



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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U.S. Officials Cool To Red Bid For Talks On Airmen

Chou Says He Would See Mission

Dulles Gets Word From Burma Premier

By JURNA A. SCALI
WASHINGTON (AP)—American officials reacted today to a roundabout suggestion by the Chinese Communists that this country send an unofficial mission to Peking to discuss the case of the imprisoned American fliers and tensions with Red China. The State Department officially declined to comment beyond saying it knew nothing whatever about any such proposal.

Burma Premier U Nu said in Rangoon that he passed on the suggestion to Secretary of State Dean Rusk at a meeting with the visiting American foreign policy chief.

Dulles, who is now in Indochina, has not called one word to the Department about the suggestion—a clear indication he does not attach much importance to it.

RED TRICK
The only information U. S. officials here have is from reading news columns quoting Nu. They took the view, however, that it was another obvious Red Chinese trick to involve United States in fact-

to-face talks.

Their attitude is that there is nothing to discuss about the case of the American fliers. These men, they stress, are held illegally by Red China in complete violation of the Korean armistice terms. Accordingly, they should be freed immediately without the need for any further talks.

Further, it was pointed out that the case of the imprisoned fliers is being handled at present by Dwight D. Eisenhower, United Nations secretary general, who already has made one trip to Peking.

Both President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles have said that they look to the United States to free the prisoners in view of the fact they were part of the United Nations fighting force which fought the Korean war.

Some American officials saw the reported Red China willingness to discuss the fliers as well as prisoners as an effort to bring the two American officials said there is no connection—that the illegal detention of the Korean armistice is an open and shut case.

Probe Death Of Woman

TAYLORSVILLE (AP)—Police continued their efforts today to identify the body of a young woman who apparently was struck and killed by a highway near here yesterday.

Sheriff Thomas E. Beber said today he would lead a party of men to a highway near here yesterday.

They were held, officers said, after they attempted to abandon their car. Beber quoted both as saying they saw the woman cross Highway 90 early yesterday. Beber said both men denied that the vehicle struck the woman.

The body of the blonde woman was found near the Caldwell County line in Alexander County in a ditch in front of the Oxford Memorial Baptist Church.

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Hearings Set On Price-Fixing Bill For Milk

Legislature Begins Ninth Week Tonight

RALEIGH (AP)—Hearings on a milk price-fixing bill, three revenue proposals and a water conservation bill headed the legislative agenda for this week as Tar Heel lawmakers returned to Raleigh today.

Both the House and Senate will hold sessions at 8 o'clock tonight, marking the start of the Legislature's ninth week.

Sen. Luther Barnhardt of Cabarrus, president of the Senate, expressed the belief yesterday that the General Assembly will complete its work the latter part of April unless something unforeseen occurs.

Barnhardt said the Legislature is moving along "mightily well" on appropriations and is doing "as well as could be expected on finance in view of the fact that we have to hold hearings."

"It doesn't look like it will be necessary for us to be in session any longer than the latter part of April," he added.

HODGES TO SPEAK
Gov. Hodges plans to deliver a radio and television report to the people Wednesday night. It will deal with issues pending in the Legislature and will be his first report since the General Assembly convened in January.

Meanwhile, a public hearing will be held tomorrow by the House Agriculture Committee on a bill to give the State Milk Commission authority to set minimum retail and wholesale milk prices.

The measure introduced by Sen. Ralph Scott of Alamance, has been approved by the Senate. Rep. C. Edwards of Greene, House committee chairman, said the Joint Agriculture Committee held a hearing on the proposal, but due to requests it was decided to hold another hearing before the House committee.

Also scheduled for tomorrow is a hearing by the Joint Finance Committee on two bills by Rep. T. Falls Jr. of Cleveland. His measure would: (1) put a 3 percent sales tax on the receipts of hotels, inns and motels, and (2) place a 1 per cent tax on real estate transfers. Each proposal would bring in an estimated one million dollars in revenue.

SALES TAX BILL
Wednesday, the Finance Committee plans to hold a hearing on a bill by Rep. Sam Worthington of Putnam to enact a 2 per cent general sales tax which would have few exemptions. Food would be brought under the tax. Under the present 3 per cent sales tax, food and many other items are exempt. An estimated 10 million annually would be derived from Worthington's proposal.

The Joint Appropriations Committee is due to begin a "line by line" study tomorrow of the budget for the next biennium. The committee members discussed appropriations at a "hair-splitting-down session" last Thursday.

A hearing will be held tomorrow by the Joint Conservation and Development Committee on legislation to control the use of the state's water resources.



Mayor Phil Van Every (left) Explains Tax Prepayment Plan To County Board, While County Chairman Sid McAden (extreme right) listens.

Commissioners Plan 2-Year Trial County Agrees To Tax Payment Change

County Taxpayers Will Pay Taxes in Advance

Lawing's Motion

By ANN SAWYER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
A new tax prepayment period as requested by the City Council will be given a two-year trial by the County Commissioners.

They agreed today that 1955 county taxes will become payable at 2 per cent discount in September instead of in August.

The present system calls for the prepayment and the discount period to begin in August. The discount decreases by one-half of one per cent until city and county taxes are all paid in December.

If the Legislature approves the change, taxpayers will receive a 2 per cent discount in September, 1 1/2 per cent in October when taxes become due, 1 per cent discount in November, and one-half of one per cent in December.

Taxes will be paid in January and the penalty begins in February.

On hand today to ask the commissioners to make the change were Mayor Van Every, Councilmen Herman Brown, City Collector of Revenue John H. Mills,

and City Manager Henry A. Yancy.

Mayor Van Every had requested that all collection go before the County Board this morning.

Asked if he would go along with that condition, Mayor Van Every said, "I'll buy that."

He said that if the system is not good for the county then the two groups can get together again to discuss what should be done.

The city wanted its tax prepayment period changed to help smooth operation of its collection office. City tax bills, prepared by the County Tax Supervisor's office, are not received until September. Because of this setup, many city taxpayers fail to take advantage of the August 2 per cent discount.

Individuals who did pay city taxes in August had to pay on an estimated tax. Some taxpayers, receiving their bills in September, took the 2 per cent allowed for August payment, instead of the 1 1/2 per cent allowed for September.

When the matter first came before the commissioners, the County Board opposed it since the change means money will have to be borrowed to begin the fiscal year. Taxes collected in August are used to finance county government during the first part of the fiscal year which begins July 1.

Mr. McAden and County Auditor Mrs. Ethel D. Byrd said the amount to be borrowed for the next two years will be small because of increased valuations that have resulted in a surplus.

Future loans will be much larger, Mr. McAden said.

In other business today, the commissioners:

1. Heard a report from Capt. J. D. Whitley of the Mecklenburg County Police Dept. on a seminar he recently attended at the Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.

2. Approved payment of \$2,700 to four physicians who have examined first, fourth and ninth grade students in county schools. Since the county is without a regular doctor, private doctors examine the children for \$1 each.

3. Formally authorized Commissioner Lawing to continue with his plans for a county animal shelter.

The payment of the doctor bills served as a springboard for Comm.

Trustees Approve Negroes To Attend Course At State

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RALEIGH (AP)—Trustees of the Consolidated University of North Carolina today gave their Negro farm and home agents "refresher course" this summer on the campus of North Carolina State College.

The trustees voted 57-15 to approve action of their executive committee in asking a recommendation by Chancellor W. Carey Boston of State College.

Those opposing allowing the Negro farm agents to attend the refresher course along with white farm and home agents contended the move was a start toward a breakdown of segregation in the public schools.

Those favoring allowing the Negro farm agents to attend the Greater University and ultimately the college or school doing so contended it had nothing to do with the college or school segregation issue. They pointed out that Negro workers would not be either housed or fed on the State College campus while attending the refresher course.

Boston told the trustees that the alternatives to permitting the Negroes to attend the training course at State College would be: (1) to have the training staff repeat their instruction at A. & T. College in Greensboro or (2) to send the Negro workers out of the state for the instruction.

He emphasized the work was not a part of the State College summer school and the farm and home workers would not be enrolled as students.

B. B. Everett of Palmyra announced his instruction at A. & T. Clark of Greensboro in opposing the executive committee action.

W. Frank Taylor of Goldsboro, a member of the trustees' executive committee, said he would not have approved the Boston proposal at the executive committee meeting "if I thought for a moment it in any way weakened the principles for which all of us stand." He said the white and Negro farm agents attend similar training courses together in the counties where they work.

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Admit 'Crimes' U.S. Pair Thought Red-Brainwashed

By DAVID J. ROADS

HONG KONG (AP)—Officials today generally credited the Chinese Communists with thorough brainwashing of an American man and woman released after 2 1/2 years' close detention.

The Americans, Malcolm Berson, 29, of New York City, and Mrs. Adele Austin Rickett, 35, formerly of Seattle, Wash., arrived in Washington, D.C., by train from Peking yesterday. Berson's father A. P. Berson, a New York attorney, had him for the United States and praised the "wonderful treatment" they said they had received.

The woman said her husband, Walter A. Rickett, is still in a Peking prison. The couple went to China in 1948 as Fulbright scholars. Berson, a graduate of Harvard University who also studied at the University of Chicago, had been a medical student at the Peking Union Medical College. He said he had received every punishment they gave.

Berson told some 30 newsmen and four American consulate officials who met the pair at the railroad station.

"I am guilty of crimes against the Chinese people—I deserved every punishment they gave me," Berson said.

"I was treated wonderfully. The Chinese people love peace. I was also once a reactionary and can now see how wrong I was."

The woman said her husband "has probably not finished his sentence because his crime was big, but mine was small." She said she had statements until they received a full report from consular officials at Hong Kong. Unofficially, State Department sources of talk-wash-late in Peking for their work at the camp.

"I'm glad to get home," she said. "I'm glad to see my husband."

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Missile-Firing Ship To Be Ready In July

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy expects by the first of two guided-missile-firing cruisers ready for anti-aircraft duty with the fleet next July, the second late this year.

Completion of the project to convert the heavy cruisers Boston and Canberra presumably will make the American fleet the first of any world power to possess operationally useful guided missile ships.

Britain announced last week it intends to begin building a fleet of such warships but it may be some time before they are ready for use.

In 1946, the U. S. Navy announced that the completed hulls of the 45,000-ton battleship Kentucky and the 27,000-ton battlecruiser Hawaii would be built into guided missile ships. Conversion work was started, then halted within a year. One reason, actually the primary cause, was that the Navy discovered the development of practical guided missiles was too far in the future to allow design of ships for their use.

The Navy spokesman said, in answer to a question today, that the Boston is expected to be ready in July and the Canberra probably about December.

The two cruisers, at least initially, will be used entirely for anti-aircraft protection of Navy task forces, using the Terrier guided missile, which is ready for use.

The Terrier, in whose line mass production for more than a year is fired from launching racks.

The Navy spokesman said, in answer to a question today, that the Boston is expected to be ready in July and the Canberra probably about December.

SELECTIVE BURGLARS

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Burglars who broke into the Vickery Place prefabricated apartment here today, squashed all of the chocolate, pineapple and creams on the floor.

EVENING PRAYER

Lord, forgive us that sometimes we behave so unkindly to our children. Thou has put within us the insight to behave well before Thee, and before our fellowmen. Give us courage equal to our insight. Help us to strive to become more like Thee, in whose image we are created. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER chats with several men in charge of construction work at his Gettysburg, Pa., farm during a week-end visit. In the background is the almost-completed home with the original stone house showing at the right. (AP Wirephoto).

Visitors From Northwest Lavish Praise On Auditorium-Coliseum

By EMERY WISTAR Charlotte News Staff Writer

Word of Charlotte's \$4,500,000 auditorium and coliseum has spread clearly to the Pacific Northwest.

Today four men representing the Exposition and Recreation Commission of Portland, Ore., came here to inspect the new plant now nearing completion.

Beautiful. A fine thing you're building," said James H. Polhemus, chairman of the commission.

His opinion was echoed by the members of the Al Krieg, executive secretary of the commission; John L. Carson, a member of the group, and Walter A. Holt, general manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition.

Your buildings are as fine as any I have seen on my travels around the country," said Mr.

Polhemus. "No, I don't think you're spending too much on them. After all, they are being built not for just the present but for the future as well. They'll have to last you 35 or 40 years."

He said the citizens of Portland have voted eight million dollars for buildings to be used as a coliseum and livestock show hall.

DIFFERENT PROBLEM
"Our problem is a little different from yours," he said. "We must erect several buildings for our show as well as the main coliseum."

Biggest problem in Portland, he said, is selecting the site. He favors a site outside the business area, about the same driving distance from the center of the city as is Charlotte's new facility.

"But I think we're in for a big fight," he added, explaining that some members of his commission are in favor of a mid-city location.

"We'll have to have a lot of parking," he said. "I figure we'll need 30 acres for that."

The four men will make a thorough inspection of the buildings over the afternoon and will remain in the city tonight. Tomorrow, Mr. Polhemus will go to Jacksonville, Fla., and the others will go to Montgomery, Ala. to see a new coliseum building there.

Mr. Polhemus is president of Portland's General Electric Co., which corresponds with the Duke Power Co. here. He is also a member of the National Defense Council and will attend a meeting of the council on an aircraft carrier in Jacksonville.

The four men are being shown about the city by Paul Buck, manager of the auditorium-coliseum.