

UAR News Agency Says Khrushchev Wants Battle

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—The United Arab Republic's Middle East News Agency said yesterday Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has opened a showdown battle between Arab nationalism and the "new Communist imperialism in the Middle East."

A news analyst for the semi-official agency made the statement in commenting on Khrushchev's criticism Monday of U.A.R. President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Lawrence Hopes For Tax Boost

HARRISBURG (AP)—Gov. Lawrence yesterday voiced a hope that House Democrats would pass—without Republican help—a \$264 million sales tax boost at a special midnight session tonight.

He disclosed that a half dozen Democratic holdouts against the measure were called into his office during the day, quickly adding: "I didn't get tough. I tried to reason with them on the problem that faces us."

Lawrence told his news conference that "some of them" withdrew their opposition but he declined to give a specific figure.

Both Lawrence and Rep. Stephen McCann, Democratic floor leader, declined to make a prediction on whether the needed 106 votes can be produced for the bill out of the 107-member Democratic majority.

Rep. Allen M. Gibson (R.-Warren), Republican assistant floor leader, said there has been no change in his party's policy to withhold support, for the first roll call at least, from the measure which would increase the sales tax from 3 to 3½ per cent.

The legislation also would extend the sales tax to trade-ins on automobiles and to beer and liquor, two areas of dispute among rank-and-file Democrats.

Lawrence said as many as 18 or 20 Democrats have rebelled against the measure but that the figure has now been reduced. He wouldn't say by how many but it would take only two to block passage if the GOP voted solidly against it.

The midnight session was called because another legislative day would be needed after amendments are made Wednesday.

Strauss Quizzed For New Post

WASHINGTON (AP)—The storm that is expected to erupt in Senate hearings on Lewis L. Strauss' nomination as secretary of commerce was missing yesterday as the Senate Commerce Committee began quizzing him on his views. In an atmosphere of academic calm, the 63-year-old Strauss, center of some hot controversies in the past, spent three hours answering questions about Russia's economic offensive and U.S. restrictions on trade with Iron Curtain countries.

The hearing may spread over several weeks. Strauss, a former New York investment banker and a reserve admiral, succeeded Sinclair Weeks as secretary of commerce Nov. 13 under a recess appointment. President Eisenhower sent his nomination to the Senate when the new session began this year.

Most of the opposition to Strauss stems from his service as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn), most outspoken foe of Strauss, calls Strauss the "chief promoter, defender and advocate" of the controversial Dixon-Yates power contract.

The Dixon-Yates contract, negotiated in 1954, was to build a government power plant at West Memphis, Ark., to feed electricity into the TVA system to replace power drawn off by AEC plants.

After ground was broken for the plant, the government ordered the contract canceled on grounds that a conflict of interest was involved.

Strauss started his testimony with a statement explaining why he rejected an offer by Eisenhower to reappoint him chairman of the AEC last June 30 when his five-year term ended.

Foreign Aid Figures Publication Urged

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio) said yesterday he is so annoyed and disgusted that his is going to make public "what some of these dictators get" in foreign aid from the United States.

Hays repeated this threat several times during an out-of-the-ordinary row in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The row was set off by a committee decision to exclude the public and the press from questioning of Undersecretary of State C. Douglas Dillon.

If Hays carries out his announced intention, he will break a precedent of several years standing. Country-by-country figures on military aid have been kept secret on security grounds. Economic aid totals by countries have been announced on occasion, in the past tense.

Hays charged—and Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa) promptly denied—that the secret committee meeting was the idea of President Eisenhower's administration.

Hays said he is tired of hearing "the same leading questions the administration sent up here" to be asked—questions "that witnesses have written answers all ready for."

The blowup over secrecy was only the stormiest of several events marking the second day the committee has considered President Eisenhower's \$3.93 billion foreign aid proposal.

A special presidential advisory panel urged that the approximately \$1.5 billion military part of the program be increased by 400 million, primarily for missiles and jet aircraft for NATO countries.

Benson to Recommend Increased Soil Bank

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson said yesterday the Eisenhower administration may recommend a broadened soil bank program to take nearly twice as much cropland out of production as at present.

The Soviet Premier accused Nasser of stirring up trouble in Iraq for Premier Abdel Karim Kassem. He also announced Soviet support for Kassem.

The commentator said Khrushchev gave "clearcut proof that the Arab Communist parties receive instruction from Moscow."

"It also proves that Khrushchev is openly interfering in Arab affairs to bring the entire Arab region under Communist control, using Iraq as a spearhead," he added.

The agency had distributed a statement from Nasser replying to Khrushchev. Nasser said Khrushchev's support of communism in the Middle East is "a challenge to the Arab people's will."

Khrushchev delivered his criticism of Nasser at a reception for visiting Iraqi officials in the Soviet capital Monday night. It came after Nasser's denunciation of Kassem and Iraqi Communists in a series of speeches in Damascus last week.

Pike Workers Go On Strike In New Jersey

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—Workers walked off their jobs on the New Jersey Turnpike yesterday. They said they had a long list of grievances against the toll road.

A few toll collectors stayed at their posts. Nonstriking office personnel also helped man the exits. Except for rush-hour jams, traffic was kept moving with a system of reduced tolls.

Late yesterday the Turnpike Authority announced it would suspend all striking toll collectors and maintenance workers unless they reported back to work with their regular shifts.

One temporary collector announced to all motorists: "St. Patrick's Day special—25 cents."

Lawrence Asked Study of Fund

HARRISBURG (AP)—The Senate yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution asking Gov. Lawrence to name a committee to study the state's dwindling Unemployment Compensation Fund.

"The rapid depletion of the Unemployment Compensation Fund is equally as important as the tax problem which we presently face," the measure stated.

Sen. Edward J. Kessler (R.-Lancaster) said such a study is urgently needed to determine what loopholes exist in the present law.

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