

McCarthy Wins Senate Position

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—Senate Republicans agreed today to put Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) on the Senate rules committee which, among other duties, passes on allotments of money for investigations. This means a boost in power for McCarthy at a time when some Democrats aim to trim funds for his investigations subcommittee.

GOP Senators Express Doubt Of Farm Plan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—Grave doubts about President Eisenhower's 1954 farm program were expressed at a conference of Republican senators today as Sen. Knowland (R-Calif.), Senate GOP leader, spoke openly of a possible compromise.

With many Democrats and some Republicans ranged in opposition, the fate of the President's long-awaited farm plan appeared in serious jeopardy.

The heaviest critical fire centered on the President's call for a gradual shift from the war-born system of mandatory high-level federal price supports for most major crops to a flexible program of high props in time of scarcity and lower supports when surpluses pile up.

Some critics contend this would reduce financial help to farmers at the time they need it most—when prices are low.

Chairman Millikin (R-Colo.) said the first 1954 conference of all GOP senators, meeting behind closed doors, "did not feel happy about the general farm situation" in the light of Eisenhower's farm message to Congress yesterday.

Millikin declined to elaborate, but it was learned that four Midwest Farm Belt senators—Young of North Dakota, McCarthy of Wisconsin, Thye of Minnesota, and Jenner of Indiana—expressed misgivings about the flexible price proposal.

Young reportedly told the conference that the party must face what he termed the political facts of life, based on two points:

1. That a hard battle is already shaping up over next fall's elections for control of Congress.

2. That many farmers, big farm organizations and a majority in Congress want continuation of the present rigid, high-level supports.

Young said that if a flexible price support bill is brought to the floor, as the administration has requested, amendments will be offered to extend the present 90 per cent of parity on basic crops.

French Repel Vietminh

SAIGON, Indochina, Jan. 12 (AP)—North African infantrymen and French Union parachute troops harried seven Vietminh battalions retreating today from an ill-starred campaign against the fortress of Seno, in central Laos.

The French command said the Vietminh has lost 1,500 men, killed, wounded, or captured, in three days of heavy fighting and two days of skirmishing. French losses were not announced.

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Senator Charges T-Men 'Coddle' Deported Robber

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—Sen. Williams (R-Del.) charged today that Treasury agents failed to prosecute for income tax evasion a deported bank robber who he said paid no taxes for seven years after sneaking back into the country.

He named the man as Frank (Sam) Cammarata of Youngstown, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich., and described the case in a Senate speech as a "disgusting example of gangster coddling."

Williams said also that three bills introduced in Congress blocked a second effort to deport Cammarata, who now is completing a 15-30 year term in a Michigan prison for a Detroit bank robbery.

The senator, long a one-man crusader against tax violators, listed the names and numbers of the bills which kept Cammarata in this country, but did not name their sponsors. A check of congressional records showed that Rep. Kirwan (D-Ohio) introduced two while the third was by former Sen. Myers (D-Pa.).

Kirwan said he acted as a "routine" favor to a constituent, but lost interest when he got a justice department report that Cammarata was an undesirable. He said he introduced the bills at the request of Cammarata's lawyer, who wanted more time to fight a charge that his client had violated parole from the Michigan prison.

Kirwan said also that Myers introduced his bill at Kirwan's request.

Allies Seek to Break Big 4 Site Deadlock

BERLIN, Jan. 12 (AP)—The Western Allies will make a fourth and possible decisive attempt tomorrow to break the deadlock with the Russians on a site for the Big Four foreign ministers conference.

One high Western official said the secret talks to pick a site in four-power Berlin are "in a critical stage."

"If there is going to be a conference at all," this official said, "tomorrow's meeting must settle the matter of a meeting place one way or another."

Red, U.S. Aides to Try Revival of Peace Talks

SEOUL, Wednesday, Jan. 13 (AP)—U.S. and Communist aides tomorrow will attempt to revive the preliminary Korean peace talks, which blew up in an explosion of angry words a month ago.

The UN Command agreed yesterday to a Communist suggestion that liaison secretaries meet at Panmunjom. But the Reds said nothing about taking back a charge of "perfidy" leveled at the United States.

The UN representative was instructed to take up the "perfidy" matter, but there were indications the U.S. attitude had softened and a compromise was possible.

When the U.S. envoy, Arthur Dean, walked out on the talks Dec. 12 he said he would not return until the charge was withdrawn.

Arrange Preliminaries

The liaison officers' task is to try to work out conditions and a date for resuming the preliminary talks, which are designed to arrange a time and place for a Korean peace conference.

In Washington, press officer Henry Dwydam of the State Department declined to comment when asked if among the U.S. conditions would be a retraction of the perfidy charge.

The decision to go back to Panmunjom to discuss the preliminary talks was made in Washington and announced here at a news conference by Kenneth Young, state department far east specialist who remained behind when Dean went home.

'Respectable Atmosphere'

Young said the secretary would be instructed to determine "what the conditions are," explaining that "we will want to know whether the atmosphere will be reasonable, constructive and respectable."

"Whether they (the Communists) will be more anxious for a Korean peace conference than they seemed to be in November and December remains to be seen," he said.

Young sent his acceptance note to the Communists through the Military Armistice Commission. The Reds had suggested meeting today but Young put it off 24 hours.

Slides Claim Total of 198 Dead, Missing

VIENNA, Austria, Jan. 12 (AP)—Man-killing avalanches thundering down the Alpine slopes left a toll of 198 persons dead or missing tonight in three nations.

Austrian government officials feared many more were trapped by the moving masses of snow, ice and boulders in the high Alps.

Thousands of tourists and an untold number of villages were cut off with dwindling food reserves. Austria concentrated on a great rescue mission involving hundreds of American, French, and British soldiers.

Hardest hit was the Austrian village of Blons, where it was estimated 55 of the 385 inhabitants were missing after two massive snow slides swept 23 houses into the Lutz River.

Avalanches in 12 places cut the Brenner Pass leading through the Alps from Italy to Austria. Officials said tons of snow, trees, and rocks slid into the highway and it would be blocked for another 24 hours.

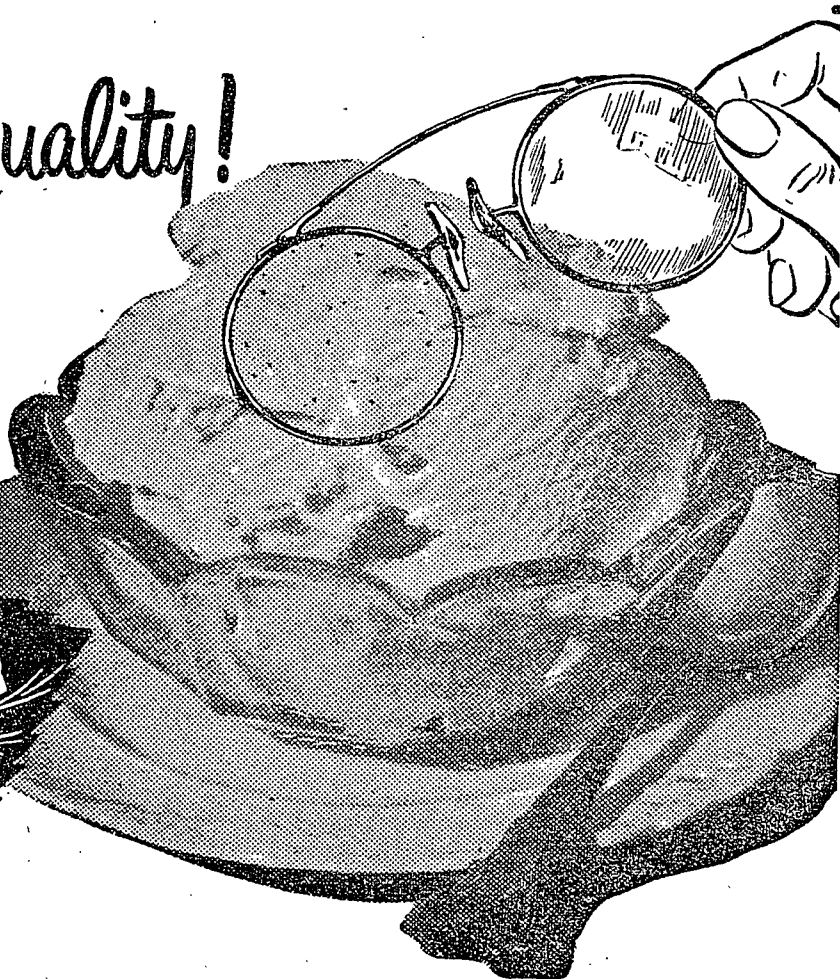
The 36-hour toll in Austria was 51 persons dead and 121 missing, and 137 were known to have been rescued. Many predicted the disaster would be the worst in Austria's history, surpassing a similar catastrophe three years ago which took 124 lives.

A-Bomb Pioneer Dies

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (AP)—Retired Adm. William H. P. Blandy, 63, who led the first post-war atomic bomb tests at Bikini in 1946, died today.

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