

Maryland and Virginia

News in Brief

Attorney General Anvers Virginia Poll Tax Suit

A show-down neared today in a test of the Virginia poll tax. Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., replied in Alexandria Federal Court to a complaint that Jessie Butler, colored, had been prevented from registering as an Arlington voter because he had not paid the poll tax.

The plaintiff filed suit against the Arlington registrar and six other county and State election officials. Attorney General Almond contended the Federal Court lacks jurisdiction to enforce "purely political rights." He asked the court to hear arguments February 6 or shortly thereafter.

'Bears' on Campus

An excited girl telephoned the Lynchburg police headquarters. There was misconduct, she reported, on the campus at Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

The desk sergeant understood her to say two men were cavorting in the nude. Out rushed police.

They found, however, that everything isn't what it sounds. What the lady had said was "bear skins," not "bare" skin. Inside the fur were two Yale students putting on a publicity stunt for Old Eli's "Humor" magazine.—AP.

Five Hurt in Crashes

Five persons were hurt last night in a pile-up of four automobiles on Route 211, near the Bull Run bridge. Deputy Sheriff R. E. Hoskins of Prince William County, Va., said a westbound automobile driven by Lowell Lewis Coleman, 26, of Charlottesville, crashed head-on into an east-bound car driven by Norman B. Billups, 24, of Covington, Va.

The officer said a car behind Mr. Billups piled into the wreckage and one behind that followed suit. Most seriously injured was Virgil Arnett, 29, Charlottesville, a passenger in the Coleman car. He and Mr. Coleman and Mr. Billups are in Arlington Hospital. Mrs. Mary T. Sheppard, 1710 Gale street N.E., also among the injured, was taken to George Washington Hospital. She was in the second eastbound automobile, which was driven by her husband, Howard C. Sheppard, who received minor injuries.

Dorsey Case Dropped

For William C. Toney, Jr., Richmond milkman, a November dance ended on a sour note. He was conked on the head with a clarinet when he asked Band Leader Jimmy Dorsey if he was a brother of Band Leader Tommy Dorsey. Mr. Toney filed assault charges against the times the trial was postponed. Today the charges were withdrawn without prejudice against Mr. Dorsey. A lawyer for the milkman said there was "an unfortunate misunderstanding."

Construction Progresses

So far so good in the matter of school construction in Prince Georges County. That is the opinion of the Board of Education after inspecting five new buildings yesterday.

But the county isn't yet able to provide for all needs, the members conceded. Board Chairman J. Frank Dent said that won't come about any time soon unless there's a "slowing up in population."

School authorities expressed belief the opening of the new Fairmount Heights Senior-Junior High School next fall would eliminate necessity for double-shift classes in colored schools of the county.

Meanwhile, the board has received a complaint about naming new schools for individuals. Five prominent citizens, some of them now dead, have been thus honored. But the Sutherland Businessmen's Association objects.

Secretary George M. Beltz said the association voted unanimously against naming the Sutherland school for "any past superintendent of schools." The board suggested naming it for the late Supt. Eugene S. Burroughs. Members said the use of geographic names, like Sutherland, causes confusion because of the wide areas served by large schools.

Fined for Tagless Car

For the fourth time in as many States, Sallor John T. Steen was stopped by a policeman and asked why he had no license on his car. Three times his explanation was accepted, but not in Montgomery County today. So he went to court.

Steen told Policeman Leslie Thompson—and Judge James Miller—that the Navy transferred him from Hawaii to California, then to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He applied for California tags and got a receipt, with assurance they would be mailed. They haven't arrived.

Judge Miller would not overlook the violation. He said Steen would have to pay a \$10 fine or serve 10 days on the county roads. He agreed to suspend sentence if the sailor did not drive the car until obtaining tags.

"Judge," said Steen, "my car is parked outside. Can I move it?"

"Not unless you get tags," replied the judge. The sailor called a tow truck.

Damages Sought

Senator Charles R. Fenwick of Arlington has asked the General Assembly to approve a \$15,000 payment to a bride whose face was disfigured in a boiler blast.

BLASTS NUDGE MIGHTY MO—In a preliminary move to free the battleship Missouri, the Navy set off explosive charges near her hull yesterday. A rising geyser of water may be seen near the stern here as the blast breaks the surface.

Russians Abandon Slowdown of Trucks On Berlin Highway

By the Associated Press

BERLIN, Jan. 30.—The Russians dropped their "little blockade" tactics early today and allowed road traffic to flow normally from the west to Berlin for the first time in 10 days.

Soviet guards, obviously acting on higher orders, passed all trucks through the frontier posts at Berlin and Helmstedt, 100 miles to the west, with only perfunctory checks.

The Soviets did not give any reason for the armistice, just as they never gave any official reason for starting their highway heckling.

Cost 10,000 Tons of Supplies. It was assumed, however, the slowdown began in retaliation for the seizure of the Berlin railway headquarters building by West Berlin police acting on orders from the United States commandant in Berlin.

The railways and the building are administered by the Soviet-backed East Zone government. United States officials later ordered the West Berliners to evacuate the building, which is in the American zone of the city.

The slowdown, which reached recognizable proportions eight days ago, cut highway traffic almost to a standstill and cost West Berlin about 10,000 tons of supplies, American officials estimated.

Psychological Objective. This was a drop in the bucket, however, since the railroad system was undisturbed and poured more than that into the city in one day.

Allied officials concluded that the Soviet objective, therefore, was more psychological than anything else. One Allied spokesman commented:

"The Russians made their point. They showed the Germans it's with their arms and Berlin is in the middle of it. Whenever they think the West Berliners are getting too cocky, they turn these things on and off like a spigot."

Meanwhile two protests filed with the Soviet authorities by the American, British and French commandants went unanswered.

Denham

(Continued From First Page.)

into the storerooms of every business to which you deliver goods."

The teamsters are led by Daniel J. Tobin and Dave Beck.

Mr. Denham, who has been sharply at odds with the members of the NLRB, noted that the board has decided several cases for the teamsters and against the truckers.

While he didn't repeat the blast he aimed at the five-member panel in a New York speech 10 days ago, he did hint that board decisions against management, in which he did not concur, should be appealed to the courts.

"The two and one-half years that have gone by since the Taft-Hartley Act was enacted have been something of the nature of a 'shakedown process,'" he said.

"There have been some very sharp differences of opinion among those who have had to do with the law, both from the standpoint of applying it in the first instance, and from the standpoint of decisional interpretation," he added.

"Few cases have been decided by the courts, although a substantial number are now before them. Because this is so, only a few rules seem to have taken any apparently permanent crystallized form."

Jacob G. Grossberg Dies; Prominent Chicago Lawyer

By the Associated Press

MADISON, Wis., Jan. 30.—Jacob G. Grossberg, first president of what is now the American Jewish Congress, died in a nursing home at nearby Morrisonville yesterday.

The prominent Chicago lawyer would have been 80 next April. Mr. Grossberg, a native of Russia, came to the United States at the age of 12. He graduated from the Union College of Law in Chicago, which now is the Northwestern University law school.

He was active in Chicago reform politics about the turn of the century and in 1924 ran for a judgeship under the banner of the late Senator Robert La Follette's Progressive Party. He later was a leader in the liberal arm of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Grossberg was a law partner of the late Senator James Hamilton Lewis. He retired in 1947 after 57 years of practice.

at the University of Virginia trailer settlement. Since there is no means for suing the State for recovery, Senator Fenwick asked a special act to reimburse Mrs. Robert K. Parrott, whose husband attends the university. Their home is in Arlington.

Public Won't Believe Bears In Yellowstone Can Be Dangerous

By the Associated Press

The public just won't believe the bears in Yellowstone National Park are not completely harmless, complains Director Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service.

"We have the continuing problem of bear injuries," he told a House appropriations subcommittee, "despite all the warnings we have posted."

"There is a certain percentage of the people who will try to feed the bears, not recognizing that they are wild animals."

Coal

(Continued From First Page.)

decision to step in would be influenced by the extent to which striking miners abandon their walkout.

There is speculation that if the President does take a hand he'll use the same procedure he followed in last year's steel strike. That would set up an independent board with instructions to make recommendations to him.

If Mr. Truman followed this plan it would involve both a request to the UMW and the operators to resume production of coal pending hearings by the board.

Another course open to the President is declaring a National emergency exists. Then he could use the Taft-Hartley Act's injunctive powers and bring about full-scale coal production for 80 days.

Mr. Truman doesn't like the Taft-Hartley Act, although he says he would not hesitate to use its emergency provisions if he thinks it necessary.

Evidence of Mr. Truman's growing concern came from this statement by his advisor:

"The situation is such that only the return of the men to work by tomorrow (Monday) or evidence of it by then that they are returning immediately will make it possible for the President to hold off."

Few of the striking mine locals held meetings during the week end. Of those that did, not many took formal votes on the back to work movement. Only in the Johnstown area of Pennsylvania, where 5,000 diggers have been idle a week were there reports of formal voting.

In Uniontown (Pa.) area, where 23,000 miners have struck, came reports which indicated the strikers would maintain a solid front against return-to-work unless they get a definite order from Mr. Lewis.

Lewis Maintains Silence. Cheers and shouts of approval greeted John Ozanich, president of the big Robena local, when he said there would be no work until Mr. Lewis gets a new contract guaranteeing five days' work.

Some miners at the meeting declared District President William Hynes had threatened to suspend the rebellious miners. Ozanich denied the report. Hynes was not available for comment.

Mr. Lewis kept silent during the week end. He has two dates on Wednesday. Before meeting with the operators he's scheduled to appear in Washington Federal District Court before Federal Judge Richmond E. Keach, who will hear charges of unfair labor practices brought against him and the UMW by Robert Denham, chief counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

There remains a possibility that the judge may decide to postpone the hearing because part of the complaint—made by the operators—is that Mr. Lewis has not bargained in good faith since negotiations began last spring.

Now Mr. Lewis says he's willing to talk it over. He accepted the operators' invitation to renew talks shortly after reading of their offer in a newspaper.

Virginia Refutes Texas' Claims on Black-Eyed Peas

By the Associated Press

A battle over black-eyed peas will be waged tomorrow in the Senate restaurant. Senator Robertson, Democrat, of Virginia, will attempt to show that the Texas variety can't match Virginia's.

He invited Texas Senators Connally and Johnson, and Representative Beckworth, Democrat, of Texas, to have Virginia black-eyed peas at lunch.

"I hope my Texas friends will not think I am taking unfair advantage of the Texas growers if I slip a little 'Smithfield-cured hog jowl' in with the peas," he said.

Mr. Beckworth, who started the debate recently by having Texas peas served free at the Senate restaurant, said he had no fear of the comparison. Everybody eating in the Senate restaurant tomorrow will get free servings of the Virginia peas and each Senator will be given a free can.

Practice Run May Free 'Mo' Tomorrow as Bay Tides Run High

By the Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 30.—The Navy plans to hold a dress rehearsal tomorrow of Thursday's scheduled operations to pull the battleship Missouri loose from the Chesapeake Bay shoal.

Despite the Navy's insistence that it's only a practice run, there is speculation that the rehearsal may turn into a real effort to free the ship two days ahead of schedule.

Lending emphasis to the rumors is the comment of naval spokesmen that there's a chance that "mighty Mo" may come off the shoal during the rehearsal, set for 7 a.m. (EST).

Tides have been running above predicted levels at high water periods for several days, and if they continue to do so naval salvage experts believe the Missouri may free herself without the aid of tugs.

Chances Called "Excellent."

Tomorrow's operation will employ full strength application of every method listed for Thursday's effort. But the Navy insists it's just a "co-ordination rehearsal."

Skipper of Missouri Gets Dubious Help From Former GIs

By the Associated Press

HAMPTON, Va., Jan. 30.—Capt. W. D. Brown, skipper of the grounded Missouri, will get another "implement" to free his battleship from a Chesapeake Bay mudflat near Buckroe Beach.

Seven former Army men, all workers on a Government project near here, have forwarded him a small paddle with the note:

"We hear you are up the creek without one. So we are sending this one with kindest regards."

It is a perfect punning. Steps in the plan include full tension on heavy beach gear cables strung from the Missouri to anchors embedded in the bay bottom; "surging" tactics by a fleet of tugs, and the lifting power of six submarine salvage pontoons rigged beneath the ship's stern.

One spokesman says chances for success on Thursday are "quite excellent" and are looking better every day. "The speculators say the same optimism could apply to tomorrow."

Ship Settles After Blast. The Navy took one of its final preliminary steps yesterday. It set off 150 pounds of TNT in an effort to blast the suction which has held the battleship on the mudbank since January 17.

Complicated three things—loosened the sand beneath the 45,000-ton ship, weakened the powerful suction which holds her to the bottom and added about 75 tons to her buoyancy by allowing the ship to settle half an inch.

The explosives were set off in two blasts about 45 minutes apart. The charges—75 pounds on each side of the ship about 50 feet from her beam—had been placed in 10-foot-deep holes.

Man Fires at Rat, Kills Wife on Floor Below

By the Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Del., Jan. 30.—Mrs. Jeanette Fisher heard a rat running around on the second floor of her farm home last night. She and her neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth Jerred, 17, ran down stairs and called Mrs. Jerred's husband, William, 23, to try to kill the rodent.

He borrowed the Fisher pistol and dashed upstairs. A moment later, State police reported, he fired at the rat. "Billy, I'm shot," screamed his wife.

He hurried downstairs, found his wife dying from a wound in the abdomen. The bullet had torn through the ceiling of the living room.

State police ruled it an accident.

Densely Populated

Puerto Rico, with 544 persons per square mile, is about 4,000 times more densely populated than Alaska.

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Acheson Denies Story Of Resignation as His Critics Gain Support

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30.—Ingrid Bergman's husband will not fight her Mexican divorce action, says his spokesman. But the spokesman implied that the husband, Dr. Peter Lindstrom, instead will file suit for divorce in California.

In a statement, John Vernon, the physician's personal representative, said Dr. Lindstrom "has no intention of appearing in the Mexican proceedings, but will leave all issues to the California courts."

Mr. Vernon admitted the implication of a California divorce suit, regardless of the outcome of the Mexican proceedings.

In Juarez, Mexico, Miss Bergman's attorney, William A. Cocke, said that just because a suit might be filed in the United States, her suit in Mexico will not be dismissed.

Filed Suit Last Week. Miss Bergman filed suit in Mexico last week. She reportedly plans to marry Roberto Rossellini, Italian director for whom she recently made a picture on the Mediterranean island of Stromboli.

Mr. Vernon said Dr. Lindstrom has retained a local firm of attorneys to work in association with his New York lawyer, Lawrence A. Brinn.

Mr. Vernon said Dr. Lindstrom felt he couldn't take the initiative in filing suit without a meeting with Miss Bergman to discuss the matter and especially the custody of their 11-year-old daughter, Pia.

Last December 13 was the first time that Miss Bergman's attorneys approached Dr. Lindstrom's counsel and it wasn't until January 1 was submitted, Mr. Vernon's statement said.

"However, at that time," the statement continued, "persistent rumors were printed that there was a certain reason for not wanting to hasten the change in the Lindstrom marital status. The doctor and his lawyer then repeatedly tried to learn the truth of the matter but it was not until just a week ago that third-handed information seemed to clarify this question."

If Dr. Lindstrom's counter-proposal for a settlement is accepted, Mr. Vernon declared, it "will demonstrate that Dr. Lindstrom has not been obstructing a settlement by making unreasonable economic demands."

27 Killed, 64 Injured In India Train Collision

By the Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 30.—A spokesman for the East Punjab Railway System said today 27 persons were killed and 64 were injured in the collision of a Kashimir-bound mail train and a freight train 155 miles north of New Delhi yesterday.

Twenty of the 64 persons injured were taken to Ambala Hospital, 34 miles south of the collision scene, in a serious condition, he said.

Spy Trial

(Continued From First Page.)

phone wires at the home of Miss Coplon's mother in Brooklyn and at her own apartment in McLean Gardens in Washington.

Wouldn't Testify on Wiretaps. Mr. Palmer tried in vain to draw from Agent Brennan an admission that telephone wires had been tapped. The witness merely said that his information about Miss Coplon had come from his superior.

On his first surveillance of Miss Coplon, Agent Brennan testified, he became convinced that suspicious that she was implicated in espionage "were justified" by the way she acted.

"Did she act like a spy?" Mr. Palmer asked.

"Yes, I would say that she did because of the circuitous route she took to meet Gubitchev and the dark and narrow streets she followed," Brennan testified.

Brandishes Law Books. The first tiff between Judge Ryan and Mr. Palmer came shortly after the defense attorney bustled into the courtroom with four big law books under his arm and told the jurist that he wanted greater leeway in questioning the FBI agents.

He said the judge cut him off in his pursuit of the wire-tapping evidence last week.

Quoting transcript of pretrial testimony, Mr. Palmer said Agent Brennan was fully aware that Miss Coplon's telephone at her mother's home at Brooklyn was tapped and he wanted to lay the evidence before the jury. Brandishing his law books, Mr. Palmer said he was prepared to cite cases to support his position.

You don't have to give me cases on elementary points of law, Mr. Palmer," Judge Ryan said, "and you can save your energy by not bringing a lot of law books."

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