THE BABE IS DEAD

News Sportswriter Furman Bisher, now in New York, pays his tribute to the immortal Babe Ruth in the special column in today's sports section.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ *Final*

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1948 — 26 Pages—Price Five Cents

Marshall Refutes Soviet Charges In Teacher Case

TWO HELD IN KINGS MTN. GIRL'S DEATH

Secretary Says Facts Don't Back Reds' Stand

Formal Reply Slated Soon

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary Marshall said today that evidence reported to the State Department does not sustain Russian charges against United States authorities in connection with the refugee school teacher cases in New York.

Marshall told a news conference a formal answer will be given within the next 24 hours to the Russian protests. He said the U. S. views with serious concern the charges made by representatives of the foreign power involved in the New York incidents. He did not mention Russia specifically by name.

Voluntarily discussing the school teacher cases, Marshall said available evidence does not bear out the Soviet protests.

REFUTES CHARGES

The Secretary said this is true especially since one of the teachers, Mrs. Oksana Stepanovna Kosenkina, by her own actions refutes the charges.

Mrs. Kosenkina jumped from a third floor window of the Soviet consulate in New York last Thursday to escape from her hosts. She now is in a New York hospital under treatment for serious injuries. Marshall has said previously she and the other teachers involved, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Samarine, would be given asylum in this country.

The Russians have demanded that the U. S. hand the three over to the Soviets. Among other things the Russians have accused American authorities of conniving in "kidnaping" the teachers, whose own claims are that they prefer to live here rather than go back to Russia.

Marshall said a note answering the Soviets is in preparation, based on reports from authorities in New York City.

The note will be made public after it is delivered to the Soviets, Marshall said. Presumably it will be given to Russian Ambassador Alexander S. Panyushkin in Washington.

Panyushkin made three of the four Soviet protests here. The other was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov to U. S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith in Moscow.

Marshall gave a "no comment" reply when asked whether the American reply to the Russians might include a request to Moscow to recall the Russian consul general in New York, Jacob M. Lomakin.

Such action is known to be under consideration by Marshall's top advisers in the State Department.

Justice Samuel Dickstein of the New York Supreme Court discussed the Kosenkina case today with Marshall's legal adviser, Ernest Gross.

Before Mrs. Kosenkina leaped from the consulate window, Dickstein had ordered Lomakin to produce her in court. Lomakin ignored the writ.

Dickstein told reporters after meeting Gross that he wanted the Department's views on whether Mrs. Kosenkina is now in technical custody of the Soviet consul. He said Gross promised him a written statement this week.

"If she is still in technical custody of the consulate while in the hospital the writ of habeas corpus still holds," Dickstein said.

"If she is not in the custody of the consul general—and from what I can gather she is not—we can dispose of the whole case."

Gross told reporters the State Department's position was made plain last week when Panyushkin filed his protests.

"When the Soviet Ambassador claimed the consul general had the right to keep the woman under his control, we drew the distinction between the right of the consul general to protect Soviet citizens and his right to control them," Gross said. "We flatly rejected the claim he had the right to control over Madam Kosenkina.

"However, as a matter of sound practice Justice Dickstein is entitled to a formal statement of our position."

In response to a question, Dickstein said he could hold Lomakin in contempt for failing to obey the order to produce Mrs. Kosenkina in court last Thursday before she jumped from the window. He added he will decide next week whether to take any further action.

Meanwhile, diplomatic authorities are puzzling over indications that the Soviet Union is closing all the schools it had operated in many countries for the children of

See RED CHARGES on page 2-A

Bloc Votes Control

Western Powers Spurn Red Danube

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — (AP) — Eastern Europe's Communist bloc voted itself exclusive control over the Danube River today and the Western powers officially recorded their refusal to heed the decision.

The vote of the conference was 7 to 1 to accept the Russian-drafted pact posting a "Danube for the Danubians" sign over the continent's most important waterway. The United States voted against it. Neither Britain nor France voted.

Both the British ambassador, Sir Charles Peake, and Adrien Thierry, chief of the French delegation, remained in the conference room while the final voting took place.

RUSSIA ACCUSED

The United States accused Russia of "deception." The head of the American delegation charged that the Communist bloc of states had been used with "cynical" solidarity to achieve the Soviet aim.

Although they remained in the room both Britain and France vacated their places at the conference table and took seats away from the horseshoe shaped table.

The final vote reflected the solidarity of the Danubian bloc throughout the conference. In control of an international meeting for the first time since the war's end, the bloc voted more than 115 times, point by point, to push through the Russian plan.

The official draft of the conference document will be signed tonight by the seven approving powers.

There was no substantial change in the draft as it was presented originally by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky.

American Ambassador Cavendish Cannon told the conference he could not accept a Russian free navigation pact as the basis for reopening the continent's 1,800-mile trade waterway.

One by one, the Western powers formally recorded their rejection of the Russian draft—a move made chiefly for the historical record since its formal approval by the Soviet satellite majority was certain.

Results Still Secret

Talks In Moscow Are Nearing End

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — The four-power talks in Moscow about Berlin and Germany are nearing an end. This was learned today on excellent authority from a source who refused to say whether the conversations would or would not end with published agreements.

One thing, however, appears certain: That there will be four power talks on a high level on the German problem as a whole at some future date.

There certainly will be another meeting of the envoys of the United States, Britain and France with the Soviets later this week, probably on Friday. There is nothing definite on whether this is to be the last or next to last conference, but the end is at hand barring some unexpected development.

The three Western envoys have put in some long hours and hard work in and between their six talks with Molotov since July 31.

It is interesting to note that while progress had been made, there is neither optimism nor pessimism being expressed at any of the three embassies.

"One must wait," it was said, "until final terms are in and definitely settled. It is pointless at this time to wager either way on conclusions."

It should be pointed out that although the four powers may reach some decision that does not necessarily mean a published agreement will appear at the close of the talks.

Technicalities are believed to be holding up agreements although it can be reported on good authority that progress has been made.

The three embassies are remaining silent officially on all details of what is taking place at the meetings or on what is being discussed.

The U. S. embassy is refusing, as it has all through the talks, to deny or confirm or even to comment on reports emanating here or abroad.

However, from another authoritative source it is learned that one of the principal stumbling blocks is the idea of a Western German Government and the action on that by the six Western powers at London.

It is no secret how this question displeases the Russians and to what extent their feelings have been aroused on the matter. Berlin, it is said, still remains a problem, but not so complex a one as might be believed. The three western powers and the Soviets are not too far apart on this subject, it is reported.

U. S. Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith conferred at the French Embassy today with French Ambassador Yves Chataigneau.

Smith has been maintaining close liaison with Chataigneau and Frank Roberts, Britain's special envoy, on current four-power negotiations.

An American Embassy source said there almost certainly would be four-power meeting in the Kremlin today, and probably none tomorrow.

Greeks Launch Frontal Assault

ATHENS—(AP)—A general staff spokesman said today the Greek Army has launched a frontal assault on the main Grammos Mountain ridge, last major stronghold of Communist Leader Markos Vafiades.

The Foreign Ministry announced it had sent a cable to Trygve Lie, United Nations secretary general, asking that Albania be required to close her borders to fleeing guerillas and intern all inside her country.

U. S. Schools Defended

Ike Denies Columbia Communist-Tainted

NEW YORK—(AP)—The New York Star said today that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, president of Columbia University, has denied that the University, its staff or its textbooks bore any taint of Communism.

Speaking to The Star from Denver, where he is on vacation, Eisenhower said he was shocked at the report published in The Star yesterday that the House Un-American Activities Committee in Washington would attempt to determine "just how much headway has been made on U. S. college campuses by Communists."

Columbia was one of the universities named in The Star story.

"I have put in enough time in the service of my country to assure anyone that I would not be in any way or ever associated with an institution that is contrary to democracy," The Star quoted Eisenhower as saying. "I would resign immediately.

"I found no traces of Communism among the deans, professors and the rest of the staff at Columbia, and I met them all.

"Universities are the cornerstone of democracy and I defy anyone to find them otherwise. I say again, that if I ever thought any institution I was ever associated with pursued a path other than a democratic one, I would resign forthwith.

"I will go even further. Since taking over my post at Columbia I have had occasion to meet and get to know well many heads of other universities, and I found them all anxious about democracy and its future.

"I am intensely interested in the report that anyone is going to investigate Columbia or any other university. I should like to see them try to prove that our campuses are anything but democracy-minded. I know it's an impossible task, and I don't care who knows it."

Threatened Sea Strike Headed Off

Union, Firms Reach Agreement

NEW YORK — (AP) — A threatened strike of 60,000 CIO seamen was stayed off early today by an agreement with 42 Atlantic & Gulf Coast shipping companies for retention of union "hiring halls" and for pay increases.

The hiring halls—in which the union picks men for jobs—had been the main issue in dispute between the operators and the National Maritime Union (CIO) in lengthy bargaining.

The agreement—subject to ratification by the union membership—was reached at 2:15 A. M. (EST) after an eleven-hour session of negotiating committees of the NMU and the ship owners.

A strike had been threatened for after Sept 2, when Federal Court cooling-off injunctions expire.

The agreement gives boatswains a wage increase of $25 a month and other ratings an increase of $12.50 a month.

It provides that the status quo on the hiring halls shall be preserved until a court of "competent jurisdiction" determines whether the hiring system is legal under the Taft-Hartley Act. The operators have contended the act bans the system.

The agreement was reached at the offices of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service.

Two smaller CIO maritime unions, consisting of engineers and radio operators, still have disputes to settle with the ship owners.

NMU resident Joseph Curran said membership ratification meetings will be held in various ports, probably early next week.

The agreement reached here does not affect a wage dispute between the NMU and ship owners on the Great Lakes.

Present wages of NMU members range from $177 to $300 per month for most classifications, with able seamen, the largest group, receiving $204.50.

The contract drafted this morning, to run until June 15 next year, will be retroactive on wages to July 16, 1948.

The pact provides that when holidays fall on Sunday for men at sea, overtime shall be paid for the following Monday, on the grounds that this is the day on which the holiday is celebrated.

The overtime rate is not fixed finally but is a variety of stated amounts for different categories and is approximately time and one half.

Another improvement gained by the union was an increase from $3.50 to $6 per day for "maintenance and cure" of injured or sick seamen while they are in port.

The negotiation meeting was drawn out by discussion of a union demand to apply the new holiday pay clause retroactively to July 4, 1948.

The new wage scales were arrived at largely on the basis of NMU insistence that its members be brought up to parity with those of the Seafarers International Union (AFL) which signed an agreement with shipowners last Friday.

U. S. To Provide Truce Observers

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Marshall said today the United States, France and Belgium will send 300 men from their armed forces to serve as truce observers in Palestine.

Marshall told a news conference the U. S. will supply 125 enlisted men, some of whom will come from the U. S. warships in the Mediterranean. France will provide an equal number and Belgium 50.

Count Folke Bernadotte, the United Nations mediator in Palestine requested the new group. Marshall said Bernadotte had asked for a substantially larger force but was turned down by the U. S., which referred the request to the U. N. Security Council. The council has yet to act on it.

Five Arrested In Polk Death Case

ATHENS—(AP)—The Ministry of Information said today five more persons have been retained for questioning in Salonika in connection with the murder of American Radio Correspondent George Polk.

The ministry identified the five as the mother of Greek newspaper man Gregory Stathopoulos and four employees of the hotel in Salonika where Polk stayed before his bullet-pierced, trussed-up body was found in Salonika Bay last May 16.

Babe Starts Last Trip To Stadium

The casket containing the body of Babe Ruth, one-time mighty slugger of the New York Yankees, and Mr. Baseball to millions of Americans, is taken from a funeral chapel in New York Tuesday and placed in a hearse for the Babe's last trip uptown to Yankee Stadium where he lay in state last night and today. (AP Wirephoto.)

Americans End Maneuvers

U. S. Commander In Berlin Says Blockade Has Failed

By EDWIN SHANKE

BERLIN—(AP)—The American commander in Berlin said today the 55-day-old Soviet blockade of the Western sectors has "failed in its attempt to starve the democratic people of Berlin into submission." Col. Frank L. Howley issued this statement in connection with what he called the Russians' propaganda distribution" of coal for Berlin.

The Russians offered earlier to release 60,000 tons of coal for residents of both the East and West sectors whose food ration cards are registered in the Soviet sector. The proposal thus was tied to the earlier Soviet offer to feed any Western Berliners who registered in the Soviet sector.

The statement came as American food soldiers wound up all night defensive maneuvers in the Grunewald Forest of Berlin. Reports from Hamburg said the Russians were winding up Summer maneuvers of their own near the zonal frontiers.

CITES FIGURES

Howley said that of the 60,000 tons of coal to be distributed, 57,100 tons will be required to complete the distribution in the Soviet sector alone on the basis outlined in the Russian announcement.

"This would leave 2,900 tons for distribution to Western sector residents," he continued. "Actually to make a full distribution to the West sectors would require not 2,900 tons but 96,400 tons.

"Obviously either Soviet mathematics are bad, Soviet intent is bad, or both Soviet mathematics and intent are bad."

Helmeted troops with rifles, mortars and machineguns simulated delayed action against an "enemy" that had captured Gatow Airport, the British supply field for the sealed - off Western sectors.

Officers in charge of the operation said British troops theoretically took part in the maneuver, although none were "fighting."

Earlier yesterday other American troops joined French units in maneuvers along the Rhine River near Heidelberg. It was the first time

See RED BLOCKADE on page 2-A

Same Man, New Name

Hiss' Story On Chambers Traced

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House Un-American Activities Committee said today it has been unable to find any trace of a free lance writer who may have operated in Washington under the name of George Crosley.

Alger Hiss, former State Department official, testified in New York yesterday that he knew Whittaker Chambers, avowed one-time member of a Communist underground, by the name of George Crosley. Hiss described Crosley as a free lance writer.

Robert E. Stripling, the committee's chief investigator, told reporters the committee is trying in New York and Washington to trace down every lead that would throw more light on the alleged relationship between Hiss and Chambers or Crosley.

Although acknowledging he knew Chambers under a different name in 1934-35, Hiss again denied Chambers' accusation that he was a member of a Red setup operating in Washington before the war.

Stripling said Rep. Nixon (R-Calif) stayed in New York to question more witnesses today. Committee investigators here were checking suggestions Stripling said Hiss made as to corroboration of his story about knowing Chambers under another name.

Previously, Chambers had testified under oath that Hiss was a member of the pre-war Red underground Chambers insisted had operated in Washington. And Hiss also under oath, denied it. He denied, too, knowing anyone by the name of Whittaker Chambers. He said he could not identify Chambers by a picture.

DENIES BEING RED

Hiss still is sticking to his statement that he is no Communist and never has been.

But committee members said they are on stronger ground now that Hiss admits he knew Chambers at one time. Some of them had been saying their investigation would be hurt badly if it developed that Chambers actually never had known Hiss.

Hiss now is head of the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace. Chambers is a senior editor of Time Magazine.

Chambers told the Committee on Aug. 3 that he joined the Communist Party in 1924, quit in 1937 and for several years between served in its underground, mainly in Washington.

House And Barn Burn

Mysterious Series Of Blazes Leaves Farm Family Homeless

MACOMB, Ill. —(AP)— A mysterious rash of fires that drove a farm family from their house to the garage, then destroyed the house and a barn, continued to baffle investigators today.

One theory, under consideration but far from conclusive, was that a fly spray used on the Charles Willey farm, twelve miles south of here, might have caused the outbreak of between 100 and 200 small fires in the Willey home.

A reporter for the Macomb Journal obtained a quantity of the spray, poured it on the ground and touched a match to it. He reported it was "highly inflammable."

The fires began breaking out about ten days ago and were extinguished by the Willey family, aided by neighbors. As they grew more frequent the family moved from the house to the garage. The house was destroyed by fire Saturday night and the barn burned down Monday.

Willey was unable to determine what caused the fires. He said he has no enemies. His insurance on the buildings was well below their replacement cost.

The fires first appeared to start in the wallpaper. Scorched spots appeared on the walls and later these burst into flame. Thinking the content of the wallpaper was causing the blazes, Willey and his neighbors tore it off the walls.

But that didn't end the menace. Fires continued to break out in the wood plaster laths. One neighbor said he removed a window curtain and laid it over the head of a bed. While he was in the house, he said, the curtain burst into flame.

The mystery is being investigated by John Burgard, deputy state fire marshal, and Fred Wilson, chief of the Macomb fire department. Neither have been able to reach any conclusions but chemical tests of the building materials are being made.

Meanwhile, Willey and his wife, both in their 60's, and their two children are hoping the garage holds out.

Companion, Home Owner Questioned By Officers

Unwed Mother Found In Room

KINGS MOUNTAIN — A pretty, redhaired young unmarried mother was found shot to death in an upstairs bedroom of a country home near here early today.

A 36-year-old man, wounded slightly, and the 40-year-old owner of the house are being held for questioning by Cleveland County authorities.

Dead is fifteen-year-old Betty Smith of near Kings Mountain. Robert Howell, 36, who is suffering a slight head wound, is in Kings Mountain jail being questioned.

Ray Sellers, about 40, owner of the two-story brick home in the Shady Rest comunity where the Smith girl's body was found, is in jail at Shelby. The community is between Kings Mountain and Cherryville.

Deputy Sheriff Raymond Peeler said early this afternoon that a State Bureau of Investigation agent is working with Cleveland authorities in the case.

No charges had been filed at 2 o'clock.

Coroner Ollie Harris and Sheriff's officers, summoned to the Sellers home about 6 A. M. today, found the body of the Smith girl sitting slumped between twin beds in an upstairs bedroom.

SHOT IN HEAD

Harris said she was shot in the temple, apparently at close range. Powder burns the size of a half-dollar were on her face, he reported. She was clad only in underclothing.

Deputy Peeler said Howell told officers his wife entered the room shortly after midnight while he and the Smith girl were in bed together.

Mrs. Howell, he is quoted as saying, fired at the girl as she jumped out of bed. She dired again, he said, the second bullet striking him in the head and knocking him unconscious.

He came to about dawn, he said, and found Miss Smith's body slumped between twin beds. He called Lee Sellers, brother of Ray Sellers, who drove to Kings Mountain to notify Coroner Harris and police.

CONFLICTING STORY

Peeler said much of Howell's story was conflicting and that police authorities are investigating closely.

It was reported unofficially that Sheriff Logan Hoyle has established an alibi for Mrs. Howell. The report was not officially confirmed, however.

Mrs. Howell was questioned by officers at the Shelby office of Sheriff H. A. Logan Jr.

Reporters were not allowed to

See TWO HELD on page 2-A

Tobin Attacks Taft-Hartley Act

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The new Secretary of Labor, Maurice J. Tobin, made his first news conference today the forum for a sharp attack on the Taft-Hartley Law. He called it "a blow at unionism."

Tobin, in a statement which he read to reporters, criticized two provisions: One outlawing the closed shop and another banning union expenditures in political campaigns. Both he called for repeal of the entire act. Under questioning, he said he was not objecting to every provision of the law. "I don't suppose even the most radical labor leader would do that," he added.

Reds Veto Ceylon U. N. Application

LAKE SUCCESS —(AP)— Russia today vetoed Ceylon's application for United Nations membership. It was the 27th Soviet veto in Security Council history.

The vote in the council on the application from the new Asiatic nation was 9 to 2 with the Ukraine joining Russia in opposition. As the ballot was subject to the big-power veto provision, the Russian "no" automatically blocked Ceylon.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm this afternoon and tonight. Thursday cloudy and warmer with afternoon thundershowers.

Temperature at 2 P. M. today 85
High and low last 24 hours....85-65
Sunset today 7:08
Sunrise tomorrow 5:46

More Weather Data on page 2-A