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Thompson Takes Up Fight

ARNALL BOWS OUT OF BATTLE

Eight In a Row

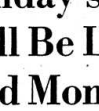
Sunday's Weather Will Be Like This, And Monday's Too

By EMERY WISTER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Today was the eighth straight day rain has fallen here and the twelfth of the month. According to the Weather Bureau it will rain again tomorrow and there's some possibility of wet weather Monday and Tuesday.

So far this month 4.06 inches of rain have been recorded here which is .06 inch above normal for the entire month of January.

January, 1936, holds the record as the wettest month. During that month 10.39 inches of precipitation were recorded, including 4.7 inches of snow. January, 1882, holds the record for the number of days in which precipitation was recorded. During that month 7.24 inches were recorded, including 6.3 inches of snow. Rain or snow fell on fourteen out of the first eighteen days and for 22 days during the month.



RAIN

This month has been slightly warmer than normal. The temperature has averaged 45.1 degrees, 4.10 degrees above normal. The normal temperature for the first 25 days of the month is 41 degrees and for the last week 42 degrees.

Meteorologist James M. Howe said today that the weather was likely to remain rainy until a "cool dry air mass from the northwest" pushes into the area. Such an air mass, he explained, would break up the dense rain clouds.

The Weather Bureau's forecast calls for cloudy, cool weather with light rain or drizzle with considerable fog this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow. Little change of temperatue is predicted and a low of 36 degrees, the same as was recorded here this morning is expected in the morning.

With rain falling in a steady drizzle there was little temperature change today. At noon the mercury had moved up to 40 degrees. During the past 24 hours .27 inch of rain was recorded.

Truman Action

Unification Bill To Be Submitted

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman notified Congress today of the proposed Army-Navy agreement on unification of the armed services and said he will submit a bill to carry it out soon.

The President sent idential letters to Senator Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, President of the Senate, and House Speaker Martin informing them of the agreement and transmitted copies of the correspondence on the subject made public Thursday night.

The bill he will submit will be drafted by representatives of the White House and the War and Navy Departments.

These representatives will be available to Congressional committees in considering the legislation to give effect to the unification.

VETERANS FOR PLAN

Five Senators who served in the armed forces during World War II lined up behind the unification plan.

The veterans, all newly elected Republicans, told a reporter they expected Congress to pass at this session legislation needed to carry out the merger.

They are Senators Cain of Washington, Knowland of California, Lodge of Massachusetts, Martin of Pennsylvania, and McCarthy of Wisconsin.

A dissent came from Senator Magnuson, Democrat, Washington, 41, who served in the Pacific as a Navy lieutenant commander until 1943.

FBI Strikes At Hijackers

NEW YORK — (AP) — The FBI announced today the arrest of twenty men here and one in Miami who it said hijacked half a million dollars worth of scarce goods in the past year in Metropolitan New York.

Asserting that the arrests "struck a blow at the heart of hijackers and motor truck thieves who have victimized New York City business concerns of huge quantities of scarce and expensive merchandise," FBI Special Agent Edward Scheidt blamed the gang for hijacking leather shipments, high priced women's handbags and electrical appliances, among other items.

(Scheidt was formerly head of the Charlotte FBI office).

The men were members of the "Westo" gang, Scheidt said, and their arrests followed months of investigation.

Scheidt said that among those arrested was Salvatore Imperiale, 34, of Brooklyn who used the alias "Salvatore Westo" and directed the gang's activities "with the finesse of a business executive and devoted his entire time to planning operations against truck shipments."

He was arrested, Scheidt said, with his chief lieutenant, Romeo Garafola, alias "The Judge," 36, and Frank Gagliardi, alias "Frank the Wop," 39, both of Brooklyn.

The FBI agent said the three leaders would locate valuable trucking shipments and arrange for the rest of the gang to hijack the truck, but Imperiale never would take an active part in the actual hijacking. Scheidt said Imperiale would wait in one of his two drops for the loot.

Scheidt described the drops as Paul's Produce Market, operated by Imperiale's brother, or the King's County Taxi & Auto Service, owned and operated by Bonny Todd. Both places are in Brooklyn and both men are under arrest. Imperiale's brother, Paul, spelled his last name Imperello, Scheidt added.

THEFT "SPECIALIST"

The agent said that after Salvatore Imperiale spotted a truck he would detail a "specialist" to steal it. If the truck was outside a terminal a member who could start the motor without a key would be assigned to get the engine running so that other gang members could drive it away, Scheidt said. If the truck was in a terminal, he said one of the gang would enter through a skylight without breaking the glass, open the doors and admit other gang members.

Poles Will Cast Votes Tomorrow

First Election Since Invasion

By LARRY ALLEN

WARSAW — (AP) — The Government mobilized 500,000 security police and regular and volunteer militiamen today to guard the polls in tomorrow's parliamentary election, first since the Germans marched in Sept. 1, 1939, and started World War II.

Col. Roman Romchowski of the Ministry of Public Security said slayings of Election Commission members and Milltiamen had passed the 100 mark. He reported that 38 chairmen, vice-chairmen and members of local district election commissions were killed in pre-election terrorist attacks by the underground organization "Win" and bands allied with it.

POLLING PLACES ATTACKED

In addition, he said, 51 Militiamen, Security Police and soldiers were killed in gunfights with bands attacking polling places. Another 25 were kidnaped and presumed killed, he said, adding that the attacks were continuing in widely scattered sectors of the country.

The opposition has charged that a victory for the Communist-dominated government bloc in tomorrow's voting is pre-determined.

The big fight will be between the Government bloc under Premier Edward Osubka-Morawski, Socialist, and the opposition Polish Peasant Party (PSL) under Vice-Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk.

The Government has accused Mikolajczyk and his followers of a tieup with the murderous anti-Government underground, while Mikolajczyk has charged the Government with mob and Security Police suppression of his party.

Yesterday he said he had heard that the bloc parties had already arranged for returns to show the PSL getting eight per cent of the vote. Government leaders have forecast a sweeping victory for their side, which won a referendum last June 30.

NATIONS WATCH

The United States, Britain and Russia will be waiting for the election result. The Soviet Union sponsored the provisional government out of which the current setup grew. The U. S. and Britain won Cabinet posts for Mikolajczyk, premier of the wartime London Government-in-Exile, and other London leaders. At Yalta and Potsdam, the three countries guaranteed Poland "free and unfettered elections."

In the last year, the two western powers—which made such elections a condition of their recognition of the Polish Government—have protested in a series of notes that the current Government of National Unity has violated the guarantee. Osubka-Morawski has promised the election will be free.

(In London yesterday, the British Foreign Office said teams from the Warsaw Embassy and from consulates elsewhere would observe the voting in the bigger cities. The Foreign Office said the Polish Government would not allow observation in rural areas.)

Almost An Aristocrat

Herman Talmadge Milder Than Gene

By HARRY ASHMORE
Associate Editor, The News

ATLANTA — Herman Talmadge now has physical control of the Capitol of Georgia.

Herman Talmadge also has a full quota of troubles.

He has accepted service of the legal papers formally notifying him of the ouster suit filed by Governor Ellis Arnall, who labels him a "pretender, usurper, and dupe of the gang of political hoodlums who have seized power by a military coup d'etat." That suit, says Herman, is fraudulent and without legal basis. But Herman won't say whether he will appear in court when the case is called on February 7. If he doesn't he will be in open defiance of the Georgia courts; if he does he will accept their jurisdiction, and most impartial lawyers (if there are such left in this churning capital) give his legal claim to the Governorship no better than a 50-50 chance of standing up in court.

And, although he has a seat in the Governor's office and a bed at the Governor's mansion, Herman Talmadge still does not have access to State funds. It is doubtful if any Atlanta bank will honor a warrant signed by supporters of either Talmadge or Arnall until there is a clear-cut legal settlement.

Yesterday the Federal Government moved to suspend distribution of more than $13,000,000 in highway funds already allocated to the state, some of it for roads now under construction.

None of this worries Herman — he says. But he looked tired and drawn at his press conference yesterday afternoon. There was an edge in his drawl when he told photographers: "No more pictures with a cigar in my mouth. I've seen you boys make popps look ridiculous that way too many times."

JOB-SEEKERS FOUR IN

The panelled reception room outside the small office from which Ellis Arnall was evicted Wednesday morning is still jammed to capacity, but most of the Talmadgites now roosting there are office-seekers with the stamp of the professional politician upon them. The boys with the wool hats, red suspenders, and hot eyes who answered Herman's call on Tuesday have gone back to the hills and the swamps. "I'll send for you again if I need you," Herman told them in dismissal.

But before they left the wool-hat boys and the gang of "advisers" who now surround Herman forced him into a series of awkward maneuvers.

In the beginning Herman had no thought of using force to assume the Governorship. He himself said he would occupy one of the offices of the Governor's reception room and wait quietly "until Ellis Arnall gets tired of play-acting and goes home." But the wool-hat boys were spoiling for action and they got it. Early

See YOUNG HERMAN on page 11-A

HOLDING CENTER OF STAGE—Herman Talmadge (left) occupied the governor's office and mansion in Atlanta as M. E. Thompson (right) took the oath this morning as lieutenant-governor of the state, in one of the most unusual political situations ever recorded in this country.

100 Poles Imprisoned

WARSAW—(AP)—A United States Embassy source said today Polish Security Police had imprisoned 100 Poles who claimed American citizenship. He said the Embassy was checking the claims and negotiating with the Polish Government for the release of the persons involved. The charges against the prisoners were not disclosed.

Lieutenant-Governor Qualifies

Ellis Arnall Leaves Office When Thompson Takes Oath

ATLANTA — (AP) — Ellis Arnall announced today that his resignation as Governor of Georgia was effective as of 10:50 A. M. today, when Lieut.-Gov. M. E. Thompson was sworn in.

Arnall said in a prepared statement: "Having discharged my constitutional duty as Governor of Georgia, and the Lieutenant-Governor having qualified, my resignation as Governor became effective shortly after 10:50 o'clock this day.

"The procedures clearly enable the Lieutenant-Governor to become acting Governor, vested with the full, absolute powers of Government until the people of Georgia can elected a Governor to fill the unexpired term.

"I am confident that this action will meet with the approval of a vast majority of the people of the state. Likewise I am certain that the courts will uphold the Constitution of Georgia and that elections by the people, democracy, law and order will be sustained."

"I have now effectuated my announced purpose.

"I leave the Governorship with heartfelt and lasting thanks to all the people of Georgia for their goodness to me. I shall ever treasure and esteem my friends who have so loyally and steadfastly supported me as chief executive of the state. I wish for Georgia and all our people progress, prosperity and happiness.

LAW OFFICES OPENED

"I have opened law offices at 1407 Candler Building, Atlanta, and 61 2 Court Square, Newnan, for the general practice of law and will be delighted at all times to see my friends and the people of Georgia."

In a letter address to William Dean of the Georgia State Senate, and members of that body, Arnall said:

"On January 11, 1947, I resigned as Governor of Georgia effective immediately after the qualification of the Lieutenant-Governor so that he would become invested with the executive powers of Government as provided by the Constitution of Georgia.

"Since the General Assembly was not then in session, my contingent resignation was directed to the Secretary of State.

"On Jan. 18, at about 10:50 A. M., the Honorable M. E. Thompson, Lieutenant-Governor-elect, took the oath of office as Lieutenant-Governor and qualified for said office.

"There is some legal argument as to whether my resignation should be addressed to the Assembly now that it is in session, but it is in adjournment until Monday, Jan. 20.

"Although I consider that immediately after the Lieutenant-Governor became qualified on this date, my resignation as Governor became effective, nevertheless to complete the record I hereby resign the office of Governor, effective immediately.

Excise Levies

Fight Against Tax Freeze Launched

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Rep. O'Toole, Democrat, New York, announced today he will block any effort at unanimous House passage of the bi-partisan bill to freeze excise levies indefinitely at the high wartime rates.

Chairman Knutson, Republican of Minnesota, voiced confidence the measure, approved unanimously by the House Ways & Means Committee, nevertheless will receive overwhelming House approval early next week.

Knutson had hoped to bring up the bill by unanimous consent for immediate passage without discussion, but since O'Toole has objected he will present it later under usual rules permitting debate and requiring only a simple majority vote for enactment.

The Ways & Means group, with Republicans as well as Democrats following a recommendation by President Truman, approved without dissent the bill by Rep. Grant, Republican of Indiana, to head off an automatic rollback of the excise rates next July 1.

House Republican tax managers hope that maintaining the high taxes on liquor, furs, jewelry, cosmetics, luggage and many other goods and services will make it easier to cut individual income taxes.

O'TOOLE PROTEST

O'Toole, who has offered a bill to roll back the excises immediately, issued a statement protesting that the Ways & Means Committee should have held "complete and open" hearings.

He termed Knutson's proposal of a 20 per cent income tax cut on incomes up to $20,000 "a sham because the bill is absolutely no help to those earning under $10,000 a year." People in the lower brackets would get far greater relief, he argued, through the abolition of wartime excise rates.

Knutson is delaying action on the income tax bill until the Congressional Budget Committee agrees on a ceiling for Federal spending in the next fiscal year, as required by the Reorganization Act.

In addition to the action on excises, Knutson announced after the first Ways & Means meeting yesterday that a bill will be introduced continuing indefinitely the war-imposed boost in postal rates, including the 3-cent charge on local letters. Unless this is done the local letter rate will go back to 2 cents July 1.

One Dead In Blast-Fire

CLEVELAND—(AP)—An explosion and flash fire today demolished the 28-room Knickerbocker Manor, and one body was found in the ruins of the East Side rooming house.

The charred body of a woman was taken to the City Morgue, where a son tentatively identified it as that of Mrs. Lillian Somers, 65, who was missing.

At least twelve persons were injured as they escaped from the three-story brick, stone and frame structure.

Bilbo To Undergo Operation Monday

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—Theodore G. Bilbo, Mississippi's ailing unseated Senator, will undergo a second operation on his mouth here Monday.

The state's senior Senator has been under treatment during the past week at Touro Infirmary.

Several months ago he underwent surgery for what was described as a mouth malignancy, and doctors have said that the operation Monday is a follow up on an earlier operation.

Los Angeles Murder Probed

Letter To Charlottean Believed Last Girl Wrote Before Slaying

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Police questioned several persons today for information on the friends and acquaintances of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, whose mutilated body, nude and bisected, was found in a vacant lot early Wednesday morning.

Authorities admitted they had not yet uncovered any clue that might put them on the trail of the actual killer. Capt. Loren Q. Martin of Long Beach, where the girl had been living, said she had many suitors and that efforts would be made to question all who could be located.

Police learned that Miss Short had been in San Diego about a week ago. She spoke a friend that she hoped soon to go to Chicago to model. The letter, addressed to former Air Corps Lt. Joseph G. Fickling at Charlotte, N. C. and dated Jan. 8, was believed by officers to be the last she wrote.

Fickling told police in Charlotte that he met Miss Short in Southern California before he went overseas, but said he was not engaged to marry her at any time. Detective Harry Hansen said he had found several letters from Fickling to the girl, kept in a trunk here.

Police psychiatrists said the girl's slaying plainly was the work of a sex maniac and that every indication pointed to her having been tortured, possibly for hours, before she was choked to death. She then was bludgeoned and cut, the killer apparently hoping to destroy identification marks.

The girl's mother, Mrs. Phoebe M. Short, 46, of Medford, Mass., was due here today by airplane, and after conferring with authorities was to go to the home of relatives in Northern California.

Charlottean Was Close Friend Of Slain Girl

Joseph G. Fickling 3301 Monroe Road, a pilot with Twentieth Century Airlines, who had been corresponding with Miss Elizabeth Short, attractive 22-year-old brunette, whose mutilated body was found in a vacant lot in Los Angeles, told The News today that he had not known of his friend's death until last night.

Back from a flight to Chicago, the young pilot, an ex-Army lieutenant, said he first learned of her death when he was telephoned by a news reporter. Later, local police questioned him about the names of any of the girl's friends but he said, "I wasn't able to give them anything of importance."

Mr. Fickling said he first knew Miss Short in Florida in 1944 and last year he saw her again in California after he had returned from overseas. The last time he saw her was last September but since then he has corresponded with her.

"She was a very nice girl, and very attractive, but as far as I know she didn't have many intimate friends," Mr. Fickling said. She had a married sister living in San Jose, Calif., he said.

Mr. Fickling said that he and Miss Short were very good friends but he couldn't figure how anyone could say they were engaged. One story out of Los Angele said she had told friends she was engaged to marry a "tall and handsome" Army lieutenant. "She must have been just kidding. I don't see how any one could put that construction on it," he added.

Thompson Claims He Is Acting Governor

Georgia Struggle Takes New Turn

ATLANTA — (AP) — M. E. Thompson said today he would ask Herman Talmadge to vacate the Governor's office and Executive Mansion at "the earliest possible moment" and then added "I hope to do it tomorrow."

Thompson, now claiming the Governorship of Georgia upon the resignation this morning of Ellis Arnall, told members of the press "I will dispose in due course the money turned over to me by Ellis Arnall to operate the Executive Department."

ARNALL RESIGNS

Thompson was sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor at 10:50 A. M. this morning and Arnall immediately resigned claiming that the Lieutenant-Governor was now qualified to succeed him.

Asked what he would do if Herman Tadmadge refused to move out of the Executive Office or the Mansion, Thompson replied "just yet I don't have a strong military force."

He added, however, that he expected to appoint an Adjutant General in the near future.

Asked if he would pursue the principles of Herman Talmadge, who espoused the white supremacy platform of his late father, Eugene Talmadge, Thompson said "I definitely will follow the principles of the Democratic Party as adopted by its convention in Macon."

The State Democratic Party platform calls for re-institution of a white primary in Georgia.

"ACTING GOVERNOR"

Thompson said he would not take over as President of the Senate Monday inasmuch as he was now Acting Governor. He also explained that it is not necessary for him to be sworn in as Acting Governor in that he automatically, under the oath of Lieutenant Governor becomes Acting Governor when a vacancy occurs. He then asserted that he deemed Talmadge's election by the Legislature "illegal and unconstitutional" and that he had instructed Attorney General Eugene Cook to continue his suit against Talmadge.

Thompson said that Cook recognized him as Governor and promised to press petition to enjoin Talmadge from serving as Chief Executive.

Thompson said he is confident the "law is on my side."

THOMPSON STATEMENT

Thompson released the following statement:

"Today at 10:50 A. M., I took the oath of office as lieutenant-governor of the State of Georgia. According ly I shall proceed to assume and exercise the responsibilities of the Executive Department in the capacity as acting governor until such time the people themselves may elect a Governor.

"We must end the confusion and chaos that is existing in our state because of the dispute over the Governorship. I shall proceed as rapidly and effectively as possible to do just that.

My first official act in that direction is to have instructing the Attorney General in my behalf as Acting Governor to continue the suit against Herman Talmadge and take every step to see that the people have the benefit of a prompt, final and orderly adjucation by the courts.

APPOINTMENTS

"I have named Hon. Philip Landrum of Hall County as Secretary of the Executive Department. I have named Hon. Stonewall H. Dyer of Coweta County as State Revenue Commissioner.

"I have also named Hon. W. R. Neal of Fulton County as director of the State Highway Department.

"Each of those whom I have named to these places of responsibility has already accepted and will proceed immediately to discharge their duties.

"I shall complete my appointments, set up my administration in

See ARNALL QUITS on page 16-A

WEATHER

Rain or drizzle and continued rather cold today, tonight and Sunday.

Temperature at 2:30 today	42
High and low last 24 hours	45-36
Sunset today	5:18
Sunrise tomorrow	7:25