

Senators May Hear 'Secrets' of Polar Airbase Project Today

Some of the poorly kept military secrets about the hush-hush United States polar airbase known as "Bluejay" may be told at a public hearing today.

The Senate Watchdog Defense subcommittee—probing complaints about multi-million-dollar waste—ordered public testimony starting this afternoon.

For many months Soviet intelligence agents in Russia have known the supposedly top-secret base is at Thule, Greenland.

They used a woman radio broadcaster known as "Moscow Molly" last year to try to disrupt the morale of thousands of United States construction workers.

The Senate group is anxious to complete its investigation before the new work season begins.

Fingerprints Not Checked.

The subcommittee has criticized payment of more than \$300,000 to workmen while they were at home awaiting a call to the job, and more than \$3 million to one group of workers while aboard a ship that took 42 days to plow through ice to the airbase site.

Senators also were surprised to learn that thousands of workers were fingerprinted before being cleared for jobs, but the fingerprints were not checked against files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI arrested one "Bluejay" worker, wanted for bank robberies in South Dakota, just as he was about to board an airplane in Minneapolis to fly to the job.

Chairman Lyndon Johnson of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee has twitted military officials about trying to maintain their "secret" labels on the project.

No public estimate on costs of "Bluejay" have been given, but previous testimony indicated it is near the \$300 million mark and already is in use by aircraft.

Because of its ice-bound location, construction work can be carried on only the warmer part of each year, when ships and aircraft can carry in workers, equipment and materials.

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Editor Hits Secrecy In U. S. Agencies

CINCINNATI, Mar. 28.—More than 200 industrial editors were told last night that there should be a "right by law, within the limits of security, for newspapers to have access to details of Government agencies."

The suggestion of Alexander F. Jones, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, came at a banquet session of the three-day convention of the American Association of Industrial Editors.

Mr. Jones, hitting out at Government secrecy, said that recent Internal Revenue Bureau scandals would not have come to light had it not been for the work of several newsmen and Senator Williams, Republican of Delaware.

The ASNE president deplored lack of voting by United States citizens, remarking that "in 1948, 48 million persons did not get near the polls."

He blamed this failure on the setup of the present primary law, which he termed a "stookey law."

"In any State where you have the right to express yourself, you get a real cross section of what people think," Mr. Jones asserted. "We need a real presidential primary law in which we have uniformity. The groundswell for Gen. Eisenhower in New Hampshire indicates that the people are fed up."

FBI Seizes Fugitive

BOSTON, Mar. 28 (AP).—The FBI today announced the arrest of Henry W. Fair, Jr., 31-year-old baker, on a warrant charging murder of his wife in Waycross, Ga., in April, 1949. The complaint against him was filed in Waycross before United States Commissioner Alma F. Handy.



PLAYTIME AT THE CO-OP—Parents in the McLean Gardens Co-operative Nursery School turned their own worktime into playtime for their children. Here's the result—mock houses, boats, airplanes, blocks, swings and exercise bars. Mrs. Richard Mayfield is school director and is assisted by Mrs. Dwight Johnson, but even the parents step in to help now and then. —Star Staff Photo.

Text of Truman Message on Service Voting

The text of President Truman's message to Congress on voting by members of the Armed Forces follows:

About 2.5 million men and women in the armed forces are of voting age at the present time. Many of those in uniform are serving overseas or in parts of the country distant from their homes. They are unable to return to their States either to register or to vote.

Yet these men and women, who are serving their country and in many cases risking their lives, deserve above all others to exercise the right to vote in this election year. At a time when these young people are defending our country and its free institutions, the least we can do is to make sure that they are able to enjoy the rights they are being asked to fight to preserve.

All of us agree that the men and women in our armed services ought to be able to exercise the right to vote. Yet there are many barriers in the way.

Traditionally, procedures for voting have been laid down by the States, not only in State elections but also in elections to Federal office. There are many variations among State laws on voting. In some States, absentee voting is either impossible or is encumbered with such difficult procedural requirements that it is of little value to persons in military service. The resulting patch-work quilt of complicated and conflicting regulations has, in the past, deprived many of our service people of the chance to vote.

Cites War II Efforts.

Efforts were made during World War II to improve and standardize procedures. Many State laws were passed to facilitate voting by persons in the services, and the Congress intervened to confirm the right of service people to vote in Federal elections, to provide simpler procedures for obtaining ballots for persons overseas, and, in some cases, to provide a Federal ballot to be used when State ballots could not be used.

As a result, over 2½ million of the 9 million persons of voting age in the armed forces voted in 1944. The record was not good, but it was better than it is likely to be this year, unless prompt action is taken. In many States, the laws which facilitated voting in 1944 have now expired. Since 1942, Federal statutes have affirmed the right of absent service people to vote without registering in person, but even this basic right may be ignored in some States this year unless vigorous action is taken.

Recognizing that the situation required careful examination, I requested the American Political Science Association on October 23, 1951, to make a special study of voting in the armed forces, reviewing the history of Federal and State laws and procedures on the subject. "To be sure that we have a completely effective program for voting in the armed services," The American Political Science Association set up a special Committee on Service Voting, composed of qualified experts, which conducted a comprehensive inquiry. The results of their study and their recommendations are embodied in their report to me, which I am transmitting, with this message, to the Congress.

"Bill of Voting Rights."

In this report, the Special Committee of the American Political Science Association has set forth a servicemen's bill of voting rights, which I believe is so sound and right that it deserves the support of the Congress and the country:

"We believe that all servicemen of voting age, whether in the United States or overseas, should have the right:

- "1. To vote without registering in person.
- "2. To vote without paying a poll tax.
- "3. To vote without meeting unreasonable residence requirements.
- "4. To vote without meeting unreasonable literacy and educational requirements.
- "5. To use the Federal postcard application for a ballot.
- "6. To receive ballots for primary and general elections in time to vote.
- "7. To be protected in the free exercise of their voting rights.
- "8. To receive essential information concerning candidates and issues.
- "9. To receive essential information concerning the methods by which the right to vote may be exercised.
- "10. To receive essential information on the duty of 'citizens in uniform' to defend our democratic institutions by using, rather than ignoring, their voting rights."

Half States Bar Ballot.

In contrast to these standards, there are 24 of our States—exactly half—in which many of our soldiers, sailors and airmen will be unable to vote effectively and easily in 1952. Seven of these States appear to have laws that are in conflict with the provisions of the Servicemen's Voting Act of 1946. These States either make no provision at all for absentee voting, or require registration by servicemen in person. In addition, there are 17 States in which the statutory interval permitted between the sending out of the absentee ballots and the time when the ballots must be returned is so short that it will deprive service people overseas of a decent chance to get their ballots back on time.

The report I am transmitting to the Congress recommends ways of overcoming these defects, either through special action by State Legislatures, or through more efficient and flexible administration of State laws, or through court action. It also recommends that the States take action to permit voting by spouses and dependents of persons serving in the armed forces, and by other civilians serving overseas. I hope all State officials concerned will take these recommendations to heart, and do all they can to improve the situation in their respective States. The best and most effective way

Plan to Put Recorder Office Under District Awaits Senate Action

A Senate District subcommittee will make a recommendation soon on proposals to bring the recorder of deeds' office under the District Commissioners or make it a civil service job.

The subcommittee took no action after a public hearing yesterday at which colored leaders testified against legislation to put the position under the Commissioners.

Two subcommittee members, Senators Neely, Democrat, of West Virginia and Kefauver, Democrat, of Tennessee, were not present. Senator Case, Republican, of South Dakota, the other member, said he would meet with Senator Neely soon to act on the matter.

The District Commissioners have endorsed unanimously a bill by Senator Case, which would transfer the recorder appointment from the President to the Commissioners.

Hunt Asks Civil Service.

But Senator Hunt, Democrat, of Wyoming, introduced a measure to put the recorder and his entire staff under civil service.

Colored leaders argued the recorder should remain a Presidential appointee because the District Government has a poor record of giving Negroes other than menial jobs. "The recorder's job traditionally goes to a Negro."

Only Woolsey Hall, former president of the District Federation of Civic Associations, joined white civic leaders in urging that the office be brought under the Commissioners.

Virtually all witnesses agreed that the recorder's employees should be under civil service. Senator Case introduced his bill after the Senate District Committee recently voted 9 to 0, to reject President Truman's nomination of Earl Wayne Beck of Kansas City, Mo., as recorder. Afterwards, the President said he would not send up another nomination.

Opposition Spokesmen.

Opposing the transfer of the recorder to the Commissioners were Perry W. Howard, Washington lawyer and Republican national committeeman from Mississippi, who appeared for the Colored Elks of the World; Roy Gwyn, attorney; Eugene Davidson, president, Washington Real Estate Brokers Association; Thurman L. Dodson, attorney, former president of the Washington Bar Association; and E. Lewis Ferrell of the Washington Bar Association and Henry Lincoln Johnson, attorney.

In addition to Mr. Hall, those favoring the transfer were: Clifford H. Newell, former president of the Federation of Citizens Associations, who presented the resolution of that body; John H. Connaughton, also a former Federation president; Col. Frank H. Collins, Palisades Citizens Association; and Rufus Lusk, president, Washington Taxpayers Association.

As a first step, the Committee recommends that the Congress continue in effect existing statutory provisions affirming the right of service people to vote. These provisions, which are contained in the first two sections of the Servicemen's Voting Act of 1946, are, by their terms, effective only "in time of war," and will therefore lapse when the Peace Treaty with Japan comes into effect. I have already called this problem to the attention of the Congress in my communication to the Vice President and the Speaker of the House concerning the proposed Emergency Powers Extension Act.

Report Recommended.

In addition, the Committee recommends that the Secretary of Defense report biennially to the Congress, commencing in January, 1953, on action taken by the respective States in carrying out the Servicemen's Voting Act. The Committee further recommends that the Secretary of Defense, in co-operation with the Bureau of the Census and the several States, be required to compile and publish statistical reports on the number of applications for and executed ballots received from servicemen in each State, as well as the number of servicemen of voting age in each State. Such information will serve as a basis for improving existing laws and procedures in the light of experience. In order to acquaint servicemen with their voting privileges and responsibilities, the Committee recommends legislative support for an effective information and education program designed to bring to absent servicemen some of the voting information available to all citizens in their own communities.

With one dissent, the report of the Committee recommends the use of a Federal ballot this year in those cases where State laws are not sufficiently improved in time to give soldiers from those States the right to vote. There are administrative and legal difficulties in the use of a Federal ballot, and our experience with the cumbersome procedures set up by the Federal law of 1944 was not encouraging, but the findings of the Committee point out ways of avoiding some of the difficulties experienced in that year.

Agrees With Committee.

I agree with the Committee that, in spite of the obvious difficulties in the use of the Federal ballot, the Congress should not shrink from accepting its responsibility and exercising its constitutional powers to give soldiers the right to vote where the States fail to do so. Of course, if prompt action is taken by the States, as it should be, it may be possible to avoid the use of a Federal ballot altogether. I believe, however, that the Congress should consider this matter with great care, and provide emergency legislation which will overcome the obstacles to soldier voting that may still exist in State laws as the elections draw near. Any such legislation by Congress should be temporary, since it should be possible to make all the necessary changes in State laws before the Congressional elections of 1954.

Our experience during and after World War II conclusively demonstrates that unless early action is taken, hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women of voting age will be deprived of their constitutional right to vote this year. I am confident that all members of Congress and all State officials will join me in the determination that those who are on the front line in the defense of our freedom shall have a chance to exercise one of the great rights associated with that freedom.

The Federal Spotlight

Senate Extends Life of Its Unit Now Investigating Civil Service

The Senate has extended the life of its special unit investigating the Government's civil service system and has given it an extra \$50,000 to continue its work.

The subcommittee will continue its activities to January 31, 1953. With its previous appropriation, the new sum gives it a total of \$245,000 to work with.

The group is part of the Senate Civil Service Committee and is headed by former FBI Agent Melvin Purvis.

In its preliminary work so far the group made such an impressive showman's personnel system the Senate voted unanimously to continue it and to give it another \$50,000 in addition to the \$195,000 previously voted.

Had the extension not been forthcoming, the Purvis group would have had to end operations at the end of this month.

Mr. Purvis feels that with the new extension and the additional funds his group can come up with the most thorough and widespread recommendations ever developed in Congress for improving the Government's personnel system both for employees and in the sake of efficiency and economy.

Every phase of Government personnel operation is being studied by the group. Its findings and recommendations could revolutionize the Government's civil service system.

From the start, Chairman Johnston of the Senate Civil Service Committee has emphasized that the purpose of the investigation was not to smear Federal employees but to help them by removing the various stumbling blocks and red tape that hamper both them and the Government in personnel matters.

That the Purvis group is sincerely interested in fair play for Federal workers was illustrated yesterday when it issued a report criticizing the House's action in adopting the leave accumulation ban rider. The rider was described as unfair and unjust to Federal workers.

Both Chairman Johnston and Senator Langer, Republican, of North Dakota, the committee's ranking minority member, joined in denouncing the House's action as detrimental to Federal employees and the efficient operation of Government.

They declared the rider wouldn't save one cent but would cost millions of dollars since it would mean that many agencies would have to work employees overtime at overtime rates to make up the slack caused by the workers having to take all of their 1952 annual leave by June 30, 1953.

Also, they declared that, until the time that Federal workers are given unemployment compensation benefits, it was desirable that Federal workers could accumulate annual leave as a buffer against the day when they might lose their jobs.

Senators Johnston and Langer declared they will do everything in their power to kill the rider when it comes up for Senate action.

Teacher Pay Raise Vetoed by McKeldin

Gov. McKeldin has vetoed an act of the 1952 General Assembly which would have raised Maryland teachers' pay minimums by \$300 a year.

The Governor gave the same reason for yesterday's veto as he did last year, when he killed a similar bill—raises in teachers' salaries are the responsibility of local governments and not the State.

The Governor also vetoed six other bills, including one which would have required at least one member of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission to be an active waterman or have been in the sea food business within the five-year period prior to his appointment.—A. P.

Road Funds Allotted

The Virginia State Highway Commission today announced tentative allocations totaling \$23,624,530 for road construction in the next fiscal year beginning July 1. Final approval of the allocations will be made after public hearings May 5 in Roanoke and May 6 in Richmond.

Meanwhile, the Northern Virginia Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission last night supported a proposal that any new bridge between Washington and Virginia across the Potomac be adapted to both rail and auto traffic.

Welfare Head to Fight

Miss E. Susan Hendricks, director of the Prince Georges County Welfare Board, said today she will resist a move to fire her when the welfare board director's office is moved to the new building at 1310 F St. N.W.

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Peace Cross Project Could Get Unspent Defense Money

Unobligated defense money probably will be used for planning the much-needed flood-control project at Peace Cross, Bladensburg, Md.

This hopeful prospect arose despite denial by the House Appropriations Committee of \$50,000 for planning the program as recommended by President Truman.

The money was stricken out yesterday by the committee as it reported the Army civil functions appropriations bill to the House.

Committee sources, however, emphasized that the Bladensburg project was so vital that it has been officially certified as a defense project. Therefore, it was pointed out, unobligated funds can be used by the Army engineers to go ahead specifically planning the project, which already has been outlined by the engineers in general form.

Welcome News to Area.

This development was expected to be warmly welcomed by the Bladensburg community, which for years has suffered from recurrent floods.

The Peace Cross flood control need has been certified as a defense project by the Chief of Army Engineers.

The sum of \$25,000 has been made available to the local office of the District Engineer, for planning. Already some progress has been made on the job by the use of about \$2,000. The remainder of the fund is available.

After the \$25,000 is used, an official said today, it is somewhat problematical as to whether more will be made available.

The first step now under way in planning is a study to see specifically if the proposed three-year construction is "economically feasible."

Combination Project.

Conditions have changed somewhat since the first preliminary program was recommended, it was pointed out. But if the project is still found to be economically feasible, the engineers hope to start the first phase of construction in 1954. It would be a combination flood control and navigation project.

As explained recently to an appropriations subcommittee the first step in the flood control project as planned by the engineers is to build the necessary roads and bridges to raise the road system in the area permanently above flood level.

Stressing the defense need for the project, L. S. Ray, commissioner of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, told the subcommittee:

"It is imperative that U. S. Highways Nos. 1 and 50 out of Washington, which intersect at the Bladensburg Peace Cross be open at all times in the event it is necessary for civil defense purposes to move a large number of people from the National Capital quickly."

"In 1951," he explained, "traffic here was interrupted for 23 days by the flooding of the Anacostia, so the likelihood of the area being flooded at time of emergency is not remote."

Assembly to Meet

The Virginia General Assembly will meet in Richmond tomorrow to watch the presiding officer of the Senate and House sign bills which were passed in the final hurried days of the 1952 session which ended March 8.

The Weather Here and Over the Nation

District of Columbia and vicinity—Sunny this afternoon, highest around 56; fair tonight, low near 36 in city, 30 in suburbs. Tomorrow, some cloudiness and a little warmer.

Maryland—Fair tonight, low of 28-33 in west portion and 32-36 in east. Tomorrow, some cloudiness and warmer.

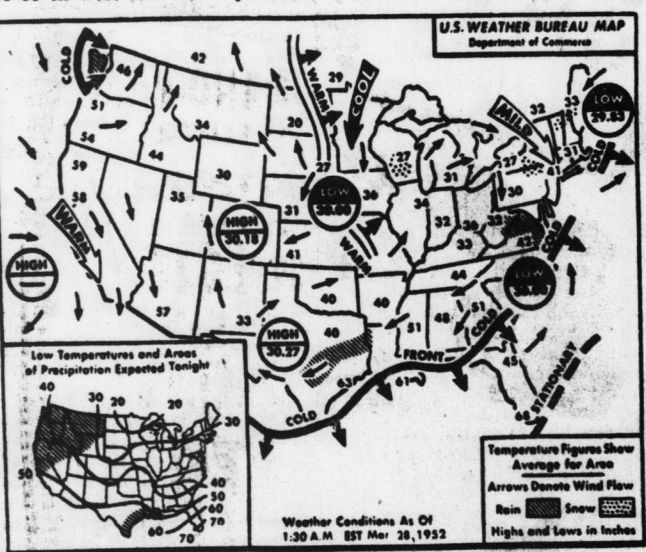
Virginia—Fair tonight, low of 30-35 in west and north portions,

34-38 in southeast. Tomorrow, some cloudiness and warmer.

Wind (at National Airport): Northwest, 10 miles an hour, at 11:23 a.m.

Five-Day Forecast for Washington and Vicinity—March 29-April 2.

Temperatures will average near normal for the period. Washington area normal temperatures are 57 (high) and 38 (low). Rising



The weather will be generally fair in the eastern half of the Nation tonight except for scattered snow flurries in the Upper Lakes region and light rain along the coastal sections of the Western Gulf States. Rain will fall along the Pacific Coast from Washington to Central California, in the Great Basin and in the Northern Rockies. It will be warmer in the Great Plains and the Southern Rockies.

—AP Wirephoto.

temperature through Sunday, cooler Tuesday or Wednesday. Some rain likely Monday or Tuesday totaling about one-tenth of an inch.

River Report.

(From U. S. Engineers.)

Potomac River muddy at Harpers Ferry and at Great Falls; Shenandoah cloudy at Harpers Ferry.

Reminds.

(Readings at Washington National Airport.)

Yesterday: High 58, Low 36, Rain 0.00.

Today: High 58, Low 36, Rain 0.00.

Tomorrow: High 58, Low 36, Rain 0.00.

Record Temperatures This Year.

Highest: 83, on March 22.

Lowest: 15, on January 30.

High and Low of Last 24 Hours.

High: 50, at 3:20 p.m.

Low: 36, at 5:45 a.m.

Tide Tables.

(Furnished by United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.)

Today: High 4:00 a.m., 10:11 p.m.

Tomorrow: High 4:10 a.m., 10:22 p.m.

Low 10:11 p.m., 4:43 a.m.

The Sun and Moon.

Sun, today: 5:59 a.m., 6:28 p.m.

Moon, today: 7:07 a.m., 10:04 p.m.

Automobile lights must be turned on one-half hour after sunset.

Precipitation.

Monthly precipitation in inches in the Capital (current month to date):

January: 1.77, February: 1.77, March: 1.77, April: 1.77, May: 1.77, June: 1.77, July: 1.77, August: 1.77, September: 1.77, October: 1.77, November: 1.77, December: 1.77.

Temperatures in Various Cities.

Albuquerque: 57, Anchorage: 34, Atlanta: 58, Baltimore: 58, Birmingham: 58, Boston: 58, Buffalo: 58, Chicago: 58, Cincinnati: 58, Dallas: 58, Denver: 58, Detroit: 58, El Paso: 58, Indianapolis: 58, Kansas City: 58, Louisville: 58, Memphis: 58, Miami: 58, Milwaukee: 58, Minneapolis: 58, New Orleans: 58, New York: 58, Norfolk: 58, Philadelphia: 58, Portland, Me.: 58, Pittsburgh: 58, Portland, Ore.: 58, Richmond: 58, St. Louis: 58, Salt Lake City: 58, San Francisco: 58, Seattle: 58, Tampa: 58, Washington: 58, Wichita: 58.