

Senate-Approved Tax Bill Sent to House Committee

Lower Chamber Also Passes New Measure

HARRISBURG, March 5 (AP)—The House tonight sent the 3 per cent sales tax to a conference committee to iron out a disagreement with the Senate on whether electric, gas, fuel oil and telephone bills should be taxed.

At the same time, Republicans and Democrats in the House joined in overwhelming number to pass, 155-43, a 3 per cent occupancy tax on hotels, motels and rooming houses.

First New Tax Passed
It was the first new tax passed by the 1955 Legislature since it convened more than 14 months ago and appeared to be a prelude to a solution of the tax problem.

The conference committee—it includes three senators and three assemblymen divided equally among Republicans and Democrats—went into an immediate huddle in their efforts to draft a sales tax compromise.

Smith Wants Revisions
Rep. Charles C. Smith, House Republican floor leader, said the House GOP minority insisted on these two revisions as a condition for supporting the sales tax:

1. Removing from the tax telephone, telegraph, fuel oil, gas, steam and electric services.
2. Providing that stamps be issued by dealers to ultimate consumers as evidence that the tax was paid.

Vote Could Be Tomorrow
"Unless these conditions are met this sales tax will never pass," he told a newsman. "If they are met, I predict the sales tax will pass tomorrow."

He said removing utility services from the tax would cut the overall 322 million dollar revenue estimate from the sales tax by 25 million dollars.

But he said the use of the stamp plan for collection of the tax would more than make up that difference.

Stevenson Blasts GOP Farm Program In Primary Fight

By The Associated Press
Adlai E. Stevenson yesterday blasted the Republicans on the farm issue, in his current efforts to win Minnesota's 30 votes in the Democratic presidential convention.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, the only other announced candidate for the Democratic nomination, planned to interrupt his New Hampshire campaign to contest with Stevenson in Minnesota.

There were advance reports that Kefauver would attack the record Stevenson made as governor of Illinois before he accepted the 1952 Democratic nomination that Kefauver tried hard to win for himself.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower entered Maryland's May 7 presidential primary. So did Kefauver.

Carr Takes Seat On State Court

SCRANTON, Pa., March 5 (AP)—Judge Philip O. Carr, 41, of Uniontown took his seat today as a member of the Pennsylvania Superior Court at the opening of its session here.

The jurist was sworn in by President Judge Chester H. Rhodes at the Lackawanna County courthouse. He was presented by Atty. Edward Dumbald of Uniontown.

Stock Market Soars

NEW YORK, March 5 (AP)—The stock market hit another new record high today in a performance that matched Friday's rally to historic levels.

SEATO Ministers Discuss Russia's Far East Plan

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 5 (AP)—Foreign ministers of the eight SEATO nations today informally threshed over suggestions for countering Russia's economic drive into Southeast Asia.

Although no details of the discussions were disclosed, statements by two of the leaders—U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau—gave some indication of the direction any new moves might take.

The delegates gathered here on the eve of the opening of the annual three-day meeting of what has become known as the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.
The conference is scheduled to

work out a program to meet the current Soviet peace drive.

Speaking privately to both American and Pakistan employes of the U.S. Embassy and other agencies here, Dulles warned that Moscow's new foreign policy might contain less violence but more guile.

This appeared to forecast a greater emphasis in SEATO on counter-subversion measures.

Dulles credited the ring of collective security arrangements built by the free countries with forcing Russia to adopt a policy of less open violence and intolerance.

That shift may make less likely a general war, Dulles said. He praised the peoples of the nations who cooperated and built a striking power so great that war was no longer a paying proposition to the aggressor.

Westinghouse Strike Still Not Ironed Out

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP)—Both the company and union involved in the 141-day Westinghouse strike tonight delayed their decisions on a government package plan for settling the long dispute.

Federal mediators who drafted the plan spent five hours with company and union representatives answering questions about it, then arranged to meet for an hour with the union alone.

James B. Carey, president of the striking International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), was reported objecting in the closed

HARRISBURG, March 5 (AP)—Westinghouse Electric Corp. today appealed a State Department of Labor and Industry ruling that some 23,000 workers idled by a labor dispute are eligible for unemployment benefits.

sessions to at least some phases of the settlement proposal.

The plan has not been made public, but some details have leaked out. It includes a proposal that the company reinstate 59 strikers fired for alleged violence, with arbitrators to decide whether 36 others should be restored to their jobs.

Carey reportedly insisted that the remaining 36 also be reinstated without arbitration.

Mediators were said to feel that while there were some roadblocks to acceptance of the plan, they could be overcome.

Robert D. Blasier, company vice president and chief management negotiator, was reported balking at any change in the plans terms and insisting that company and union should either accept or reject the entire package deal.

Icardi Appeals 2d Indictment

PITTSBURGH, March 5 (AP)—Aldo Icardi, already under a perjury indictment in a wartime OSS Office of Strategic Service murder in Italy, today sought dismissal of an indictment charging him with trying to influence a witness in a Federal Housing Administration case.

Federal Judge Herbert P. Sorg took the motion under advisement.

The government charges Icardi with approaching Mrs. Virginia B. Petro of Aliquippa, a witness in a FHA fraud case against a Pittsburgh contractor.

Ike Plays Golf on Lawn

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP)—President Eisenhower practiced golf shots in springlike weather this afternoon on the south lawn of the White House.

Lawyer Says Neff Sought to Buy Vote

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP)—An Iowa lawyer swore today that lawyer-lobbyist John M. Neff offered \$2500 for Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper's vote in favor of the natural gas bill.

Wendell T. Edson of Storm Lake, Iowa, told a special Senate committee that Neff visited him last fall as a representative of the Superior Oil Co. of California and offered to drop the money in Hickenlooper's campaign kitty if the Iowa Republican voted for the bill.

Britain Leaves Jordan; Stacks Might on Cyprus

LONDON, March 5 (AP)—Britain pulled more of its waning power out of Jordan today and grimly decided to stack all its remaining Middle East might on Cyprus.

To prepare the way for the last stand on the island, the British made it clear they would no longer tolerate Greek Cypriot violence behind the army's back.

The immediate retort from the Greek Cypriot leadership was defiance.

Similar defiance in varying degree since early 1948 has driven the British successively out of Palestine, Egypt, Iraq (where the Baghdad Pact preserves a British tie), the Sudan and now Jordan.

Jordan has served as Britain's last mainland Middle East military preserve.

Announcing the collapse of negotiations aimed at bringing domestic peace to Cyprus, Prime Minister Eden's government threatened to use its armed might to enforce law and order.

Archbishop Makarios, leader of the island's union-with-Greece movement, immediately declared his followers will "struggle to the last, resisting passively the illegal sovereignty over the island."

Cyprus is Britain's headquarters for air and land forces in the whole Mideast. It lies in the far Eastern Mediterranean, about equally distant from Turkey and Syria.

U.S. Military Aides In Secret Huddle

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP)—America's top military commanders have assembled secretly in Puerto Rico for an intensive "new look" at this country's defense strategy in the light of changing world conditions.

News that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had left for a week-long huddle was confirmed tonight by the Pentagon.

A spokesman there said the military chiefs flew to a secluded rendezvous in Puerto Rico last Saturday.

Neff Backs Edson
Neff, called back before the investigators, acknowledged that Edson's story was essentially correct.

"I would say from his point of view it was substantially true," Neff said.

Edson testified he considered the offer "a hot potato" and that he never told Hickenlooper about it. The inquiry has brought out that no money was ever contributed by Neff to Hickenlooper's campaign fund.

Votes for Bill
Hickenlooper voted for the gas bill, a controversial measure to exempt natural gas producers from direct federal price control.

When the legislation reached the White House last month, however, President Eisenhower vetoed it with a slap at the "arrogance" and "highly questionable activities" of some of its advocates.

Neff Confronted
Neff was confronted today with his prior testimony that, as far as he could recall, he had told the committee about "every offer . . . every undertaking" in connection with the gas bill. Charles W. Steadman, committee counsel, asked him why he hadn't mentioned his visit to Edson.

McKeldin Seizes Striking Transit

BALTIMORE, March 5 (AP)—Gov. Theodore McKeldin, playing his last card in an attempt to get streetcars and buses running here after 36 days of idleness, today seized the Baltimore Transit Co. Moments later an official of the AFL-CIO union representing the company's 2000 striking employees said service should be resumed within 48 hours.

McKeldin had announced he would take over the company under a three-day-old Maryland law unless its contract dispute with the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees were settled.

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