

Wilmington and vicinity—Cloudy with occasional rain today, becoming colder tonight; Saturday occasional rain with not much change in temperature.

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ESTABLISHED 1867

Grand Jury Seeking Ruling By McMullan

City Attorney Requested To Obtain Opinion As To Responsibility For Investigating Applicants

The recommendation that the Wilmington City Attorney obtain from the Attorney General of North Carolina, Harry McMullan, an opinion as to whether the Civil Service Commission or the police department is responsible for investigations into the qualifications of applicants for appointment to the city police force was made in a New Hanover county grand jury report to Judge J. Paul Frizzelle late yesterday.

The grand jury report, also covering inspections of the county home and the county jail, deemed the present operations of the two departments satisfactory.

BOARD DEFENDS APPLICANT CHECK

Prepared Statement Issued By Civil Service Group After Meeting

The right and privilege of rejecting any and all applicants for positions on the Wilmington police force rests with the chief of police, the local Civil Service Commission said in a prepared statement released following a lengthy closed session in the city hall last night.

The meeting was called following the arrest of two city police officers, H. L. Gurley and Roy Grissett, on charges of breaking and entering. The two men had been certified by the commission and then placed on duty with the police department.

N. S. Haskett, chairman of the board, presided at last night's session which was attended by board members, N. S. Westbrook, the Rev. H. J. Wilson, R. S. McClelland, and Dr. D. R. Murchison.

In the cases of both former officers, the commission explained that the duty of the members of the board as required by law had been complied with and that the regular procedure in the approval of the officers had been followed.

The statement as released by the commission is as follows:

"The provisions of the Act under which the Civil Service Commission operates have been fully complied with.

"The application form used by the Commission has been in existence for a great many years and has in the past been considered satisfactory, but which since the last examination of applicants in July, 1945, has been in process of revision by the Commission. That form contained data bearing on the residence, education and habits of the applicant as to the use of intoxicants, and a statement as to

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CITY WILL SEEK HELP OF CLARK

Representative Expected To Aid In Obtaining Fireboat

The aid of Representative J. Bayard Clark in obtaining a fireboat declared excess by the Navy and now docked in Charleston will be sought at a meeting between the representative and city officials in Washington next week, City Manager J. R. Benson disclosed yesterday.

Benson, together with Mayor W. Ronald Lane and members of the city council, are due to leave Wilmington Sunday to attend the Mayor's Conference in Washington and they are expected to see Clark while in the capital city, Benson said.

He pointed out that since the fireboat, which is sought by the city as a replacement for the well-worn Atlantic, has been declared excess by the Navy department, it is the belief of local officials that the craft can be purchased through Clark's help.

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

By Alley

DE WUS' THING DE MATTER WID YOUNG FOLKS IS DE OLE FOLKS FUHGITTIN' DEY WUZ EVUM YOUNG!



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ARMY, NAVY REACH ACCORD ON UNIFICATION OF APPLICANT SERVICE, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES; FIRECRACKER BLAST LIVENS GOVERNOR ROW

United Press Reports Tear Gas "Noted"

Explosion Reverberates Through Capitol Halls After Arnall Leaves

BATTLES PROLONGS

With Talmadge In Control, Thompson To Take Oath Of Office Monday

ATLANTA, Jan. 16.—(AP)—A firecracker which exploded in mid-air was tossed late Thursday from an upper floor into the rotunda of Georgia's capitol, where ousted Gov. Ellis Arnall has established executive offices.

The explosion reverberated through the corridors of the capitol at 4:30 P. M., just a few minutes after Arnall had left his temporary desk.

There was no indication who had thrown the firecracker, and no one was injured.

A United Press dispatch from the state capitol early in the evening indicated that traces of tear gas were discernible following the explosion.

ATLANTA, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Ellis Arnall's contest for the Georgia governorship Thursday appeared certain of being prolonged at least until Monday, although the rival claimant, Herman Talmadge, held possession of the gubernatorial chambers at the capitol and the executive mansion in fashionable Ansley Park.

Sources close to Lieutenant Governor-elect M. E. Thompson said Thompson would take the oath of office at 11 A. M. Monday, thus qualifying to succeed Arnall under the latter's resignation filed with Georgia's secretary of state last week-end.

The resignation was to become effective "immediately on qualification of the lieutenant governor."

Turnoff Reigns

As the dual state administrations neared the close of their second business day, the capitol was thrown briefly into turmoil by the explosion of a firecracker high up

TRUMAN MAY GET SHIPYARDS STORY

Senator Hoey Says Talk With President On Wilmington Base Is 'Must'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—"It looks," Senator Hoey (D-N.C.) said today, "like we'll have to talk with President Truman about the Wilmington shipyards."

The Senator told a reporter he didn't believe the Maritime Commission is going to do anything more about the North Carolina Port authority wanting to take over the shipyard which the commission used during the war.

North Carolina Congressmen plan to meet in Hoey's office Jan. 23 with Gov. R. Gregg Cherry to discuss the situation. Also coming for the conference will be R. E. Page, Wilmington publisher and chairman of the port authority, and former Gov. J. Melville Broughton, authority counsel.

The commission turned down the authority's proposal to buy the yards for \$1,200,000 as well as a previous offer to acquire them at no cost except the promise to build docks.

The yards are classified by the commission as in a "standby position" for its use. Port authority officials and North Carolina Congressmen have insisted state take over the yards would be less costly to the federal government and keep the yards in better condition for national defense.

Today And Tomorrow

By WALTER LIPPMAN

As the conference on Germany and Austria begins in London, it appears that there is something very near to agreement among the European states which are the neighbors of Germany. This is most encouraging. For without their willing consent and active participation a settlement made by the three big non-European powers would have to be imposed not only on Germany but on Europe. An imposed settlement could hardly work well. Nor would it last very long.

For this reason it is not only the erlands states the German problem, and indicates the principle of right of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland and Czechoslovakia to be heard and to be listened to. It is necessary to the success of the settlement that they be treated as participants in making it. They are in the first line, and the proper role of the Big Three is to promote, improve, sponsor and guarantee a European settlement which can be agreed upon by Europeans.

The memorandum of the Netherlands which has been sought. The problem which has to be solved is that "on the one hand, the economic recovery of

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Seen above is a group of the leaders at the Wilmington Methodist Society meeting held last night at the Wesley Memorial church in Winter Park. During the conference reports on the progress of the organization's campaign were delivered. From left to right they are: H. H. Hodgkin, president; the Rev. John A. Russell, pastor of Grace Methodist church, vice-president; the Rev. Edgar B. Fisher, program chairman; Dr. John C. Glenn, superintendent of the Wilmington conference; the Rev. Kermit Wheeler; the Rev. Edwin Carter; the Rev. Charles Mercer, and the Rev. John R. Edwards. (PHOTO BY CAROLINA CAMERA)

VETERANS HOMES HEAD SATISFIED

Plans For Financing Lake Forest Units Outlined

Morning Star Washington Bureau BY FRANK VAN DER LINDEN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Ken Noble, president of Veterans Homes, Inc., Wilmington, said today after conferences with federal officials that he personally is "satisfied" with the \$1,797,000 price for which the Federal Public Housing authority is offering to sell the 584 Lake Forest masonry homes to the VHI co-operative.

Financing terms proposed by the Federal Housing administration would enable the cooperative to pay for the ninety-three-acre development in forty years at four per cent interest, with a five per cent down payment, provided the individual members would finance their shares on a twenty-five-year basis, thus allowing a "time cushion" to cover possible set-backs during lean years.

Each member of the VHI could obtain an average-size, two-bedroom unit by paying about \$150 down and roughly thirty-two dollars per month, which would include lights, water, and gas, but not heat, Mr. Noble said.

While he would not receive outright title to the property, each veteran would get an equity in the project equivalent to his investment and would have perpetual housing rights for himself, and his heirs. He could sell out his equity to the co-operative later, if desired.

FREAK WINDSTORM RAISES SIX HOMES

"Spot Cyclone" Near Jackson, Tennessee Takes Toll Of Four Lives

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A belt of cold weather extended from the Great Lakes region west to the Pacific coast Thursday and in California fruit growers burned smudge pots to protect their citrus crops from sub-freezing temperatures.

Near Jackson, Tenn., a freakish windstorm described as a "spot cyclone" killed four Negroes and razed the homes of six families. However, in the storm-lashed Atlantic ocean, moderating weather aided rescue craft seeking to reach two disabled ships.

A cold wave in the Midwest began moderating, the mercury climbing from 19 degrees below zero to four above at International Falls, Minn. Heavy rains fell in Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, and parts of upstate New York and Vermont recorded light snow falls.

Although temperatures skidded to the mid-twenties in parts of Southern California's citrus district, with even lower readings

Along The Cape Fear

Escorting a convoy to St. Johns she then proceeded to the Grand Banks to board Portuguese fishing vessels, which she contacted by radar before sighting them. She continued on convoy escort duty for the rest of the year.

ICE PAROL DUTY—Then in 1945 on February 20 the Modoc departed from convoy in search of a downed plane, investigating driftwood but getting no trace. Numerous contacts were made, most of them being evaluated as non-submarine after depth charges were dropped.

On the 7th of June 1945 the Modoc relieved the Mojave on Ice Patrol duty, the purpose of the patrol being to maintain a close scrutiny of the ice in the Grand Banks region, guarding the southeastern, southern, and southwestern limits of icebergs in order that trans-Atlantic and other passing vessels might be informed of the extent of the danger.

Also as a secondary objective she was to make meteorological observations and scientific studies to

Parley Set

Morning Star Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Wilmington spokesmen will present to top veterans administration officials Monday the city's offer of a site for the thousand-bed hospital planned in eastern North Carolina for treatment of neuropsychiatric veterans.

Conferences with the veterans administrator, General Omar Bradley and the V. A. medical director, Major General Paul Hawley have been arranged for the Wilmington men by Representatives J. Bayard Clark of Fayetteville.

MODOC LORE

For the past several days Along The Cape Fear has been bringing you a log of the U. S. Coast Guard cutter Modoc. The role that the vessel played in World War II was varied.

According to the records of the Coast Guard, much of the vessel's time in 1944 was devoted to escort duty.

Proceeding to Casco Bay, Maine, the Modoc remained there until the 29th of January 1944 when she returned to Boston and on February 1 departed in company with the Comanche and Tampa escorting the U. S. Army transport Fairfax to Argentina.

On February 5, the Modoc proceeded with the Fairfax to Greenland, the Mohawk displacing the Comanche in the escort.

On the 14th she got underway from Narsarsuaq, Greenland, guarding the southeastern, southern, and southwestern limits of icebergs in order that trans-Atlantic and other passing vessels might be informed of the extent of the danger.

CONWAY AGAIN—On the 28th of February she began escorting a convoy to Argentina. Similar duty engaged the Modoc for the next five months. On the 1st of June the Modoc was moored at Greenland, where she remained until the 15th.

House Hands Cherry His Second Defeat

The Weather Lower Chamber Refuses To Adopt Teacher Pay Bill Compromise Plan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—The State House of representatives, determined to force salary increases for teachers and state employees above the 20 per cent figure proposed by Governor Cherry, Thursday handed the administration its second defeat in less than a week on the salary question.

After nearly two hours of debate, the House refused by a vote of 62 to 47 to adopt a compromise pay plan proposed by a conference committee which was named Wednesday to reconcile differences between the House and the Senate.

The compromise would have kept intact the 20 per cent pay increase recommended by the administration, but would have made increases on an emergency salary bill for the remainder of the biennium retroactive to Dec. 1, 1946 instead of Jan. 1, 1947.

Under the compromise, the teachers and state employees would have received nearly as much as they would have under an amendment offered by Rep. Oscar Barker of Durham and adopted by the House last week.

This amendment called for an increase of 30 per cent for those

WHITE PROMISES AIRLINE INQUIRY

Senator Brewster To Head Special Subcommittee To Probe Crashes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—A Senate investigation of recent airline crashes and accidents was promised Thursday by Senator Brewster (R-Me.).

He was designated chairman of a special air safety subcommittee by Chairman White (R-Me) of the Senate Interstate Commerce committee.

In addition to probing all recent air disasters, White said the sub-group would recommend remedial legislation to Congress dealing with all phases of air safety.

The decision to have an aviation inquiry was reached after a series of closed-door conferences with members of the Civil Aeronautics board and its staff. These covered air crashes, airline finances and foreign airline competition.

Brewster told reporters that accident figures submitted by the CAB were "incomplete and unsatisfactory." He said that the data failed to distinguish between flights of the regular scheduled airlines and non-scheduled or charter operations.

Brewster also raised numerous questions about (1) a request by the Trans World Airline (TWA) for a \$40,000,000 loan from the government's Reconstruction Finance corporation, and (2) competition with this nation's airlines by 12 foreign owned lines now reaching the United States.

VINCENT AURIOL NAMED PRESIDENT

Prominent Socialist To Be New French Republic Head; Blum Resigns

PARIS, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Vincent Auriol, 62-year-old socialist, was elected president of the new French Republic Thursday for a seven-year term at the historic Palace of Versailles.

The "caretaker cabinet" of Leon Blum resigned at once and was asked to continue in office until Auriol and party chiefs succeeded in the difficult task of selecting a new premier.

Auriol was elected on the first ballot by a majority of 21 of the 885 votes cast by members of the National assembly and the Council of the republic, the advisory upper house of parliament. The vote was; Auriol 452, Auguste Champetier De Ribes, Popular Republican movement, 242; Jules Gasser, Left Republican union, 122; Michel Clemenceau, Republican Party of Liberty, 60, and scattered, 7.

Auriol's election was assured Thursday morning when the Communists—the largest party—in a surprise move decided to support him instead of naming a candidate of their own.

BLACKJACKS FLY AS UNIONS CLASH

AFL Group Runs CIO Portal Pay Workers Out Of Legion Home

SHEFFIELD, Ala., Jan. 16.—(AP)—A crowd of 300 to 500 AFL members raided a CIO portal-to-portal suit headquarters late Thursday and severely beat up a dozen members of the rival labor organization, officers Ernest Black of the Sheffield police announced.

Black said that the AFL members, armed with blackjacks and sticks, tossed 10 or 12 CIO members out of the windows of their temporary headquarters in the Post 28, American Legion, building, and then chased them up the street, continuing to beat them.

Black and another officer, A. A. Goforth, finally broke up the mob and helped the CIO men back to the Legion house where their cars were packed.

Some of the CIO members were taken to safety in a police car, Black said. It was understood that the demonstration followed a special AFL meeting at the AFL hall.

Bride From India Says U.S. Looks Much Better

Among the array of passengers who arrived here yesterday aboard the S. S. Cape Elizabeth, cargo ship from Calcutta, India, was Sgt. Robert L. Nance and Avis Nance, his Indian bride of four months. The young couple remained in Wilmington last night, but expected to leave today for Houston, Texas, the sergeant's home.

Speaking with an accent similar to a New Yorker's, petite brunette Avis on her first lengthy trip away from Calcutta said that at first impression, "things looked much better over here." She added, though, that she had not previously formed any definite idea of this country because "those G. I.'s told such tall tales that I knew they were exaggerated."

The young couple met by chance in Calcutta as both were assigned to work in the same office, Avis being employed as a secretary by the U. S. Army.

Sergeant Nance, who wears four overseas bars on his sleeve denoting two years abroad, said that he plans to get out of the army and resume his work in construction.

He said, too, that he wasn't too discontent in India until the recent riot broke out, and on that day, he was "ready to get out." He described the riot as being more brutal than anything seen in combat.

The bride of four months said that the people of India craved American goods and that they would buy them, even though the price was higher, in preference to British goods.

The couple today continues their voyage, made five days late by the storm which they described as "pretty rough," to Houston.

New Over-All Head Planned For All Arms

Congressmen Of Both Parties Applaud Proposal Blessed By Secretaries LEADERS TO STAY

Navy Would Keep Marine Corps; Separate Air Arm Would Be Created

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(AP)—A compromise plan designed to unify the armed services while retaining their separate administration and military leadership was announced Thursday night by President Truman with the blessing of both the Army and Navy.

It would create a separate air force and place a new secretary of national defense in over-all charge of it, the Army and Navy. Each of the three services would have secretaries, too, who may be cabinet members.

The expected unification would be achieved by vesting the secretary of national defense with authority to lay down common policies and programs for the three arms. But each department would

COST-OF-LIVING BALLOON SINKING

Increasing Supplies Food, Other Essentials Drops Market Many Points

By The Associated Press

Increasing supplies of foods and other essential commodities, backed by mounting consumer resistance, dragged the high-cost-of-living balloon closer to earth yesterday.

Lower prices for wheat, cotton, oats, cattle, butter, eggs, and poultry accented a downturn for food prices under way for more than a month.

Isolated declines for industrial raw materials also developed, including silver, hides and wools.

In New Hampshire the Public Service company announced a reduction in electric rates despite rising costs. The same state announced a drop in retail and wholesale cream prices.

New York City A. & P. Food stores reduced butter to a cent a pound. The wholesale market dropped 2 to 2 1/4 cents a pound, piling up losses for the last three weeks to around 20 cents and for this week alone 8 to 9 cents.

The Chicago wholesale market also declined.

In the Chicago grain futures market, wheat closed 5-8 to 1-1/2 cents down. Oats lost 1-2 to 1 cent.

Talk of consumer resistance to present prices for some textiles helped drop cotton futures at New York \$ 1/2 a bale at one time. A rally left final quotations \$1 a bale down to 10 cents up.

Raw cotton for spot delivery dipped \$1.25 a bale at New Orleans.

Textile merchants in New York reported hesitant demand for heavy goods for commercial purposes.

The official New York price of silver dropped 1-4 cents an ounce for the third setback of the week. Hide futures at New York declined an outside of 9-10 of a cent a pound and cocoa futures nearly as much.

Cattle at Chicago were 25 cents a hundredweight lower.

Some grades of poultry again declined at New York, putting losses for the last months at from 15 to 20 cents a pound. Eggs also slipped.

Yesterday's price downturn capped the Ford Motor co.'s surprise announcement of Wednesday in which reductions ranging to \$50 a car were disclosed.

Happy Ending

Let's letters like the following that bring us the most pleasant dreams:

I wish to thank you for your assistance in securing a home for the "foundling" dog I called you about last week. The "New So To Bed" article Saturday was very effective and brought good results. A nice school boy came for the pup before noon that day.

Again thanking you for your cooperation, I am,

Very truly yours,

Signed,

Mrs. Vernon G. Slater.