

THE CAROLINAS—Occasional rain or scattered showers and considerably warmer. High in the 50s.

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CHICAGO-TO-NEW YORK FLIGHT

Plane With 72 Aboard Falls Into East River

Minorities Ask U.S. Restraints On Housing

Government Urged To Refuse Aid To Segregated 'Ghettos'

By DON OBERDORFER

NEW YORK—The Federal Civil Rights Commission heard persistent demands for federal action against housing discrimination as it closed two days of hearing on the subject Tuesday.

Representatives of Negro, Puerto Rican and Jewish groups, among others, called on the government to refuse further federal guarantees or aid to housing which is not open to minorities.

Some witnesses said this should be done by the hand of the President. Others urged Congress to act.

The Rights Commission, which currently has a three-man Southern Democratic majority, made little comment. The commissioners will make their recommendations in a report to the President and Congress due in September.

There was virtual agreement among witnesses at the two-day hearing that Negroes and Puerto Ricans, particularly, have been segregated into racial "ghettos" here and in many other cities.

But there was much disagreement about the causes.

Rights Commissioner Robert Sorey, dean of law at Southern Methodist University, kept asking witnesses if this wasn't largely because minority groups choose to live together.

Several witnesses, including Executive Director Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, agreed this was a large factor in the pattern. Wilkins said there are "many Negroes" in Harlem who would leave if they were offered "gold-plated apartments" somewhere else.

But Wilkins insisted that for many, living in the segregated ghettos is not a matter of choice.

A spokesman for the real estate interests put responsibility for discrimination on the tenants.

Gen. James Andrews of the New York Real Estate Board said, "Our tenants are the ones who are really opposed to integration. We don't know how they don't want to stay."

He claimed that the average landlord is "rather indifferent to the color line, but is interested mostly in making a profit."

Others put the blame on the real estate men.

"It is an open secret among minorities that the suppliers of private housing in our cities, the real estate interests, keep the supply of housing available to minorities at a trickle, while the demand remains tremendous."

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Rescue Operations Are Begun

Recovery Of 'Some' Bodies Reported

NEW YORK (Wednesday).—(AP)—An American Airlines plane carrying 67 persons and a crew of five crashed early this morning in the East River between Rikers Island and the Bronx.

A commercial tug, the Thompson, reported fishing a number of bodies from the water.

The plane, a Lockheed Electra, was said to have missed an approach at La Guardia. At the time, a light rain was falling and visibility was obstructed by fog.

Early reports indicated there were survivors. A Jacob hospital disaster unit was ordered into action in the Bronx and ambulances were sent to the East River front in Queens.

In Chicago, American Airlines said its Flight 320 p.m. CST and was due at LaGuardia in New York at 12:35 a.m. EST.

The time of the crash was placed at about 12:15 a.m. (EST).

Another commercial tug, the H. Tomelson, picked up eight or nine survivors in the river. They were taken to ambulances in Queens.

Twenty persons were killed the night of Feb. 1, 1957, when a Miami-bound North-east Airlines plane crashed on Keyway island in a snowstorm. There were 74 survivors.

Housing Bill Up For Action

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Senate agreed Tuesday to take up the \$2.4 billion Federal-sponsored omnibus housing bill today. Leaders are aiming for a final vote by the week's end.

Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala.), chief sponsor of the measure, told reporters he is confident the Senate will pass it without a bill. President Eisenhower had asked for a \$1,650,000,000 measure.

It required unanimous consent for the measure to be made the Senate's business for today. Sens. Spessard L. Holland (D-Fla) and Frank J. Lausche (D-Ohio) agreed only after getting assurances that committee reports on the bill, not yet filed, would be filed by today.

Authorities tentatively blamed weather conditions for the crash. Besides the snow, the temperature was 18 degrees, and a southerly wind was gusting at 25 miles an hour.

The left wing apparently struck the ground first and then off. Pieces of wreckage ripped off as the plane plowed a distance of about two city blocks across the field and piled up against a wire fence.

The plane came down about five miles northwest of the airport on the Albert Juhl farm. Apparently no one heard the crash.

Three of the bodies were lying on the ground near the wreckage and one remained in the wreckage.

Mrs. Carroll Anderson, whose husband manages the Surf ballroom, said "everything sounded okay when the plane took off."

Morgan And Hewlett Win Assembly Posts

Selections Made At Party Caucuses

By JAY JENKINS

The Observer Bureau

RALLEIGH—Sen. Robert Morgan of Cleveland and Rep. Addison Hewlett of New Hanover Tuesday night won the top posts in the 1959 General Assembly.

Morgan was elected president pro tem of the Senate, and Hewlett was elected speaker of the House.

Morgan defeated Sen. C. V. Henkel of Iredell by a vote of 26 to 21. Hewlett won over Rep. Carl Venters of Onslow by 63 to 31 votes.

Cheers, whoops, and applause greeted the tally of the 28th vote—the one which assured Hewlett election.

After the final vote was announced, Venters moved to make the vote unanimous, and this was done.

The new speaker said he appreciated the kind of campaign waged by his opponent. "All of us as good Democrats realize our responsibility to North Carolina to give it the best government possible," Hewlett said.

There are 116 Democrats in the 120-member House. In Tuesday night's caucus, 114 were eligible to vote since the two candidates left the hall while the secret ballot was taken and counted.

Rep. John H. Kerr Jr. of Warren nominated Hewlett, likening him to the "plain unaffected homespun man" who "were the architects of our nation."

Second speeches included one by Rep. Frank Sneed of Mecklenburg.

Rep. Floyd Phillips of Lexington nominated Venters.

Venters pulled even with Hewlett only once, when the vote was tied 10-10 during the remainder of the tally. Hewlett led all the while.

While Sneed nominated and voted for Hewlett, Mecklenburg's other three representatives—John Kennedy Jr., Irwin Berk and Ernest Hicks—apparently voted for Venters.

Their votes were not announced, but there were reports that the three had supported Venters. Mrs. Annie Cooper was appointed as principal clerk of the House.

Also re-elected without opposition were Reading Clerk Billy Arthur and Sergeant at Arms Joe Warren.

Despite Gov. Hodges' declaration of complete neutrality in the race, many legislators interpreted Hewlett's victory as a setback for the administration.

Although friend and foe of Hodges were to be found in both camps, Venters was considered a House-Senate session on Thursday.

NEW ASSEMBLY 'DIFFERENT'

Hodges Faces Tougher Task

However, Gov. Hodges will be able to post an impressive record in this session if he succeeds in maintaining only a fair balancing veto.



WINNER CONGRATULATED—Rep. Addison Hewlett, left, smiles as he was congratulated Tuesday night on his selection as speaker of the N. C. House of Representatives. Congratulating the winner is the loser, Carl Venters of Onslow County.

Hollings Releases 3 SLED Officers

By CHARLES WICKENBERG

The Observer Bureau

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Three agents of the S. C. State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) were released from duty and their police commissions revoked Tuesday by Gov. Ernest F. Hollings.

Two of the former agents, questioned by The Observer, said they had been released for "political reasons." SLED is under control of the governor.

Asked to comment, the governor's office replied: "These men were released on recommendation of SLED Chief J. P. (Pete) Strom in the interest of creating a strong and more efficient law enforcement organization."

There was no comment on any specific reason for termination of the agents' employment.

Srom declined to comment but confirmed the release of the three. He said the three were employed through last Friday and their commissions were revoked Tuesday afternoon when formal papers were filed by the governor's office with the secretary of state.

SLED was a formerly called "The Constabulary" and is the law enforcement arm of the executive department of the state government. It is now under a civil service system and agents hold commissions "at the pleasure of the governor."

Brown, a graduate of the FBI Police Academy and now a student at the University of South Carolina Law School said when questioned by The Observer, "I have never heard of this."

He said he had supported another candidate over Hollings for governor in the spring Democratic primaries.

Price, contacted by telephone in Aiken, indicated he believed his release had been for political reasons but declined to talk further.

He was a state highway patrolman for 13 years prior to joining SLED in 1955 when it was expanded under former Gov. Timmerman's administration.

Today's Chuckle

She was only a film censor's daughter, but she knew when to cut it out.

Piedmont's Vast Story Told Today

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(Observer Phone—ED 27121)

Stricken Jet Lands Safely

NEW YORK.—(UPI)—A Pan American World Airways jet passenger plane with 124 persons, including dancer Gene Kelly, aboard plunged sickeningly from 8,000 to 6,000 feet in a matter of minutes Tuesday.

The plane, a Boeing 707, made a routine landing at Gander, Nfld., after the incident. A Pan Am spokesman said nobody was injured in the spectacular drop, blamed on a mechanical malfunction.

NEW ASSEMBLY 'DIFFERENT'

Hodges Faces Tougher Task

However, Gov. Hodges will be able to post an impressive record in this session if he succeeds in maintaining only a fair balancing veto.

This is true because of the monumental size of his program, ranging over a wide variety of subjects which invite controversy. If he can move through, as a "lame duck" governor, a majority of his major proposals he will have cause for satisfaction.

Another factor the governor will have going for him is his liaison man, former state Sen. Joe Eagles of Wilson, the eyes and ears of the governor's office in the legislative halls.

A well-liked, knowing politician would point to that connection. The intensity and heat of the House speakership battle, especially, make it inevitable.

Jews Ask U.S. Action On Housing

Special To The Observer

NEW YORK.—The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith protested housing restrictions on Jews in a report to the Carolinas to the Federal Civil Rights Commission here Tuesday.

Eugene Sugarman, chairman of the New York advisory board of the Jewish organization, called for federal action to forbid racial or religious discrimination in federally aided housing, as well as state and local laws everywhere to bar discrimination in private housing.

Sugarman's prepared presentation, which covered many areas of the country, named two areas of Columbia, S. C., as examples of restrictions on housing for Jews in the South.

The two areas are "an old area known as Heathwood" and "a newer section owned and developed by M. R. Bagnal Jr. and R. R. Ribey Jr. under the title of Tenholm Building Co."

Protests have been lodged with Bagnal against a restrictive covenant barring Jews. Sugarman said, but the developer "remained adamant."

Sugarman also said that residential-area restrictions are found in Gastonia and Wilmington, N. C., but did not name the specific developments involved.

Sugarman concluded that Jews fare much better than Negroes as far as housing is concerned but said "islands of senseless housing restrictions against Jews still exist."

Vienna In Jobless

VIENNA.—(AP)—Austria reports unemployment has increased 4.3 per cent over last year's figures. The total, 227,857 out of work represents 10 per cent of the labor available.

BAD WEATHER BLAMED

Crash Kills Rock 'N' Roll Idols

MASON CITY, Iowa.—(AP)—Three rock 'n' roll singers, whose records and appearances stirred millions of teen-agers, were killed early Tuesday in a cold, snow-swept Iowa City.

The four-piece plane carrying the trio and their pilot crashed within minutes after taking off in light snow from the Mason City airport.

They were Buddy Holly, 22, of Lubbock, Texas; Ritchie Valens, 17, of Los Angeles; J. P. (Big Bopper) Richardson, 24, of Beaumont, Texas; and Roger Peterson, 21, of Clear Lake, Iowa, the pilot.

The troupe with which the trio had appeared had entertained an estimated 1,100 teen-agers and their parents at the Surf ballroom in nearby Clear Lake Monday night.



RITCHIE VALENS

Holly, Richardson and Valens, who soared to popularity, among the teen-age rock 'n' roll set in the past several years, chartered the plane in order to take care of advance arrangements at Fargo.