21 Believed Dead In 3-Way Rail Crash In Ohio

ON THE INSIDE

Classified	9-12B	Serial	11B
Comics	8B	Sports	6-8B
Crossword	8B	Theatres	3-11A
Editorials	4A	Trade Winds	1B
Food	2B	Wishing Well	11A
Radio & TV	3B	Women	4-5A

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas

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REDS ACCEPT PRISONER TRADE OFFER

2 Passenger Trains Hit Derailed Freight

More Than 60 Others Injured In Accident

CONNEAUT, Ohio —(AP)— Two New York Central passenger trains, thundering along at more than a mile a minute, smashed into a pile-up of derailed freight cars last night, and 21 persons were believed killed.

Eighteen bodies were recovered by noon today, and Deputy Coroner Wallace C. Mulligan of Erie, Pa., County said he expected workmen to find three more under one car rammed deep into muddy ground.

More than 60 other passengers, among 400 on the two express trains, were in hospitals here and in Ashtabula and Erie, Pa., 27 miles west of the accident scene. Only one of these was described by the hospitals as seriously injured.

A "death train" arrived in Erie early this morning with sixteen bodies and more than two hours later giant wreck cranes, moving the jumble of criss-crossed cars, uncovered the body of a 16-year-old girl. More than an hour later a man's body was found under the same car where—Mulligan believed three more victims were buried.

The freight and the two express trains piled up between 10 and 10:30 o'clock last night. A piece of pipe rolled off an eastbound freight derailing some cars of a westbound freight that followed. The pipe that caused the wreck weighed about a ton and was 35 feet long and 18 inches indiameter.

Into the detailed freight cars slashed a Buffalo-to-Chicago passenger train, roaring along at 80 miles an hour. A minute later the Southwestern Limited, enroute from St. Louis to New York, rammed the wreckage.

A flagman had to run three miles to report the wreck, and the hurtling debris felled communication lines between here and Erie. More than 1,000 feet of rail were torn up.

RESCUE SLOW

One of the injured said it was nearly an hour before rescue workers got into the torn and twisted cars. And it was nearly eight hours later and after daybreak before the rescue and first-aid crews finished their task. Some injured were taken by handcar to a road where ambulances waited.

The wreck, blocking the NYC's main line, occurred on "State Line Curve" about four miles east of here and just across the Pennsylvania line.

Only a rutty lane led to the thickety area of the wreckage from the nearest highway two miles to the south. The lane soon was blocked with cars mired in hub-deep mud and left by their drivers with lights still piercing the drizzling darkness.

More than 100 persons, hurt only slightly, were treated at an emergency Red Cross first-aid station.

One man Andy Aranyons, an employe at a nearby filling station and one of the first to reach the scene, said he "helped carry out at least 10 dead."

The wreckage laid in muddy, uneven country four miles or so east of Conneaut 'amid woods and brush. Stretcher bearers labored a quarter of a mile through the brush to a narrow dirt road on which ambulances slipped and skidded in single file.

"It was the damndest mess of wreckage I ever saw," said a Ft. Wayne, Ind., truck driver, O. D. Watson.

Frank Aleksandrowitz, staff photographer for the Erie Dispatch, said:

"I saw 11 bodies stretched out. In addition there are five persons

See THREE on page 2-A

OUR WEATHER

Mostly fair with scattered frost in the west portion tonight. Sunday, fair and warmer and Monday, partly cloudy and warm.

High temperature yesterday 63 degrees.

High temperature expected today 65 degrees.

Low temperature this morning 43 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight 40 degrees.

Sunrise 6:16 A. M.; sunset 6:11 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

U. S. OFFICERS WELCOME MONTY

Field Marshal Montgomery, British military leader, is greeted by high U. S. officials as he arrives at National Airport in Washington for conferences and an inspection tour of American military bases. Left to right: Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; Lt. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, airforce deputy chief of staff; Montgomery, and Gen. J. Lawton Collins, army chief of staff. Montgomery wears a black mourning band for the late Queen Mary. (AP Wirephoto).

Always Held Secret Meetings

Bost Says Curtain Dropped Because Press Altered Policy

RALEIGH (AP)—Why did the legislature authorize secret sessions for the committee making up the state's budget?

House Speaker Eugene Bost gave as the reason last night that the "press in certain specific instances has relaxed their policy."

Bost made the assertion in answering questions over "Reporters Roundup," a weekly program presented over station WPTF.

The legislature has always engaged in executive sessions—another term for secret meetings—Bost pointed out. He said that in prior years reporters attended the executive sessions and agreed not to report matter considered off the record.

WALKED OUT

In 1951, he continued, many reporters took the step of walking out when off the record matters were discussed. These same reporters usually got the off the record information anyway by buttonholin' legislators who had been present, Bost said. He added he saw nothing wrong in this procedure.

But reporters "apparently changed the policy this session," Bost told his questioners. The change in policy brought on the present state of afairs, the speaker said.

Reporters, pointing to a 1925 law which states budget sessions should be public, refused this week to agree to executive sessions during budget meetings by a Joint Appropriations subcommittee. The legislature promptly amended the law to permit closed door sessions by the subcommittee and the full committee.

SOME PAPERS UNFAIR

Bost said that when you consider a state budget of close to 700 million dollars "you must weigh requests" and "say things it is best not to broadcast." He said some newspapers have taken statements out of context, used sensational headlines, and given unfair treatment to budget deliberations.

He said the subcommittee now meeting in secret sessions "is just considering controversial items" preparatory to making its recommendations to the main committee, which will be public information.

Appearing on the program with Bost were C. A. McKnight, editor of The Charlotte News, Larry Dale of the United Press, and Ed Kirk, director of the program.

Other developments on the secret meeting issue today included an announcement by Weimar Jones of Franklin, president of the North Carolina Press Association, that the association's Board of Directors will meet in Raleigh Tuesday to consider the situation.

J. P. Huskins of Statesville, president of the Midwestern North Carolina Press Association and editor and publisher of the Statesville Record, issued a statement protest-

See BOST on page 3-A

GOP Seeking New National Chairman

By EDMOND LE BRETON

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans were looking for a new national chairman today, after C. Wesley Roberts' abrupt resignation under criticism by Kansas legislative investigators.

But one member of the National Executive Committee, Wayne J. Hood of Wisconsin, asserted the GOP National Committee should refuse to accept the resignation.

Earlier President Eisenhower said Roberts made "a wise decision."

Roberts resigned last night within hours after a Kansas legislative inquiry committee reported he had violated at least the spirit of the state's lobbying law. Blaming a political plot, Roberts declared "my conscience is clear," but said he felt his usefulness as national chairman was destroyed.

Involved in the Kansas investigation was Roberts' part in helping to sell the state a $110,000 hospital building, and accepting an $11,000 fee. He had no party or government job at the time, and said he acted only as a public relations man, not a lobbyist.

Support for Roberts built up among Wisconsin Republicans even before his resignation was announced. The Wisconsin GOP Executive Committee adopted unanimously a statement prepared by Hood, saying, in part:

"Wes Roberts is a good man as chairman of the Republican National Committee, and, if we are to permit the opposition to ruin the reputation of every person that we elect chairman of the Republican National Committee, no one of any consequence will be willing to serve."

Roberts, 49-year-old former newspaperman, politician and war-time Marine major, was an early

See GOP on page 2-A

Jolt 'Not Too Hard'

Survivor Tells Story Of Train Wreck

CONNEAUT, O. (AP)—"We were just riding along, and then I felt a jolt."

That was the way Earl B. Mitchell of Garwood, N. J., described his first reaction as a passenger on a New York Central train involved in a three-way wreck near here last night.

"The jolt didn't seem too hard at the time," Mitchell continued, "but the next thing I knew I was laying on the floor and my whole left side felt numb. Just as I was going down I saw my bag, which was filled with machinery, fly off the rack and go soaring about 10 feet up. It just missed a woman."

"Some of the people hit the backs of the seats so hard that a lot of the seats were all lopsided. But everything was very quiet. It's funny, but instead of saying much everybody started looking for their luggage."

Moses White, 67, of Hogansburg, N. Y., said his wife, Lydia, 67, was lying down asleep in the rest room.

"When I got to her," he said, "she was lying on the floor and told me the back of her head hurt. They took her away and that's all I know. I don't even know what hospital she's in."

Mrs. White was taken to Ashtabula, O., General Hospital. Her condition was reported good.

Andy Aranyons, a service station employe, was one of the first to reach the scene of the wreck. He said:

"I helped carry out at least 10 dead. . . . There was no panic among the passengers when I got there. I started walking around and saw a Catholic priest. Then the two of us started going through the cars.

"There were so many injured we couldn't get any help at first from the passengers. In one car, a coach, I found two dead. Then I walked around the car in the mud and I heard some people crying in another car.

"In another coach I found one fellow dead and about five injured. We walked up the tracks and saw a conductor. Sirens were blowing and the Pennsylvania state police were starting to evacuate the wounded. The doctors were giving drugs to the badly injured people. Then some more people started to help out with the injured."

Marines Again Chased From Hill Outpost

Forced To Give Up Vegas For 3rd Time

By GEORGE A. MCARTHUR

SEOUL (AP) — Battle-weary U. S. Marines pulled off the summit of bloody outpost Vegas Saturday night before frantic Chinese Red attacks and Allied artillery began churning it with constant explosions.

It was the third time since Thursday that the Reds had forced the Leathernecks to yield the Western Front outpost in the Bunker Hill area guarding the invasion route to Seoul. Vegas is 25 miles southwest of Old Baldy, seized earlier by the Reds in a spring drive they opened Monday.

AP Correspondent Forrest Edwards said shortly after midnight it was not clear that the Chinese were on the crest of Vegas. The Marines pulled back to the lower slopes after the Chinese struck.

Some Chinese got between Vegas and the main Marine line but they were killed except for a few stragglers.

FIRING HEAVY

Heavy fire from both sides echoed through the nearby low valleys.

Friday the Marines had been on and off Vegas in savage hand grenade fights before smashing to the top early Saturday afternoon. Then the Chinese struck back just after dark Saturday.

Vegas fell Thursday night under a Red spring attack that broke Monday when 3,500 Chinese swarmed around Old Baldy, 26 miles northeast.

The Reds still hold Baldy, now a red-dirt target for Allied artillery and bombs.

As ground fighting roared on, Communist Mig jets flew south and clashed with U. S. Sabre jets in a number of dog fights, but no destruction claims were made.

PLANES, GUNS ACTIVE

Other American warplanes swept over Vegas, sending rockets, and bombs tearing into the Chinese Marine tanks and big guns fired steadily.

A division staff officer said the Chinese obviously meant to keep the hills they paid so dearly for. He estimatid Chinese guns hurled 35,000 rounds yesterday in a vain attempt to prevent today's assault. Red firing slackened today.

The Fifth Air Force reported Allied fighter-bombers dumped 200,000 pounds of bombs in frontline strikes along the entire Western Front.

CLOSE RANGE

The Marines and Chinese often battled within close hand grenade range during the bloody fighting on Vegas. At one point, the Marines pulled back 700 yards to let fighter-bombers have a clear shot at the Chinese.

Terrorists Kill More Africans

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A gang of Mau Mau terrorists killed at least 12 pro-British native home guards in a night attack on an African village near Nyeri, it was announced today. The killings followed only about 24 hours after the massacre of at least 150 loyal natives near Nairobi.

Early reports from Nyeri, 60 miles south of Nairobi, said the gang of about 100 terrorists was armed with pistols and rifles. The attack was made in the Chinga location in the South Nyeri Reserve.

It was the latest in the long series of murders and other violence by the Mau Mau, a secret native society whose members take a blood oath to drive the white man from Kenya. Hundreds of persons have been slaughtered by the terrorists and houses and other properties destroyed.

EVENING PRAYER

Our Father, break down our puny prejudices, our preconcerned ideas, our home-made theories, and selfish philosophies that do not stand Thy test. Give us lives motivated by the principles of Jesus, hearts consecrated to Him. We thank Thee. Amen.

COTTON LEADER

H. K. Hallett (above) of Charlotte, vice president and general manager of Kendall Mills, was named president of the American Cotton Manufacturers Institute today at the windup of fourth annual convention held at Palm Beach, Fla. He succeeds W. A. L. Sibley of Union, S. C. J. Craig Smith, president and treasurer of Avondale Mills, Sylacauga, Ala., was elected first vice president, and A. K. Winget, chairman of the board of American & Efird Mills, Mt. Holly, N. C., was chosen second vice president.

Floods Force More Families From Homes

By The Associated Press

Flood waters roused more families from their homes today in the rain-drenched Northeast.

The number of persons moved from their homes in Maine rose to 1,500 and 13 communities in the state were isolated.

Police began to evacuate residents along the Saco River's banks in Biddeford and Saco as Maine's worst floods in 17 years approached their crests. Nearly 100 families were expected to leave their homes in those two textile cities.

The Black River in New York was on the rise again. The river had started to recede Friday after its waters had covered 15,000 acres of farm land.

Floodwaters blocked highways in sections of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Central New York State. Rail traffic out of Concord N. H., was at a standstill.

More rain fell in many parts of the flood belt today.

Maine and New Hampshire communities hit by the overflows from the Androscoggin and Saco Rivers described conditions the worst since the 1936 floods when five died and property damage was estimated at 25 million dollars. Twelve communities in Maine were isolated.

About 1,000 persons were homeless in Mexico, Me., where the Androscoggin and Swiff Rivers meet. The Androscoggin river was 16 feet above normal at Lewiston, Me., and one bridge connecting the city with Auburn was closed early today.

Armistice Talk Renewal Also Asked

TOKYO—(AP)—The Communists agreed tonight to a U. N. offer to exchange sick and wounded prisoners before the end of the Korean war, and at the same time proposed immediate resumption of the suspended armistice talks.

The Reds said such an exchange could lead to "smooth settlement" of the entire POW question, which broke up the armistice talks at Panmunjom last Oct. 8.

The POW issue was the only one left unsolved.

A spokesman here said the U. N. command could begin an exchange of sick and wounded "within a matter of days."

Gen. Mark Clark U. N. Far East commander who made the exchange offer Feb. 22, said he would favor resumption of the talks if the Reds are sincere in their acceptance.

Clark told a reporter tonight:

"We are going to study this offer very closely. We want to be sure there isn't anything in it we don't understand."

ONLY SICK, WOUNDED

The Red move covers only sick and wounded prisoners—a small percentage of the 123,000 Reds held in Allied camps.

There were no immediate figures on the number of Americans eligible for such an exchange.

It was not clear whether Communist acceptance of the proposed exchange depended on resumption of the armistice talks.

The Red answer came in a letter delivered today at Panmunjom which also was broadcast over the Communist Peiping radio.

Its tone was mild and conciliatory, unlike some of the bitter invective previously used in criticizing the U. N.

LONG TALKS FRUITLESS

The split came after months of fruitless haggling when the U. N. told the Reds either to accept any Allied proposal on exchange of POWs, or come up with an acceptable proposal for ending the war.

This was the first Red move since.

It came as the world speculated on the effect the recent death of Russian Premier Joseph Stalin might have on both the hot and cold war.

Even as the Red radio broadcast the message to Clark, Americans in Korea were fighting furiously to throw back the biggest Red assaults in five months.

The Communist reply was signed by North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-Huai, commander of Chinese forces in Korea.

It said, "Our side . . . fully agrees to your side's proposal to exchange sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostility."

They also suggested the exchange could pave the way to "smooth settlement of the entire question of the prisoner of war. . . —a reference to the deadlock on exchanging all POWs which broke up the armistice talks at Panmunjom last fall.

The Communists have insisted on return of all the 122,000 POWs in U. N. camps, but the U. N. has reported only about 81,000 of these have indicated willingness to return to their Red homelands.

The Chinese said Dec. 18 they were holding 3,198 American POWs. They also are holding many more South Koreans plus other prisoners from U. N. nations fighting in Korea.

The text of the Red letter to Clark also was broadcast by the

See REDS on page 2-A

U.N. Officials Encouraged By Chinese Agreement

By MAX HARRELSON

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., chief U. S. delegate, and other top ranking U. N. diplomats today described as encouraging the agreement by Red China to exchange sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea.

The message intensified speculation in the U. N. that the Communists are about to come up with a new formula for settling the Korean war.

"It is very encouraging if it is bonafide and sincere," said Lodge.

Lester B. Pearson of Canada, president of the General Assembly, said:

"This is something we have been hoping would happen. So far as it goes it is encouraging."

Georgi N. Zarubin, Soviet Ambassador to Washington and a member of the Russian delegation here, said "in my opinion, it is very good news."

Andrei A. Vishinsky, new head of the delegation who has just returned from Moscow, did not appear at the U. N. Assembly plenary session this morning.

Another U. N. official said the acceptance of the proposal of Gen. Mark Clark, U. N. commander, to exchange the sick and wounded prisoners was definitely progress.

There was particular interest here in the part of Peiping's message which said the exchange of these prisoners could lead to "smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war."

This is the only major question holding up an armistice in Korea, but the 60-nation General Assembly failed to find a solution last fall and again as recently as a month ago.

The issue is one of principle, with the Western powers insisting that no prisoners should be returned to their home countries against their will and the Communists insisting that all prisoners must be repatriated, forcibly if necessary.

Message Called 'Unconditional Acceptance'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department announced today it regards the Communist message on exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea as "an unconditional acceptance" of a proposal made by the United Nations command Feb. 22.

The Department said in a statement that the U. N. proposal, which was put forth by Gen. Mark Clark, was in accordance with Article 109 of the Geneva Convention covering prisoners of war. It emphasized that this article provides for exchange of sick and wounded prisoners on a voluntary basis.

The question of voluntary versus forcible repatriation of all POW's in Korea has been the major block in the way of an armistice agreement to end the fighting there. The Reds have insisted the United Nations must send all prisoners home whether they want to go or not.

Despite the hope that the Communist proposal may mean something on that issue, the department said the question of exchanging sick and wounded POWs is entirely separate from the question of resuming armistice negotiations. It withheld for the moment any comment on the Communist proposal to reopen the armistice talks.

U. S. Endorses Anti-Red Drive

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y (AP)—The United States today endorsed U. N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie's campaign to drive American Communists out of the U. N. Secretariat.

Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., chief U. S. delegate, opened a debate on U. N. personnel policies in the 60-nation General Assembly, with a promise that the United States will continue to investigate American citizens who are on the U. N. payroll and give Lie the information on which he can act to fire suspected subversives.

"We have no interest in knowing whether any American in the Secretariat is Republican or Democrat or Independent, so long as he meets the (U. N.) charter standards of efficiency, competence and integrity," Lodge told the Assembly.

"However, we have an interest in knowing whether he is a member of a conspiracy dedicated to the forcible overthrow of our democratic form of government—and undoubtedly most of you have a similar interest."

Lodge defended without any qualification Lie's right to fire any American employe who refuses to answer whether he is or ever was a member of the Communist party.

GEN. SMITH NOW ANGLING FOR SHOES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gen. Walter Bedell Smith's story about his hat has been capped.

By Under Secretary of State Smith himself, in fact.

Not long ago, he came out of a top-drawer meeting bareheaded and growling, "Some damn statesman has stolen my hat."

After the remark was printed, Smith told newsmen yesterday, he was sent no fewer than seven hats.

Then he found that his hat had not been stolen by any statesman or anyone else—he had left it home.

Smith said he was contemplating reporting that his shoes are missing.

"Don't print that," he cautioned. "I wear 9-C."

Comic Dictionary

RHUBARB

Celery with high blood pressure.