

State House To Get Brief Holiday Lull

Legislature Departs At Last As Meyner Heads For South

By Legislator
With the Legislature at last gone home for the year and Governor Meyner packing his bags for a southern vacation, a sort of holiday peace has settled over the State House.

It is only a temporary lull, however, and probably of brief duration. Things are expected to start popping shortly after the first of the year.

The dying Legislature will be back on January 10, but no business is scheduled. It is a stop-gap meeting to block the Governor on interim appointments. The following day the new session begins and the performance starts all over again.

Along with his tennis racket and swimming trunks, the Governor is taking with him — he leaves tomorrow, Florida first stop — a bundle of notes on his legislative and budget messages. Both documents have explosive possibilities. Spending he proposes will be closely scrutinized. So will the program of enactments he asks for the second year of his administration. Either or both could provide new issues to pile upon the old.

Headaches Still Abound

Relations continue strained between the Governor and Republican leaders. In addition, each party has its own troubles and headaches.

Republicans are smoldering over the manner in which Ransford S. Abbott was fired as executive director of the State Highway Authority. Particularly nettling was the statement of Mrs. Katharine Elkus White, Democrat named to the authority by Governor Meyner last Spring.

Mrs. White said Abbott, who was highway commissioner under former Governor Driscoll and initial chairman of the authority, "had not shown himself competent in carrying out the work of director." The general impression is that Abbott did a good job in both positions.

His ouster has been noted for future reference and will not improve the disposition to fine-comb nominations submitted by the Governor for Senate confirmation. Several are locked in committee. More to come may face the same treatment.

Howell Delay Stirs Talk

Democratic friends of Charles R. Howell, defeated U. S. Senate candidate, are grumbling over Meyner's delay in naming him to a state berth. Howell, rated an easy winner had he run again for Congress from this district, was talked into the Senate race by the Governor.

At the time it was understood there would be something of cabinet status or other high rank in the event he lost. There is a vacancy in the post of state banking commissioner, which has figured most frequently in speculation as to what Howell will get. Nothing has materialized.

Senate and House conflict is giving concern to top level Republicans. It cropped out in Senate failure to go along on several bills. The Assembly passed this year. Notable examples were the water supply program and revision of the motor vehicle system.

State Chairman Bodine is attempting through conferences to develop a smooth working agreement. In some quarters his efforts appear to be resented. There is a long-standing legislative inclination to balk at what it considers outside interference with the law-making machinery.

Jobs involved in the recently created Legislative Service Commission may produce another element of GOP discord. The new agency will replace the Law Revision and Bill Drafting Commission headed by Charles De F. Besore.

By reason of long experience, Besore is seen assured of a place in the revamped set-up, which will have budget, law revision and research divisions. But the top spots have developed some rather keen competition.

Win New Assignments



Col. John P. Read



Col. Frank E. Hanlon

Successors To Charles And Barlow Appointed

Major General James F. Cantwell, chief of staff, State Department of Defense, has announced two top-level staff changes.

Colonel John P. Read, of Trenton, has been named acting deputy chief. He succeeds Brigadier General Chester A. Charles of Sea Girt.

Colonel Frank E. Hanlon has been appointed United States property and fiscal officer, effective upon retirement from the position of Colonel Stephen H. Barlow in February. General Barlow will continue as a member of the department.

Colonel Read will handle the new assignment along with his duties as director of the personnel division. He entered the New Jersey National Guard 28 years ago. Enlisting in 1926, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry in 1928. He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1930 and to captain in 1934.

In 1940 he was assigned as assistant adjutant general of the state. For approximately three years he served as acting deputy adjutant general. Promotion to major came in 1942, to lieutenant colonel in 1945 and to colonel in 1953. He resides with his wife and daughter at 520 Berwyn Avenue.

Colonel Hanlon enlisted in the National Guard in 1933 as a private, advanced through the enlisted ranks and was commissioned second lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps, in 1940. Inducted into Federal service in November of that year, he served in state headquarters for Selective Service in New Jersey and Wisconsin. He returned to state service in 1946 with the rank of major.

Employed temporarily in the Office of U. S. Property and Disbursing Officer from 1933 to 1936, he was appointed to a permanent position in 1937. Moving through a series of positions, he became administrative assistant to the USP&FO in 1948. A native of Passaic, he lives with his wife, daughter and son at 306 Bellevue Avenue.

Barlow's Long Service

Colonel Barlow's service goes back to 1913, when he enlisted as a private with the old Second Infantry Regiment. He saw duty on the Mexican border as a captain and was overseas in World War I from June, 1918, until May of the following year.

Upon his return he served with the State Militia until 1920, when he was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps, State Staff. He was elevated to lieutenant colonel in

1924 and became Quartermaster General of the state in 1934. During World War II he served on the state staff. His home is on Elm Ridge Road, Pennington.

General Charles, a resident of Sea Girt, began his military career with the 29th Division Headquarters Trooper in 1917. He transferred to the Aviation Section, Signal Corps, the following year, and in 1918 completed the flying school course at Kelly Field, Texas, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant pursuit pilot.

Ridolfi's Hat In City Race

Announces Decision To Run Again For Com- mission Berth

Sido L. Ridolfi said last night he would run in May for the City Commission.

He explained that he wanted to make his position known before leaving tomorrow on a 10-day vacation.

Asked if he would run as part of a bracket with the four other City Commissioners, Ridolfi said "I know nothing about that. The other commissioners don't even know of my decision to run yet."

Ridolfi said that he had not made up his mind about running until today. His decision has been awaited with much anticipation not only by the other city commissioners but also by other potential candidates.

The fact that Ridolfi is also State Senator from Mercer made speculation about his decision even more intense. He had said when he ran for the Senate in the Fall of 1953 that he would resign from the commission if elected. When it became clear that he intended to serve out his four-year term on the commission, there remained the question whether he would run in 1955.

In recent weeks, most observers have thought that he would run. In 1951 Ridolfi finished a very strong second in the race, only a few hundred votes behind Mayor Connolly. After the election, he was made director of revenue and finance.

Reich Army Vote Contest Grips Paris

Mendes and Communist Leaders Engaged In Fateful Struggle

PARIS (UP) — Premier Pierre Mendes-France and Communist leaders Saturday waged a grim tug of war for votes on German rearmament which will decide the fate of France's government and role in the Western defense alliance.

The French Reds pounced gleefully on the National Assembly vote against rearmament early Friday, and busied themselves shoring it up against the reversal sought by Mendes-France.

The showdown will come Monday afternoon when the wavering assembly will vote again — this time for keeps — on ratifying the Paris accord on rearming West Germany.

Working Like Trojans

To continue his short but spectacular career as premier, Mendes-France must convince some of the deputies who deserted him or some of the 73 who abstained early Friday to change their votes on Monday. On that he was working like a Trojan.

On the other hand, the Communists kicked off a drive to block any reversal of the vote against rearmament and send it down to final defeat.

The French Reds mounted their campaign on all the fronts. They called for nationwide demonstrations and for delegations to descend on the National Assembly Monday.

Most non-Communist newspapers urged the deputies to live up to their responsibilities and vote for rearmament on the second go-round to save France from the isolation threatened by Anglo-American reaction to the negative ballot.

Mendes-France and his supporters were toiling behind the scenes to muster the necessary votes in an assembly where the elected representatives of the people have rejected German rearmament twice in four months.

Five separate questions will be up for decision Monday, but they are grouped under two confidence votes.

AUGUSTA, Ga. (UP) — President Eisenhower discussed French opposition to German rearmament with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles by telephone for the third time Saturday and planned to "keep in very close touch" with the current French parliamentary crisis.

Interrupts Ike's Holiday

Mr. Eisenhower interrupted a quiet Christmas at the "winter" White House on the edge of the famed Augusta National Golf Course for the telephonic conference and also to get in several hours of work on other matters of state.

The White House staff said only that the discussion concerned France, apparently the latest reports from the U. S. Embassy in Paris on a scheduled vote Monday in the French Chamber of Deputies.

"The President and Dulles, who remained in Washington, will stay 'in very close touch,'" the White House said. Dulles may possibly be asked by Mr. Eisenhower to come here for a conference if the Chamber of Deputies votes against German rearmament.

Tragedies Mar Holiday; Fire Kills Woman Here

End Of A Wearisome Yule



The excitement of Christmas Day proved a little too much for 3-year-old Mary Beth Tombs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tombs of 6 Patton Drive. So she stretched out on a pillow and a mat under the Christmas tree, grasping a favorite doll.

Mrs. Bond Perishes In Hanover Street Apartment — 12 Die In Stove Explosion In Arkansas

Death — Instead of Santa Claus — visited many American homes yesterday.

Traffic accidents and fires took a frightful toll of lives as the nation celebrated Christmas Day in unseasonably mild weather.

A United Press survey showed that 147 persons had been killed in traffic since 6 p. m. Friday and 20 died in fires. There was one death in an airplane mishap and six in miscellaneous accidents, giving the nation an overall total of 174 accidental deaths.

One of the deaths by fire occurred here in Trenton. Mrs. Daisy Bond, 55-years-old, of 235 Hanover Street perished when flames ravaged her basement apartment early yesterday morning. She was carried from her burning flat by Captain Leland Heath of the Trenton Fire department, but was pronounced dead in a police ambulance.

Cause of the fire was not determined, though police speculated that Mrs. Bond might have fired her Christmas tree accidentally with a lighted cigaret. Captain Heath said he found Mrs. Bond lying halfway between a couch and the door after he forced his way in through the locked door. Widow of an army officer, the woman was employed at the Westinghouse plant here.

Riverside Man Killed

A Riverside man was killed Christmas Eve when struck by an armored truck. Herbert Schneider Jr., 32, of Delaware Avenue, was pronounced dead on arrival at Zuppbrugg Memorial Hospital at Riverside. He was knocked down on Pancost Boulevard by an Armored Motor Service Corp. truck driven by James W. Wright, 59, of Lakeside Park.

A large deckhand identified from a Social Security card in his pocket as William Young, 55, drowned when he fell from the barge into the Delaware River at Florence Friday night.

The nation's worst Christmas tragedy was a fire at Parkin, Ark., which took 11 lives.

The families of Ruel Montana and Pete Santana had gathered for a Christmas Eve meal when a kitchen stove exploded, the resultant fire killed Mrs. Santana, five of her children and five of the Montana children. Authorities said the explosion occurred when kerosene was splashed on the wood stove to revive a smoldering fire so the group could make tamales. The children ranged in age from 5 months to 9 years.

15 Deaths In Michigan

Michigan led the states with 45 traffic deaths. Ohio had 11, Missouri 10, and California and Pennsylvania had nine apiece.

The number of dead in highway crashes was so high that the National Safety Council issued a special bulletin urging motorists and pedestrians to exercise the same caution they did on December 15 when the nation observed Safe Driving Day.

Temperatures were generally mild with a "White Christmas" confined to the Canadian border areas. A storm center sweeping over Canada blessed most of the United States with a 10 w of warm air from the South. International Falls, Minn., for example, had a low of only 21 degrees today compared with a normal for Christmas of 4 below zero.

4 Die In Labor Camp Fire

Four persons, including a baby girl, were burned to death yesterday when fire raced through a migrant labor camp building which housed Negro farm laborers at Penn Yan, N. Y. Three others suffered severe burns.

Yates County Undersheriff

Ralph Legg said about 20 other persons escaped from the burning frame building. Legg said the dead had not been identified, but it was believed three were men and the other a baby girl about 15 months old.

A Pennsylvania Marine stationed at Miami, Fla., was killed yesterday when in the convertible in which he riding plunged into a canal. The victim, Sergeant Charles R. Edmiston, 24, Pittsburgh, was apparently trapped under the water. His body was found in the automobile when it was pulled out of the water an hour and a half later.

Tulsa Heiress Asphyxiated

Mrs. Marie Foster Kane Smith, 44, Tulsa, Okla., oil heiress, died early yesterday in a fire which swept through her apartment. The fire spread to adjoining apartments and caused damage estimated at \$3,000.

Sheriff George Fryover ordered an autopsy after conducting an investigation. He said "it didn't look right to me." Assistant Fire Chief Ralph McCall of Tulsa said the fire apparently started from a cigaret which fell on a rug or a chair. Mrs. Smith was found slumped in the dining room and a doctor said she died of burns and asphyxiation. She was the daughter of the late H. V. Foster, multimillionaire oil man who once was rated "on paper" as the richest man in the nation.

Freak Blast Causes Death

A freakish explosion at Levittown, N. Y., caused the death of a man by drowning. An explosion in the fuel tank of an automobile rammed by a second car blew Mrs. Joseph M. Fennon out of the car she was driving. Her driverless car went into a catch basin holding five feet of water and Mrs. Fennon's husband was drowned.

A Michigan woman trapped for more than seven hours with her husband in an auto which overturned in a ditch near Gallipolis, Ohio, died of exposure and shock yesterday. Mrs. Estelle Overstreet, 56, of Pontiac, Mich., died in an ambulance on the way to a hospital.

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U. S. Couple Among 28 Killed In Air Crash

Giant Plane, Flying From London To New York, Cracks Up On Prestwick Runway, Only Eight Surviving Tragedy

PRESTWICK, Scotland (UP) — Two passengers going to their homes in the United States for Christmas were listed Saturday night among the 28 who died in the flaming wreckage of a British stratospheric jetliner here early Saturday.

Seven crewmen and one passenger survived the holocaust. The giant plane, flying from London to New York, dropped down through the murk and cracked up on the runway, bursting into flames.

Among the victims were Dr. and Mrs. Walter Mayland of Evanston, Ill., and Kenneth Davidson, 49, a Briton who lived in Bronxville, N. Y. A former world amateur badminton champion, Davidson was returning from a badminton promotion tour of Malaya and India.

U. S. Servicemen Help

Sir Miles Thomas, chairman of the government-operated British Overseas Airways, extended thanks to gallant U. S. servicemen stationed at this transatlantic air terminal who helped hold down the toll.

Thomas flew to the scene and began an investigation. No explanation for the crash had been offered.

Waiting at the airport for one of the passengers was A-1C John Nelson of Oklahoma City. The passenger was his fiancée, Nancy Campbell, a BOAC employe in London, flying home to spend Christmas with Nelson.

Nine of the passengers were BOAC employes homebound for the holiday season. Only the Waylands, Davidson and a Jamaican

were continuing the journey to New York.

One of the crewmen who escaped was navigator John Goddard. He was scheduled to leave the plane here and spent Christmas in Scotland with his family. But his wife and infant son were passengers in the plane and died in the crash.

Fire fighters and medical attendants from the U. S. Air Force's 1831st Transport Squadron stationed here worked with British fire crews in a desperate effort to save the trapped passengers.

"We were helpless in the face of all that fire," said Capt. J. M. Vietnam of Orlando, Fla. "But it was agonizing to watch the plane burning and know there were people inside and we couldn't get to them."

Maj. Samuel Walker of Brookville, Miss., said the asbestos suits his men wore in an effort to get inside the blazing plane were useless, so fierce was the heat.

Without Warning

One of the two flight engineers who asked to be unidentified said the approach to the field was normal, "and there was no warning of any kind of what was about to happen."

"Everything seemed perfectly normal," he said. "Then suddenly the plane lurched after hitting the runway and heaved over, and a series of bumps and crashes shook the whole ship. There was a final deafening blast which threw us all to the floor, and there was fire everywhere. What happened after that is just a blur, it was so fast, it got out through one of the sliding windows in the nose of the plane and dropped about 15 feet to the ground. Several other crew members escaped through a hole torn in the side of the plane."

No Ice Hampers George This Time



George Washington again crossed the Delaware yesterday but he did it in broad daylight and there was nary a block of ice in the stream when the craft crossed from the Pennsylvania shore to the Jersey banks at approximately the same place where General Washington made the hazardous trip back in 1776. The role of the general was taken by St. John Ferrell, Lambertville theatrical producer, who is pictured in the bow of the craft. Others are, from left to right, Lowell Ellwell who played the part of Colonel Knox; Robert Walters who was General Mercer; Budd Schulberg, the well-known Bucks County writer; Horace White, George Bailey, and Elm-

Pius Imparts Benediction

VATICAN CITY (UP) — Pope Pius imparted his apostolic benediction in 16 Latin words to a cheering throng below his sickroom window Saturday in a brief personal appearance that was his Christmas wish.

The pale, frail Pontiff, supported by doctors and a Papal chamberlain, stood for two minutes and 20 seconds at the second window from the right on the fourth floor of the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican.

In St. Peter's Square 168 feet below, some 60,000 persons cheered "Viva Il Papa" and waved handkerchiefs and balloons in a mixed expression of Christmas joy and gratitude for the recovery of the Pope from a near-fatal collapse 23 days ago.

He spoke slowly but distinctly into a microphone which boomed his words through the square where, hearing the last of them, the crowd knelt on the cobblestones.

Thousands Of Draftees Will Be Released Early In Manpower Cut

WASHINGTON (UP) — The Army plans to release thousands of draftees ahead of schedule next year to carry out the sharp manpower cut ordered by the White House, officials revealed Saturday.

Other steps in the cutback include early release of some reserve officers, extended deferment from active duty of reserve officers training draft calls form 20,000 to 11,000.

President Eisenhower recently directed a 243,000-man cut in the Army by next Summer. This will reduce strength to 1,000,000 men from a near-fatal collapse 23 days ago.

The 24 divisions announced as its goal last Sept. 28. They foresee only 19 or 20 divisions but said the exact number still must be worked out.

Under present plans, all two-year draftees completing 23 months service next May will be released at that time. Those completing 22 months in June will be released then. This "pre-release" policy will prevail for several months in fiscal 1956, starting next July.

From next March to September the Army also plans to release reserve officers serving their first 24-month tour after they complete only 21 months. Exceptions are chaplains, medical officers and women officers.

Men overseas will be brought home in time for separation under the new schedule.

Military sources said it is a certainty the Army cannot now man

Remaining cuts will come from "normal attrition" — deaths, retirements, and failure of men to reenlist.

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