

Morris Gets Axe; McGrath Resigns; McGranery Named Attorney General

WASHINGTON, April 3—(AP)—Attorney General McGrath and Newbold Morris, the Truman administration's corruption investigator, both got the axe today in an astonishing two-act political drama.

McGrath summarily fired Morris, who had tried to delve into the finances of McGrath and other high officials. Less than four hours later, President Truman announced McGrath's departure from the Cabinet.

Truman named Federal District Judge James P. McGranery of Philadelphia to be the new attorney general. McGranery, a former assistant attorney general and former Democratic member of the House, announced in Philadelphia:

McGrath Warns

"My job will be to restore the faith of the American people in the government of the United States, and it will be done completely by the Department of Justice."

McGrath wired McGranery: "I suggest you bring a pair of asbestos pants with you."

Truman, in announcing McGrath's departure at a news conference, called it a resignation. Asked if it was voluntary, he said it was, but added that all resignations are voluntary.

Personal Liberty

McGrath said in a statement that it was a "penalty" for opposing Morris' efforts to delve into the personal financial affairs of government officials, including himself.

"I have stood up for what I believe to be great principles of personal liberty and the fundamental rights of employees of the federal government," McGrath said. "I gladly accept the penalty which in this instance attaches to the performance of duty."

McGrath's statement clearly implied that he had had a showdown with Truman on the question of shielding federal employees from questionnaires about their finances, and had lost.

Murray Hints At Steel Strike As Talks Fail

NEW YORK, April 3—(AP)—Steel wage talks collapsed today and CIO leader Philip Murray said he believed a strike of 700,000 steel workers "will definitely take place" Wednesday.

An industry spokesman said the companies would start "cooling their furnaces tomorrow."

It appeared a strike could be averted only by government seizure of the industry—and there was a question by both government and industry whether such a move would be legal.

A spokesman said industry would resist such action if it is attempted.

The breakdown of the wage talks came when the CIO United Steelworkers Union rejected a 16 cents an hour wage increase offer that failed to meet proposals by the Wage Stabilization Board.

The WSB recommended a 17½ cents an hour pay increase and other benefits the industry estimated would raise the total cost to it by about 30 cents an hour.

Almost simultaneously with collapse of the talks here, Price Stabilizer Ellis Arnall ruled out any "special price increase" for the steel industry.

Congress Hears Queen

WASHINGTON, April 3—(AP)—Queen Juliana told a cheering Congress today that if nations work together, and develop confidence in one another, peace may come to "this poor world."

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Resigns



J. Howard McGrath

Western Union Resumes Some City Services

NEW YORK, April 3—(AP)—Western Union said it has resumed service in 39 of the key cities hit early today by the first nationwide telegraph strike since 1919, but the strikers still called the walkout 100 per cent effective.

"Because employees are disregarding the strike call, further expansion of service will be announced shortly," the company added.

The striking AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union (CTU) said some 31,000 Western Union employees walked off the job just one minute after midnight in the climax to a wage dispute.

Their action was made increasingly grave by the separate threat of a telephone strike in three states Monday. Business deprived of both phone and wire facilities would be all but paralyzed.

The CTU said Western Union's telegraph business had been cut "to a dribble."

Party Line Is Binding On Elector

WASHINGTON, April 3—(AP)—The Supreme Court, in a speeded-up decision held today that a presidential elector candidate may be compelled to pledge support of the national ticket chosen by his party.

The 5-2 ruling barred from the May 6 Democratic primary ballot in Alabama a states righter who refused to take such a pledge. He was Edmund Blair, who took his stand long before President Truman announced he would not be a candidate for re-election.

Blair had declared he would not cast an electoral ballot for Truman "or for anyone who advocates the Truman-Humphrey civil rights program"—a referendum to Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn).

The Alabama Supreme Court had ordered Blair's name put on the ballot, over protests of state Democratic chairman Ben F. Ray, leader of the National Party "Loyalists." The state court said the federal constitution guarantees electors absolute discretion to vote for anyone they please.

The U.S. supreme court's order expressed no views on this state court opinion. The high tribunal said merely that the U.S. constitution does not compel the issuance of the court's order to put Blair's name on the ballot.

Ridgway Reports Truce Talk Gains

MUNSAN, Korea, Friday, April 4—(AP)—General Matthew B. Ridgway said today he thought progress was being made in the Korean war armistice talks.

He hinted that a compromise may be likely on unresolved issues.

The supreme allied commander declined, however, to predict the outcome.

"I think we're making progress in the truce talks," Ridgway said.

"I still decline to make any predictions as to the final outcome."

The World At a Glance

Files Remain Closed

WASHINGTON, April 3—(AP)—President Truman today rejected a Senate committee's request for complete files on the State Department's loyalty-security cases on the ground that it would be "clearly contrary to the public interest."

Truman has repeatedly turned down past requests by congressional committees for such data, thereby arousing members of both Houses to considerable wrath.

Korea Jet Battles Blaze

SEOUL, Friday, April 4—(AP)—Three jet battles blazed across northwest Korean skies Thursday, climaxing three days of furious fighting in which the Fifth Air Force said 15 Red MIGs were shot down for a total of 40 destroyed or damaged.

The Fifth said U.S. Sabre jet pilots yesterday bagged two MIGs, probably destroyed a seldom-seen slower type-15 MIG, and crippled five MIGs.

Phone Union to Meet

DETROIT, April 3—(AP)—The CIO Telephone Workers Union today summoned its top national leadership to an "emergency meeting" in Detroit.

Beirne said the meeting would "perfect plans" for the scheduled 6 a.m. strike next Monday. The strike originally was scheduled for today but was postponed.

Anthrax Reported

HARRISBURG, April 3—(AP)—The State Agriculture Department today urged livestock men to be on the lookout for possible outbreaks of a "death-dealing" livestock disease known as anthrax.

Dr. H. A. Milo, director of the state bureau of animal industry, said no cases have been located yet within Pennsylvania, but added it has been reported in 12 other states.

Russia Quits Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba, April 3—(AP)—Russia, in anger over Cuba's refusal to let two Soviet diplomatic couriers bring secret documents into Havana from Mexico, today broke off relations with the revolutionary government of Fulgenio Batista.

Kefauver Campaign

NEW CASTLE, Pa., April 3—(AP)—A campaign to enlist support for Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) for the Democratic presidential nomination was pressed today by Lawrence County Democratic leaders.

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