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THREE MEMBERS of the House Agriculture Committee read copies of President Eisenhower's special farm message at the Capitol. Left to right: Reps. Clifford Hope (R-Kan), Harold Cooley (D-NC), and W. R. Poage (D-Tex). Cooley is chairman of the committee and Hope is a former chairman. (AP Wirephoto)

GOP Agrees Farm Program To Receive Top Attention

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower and Republican congressional leaders agreed at a White House meeting today that the administration's farm program should have high priority at this session of Congress.

The GOP leaders told reporters that the President's 10-year program of highway construction also was stressed at the legislative strategy session.

Democrats are in control of Congress and will set the legislative program but they have indicated a disposition to give farm legislation a top place.

Eisenhower, on his second day back on the job after convalescence from his heart attack, talked with the GOP leaders nearly an hour and a half.

Republican Senate Leader Knowland of California said the President "looks fine." Knowland and House GOP Leader Martin of Massachusetts said there was no discussion of the President's second term plans.

The California senator said he believed Eisenhower's farm program, featuring a "soil bank" system for a cut back in crop acreage, was generally "well received" in Congress and stood a good chance of winning the necessary bipartisan support to get it enacted.

In keeping with his avowed aim of shouldering "the full duty of the presidency," Eisenhower also scheduled meetings of the National Security Council Thursday and of the Cabinet — if enough members are in town — Friday.

Meantime, he worked on printers proofs of his economic report, to be sent to Congress Jan. 23, a week after next Monday's budget message, and on a special message on aid for school construction due this Thursday or Friday.

Faced with this heavy presidential workload, the White House staff prepared to steer as many visitors and routine tasks as possible away from the chief executive's office.

Eisenhower worked a fairly short day yesterday, his first in Washington after 12 days of sun and exercise at Key West, Fla., recuperating from his Sept. 24 heart attack.

He checked into his office at 8 a.m. and out at 4 p.m., but broke the day with a luncheon and rest period lasting 2 hours and 20 minutes as his doctors have recommended.

At quitting time he took some work with him to the White House living quarters — the rough proofs of the economic message.

While on the job he had: sent to the Senate 155 nominations, mostly military promotions; sent Congress his special farm message; talked for an hour with Dr. Arthur F. Burns, his chief economic adviser; conferred with at least six White House officials; and dictated letters.

Benson's Judgment

Surpluses Called Big Farm Headache

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Benson said today "mountainous surpluses" constitute the No. 1 problem facing American farmers.

In a speech prepared for the American National Cattlemen's Assn., Benson said economists estimate farm prices would now be 10 per cent higher and net farm income might have been 20 per cent higher in 1955 if the government-owned surplus of farm goods was not on hand.

Benson, as did President Eisenhower in his special farm message to Congress yesterday, said wartime production incentives were continued too long.

Benson said the soil bank proposal recommended to Congress as a major feature of the new administration program is a "bold plan that strikes directly at the problem," but he added:

"We can give no hard and fast estimate of how much the soil bank will improve prices and incomes."

The soil bank proposal is designed to reimburse farmers for taking land out of the production of crops already in surplus and divert it to grass and trees.

"It will remove the crushing burden of surpluses that is our most serious farm problem," Benson said. "It will prevent a diversion of acres out of surplus crops and into other products."

He stressed, however, that it is regarded as a temporary measure, adding that in the not too distant future "we will need much greater output of farm products than we have today."

"These are troubled times for families on our farms and ranches," Benson said.

"Our nation has been blessed with unprecedented prosperity. But it is a prosperity in which families on the land have not adequately shared.

"We must free the farm economy from the distortion that had roots in wartime needs. The fact is that wartime production incentives were continued too long. We must provide means for cutting down surpluses.

"We must widen markets. We must help farmers and ranchers cut costs, balance production and increase their incomes.

"Farm people deserve their fair share of this nation's prosperity."

Benson said the system of flexible farm price supports which the administration persuaded Congress to adopt two years ago is essential but inadequate to cope with the problem.

"First," he said, "it only began to take hold with the harvests of 1955. Still more important, its operation is smothered by the pressure of surplus stocks amassed under the old program."

Man Held In Three Deaths

ANN ARBOR, Mich. —(AP)—A 35-year-old mother and her two little daughters were shot to death in their well-furnished new home in this college city last night. Police said the husband-father did it, but they didn't know why.

Immediately after the slayings the husband, Harold A. Johnson, 38, took what first was believed to have been a deadly poison. Police later surmised it was phenobarbital sleeping pills.

Discovery of the tragedy followed a telephone call which Johnson made to a sister, Mrs. G. D. Porterfield, 200 miles away at Houghton Lake, Mich.

Dr. G. D. Porterfield, an osteopathic physician, said Johnson told his sister: "I've shot Margie, Barbie and Margaret, and I'll be with them in two to four minutes."

Bursting into the Johnson home in southwestern Ann Arbor, police found the wife, Margerie, dead of six to eight bullet wounds. Clad in her yellow pajamas and with a toy pistol in her hands, 3-year-old Barbara was found shot through the head in an overstuffed living room chair. In her crib and also shot in the head was 1-year-old Margaret.

Our Weather

Cloudy and cold today. Cloudy and rather cold tonight with a possibility of light rain. Tomorrow, partly cloudy and not quite so cold.

Low this morning — 32.
Low tonight — 32.
High yesterday — 50.
High today—45.
High tomorrow — 42.

Sunrise 7:32 a.m.; sunset 5:29 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

Crop Damage In Millions

Worst Weather Of Winter Strikes Deep South Hard

Mrs. Silver Arranged For Abortion

Mother Of Dead Girl Tells Story

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Mrs. Gertrude Silver admitted today she arranged the unsuccessful abortion the district attorney charges killed her daughter, Mrs. Doris Jean Ostreicher, last August.

In a private interview with a Philadelphia Evening Bulletin reporter, the still-grieving wife of a food chain executive made these points in discussing publicly for the first time her part in the crime for which she is indicted as an accessory:

1. Her husband, Herman, knew nothing of the arrangements for the abortion on the fatal night of Aug. 24.

2. Her daughter, a bride of two months, had told her that her story-book elopement June 24 with a Miami Beach, Fla., motorcycle policeman was a "terrible mistake."

3. Doris had urged her father to start divorce proceedings.

4. Doris told her mother that if she was pregnant "you're my parent and you've got to help me" and also "I want an abortion."

5. Gave the mother the name of a woman who might help in finding an abortionist.

Th 49-year-old Mrs. Silver sat by the side of her husband, 52, as she told the events that led up to death of her daughter in the north Philadelphia apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Schwartz.

The Schwartzes have been charged with performing the abortion. Trial is tentatively scheduled for the end of this month.

Evening Prayer

Eternal God, lead us to the way of life which takes into account values eternally valid. So establish us that we may gain courage and wisdom to face the disquieting problems of this generation. In our Redeemer's name. Amen.

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(AP Wirephoto)

CASTING HIS BALLOT in the Virginia referendum is J. A. Wheeler of Roanoke, who will be 100 years old in June. Looking on are Mrs. Wheeler and election clerk Fred Bryant.

Quits As Legislator

Goodman To Try For Judgeship

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Rep. Arthur Goodman today announced that he will seek the judgeship of Superior Court, 26th Judicial District, Mecklenburg County in the May 26 Democratic primary.

Hugh B. Campbell, Superior Court judge appointed last year by Gov. Luther Hodges, has not made known his plans.

At the same time today, Rep. Goodman said he has written to Gov. Hodges offering his resignation as a member of the House of Representatives.

"I will wage a vigorous and active campaign for this high position," Mr. Goodman said, "with the feeling that the people of this district should have the right to elect a judge of their choice."

The announcement today is the second for a local candidate. Jack Love recently announced he would seek re-election to the State House of Representatives.

Mr. Goodman, a Charlotte attorney, has been a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives for three terms.

In his letter to Gov. Hodges, Mr. Goodman said:

"My work during my several terms of office as a member of the House of Representatives has been the source of great pride, pleasure and a feeling of accomplishment.

"I have enjoyed working with my fellow delegates from Mecklenburg County and my close associations with many other senators and house members.

"Because of this, it is difficult for me to submit my resignation as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. But it is my duty to do so in order to announce my candidacy for another important office."

The 26th Judicial District became a separate district under an act passed in the 1955 General Assembly. Following the creation of a district which includes only Mecklenburg County, Mr. Campbell was appointed to the judgeship by Gov. Hodges.

Mr. Goodman has practiced law here for 24 years and heads the law firm of Goodman & Goodman in the Law Bldg. He has been a member of the American Bar Association for 24 years and is a member of the North Carolina State Bar Association and the local bar association.

As a member of the General Assembly he has served on committees on constitutional amendments, corporations, education, employment security, finance, higher education, insurance, Judiciary, penal institutions, salaries and fees, teachers' and state employes' retirement and libraries.

He has been a member of the American Legion's Forty and Eight for 28 years, past adjutant of Hornet's Nest Post No. 9, past state commander of the Disabled American Veterans, past executive board member of Mecklenburg Boy Scouts, past president North Carolina Association of Jewish Men, past president Piedmont Kennel Club, past state president United Cerebral Palsy, member Phalanx Lodge of the Masonic Order, member Oasis Temple Shrine, and many other organizations.

MR. GOODMAN

Interposition Resolution To Be Urged

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — State legislators moved into Richmond today for the opening of the 1956 General Assembly amid reports a strong move would be made to have them adopt a resolution of interposition challenging the U. S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools.

By such a resolution the General Assembly, which convenes tomorrow, would declare the state's belief the Supreme Court decision would not be effective in Virginia until affirmed or rejected by amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Along with the overwhelming victory of the constitutional convention proposal in yesterday's statewide referendum came reports many persons in Virginia feel the Legislature should interpose and take no further action for the time being with regard to segregation in the public schools.

It appeared that persons planning the official efforts by the state to maintain segregation in Virginia schools have not yet completed their strategy.

Gov. Thomas B. Stanley is expected to give some indication of their thinking when he makes his State of the Commonwealth address to a joint session of the General Assembly tomorrow.

Prior to what promises to be a hectic and controversial legislative session, Senate and House Democratic majorities "will caucus tonight. These caucuses were looked on as quiet get - togethers with routine nominations of unopposed candidates for various positions.

The 94 Democratic members of the House are expected to elect delegate Joseph J. Williams Jr. of Henrico as caucus chairman to succeed Delegate John Warren Cooke of Matthews.

Cooke, who has said he will relinquish the chairmanship, is expected to become House majority floorleader.

England Feels Quakes

LEICESTER, England (AP)—A series of minor earthquakes rocked houses and buildings over a 20-mile area of the English midlands today.

High Winds And Water Strike East

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The coldest weather of the winter season continued in Florida and other parts of the Southeast today. Damage to crops in Florida alone was estimated in the millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, more rain, snow and sleet pelted wide areas in eastern sections of the country. The icy weather was blamed for more than a dozen deaths on Northeast highways and sidewalks.

It was colder this morning in Miami—43 above — than in Portland, Maine, where the reading was 44. Miami suburban areas reported below freezing—29 degrees.

The warmest city this morning was Key West, at the southern tip of Florida, which reported a reading of 61. The coldest region was over the Northern Plains and the upper Mississippi Valley, where readings were in the teens and near zero in some sections.

The Weather Bureau at Boston predicted winds averaging 30 to 40 m.p.h. along the New England coast, with higher gusts, and that tides will run 2 to 4 feet above normal. In Boston yesterday the highest wind gust was 59 m.p.h.

Gale winds and rain struck the flood-stricken sections of the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border and Prince Edward Island.

Fifteen rivers already were over their banks and hundreds of families have been forced to leave their homes since a weeklong January thaw started rivers on the rampage last Friday.

The rainy, windy weather hampered the work of hundreds of telegraph, telephone and power linemen trying to repair ice broken poles and wires.

Many towns were still isolated. Property damage was estimated in the millions of dollars.

In New Jersey, wind - whipped seas pounded the state's coastal areas, combining with abnormally high tides to cause extensive flooding conditions.

Snow, Sleet Fall In N. C.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northeasterly winds stung North Carolina's Outer Banks today and pulled down temperatures over all the state to about 10 degrees below normal levels. Snow and sleet fell over wide areas but little remained on the ground long.

The rough weather that sent ocean water across coastal Highway 158 in places yesterday and swept at least three summer cottages into the sea had mostly subsided. But there still were winds and gusts along the coast between 12 and 18 m.p.h., result of a storm at sea. Small craft warnings were up.

Low readings this morning included 22 at Asheville, 27 at Greensboro, 28 at Raleigh, 30 at Wilmington and 31 at Charlotte. Asheville's high reading was 33, just above freezing.

The tiniest trace of snow—.01 inch—at Asheville disappeared as it hit the ground.

In mountains, however, snow flurries continued and freezing rain at some points brought caution warnings for drivers from the State Highway Patrol. The French Broad River was partly iced over and McDowell County schools were closed for the day.

POLICE QUICKLY PUT FINGER ON SWAIN STANLEY M. FINGER

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—This is how Stanley Morton Finger put his foot in it:

The 17-year-old Long Beach State College student wanted a date with Miss Ann Jerry, a clerk at the Long Beach Federal Savings & Loan Assn. He went to her cage yesterday and presented this note: "This is a holdup. Drop your head if you will go to the show with me tonight."

But Miss Jerry stepped away and another clerk, Mrs. Wanda A. Wiley, saw the words "This is a holdup." She telephoned police.

Sgt. William Penhollow arrived post haste and handcuffed the youth. Then 20 police and FBI agents swarmed about the frustrated swain. He was taken to the FBI office and questioned.

Miss Jerry said she knew the youth but never had dated him. Finally, Finger was released. He'd still like the date, but—no more notes.

Local Citizens Don't Need Permits For Possession Of Rifles, Shotguns

By DONALD MacDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A law governing the sale and/or purchase of pistols is in effect in Mecklenburg County, but no permits are necessary for the ownership of rifles and shotguns.

The News sought official interpretation of firearms laws today after two recent killings here caused some citizens to show new interest in the laws.

A man was arrested last week on a charge of murdering a friend of his wife in a parking lot on W. Trade St. A young husband was jailed Sunday on a charge of killing his wife in their apartment on Woodvale Pl.

Clerk of Superior Court J. Lester Wolfe explained today that in order to buy a pistol, a person in Mecklenburg County must be 21 years of age and must have a permit which specifies that possession of the weapon is either for self-defense or for the protection of his home.

In order to receive this permit, the applicant must be of good character, must be able to sign his name on the firearms registration book (kept on file in Mr. Wolfe's office); and must have affidavits from two character witnesses who have lived in Mecklenburg County for at least six months.

The applicant must further give his age, address, and last address before taking up residence in Mecklenburg County.

A license fee of $3 is charged the applicant.

Although this law is in effect, police say they realize that traffic in sales and resales of pistols goes on without regard to this law. But how to enforce this regulation is another problem which confronts law enforcement officers.

It is permissible to carry a gun provided that the weapon is not concealed. A statute makes it unlawful to carry a concealed weapon; and dozens of weapons are confiscated by police under this law.

When pistols are confiscated by police and go through the courts, they eventually pass into the hands of Mr. Wolfe, who is authorized to hold public sale of confiscated weapons. Mr. Wolfe explained, however, that he has had only one public sale of pistols within the past 20 years.

Mother Drugged Babe So Guards Wouldn't Stop Refugee Escape

VIENNA (AP)—Thirteen Hungarian anti - Communist refugees, who crawled through minefields and under barbed wire entanglements, have reached the safety of Austria.

To make the flight, a mother drugged her year-old baby with sleeping pills so the child would not cry out and awaken quick-trigger Hungarian border guards.

The baby at first failed to recover from the pills but was revived at a hospital.

The 13 refugees—including two families with seven children — made their freedom dash at Klingenberg, in the Burgenland. This border strip is the same place where another group of Hungarian refugees once ploughed to asylum by smashing a hole through barbed wire fences with a home-made tank constructed with iron plating on a farm tractor.

The refugees fled through the winter cold with no possessions except the clothing they wore. Arriving at an Austrian village at 3 a.m. yesterday, they rapped on a farmer's window and begged help. He rushed them to the police and the drugged child to a hospital. Their clothing was torn by barbed wire.

The refugee family included Laszlo Cesloepy, 46, his 30-year-old wife Maria and their children Eva, 8, Maria, 6, and Elisabeth, 5. The other family included Robert Hovath, 28, his wife Rosalia, 30, and four children, among them the one-year-old baby, Rosalia.

Others in the party were Christine Pfeiffer, 19, and Michael Sarkoezy. The latter claimed he was actually an Austrian citizen who had lived for years in Hungary as a farm laborer.