

# Oatis Rejoins Wife After Red Release

NEW YORK, May 18 (AP)—Associated Press Correspondent William N. Oatis made a dramatic return to the arms of his wife today after more than two years in an Iron Curtain prison.

His wife, Laurabelle, had 12 minutes of semi-privacy with him after his silver transatlantic plane touched down at Idlewild Airport.

## Authorities To Return Czech Plane

BERLIN, May 18 (AP)—A Czech airliner impounded by American authorities after anti-Communists commandeered it for a flight to freedom last March will be handed back to Czech officials tomorrow.

A U.S. High Commission spokesman, announcing release of the C47 transport, said the craft would be turned over this afternoon. Later he reported the Czechs had asked postponement of the actual transfer until tomorrow morning so their experts could examine the plane.

Announcement that the U.S. was returning the airliner followed the release last Saturday of Associated Press Correspondent William N. Oatis from the Czech prison in which he had served 25 months of a ten-year sentence. He had been convicted on what American authorities denounced as trumped up charges of espionage.

In Washington, State Department Press Officer Lincoln White said, however, return of the plane had no connection with the Oatis case. White said Czech authorities were informed by the American ambassador in Prague a week ago that the airliner would be returned at Berlin.

## Light Turnout For State's Primary Seen

By the Associated Press

A light turnout was anticipated at the polls in today's Pennsylvania primary election with only two uncontested state-wide posts at stake—a pair of superior court judgeships.

No primary battles were involved in the Superior Court races. Candidates nominated by the Republicans and Democrats were unopposed.

Judges W. G. Sheely of Gettysburg and John I. Hook of Waynesburg are the Democratic choices, while Judges J. Colvin Wright of Bedford and Harold L. Ervin of Upper Daryby are seeking the GOP nominations.

Twenty-two cities will choose mayoralty candidates, with the biggest inter-party battle in Pittsburgh.

Throughout the state county and municipal judges are seeking re-election to 10-year terms. The field is wide open in Philadelphia's judicial contests.

In Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, and in Philadelphia, the Republican primary has turned into an all-out struggle for control of the GOP party machinery.

In Philadelphia, political observers forecast that about 5 per cent of the eligible voters would go to the polls. This, in spite of the fact that the Republicans have two full slates and part of a third ticket in a battle marked by sharp political in-fighting for the top places—City Treasurer, Controller, Register of Wills and Coroner.

Besides the mayoralty and judgeship races wet and dry forces will square off in local option contests.

Oatis and his wife parted June 23, 1950, only three months after their marriage. The Czechoslovakian Communist government said it was her letter of appeal that finally won his freedom from a ten year prison sentence. He was released unexpectedly Saturday.

### Refuses to Answer

Oatis served 25 months on an espionage charge, after he allegedly transmitted Czech economic, military and political information to a foreign government—presumably the U.S.

He was asked at a news conference here whether he served the U.S. government in any capacity while he was a foreign reporter.

"It's the kind of question I can't answer," Oatis replied. "I'm not going to say anything about it."

He readily admitted collecting economic, military, and political data in his role as a foreign correspondent. But he pointed out that such activity would not be a crime in this country.

### No Drugs Used

"What was a crime under Czechoslovakian law is not a crime here," he explained.

Under Czech standards, Oatis added, just about any American reporter could be considered guilty of espionage.

He said the Czechs had effective methods of obtaining confessions, but added that to the best of his knowledge no drugs were used on him.

"They gave me about 10 injections which they said were sugar solution and vitamins to build up my weight—and I'm convinced they were," Oatis declared. "I felt no effects from these injections whatsoever."

### Oatis Uses Low Voice

Beside him during the press conference was Frank J. Starzel, general manager of The Associated Press, who told the horde of interviewing newspapermen: "Before and after Bill's conviction and as of now, I have complete and full confidence in his integrity as a newsman."

Frowning and wincing at times, Oatis carefully phrased his answers at a gruelling press conference at the airport. He talked in a low voice, and chain-smoked cigarettes.



William N. Oatis Refuses Comment on Trial

## Talks Resume At Panmunjom

MUNSAN, Korea, Tuesday, May 19 (AP)—Truce negotiations were due to resume at Panmunjom tomorrow following a three-day recess called by the UN Command, presumably to firm up the Allied bargaining hand on the deadlock prisoner exchange talks—last barrier to an armistice.

The chief Allied negotiator, Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison Jr., remained in Tokyo Monday for consultations with Gen. Mark Clark, UN Far East commander. Long distance talks with Washington were considered probable, although there was no announcement to this effect.

In London Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill told the House of Commons that Britain and the U.S. are having "constant exchanges of views" on the Korean truce talks.

The talks are stalled over what to do with 48,500 Korean and Chinese prisoners who have told the UN Command they will not return voluntarily to their Communist homelands.

# Ridgway Advises More European Aid

WASHINGTON, May 18 (AP)—Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway advised Congress today to keep billions flowing to Europe in the face of undiminished Soviet might which he said could inflict "serious reversals" on the Western allies if war should come.

The Allied commander in Europe testified that while there are no indications now of "imminent hostilities" neither is there any evidence of the sincerity of Russian peace talk.

Ridgway told the House Foreign Affairs Committee at hearings on the foreign aid program that it would be unwise to cut military goals of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries. He said it would weaken U.S. defenses.

"Even with the completion of the goals," he said, "we will still fall short of the minimum defensive strength required to prevent serious reversals in the early stages of a determined attack."

### Air Power Weak

The general, who also has commanded Allied forces in the Far East and who becomes Army chief of staff in August, did not spell out what he meant by serious reversals—whether loss of Germany and Allied airbases there, a retreat to the English Channel, or destruction of trained troops and equipment.

He said Western forces would give a gallant account of themselves, that air power remains the weakest link in their defense, but that there has been "steady progress" in the last year in building up Allied power.

### Foreign Aid Considered

The question has been arising in Congress whether the progress has been sufficient to make it worthwhile to keep on spending billions of American cash on aid to Europe. Some of the heaviest skirmishing of the congressional session apparently will revolve around that issue.

What the foreign affairs committee is considering is legislation to authorize the administration \$5.8 billion foreign aid program and the \$1.5 billion for military aid for Europe for the year starting July 1.

## Churchill Asks Halt To British Nagging

LONDON, May 18 (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill today urged Britons—particularly left-wing critics—to stop nagging in public at the way Americans are handling Korean truce negotiations.

He told the House of Commons at the regular Monday question session he still holds the view that the U.S. should carry on the talks at Panmunjom in the name of the United Nations and that Britain is in constant exchange of views on the subject with Washington.

# European U.S. Seen By Monnet

LUXEMBOURG, May 8 (AP)—Jean Monnet of France, chief executive of the six-nation Schuman plan, says he intends to give President Eisenhower an encouraging report on prospects of a future United States of Europe when he visits Washington next month.

He said such plans for eventually binding the free nations of Europe into a unified federation should go ahead whether the current Soviet peace offensive is sincere or not, since Europe needs unity.

For his work toward this end, Monnet yesterday received the fourth annual Charlemagne Prize from the German city of Aachen, whose citizens call the award the "German Peace Prize." Monnet got the prize for his "outstanding merits in the field of the European unification movement."

Monnet, chairman of the High Authority or executive branch of the European Coal and Steel Community, has been invited to Washington early in June for conferences with the President, Secretary of State Dulles and other leading U.S. officials.

On the trip, Monnet will be accompanied by Franz Etzel of West Germany, vice chairman of the authority, and Dirk Sprengberg of Holland, another member of the nine-man executive panel.

# 'Ike Cuts Atom Budget'—Cole

WASHINGTON, May 18 (AP)—Rep. W. Sterling Cole (R-NY) said today the Eisenhower administration has proposed cuts "on the order of 30 per cent" in former President Truman's \$1.6 billion atomic energy program for next year.

Cole, chairman of the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee, said the budget was outlined to his group this afternoon and will be presented tomorrow to the House Appropriations Committee.

He told newsmen the cut of approximately 480 million dollars would leave sufficient funds to "carry on the weapons phase of the program without any curtailment."

# Senate Delays \$450 Million Measure

WASHINGTON, May 18 (AP)—The Senate today put off until Wednesday consideration of a \$457 million appropriation measure after an inconclusive debate on whether to add funds to speed up the handling of television station applications.

The bill, first of the regular money measures to come before the Senate, carries funds for operations of 22 governmental commissions and agencies during the fiscal year starting July 1.

Sen. Johnson (D-Colo.) offered an amendment to add \$618,440 to the bill, already approved by the House, to speed up the handling by the Federal Communications Commission of applications for new TV stations.

Johnson said his Senate Inter-

state Commerce Committee was told by FCC commissioners today that 35 to 40 teams of FCC examiners could clean up this backlog within a year. The bill carries money, however, for only 17 teams, five more than now available to the FCC.

Johnson said 65 large cities now have no TV stations at all and that some cities, such as St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo., have only one station each.

Each team is composed of one examiner and six aides. The cost

per team is \$40,000 a year.

Saltonstall finally agreed to get in touch with the FCC tomorrow in an effort to clear up the confusion between him and Johnson.

Earlier in the debate, Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) failed to get the Federal Housing Administration \$600,000 to continue a research program in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The House has approved \$451 million for the 22 government units. This is \$715 million less than Truman recommended before he left office in January.

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