Re: Gas Tax

The interlocking of the road bonds and gasoline tax in the election scheduled June 4 is a confusing issue. A discussion of it with a table of gas impost figures from other states is on the editorial page today.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolines

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Eisler Is Jailed To Await Deportation Hearing

GOVERNMENT EDGES INTO FORD STRIKE

Fugitive Red Denied Bail In Britain

U. S. Admits Ship Seizure Threatened

By CHARLES WHITING

LONDON — (AP) — A London magistrate today sent Communist Gerhart Eisler back to jail for at least eight days to await a hearing on whether he will be returned to the United States as a fugitive from justice.

Eisler was refused bail by the Bow St. Court, which ordered him remanded in custody." He jumped $23,500 bail in the United States and fled as a stowaway. He now must show cause why he should not be extradited.

Eisler's counsel offered "substantial sureties" in his bail plea, but Magistrate J. W. Eastwood said Eisler "has been convicted of a crime—that is, perjury—by a properly appointed court of the United States, and his appeal against that has been dismissed."

LED TO CELL

When the 25-minute hearing ended, the alleged top Communist of America was led off to a cell-block by a warder.

Eisler's counsel, Dudley Collard, told the court he hopes to prove that the defendant was charged with an offense of a "political character."

"He is not not has he ever been a member of the Communist Party of America," said the attorney. "He is and has always been a German National."

(In a speech at a dinner in New York March 3, Eisler said: "I am not the No. 1 Communist. I am only an average Communist individual.")

While the hearing was going on, members of the House of Commons argued about the Eisler case. One Labor member asked Prime Minister Clement Attlee if Ede whether Eisler "will be accorded the traditional rights of asylum accorded to (political) refugees."

Ede, whose department supervises courts, replied:

"It is not what the man claims to be but what the facts reveal him to be." He said Britain must await the evidence before deciding.

Jerzy Michalowski, Poland's Ambassador in London, had a half-hour interview about the case with British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. The Embassy already had announced its intention of making a strong protest against the removal of Eisler from the Batory.

THREAT CONFIRMED

In Washington, the U. S. State Dept. confirmed that it had threatened action to seize the Batory unless Eisler was surrendered to British authorities. Such notice was served on the ship's captain, the department said, in the form of a warning that the Attorney-General would proceed against the steamship line in the United States for such penalties as the law provided.

The hearing on the United States request began shortly after Eisler arrived from Southampton. He claims asylum in Britain as a political refugee from the United States.

The proceeding was brief. Eisler listened intently in the prisoner's enclosure while a Scotland Yard inspector testified how he took the fugitive off the Batory Saturday night.

Eisler was brought here by two husky policemen in a big black car. Apparently calm, he smiled and waved to four Communists who paraded solemnly before the court with placards denouncing his arrest.

The hospitalized 52 - year-old Communist had been ordered earlier by a Southampton Magistrate's court to show cause in Bow Street why British should

See EISLER on page 8-A

'KISSING JIM' IS FATHER

Gov. James E. (Kissing Jim) Folsom smiles down on his new-born son at Montgomery, Ala., Saturday. The tot weighed in at eight pounds, six ounces. Mrs. Folsom says she will call him "Little Jim" but the official name hasn't been decided upon. Both mother and child were reported "doing just fine." (AP Wirephoto.)

Four Killed As Tornado Hits Texas

Storm Smashes Amarillo Area

By WILLIAM C. BARNARD

AMARILLO, Tex. — (AP) — A skipping, whipsawing tornado chewed up a four-square mile area in Southern Amarillo last night, killing four people. About 70 were injured.

It was the first destructive tornado in the 62-year-old history of this Panhandle capital of 102,000 people.

Dawn found Red Cross and volunteer workers still picking their way through acres of shambles. It looked as if a big kitchen mixer had dipped in, stirred everything up, and then spewed it around.

Although many sections of Amarillo were hit, the tornado's most destructive blow fell on the southern area dotted largely with new homes of veterans. A near-cloudburst — and hailstones as large as a man's fist—added to the damage.

HELP COMES

Ambulances and highway patrol units funneled into Amarillo from a 200-mile radius, bringing injured to the crowded hospitals. Red Cross people flew in from St. Louis.

Property damage here may be added heavy loss to crops in the wheat-rich Texas Panhandle—that part of the state which juts up to the sky bordered by New Mexico and Oklahoma. Hail such as fell here would destroy the near-ripe wheat. Communication and transportation lines made it difficult to discover the extent of the hailstorm.

Three carloads of pigs, smashed free from their freight-car prison, added to the wreckage here. Curious sight - seers thronged streets already littered with tossed roofings, smashed trees, shredded lumber and toppled trees. Some rooftops had been blown a mile.

Night rescue work was carried on by the lights of cars, ambulances and trucks. Electric power was out.

The four identified dead were:

Mrs. Lois Martin, 30.

Eva McPherson, 56.

George McPherson, 67.

Mrs. Charles Maserang, age unknown.

Cars by the hundreds massed at the edge of the storm's handiwork. Two persons on the edge of the throng was heard to cry:

"Let me in there. I have a home in there."

The twister seemed to hit first on 28th St. It moved south. Roofs left houses in the whirling wind and trees were uprooted and laid on their side.

First reports from an ambulance driver that 25 to 50 persons might have died in the swift blow did not materialize.

One hospital had 34 known injured and another had 29. Most suffered cuts and bruises but some were unconscious.

PLANES DESTROYED

Louis Nordyke of the Amarillo Globe-News said officials at the Tradewinds Airport in Amarillo reported 45 planes were destroyed and that two hangars were flattened. Damage there alone was estimated at $200,000. Nordyke said Massey-Harris, biggest farm implement dealer in the Panhandle, reported another $200,000 damage. Most of it was in badly needed wheat combines and other harvesting equipment.

Even When Inflammatory

Right Of Free Speech Upheld

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Supreme Court split 5 to 4 today in declaring the right of free speech exists even when the utterances stir people to anger and unrest.

The majority opinion prompted a hot dissent by Justice Jackson that "if this court does not temper its doctrinaire logic with a little practical wisdom it will convert the Constitutional Bill of Rights into a suicide pact."

The case involved a $100 fine imposed on Arthur Terminiello for a speech he delivered in the Chicago Auditorium Feb. 7, 1946.

Terminiello appealed from an Illinois Supreme Court decision upholding his conviction on a disorderly conduct charge. The Illinois court said he made "wild, intemperate and inflammatory utterances" which "tended to incite to violence against the angry mob outside."

Justice Douglas delivered today's majority decision. Chief Justice Vinson wrote a dissenting opinion. Justice Frankfurter also wrote a dissenting opinion in which Justices Jackson and Burton concurred. Jackson also wrote a separate dissenting opinion in which Justice Burton joined.

The record in the case showed Terminiello had been invited to address the Chicago meeting by Gerald L. K. Smith. His speech the high tribunal was told preached hatred of the New Deal and of Jews, contempt for England and charged Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt "with being a Communist."

Douglas, for the majority, declared that "a function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute."

"It may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger," Douglas added.

Jackson, however, declared that Terminiello's victory today "certainly fulfills the most extravagant hopes of both right and left totalitarian groups, who want nothing so much as to paralyze and discredit the only democratic authority that can curb them in their battle for the streets."

Jackson continued:

"We must bear in mind that no serious outbreak of mob violence, race rioting, lynching or public disorder is likely to get going without help of some speech-making to some mass of people.

"A street may be filled with men and women and the crowd still not be a mob. Unity of purpose, passion and hatred, which merges the many minds of a crowd into the mindlessness of a mob, almost invariably is supplied by speeches."

Jackson stressed, however, that he is not suggesting "that the United States can or should meet this dilemma by suppression of free, open and public speaking on the part of any group or ideology." He asserted:

"My confidence in American institutions and in the sound sense of the American people is such that if with a stroke of the pen I could silence every Fascist and Communist speaker, I would not do it."

Ching Takes Steps To Bring Peace

Federal Official Sees Reuther

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Federal Government edged into the Ford strike today.

Cyrus S. Ching, Federal mediation director, took these steps:

1. He assigned Arthur C. Vlat, Detroit conciliator, to keep in touch with the union company negotiations and authorized him to sit in on them, or stay out, whichever seemed to hold the most promise of speeding a settlement.

2. He conferred here with Walter C. Reuther, president of the striking CIO United Automobile Workers.

3. He announced he would confer by telephone with Henry Ford II, president of the Ford Motor Co.

Ching already had stepped into the case to the extent of sending a telegram to both sides last week saying that if they did not make progress toward a settlement the Government would have to take a hand in the public interest.

MORE PRESSURE

Today's developments added more Government pressure for a strike-ending agreement.

Coming out of Ching's office after their conference here, Reuther told reporters Ching wanted "have a man there today" — meaning at the strike negotiations in Detroit.

But Vlat stayed out of the formal talks.

The union had asked the mediation service to intervene in the strike.

FORD OFFERS HELP

The Ford Motor Co., with 120,000 men idle, had declared in Detroit that it would give "all possible assistance" to any Federal peace effort.

President Henry Ford II asked, however, that Ching "weigh carefully" certain factors other than the strike itself before stepping into the dispute. One of these was the company's contention that factionalism and politics in the union led to the strike.

Union officials deny that. They say the walkout May 5 was due to a "speed up" in work schedules.

Reuther told reporters here that the charge the walkout is a "political strike" is "completely unfounded."

Reuther also said Henry Ford "could be of more service by accepting his responsibility to enter the negotiations personally."

Reuther added:

"This is a practical problem that can be solved by practical men, and not by competing propaganda handouts."

Reuther said he came here for a series of CIO meetings.

But before going to CIO headquarters Reuther, he dropped in on Ching and "told him he ought to enter this case and learn the facts because Ford's public position is different from their real position."

In Detroit, Vlat said that he would not enter the case unless today's negotiating sessions failed to put the parties nearer settlement of the dispute.

He said he would maintain a hands-off policy even if today's sessions continue until midnight.

That means that even though the Government decides today to enter the dispute, its mediator would not attend negotiating sessions before tomorrow.

After today's meetings are entirely over Vlat plans to review the dispute with both the company and the union and determine his course of action.

Asked to explain the company's statement toward Federal mediation in the talks, John S. Bugas, Ford vice president, said during the noon recess: "We prefer to be left alone."

In the morning meeting, a union spokesman said, Emil Mazey, UAW secretary-treasurer, "urged the company to 'put up or shut up' regarding its charge that union politics led to the walkout.

"Unless the company can prove that politics has something to do with the strike, it should drop the subject and take up the real issues in the dispute," the spokesman quoted Mazey as saying.

He also said that Bugas admitted the company couldn't prove the politics charge.

Bugas had no comment regarding the morning meeting.

Dollar Shortage Easing

Truman Reports Europe Gains

WASHINGTON— (AP) —President Truman today forecast a 30 per cent slash in the critical dollar shortage of Europe's Marshall Plan countries by the middle of this year.

But he coupled with his report of "satisfactory progress" a warning that these nations must achieve "extensive" economic expansion and reform if they are to become independent of American aid by the end of 1952 when Marshall Plan dollars are due to give out.

His sum-up was in a report to Congress on the work of the Economic Co-operation Administration during the last quarter of 1948. Mr. Truman also said that Communist advances in China have had a "disastrous" effect on the economic and political position of Nationalist China and had thereby limited ECA's activities.

FIRST PHASE OVER

In Europe, Mr. Truman said, the countries receiving American aid under the Marshall Plan had substantially completed the "first phase" of their joint effort to get back on their own economic feet. They reached, in general, the production levels they had before the war. But, the President emphasized, that is not enough: They must far exceed their prewar production in order to pay their own way.

Their ability to pay their own way comes down to a question, at the moment, of how many dollars they will have in relation to what they need and Mr. Truman reported on that in these words:

"Measured against the program of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (Europe's own top recovery committee) for July, 1948, to June, 1949, progress by the end of December was satisfactory.

"Realization of production and trade goals for the fiscal year (which ends June 30) is virtually assured and substantial improvement in Western Europe's external position may be anticipated.

"The total gold and dollar deficit of the ERP (European Recovery Program) countries on capital and current accounts in the fiscal year 1948-49 is estimated at $5,500,000,000 —30 per cent less than the 1947 deficit of $7,800,000,000."

The President said that in only a few countries was the pace of the first phase of recovery lagging slightly. Yet h edeclared the second phase—attainment of maximum production necessary to economic independence—has

See TRUMAN on page 8-A

Democrats Hopeful Of Housing Victory

BY FRANCIS M. LE MAY

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Democratic leaders hope to hand President Truman this week, at last, one major victory in his program. This would be in housing.

The House tentatively set a vote for Thursday or Friday on the Administration's multi-billion dollar housing bill. It calls for a far-flung program of slum clearance, low-rent public housing and farm housing aids.

House passage would head the legislation toward the President's desk. The Senate approved it April 21 by a top-heavy 57 to 13 vote.

However, there still is a possibility the measure may be delayed in the House Rules Committee. Moreover, Republicans and some Democrats are expected to try to amend it on the floor.

OTHERS SLOWED

Meanwhile, other parts of Mr. Truman's program still his rough or slow going.

In the first four and a half months of this Congress Mr. Truman has seen passed only one major bill based on his domestic legislative proposals of the 1948 political campaign. That one, conflicting rent control, was not quite what he wanted, in a number of ways.

Now, with only two and a half months remaining before Congress is supposed to adjourn, here is about the way other portions of his program are getting on:

Taxes — Economy blocs on both sides of the Capitol are crying for slashes in Government spending—instead of tax boosts. Mr. Truman wants a $4,000,000,000 tax increase. If Congress cannot balance the budget by economy, it may try to find means of getting more money in the treasury in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Labor—There are behind the scenes efforts to find a compromise, following House defeat of the first effort of Administration forces to repeal the Taft-Hartley labor law. No date is set yet for a new showdown in either house. The problem is to find a way to deal with national emergency strikes. This involves decisions on whether to use injunctions, plant seizures, or both.

Social security—The House Ways & Means Committee now is working on a bill. Indications now are that it is disposed to write one to Mr. Truman's liking, going well along the way with his requests for extension of old age insurance to many millions more persons, and boosting benefits. But this bill may get caught in a session-end legislative logjam.

Education — The Senate has approved a bill providing $300,000,000 in Federal aid to schools. Democratic leaders think it has a good chance of passing the House, too. The House Education & Labor Committee has put aside the bitter labor issue temporarily to start public hearings on the education bill on Tuesday.

Civil rights — A Senate filibuster stopped such legislation early in the session. Efforts to write anti-segregation amend-

See DEMOCRATS on page 8-A

Investigation Is Opened In Shipping 'Kickbacks'

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Senate investigators today promised a thorough check on complaints that thousands of dollars of "cash kickbacks" resulted from a $40,000,000 U. S. loan to Poland.

Investigators, lawyers and accountants have spent months tracing purchases of goods in this country, their movement to seaports and the overseas shipments.

Several individuals and corporation officials have been called here to testify at public hearings today.

Hoey said a full investigation was decided on "to insure that American dollars made available for the aid of foreign countries are not siphoned off."

He said "cash kickbacks" in certain shipments resulted from invoices that "were padded or inflated to permit certain freight forwarders to receive cash kickbacks on ocean marine insurance."

The loan to Poland was made by the export-import bank with State Dept. approval for the purpose of increasing coal production in Poland and for shipment to Western Europe. Funds were to be used for coal mining and railroad equipment purchases in this country.

Senate investigators said that freight forwarders were used by shippers of the mining and railroad equipment to handle the goods at ports and get them insured and onto ships.

It is the records and accounts on the marine insurance that will be given detailed airing, committee officials said.

Freight forwarders and brokers may argue that "special discounts" on the large insurance premiums are a common trade practice.

But Hoey said the government's main interest is in holding down dollar costs of all foreign loans and aid.

Chairman Hoey (D-NC) of the special. Senate investigating subcommittee said the kickbacks were alleged to have been handled by foreign forwarders, insurance brokers and others in this country connected with overseas shipments under the loan.

Chandelier Falls After Sermon On Things To Come

PORT CARBON, Pa.—(AP)—The Rev. Adam B. Polcrack faced his Sunday morning congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and talked of "the shape of things to come."

The hum of bees and the fragrance of coming Summer drifted through the open windows and the Polcrack philosophized that "no one knows what things will befall."

The sermon ended. The congregation rose to sing. Then things befell. A crash resounded through the small church. A 35-pound Gothic type chandelier plummeted from its ceiling fixture to the floor.

It crashed in an aisle, touching no one. The congregation with quavering voices sang on.

Home Town Frog Takes Honors In Jumping Contest

ANGELS CAMP, Calif. —(AP)— A Calaveras County frog, fresh out of Angels Creek, won the big jump — just a century after the original jump which inspired Mark Twain's literary masterpiece.

His name is "One Fifteen." He sailed thirteen feet, six inches yesterday in three hops. He won $200 for the Bret Harte Frog Jumping Corp., formed by some Angels high school boys.

That's five times as much money as the stranger won from Mark Twain's short story hero, "Jim Smiley, the Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

The stranger bet the $40 and Smiley went into the marsh to catch a frog. That's when Dan'l Webster, Smiley's trained frog, got filled full of buckshot by the villain—winning him a bet. How far that frog jumped—while Dan'l sat with his lead — neither literature nor legend tells.

"One Fifteen," jumped by Robert Leonard, went "whirling in the air like a doughnut" (like Dan'l while practicing). Some 3,000 fans watched from a grassy hillside.

Second place frog was TWA — just an inch behind One Fifteen. TWA landed "as solid as a gob of mud" (rather like Dan'l, too.)

U. S. Given Right To Sue States

WASHINGTON — (AP)—The Supreme Court today granted the Government permission to sue Texas and Louisiana in an effort to establish paramount rights of the United States to rich oil lands off their coasts.

The court authorized the filing of suits in a brief order. No explanatory opinions were handed down. Justice Jackson took no part in the case.

Texas and Louisiana, with millions at stake, argued that the United States may not sue any state unless it consents to be sued. They refused to give their consent.

Great City Waits Calmly

Reds Knock At Shanghai Gates

BY FRED HAMPSON

SHANGHAI—(AP)—The Communists were knocking at the gates of Shanghai today.

Most foreign airlines were suspending operations. The last evacuees were scurrying away. Communications with the outside world were sharply reduced. But Shanghai still waited for the Reds with no great outward show of concern.

The smashing efforts by the Communists to take Woosung, the fortified section where the Yangtse and Whangpoo converge, have so far failed.

Red Gen. Chen Yi's warriors have been at the edge of Woosung several times. But they have not been able to stay there. Ships still come and go.

JOB AT AIRPORT

The Nationalists' latest communique says the Reds lost 500 dead and 600 prisoners around Woosung. Thwarted at Woosung the Reds jabbed at defenses around Hung Jao airport. The Nationalists said they were driving them back.

Hung Jao airfield is only a stone's throw from Shanghai's old French concession. The airfield has not been in operation for several weeks. The few planes leaving Shanghai now take off from Lunghwa airfield. The Communists are about six miles from Lunghwa.

The British in what may be a final evacuation removed 157 persons to Hong Kong by flying boats The evacuees included 130 British, 12 Indians, three stateless Europeans and 12 other nationals.

The Chinese Government radio administration began moving its transmitter from the edge of town to the downtown area. During the movement radio-photo and radio telephone service were suspended. All commercial radio service was reduced as a result.

(This dispatch was received in Tokyo by radio and relayed to San Francisco.)

Nationalist evacuation of industrial Hankow, the "Chicago" of China, and neighboring Wusheng was announced by the Government's Central News Agency. Hankow is on the Yangtse's north bank, Wusheng on the south near than 400 air miles west-southwest of Shanghai.

This withdrawal would seem to clear the way for the Communist fourth field army of crack Manchurian troops to cross the river and roll south along the central China railway toward Canton, the Nationalist refugee capital.

Evacuation of the Hankow area had been expected for some time. Gen. Pai Chung-Hsi, Nationalist central China commander, had appeared to be pulling his main forces south for the defense of Nanchang and Changsha.

REDS NEAR NANCHANG

The Reds have been driving toward Nanchang through Kiangsi Province and were last reported 25 miles southeast of that provincial capital.

Nanchang is 150 air miles southeast of Hankow. Changsha is on the Canton-Hankow railway 180 miles south-southwest of Hankow and almost the same distance west and slightly south of Nanchang.

(A Canton dispatch said there still was telephone communication with Hankow this morning. It reported demolition blasts among piers and river craft the Reds might use in crossing. There was no report that Communist troops had entered Hankow.)

SOONG TO PARIS

HONG KONG — (AP) — T. V. Soong, former Chinese premier and a brother-in-law of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, left Hong Kong by air today for Paris.

Airman Found Guilty By Rape Case Court Martial

GUAM—(AP)—A 20th Air Force court martial today convicted Pvt. Herman P. Dennis Jr., of the rape murder of Miss Ruth Farnsworth and sentenced him to death.

The 20-year-old Negro airman saluted smartly when the president of the court, Lt. Col. Gerry L. Mason of Las Vegas, Nev., pronounced sentence. The verdict is subject to review by the commanding officer of the 20th Air Force, the Air Force Board of Review in Washington and President Truman.

If the verdict is upheld, the manner in which Dennis will be put to death will be determined later.

Dennis, his half brother, Pvt. Calvert Dennis and another Negro, Staff Sgt. Robert W. Burns of Spokane, Wash., are accused of beating and raping the San Francisco girl last Dec. 11. Calvert Dennis of Seguin, Tex., is scheduled to be tried next.

The court deliberated one hour and 26 minutes.

The airman's counsel asked the court not to announce the sentence but was overruled. The defense argued publication of the sentence might affect the subsequent trials.

The convicted man, if he chooses, may testify against his half brother and Burns. The prosecution possibly will need Dennis' testimony in the Burns case.

Miss Farnsworth, a Navy employee aiued in a souvenir shop where she worked after hours, was dragged into the jungle and raped and beaten. She died several days later in a Guam hospital.

Once Over Lightly

BY WALTER SEIGENTHALER

Probably by seeing a lot of hunchbacked girls 'fore long, from bending over trying to make last years dress look larger . . . As a rule the fellow that can wait makes the best husband.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued warm today, tonight and Tuesday. Scattered afternoon and evening thundershowers.

Temperature at 2:00 P. M. today 88
High and low last 24 hours ... 87-62
Sun sets tonight 7:30
Sun rises tomorrow 5:18

More Weather Data on page 8-A