnel being redeployed from the Pacific Coast. Among the civilian passengers were Mr. and Mrs. George A. Bender of Sheffield, Ill., who were married Monday at Twin Falls, Idaho.

The accident, first fatal mishap of United States Air Lines in almost four years, probably occurred around 3 A. M. (Mountain Standard Time), the flight officer having made a routine report from over Sinclair, Wyo., a few miles to the west, at 2:40 A. M. No trouble was reported from the plane at that time and no bad weather was reported along the route.

Names of the soldiers were withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

Heavy Fog Over New York Area

NEW YORK — (AP)—Heavy fog, accompanied by a chilly drizzle, covered the New York area today, disrupting air line service at La Guardia Field and ferry traffic in the harbor.

Since bad weather set in early yesterday afternoon, 286 commercial flights in and out of New York were canceled, 111 of them from midnight to 9 A. M.

THE GENERAL ON VACATION—Gen. H. H. "Hap" Arnold, retiring Army Air Forces chieftain, and Mrs. Arnold study the racing form as they spend a day at Hialeah Park racetrack in Miami, Fla. Just returned from a Latin American tour, Gen. Arnold visited the Army Air Forces Hospital at Coral Gables, Fla., for a check-up on his heart ailment. (Acme Photo.)

House Votes To Take Up Case Plan Immediately

Approval Of Measure Seen

By CLAIR JOHNSON

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House cleared the way today for consideration of broad legislation to curb industrial strife.

On a roll call vote, the members decided to begin debate at once on the bill by Representative Case, Republican, South Dakota, to control strikes.

The vote was 258 to 114.

BACKED BY COALITION

The measure is a substitute for fact-finding legislation asked by President Truman. It is backed by a powerful coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats.

Debate on the legislation started immediately but final vote is not expected until at least Saturday and probably not until next week.

However, House leaders who asked not to be named, predicted to newsmen that today's vote meant the case substitute will be approved in about its present form.

BITTER FIGHT SEEN

However, the bill's opponents would not acknowledge defeat. They predicted a "bitter fight to the end." These congressmen, chiefly close friends of organized labor, termed the substitute bill one designed to "break unions."

"The case bill is an attempt to smash labor," Representative Marcantonio, American-Labor, New York, declared at a Rules Committee hearing. "It would bring back the yellow dog contract and allow all the other abuses of workers which used to prevail many years ago."

Some opponents of the Case plan told newsmen, however, that their chief hope of killing the proposal is to "keep it so stringent" that the Senate will refuse to approve it or Mr. Truman later will veto it.

The Case bill would establish a labor-management mediation board which would try to settle disputes it found affected the public interest. In addition the measure would:

(1) Require mutual observance of contracts by employers and employees; (2) deny collective bargaining or "remunerative" rights to workers using organized boycotts or violence in picketing to force management to come to terms; (3) provide for legal prosecution of management if it used violence to make workers come to terms; (4) deny employee rights to unions of supervisory workers, such as foremen; and (5) repeal many of the present anti-injunction laws, by permitting issuance of injunctions in certain cases of labor unrest.

The alternate choice is the Labor Committee-approved fact-finding measure which would set up the boards asked by Mr. Truman, but would deny them the subpoena power and make no provision for a "cooling off" period while the boards met.

At Pearl Harbor

Air Commander In Dark On Warning

By J. W. DAVIS

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The 1941 Naval air commander in Hawaii testified today that he did not learn of a war warning sent from Washington Nov. 27, 1941, until days after the Japanese attacked Dec. 7, 1941.

Vice Admiral P. N. L. Bellinger told the Senate-House Committee investigating the disaster that during October, November and December of 1941 his only information concerning U. S. relations with Japan and the imminence of war "came from the Honolulu newspapers."

NO SCOUT PLANES SENT

Bellinger was called by the committee to explain why no long-range reconnaissance planes were out on Dec. 7 to catch the Japanese carriers stealing up on Pearl Harbor.

"The information available to me—limited and unofficial as it was—did not indicate that I should recommend to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (Admiral Husband E. Kimmel) that distant patrol plane search for the security of Pearl Harbor be undertaken at that time," Bellinger said.

Bellinger's statement, which he read to the committee, did not say whether he would have recommended long-range flights if he had seen the "war warning."

Admiral Kimmel has taken responsibility for not having ordered distant searches. He said: (1) He did not have sufficient information to indicate an air attack on Pearl Harbor; (2) he did not have enough planes to patrol regularly.

In this connection, Bellinger said, a force of 150 patrol planes, plus repair parts and well-trained crews, would have been required "for a commander to be reasonably sure that no hostile carrier could reach a spot 250 miles away and launch an attack without prior detection."

PLANE BREAKDOWN

At the time the Japanese struck, Bellinger said, we had 61 patrol planes in the whole Hawaiian area, including Midway."

He gave this breakdown:

"Twelve were conducting operations at Midway, three planes armed with guns and depth charges were engaged in the morning security patrol of fleet operating bases, four planes were conducting inter-type tactics with submarines.

"Of the remaining 62 planes, two were on fifteen-minute notice, eight were on 30-minute notice for operations, nine were undergoing

See DIDN'T GET on page 11-A

Highest Post

Montgomery To Be British Army's Chief

LONDON—(AP)—The War Office announced tonight that Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery will become chief of the Imperial General Staff June 26.

The colorful hero of El Alamein and other battles in the Second World War will succeed Field Marshal Lord Alan Brooke in this highest British Army post. Lord Alan was Chief of Staff for four and a half years.

King George VI recently made Sir Bernard a Viscount, but he has not yet assumed the title.

LAW OFFICERS SLAIN—Bodies of Thomas Mathews (foreground), State investigator for the Attorney General's Office, and Dave Malcom, sheriff of Butte County, S. D., lie on highway near Spearfish City where they were discovered by truck driver. Police are hunting George Sitts, St. Paul, Minn., convicted slayer and jail-breaker, in connection with the murders. (Acme Photo.)

'Across-The-Table'

GM-Union Talks Held At Detroit

DETROIT — (AP) — General Motors Corp. and the CIO-United Automobile Workers planned today to resume their "across-the-table" negotiations in the 72-day automobile strike with the aid of interim "missionary work" by Government Mediator James F. Dewey.

As GM and union representatives prepared for their second get-together renewing negotiations in the longest deadlock in automotive history, they faced both wage and maintenance-of-membership issues which were thrashed out last night in statements from both sides.

The statements, which climaxed the first "across-the-table" meeting since the middle of December, left the two issues drawn along these lines:

WAGES

GM said it had "nothing further" to offer in addition to its 13 1-2 cent hourly rise until "provisions of a new contract are worked out that gives assurance of uninterrupted production, efficient work effort by each employee and other provisions which we believe will contribute to better relations. . ."

UAW charged the company with "bad faith" in renewing its 13 1-2 cent offer (12 per cent) considering a 19 1-2 cent raise (17 1-2 per cent) recommended by President Truman's fact-finding board and "in the face of greater increases agreed to by other major auto companies. . ."

MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

GM contended a clause in its union contract terminated several weeks ago "forced us to discharge 1,690 satisfactory employees on the union's demand because these employees were not willing to pay their union dues." GM said it was "unwilling to put any such provision in the new contract."

UAW declared "the President recommended that the old contract be reinstated" and in asking for rejection of a maintenance-of-membership provision GM was "in defiance of the President."

"The strike will continue until the corporation meets its public responsibility and bargains in good faith to carry out the recommendations of the President of the United States," the UAW statement concluded.

Confronted by these conflicting viewpoints, Dewey said he would do "a little missionary work" with both union and GM representatives before negotiations start.

Dewey added he did not know which of the two major issues now was the larger stumbling block in the path of settlement, wages or maintenance of membership.

"At least," he said, "we got them talking across the table."

UAW Vice-President Walter P. Reuther, asked whether he considered the President's fact-finding proposals an actual recommendation, declared, "he (the President) recommended. . . On the basis of the proposals made to him by the fact finders."

45-Point Men To Return To U. S.

MANILA —(AP)—Western Pacific Army Headquarters announced today that all enlisted men with 45 or more points or 34 or more months active service as of Feb. 28 are being called into disposition centers for return to the United States.

The call excepted critical specialists, volunteers and Army Air Forces personnel.

Murray And Vinson Talk

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Philip Murray, president of the CIO-Steel Workers Union, conferred for 40 minutes with Treasury Secretary Vinson today on present tax laws as they apply to steel industry income, but refused to disclose details of the conference.

The CIO-Steelworkers' chief told reporters he had discussed his contention that tax law provisions for rebates from excess profit taxes give the corporations an advantage in strike situations like that now in progress in the steel industry.

A U. S. Steel official last week said Murray misstated the facts.

Murray would not comment further.

Early this week Vinson declined to say whether he had conference with Benjamin F. Fairless, president of the U. S. Steel Corp., who was here on an undisclosed mission.

In a round-robin letter made public by Representative Hook, Democrat, Michigan, 40 House members urged the General Motors Corp. to accept a fact-finding board's recommendation and U. S. Steel to agree to the wage proposal advanced by President Truman.

"The unions have accepted the compromise proposals and have charged that the refusal of these corporations is part of a concerted plan to destroy labor unions and endanger the welfare of the American people," they said.

The request was signed by Representatives Bailey of West Virginia, Biemiller of Wisconsin, Celler of New York, Coffee of Washington, Dawson of Illinois, Delacey of Washington, Helen Gahagan Douglas of California, Doyle of California, Eberharter of Pennsylvania, Gallagher of Minnesota, Geelan of Connecticut, Gordon of Illinois, Granahan of Pennsylvania, Havenner of California, Healy of California, Hook of Michigan, Kelley of Pennsylvania, King of California, Rabaut of Michigan, Lesinski of Michigan, Link of Illinois, George P. Miller of California, Morgan of Pennsylvania, Thomas O'Brien of Illinois, O'Toole of New York, Outland of California, Patterson of California, Powell of New York, Melvin Price of Illinois, Rabin of New York, Rayfiel of New York, George Rogers of New York, Rooney of New York, Sabath of Illinois, Savage of Washington, Torrens of New York, Sadowski of Michigan and George O'Brien of Michigan, all Democrats; Welch of California, Republican, and Marcantonio of New Lork, American Labor.

'Gives' Until It Hurts

LANSING, Mich. — (AP) — Angel Priggoris inadvertently gave "the clothes off his back" to the Victory Clothing drive here yesterday.

As a result, police today are searching among the clothing picked up in the drive for seventeen suits and coats belonging to Priggoris. Dry cleaners, making deliveries yesterday, left the garments on his porch and Boy Scouts "collected" them.

First In Years

There Will Be Dancing At White House

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Miss Margaret Truman will be hostess Feb. 7 to the first White House dancing party since pre-war days.

The party will honor Miss Gloria Chavez, daughter of Senator Chavez, Democrat, New Mexico, and her fiance, Lt. Jorge Tristani.

Mrs. James Helm, White House social secretary, told reporters today that dancing in the East Room will follow a small dinner for the bridal party.

About 50 friends of President Truman's daughter have been invited by telephone to come for the informed dance.

Mrs. Truman and Margaret plan to remain in Washington. Mrs. Helm said, when the President leaves for a Florida trip Feb. 11.

WEATHER

Clearing and colder tonight. Lowest temperature about 38 degrees. Friday fair and rather cold.

Temperature at 3:30 today	47
High and low last 24 hours	47, 42
Sunset today	6:01
Sunrise tomorrow	7:29