Weather
Cloudy, warm and humid with late afternoon and evening showers through Thursday.
Temperature at 2 P. M. today.....87
High and low for past 24 hours 91-72
More Weather Data on page 11-A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas

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N. C. Legion Opposes General Federal Pension Bill

JOHNSON PROPOSES NAVY AIR PROJECT

Vet Group Retains Old Pension Plan

Reds In Schools Of State Rapped

RALEIGH —(AP)—North Carolina members of the American Legion went on record today as favoring continuation of veterans' pensions based solely on disability and need.

The Legion members, who are gathered here in their annual convention, killed a proposal to give Negro Legionnaires greater representation on the North Carolina Department's Executive Committee.

In another resolution, the Legion went on record as opposing "advocacy of Communism at all institutions of learning in the state."

In their action on pensions, the Legionnaires failed to endorse proposals now before Congress under which all veterans would be entitled to pensions when they attain a certain age.

Later in the morning the Legion members were scheduled to begin voting in a three-cornered race for commander of the North Carolina Department. Three candidates are in the field to succeed the present commander, Joe Grier Jr. of Charlotte. They are: Dr. D. R. Perry of Durham and R. C. Godwin of Raleigh and New Bern, both World War I veterans, and Louis E. Parker of Elizabethtown, World War II veteran.

The convention voted to table a proposed constitutional amendment to give Negro Legionnaires greater representation on the Department Executive Committee.

The Negro members now have one representative on the 46-member committee, the Vice-Commander of the Department's Division Six. The amendment would have given the Sixth Division one committee member for each 1,000 of the 8,000 Legionnaires in Division Six.

GRIER REPORT

The action on pensions followed the report by Commander Grier yesterday in which he criticized the action of the National Legion convention last year in endorsing pen-

See AMERICAN on page 11-A

Judith Coplon's Story Completed

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Judith Coplon completed her long, repeated denial of espionage activity today and was turned over to the Government for cross examination.

Miss Coplon's story added up to this:

She never passed any Government secrets to Valentine A. Gubitchev, a Russian engineer with whom she was arrested, and he never asked her to do so.

Papers found in her purse were not for use in espionage activity but in connection with (1) a book she said she was writing, (2) a Civil Service Examination she planned to take March 15 and (3) her work as a political analyst in the Justice Department.

Today she said she destroyed a manuscript for the book rather than have it fall into the hands of the FBI.

GORDON GRAY SWORN IN AS ARMY'S TOP MAN

Gordon Gray (left) of Winston-Salem, N. C., a private in the Army seven years ago, re-enacts ceremony at which he was sworn in as Secretary of the Army at Washington Monday. Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson (right) administers the oath of office. Watching the ceremony are Gray's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Bernard, and his wife (left to right, rear) and two of his four sons, Boyden, 6, and Burton, 8 (left to right in foreground.) Pictures of the actual ceremony were not permitted. (AP Wirephoto).

Truman Measure Supported

Legion Asks Housing Legislation

By FRANCIS M. LE MAY

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The American Legion called today for immediate enactment of President Truman's big and controversial housing bill. It decried what it called the "synthetic" propaganda against the measure.

Meanwhile Administration leaders cracked the whip of party discipline in an effort to hand Mr. Truman the first major victory in what he has called his "Fair Deal" domestic program.

The House begins debate on the bill tomorrow.

BACKS PRESIDENT

Legion National Commander Perry Brown, in a letter to Chairman Spence (D-Ky.) of the House Banking Committee, said "President Truman has properly exposed the motives and techniques of those attempting to kill the bill."

The President wrote Speaker Rayburn Friday denouncing the real estate lobby as a "little group of ruthless men" who are putting out propaganda against public housing and slum clearance.

Meanwhile, Rep. Vursell (R-Ill.) issued a statement saying the Truman Administration "when it attempts to put over socialistic legislation, always cries out against special public interests and powerful lobbies."

He called the housing bill "wild and unworkable."

Administration leaders at the Capitol were, driving hard for the bill.

In advance of a meeting of all 261 party members, they indicated they might try for a two-thirds vote to bind virtually all House Democrats to support the measure. And one leader noted that under party rules a member is subject to "discipline" if he fails to follow such caucus instructions.

Discipline in party affairs sometimes means a Congressman's loss of the right to propose Federal job-holders in his district.

However, a member is not bound by a caucus action if he feels his vote would violate the Constitution or his oath of office, or if it would be contrary to a commitment he made during his own campaign.

There has been a vigorous Southern rebellion against the Senate-passed housing bill, which the House starts debating tomorrow.

The measure calls for a vast program of slum clearance, low-rent public housing and farm housing aids. The cost is estimated all the way from $10,000,000,000 to $20,000,000,000.

Some private estimates say more than 60 Southern Democrats will oppose the bill. If Republican leaders, arguing for economy, can hold most of their 171 party members in line against it, the vote will be close.

There were predictions that the battle will end in passage of a compromise bill providing somewhat less than Mr. Truman wants.

Sec. Acheson Is Greeted By Truman

Returns From Paris Conference

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Acheson returned today from the big four foreign ministers conference at Paris. He got a personal welcome from President Truman.

Vice-President Barkley and other notables were with Mr. Truman at the airport when Acheson's plane landed at 10:08 A. M. (EST) after the trans-Atlantic flight.

When Acheson stepped from the plane, he waved his hat and Mr. Truman called, "Hello, Dean."

There was an outbreak of applause from Cabinet members, top State Department officials and Army, Navy and Air Force leaders who had assembled with the President.

The President and the Secretary of State shook hands.

CONGRATULATED

Later the President was asked how he congratulated Acheson, and he replied, "I said congratulations, Mr. Secretary."

"You think he did a good job, don't you?" a reporter asked.

"He did an excellent job," the President said.

The Secretary of State and his chief then climbed into a White House automobile and drove away to the President's office.

To reporters, Mr. Truman explained: "The secretary is going to my office to report to me. I'll have a report for you later in the day."

On emerging from Mr. Truman's office, Acheson affirmed to newsmen that the President would issue a statement later in the day.

Acheson said that he had no arrival statement to make to reporters.

Actually the four-weeks Paris session had gone about the way the Secretary of State had thought it would when he left Washington May 26.

It failed to solve any major problems in the cold war in Europe.

It did bring agreement that East and West would at least try to get along together in a divided Germany and that the two sides would make an effort to complete an Austrian independence treaty this Summer.

Material Is Missing At Oak Ridge Plant

By OLIVER W. DEWOLF

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Some material apparently is missing or misplaced at the Atomic Energy Commission's Oak Ridge, Tenn., plant but the AEC said today it is not A-bomb uranium.

Just what it is was not disclosed in statements from the AEC and from Chairman McMahon (D-Conn) of the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee.

There is a possibility, too, that no material is actually missing and that there has only been a bookkeeping error.

McMahon said the committee is investigating "an inventory discrepancy" at the plant. He declared it "is not of a kind for the American people to become alarmed about."

McMahon made the statement as the committee met to continue hearings on charges from Senator Hickenlooper (R-Iowa) that there has been "incredible mismanagement" of the Atomic Energy commission under the chairmanship of David E. Lilienthal.

McMahon's statement was in response to questions from reporters about published reports of "loss" of uranium at Oak Ridge.

At its downtown office, the AEC got out a statement saying: "In response to press inquiries, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corp. the operating contractor at Oak Ridge, stated that no A-bomb uranium is lost at Oak Ridge as had been reported in press dispatches. The technical facts on accounting for source and fissionable materials at Oak Ridge have been reported to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy."

Atomic plants attempt to keep an up-to-the-minute record of all materials in the plant.

Sen. Millikin (R-Colo) asked McMahon if it is not true that it still remains to be determined whether the discrepancy at Oak Ridge is "a bookkeeping error" or a loss of material.

"Yes, I think that can be said," McMahon replied. He added that the committee will not close its investigation "until we are satisfied with the results of our investigation."

In speaking of the discrepancy, McMahon said "this isn't the first time, nor I think will it be the last time."

He noted the "complexity" of the Oak Ridge operation and the "tremendous difficulty that occurs in taking an inventory of materials that exist from time to time in the form of gases, liquids and solids."

2 Carriers Would Be Modernized

Secretary Raps Service Squabble

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, with President Truman's approval, today proposed the modernization of two aircraft carriers at a total cost of $80,000,000.

Johnson made the announcement in departing from a prepared address to the 114 members of the graduating class of the National War College. President Truman presented the diplomas.

In his prepared speech, Johnson referred to the Soviet Union as "conspiratorial" and "despotic." He said it is because of Russia that the United States must maintain a strong military machine.

NATION PREPARED

And this nation does have, he declared, "a readiness and defense potential superior to that of any previous period in our nation's peacetime history" despite "severely contested" arguments a month ago by armed services that have hampered work of the national defense establishment.

Johnson said too much trust for defense should not be placed on mere possession of the atomic bomb.

In impromptu remarks, Johnson described the modernization of the two carriers as an answer to those who asked that the Navy's recent cancellation of the Navy's super-carrier there was a conspiracy "either to sink the Navy's air arm or to reduce the Navy to a second class role."

He said the saving from the cancellation would permit the modernization of two carriers within the present budget.

He added these two carriers when improved would increase to eight the number of ships capable of launching the heavier types of postwar aircraft.

Secretary Johnson, in still another departure from his prepared speech, said he is appointing Robert A. Patterson, former Secretary of War who was in the audience, as chairman of the Civilian Components Board of the defense establishment, which has to do with the National Guard and reserves. He expressed hope that Patterson will accept.

The Secretary's prepared speech said that "within a few short years we may witness the end of this era of atomic secrecy — an era whose end will be signaled by the explosion of some other nation's bomb." He continued:

"From that day on, our advantage in strategic bombing will rest not in monopoly possession of the atom bomb but in our superior stockpile, our production capacity, and in the effectiveness and quantity of aircraft required to deliver those bombs."

But, Johnson added, while "air power has given a measure of speeder end to conflict" it has by no means placed either the ground or naval forces in a subordinate position.

The decision on which serves to emphasize at any given time, he said, rests with the joint chiefs of staff, whom "I shall not knowingly repudiate . . . unless convinced their views are in conflict

See CONTRACT on page 11-A

Contract Fee Report Investigated By Hoey

WASHINGTON—(AP)— Chairman Hoey (D-NC) of the Senate Investigating Committee announced an inquiry today into the propriety of a $1,000 fee paid for help in getting Government contracts.

Hoey said the investigation will be based on "articles in the New York Herald Tribune concerning a Washington five per center."

The Herald Tribune newspaper as reporting that Paul Grindle, a Massachusetts business, said he paid $1,000 to Joseph V. Hunt "management counselor." He identified Hunt as a former lieutenant colonel in the Army Quartermaster Corps and later an employee of the Veterans' Administration.

PLAN FULL PROBE

Hoey said William P. Rogers, chief attorney for the investigating group, will "make a complete investigation of all the facts.

"It should be clearly understood that the intent that the staff of the committee has been asked to make this investigation is in no sense a reflection upon any of the issues involved," Hoey added in a statement.

After the staff inquiry has been completed, Hoey said, the subcommittee "will determine then what course should be followed in the public interest."

The Herald Tribune, in a copyrighted story by Jack Steele from Washington, said Hunt had told Grindle of close friendship and influence with top-level officials here including: Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, military aide to President Truman; Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson; Maj. Gen. Herman Feldman, Army quartermaster general; Jess Larson, former WAA administrator; John R. Steelman, assistant to President Truman, and others.

Grindle was identified as president of the C. W. Laing Woodworking Corp. of Farmingham, Mass.

Almost simultaneously with Hoey's statement, Secretary of Defense Johnson announced an investigation into the question whether anyone has obtained "percentage" contracts with the national military establishment.

The secretary did not immediately go into any detail, but associates quoted him as saying, "I don't even know the fellow."

Later Johnson issued a statement in which he said:

"The procurement business of the U. S. Armed Services is not unanimously today for a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour. It decided against trying to extend coverage of the wage-hour law to 5,000,000 additional workers.

The seven - man subcommittee, headed by Senator Pepper (D-Fla), constitutes a majority of the thirteen-man Senate Labor Committee. So presumably today's agreement means the full committee is certain to recommend wage-boosting legislation to the Senate.

One decision was against extending the law to workers in retail stores.

The wage-hour law now applies to most business firms making or handling goods which are shipped across state lines. Generally, it forbids payment of a lower wage than 40 cents an hour and requires payment of premium pay for work over 40 hours a week.

In addition to an increase in the minimum to 75 cents, labor unions have been clamoring for extension of the law to cover additional workers. Most of the opposition in Congress has centered on extending the coverage, rather than on boosting the minimum.

Minimum Wage Boost Approved

Unidentified Craft Reported Seen

Sub Hunted Near Florida Rocket Range

MIAMI, Fla. —(AP)— Search for an unidentified submarine reported off the south Florida coast centered near the new rocket testing range at Banana River today.

Navy planes criss-crossed the area in an attempt to locate the undersea craft.

The guided missile base is scheduled to open July 1. Legislation authorizing construction of the long range proving ground and providing $75,000,000 to get it under way was signed May 11 by President Truman.

Three Navy privateers from the hurricane-hunting squadron in Miami searched an area roughly off Cocoa and Melbourne during the night without finding a trace of the craft.

Then the Coast Guard said the case had been listed as "classified" and that no further information could be obtained here.

Lt. Comdr. Leonard Culjat, executive officer of Navy Patrol Squadron VP 23, said his planes were turning in hourly radio reports that "all's well."

Comdr. R. C. Knowles, USN, skipper of the squadron, said the submarine first was sighted by a Coast Guardsman from the beach near Miami. He said he could not reveal the man's name.

A Norfolk, Va., Atlantic Fleet headquarters said it could make no statement as the Navy Dept. in Washington had listed the case as "classified." This restriction means that no information may be released to the public.

An unofficial but reliable source at Norfolk reported an unidentified submarine was sighted off the North Carolina coast last week. This source said that the following day the undersea craft, which belonged to a friendly nation, identified itself and advised that it had been engaged in exercises designed to determine how close it would approach the United States coast without detection.

Woman Named To Diplomatic Post

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Mrs. Perle Mesta, Newport, R. I., and Washington, D. C., social leader and Democratic Party fund raiser, was nominated by President Truman today to be minister to Luxembourg.

The nomination had been forecast for several weeks since the President told reporters he had several women under consideration for diplomatic posts. The Luxembourg assignment up to now has been borne by the U. S. Ambassador at Brussels, Belgium.

Mrs. Mesta has been a close friend of the Truman family for some time. She originally came from Oklahoma where her family was interested in oil. For several years has been one of the leaders of Washington society. However, her nomination listed her residence as Rhode Island.

Duke Power Asks Bus Rate Boosts In 3 SC Cities

COLUMBIA, S. C. —(AP)— Duke Power Company wants to increase its city bus fare rates in Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg.

The Company filed a petition with the State Public Service Commission today asking permission to increase the price of bus tokens to ten cents each or three for 25 cents. The tokens now sell and two cents each or four for 25 cents.

B. H. Barre, the Commission's Chief Engineer, said a public hearing on the request would be held here. No date has been set, he added.

Lost Lad's Body Found In River Near Dillon

By FRANK FOX

DILLON, S. C. —(AP)— The body of Johnny Shafer, two and a half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Shafer, was found today in the Little Pee Dee River.

The boy disappeared last night from the Summer home of his wealthy parents. His nude body was found about a mile downstream about 8 A. M. today.

Mrs. Shafer, sitting on the bank while the search progressed, became hysterical as one of the approaching boatmen cried out:

"We've got him. He's dead."

The little fellow was found by Lawrence Furr and Lawrence Bloom, who were among several hundred who searched the river and dense swamp for the lad.

KIDNAP THEORY

A possibility that the boy had been kidnaped was being studied by Sheriff Dixon Lee even while the searchers were removing the body from the murky waters. There were no marks of violence.

The child was last seen in the yard at 7:05 P. M. He was missed ten minutes later and a wide search was started. Bloodhounds were brought from Columbia.

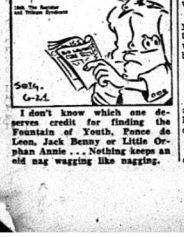
Johnny had slipped off his only clothing — a pair of trunks—before he was missed.

He evidently fell into the river and was swept downstream. The little body came to rest in a small cove.

The kidnap theory was discarded. There are two other small children in the Shafer family.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SEIGENTHALER



I don't know which one deserves credit for finding the Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon, Jack Benny or Little Orphan Annie . . . Nothing keeps an old nag wagging like nagging.

Reds Move To End Berlin Rail Tieup

BERLIN—(AP)—The Russians expressed a pointed desire today to end Berlin's month-old rail strike and said none of the workers would be punished merely for walking off the job. An Allied spokesman said the new development might serve as a basis for settlement of the walkout.

Maj. Gen. Pavel Kvashnin, chief of Soviet transport, notified the three western commandants that he believes the Russian - controlled railway management will live up to promises it made in a compromise offer two weeks ago.

That offer contained a promise of no reprisals against strikers but avoided the issue of union recognition. The 14,000 strikers turned down the offer in a referendum. Strike leaders said the workers were alarmed by reprisal threats printed in Russian-licensed newspapers.

Judge Ponders Disposal Of Huge Reynolds Fund

BALTIMORE —(AP)— A judge today had the problem of what to do with $8,790,000 earned by the R. J. Reynolds tobacco millions.

The question: Shall it be distributed now to one group of heirs or turned back to the estate to earn more money for all.

The Safe Deposit & Trust Co. of Baltimore, named trustee by the Winston-Salem, N. C. tobacco king before he died in 1918, went to court to find the answer.

Judge Joseph Sherbow heard testimony and will make the decision shortly.

The point at issue arose under the will of Mrs. J. Edward Johnston, who previously was married to Reynolds and bore him four children. She left a $6,000,000 estate of her own when she died in 1924, three days after giving birth to Edward Johnston Jr.

Safe Deposit and other Reynolds heirs believe the earnings should be lumped into the trusts.

Mrs. Johnston's three surviving Reynolds children and J. Edward Johnston Jr. argue that they should be given the earnings right now and as follows:

Johnston, 25 and a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N. Y., $2,538,000.

Richard J. Reynolds, 43, $773,925.

Mrs. Mary R. Reynolds Babcock, 40, $1,118,000.

Mrs. Nancy Reynolds Bagley, 39, $1,359,800.

If they win, benefits also would accrue to a son and a daughter of Zachary Smith Reynolds, the fourth child of Reynolds and Mrs. Johnston. Zachary Smith Reynolds died in mysterious circumstances at Winston-Salem in 1932. He left a daughter, born to the former Ann Cannon, and a son, born to Slape Star Libby Holman.

Young Johnston's share of the accumulations is greater because he was only three days old at the time the trust started operating and his withdrawals for personal maintenance have been relatively small.

Up to the time he was 21 he never got more than $1,400 a month. He now gets $2,000 a month while studying at Rensselaer.

Drinking Down In U. S. First Time Since '38

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Americans apparently drank less intoxicating liquor last year. It's certain they spent less on their drinking.

This was reported yesterday by the Commerce Dept., which said the total 1948 outlay for whisky, beer and wine was an estimated $8,000,000,000. The figure was 8.7 per cent below 1947, and marked the first time since 1938 that the nation's drinkers had spent less than they did the preceding year.

The lower total was due in part to "some decline in price," the department noted, but the main cause was decreased consumption due to a "weakening of demand for items in the luxury class."

The department's figures totalled what was shoved across bars and store counters by buyers. They did not show the volume of liquor consumed.

The nation spent $3,900,000,000 on whisky and distilled spirits, $4,445,000,000 on beer, and $455,000,000 on wine. All those figures were below the 1947 totals.

Mill Asks NC Patrolmen In Hart Textile Strike

RALEIGH — (AP) — Governor Scott has been asked by a mill executive to send State Highway Patrolmen "or such other officers as you may select" to take steps against a "lawless situation" at the Tarboro Textile Mill.

The Governor's office announced today that it had been asked by management to intervene in the mill's dispute (with its employees.

The office released the text of a letter written by Marcus W. Carter, vice president of the Hart Cotton Mill, to Governor Scott on June 15.

After conferring with the Governor, who is attending the National Governor's Conference at Colorado Springs, Colo., the Office released this statement:

"Governor Scott asked that it be pointed out that State law enforcement officers are not directed to assist local law enforcement officers except by request or in emergencies. The Governor's Office has received no request from Tarboro or Edgecombe County law enforcement officers and there have been no reports of violence."

In the letter, Carter asserted a "lawless situation" prevailed at the strike-bound plant and he said "you will undoubtedly take steps either through the State Highway Patrol or such other officers as you may select to see to it that in this state people who want to work shall not be unlawfully and forcibly prevented from doing so."

Carter asserted that "the only thing that is keeping the plant from running and our employees from working is the fact that the union maintains a substantial group of pickets massed in front of the plant and some of these massed pickets continually and forcibly keep anybody from going into the plant and working."

ARBITRATION

The Governor on June 10 urged both sides in the strike to agree to arbitration of their dispute and to return to work pending a settlement. The strike has kept 500 workers idle since May 12 in a dispute over union proposals regarding vacation pay and dues checkoff and a company proposal for a no-strike clause.

The Textile Workers Union of America (CIO) agreed to the arbitration proposal, but the company did not.

Carter in his letter to the Governor said that since there is at present no contract between the union and the mill, the management could not agree to arbitration under which a third party would, in effect, write the contract.