

Lovett Marks '54 as Year Of Reaching Arms Goals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—(P)—Secretary of Defense Lovett told Congress today that under present planning the nation will reach most of its present rearmament goals by the end of 1954.

Budgetary limitations will not permit completion of the proposed Air Force expansion by that time, he said, nor will all naval aircraft be ready.

Massacre Charged To Russians

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—(AP)—Col. John H. Van Vliet, author of a long-missing secret report on the Katyn Forest massacre in World War II, testified today he believes the Russians themselves slaughtered upwards of 10,000 Polish soldiers in a Soviet prison camp in 1940.

Soviet propaganda has long sought to pin the blame for the mass atrocity on Hitler's Nazi German armies.

Along with the current inquiry on Capitol Hill, some question has arisen whether Col. Van Vliet's original report was deliberately hushed up.

Inspected Scene
Testifying before a special House committee, Van Vliet said his five years of silence on the floodlit subject were imposed at his own request.

The witness told the committee that as a prisoner of war in Germany he was taken under guard to the Katyn Forest in May, 1943, to "inspect" the massacre scene.

He said he saw the bodies of the slain Poles stacked in eight layers "like sardines in a can" in a mass grave 12 feet deep.

Murdered 3 Years Before
Van Vliet said he went into the forest convinced that the Germans had committed the crime and were trying to blame the Russians, but he said he noticed a peculiar thing—that the uniforms and boots on most of the bodies were new and showed few signs of wear.

That convinced him, he said, that the Poles had been murdered shortly after the Russians took them prisoner in 1940, rather than after the Germans overran the Katyn Forest 33 miles west of Smolensk, in western Russia, three years later.

Van Vliet said he reached that conclusion because his own experience in prison camp had taught him that clothing and shoes of live prisoners wore out rapidly and were slow to be replaced.

Officials Pay Ickes Tribute

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—(P)—Public officials paid tribute today to Harold L. Ickes, turbulent former Secretary of the Interior, who died last night at the age of 77.

Ickes once said of himself: "If a man worked hard at it, he couldn't get a bigger list of enemies than I."

But President Truman called him "a unique figure in American public life . . . a many-sided citizen whose passing leaves a void in our national life not easily filled."

Senate leaders characterized the man who held the office of Secretary of the Interior longer than any other man—from 1932 to 1946—as "a true statesman," a "fighting heart" pledged to the service of the people, a man of "monumental" public service, one who "fought for the underdog."

He will be buried privately Wednesday in Friends Meeting House cemetery at Sandy Spring, Md. The Rev. Palfrey Perkins of King's Chapel, Boston, Mass., will conduct services before the burial at All Soul's (Unitarian) Church in Washington.

But the new 52 billion dollar defense budget "permits us to go ahead toward our peak month's production rate in 1953 and then hold a high rate longer than we would otherwise do," Lovett told a joint meeting of a Senate appropriations subcommittee and the Senate-House economic committee.

The defense secretary said any substantial cut in the budget for fiscal 1953 would "increase beyond the realms of prudence the calculated risks already taken."

Lovett also said the U.S. has jet aircraft "in test" which are superior to anything of Russian make which has shown up in Korea so far. "We are reinforcing our air strength in Korea," he testified.

Need Mechanical Controls
A "ferment of development," Lovett said, has resulted from the introduction of jet engines, new radar, and other technical equipment.

"We have speeds so fast now that the human eye and human brain can't handle it," he said, adding that new mechanical controls are needed to coordinate operation of new aircraft types.

Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.) drew Lovett's attention to the fact that the armed services had 80 billion dollars of unexpended past appropriations on Jan. 1.

Lovett said about 25 billions of this would be spent before the end of June.

Money To Be Spent Late
That would mean, Ferguson said, that the Pentagon would then have 55 billions in unexpended funds on hand at the beginning of the new fiscal year July 1. With the new funds requested, he said, the Defense Department would have 107 billions available for the new fiscal year.

Lovett said much of the money being requested for 1953 would not be spent until 1954 or 1955 because of the great length of time required to produce a warship or heavy bomber.

Lovett listed the rearmament goals as 21 full-strength divisions for the Army, 408 combat vessels and 16 carrier air groups for the Navy, three full divisions and three air wings for the Marine Corps, plus a 143-wing Air Force. The 143-wing force will require military personnel totaling 1,210,000.

Thespians to Hold Final Tryout Tonight

Final tryouts for Thespians' spring show "A Connecticut Yankee" will be held from 7 to 10 tonight in 409 Old Main.

The Rodgers and Hart musical comedy requires a large cast and there are openings for singers, dancers, actors, acrobats, pianists and musicians. Students are also needed to work on crews and in specialty acts.

The show will be presented April 3 to 5 in Schwab Auditorium.

Engineer Held for PRR Wreck

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Feb. 4—(P)—A jury of seven men and five women was told today that negligence on the part of engineer Francis B. Yentzer caused the wreck of two Pennsylvania Railroad passenger trains at Byrn Mawr last May 18. Nine persons were killed and 63 others injured.

Yentzer, 62-year-old veteran railroader from Harrisburg, went on trial today before President Judge Harold G. Knight, charged with involuntary manslaughter and negligence by a transportation employee.

Charges of carelessness and negligence by Yentzer were made by Assistant District Attorney Howard Harry, Jr., in his opening address to the jury in Montgomery County Courthouse.

Both on Same Track
Harry said that shortly before the crash, the Detroit-to-New York train operated by Yentzer—the PRR's "Red Arrow"—and the Philadelphia-bound night express from Pittsburgh both made stops at Paoli.

Both trains, the assistant district attorney told the jurors, were shifted to the railroad's number two track on the main line.

Harry continued: The Pittsburgh express left Paoli first. Yentzer admitted later having been aware of the other train's departure.

Contents Signal Seen
A short time later, Yentzer's train pulled out of Paoli. The Pittsburgh express stopped just west of Byrn Mawr when a signal indicated a stop-and-proceed sign.

"The sign appeared in both the wayside and cab signals," Harry said. The Commonwealth contends that the defendant saw those two signals which told him that he should stop and then proceed at not over 15 miles an hour and be ready for a quick stop."

Harry said that Yentzer stopped on signal but then proceeded too fast to avoid striking the halted Pittsburgh train.

Egyptian Premier

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 4—(P)—Premier Aly Maher Pasha is working actively for a better understanding between Egypt and "all the powers of the free world," he said today.

In an exclusive interview, the new premier also declared some of those responsible for Cairo's destructive anti-British fire riots of Jan. 26 would be tried by military courts.

Won't Commit Himself



Gov. John S. Fine

Gov. Fine Will Not Tip Hand on 'Ike'

HARRISBURG, Feb. 4—(P)—Gov. John S. Fine said today two administration supporters will be free to back eight candidates, proposed by U.S. Sen. James H. Duff, for delegates to the Republican national convention from Allegheny (Pittsburgh) county.

Fine emphasized, however, to a reporter that the authorization could not be construed as indicating that he, himself, is backing Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower for the GOP presidential nomination. Duff, whose home is in Allegheny county, is a leading supporter of General Eisenhower. Fine has expressed no preference for the nomination.

Spark Blamed In Mine Blast

GREENSBURG, Pa., Feb. 4—(P)—Six survivors of a coal mine explosion which took the lives of six other miners told grim-faced investigators today a motor spark set off the fatal blast.

The miners told representatives of investigating bodies their own stories at a session called to probe the cause of Saturday's disaster at Carpenterstown mine No. 2 of the Carpenter Coal and Coke Co.

When that session broke up, a four-man team entered the mine to determine if it is safe to begin clean-up work and return the pit to operation.

The team was composed of one man each from the state department of mines, the U.S. bureau of mines, the coal company, and the United Mine Workers union.

At the investigation session called by the UMW in district three headquarters, miner Charles Weche described the explosion as "a loud noise and whoosh of air." Weche and his fellow workers said they believe a spark from an electric motor ignited the gas which had accumulated in the mine.

234 Still Absent

Two hundred and thirty-four pupils were absent from the College Area Joint Schools today, the lowest number since a wave of illness struck last week. There were 320 absent on Friday.

Jo Hays, supervising principal, said this morning that the Junior and Senior high schools were hit hardest although elementary school attendance was slightly below normal.

Negotiators Optimistic About Truce

MUNSAN, Korea, Tuesday, Feb. 5—(P)—Allied and Red negotiators crept closer towards a Korean armistice Monday than in weeks.

There was optimism in some quarters that an early settlement could be reached.

The official United Nations command spokesman, Brig. Gen. William P. Nuckols, summed it up: "There is less cause for pessimism."

Nuckols said he felt the chances for an armistice had greatly improved in the past few days.

Full Dress Meeting Set
While the atmosphere appeared to be clearing after the long stalemate, a hard core of disagreement on fundamental issues had been shoved aside only temporarily.

Allied staff officers and a subcommittee of the main armistice delegation were due to take up truce supervision and prisoner exchange in Panmunjom at 11 a.m. today (9 p.m. Monday, EST).

On Wednesday a full-dress meeting of the main armistice delegations was scheduled for the first time since Dec. 4. It will begin discussions on agenda item five—recommendations to the governments concerned for final settlement of the Korean problem.

UN Firm on Prisoners
Red agreement to consider this final item was indicative that "they have hopes of an armistice," said Nuckols.

These spokesman cautioned, however, that major points were yet to be settled on these two issues.

The UN command communiqué Monday night was in a similar vein. Referring to prisoner exchange talks, it said there were "numerous areas in which agreement can be easily reached," but said the Allies still held firm to the principle of voluntary repatriation.

Forms Ready For Seniors

All graduating seniors interested in placement interviews should fill out registration cards at the placement service office in Old Main if they have not already done so, George N. Leetch, director of College Placement Service, said yesterday.

Interviews with 150 companies have already been scheduled between Feb. 18 and May 16, Ted Allen, assistant director, said.

Five to ten companies will hold interviews from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day except Saturday and Sunday during this period, Allen said. Each company will send from one to five interviewers who will stay from one to three days, he added.

Candidates for a M.S. degree, who have been on campus for one semester, and candidates for a Ph.D. degree, may also apply for interviews, Allen said.

Lists of companies which will interview will be listed in the Daily Collegian and on bulletin boards, Leetch said. Interested students should apply to the placement service office, 112 Old Main.

Dorothy Dix Leaves \$2.3 Million Estate

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 4—(P)—Mrs. Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer—better known to newspaper readers as Dorothy Dix—left an estate valued at \$2,316,398, an inventory in civil district court showed today.

Stocks totaled \$1,784,761 and bonds \$299,754. The remainder of the estate was in defense bonds, bank accounts, real estate, and jewelry.

Mrs. Gilmer died here Dec. 16 after writing her advice column for 50 years.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The turbulent Ohio river inched up to a level of 33 feet today, five feet above flood stage, and continued to rise slowly toward an expected crest about one foot higher.

Steel Boss Sees More Inflation

NEW YORK, Feb. 4—(AP)—The head of United States Steel said today the government would lose 11 billion dollars in income tax revenues if there were general wage boosts in all industries without price increases.

That, said Benjamin F. Fairless, would mean more inflation, eventual price rises anyway, and possibly prolonged cuts in civilian production and growing unemployment.

Fairless opened the steel industry's arguments before a federal wage stabilization panel, which is trying to avert a steel strike threatened for Feb. 23.

"So let's not try to kid ourselves about 'absorbing' a wage increase," Fairless said. "The

plain, unvarnished truth of the matter is this: "If the government lifts the lid on wages now, it will ultimately have to lift the lid on prices, too if for no other reason than to protect its tax revenues and to maintain its own income. It will have no other course."

A New York University economist, Jules Backman, testified for the industry that steel workers got a big enough wage increase in 1950 to cover the increased cost of living up to the present.

CIO President Philip Murray—who also heads the Steelworkers union—took issue. Said Murray, "In his testimony, pay taxes."

today, Mr. Fairless quite frankly admitted that inflationary pressures come not from wage increases, but from the heavy government expenditures necessary for building the defenses of this nation.

"Mr. Fairless suggests, without a rational explanation, that a wage increase in steel would deprive the government of taxes paid by the Steel corporations.

"This claim cannot be proven, but it is interesting to find U. S. Steel—which complains about the so-called terrifying burden of taxes 365 days a year and 366 days on leap year—suddenly manifesting a positive passion to