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# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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# LIKE PROMISES NEW TAX CUTS

## Beatty Called As Witness In Littlejohn Case

### Stogner Case First To Be Heard By Judge Rudisill

By ANN SAWYER  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Two missing witnesses in the hearing for Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn were charged with gambling violations today, and the FBI and the State Bureau of Investigation were asked to help search for them.

The pair being hunted are Frank Ratcliffe and C. C. (Doc) Sharpe, key witnesses before the Mecklenburg Grand Jury in its recent investigation of the City Police Dept.

BEATY CALLED  
Meanwhile, Chief Littlejohn waited for the start of his hearing, a subpoena was issued for Keith M. Beatty, taxicab company operator who was recently convicted of income tax evasion.

At noon today the state still had not called its case against the 38-year-old police chief. He faces four charges of malfeasance, misfeasance and non-feasance in office.

At 10:30—an hour later than scheduled, Judge Rudisill began hearing evidence against Detective B. W. Stogner. The detective is charged with fornication and adultery.

NOT GUILTY PLEA  
Chief Littlejohn, through his attorneys this morning, pleaded not guilty to all four charges. He is represented by Attorneys Guy T. Carwell, Henry E. Fisher and Warren Stack.

A subpoena for Mr. Beatty was issued immediately after court opened this morning. A short while later he appeared in the crowded courtroom.

Mr. Beatty also went before the Mecklenburg Grand Jury that returned four presentments against Chief Littlejohn and one against Detective Stogner.

All of the other witnesses subpoenaed to appear in the Littlejohn and Stogner cases, with the exception of Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Ratcliffe, appeared to be sworn in this morning.

WARRANTS ISSUED  
Warrants were issued for the two missing witnesses as soon as it was learned the sheriff's deputies had not been able to locate them.

Warrants against Sharpe, former operator of the Moose Club, and Ratcliffe, former operator of the Flamingo Club, charged they (1) did establish, keep gaming tables, illegal punchboards and slot machines in the club; (2) knowingly suffer to be open, kept or used in the (Moose Club and Flamingo Club) gaming tables, punchboards, or illegal slot machines; and (3) did allow gambling in the Moose Club and Flamingo Club.

Judge Rudisill told the sheriff just before noon today to notify the FBI and all other law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for Sharpe and Ratcliffe.

STOGNER HEARING  
Solicitor Basil L. Whitener said at the 12:30 recess today that he will continue with the evidence against Detective Stogner this afternoon. Four more witnesses were subpoenaed this morning.

The plan of the court, it is believed, is to begin the hearing for Chief Littlejohn as soon as the hearing for Mr. Stogner is complete, the solicitor said.

Chief Littlejohn sat at the defense table in Criminal Superior Court today while three witnesses testified in the Stogner case.

He appeared to be in a good mood this morning. He has repeatedly told reporters that he is not worried about the outcome of the preliminary hearing.

WITNESSES TAKE OATH  
As court opened today 11 witnesses whose names appeared on grand jury presentments took the oath to tell "the truth and the whole truth" in the preliminary hearing for Chief Littlejohn.

It still has not been determined in what order these 11 witnesses will testify.

See CHARLIE on page 17-A

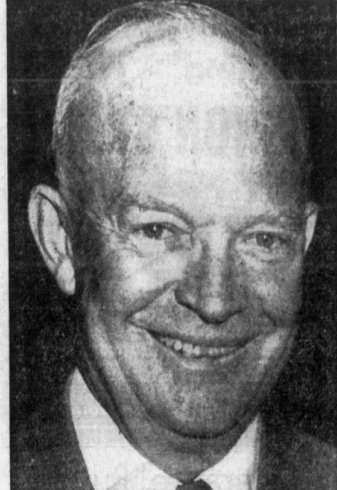
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## EVENING PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for our Lord's interest in the sick and suffering. We thank Thee for the Holy Spirit in His name to help and heal. Be Thou near those who suffer because of illness, wounds or sorrow. May Thy presence bring strength and peace. In His name, Amen.

## REPORTS TO CONGRESS



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

## President Says U. S. Would Use Atomic Arms

### Administration's Program Outlined

By MARVIN L. ARROWSMITH  
WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower said today new tax cuts "near and will be made" and he told Congress America's defense plans are geared to use of atomic weapons "if they are needed to preserve our freedom."

The President, in his state of the union message, outlined a program he said would build the military might of the United States, bolster free nations against communism and maintain a healthy economy at home.

Proclaiming encouraging developments in the struggle for global peace, Eisenhower said in a 7,000-word address prepared for a joint session of the House and Senate: "Slowly but surely, the free world gains strength. Meanwhile from behind the Iron Curtain, there are signs that tyranny is in trouble and reminders that its structure is as brittle as its surface is hard."

BUDGET CUT  
In his address to an election year Congress almost evenly divided politically, the President also—

—Predicted a Federal spending budget of about \$65,600,000,000 for the fiscal year starting July 1—about 12 billion dollars less than the original Truman administration budget for the current year.

—Called for legislation to strip U. S. citizenship from Communists convicted of conspiring against the government in the future.

—Disclosed that more than 2,200 employees now have been segregated from Federal jobs under the Eisenhower administration's new security program. The previous total, announced last Oct. 23, was 1,456.

ECONOMY SOUND  
—Stiched plans to combat any business recession or depression, but again declared the nation's economy is basically sound, and said his administration is determined "to keep it growing."

—Recommended a Constitutional amendment to give American youths the right to vote at 18 years of age instead of 21.

—Declared foreign military aid must be continued, but that economic aid can be cut except in Korea "and a few other critical places."

—Confirmed that the special farm message he will send to Congress Monday will call for a new domestic price support program "with enough flexibility to attract the production of needed supplies of essential commodities and food."

See IKE HOLDS on page 17-A

## President Favors Flexible Supports

By OVID A. MARTIN  
WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower today outlined a farm program built on the principle of controversial flexible price supports, but freed of price-depressing effects of present crop surpluses.

Under such a plan, Government price guarantees would be high in times of shortages to encourage production, and low in times of surpluses to encourage consumption and discourage over-production.

It would replace present variable mandatory high level supports scheduled to expire at the end of the 1954 crop year.

In his message on the state of the union, Eisenhower said, however, that present farm surpluses—totaling more than five billion dollars—should be "insulated" from the normal markets for "special uses."

Such sealing off of surpluses would permit a shift to the flexible support plan in 1955 with price supports continuing at least one full crop year at the present 90 percent of parity levels for basic commodities.

FAIR STANDARDS  
Parity is a standard for measuring farm prices, declared by Eisenhower, in relation to prices they pay.

Some farm leaders in Congress have objected to use of flexible supports next year on the ground that present surpluses would pull price guarantees for crops like cotton and wheat possibly as low as 75 per cent of parity next year.

The administration suggestion that the present surpluses be insulated from market supplies would allow a gradual lowering of price supports if future production tended to provide supplies in excess of normal needs.

The President said he would send his detailed farm recommendations to Congress on Monday.

PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED  
He said the present farm programs had accomplished their wartime purpose of encouraging needed production. But in the postwar period, he said, they had piled up huge surpluses.

He said the nation faces two alternatives on a farm program—(1) use of rigid production controls or (2) use of a program that would permit the market price for farm products "gradually to rise to a level of parity."

See FLEXIBLES on page 17-A

## OUR WEATHER

Fair and cool today and tonight. Partly cloudy and slightly warmer tomorrow.  
High temperature yesterday, 52 degrees; high expected today, 48 degrees; high expected tomorrow, 51 degrees.  
Low temperature this morning, 25 degrees; low expected tonight, 28 degrees; low expected tomorrow night, 34 degrees.  
Sunrise, 7:32 a.m.; sunset, 8:21 p.m.  
More Weather Data on Page 17-A

## PRINCIPAL AND COUNSEL IN CONFERENCE



Chief Frank N. Littlejohn (second from left) confers with his three attorneys just before a hearing today into charges of malfeasance in office. The lawyers, all noted in this region for their criminal court experience, are Henry E. Fisher (left), Guy Carwell (second from right) and Warren Stack.

## Hearing Delayed By Gasless Car, Case

By DONALD MACDONALD  
Charlotte News Staff Writer  
District Solicitor Basil Whitener rushed into Superior Criminal Court 15 minutes late this morning with an apology: "I ran out of gas."

Court was scheduled to open at 9:30 a.m. for a public hearing on an alleged neglect of duty charges against City Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn.

The solicitor's tardiness, however, was not the only cause for a delay which lasted over an hour.

There were announcements to be made, a felonious assault to be disposed of, and warrants to be signed against C. C. (Doc) Sharpe and Frank W. Ratcliffe, who failed to show as witnesses in the Littlejohn case.

Continuations  
After his arrival, Solicitor Whitener announced that all cases on the current docket would be continued until the next term of court with the exception of two assault charges filed against Thelma Hayes, 31-year-old Negro.

Attorney Amos Butler represented Thelma Hayes, who entered a plea of not guilty, and See HEARING on page 17-A

## Atom Pool Talks To Begin Soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department said today the United States will start preliminary talks on the proposed atom pool project.

The two countries agreed yesterday to begin conversations aimed at setting a time, place and agenda for the preliminary talks on the project outlined by Eisenhower in his Dec. 8 address to the United Nations.

Soviet Ambassador Georgi M. Zarubin will represent Russia and Secretary of State Dulles will speak for the United States at the preliminary talks here.

State Department officer Henry Snydman told his news conference today: "The procedural conversations between Secretary Dulles and Ambassador Zarubin will be arranged at their mutual convenience, presumably in the course of the next few days."

Under questioning, Snydman said he meant the talks would get under way by then.

NOW YOU CAN SEE THE "CAT" WE GOT HIM ON OUR SCREEN! AND IN TECHNICOLOR TOO! "THE BIG CAT" WON'T THEATRE ALL DAY SATURDAY JANUARY 9th

## BULLETIN

Fire broke out this afternoon at the Durabow Wood Preserving Co. plant on Pines Rd., and county police reported that "it looks like the entire plant will be destroyed."

Several fire fighting units rushed to the blaze, beyond Eastwood Golf Course, shortly after 1 p.m. The fire was still raging an hour later.

## All Bladenboro Knows The Beast 'Will Come Back'

(Determined to find out whether the reports coming out of Bladenboro were fact or fancy, hysteria or hoax, three members of The Charlotte News sports department went to the scene of the big hunt last night.

The following story is a collaboration by Sandy Gray, Julian Scheer and Ronald Green.)

BLADENBORO—Cotton Mill Hill is a meager cluster of frame houses and dirt streets off Rt. 74, flanked by the garish light factories in front and the swamp, black by the black waters of the Big Swamp.

Last night at 7:30 a boy saw a strange, dark animal in his streets.

By 9 o'clock Cotton Mill Hill was jammed by 300 cars of excited strangers, their headlights glaring on the bare yards—eager for a look at the now-famed Beast of Bladenboro.

locked, shotgun stood loaded, nervous faces peered from the windows, and from the swamp came the lonely wail of dogs.

JUST WAITING  
Cotton Mill Hill was awaiting "the thing"—be it zombie, werewolf, catmount, bobcat, vampire or hoax.

"I'll come back like it does every night," said resident Thomas Benson. "If it's after we were in Cotton Mill Hill last night."

We talked to a child who said the beast "made a noise like a crying baby." We listened to a woman who saw the beast, to a man who said his two dogs were horribly mangled by it, to a hunter who tried futilely to track it.

We saw its long-matted tracks in the dust. We looked by flashlight at its latest victim, a domestic pig, plainly decapitated and still warm.

almost carnival atmosphere in Bladenboro and the weary jokes about "The Beast," it is hard to be skeptical after walking down Cotton Mill Hill's black streets, talking to its anxious mill workers and tracing its path of blood.

What is the beast that stalks Bladenboro? We heard a dozen theories on Cotton Mill Hill. The composite picture seems to be: (1) a powerful, cunning cat, (2) about three feet long, 20 inches high, weighing 100 pounds, (3) and so kill-crazed he destroys dogs in a "hit-and-run" well-lit area.

There are contradictions. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Kinlaw, who saw the animal by porch light, say it looks like a German pointer dog. "It has a hooked tail," Kinlaw told us, "and it looked like a big dog, but it didn't move like one."

Other aspects of the mysterious attacker:

COLOR — Mrs. Kinlaw and young Dalton Norton said it was 'grayish' or 'black,' while Mr. Kinlaw, who caught the raider in the dim glow of his flashlight, thought it looked 'reddish.' WALK — Norton saw the animal move down the dusky street by his home and it looked like a giant cat with slow, lazy movements. But the Kinlaws and a neighbor agree that it took large, leaping steps as it moved without any evidence of fuid movement.

REDS DEMAND HOLDING OF PWs AFTER DEADLINE

By WILLIAM C. BARNARD  
SEOUL (Friday) — The Communists demanded last night that Korean war prisoners who haven't returned home be held until a Korean peace conference considers their fate.

The Red insistence could force a crisis Jan. 23, the day when the U. N. command insists that all remaining POWs be freed as civilians.

Preliminary talks on setting up a peace conference are stalled and there is no indication when it might begin.

The Communist view was in a letter from the Red high command to Indian Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, which was broadcast by the official Red Peiping radio.

What the letter also insisted that the explanations to now back to the POWs be resumed. The 90-day interview period ended Dec. 23 with the approval of the repatriation commission.

During the 90-day period the Reds met with only about 2,000 of the 22,000 anti-Red Chinese and Koreans in 10 days of interviews.

American and South Korean leaders met separately Thursday on the tense problem of disposing of the POWs and apparently reached at least a temporary settlement to a growing rift.

South Korean Foreign Minister Pyun Yung Tak dropped his threat of violence to free the anti-Red POWs while "new (Allied) arrangements" are tested.

See TENSENESS on page 19-A