

Alphabetical Agencies have been set up in Washington to work out the National Defense Administration, and the commissions of letters have been found to identify them. James Maclear leads you through the maze in his story on Page 5-A.

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Age-Price Freeze In Few Days Rec Regime

Seagrave Given Six Years

'Burma Surgeon' Found Guilty

By DOUGLAS LACKERSTEEN
RANGOON, Burma — (AP) — A Burmese court today found Dr. Gordon Seagrave, World War two "Burma Surgeon," guilty of high treason. The 53-year-old American, who was sentenced to six years of his remaining years in prison for aiding high treason against the Burmese government.

Seagrave's attorney said he would appeal the verdict and that he expected the appeal to be heard in about three weeks. Meanwhile the doctor was returned to jail.

The court found Seagrave guilty of five of the charges against him. It sentenced him to six years at hard labor on one count, and one year on the other, with the sentences to run concurrently.

The verdict came as a complete surprise. Most persons here expected his acquittal. Nurses from his hospital went to the court for an hour and a half read its judgment before a packed courtroom.

Seagrave received the verdict stoically. Only his moving jaw muscles betrayed any feeling.

But after the judge left the courtroom, he told reporters: "I am disappointed in the verdict. The American people will not judge the peoples of Burma by the actions of a few."

Dr. Seagrave was 39 when he was arrested at his hospital in Namkhan on Aug. 29. He had shocked thousands of Americans by his actions at the arrest as he was decorated by King George VI and the U. S. Government for his heroism during Gen. Joseph Stilwell's jungle retreat from Burma in 1942.

Seagrave, who had spent more than 20 years giving medical aid to the Burmese people, was found guilty of aiding rebel Kachin tribesmen who were active in 1949 captured Namkhan, near the Chinese-Burma frontier.

The court ruled that he aided them by giving them surgical instruments and medical supplies and through a letter to a nurse allegedly threatening her unless she kept silent about rebel activities in the hospital area.

Brought to Rangoon's central jail after his arrest, the doctor spent six weeks suffering intermittent dysentery attacks before his defense counsel obtained his release to a private residence. His attorney, former Burmese Supreme Court Justice Myint, made the last fifteen months in prison.

His trial opened Oct. 12, with the State bringing charges carrying maximum penalties for conviction, of death or banishment. A month later the charges were reduced to counts carrying the penalties, if convicted, of banishment for a maximum period of ten years.

Government witnesses testified that Seagrave had supplied 2000 lbs of food to the rebels.

Compton said that in case of a surprise enemy attack, there might be serious damage to the country under service of the 18-year-olds.

"It might be disastrous to adopt this plan if we have no flexibility," he said.

"Simply to say that we do not like the drafting of 18-year-olds, for example, means almost nothing," he said.

"None of us likes it."

CITES FACTS

Compton said the "important facts are these: There are not enough men above 19 years of age to provide these numbers without calling men who have families and productive jobs already served their term of military duty. It certainly seems to me better to have the 18-year age level than to disrupt young families and careers... at least unless the national security situation gets very desperate indeed."

Senator Morse (R-Ore.) backed Compton's plan for drafting 18-year-olds. He said a member of the subcommittee studying legislation to require all national advertising to be signed by the author and bear the imprint of the plant that printed it.

4. Amend the State Constitution that if a vacancy occurs on the State Supreme Court within 30 days of a general election, the post would be filled at the following general election.

Roll-Back To Jan. 1

Considered Control Agency Gathering Staff

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Government will order a general price and wage freeze within the next five or six days, a high-level government source reported today.

A roll-back of prices to Jan. 1 levels is under consideration, this official said.

The decision was attributed to Charles E. Wilson, director of the Office of Defense Mobilization. He reported that the measure is either voluntary or piece-meal controls can stem the inflationary surge.

Economic Stabilization Administration Alan Venable was reported ready to carry out the roll-back, ordering ceiling orders, despite the lack of enforcement machinery and staff.

STEP PREDICTED

There had been earlier predictions that price controls would be applied whenever the ESA mustered a staff to handle controls.

These predictions were bolstered by the rise in food prices in the past few days.

The ESA has been making progress in gathering a staff to handle controls.

Here are key developments on the stabilization front:

1. ESA employees rose to 450, an increase of 100 in the last ten days.

2. The roll-back of prices to Jan. 1 levels is under consideration.

3. Industrial leaders were being chosen rapidly to head ESA "commodity divisions," such as foods, chemicals, consumer goods, and farm products.

4. The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the retail price index for 1950 rose 2.1 per cent over the 1949-1950 average. During the two weeks ending Jan. 10, the price level had surpassed the former high of 218.8 on July 15, 1948.

5. The Government official—a man whose influence was extremely important in blocking a 30-day price and wage freeze—said that the price level is not against a freeze, but that the freeze is inadequate.

CITES DRAWBACKS

This official, who cannot be identified, said that the freeze would be a small staff, would freeze a vast number of inequities, would increase the cost of replacement, and would tend to drive low-profit articles out of business.

He said he would not wait for the freeze to be fully implemented. He said he would prefer to see detailed price ceilings worked out in advance in certain duplicated areas—such as meat and clothing prices—because a blanket freeze would be a disaster for many practical in those fields.

'Peter Rabbit' NOW A COWBOY

Little Korean waif evacuated from Seoul, grins with joy as he is helped into a pair of cowboy boots by S-5 Sgt. Merle Strang of Bangor, Me.

"Peter" is one of hundreds of orphans flown from their war-torn homeland to safety on islands off the southern coast of Korea. (Acme Telephoto).



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Two-Term Limit On Presidency Urged

Amendment to Constitution would limit President to two terms

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's Legislature today voted to ratify a proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution to keep a President from serving more than two terms.

Rep. Clifton Blue of Moore County introduced the measure in the House and it was referred to the committee on constitutional amendments.

Several states have ratified the amendment but not enough so far to carry out ratification by three-fourths of the States.

Rep. Lee Whitmore of Henderson today introduced a similar amendment in the Senate.

Another bill would provide for an administrative assistant to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The assistant would have the same administrative duties as the assistant of the Chief Justice.

Another bill would give the Chief Justice power to call special terms of court.

Another bill would put into effect a recently adopted constitutional amendment allowing persons accused of crime when represented by counsel to waive indictment except in capital cases. The bill would require a written waiver of all felony cases and require the solicitor to make a full statement of charges against the accused.

Other bills would provide:

1. That the warden at Central Prison and the attorney general be notified when an appeal is made in a capital case.
2. Make all court records available for public inspection except those involving divorce cases.
3. Set up a procedure for reviewing cases of persons who claim their imprisonment is unjust.

Allen solicitors to appoint

Compton Challenges Congress

Educator Backs Youth Draft

WASHINGTON (AP) — An educational leader backed Senate opposition today by demanding a transition request to draft 18-year-olds into the fighting forces without restrictions.

Karl T. Compton, chairman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, urged Congress to adopt the universal military training and training program immediately.

He further urged some kind of service in general education, physical and mental qualifications for military duty, in testing to require all national advertising to be signed by the author and bear the imprint of the plant that printed it.

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Truman Calls Meeting

French Premier to Visit Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Premier Rene Pleven of France will come to Washington Jan. 26 for a high policy conference with President Truman.

Announcing this today, the State Dept. said Pleven suggested the conference be held in Washington to deal with questions of mutual interest.

Informed Government officials said Pleven wants to discuss the war strategy, particularly the problems of French Indo-Chinese forces already been promised the biggest share of the 45,000,000,000 francs U. S. has set aside to arm scores of friendly countries.

G. Cloes French minister of Eastern Europe and Communist China, Paris said he would be in Washington to discuss the situation of Communist China. France will accept such orders in the future but has taken the position it cannot accept such orders made one time ago.

Officials said the French intend to allocate war materials needed by France for military out-

Air Force Plans Big Expansion

Expansion of Air Force to 100,000 men and 10,000 aircraft

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top official said today the Air Force intends to expand to 100,000 men and 10,000 aircraft by the end of 1952.

As of last June, the Air Force has 42,000 officers and men and 4,000 aircraft. The number of planes in an air group varies with the purpose of the aircraft, ranging from 18 heavy bombers to 75 fighters.

Edwards testified at hearings on a bill to reorganize the Air Force. He objected to a provision limiting to 2,000 the number of officers who could be assigned to the Air Force staff in Washington except in time of war or national emergency.

Questioned by reporters, Edwards testified he did not bring out when the Air Force expects to reach its expansion goal.

Asked by reporters, Edwards said he could not give a "target date."

He said the picture was changing too much, and added that the expansion is proceeding rapidly.

Fire Raging In Town Of Madison

Large fire in downtown Madison, Va., threatening to destroy a considerable section of the town and a number of residences

MADISON (AP) — A large fire was raging in downtown Madison, Va., threatening to destroy a considerable section of the town and a number of residences.

It started a few minutes after 11 p. m. in the Carnegie library building at the corner of Hunter and Market Sts. Charles Prall, an electrician, was on duty at the time.

The fire is spreading rapidly. It has burned for about 30 minutes but moved generally north about a half block.

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Cal's Terms 'Impossible'

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TOKYO (Thursday) (AP) — Peiping radio said today the Chinese Communist regime had rejected the latest United Nations Korean cease-fire proposal.

It said the U. N. five-point proposal for peace in Korea and other Far Eastern issues was "impossible."

The broadcast in Chinese was monitored here by the Japanese Kyojo news agency.

The broadcast said the message was sent by Premier Chou En-lai to David Owen, Acting Secretary-General of the U. N. in New York, for transmission to Roberto Utrera Arbacia, chairman of the political committee of the U. N. General Assembly.

In New York, U. N. headquarters said it was received there at the time of the Peiping broadcast.

The U. N. cease-fire plan called for:

- 1—An immediate cease-fire with safeguards "insuring that it will not be used as a screen for mounting a new offensive."
- 2—When a cease-fire is obtained it "advantage" should be taken of it to pursue consideration of further steps to be taken for the restoration of peace in Korea.
- 3—All non-Korean forces to be withdrawn with arrangements to make of the Korean people to express their wishes for a future Government.
- 4—An interim administration to be set up in the meantime.
- 5—As soon as a cease-fire agreement is reached, U. N.-designated groups including representatives of the U. S., Britain, France, Russia, and Communist China to consider Far Eastern problems, including the Korean situation.

The five-point plan was approved Jan. 13 by the United Nations po-

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Election Board Would Ban Absentee Ballots

Board of Elections today urged the Legislature to abolish voting by absentee ballot in general elections.

RALEIGH (AP) — The State Board of Elections today urged the Legislature to abolish voting by absentee ballot in general elections.

In its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature the board said the absentee ballot should be retained only for veterans, men and disabled war service.

The Legislature several years ago abolished absentee voting in primaries but retained it in general elections.

Said the board to making its recommendation:

The absentee ballot "will remain the cause of most of our election troubles in a general election."

He hoped that if civilian absentee voting is had for the primary, it is bad for the general election and should be abolished in both.

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What's Inside

Classified Want Ads	98-118
Comics	118-125
Radio Programs	125-130
Special	130-135
Women's Pages	135-140

What's Inside

Classified Want Ads	98-118
Comics	118-125
Radio Programs	125-130
Special	130-135
Women's Pages	135-140

What's Inside

Classified Want Ads	98-118
Comics	118-125
Radio Programs	125-130
Special	130-135
Women's Pages	135-140

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Our Weather

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More Weather Data on Page 18-A

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