

# Senate Investigation Readied in Gas Lobby

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (AP) — The Senate voted 79-1 to investigate any illegal or improper efforts to influence any senator or any one in the government

The debate made it clear that the main things to be investigated are lobbying and campaign contributions, though the resolution does not restrict the investigators to such matters.

Four Democrats and four Republicans will undertake the inquiry for the Senate. They

are to report by Jan. 1, but are authorized to make interim reports either before or after the November elections.

Only Sen. John Langer (R-ND) voted "no". He said his conscience would not let him vote for the resolution.

### Arises From Report

All this sprang from a report Sen. Robert Case (R-SD) made to the Senate Feb. 3, the weekend before it voted 53-38 for a bill to exempt natural gas producers from direct federal price regulation.

Case reported that he had been offered 25 hundred dollar bills as a campaign contribution by a man who later was shown to have been an attorney-lobbyist for oil-gas interests.

A furor immediately followed and on Feb. 6 Case told the Senate, "I had no idea that this thing would become the incident that it has."

### Gas Bill Vetoed

Since then, the "incident" has resulted in one senatorial and one grand jury investigation that are still proceeding, and President Eisenhower's veto of the gas bill on the grounds that some of its promoters had acted arrogantly and with impropriety.

Before the final vote today on the new and sweeping investigation, the Senate accepted an amendment by Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark) to make the inquiry cover anyone in government. Fulbright was one of the authors of the vetoed gas bill.

### Fulbright Remarks

Fulbright said he thought that if an investigation was going to be made, it ought not to be confined to the Senate. He said it was "erroneous" to think that "lobbying or influence peddling" primarily relates to the Senate.

The Arkansas senator, who conducted an investigation of the RFC during the Truman administration, said that the opportunities to do favors are much greater in the executive branch of government.

# Farm Program Nears Vote In Congress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (AP)—President Eisenhower's farm program neared the showdown stage in Congress today with supporters arguing it would save money for the government while cultivating income for the nation's farmers.

Undersecretary of Agriculture True D. Morse said the soil bank plan to take cropland out of production "could easily cut in half" present expenditures for storing farm surpluses.

Morse testified before the House Agriculture Committee as the Senate primed for crucial debate on election-year farm legislation.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has urged fast action on the soil bank and other provisions of the administration's program. Morse did the same. He told the House committee planting time is about here and said prompt measures by Congress would permit a "substantial" reduction in 1956 growing acreage.

Farmers participating in the soil bank, he noted would then be eligible for government payments in proportion to the land they retire.

The soil bank is designed to keep farm output from exceeding demand and thereby to bolster crop values. It has encountered little opposition in Congress, where some Democrats insist it's actually a program they recommended last year—only to have it shouldered by the administration.

### Hattie Carnegie Dies

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (AP)—Famed fashion designer Hattie Carnegie died today after a long illness. She was 70.

# State Sales Tax Issue To Be Decided by Caucus

HARRISBURG, Feb. 22 (AP) — Sen. Rowland B. Mahany, Republican floor leader, said today the fate of the House-passed 360 million dollar compromise income-sales tax program will be decided by the Republican caucus.

"What we will have to decide," Mahany said, "is whether to put the entire burden of additional revenue on the sales tax, on the income tax or on the whole tax package."

As of the moment, the GOP floor leader added, the majority in the Republican Senate caucus "would probably favor putting it all on a sales tax supplemented by some additional business taxes."

### 3 Per cent Tax

Asked at what percentage the sales tax would be levied, Mahany said three per cent. This, he said, could raise some 300 million dollars in the remaining 14 months of the biennium if cloth-

ing and restaurant meals are included.

Gov. Leader estimated the state's revenue needs at 564 millions. Republicans place the figure at 400 millions. There is now pending in the Senate a group of taxes on business totaling 100 millions. They have passed the House.

### Action Promised

As both houses closed down for the week, Mahany promised speedy action on the bills by Senate Republicans when the General Assembly reconvenes Monday.

# Britain Plans Arab, Israeli Peace Bid

LONDON, Feb. 22 (AP) — Britain today disclosed plans for separating the quick-shooting armies of Israel and her Arab neighbors at the starting point of a possible Palestine peace.

Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd told Parliament about the plan, a withdrawal of one kilometer—five-eighths of a mile—by the rival Israel and Arab armies along the 1949 armistice lines with an international patrol moving into the no-man's-land.

Lloyd said he made the proposals secretly a month ago to United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold.

### Will Visit Israel

The British statesman announced he will visit Israel in mid-March after a round of face-to-face meetings with leaders of Middle Eastern countries. His aim clearly is to urge upon the rival nations the need to begin negotiating a final peace settlement.

No British foreign secretary has visited Israel since the state was founded in 1948.

Lloyd's visit was announced as signs of fresh tension appeared.

### Preparing Attack

King Hussein of Jordan was quoted in a dispatch today as saying intelligence reports indicated Israel was preparing to attack Jordan in the near future. The King spoke at a camp of his crack army, the Arab Legion. High-ranking officers and officials were present.

In Cairo, the Egyptian interior minister announced a civil defense drill would be held next Wednesday. He said 15,000 civil defense volunteers have been enrolled in Cairo.

### Calls for Volunteers

Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion yesterday issued a call for 160,000 volunteers to give six days work in building air raid shelters and fortifications.

Lloyd leaves London Feb. 29 primarily to attend the ministerial council meeting of the South-east Asian Treaty Organization in Karachi, Pakistan, beginning March 6.

# Brazil Issues Order to Crush Jungle Revolt

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Feb. 22 (AP)—Government land, sea and air forces converged today on the remote Amazon River city of Santarem with orders to crush a jungle revolt in which not a gun has been fired.

The steamer President Vargas closed in with troops, anti-aircraft weapons and a small cannon put aboard at Baem, 450 miles down the river. The corvettes Carioca and Cananea carrying Marines escorted the steamer.

U.S.-made P-47 Thunderbolt fighters stationed at Sai Luiz Airfield in Maranhao State in north-eastern Brazil will provide air cover and try to prevent the rebels escape by plane.

A small rebel force led by four disaffected air force officers seized control of Santarem, its airfield, and several auxiliary fields. The officers are reported to have only 30 men at their command. Santarem is a city of 15,000 about 1500 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro. The revolt leader, Maj. Haroldo Veloso, fled the capital in a training plane Feb. 11.

Col. Hugo Delaite, commander of the troops converging on Santarem, ordered his men to try to take the city without bloodshed. He added that if they could not accomplish this, they should take it "at any cost."

Government forces hold Monte Alegre, across the river from Santarem. The President Vargas apparently intended to land the assault troops there.

# French Forces Squelch Rioting In Near East

ALGIERS, Feb. 22 (AP) — Two bloody ambushes of French troops by nationalist rebels were reported by military authorities today. One of the ambushes may have been by Algerian riflemen who staged a mass desertion from the French only Monday.

One battle occurred yesterday near El Milia in eastern Algeria, leaving 20 soldiers of the French and 34 rebels dead.

The second fight took place in the eastern Algerian area where strong French troop concentrations still are hunting 50 Algerian deserters.

Initial reports from the second fight gave no indication when it occurred and said only that the rebels suffered severe losses. It was near the military post at Sebedna where 11 Frenchmen died Monday when the Algerian troops defected to the rebels by apparent prearrangement.

French Foreign Legionnaires, colonial Senegalese troops and loyal Spahis poured into the area after the desertions and took part also in the latest fight.

The two ambush fights overshadowed other engagements throughout Algeria, but unofficial reports for the last 24 hours indicate at least 80 deaths in guerrilla fighting, assassinations and nationalist attacks.

# West Germans OK Defense Parlay With Western Allies

BONN, Germany, Feb. 22 (AP)—West Germany agreed today to bargain with the Big Three Western Powers on their claim for continued financial support for Allied forces in Germany.

Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano handed notes to the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and France to advise them of his government's decision.

Informed sources said the notes gave no indication of this government's readiness to continue paying.

Experts of the four powers probably will meet here next week to discuss the dispute.

Allied sources made it plain the Big Three are determined to press their claim hard, basing it on the fact that West Germany has no fighting force yet and depends entirely on the Allied forces for protection. The Big Three contend Germany is obligated to pay until she can look after her own defense.

# Students Plant Flag For Washington Fete

WATERTOWN, N.Y., Feb. 22 (AP)—British Union Jack flags flew briefly over four north-country communities today and proclamations on flagpoles said the territory had been "repossessed" by the British.

Police hauled them down soon after.

In Kingston, Ont., a group of Queen's University students said they had staged the raid to "reclaim" the territory in the name of King George III and to commemorate Washington's birthday.

The flags flew over schools in Watertown, Clayton, Alexandria Bay and Lafargeville, all in Jefferson County.

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