TAX DODGING

It's hard to enforce listing of property improvements in the county area, Reporter Ralph Gibson says in a special story on Second Cent pointing to the need of a thorough reappraisal of Mecklenburg property.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1948 | 32 Pages—Price Five Cents

Government Sues To Break Up Meat-Packing Firms

MORE U. S. PLANES TO BOLSTER AIRLIFT

'Big Four' Accused Of Anti-Trust Act Offenses

Breakup Into 14 Companies Sought

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Government sued today to break up the "big four" meat packing companies into fourteen separate and competing companies.

A civil anti-trust suit filed in Federal Court in Chicago alleged that the "big four" packers —Swift & Co., Armour & Co., the Cudahy Packing Co. and Wilson & Co., Inc. —violated the Sherman Act by suppressing competition.

It asked that Armour and Swift each be divided into five separate companies, and Cudahy and Wilson each be divided into two separate companies.

Attorney General Clark announced filing of the suit in Chicago.

"The four defendants named in the complaint are charged in the sale of meat and meat products," Clark said in a statement.

Clark described the suit as "Another in a series of cases instituted by the Department of Justice in furtherance of its program to free the production and sale of food and food products from monopolistic restraints."

ALLEGED METHODS

The complaints allege these methods were used by the four packing concerns to suppress competition:

1. Controlling the amount of livestock each company purchases for sale, thus controlling the supply of meat made available;

2. Using uniform cost formulas for arriving at selling prices;

3. Selling meat at "leading" rather than at "delivered" weights.

4. Selling at substantially identical prices and terms of sale.

The four companies, the complaint said, accounted for 58 per cent of the cattle, 54 per cent of the hogs, 68 per cent of the calves, and 79 per cent of the sheep slaughtered under Federal inspection, during the last 10 years.

Clark's statement said, "No avenue must be overlooked to prevent the basic necessities of life, such as food, from falling into the hands of monopolistic groups," it added:

"The channels of distribution between the farmer and the consumer must be kept free from all restraints and artificial blockades and, when other methods fail, the only alternative left is to separate the few dominant concerns into a number of independent and competing companies."

Herbert A. Bergson, assistant attorney general in charge of the Anti-Trust Division, said: "There has been an absence of effective competition among the 'big four' meat packing companies since 1893."

"TREMENDOUS POWER"

Bergson said in a statement:

"They possess such tremendous power to suppress competition and the systematic use of that power is so deeply imbedded in their whole method of doing business that nothing less than destruction of that power can provide an opportunity for any real or effective competition in the sale of meat and the purchase of livestock."

Bergson said the complaint charges that one of the methods used by the four big packers was a division or allocation of purchase of livestock. He added:

"This procedure leaves no incentive to compete in buying since each defendant is assured of getting its assigned percentage without competitive effort. Conversely there is no incentive for any defendant to reduce selling prices below those of the other defendants since its volume of sales could not thereby be increased in relation to that of other defendants, as the respective sales volume of each is determined by its volume of livestock purchased. The result is suppression of competition among the defendants in both buying and selling."

Heat Wave Grips Plains States

CHICAGO —(AP)— Another day of scorching heat appeared in prospect for the Southwest and Plains States today.

The mercury headed for the 100-degree mark in the Dakotas and Nebraska and in the 90's over Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. A high of 110 was forecast in parts of Southwest South Dakota.

The mercury soared to 103 yesterday at Phillip, S. D., and registered 100 over most of the state. Highs ranged from 90 to 100 degrees generally in the Northern Rocky Mountain states.

Cotton-Patch Reporter

A long, tall News reporter who grew up in the fields of Harvard University went down to Pineville for a session with the farm-hands, and here he is, all bent over and achin'. Tom Schlesinger, whose feature article on cotton is somewhere around here, couldn't muster a smile on this assignment. (Photo by Jeep Hunter of Tom Franklin Studio.)

Yankee Reporter Discovers

Cotton-Picking Is Hard On Your Back, Knees And Spirit

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

I picked ten cents worth of cotton today from a fourteen-acre patch near Pineville. The operation took around twenty minutes. Fellow cottonpickers agreed I had talent.

Ten cents worth of cotton consists roughly of 450 bolls. It weighs five pounds. Ten cents worth of cotton also consists of tired wrists, an aching back and a profound respect for laborers who hour after hour, boll after boll bring in Mecklenburg's largest, most profitable crop.

More local farmers are gainfully employed in cotton than any other staple. They expect around $1,500,000 for their efforts this year.

COTTON SUPPORTS HALF

George B. Hobson, Mecklenburg County Farm agent, reports thaat around half the 2,300-odd farms in the county depend primarily on cotton for a living. In other words, about half the farms depend on a one-crop economy.

The actual picking is done by local labor, sharecropper style. Jim Miller of Pineville who owns one of the largest cotton farms in the county has his 325 acres planted, cultivated and picked by fourteen different families, each of whom splits fifty-fifty on the profits.

Mr. Miller supplies the land, seed, livestock; the tenant, labor. They share the fertilizer cost.

PICK TWENTY BALES

I joined Alonzo Barker and his family in a fourteen-acre patch today. Alonzo and his family expect to pick enough for twenty bales this year. This is above average with the general yield about a bale to the acre.

To fill a bale faround 500 pounds), Alonzo must gather 1,400 pounds. Nine hundred pounds consists of seeds.

Alonzo is a fairly fast worker. He can pick, if hurried, around 300 pounds in an eight hour day. He averages 200 which usually means between $4 and $5 a day. His wife and three children carry their loads which actually make the whole system workable and profitable. A child can pick about 50 pounds at the age of five.

TWO-HANDED JOB

Picking is a two-handed job. Both continue grabbing and putting away in one motion. Most popular method consisted in working the row on your knees. This prevents a back ache, but is rough on the knees. I discovered.

The average boll contains five sections of fluffy cotton, each replete with numerous seeds. The boll also has sharp points. At the end of my short siege, my finger tips were as sensitive as a safecracker's, the backs of my legs were beginning to pain and a sharp ache was starting in my back. I was one mass of sweat from head to foot.

Cotton prices depend a great deal on the quality of the cotton, how much trash is included

See PICKING on page 10-A

Negligence Also Charged

Visa Aide Facing Misconduct Count

WASHINGTON— (AP) — Robert C. Alexander, who disagreed with Secretary of State Marshall over the danger of admitting Communists to this country through the United Nations, has been charged with misconduct and neglect of duty.

The State Dept. has presented the charges in a letter to Alexander, who is assistant chief of the Visa Division.

Officials said the action is the first of a series of steps which could result in disciplinary action, possibly including dismissal.

Alexander and two other Visa Division officials testified before Senate Judiciary Committee investigators two months ago that there was a threat to the national security in the admission into the U. S. of aliens from Communist - controlled countries as employees of the United Nations.

Subsequently Secretary of State Marshall told a news conference he knew of no case in which investigation had showed that there was any such threat.

Marshall named a committee of three Washington citizens, however, to investigate the situation. Their report presumably lays the basis for some of the charges which the department has formally brought.

Alexander declined to comment.

Meanwhile, Congressional spy investigators said they intend to make a test case of the contempt action they voted to bring against Communist Steve Nelson.

What they want to test is whether any witness has the right to refuse to answer questions of a Congressional committee on grounds he might incriminate himself.

Arrested In Salisbury

NC Man Says He Killed Aged, Wealthy Widow

SALISBURY —(AP)— Mauris Junior Holshouser, 26, told Salisbury Post reporters here today that he killed Mrs. Lena Robinson, 73, wealthy Scio, N. Y. widow, last Friday night by beating her with his fists, but that he did not rape her. Following the crime, he said, he stole a diamond ring and three checks from the woman's home and fled in her Buick automobile.

(Mrs. Robinson's badly-beaten, partially disrobed body was found Monday in the bedroom of her home, her head resting on a blood-soaked pillow, by her son who came to visit her.)

Holshouser, war veteran who said he had been discharged from the Army as "undesirable," is a native of Rowan County. He had been employed as a handyman by Mrs. Robinson.

He killed her in anger, he said, when she joked about his friendship for a young woman of the New York town.

Holshouser was arrested by Highway Patrolmen at Yadkinville last night. A former carnival worker, he declared he had gone to New York to seek a job with a carnival in that vicinity. Previously, he added, he had been at the home of his wife and their four children in Davie County near Mocksville.

Rowan sheriff's officers disclosed they had been notified that officers from New York are on the way to take Holshouser into custody.

Bevin Says Reds Stir Civil Wars

Tells Commons Asia Drive Is On

LONDON — (AP) — Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin declared today world Communism is engaged in a planned policy of stirring up civil wars and said Britain will do her best to oppose it "wherever it rears its ugly head."

The foreign secretary told the House of Commons the Communists are attempting to seize all Southeast Asia and "drive every western association out of that territory, in trade and everything else."

"Even if you suppress it in Malaya, which we will do, it may break out in Africa or somewhere else," Bevin told a tense House which yesterday heard a surprise announcement that Britain plans to step up her armaments.

Bevin referred to a "policy of stirring up civil war as an instrument of foreign policy" adding that if it continues "no one can see the end to which it may lead the nations who are promoting it."

TO STAND BY OUR

"But if Britain and the British Commonwealth are now seized with the effects of this policy, wherever it rears its ugly head, we shall do our best to stamp it out and we shall use the best of our resources to do it," he said. "If we do not, no settlement of peace will be possible nor will there be harmony in the world at all."

Bevin, explaining the current Communist uprisings in Burma and Malaya, said:

"This problem has been going on ever since the Marxi-Lenin theory was adopted, not merely in Malaya but elsewhere. It is part and parcel of the clash between two philosophies which will keep breaking out everywhere that it can."

Hours before Bevin's appearance in the House, the foreign office announced that his statement on international affairs would contain no mention of the Berlin crisis or East-West negotiations now in progress in Moscow.

Anthony Eden, acting Conservative leader of the House, told the members of India's invasion of Hyderabad was "an act of aggression." The wartime Foreign Secretary said the invasion was a "flagrant and inexcusable" breach by India of her agreement with the princely state.

BIG SERVICE

"If the UN acts quickly and acts with authority it will not only do a considerable service to its own reputation but will perhaps save a vast area of the world's surface from untold suffering and human misery," Eden said.

The UN Security Council is due to take up the Hyderabad situation tomorrow in Paris.

Eden said Communist uprisings in Malaya, Burma and Siam are "all in pattern."

"Its objective is to overthrow law and order throughout southeast Asia which, I think, one called the back door of capitalist and imperialist power."

Bevin dealt briefly with Hyderabad. He said he regretted that in "these new dominions this warlike spirit has developed."

Bevin said that in Malaya, the British have "a difficult task to pulverize these terrorist gangs. We are under no delusion as to what is involved."

Trains Crash

35 Americans Die In Korean Wreck

By WILLIAM R. MOORE

SEOUL—(AP)—A fast passenger train roaring out of a tunnel last night crashed into another train halted on the track killing 35 homeward-bound American soldiers. Two Koreans were killed and 120 persons were injured, including 80 American troops. They were bound for Seoul from Pusan.

Witnesses said the fast train from Mokpo to Seoul which had no headlight, telescoped the rear of the troop train, which had no rear lights.

One passenger on the soldiers' train likened the wreck and subsequent fire to a Dante's Inferno. Rescue workers worked all night digging out the dead and injured.

The 35 American bodies were brought here early today. The injured were treated by American and Korean doctors and many of them were able to continue their journey.

Charles McCafferty, of 2146 Lincoln Park West, Chicago, a passenger, said the engineer of the Mokpo train apparently did not see the other train until it was 50 yards away.

The engine plowed half way into the rear coach from which most of the passengers had jumped when the other train roared from the tunnel.

The rear coach was ripped from its trucks and shoved into the coach ahead, where most of the casualties occurred.

"We saw the train come out of the tunnel about 1,000 yards away," said McCafferty, a labor relations adviser to the Military Government in the American Zone. "We yelled to the passengers and all got off except one man in the washroom who was not hurt seriously."

Army officials said relatives of the dead were being notified but it may be necessary to bring personnel records from outlying detachments to complete identification.

TORCHES USED

Acetylene torches were used to cut open the coaches to reach some of the dead and injured.

About daybreak today, a hospital train arrived in Seoul with twenty bodies and sixteen of the injured.

A medical disaster team and salvage workers were at the scene. Army physicians reported that at least three soldiers remained trapped in the twisted wreckage when the first hospital train left for Seoul.

M. E. Penry of Flushing, N. Y., among 30 passengers in the rear coach of the rammed train, said he shouted a warning when he saw the other train approaching. The coach was emptied quickly.

The crash, he said, sent the rear car "right through the one ahead—riding through at the level of the seat tops."

The Pusan-Seoul train was not on its regular route because of a washout, the Army reported.

Indians Advancing

Paratroops Pace Hyderabad Drive

NEW DELHI — (AP) — India threw parachute troops into the invasion of Hyderabad today and captured Hombahad, 84 miles from the capital. The drive was from the west.

The second largest city of the princely state, Aurangabad, and its cantonment surrendered in the Northwest, giving India virtually all that corner of the state, the Defense Ministry said.

"Military informants in Madras said they thought Indian troops might reach Hyderabad City and suburban Secunderabad by Thursday or Friday. This would virtually end the fighting, which stemmed from the refusal of the wealthy Moslem Nizam to join his state to the Indian Union.

A Defense Ministry spokesman announced the capture of Aurangabad and this was supported by field dispatches.

He said the city, which lies about 275 miles northwest of the princely state's capital, was surrendered by the chief collector, the City's principal administrative officer. Not a shot was fired, he added.

The occupation of Aurangabad, together with the capture yesterday of Daulatabad and Jalna, gives the Indian army control of virtually the entire northwest corner of Hyderabad, the spokesman said.

He declared the Indian troops are encountering no opposition at all from civil authorities or the populance anywhere in Hyderabad. About 80 per cent of the 16,000,000 residents of Hyderabad are Hindus.

Diphtheria Flares In SC

GREENVILLE, S. C. —(AP)— Four new cases of diphtheria were reported to the County health department today, bringing the total since Aug. 26 to 28. One death has been reported.

Dr. J. N. Holtzclaw, County Health Commissioner, said facilities for handling diphtheria patients in the General Hospital isolation ward are nearing capacity point.

Six cases were admitted over the week-end, three were reported yesterday and one four today.

The County Health Dept. has spurred an immunization drive with special clinics. Some 1,500 children have been immunized by the County since Aug. 26, about 500 have been treated at the City health department and several hundred others by family doctors.

The outbreak has been most serious in the upper county and in the Fork Shoals area. Only two cases have been reported in the city and seven in greater Greenville.

They're Pretty Lucky After All

Generosity Of Friends Helps Family Whose House Was Burned

By MARTHA AZER LONDON
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Mrs. Margaret Smith, whose five-room house was destroyed by fire Saturday night — leaving her family of six with no clothes and no furniture — still thinks this is a good world in which to live.

One of the big reasons for her faith in humanity is the place in which she works—McLellan's five and ten cent store. The people responsible are her fellow employees.

You see, the Smith family went to Spartanburg last week-end to get someone to stay with the four children, while Mrs. Smith works. Mr. Smith is a disabled veteran of World War II.

When they returned to Charlotte, they could hardly believe their eyes. The home off Albemarle Road had burned down completely. Included in the furniture was a stove, recently purchased, and on which a balance of $80 is still due.

FORCED INTO COOP

With no home to sleep in, the Smiths moved into the chicken coop on the property. "It's been rather bad," said Mrs. Smith. "We have had to keep a lamp burning every night, to keep away the rats."

Monday, the news of what had happened to Mrs. Smith quickly spread throughout McLellan's. Immediately the salesgirls got together, and decided to take up a collection. Then they went to Mrs. Smith and gave it to her—nearly $70 in cash.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

The good neighbor spirit not only came from the employees of the store. It was, no doubt, inspired by the manager, M. L. Watson, who gave Mrs. Smith an extra pay check.

The next morning, the workers brought Mrs. Smith a collection of canned goods. They gave her clothes, too; as did some others who wanted to help. "We still need clothes for the oldest boy," said Mrs. Smith. "But I don't like to ask anyone. They've all been so wonderful." Some people gave them a bed.

There are two other things the Smiths need. One is a tent, into which they can move temporarily; the other is an oil-burning stove.

This morning, the Red Cross gave Mr. Smith two checks: One for the purchase of a tent; the other for the purchase of an oil-burning stove and mattress.

They will use the tent until the landlady builds two rooms onto the chimney. "She's going to do it," said Mrs. Smith, "as soon as something is done about the insurance.

"I guess," said Mrs. Smith, "we're pretty lucky after all."

Forty C-54s Ordered To Beleaguered Berlin's Aid

To Use Expanded Airport Facilities

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Air Force is sending about 40 more C-54 four-engine cargo planes to Germany to reinforce the 105 C-54s flying the airlift to Soviet-blockaded Berlin.

The planes, now going over, will use expanded airport facilities which have been constructed to handle the task of supplying Berlin.

The Air Force said it will continue to meet such requirements as may be laid down by Gen. Lucius Clay, U. S. military governor, during the coming months.

The additional planes and men are being drawn from various areas, including the Far East, and will pass through the United States on the way to Europe.

Britain Blames Red Troops For Rioting

BERLIN—(AP)—Britain charged today that Russian troops provoked German anti-Communists into the rioting last Thursday which resulted in street fighting at the Brandenburg Gate.

The statement by an official British Military Government spokesman rejected an accusation by the Russian commandant, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotikov, that inactivity of British military police encouraged "Fascist provocateurs" to attack Russian soldiers and the Soviet war memorial.

Britain told Kotikov he had his facts wrong and is guilty of a "piece of calculated self-inflation."

This was the third sharp rejoinder to Kotikov from the Western Allies in three days. It came within a half day of the tenth meeting in the Kremlin between Western diplomats and high Russians on the Russian blockade of Berlin. Moscow reported the four power talks are expected to be resumed in Moscow by the end of the week. Talks here between the four military governors of Germany are in recess.

Brig. Gen. Jean Ganeval of France lapped Kotikov last week. He implied publicly the Russian commandant was a liar as well as a breaker of pledges for permitting Soviet troops to kidnap nineteen Western Berlin police who had been guaranteed safe conduct by the Russians from the City Hall, the German Communists were besieging. Col. Frank Howley, U. S. commandant, recently said Kotikov was responsible for "international shame" in failing to protect Berlin's elected City Council against Communist rioters.

Kotikov started the latest controversy by sending a letter to the British commandant, Maj. Gen. E. O. Herbert, complaining about the conduct of British police during the disorders last Thursday at the bonbury of the British and Russian areas of Berlin.

The Soviet commandant of this divided city — Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotikov — declared in a letter printed by the official Soviet newspaper, Tagliche Rundschau, that British police "inactivity" encouraged "Fascist provacateurs" during Thursday's riots.

Three youths was killed and several persons wounded, when Germans returning from a huge anti-Communist demonstration stoned Russian soldiers near the Soviet war memorial.

A Soviet military tribunal sentenced five youths to 25 years at hard labor for taking part in the fighting.

CHARGES LISTED

Kotikov's letter charged that "criminal elements dishonored the monument in honor of Soviet soldiers who died in the struggles for Berlin."

This took place after an anti-democratic demonstration which you permitted, in the presence of units of British Military Police and German police of the British sector of Berlin," the letter declared. "The fascist bandits opened fire on Soviet guards before the Soviet monument, disturbed the public order, causing the death of one person, injury to several others and attacked German policemen of the Soviet sector as well as Soviet troops who were trying to restore order.

WEATHER

change in temperature this afternoon, tonight and Thursday.

Temperature at 2 P. M. today....86
High and low last 24 hours....82-66
Sunset today 6:36
Sunrise tomorrow 6:04

More Weather Data on page 10-A