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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper In The Carolinas

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HEADING HOME AND HAPPY ABOUT IT

Two happy UN soldiers smile from the window of a Red ambulance as they await their turn in the processing of sick and wounded prisoners exchanged by the UN and the Communists. (UP Telephoto.)

Allies Ask Talks With Red Liaison Officers

May Request Return Of More Prisoners

PANMUNJOM, Korea—(AP)—The U. N. command tonight called for a meeting with Communist liaison officers tomorrow, touching off speculation that the Allies might again ask the Reds to return more disabled captives.

The U. N. prisoners already freed have told of many sick and injured Americans and other prisoners still in Communist prison stockades.

The official announcement said only that the meeting was called "to discuss matters in connection with the current repatriation operations."

The session is set for 10 A. M. (8 P. M. Wednesday EST), an hour after the Reds start turning over fourteen more Americans and 86 other U. N. and South Korean prisoners. The exchange began Monday.

BITTER STORIES

American and U. N. captives in Japan on their way home Wednesday added bitter new accounts to the stories of death in Communist stockades and on brutal marches. Associated Press Correspondent Robert Eunson said the figures add up to 1,500 dead.

The Reds, meanwhile, made propaganda capital of the sick and wounded exchange, describing prisoners returning from Allied camps as "mutilated, emaciated wrecks."

The request for Thursday's special liaison session was unexpected. Full-scale negotiations on overall prisoner exchange, the last major barrier to a Korean armistice, are to resume Saturday.

Observers here pointed out that when the Communists said they would return 605 U. N. prisoners, including about 120 Americans, the U. N. command called the figure "incredibly small." Since then there have been increasing indications that the Reds are not honoring their agreement to exchange all sick and wounded.

The U. N. command was believed to have about 200 additional Chinese sick and wounded at Pusan.

The return of 14 Americans tomorrow will bring to 79 the number of U. S. soldiers freed in the exchange. Sixty-five were returned Sunday and Monday. All now are in Tokyo hospitals.

Wednesday's exchange involved 100 Republic of Korea soldiers for 500 Communists, including 150 Chinese brought to 700 the Chinese returned to Red rule—all that the U. N. Command said would be included in the return of 5,800 Reds for 605 Allied sick and wounded.

Wednesday's groups of Chinese went up the dusty road toward the "Bamboo Curtain figuratively beating propaganda cymbals of happiness. A U. N. interpreter said they had been coached carefully to sing and shout slogans to prove communism.

PUT ON SHOW

To show their feelings toward the Allies—real or staged—the Chinese ripped new uniforms given them only a few days ago, tousled their hair, threw away food rations and dropped propaganda leaflets in sight of their Communist welcome committees.

Then the Red prisoners—appearing unbelievably well—paraded before Communist newsreel and newspaper cameramen. One prisoner cast away his American-made crutches and hopped on his one leg into the Communist reception center.

Allied repatriates, meanwhile, told blood-chilling stories of their months behind Communist lines in North Korea.

TO CONFORM WITH FEDERAL

House Passes Short Form For Tax Return

RALEIGH (AP) — Legislation to amend the state's tax laws in an effort to make them more attractive to new industry was approved unanimously by the House today and sent to the Senate.

The bill also will permit persons with an income of $5,000 or less to use a short form income tax return similar to the short form used by the federal government. It will allow those using the form to claim a flat 10 per cent deduction instead of itemizing separately the deductions they claim for interest payments, donations and taxes.

Before the measure was approved yesterday on second reading it was amended so that those with incomes of more than $5,000 will be permitted to take a deduction of $500.

SOME REDUCTION

The Revenue Department has estimated that the short form return would reduce income taxes by about $650,000 a year.

Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw was asked if he thought this would result in an unbalanced budget. He said he did not think so, because use of the short form will result in more persons paying their taxes.

Meanwhile, Speaker E. T. Bost named a committee of five House members to confer with a three-member Senate group on the $20-million-dollar biennial appropriations bill.

The senators and representatives will confer about a house-approved amendment to the spending bill which will allow school teachers and state employes an extra 2½ per cent pay increase if the state's taxes bring in enough money.

NO AGREEMENT

The Senate Monday night refused to agree to the House amendment on motion of Senate Appropriations Chairman John D. Larkins of Jones. Larkins told the Senate the amendment contained "errors and inaccuracies" which need to be worked out so that it "will do what it was intended to do."

Larkins told the Senate today that three bills proposing issuance of $6½ million in bonds for school buildings, mental hospitals and other state institutions will go on the Senate calendar for action tomorrow. They were approved by the Senate Finance Committee yesterday.

A change in the State Constitution to reduce from four months to 30 days the length of time which a voter must live in a precinct before being allowed to vote there was approved by the House Committee on Constitution Amendments.

LOST VOTE

Raymond Maxwell, executive secretary of the State Board of Elections, said "literally thousands of persons" lost the right to vote in last year's election because of the four-months residence requirement. The change already has been approved by the Senate.

The committee also approved a constitutional amendment to eliminate "short term" races.

Under it, persons appointed by the governor to fill vacant offices would serve until the January following the next general election. This would make it unnecessary for candidates to run for the "short term," the period from the general election until January, as well as the "long term" beginning in January.

The committee killed proposed constitutional changes which would have upped legislators' pay from $15 to $20 per day, and which would have alloted one state senator to each of the 100 counties in the state.

The House Education Committee killed a measure which would have substituted the election of county boards of education in each county for the present system under which the legislature confirms board members.

The Senate Propositions and Grievances Committee approved a measure which will allow the State ABC Board to regulate beer as well as liquor and wine advertising and the Senate Elections Committee killed a measure to amend the Constitution so as to lower the voting age for Tar Heels in the Armed Forces from 21 to 18.

Dry Forces, Legislators Reverse Liquor Tactics

RALEIGH (AP)—Dry leaders and legislators today reversed their customary roles as a House committee over objections from dry forces, approved liquor referendums for Lake Lure and Valdese.

The House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns stepped back into character when the question shifted to a state-wide election on sales of whisgy, wine and beer. The committee, which recently killed one state-wide liquor bill,

See SHORT on page 6-A

U. S. To Make Bid For German Troops In NATO

Ministers Gather For Paris Meeting

PARIS — (AP) — Top-ranking ministers of the fourteen North Atlantic treaty nations arrived in Paris today for a NATO council meeting at which the Americans will make a strong bid to bring German troops into the defense of Europe.

U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles led the Eisenhower Administration's contingent into the sunny French capital for the three-day meeting, which begins tomorrow.

"Perhaps we have a few new ideas on how to make NATO a success," Dulles remarked as he got off the plane. He said he would "discuss them with our partners."

With Dulles was Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey and foreign aid director Harold E. Stassen. U. S. Defense Secretary Charles Wilson and Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, already are in Europe for the meeting.

The European defense treaty, which would bring German troops into a two-million-man European army, is slated to get lots of attention at the conference.

The United States government has thrown its full support behind the plan for the European Defense Community (EDC), which has encountered stiff opposition in some countries, particularly France.

While American officials publicly say that there is no alternative to EDC, they have let it be known privately that now they may be ready to look at other schemes if the treaty isn't ratified soon.

One scheme mentioned here would bring West Germany indirectly into NATO itself. American delegates, however, are not likely to put such strong pressure on their European partners at this time. Instead, highly-placed American official said, the U. S. government unquestionably will wait until after a series of approaching elections in France, Italy and Germany.

Even after EDC is ratified by the six prospective members—France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Luxembourg—it will take from 15 to 18 months before the first German division would be ready for action. Only the lower house of the West German parliament has approved the treaty.

Demands by the military for sizable increases in NATO's air and ground forces will get top billing on the minister's agenda during the next three days.

Ambassador Luce Arrives In Italy

NAPLES, Italy — (AP) — Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, the first woman ambassador to Italy, arrived today from New York aboard the Italian liner Andrea Doria.

With the new U. S. envoy was her publisher-husband, Henry R. Luce.

Taft To Force Test Vote On Tidelands Bill Tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Majority leader Taft (R-Ohio) told the Senate today he will move to force a test vote at 7:30 P. M. EST on state-to-Federal ownership of offshore submerged lands.

Taft said he will make a motion, not subject to debate, to "lay on the table" the Anderson (D-NM) substitute providing for Federal administration of off-shore oil leases.

Earlier, Taft had told newsmen he would postpone his motion until noon tomorrow.

The Republican Senate leader predicted a 20-vote margin in favor of sidetracking the Federal control proposal. Opponents did not dispute this, but said their debate will continue on the bill to give states ownership of off-shore lands within their boundaries.

The Senate has been debating for three weeks a bill backed by the Eisenhower Administration to declare the states have clear title to the lands involved.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said today President Eisenhower's position on the issue has been "so clearly stated there is nothing further to say."

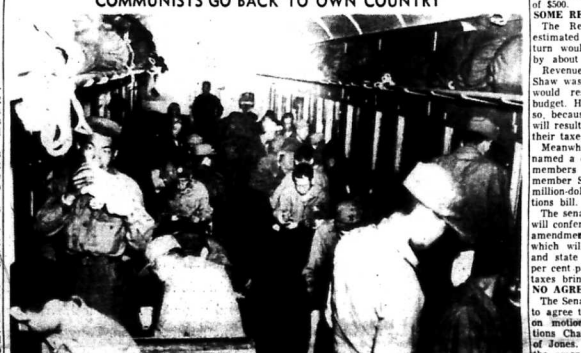
Hagerty's statement was in reply to queries about a letter sent the President by 25 Senators who oppose state ownership. The letter asked whether Eisenhower approves of state ownership beyond three miles offshore.

Taft's motion to table the opposition proposals would force an immediate vote, unless sponsors of Federal administration withdraw their amendment.

Taft said he "sort of dared them to run away" from a test of strength on the issue.

His motion, he said, is designed to obtain "the first vote on the main issue"—state vs. Federal control.

COMMUNISTS GO BACK TO OWN COUNTRY



Eating their last meal aboard the train carrying them to the exchange point, Communists captured by the UN sit glumly while awaiting their turn to be processed. The first group of sick and wounded prisoners refused to eat until told that they would be returned to prison camps unless they complied. (UP Telephoto.)

Cost Of Living Rises Slightly

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government reported today that living costs edged up fractionally between mid-February and mid-March. This reversed a three-month downward trend.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said its consumers price index rose .2 of 1 per cent over the month. This brought the index to 13.6.

The index uses average prices of 1947-49 as a base of 100.

The living cost level is presently only about one-half of 1 per cent off the record established last November when the index was 113.6.

Actually living costs have remained stable and changed very little since last fall.

Moreover, the bureau reported today that removal of government price and wage controls has had "little effect on retail prices into April."

Summing up the price situation, the bureau said:

"There were sizable increases (after controls were ended) in the retail prices of cigarettes, coffee, gasoline and fuel oil, but no other important cost of living items were affected at that time. The groups which are predominantly service groups have continued to edge upward, but food, apparel and house furnishings are generally lower than a year ago."

Civil Service Fund Refused

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House refused today to appropriate money for the government's normal 1954 payment to the Civil Service retirement fund.

By standing vote of 143 to 84 it beat an amendment to the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill to restore $368,154,000 cut from the Civil Service budget by the House Appropriations Committee.

The amendment was offered by Rep. Miller (D-Calif) and was supported by most Democrats. Almost all Republicans present opposed it.

Miller called the committee action "a phony if there ever was one." He said failure of Congress to pay the federal contribution to the retirement fund on an annual basis would put "an unparalleled load" on some future Congress.

Rep. Phillips (R-Calif), chairman of the subcommittee that drafted the bill, insisted there was no annual matching required from the federal government, but only an obligation to pay its share into the fund as needed. Federal employes contribute 6 per cent of their pay annually.

Another controversial item before the House was a Republican recommendation that no new public housing projects be started after July 1. Rep. McCormack (D-Mass) suggested yesterday that President Eisenhower's position on this be ascertained. However, White House Secretary James C. Hagerty said today he hadn't seen such a request and wouldn't comment on it.

OUR WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warmer today, tonight, and tomorrow. Friday, cloudy and warm with showers likely.

High temperature yesterday, 66 degrees.

High temperature expected today, 72 degrees.

Low temperature this morning, 38 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight, 46 degrees.

Sunrise, 5:48 A. M.; sunset, 7:01 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 6-A

Stirred By Korean Stories

Senators Probe Red Atrocities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Bridges (R-NH) summoned top State and Defense officials to the Capitol today for a full fledged Senate appropriations Committee investigation of atrocities against U. S. prisoners in Korea.

Bridges asked Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, under secretary of state, to appear with top advisers this afternoon, to be followed by top ranking defense officials.

Bridges said the officials would be questioned at a closed session.

"We want to get all the information they have about the Red atrocities against U. S. and U. N. prisoners, all the background we can get on such treatment and what they are doing about it now," Bridges told reporters.

"We have to find out the truth about reports that the Reds are releasing only a small part of the sick and wounded prisoners they are holding and see what can be done about getting more of our people out of Korea if this is humanly anything."

DEMANDS PROTESTS

Bridges, acting on the basis of atrocity accounts given by returned war prisoners in Korea, demanded sharp protests to the Communists. The reports from the Far East also prompted calls in Congress for renewed efforts to obtain inspection of enemy stockades.

"This nation cannot tolerate such carryingson and I trust that we will not do so," Bridges said of the reports brought back by exchanged Americans.

These include stories of "death marches" over frozen North Korea in which hundreds of captured men died, bayonetings and beatings, food shortages and poor medical treatment, and of seriously ill men left behind.

Bridges said he hoped Smith, who is acting secretary while John Foster Dulles is in Europe, would be able to appear before the Committee this afternoon.

"We want to find out at the earliest possible moment from the State Department whether adequate representation is being made to the Communists on the matter. And we want to know precisely what steps this government will take," Bridges told newsmen.

SAY HOPES DIMMED

Along the same lines Sens. Cooper (R-Ky) and Mansfield (D-Mont) said hopes for a real settlement in Korea had been dimmed by the reported failure of the Reds to return all sick and injured Americans in their hands.

"I think in any dealings with the Communists we must hope for the best but expect the worst, and the latter seems to be what we are getting," Mansfield said.

Chairman Short (R-Mo) of the House Armed Services Committee said the Communists should be made to open up their prison camps for international inspection. That ought to be a required preliminary to resumption of peace talks, Short said.

Rep. McCormack (D-Mass) put in a comment that our government would make every effort to see that the Communists "live up to their agreements."

Concessions By U. S. Seen As Necessary For Peace

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Cooper (R-Ky) said today the Eisenhower administration must be prepared to risk adverse public opinion and make limited concessions in exchange for real peace with the Communists in Asia.

Cooper, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and former delegate to the United Nations, said the Chinese Reds are likely to "call on us for a lot of things we can't do" in negotiations for a settlement in Korea.

But he insisted in an interview that if the new administration adopts a "straight-jacket attitude" and does not yield on some points, there can be little hope for any permanent settlement.

"We cannot escape the fact that some place along the line we will have to make some concessions," Cooper said. "In my opinion that is where hope lies in the new Eisenhower administration.

"The old Truman administration had reached the point where it could make no concession of any kind to the Communists without being charged with appeasement. I hope that if the new administration becomes convinced there is a chance for a real peace it will have the courage—even against adverse public opinion—to do what is necessary to be done."

HOPES DIMMED

Cooper and Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont), a foreign relations committee member, said hopes for the kind of unified Korea settlement President Eisenhower has called for had been dimmed by reported failure of the Chinese Communists to return all ill American prisoners.

"I think in any dealings with the Communists we must hope for the best but expect the worst and the latter seems to be what we are getting," Mansfield commented.

Some of the exchanged prisoners

See CONCESSIONS on page 6-A

Warlick Denies Beaty Petition

NEWTON — (AP) — Federal District Judge Wilson Warlick today denied the petition of E. M. Beaty, Charlotte taxi company operator, that he remain at liberty under bond while his attorneys petitioned the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari.

Judge Warlick also denied a petition to suspend Beaty's sentence and place him on probation.

Judge Warlick ordered Beaty to surrender to the U. S. Marshal at Charlotte Friday at 10 A. M. and begin serving a sentence of three years for income tax evasion.

SALES, INCOME UP

NEW YORK (AP) — Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. yesterday reported that sales for the three months ended March 31 totaled $141,495,000, compared with $131,294,000 in the same period a year ago. Net income for the first quarter was $4,777,000 or $1.13 per share of common stock, compared with $3,912,000 or 91 cents a share in the first quarter of 1952.

Comic Dictionary

COMPENDIOUS

A long word which means short.

Liberty Life Roofing Fire Routs Hundreds

A fire on the roof of the Liberty Life Bldg. early this afternoon sent hundreds of office workers pouring from the 20-story building.

Firemen quickly extinguished the blaze, but thick, black clouds of smoke billowed over midtown for about fifteen minutes.

Workers in the building were quickly evacuated as firemen came on the run in response to the alarm shortly after 2 P. M.

News Reporter Tom Fesperman, who reached the roof a few minutes after the firemen, said the fire was confined to an area of about 12 feet in diameter on the roof.

The blaze apparently started in a half-filled kettle of tar which workmen were using to tar the roof of the building.

Firemen battling the blaze had considerable trouble with water pressure because of the height of the building.

Hundreds of curious leaned out of office windows or flocked to the base of the building to watch the excitement.

The office workers were evacuated in the building's elevators—and firemen used the lifts to ascend to the roof. They continued to operate during the fire.

A number of engine companies—including the Fire Dept.'s two new serial trucks—were on the scene.

Traffic was stopped for several blocks around the Square.

At the height of the excitement, a hydrant at the base of the building burst — and drenched several dozen persons on the sidewalk.

Hope Held Out For Tax Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Ferguson (R-Mich) said today reported requests for foreign aid requests by President Eisenhower and sharp cuts in military spending raised prospects for a balanced budget and early tax cuts.

Ferguson referred in an interview to reports from officials that the administration has tentatively decided to cut foreign aid fund requests by two billion dollars under former President Truman's recommendation for $7,600,000,000.

These officials said the final figure submitted to Congress for new funds in the year starting July 1 will depend to some extent on whether North Atlantic Treaty nations meeting in Paris accept an American plan to stretch out their defense goals over a relatively long period.

Ferguson, a member of both the Senate Appropriations and Foreign Relations Committees, declared, "On that basis, and on the cuts we can make in trimming the fat from the military budget, we ought to balance the budget and be able to cut taxes."

Meanwhile, budget requests for $130,521,337 for the State Department are being studied for possible cuts by an appropriations subcommittee. It plans to discuss them with Secretary of State Dulles.

Ferguson complained to one State Department official yesterday about requests for his division which would reduce its payroll by 6 per cent cut in employes," Ferguson said. "I understand Dulles once had in mind cutting the State Department personnel in half."

EVENING PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven, we who must walk the ways of earth ask that Thou send Thy Holy Spirit to walk that way with us, to give us comfort in earth's sorrows, guidance in life's perplexities and joy in worship on Thee. We would not dare walk such ways alone, Be Thou forever near us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.