

6926 Dismissed By Government

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (P)—The Eisenhower administration reported today that 6926 persons have been struck from federal payrolls under its security program. Democratic leaders immediately challenged the report as a "hoax."

The figures, released by the U. S. Civil Service Commission in the midst of a red hot political debate over security risks, showed that 1743 of the persons who were fired or resigned were suspected of subversive activities or associations. This added fuel to the flames.

Russia Gives Slight Ground On Demands

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 11 (P)—Russia's Andrei Y. Vishinsky gave apparent ground today on the long-standing Russian demand for an immediate ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs. At the same time he called on the West to match Moscow's concessions with similar moves.

In a moderately worded speech to the UN Political Committee, Vishinsky made these key points on disarmament in answer to a barrage of questions from Selwyn Lloyd of Britain, and Jules Moch of France:

1. Instead of beginning a disarmament program with the immediate and unconditional banning of atomic and hydrogen bombs, as Moscow has demanded, Russia is now ready to start the program with reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces of the countries of the world.

2. The prohibition of atomic and hydrogen bombs can come in a second phase of a comprehensive disarmament program, after the conventional strength has been cut and a control organ has been set up. The ban on the bombs and the start of the work of the control organ can be simultaneous but this simultaneous period may conceivably cover a period up to six months.

3. The control organ, however, must not have the authority to close a plant in any country. The Security Council, under the UN Charter, has the sole power to take such steps and the UN cannot delegate powers of the charter to a control organ.

Natural Gas Industries Shows Rapid Growth

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Oct. 11 (P)—The nation's natural gas industry, continuing to show "cinderella growth," now has 27 million customers, and \$13.5 billion in assets, the president of the American Gas Association said today.

"We have chalked up a string of impressive accomplishments," said Earl H. Eicher. "Sales of gas by utilities and pipelines have set a new peak and an additional rise of 31.5 per cent over 1953 totals is expected by the end of 1957."

Siamese Twin Dies

PARIS (P)—Nanedge, one of the Siamese twin girls separated by surgery Thursday in a Paris hospital, died today. The other baby, Michele, was reported in good condition.

Chicago Suffers Heaviest Rainfall In 69 Years

CHICAGO, Oct. 11 (P)—Relentless rain beat down again today on Chicago—already staggered by its worst deluge in 69 years.

A weekend downpour that measured more than half a foot caused damage estimated at \$10 million in the city alone.

As the three-day rain approached the 7-inch mark its crippling effects spread.

Huge industrial plants curtailed or suspended operations and by nightfall the number of idle had risen to an estimated 25,000.

More than 700 persons, most of them in the suburbs, flooded homes.

Hundreds of others were routed in a broader flood area that fanned out from Chicago 80 miles to the west and about the same distance to the east in Illinois and Indiana.

But only two deaths were reported. The victims were Patrick McNichols, 51, of Chicago, and Leroy Foiles, 70, of De Kalb, Ill. Both were found dead in flooded basements.

Transportation was scrambled in Chicago. But late in the day tracks leading into the Union Station from the south were cleared enough to permit the Burlington and Pennsylvania Railroads to move some trains in and out of the terminal.

The sun appeared briefly and faintly in the western sky at 6 p.m. but more rain was forecast.

Benson Appoints Two To Agricultural Posts

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (P)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson today appointed Ralph L. Culver of Laceyville as chairman and Edward J. Fleming Sr., of Andalusia as a member of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Culver has been a member of the committee since July 19, 1953.

Senate Group Given Infiltration Material

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (P)—Senate investigators reported today they have received "a fund of information" on Communist infiltration of defense plants and educational activities in eastern Pennsylvania.

They said the information came from Herman E. Thomas, who

previously had told a reporter that as a "planted" FBI undercover man he had posed as a Communist for forty years, and worked his way into some of the Communists' higher echelon councils.

Thomas is to be a witness at public hearings of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Wednesday. He will testify at closed door hearings tomorrow morning.

A subcommittee spokesman said Thomas has given information about 25 or 30 men he said he knew as communists and who worked at the Bethlehem Steel plant at Bethlehem.

The spokesman said Thomas also provided information concerning Communists elsewhere in eastern Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley, some of them in the educational field and some of them in plants holding defense contracts.

Thomas had a lengthy briefing session with subcommittee lawyers this afternoon as a preliminary to tomorrow's official appearance before the subcommittee.

Sen. Herman Welker (R-Idaho), serving as a one-man task force to investigate alleged Communist subversion in defense industries, will preside at tomorrow's hearing and the public session Wednesday.

Thomas told a reporter his role of undercover man for the FBI was a secret until he testified in the trial of six alleged Communist leaders convicted in federal court in Philadelphia last May of Smith Act violations. The Smith Act is a law aimed at those who advocate the overthrow of the government by force and violence.

Death Ruled a Suicide

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Oct. 11 (P)—A verdict of suicide was given today in the death of a Nebraska airman stationed at Beaton Air Force Base near here.

The victim, Donald Cross, 22 Creighton, Neb., died of a bullet wound of the head in his parked car in Ricketts Glen State Park Red Rock Mountain. Dr. Robert Heckler, deputy coroner, said the airman committed suicide some time last night.

"A desperate new effort to fool the public," said Democratic National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell.

"Merely a continuation of the administration's 'numbers racket,'" said Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D-SC).

Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall said: "This administration is cleaning up instead of covering up."

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, campaigning for the reelection of a Republican Congress, has claimed that the administration has removed Communists, fellow travelers and security risks from government service "not by the hundreds, but by the thousands."

Democrats have refused to accept his figures, and Mitchell has gone so far as to accuse Nixon of telling lies.

Today's civil service tabulation showed that from the time President Eisenhower's security program went into effect May 28, 1953, until last June 30, 2611 government workers were fired outright and 4315 resigned "before determination was completed in cases where the file was known to contain unfavorable information."

There was no breakdown on how many persons in the "subversion" class were fired or how many left government service before their cases were adjudicated.

Stores Submit Peace Offer

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 11 (P)—Managers of five department stores—harassed by a 10-month old strike of 12 AFL unions—submitted a new peace offer to the key union today, then retired to await an answer.

The offer was submitted to officials of Local 249 AFL Teamsters, which touched off the long and costly strike last Nov. 27. Members of the 11 other unions walked off the job a few days later.

Under a time table set up by U.S. mediators, the teamsters' officials have until Wednesday to study the proposal and suggest changes to the Labor Standards Association, which represents the stores.

Terms of the offer were not made public.

The Teamsters struck after management refused to renew a clause in their contract which gave the union the right to decide when truck helpers would be used and when deliveries would be made by parcel post.

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