

President Declares His Confidence in Stevens

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—President Dwight D. Eisenhower today declared his confidence in the honesty and integrity of Secretary of the Army Robert T. B. Stevens. He said he believes Stevens, and believes in him, in the secretary's blazing row with Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.).

Sharply calling for an end to what he termed petty quarrels and hysterical reaction to such things as "unwise investigators," Eisenhower said it's possible Stevens may be mis-

Wable Counsel Petitions Court For New Trial

GREENSBURG, Pa., March 17 (AP)—Counsel for John Wesley Wable, condemned to die in the electric chair for a slaying on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, asked the Westmoreland County Courts today for a new trial.

Wable, 24, of Ohio, was convicted last Saturday by a jury of seven men and five women for the fatal shooting of truck driver Harry F. Pitts, 39, of Bowling Green, Va. The jury fixed the death penalty.

Wable also is charged with killing truck driver Lester B. Woodward, 39, of Duncannon, and wounding trucker John K. Shepherd, 34, of West Alexander.

In his new trial motion, Chief Defense Atty. A. C. Scales claimed Judge Edward G. Bauer erred in allowing the state to bring in evidence in all three shootings. Scales contends only evidence in the Pitts case should have been introduced because Wable was on trial for the Pitts killing alone.

The state claimed it had the right to present evidence in all three shootings because the evidence showed the slaying of Pitts was part of a scheme or plan of Wable.

Photo Ban End Asked

PITTSBURGH, March 17 (AP)—The State Supreme Court received a petition today asking the court to end the news picture ban in the Westmoreland County courthouse and jail.

The petition was filed by David W. Mack, general manager of the Greensburg Tribune-Review Publishing Co.

Mack said Feb. 25 court order of three Westmoreland County judges banning the taking of pictures in the county courthouse and jail "is in violation of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Pennsylvania."

Federal District Judge Wallace S. Gourley granted a temporary injunction March 2 permitting photographers to take pictures in the courthouse corridors if they first received written permission from the person being photographed.

President Defends Emergency Power

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—President Dwight D. Eisenhower indicated today that he can send American forces into action in defense of the United States without waiting for Congress to act.

He told his news conference that any president who delayed in case an aggressor should strike should be more than impeached—he should be hanged.

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taken or misinformed on some points.

But he asserted with vigor that if he didn't believe Stevens, the Army secretary wouldn't be where he is. He underlined it by saying he stands by Stevens so far as his integrity and honor are concerned.

McCarthy, off for Chicago for a speech, said only that forth-coming public hearings "will demonstrate who is telling the truth."

The trouble is, said Eisenhower, the world is suffering from "a multiplicity of fears"—of the men in the Kremlin and of "unwise investigators" here at home, among other things. What's needed, he snapped, is to stop the name-calling and get ahead with something that is good for the United States—with "a faith in the destiny of America."

The White House allowed part of the President's admonishment to be quoted directly.

Turning up at his news conference in a top-of-the-mornin' mood, sporting a green St. Patrick's Day tie, Eisenhower swiftly waxed emphatic and often indignant as he declared:

The Democrats are in error—he paused as if he'd rather use a stronger word—when they charge his tax program is loaded in favor of rich people. And he said the people who want to cut income taxes now are the same ones who wouldn't let him raise the national debt limit.

Eisenhower, with red-faced irritation he made no apparent effort to conceal, made it plain he is sick and tired of controversies such as the one in which Stevens accused McCarthy of putting pressure on the Army and McCarthy accuses the Army of trying to "blackmail" him.

Caracas Conference Hits Colonialism

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 17 (AP)—The 10th Inter-American Conference today overrode United States opposition and adopted a resolution calling for an end to enforced colonialism in the western hemisphere.

The vote in the Political-Judicial Committee was 19-0 with the United States abstaining.

The United States maintained the proper place for debate on the issue was the UN General Assembly, where her NATO partners, Britain, France and the Netherlands, would be present to defend their rights to the American colonies.

The resolution, sponsored by Argentina which is trying to get the Falkland Islands away from Britain, originally called for an end to all colonialism.

At Uruguay's insistence, the resolution was modified to call for an end to colonialism in those lands where the people want the ruling power to get out.

The majority of delegates ap-

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Churches Hit 'Basic Threat' To Freedoms

NEW YORK, March 17 (AP)—The National Council of Churches today condemned what it called a growing tendency to leave to the government to "determine what is and what is not American."

This is a "basic threat" to historic freedoms, the council said.

The huge church organization also called for a merger of present congressional efforts in the investigation of subversive activities. It said there is wastage of effort and undue rivalry between various groups doing the same job.

The council represents 30 denominations, including the bulk of the nation's Protestant and orthodox church members.

Its views on congressional and government activities were contained in a statement adopted by the council's 125-member General Board in a meeting here. There were only two dissenting votes.

The statement called for an eight-point reform in rules of congressional committees to prevent "procedural abuses," and urged formation of a single joint committee to probe subversive activities.

This, the statement said, would stop the present "wastage and duplication of effort."

GOP Gains in Tax Fight

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—Republicans appeared to be gaining ground, steadily late today in a House floor battle against a Democratic drive to give everybody a new income tax cut.

Battle of Dien Bien Phu Continues in Fifth Day

HANOI, Indochina, March 17 (AP)—The French slashed the attackers of Dien Bien Phu today with murderous artillery and air assault renewed under sunny skies. A big victory over the Communist-led rebels appeared shaping up in the fierce struggle for the French fortress in northwest Indochina.

It was still too early to say that victory had been won. But French army sources estimated that 12,000 Vietminh—the strength of an entire division—had been put out of action thus far in five days of battle.

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, the Vietminh commander-in-chief, still has an estimated 36,000 men in the hills around Dien Bien Phu. The question was whether he would send all of his forces into one gigantic attempt to smash the defenses of the French fortress.

Late today the Vietminh was bombarding French positions in the fortress with 75 and 105 millimeter guns from hill emplacements five to six miles away, possibly presaging a mass infantry attack.

The French replied with a powerful counterbarrage from American supplied 105 millimeter guns and full scale air assault.

Taking advantage of clearing skies, French fighters and bombers ranged over the hills and plains around Dien Bien Phu, hammering Vietminh gun positions and planes smashed also at long lines of coolies, trucks and other vehicles bringing up war supplies to the Vietminh. Poor weather had hampered the air arm yesterday, but did not prevent the parachute drop of additional troop reinforcements.

Never before in the 7-year-old Indochina War has the Vietminh risked so many men. Apparently they want to rack up a big victory and strengthen the Communist hand before the forthcoming Asian talks in Geneva late next month to consider possible steps for ending the war.

Medics to Aid Japanese

TOKYO, Thursday, March 18 (AP)—Three U.S. doctors from Hiroshima—A-bomb target in World War II—today were directed to help treat 23 Japanese fishermen burned by radioactive ashes from an atomic or hydrogen blast in the Pacific.

Democrats Hit TV Industry On Impartiality

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The Democratic national committee today questioned the "fairness and impartiality" of the television industry "in its treatment of the two major political parties."

Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell said in a statement the TV networks provided a "virtual dim-out" of last night's Democratic reply to President Eisenhower's tax speech Monday night.

Mitchell said all four TV networks carried the Eisenhower speech defending the administration's tax program and his "partisan attacks on the Democratic position" as a live telecast Monday night. He added Eisenhower was heard over an estimated hundred odd TV stations.

"In contrast," Mitchell said, "only the Dumont network carried the Democratic broadcast by House leader Sam Rayburn, Sen. George and Rep. Cooper as a live telecast the following night. Only five stations accepted the Dumont program."

"The only other television time given to the Democratic party was provided by NBC, which carried a delayed kinescope of the program but only over its New York and Washington stations."

Washington Post Buys Times-Herald

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The Washington Post purchased the Times-Herald from Col. Robert R. McCormick for an undisclosed sum today and the first edition of the combined newspapers hit the streets of the capital this afternoon.

The new "Washington Post and Times-Herald" will carry most of the features of both publications.

Toy Gun Bandits Get Lost in Store

NEW YORK, March 17 (AP)—Two bewildered young toy gun bandits held up Hearn's before it opened today, then got hopelessly lost in the block square department store. They finally surrendered in confused despair with \$11,452 in loot.

It was a comedy of errors from start to finish. Alarm bells jangled when they shouldn't, cops popped up where they weren't expected, and the woebegone bandits turned blindly amid a sea of showcases like little boys in a carnival maze of mirrors.

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