

Fine Appoints New State Atty. General

HARRISBURG, Feb. 26—(AP)—Pennsylvania's six-week cabinet deadlock was broken tonight, with appointment and confirmation of Judge Robert E. Woodside, of the Dauphin County court as attorney general in Gov. John S. Fine's cabinet.

The senate also confirmed Fine's appointment of L. M. Campbell, trust officer of the Oil City National bank, as secretary of banking.

250,000 U.S. Troops In UN Forces

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Gen. Omar N. Bradley disclosed today that well over 250,000 Americans are fighting in Korea "for this nation and our position in world affairs."

The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff used 250,000 as a round figure "for security reasons" when he testified before the House Armed Services committee.

Later he told reporters that it did not include the air force fighting over Korea or the navy fighting off the shores of the peninsula. Recently navy sources said 90,000 officers and men were engaged in Korean waters. The air force has not disclosed its figures, but its strength is known to be considerable.

The committee is working on a Universal Military Training bill, and has tentatively approved induction of youths at 18½ with the understanding that they will not be sent overseas until they are 19 years old.

Bradley was unable to give the committee any assurance that the need for military manpower would decline in the foreseeable future.

"Despite the peace talk going around, we're in just as much of an emergency now as we were six months ago," he said. "We mustn't be lulled into false security."

The general urged 27 months of active service for inductees. (The committee is thinking in terms of 26 months). He told the committee that of the 21 months now required about eight are taken up with basic training, leave travel and service processes like induction. Any extension of the 13 months left for training with a unit, he said, would aid materially.

Officials Urge Railroad Talks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—The White House took a hand in the deadlocked wage dispute of a million non-operating railroad workers today as another rail union chief accused presidential assistant John R. Steelman of trying to "chisel in" on their settlement.

Steelman invited the negotiators for carriers and 15 non-operating unions to the White House for a series of separate conferences. Press secretary Joseph H. Short said the move was suggested by the National Mediation board. It has been trying for three weeks to break the stalemate over wages between the carriers and the non-operating groups, which consists of maintenance men, clerks, etc.

A last-minute request by the carriers that the non-operating unions agree to a moratorium on demanding any changes in rules governing working conditions threw the negotiations into a tailspin Saturday night.

Eisenhower Story Told On WMAJ Sunday

The life story of President Milton S. Eisenhower was broadcast over radio station WMAJ at 9:30 Sunday evening as one in a series of success stories entitled, "It's Fun to Live in America."

The program, sponsored by the local Kiwanis clubs through Kiwanis International, is a regular 15-minute feature transcribed in Hollywood.

New Chinese Push Expected In South Korea

TOKYO, Tuesday, Feb. 27—(AP)—Chinese Communist buildups behind a maze of trenches and strongpoints 20 to 30 miles south of the 38th parallel gave fresh indications today of preparations for a new do-or-die Red offensive in South Korea.

Allied troops slogged forward up to four miles without opposition in one undefended central sector of the 60-mile broad front Monday.

The Reds fought three, stubborn, rear-guard actions elsewhere on the central front and offered stiffening resistance north and west on an important road junction at Pangnim, 25 miles east of Hoengsong.

Cross Han River
In the west, U. S. 25th Division patrols crossed the Han river and probed within two miles southeast of Seoul but were forced back to the south bank by intense artillery, mortar and machinegun fire.

South Korean troops in rubber boats were unable to cross the Han three miles east of Seoul when they encountered intense fire.

Action slowed perceptibly along the rest of the front. It was the kind of lull that sometimes precedes a Red counter-drive.

Aerial observers, keeping close watch on the Reds, reported a buildup of men and supplies at concentration points north and east of Seoul.

Some 10,000 to 12,000 concealed Communist foxholes and other defense positions—mostly occupied—bristled in a four-mile radius at one point seven miles east of the old South Korean capital now held by the Reds.

Four Units Identified
Besides the 25th Division on the Seoul front, censorship permitted identification of four of the American Divisions taking part in the limited offensive on the central front, launched one week ago by Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, commander of the Eighth Army. They are the Second, Seventh, 24th, and First Cavalry.

The Second division carried the brunt of the U.N. sweep through the mountains of central Korea. It was 18 miles north of the jump-off line one week ago.

A regimental combat team of the Second Division slogged ahead against light opposition 18 miles north of Chechon.

Taft Demands Europeans Furnish Own Strong Army

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—(AP)—Senator Taft demanded today that the allies guarantee an army strong enough to defend western Europe before the United States sends any troops.

The Ohio Republican also insisted that the American share in peacetime be subject to Congressional approval.

Taft sprang his proposals as amendments to the administration's troops-for-Europe resolution which would give advance Senate approval to sending American foot soldiers to join the North Atlantic defense force.

The Senator, testifying before the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, declared the proportion of U.S. and European divisions in the International force under General Dwight D. Eisenhower should be settled publicly.

Prepare Resolution
The chairmen of the two committees, Senators Connally (D-Tex.) and Russell (D-Ga.), have prepared the administration resolution which would call for a constant presidential check on the European contribution to the defense undertaking. The committees are refereeing the heated national debate over the stand Congress should take on committing American foot soldiers to the defense of Europe against Russian attack.

Taft, GOP policy leader in the Senate, gave his views after John Sherman Cooper, Republican adviser to the State Department, had declared Congress should not throw restrictions around the sending of troops. To do so, Cooper said, might kill off the confidence of European nations in their own defense and might lead to "the greatest surrender in history."

Force "Inadequate"
Taft declared that the force now in sight for western Europe—37 divisions "as far as anybody can judge" is inadequate.

This includes six American divisions, two of them already in Europe and four more to be sent later.

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Pa. Assembly Sets Primary Election Date

HARRISBURG, Feb. 26—(AP)—Legislation fixing July 24 as the date for Pennsylvania's 1951 primary election was passed finally tonight by the General Assembly.

Final action was taken in the Senate to the bill which also sets up machinery for servicemen and women to vote by absentee ballot. The measure went to Governor John S. Fine for action.

The last Assembly move on the measure was approval by the Senate of the House amendment limiting absentee ballots to members of the armed forces. As originally introduced some civilian groups attached to the armed forces have obtained absentee ballots.

The House, running through a routine session, advanced for a vote, possibly tomorrow, an administration civil defense bill fixing death as the penalty for industrial sabotage involving loss of life.

For non-fatal sabotage, the penalty would be a maximum of \$10,000 fine or 30 years imprisonment, or both.

As originally introduced the bill called for the death penalty for all sabotage. Labor groups objected to that as too severe.

The absentee voting bill moves the primary election date forward from the present Sept. 11 date.

The measure is similar to an absentee voting law in effect during World War Two, but has been broadened to permit absentee voting by bedridden or hospitalized veterans as well as servicemen and women on duty outside Pennsylvania.

Former RFC Official Denies Loan 'Fixed'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—(AP)—Nobody volunteered to fix a \$10,100,000 Reconstruction Finance Loan for the Texmass Corp., John B. Skiles, a former power in the Dallas office of the RFC, told investigating Senators today.

Skiles testified in defense of E. Merl Young, prosperous husband of a White House stenographer, who had been accused of soliciting an \$85,000 fee to help Texmass, a former Texas and Massachusetts oil development firm, get the loan.

Skiles said he did not act as an intermediary to arrange political influence for Texmass, and that Young rejected the idea.

Approached "Over Drinks"
What happened, Skiles said, was that Ross Bohannon, a lawyer representing Texmass, approached him over drinks at a Dallas party in December, 1948, or January, 1949, and said "a nice fat fee" would be in prospect if he could get Young or William M. Boyle, Jr., Democratic National chairman, to use some influence in pushing the loan application.

He quoted Bohannon as declaring repeatedly: "That ain't whisky talking."

Was Personnel Director
Until a month ago, when he resigned, Skiles was personnel director of the Dallas RFC branch. He testified he got the job through Donald Dawson, one of President Truman's White House aides, and witnesses have testified that his position in the RFC was a strong one.

Eisenhower Will Talk To Rotary Forum

President Milton S. Eisenhower will address the Philadelphia Rotary club's Youth Career forum at a luncheon in the Bellevue-Stratford hotel tomorrow.

After President Eisenhower's talk, some 300 high school seniors will have an opportunity to attend any one of 21 discussion groups covering various business and professional careers. The discussions will be led by members of the club.

NPA Restricts Natural Rubber For Civilian Use

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—(AP)—The National Production Authority today notified rubber manufacturers that natural rubber will be reduced or banned entirely in 40,000 civilian products on March 1.

The order, due shortly, will limit small-size passenger car tires to 15 per cent natural rubber, larger tires to 22 per cent, baseball centers to 10 per cent and sponge rubber "falsies" to no natural rubber at all.

The purpose is to force upon industry greater usage of synthetic rubber and conserve the natural product for the defense stockpile, military uses and expanding industrial production.

NPA's announcement stole the show on the mobilization front from Economic Stabilization Administrator Eric Johnston. He is expected to issue shortly the "catch-up" formula, breaking the wage freeze and permitting some pay check fattening for perhaps 40,000,000 workers.

This evening Johnston's aides told reporters that action is "still possible later tonight." But tomorrow seemed a likelier bet.

Some officials predicted that Johnston might simply sign the ten per cent pay increase formula voted Feb. 15 by the Wage Stabilization board.

That decision split the board, 6 to 3, and caused its three dissenting labor members to send resignations to the White House. President Truman has not yet accepted them, but unless the rift is healed, the board may be left virtually powerless.

Hotel Greeters Meet

The Hotel Greeters club gave an informal banquet at the Eutaw house Friday night to introduce new and prospective members to the club. Entertainment included colored films of Canadian parks and card playing.