Congress & Truman
The 82nd Congress has treated President Truman's program with less respect than did the 80th and 81st, a Congressional Quarterly on today's editorial page, 10-A, shows.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolines

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U. S. Newsman Given 10-Year Term By Czech Court

REDS AGREE TO PRELIMINARY MEET

U. S. Armed Might Paraded In Europe

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—United States troops today staged their biggest parades in Europe since World War Two, celebrating the birth in their homeland of the freedom they are here to defend.

From the Baltic to Africa, American forces and civilians throughout the Old World celebrated their nation's Independence Day. Parades where U. S. troops were stationed, and diplomatic receptions elsewhere, were on the calendar.

In Stuttgart, Germany — headquarters of the U. S. Seventh Army — 6,500 soldiers paraded with 500 tanks, self-propelled guns and other combat vehicles while big bombing planes and swift jet fighters roared overhead.

The parade reflected the growing might of U. S. forces in Europe. Under the threat of Soviet aggression, they have been swelled by reinforcements to their greatest size since the post-war re-deployment ended in 1946.

High German and Allied officials were invited to join American leaders on the Stuttgart reviewing stand.

Another big parade was held in London, capital of the British Empire from which the United States declared their freedom on the original "Independence Day" 175 years ago.

British troops—now comrades in arms with the descendants of their ancestor foes—marched with the Americans through the heart of the city.

At St. Paul's Cathedral Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower presented a roll of honor containing the names of 28,000 Americans who died in military operations conducted from England during World War II.

Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay, who commanded some of the American air operations from England, reviewed the London parade. So did Queen Elizabeth and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

In Moscow, many high ranking Soviet officials were invited to the Independence Day reception at the American embassy. U. S. Ambassador Alan Kirk's guest list included, among others, Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky and Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Italy's President Luigi Einaudi and Premier Alcide de Gasperi cabled good will messages to President Truman. On behalf of the Italian people Einaudi sent his best wishes for "the ever greater prosperity of the friendly American nation."

The Danes also celebrated the American anniversary. U. S. Ambassador to Denmark Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, speaking in Danish, addressed the Danish-American festival which annually draws many Danish-born from the United States. Observers noted that Mrs. Anderson, after only two years in the country, used a better Danish accent than many of the returnees who heard her.

U. S. troops in Germany sent representatives to the annual ceremonies at Copenhagen.

Celebrations also were held in France, Iceland, Austria, Trieste and North Africa—everywhere American troops are stationed.

In a special Independence Day message to his troops, the U. S. commander in Europe, Gen. Thomas T. Handy, declared American forces are here to defend the freedom won for them by their ancestors in 1776.

AP's Oatis Convicted Of Spying

May Be Freed After 5 Years

By DAN DELUCE

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Associated Press Correspondent William N. Oatis was sentenced to 10 years in prison today by a Communist court in Czechoslovakia for "spying out state secrets" and reporting "slanders and lies."

Half of Oatis' sentence can be remitted for good behavior, the chief magistrate of the five-man court said, and he will be expelled from Czechoslovakia after leaving prison.

The chief magistrate said Oatis, the first Western newsman ever tried behind the Iron Curtain, was spared from the death penalty because of his "admission of guilt and assistance in exposing the espionage activities of Western diplomats and Western news agencies."

Three Czech employees of the AP's Prague office, tried with Oatis, also were judged guilty and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 16 to 20 years.

AP HITS TRIAL

In New York the Associated Press termed the two-day trial a "sham and a mockery of elemental justice" and said the AP would continue, "by all means available, to seek Oatis' release from this cruel and unjust detention."

The AP statement said the prosecution's evidence at the trial "showed only that Oatis was engaged in the legitimate pursuit of newsgathering as free people understand it."

Throughout his testimony, Oatis spoke in slow, careful phrases, pausing regularly for the benefit of interpreters, as if he had been carefully rehearsed. A similarly voiced confession to espionage by U. S. businessman Robert A. Vogeler in Hungary was obtained through systematic brutality and torture over a long period, Vogeler said later, repudiating his admissions after his release.

OATIS SORRY

Oatis, in a final statement last night that was strongly reminiscent of previous "confessions" in Communist trials, said he was "sorry" he committed espionage and that he "did it only because I listened to the wrong kind of orders from abroad and came under the influence of the wrong kind of people in Czechoslovakia."

In Washington State Department Press Officer Lincoln White yesterday termed the trial a "hoax" and said he hoped "the American people will understand the absolute worthlessness of any alleged 'confession' or 'revelation' beaten out of or otherwise obtained from anyone who is held incommunicado for 70 days or more."

No Western correspondents were left in Prague for the trial and details were obtained from American official sources in Frankfurt. Since Oatis' arrest April 23, the remaining three Western newsmen in Czechoslovakia—Gaston Fournier of the French press agency, Russell Jones of the United Press and Robert Bigio of the British

See OATIS on page 14-A

LEADS U. N. PEACE EFFORTS

Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway

First Truce Session Set For Sunday

By OLEN CLEMENTS

TOKYO —(AP)— Communist commanders agreed tonight to preliminary cease-fire talks in Korea Sunday, the United Nations command announced.

Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, U. N. commander, had proposed such a meeting for tomorrow. His spokesman said he saw no reason why Sunday would not be acceptable.

There was no change in the previously agreed date—next Tuesday—to start actual armistice talks at the ancient Korean capital of Kaesong near the 38th Parallel.

As an unusual quiet covered the 100-mile Korean battlefront, the powerful U. S. Army radio on Okinawa picked up an acceptance message from the Red Korean Pyongyang radio. It said:

"General Ridgway.

"Commander of the United Nations forces:

"We have received your reply date July 3. We agreed to send three (3) liaison officers to Kaesong as you proposed. We will prepare for the preliminary conference in the Kaesong area if you agree to set the date on July eighth (8).

"Kim Il Sung, supreme commander of the Korean people's armed forces.

"Peng Teh-huai, commander of the Chinese volunteers."

The broadcast was made at 7 P. M. (4 A. M. EST) in the Korean language.

RECEPTION POOR

Reception was extremely poor. It was not heard by stations in Japan which have been listening for the latest message in the slow radio negotiations between opposing commanders.

Ridgway made the first most last Saturday. Kim and Peng accepted Sunday night, expressing a willingness to meet any time between July 10 and 15. On Tuesday Ridgway agreed to start cease-fire talks on the 10th and proposed a preliminary session tomorrow.

It is the preliminary session which the Red commanders would agree to Sunday.

Under Ridgway's proposal, each side would send three unarmed officers of rank no higher than colonel to Kaesong. They would then work out details for the important session between higher representatives of the commanders at which the actual end of the shooting would be arranged.

The war will continue until this session is held.

It is to deal purely with military questions — although this particular point has not been raised in the radio exchanges between U. N. and Red commanders.

LINE PROBLEM

Biggest problem appeared to be setting a demarcation line for the armistice, pending subsequent peace negotiations at a higher level. The Reds want the line drawn at the 38th Parallel, old dividing line between North and South Korea; South Koreans want the line to run farther north — through Red Korea.

U. N. headquarters were all set for every stage of the military talks — even to polishing brass on a peace train now in Seoul, 35 miles southeast of Kaesong.

The U. S. Eighth Army announced today that press representatives would not be permitted at Kaesong during the preliminary talks, nor would newsmen be permitted to question the officers sent. They will go from Seoul by helicopter if the weather is good; by jeep if it is bad.

There was no indication when Ridgway would reply to the latest message from Kim and Peng.

The Chinese Reds' Peiping radio reported Kim visited the front today. Kim, who is also North Korean premier, was accompanied by his foreign and propaganda ministers. The broadcast said the purpose was to congratulate "the Chinese peoples volunteers" on "the heroic victories they have won."

CHINESE WITHDRAW

American frontline dispatches said the Chinese completed withdrawing from mountains in the Iron Triangle which they lost this week at an estimated cost of 1,500 casualties.

Chinese movements behind the lines were watched constantly from the air. This was the primary objective of 364 sorties flown by the Fifth Air Force during the day, although 50 fighters spent two hours strafing and bombing Reds on the eastern front.

Bearded American doughboys on patrol duty celebrated the Fourth by hurling grenades and ducking Red sniper fire, but generally there wasn't much doing on the ground.

Off the East Coast the U.N. blockade fleet shelled Communist ports through fog and rain.

U.N. ground forces were ready for anything—war or peace.

In a Fourth of July statement, Lt. Gen. James A. Van Fleet said his U. S. Eighth Army "has become a professional fighting team assigned the responsibility of destroying the aggressor." It has crippled Red armies, he said, "with a high powered punch."

The Chinese and North Koreans, Van Fleet continued, have "the capacity of recuperation—a convalescent ability to rebuild should we relax our pressure. However, I feel confident the Eighth Army will deny him (the enemy) the respite he so earnestly seeks."

'Busybodies' Fail To Stop Coon-On-A-Log Contest

FULTON, Miss. (AP)—Southerners can watch the annual coon-on-a-log contest here today despite protests from New York and Memphis "busybodies", Sheriff J. H. Gillard declared.

Both the sheriff and the Sportsmens Club sponsors said they were tired of out-of-state interference in Mississippi affairs.

Robert F. Sellar of Albany, N.Y., president of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, yesterday sent Sheriff Gillard a telegram objecting to the scheduled coon-hound melee.

The Memphis Humane Society also protested.

"They object to Mississippi having such events as this, while in New York and Memphis they go to boxing and wrestling matches where more people get killed than coons do in such events as this at Fulton," the sheriff said.

Coon-on-a-log is an old Southern sport that started long before the War Between the States. A log is secured in the middle of a river or pond with a live coon on it. One by one, hounds are loosed to swim out and try to knock the coon into the water.

Judges and timekeepers score the dogs on their coon-dunking ability. The coon has a second who stands by ready to rescue him if a dog succeeds.

Sellar's telegram said:

"We, the SPCA, have been informed that a coon-on-the-log fight will be held July Fourth sponsored by Sportsmens Club in your city. These fights are in violation of anti-cruelty laws and should be stopped. There are over 500 anti-cruelty societies . . . opposed to such brutal spectacles."

The sheriff commented: "I believe I know more about Mississippi law than busybodies in New York and Memphis."

"Those people wouldn't know a coon if they saw one," remarked H. G. Betts, secretary of the sponsoring club.

"Very rarely does a coon get killed or even seriously hurt. The coon handler holds a rope attached to the coon's collar and can separate the two anytime either is in danger of serious injury."

The coons are raised in captivity for these contests.

About 40 to 50 dogs were ready to take part in the contest today.

Graham Pays Call On Indian Premier

NEW DELHI, India —(AP)— Frank P. Graham, U. N. Kashmir mediator, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Nehru today. His 50-minute visit was described by a Foreign Office spokesman as "cordial."

Graham is expected to meet Nehru again tomorrow before he leaves for Kashmir, where his job will be to try to get India and Pakistan to reach a settlement of their bitter feud over control of that mountainous border state. The nature of Graham's talks with Nehru was not disclosed.

OUR WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued warm this afternoon and Thursday. Few scattered afternoon thundershowers today.

Sunrise, 5:14 A. M.; sunset, 7:41 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 14-A

STALE SUNSHINE

You won't be able to detect it, but today's sunlight is the "stalest" we receive all year. That is, it takes longest to reach us. In addition to being Independence Day, this is day the earth is in aphelion — farthest distant from the sun. At 4 P. M. we are 94,546,000 miles from the source of our light. That's some 3,201,000 miles farther away than we were on January 1; and the sunlight takes more than 17 seconds longer to reach us. But the sun is hotter now than it was in January because its rays are striking us more directly.

Strike Is Settled

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Very few people have come to work in Washington today as it's the Fourth of July, but if they do want to come downtown they will have public transit to carry them.

The capital's three-day transit strike ended last evening when some 3,400 operators and mechanics accepted new wage and benefit terms worked out with the help of Government mediators.

COMEDY IN KOREA

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA —(AP)— Comedian Jack Benny made his first front line appearance of his Korean tour today before 5,000 soldiers. They greeted him with a huge red lettered sign: "Welcome, Fred Allen."

31 Holiday Deaths Reported

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accidental deaths started to mount early Wednesday as the nation began celebrating the July 4 Independence Day holiday.

From 6 P.M. local time Tuesday, through mid-morning Wednesday, 31 accidental deaths had been reported. Of these, 21 were killed in traffic accidents, 3 drowned, and 6 died from miscellaneous causes. One fireworks death was reported.

Five children were burned, one fatally, when a keg of black powder exploded last night while some boys were attempting to make fireworks at Clinton, Mo. Virginia Belle O'Banion, 3, who was watching the boys, was burned fatally.

Among the miscellaneous deaths was that of an 18 year old boy from Rotterdam, Holland, who fell to his death in Portland harbor attempting to jump from his ship to a dock.

In the Memorial Day holiday this year, which also occurred on a Wednesday, deaths from accidents totaled 134. There were 84 traffic fatalities, the lowest in postwar history for a holiday period.

The National Safety Council predicted 130 persons would be killed in traffic accidents over the July 4 holiday.

Truce May Lead To Wider Peace Talks

By JACK BELL and EDWARD E. BOMAR

WASHINGTON (AP)—American officials forecast today a possible armistice in Korea may be followed by efforts to reach wider agreement of deep-seated Far Eastern differences between the United Nations and the Soviet bloc.

These officials noted that from Peiping in particular have come veiled hints that the Communists want to reopen such questions as a U.N. seat for Red China and the future status of Korea and Formosa.

If the Reds bring these issues up in the prospective armistice talks at Kaesong, officials who may not be named said, Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway already has been instructed to refer them to Washington for consideration after the Korean fighting has been brought to an end.

TRUCE TALKS LIMITED

The U.N. Allies were described as determined that the talks at Kaesong must be limited to military matters. Their reported plan is to bar any "package deal" and continue fighting until formal armistice terms are agreed upon and put into effect.

Sen. George (D-Ga) said, meanwhile, that if a Korean cease-fire isn't followed by Communist aggression elsewhere this country might consider reshaping its arms program.

George told a reporter he believes world developments might be such that the projected three-year program could be stretched out over four years, with a consequent cut in the annual rate of spending.

"We have got to keep the military program going but it may not be necessary to spend as much as has been indicated," the Georgia Senator said. "A year from now we should know rather definitely whether the threat of world war has diminished.

"If it has, perhaps we could extend the program over another year and cut the level of spending."

WILSON IN WARNING

Charles E. Wilson, the defense mobilization director, yesterday told the Senate Finance Committee headed by George that the U. S. can't afford to slow the pace of its military buildup—no matter what happens in Korea—"until we know that there is a genuine change in the long term aims of world Communism."

He said military spending will reach $4 billion a month a year from now.

John D. Small, chairman of the munitions board, said it would be "incredible" if the nation slowed its rearming program even if peace is restored in Korea.

W. J. McNeil, assistant secretary

See BROADER on page 14-A

Troops At Front Direct Fireworks At Red Lines

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA —(AP)— A dust-caked, bearded little group of American infantrymen trekked into their patrol station today after spending July 4 tossing their own brand of fireworks at Communists.

This patrol, like many others across the Korean battlefront, spent their nation's Independence Day battling the Chinese and North Korean forces. Neither the Fourth of July nor talk of a cease-fire relieved these troops of the grueling dangerous mission of probing enemy positions.

Behind these men, however, other more fortunate soldiers found a few moments to celebrate. They went swimming in the Imjin River, held a solemn ceremony at the 38th Parallel at the spot where the war began a year ago, fired a 48-round salute to the Union. One U. S. company turned over about $100 to an orphanage in Taegu.

At the patrol base, one tired infantryman flopped down in Korean dirt and rested his carbine on his knees with a weak smile. Pfc. Glenn Robinson, Birmingham, Iowa, muttered:

"I didn't even realize it was the Fourth of July. I was too busy ducking today."

Robinson, a slight, red-haired youngster, said he was ambushed while walking up a hill. A Red grenade hit his hand, exploded nearby, and knocked him down a rocky slope. The enemy then opened up on him with burp guns.

"Those bullets were coming so close I could feel the breeze," Robinson said. "Somehow I didn't get hurt but that's not my idea of how to spend a Fourth of July."

Gulping down his chow, Pfc. Edward James, Valdosta, Ga., said he also had run into trouble.

"I shot up about 150 rounds in my carbine — that rifle got smoking so much I had to spit on it to make it fire again," grinned the huge Negro infantryman.

Nation Prays, Hopes For Peace

Uncle Sam Celebrates 175th Birthday

By The Associated Press

Hopes and prayers for an early peace mingled today with the nation's 175th Independence Day celebrations.

President Truman was scheduled to top the day with an address from the hillock in the nation's capital where the 555-foot obelisk memorial to George Washington is located.

The speech, at 8:30 p.m., EST, was to be televised (ABC) and broadcast by radio (CBS, ABC, MBS), rebroadcast at 11:30 p.m. EST (NBC) and filmed for newsreels and later television programs.

It was not known in advance whether the President's speech would mention the anxious hopes that pending cease-fire talks in Korea would halt the year-old fighting.

The Fourth of July came in Korea 15 hours earlier than to the United States. As it dawned there the United Nations command disclosed that only a few hours before Allied Eighth Army units had won a bitter three-day battle for possession of a dominating hill mass 29 miles above Parallel 38. Along the whole Korean front where many thousands of American troops fought an outpost defense of independence, there was heavy artillery action.

Half way around the world, many more thousands of young Americans in uniform stood on guard in Europe against aggression, another forward defense of the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They marked the day with parades.

At home, the legal holiday temporarily stilled the clamor of industry hammering out an arsenal of defense against Communism. The traditional banging of fireworks was dimmed by laws banning or restricting their use in most places.

Pageants, picnics, speeches and doubleheader baseball games were the day's fare from one end to the other of the nation.

Delegates from the original 13 states were on hand in Philadelphia to re-enact the signing and proclamation of Thomas Jefferson's declaration to the world that a new nation, bent on freedom, was to be reckoned with.

Some 10,000 communities in the United States planned special Fourth of July ceremonies worked out by a Presidential commission. The theme is "rededication by Americans to the great basic principles of the Declaration of Independence."

The Department of Defense gave martial flavor to parades and ceremonies in hundreds of towns and cities by lending men in uniform and military equipment.

In London, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander in Europe, took part in ceremonies at St. Paul's Cathedral. A tome containing the names of 28,000 Americans who died in Europe in World War II was deposited in a chapel honoring American war dead.

Can Of Pepper Used To Hold Up Western Union

NEW YORK —(AP)— An unidentified man, armed with a can of pepper, held up a Western Union office today and fled with $80.

The man, a Negro, walked into the office and asked to send a message. He wrote it out, then suddenly blew a blinding cloud of pepper into the face of the lone clerk.

The robber and the contents of the cash drawer were gone by the time the clerk's eyes cleared.

The message blank, devoid of addressee or signature, read: "Will be home at 6:30 A.M., dear."

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