

# Draft Act Convictions Of Jehovah's Witnesses Reversed

## High Court Rules Two Men Denied Proper Trial Major Decision For Objectors

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court threw out convictions of two Jehovah's Witnesses for violating the draft law today in decisions of far-reaching importance to other conscientious objectors.

The court held the men were denied proper trials by lower courts which refused to hear evidence on questions that draft classifications were arbitrary and unjust. In both cases, the convicted men contended they should be classed as ministers of the Gospel exempt from the draft.

The court's decisions delivered the court's unanimous opinions in the case of the Jehovah's Witnesses. In one case, William J. Potts was sentenced to five years for refusal to go to a military training camp as ordered by his draft board. In the other, Thomas H. B. D. D., the court's decision that draft laws are unconstitutional.

1. Refused to review a writ against collection of a post office money order. D. Johnson of Greene County, Tenn., who brought it, contended the tax is unconstitutional. The lower court ruled against the writ and the Supreme Court decision that draft laws are unconstitutional.

The Labor Relations board awarded back pay to a worker at the Jones and Laughlin steel plant in Cleveland, Ohio, who was discharged by the C. I. Atkins and Company Inc., Cleveland.

2. Declined to review a draft law involving the issue of what is meant by religion in that phrase of the Selective Training and Service Act. The court's decision to grant certiorari to review the case of a conscientious objector but was classified 1-1.

3. Reversed the court's decision in San Francisco said that a religious belief is a conscientious belief in, and devotion to, the teachings of all new religions. The court's decision in the case of a conscientious objector but was classified 1-1.

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## Senate Post Office Taft Will Ask Chairmanship Of Labor Committee

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio said today he will ask the chairmanship of the Senate Labor Committee when Republican Senators meet Dec. 30 to organize for their new majority role.

By analogy, Taft would have the choice of the Labor Chairmanship or head of the tax-writing Finance Committee.

Announcing his decision to ask for the Labor post, the Ohio Republican said in a statement that he plans to remain on the Finance Committee.

He announced too that he hopes to continue as Chairman of the Republican Steering Committee.

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## Jap Death Toll Put At 1,25 Quake-Tidal Wave Casualties Rise

By TOM LAMBERT  
TOKYO (AP)—With the toll of dead calculated as high as 1,192, far the most of wretched, shivering Japanese tonight huddled around fires near the waterlogged wreckage of the city destroyed by the earth quake and tidal waves early Saturday.

The Home Ministry listed 1,028 dead, with reports still coming in from previously isolated areas in Southern Shikoku Island and the Wakayama peninsula. Kyodo news agency reported its count at 1,125 killed. Kyodo listed 2,700 killed, missing and injured.

COLD WIND BLOWS  
A bitter cold wind blew steadily across Japan from the Manchurian plains, adding to the miserable discomfort of Japanese who lost their homes and relatives or friends in the tragic dawn Saturday.

The homeless—tens of thousands—were huddled under rail-line awnings, in the open, or in the huts of the shivering winter fire against the biting winter wind. Many were unable to deliver emergency food, clothing and medical supplies.

At least 145 are missing and 1,032 injured, and reported that well over 100,000 people were made homeless.

Commander of the U. S. 8th Army, announced yesterday that 100,000 Japanese were reported killed or injured. Less than 100,000 Japanese were reported killed or injured.

The new regulations were made public by Federal Housing Director Frank R. Gooden and National Housing Administrator Raymond M. Foley at a joint news conference. They will take effect simultaneously with the new priorities system established under the warrental control program.



BACK IN BUSINESS—When the Germans retreated in 1944, they destroyed many French bridges, among them this railroad bridge at Nogent Sur Marne, which was originally built in 1855. Here the bridge is being tested by several locomotives. The test successful, bridge was opened to traffic.

## Navy Vessel Leaves Port In Wake Of Ultimatum Only 20 Minutes Notice Given

By WILLIAM H. NEWTON  
(Representing the Communist World Press)

DAIREN, Manchuria, Dec. 20 (Delayed)—(AP)—The United States Navy ship pulled out of the port of Dairen this afternoon after receiving a verbal ultimatum from Russian military officials to the effect that "unless you leave within twenty minutes we will not be responsible for the consequences."

Previously, the Russian military commander in charge of the city had refused to permit an American businessman to enter the city from U. S. authorities to deliver. Also denied permission to land were two American newspapermen representing the Communist world.

Russian troops have surrounded Dairen since the Japanese surrendered. Although the Chinese-Soviet pact is in effect, the Russian government has refused to permit an American businessman to enter the city from U. S. authorities to deliver. Also denied permission to land were two American newspapermen representing the Communist world.

## Would Limit Liability Chamber Maps Portal Pay Fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States Chamber of Commerce disclosed plans today to marshal its 2,000 member organizations behind a drive in Congress to relieve employers from possible "portal-to-portal" pay liabilities dating back to 1938.

Spurred by the snow-balling claims of workers in mass production industries for pay for normal overtime rates for travel and other non-production time not paid for, the Chamber will submit a referendum Friday to its entire membership.

These members in turn will poll some 30,000 companies on a series of proposals to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

It is this act which makes the backpay suits possible. It established a 44-hour week for the first year, then a 40-hour week for 1940 for employers engaged in producing goods for interstate commerce.

Earlier this year the Supreme Court decision in the Mt. Clemens case involving Lewis & Clark Pottery Workers at Mt. Clemens, Mich., gave employees an entitlement to pay for time spent preparing for their jobs on the LAWIS CONTRACT.

This became known as the portal-to-portal case, because of the contract arrangement John L. Lewis, leader of the union, was making pay for time spent in traveling from the pit mouth to the work site.

The Mt. Clemens case, the court ruled that the pottery workers had been putting in more than 40 hours a week, and hence had extra time coming to them on the overtime rate. Under the law these automatically are doubled when the employee has to do the extra work.

The amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act are to be presented to Congress with the overall aim of restoring the business world to the status of 1938, less than eight years, in these circumstances.

## New Rules On Housing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top housing officials today formally announced the new rules which become effective tomorrow for construction of new homes.

These include a 1,000-square-foot limit on floor area which officials said will permit construction of a standard, three-bedroom home with a maximum of 1,000 square feet of living space and the equipping of more than one bathroom.

The new regulations were made public by Federal Housing Director Frank R. Gooden and National Housing Administrator Raymond M. Foley at a joint news conference. They will take effect simultaneously with the new priorities system established under the warrental control program.

Although outstanding priorities will be honored, builders using the new rules will be subject to restrictions, including a \$10,000 ceiling, an 800 rental limit and the lowering of standards and inspection requirements of the old program.

Most of those limitations will be junked for those who obtain Federal permits beginning tomorrow.

The Home Ministry said peace and order are being maintained in all stricken districts from which reports have been received.

Highly Japanese doctors went to the Wakayama peninsula to contact with the Red Cross and other relief agencies.

The Home Ministry also sent 600,000 one-meal ration units, varying from hardtack to preserved seafood and canned goods.

The American Government units also were rushing the distribution of clothing and food, most of which had been donated by former Japanese military stocks for use as an emergency.

Five observers were in the field, but the officials said the Red Cross has not yet begun distributing relief.

## 'Fire Trap' Charged

ATLANTA (AP)—A Fulton County Grand Jury investigating the disastrous Wincoff Hotel fire, which claimed 119 lives, today indicted the lessee of the hotel on three counts of involuntary manslaughter and accused them of operating a "fire trap."

Fulton County Solicitor E. R. Andrews said indictments were returned against A. F. Geisler Sr. and A. F. Geisler Jr. of Shoberyan, Wis., and R. E. O'Connell, Chicago detective, who have been operating the downtown hotel since 1934.

The three were each indicted on one felony count of involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of 119 persons, and on three misdemeanors counts in the deaths of three men "wilfully and wantonly engaged" in the operation of a hotel which had no escape fire escapes.

It was stated that the probable consequences might endanger the lives of guests.

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## Quads Born In Baltimore Veteran Looks For House After Sudden Increase In His Family

BALTIMORE (AP)—Charles Henry, who has four (quad) boys and a girl—the British girl he married during the war. The couple were placed immediately after birth yesterday in individual foster homes as a precautionary measure, although Dr. Thomas J. Boyer, who made the deliveries, said the chances of survival were "very, very good."

The 28-year-old mother also is a "good condition" after the delivery which was performed without anesthesia in 35 minutes at the St. Agnes Hospital.

PARENTS VETERANS  
The couple who have another son, Johnny, about fifteen months old, was married in England last year. He was a sergeant with the 84th Division and Mrs. Henry, a nurse. Dorothy Cleveland, 41, is the mother of the youngest persons in the hospital and after the delivery carried a "British" girl, who was placed in a foster home before she was a day old. The quads were not weighed, but Dr. William H. Sawyer, who with Dr. Walter Beaumont assisted at the delivery, estimated they were "approximately half normal size, or about four pounds apiece."

Henry, who didn't get his first look at his new offspring until three hours after their birth, said he and his wife had picked no names, although they were informed by X-rays last November that the quadruplets were on the way.

"We didn't want to tempt fate," he said. "We say that they give them names. We know, of course, Dorothy Cleveland, 41, is the mother of the youngest persons in the hospital and after the delivery carried a "British" girl, who was placed in a foster home before she was a day old. The quads were not weighed, but Dr. William H. Sawyer, who with Dr. Walter Beaumont assisted at the delivery, estimated they were "approximately half normal size, or about four pounds apiece."

## Hiroshima Victims Have Skin Tumors

TOKYO (AP)—More than sixteen months after Hiroshima was atomic-bombed, victims of leprosy, cancer, skin tumors are the greatest number in the world. The Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) of Tokyo Imperial University—but they are improving.

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## Fire And 4 Children Die

OTTAWA (AP)—A Christmas Eve tragedy took place at a bar racks which had been converted into a rooming house for children burned to death. Mrs. Patrick Seagraves, mother of five children, who took refuge in the rooming house, was injured and her husband was killed. The fire broke out in the rooming house, which was converted into a rooming house for children burned to death. Mrs. Patrick Seagraves, mother of five children, who took refuge in the rooming house, was injured and her husband was killed. The fire broke out in the rooming house, which was converted into a rooming house for children burned to death.

## Meanest Man Nominated

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A nomination for the meanest man came today from the Somerset Journal Club which reported someone had done 25 bad things in the last 24 hours and other ornaments from a community Christmas tree that club members had to choose from. The "meanest man" was nominated as the "meanest man" in the community.

## Jack Belk Grew 1,529 Lbs. Of Cotton On One Acre

Jack Belk, Fairview 4-H Club boy from Union County, grew 1,529 pounds of cotton and 2,566 pounds of seed on one acre of light gravel soil, and at a cost of only \$101.15. When you consider that his cotton brought \$611.63, you know why Jack won state 4-R club cotton championship. Read Jack's story in today's Carolina Farmer.

## Christmas Tree Catches

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## No Paper Christmas Day

The Charlotte News, in keeping with a long-standing custom of previous years, will not publish on Christmas Day. The News will suspend publication for the day in order that all employees may enjoy Christmas with their families. The News organization stands with all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

## The News Will Take A Holiday Wednesday

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## Earth Shock Described

TOKYO (AP)—The slipper of a Japanese-manned LST (landing ship tank) which was twelve miles off the coast of the Philippines during the time of Bahrday earthquakes reported today the feeling was "as if the hull had hit a mine" or "as if the ship had been hit by a mine."