

# Senate Witness Accused Of \$39,000 Fund Theft

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate investigators heard yesterday that a missing witness stole some \$39,000 from the New York State Federation of Labor.

The testimony came as a witness who had agreed to appear, Sidney Lewis of New York, dropped dead in the committee headquarters a few hours before his scheduled appearance.

## Joint Committee Agrees on Hike In Military Pay

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military pay raise bill designed to make a career in the armed services more attractive was agreed on yesterday by a Senate-House Conference Committee.

The first year cost of the pay boosts, ranging from six per cent to as high as 60 per cent, was placed at \$576.4 million. Virtually all military personnel with two years or more of service would benefit.

The final draft of the legislation—passed by the Senate and the House in different forms—is in line with President Eisenhower's recommendations for pay raises to keep and attract trained manpower in the armed forces.

The conferees accepted the new pay scales provided in the Senate bill. These generally were less generous than those in the House bill, which would have cost \$683 million the first year.

The only major change in the Senate bill would permit an increase in retirement benefits for three and four star generals already in retirement. The cost of this was estimated at \$400 thousand.

The measure now goes back to the House and then to the Senate for final action. If passed and then signed by Eisenhower this month, the new pay scales would go into effect June 1.

## Explorers Report Stars Don't Twinkle

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Two space explorers, a seasoned balloonist and the first astronomer to observe the heavens from the stratosphere, said yesterday, they found the stars don't twinkle when observed from about 40,000 feet over the earth.

Navy Cmdr. Malcolm D. Ross and Alfred H. Mikesell smiled through beard stubble as they reported their experimental balloon flight very successful.

The two were weary and hungry after being flown here from Dubuque, Iowa, near where their balloon came down in a clover field yesterday morning.

The ascent provided the first test of techniques that some day will be used to record men's physical reactions in an orbiting satellite. Heartbeats, respiration and other physical data were recorded by radio and transmitted

# U.S. Begins Foreign Trade Bill AEC Tests At Eniwetok

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 1958 nuclear tests at Eniwetok in the Pacific are under way.

The Atomic Energy Commission yesterday tersely confirmed that an explosion was set off on April 28. This word from the AEC came after the test was revealed by Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) in a House speech. He returned Tuesday from the scene.

The AEC would not confirm Porter's statement that the explosion was the first of 30 nuclear test explosions scheduled.

Porter revealed the blast in a speech renewing his demand for an end to nuclear testing.

He said he did not witness the test but his speech had been cleared by the AEC. Porter said he was not at liberty to disclose the nature of the April 28 experiment.

Porter urged that all such tests be halted or, he said, they will intensify the atomic arms race. He said unauthorized or accidental explosions are inevitable.

A radiation danger area of approximately 400,000 square miles in the Eniwetok and Bikini area has been closed to shipping since mid-April as a prelude to the 1958 nuclear tests.

The AEC and the Defense Department announced originally that the tests will be aimed at advancing development of weapons for defense against airborne and missile attack by a potential enemy. Another purpose, they said, is to further the development of nuclear weapons with reduced fallout.

On May 2, the Defense Department said it soon would test short-range defense missiles with nuclear warheads. It said they would be launched from remote Johnston Island—roughly 1500 to 1700 miles northeast of Eniwetok.

# Foreign Trade Bill Compromise Sought

WASHINGTON (AP)—The administration stood pat yesterday on its proposal to extend the reciprocal trade agreements program despite warnings that if President Eisenhower does not compromise he may get no extension at all.

However, the door still seemed open for working out disagreements that have stymied the President's proposal in Congress.

The House Ways and Means Committee, which abruptly halted hearings Tuesday, has given Eisenhower until Monday to come up with a solution.

"We didn't come to any agreement on anything," Secretary of Commerce Weeks told reporters after an hour-long meeting in the office of House Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex).

"We're right where we were when we started," Weeks said, adding:

"We sent up a bill we believe in. I told them we sent up a bill on which the administration spent a lot of time, and we still want the bill."

Republican House Leader Joseph Martin of Massachusetts, who attended the session, gave newsmen a slightly more conciliatory report.

"The administration is standing on its original bill," he said, "but it doesn't look like we can get the bill through. There might be a compromise, but we don't know."

The ways and means committee will resume consideration of the bill Monday after giving Eisenhower a chance to come up with his own compromise.

Rayburn told reporters earlier he had advised Eisenhower 10 days ago there had to be some concessions.

## Fleming Chosen Welfare Secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marion B. Folsom put an Aug. 1 deadline on his departure as secretary of welfare and President Eisenhower announced the choice of Arthur S. Flemming to succeed him.

The shift had been anticipated. Only Tuesday, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said Folsom had renewed a request that he be excused from further service as secretary.

Flemming, 53, has spent virtually all his adult life as an educator and government official. He is now president of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Folsom, who is 64, said in his letter of resignation that he is leaving for personal reasons that he did not specify.

Lewis, who was in the publishing business, was the fourth prospective witness to die before he could testify before the Senate Rackets Committee.

The hearing went into alleged high-pressure sale of advertising for union publications, and three witnesses said the missing figure in the case, Benjamin Lapensohn, held out more than \$167 thousand from the federation in such sales.

Committee aides Robert E. Dunne and Charles E. Wolfe added, however, that Lapensohn was entitled to 75 per cent of his gross sales and so the net theft was something over \$39 thousand.

Eleanor Lekowitz, who used to manage Lapensohn's New York office, said federation funds had a way of vanishing from the office safe while she was at lunch.

Asked if it was Lapensohn who took them, the slender brunette witness replied, "It had to be." Lapensohn, who has left the country and been unavailable to committee investigators, had a contract as head of Rolee Publications in New York to solicit ads and contributions for the yearly New York Federationist, which he published for the union group.

Robert F. Kennedy, chief committee counsel, told newsmen there was no connection between Lapensohn and Lewis, except that some of Lewis' employes had worked for Lapensohn.

Another witness, Ruben H. Miller, testified he made some \$7000 a year on the side out of handling advertising for a Pennsylvania yearbook with a circulation of 600 to 800 copies.

## 8 African Nations Set Up UN Group

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Eight independent African nations set up a new group in the United Nations yesterday. It is an outgrowth of the 8-nation conference in Accra, Ghana, last month.

The nations are Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic.

A spokesman said the conference was not convened to form an African bloc but rather to show Africa's readiness to cooperate with the rest of the world.

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