

# The Battalion

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## Eisenhower Bids For Demo Support In Reply To Critics

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(AP)—President Eisenhower, bidding for support of Democrats in Congress, today starts writing a reply to critics among them who contend business is on the skids.

Eisenhower was scheduled to meet at his Augusta National Golf Club office with two key aides who have responsibility for planning to avert any business downturn.

They are Dr. Gabriel Hauge, the president's personal adviser on

economic problems, and Dr. Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the three-man Council of Economic Advisers authorized by Congress after World War II.

Hauge and Burns brought with them from Washington yesterday a preliminary outline of the economic report which Eisenhower will send to Congress shortly after the legislators reconvene Jan. 6.

The President arrived here Christmas Day to work on that report, the State of the Union Message he will deliver in person to the lawmakers Jan. 7, and the annual budget message. He also is writing the television-radio report he will make to the nation Monday night on the administration's first year in office.

Eisenhower's headquarters announced yesterday that week from today in Washington he will give Democratic congressional leaders a preview of his State of the Union Message. Republican leaders—who already have been consulted on the message—will sit in at the session.

The announcement said special emphasis at the forthcoming White House meeting will be directed at winning bi-partisan support for the administration in the fields of foreign affairs and national defense.

Eisenhower aides added, however, that the President is just as eager for the cooperation of Democrats on domestic matters.

On the economic domestic front there have been some signs lately that the administration might come under attack in the new session.

Sen. Douglas D-III., for example said last week that American business already is in the midst of a "real recession."

In a debate with Douglas on that issue last Sunday, Hauge rejected the idea that business has slumped seriously. Hauge added that "we can still look pretty optimistically on the business situation this year and the outlook for next year."

## Draft Head Denies Charge Of 'Control'

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey has denied an assertion by Rep. Burr P. Harrison, D-Va., that the draft machinery in Virginia is being used to help control farm production.

But Harrison, who made public today Hershey's reply to his complaint, said in an interview that he disagrees with the selective service director.

Harrison's charge, in effect, is that a circular issued to Virginia draft boards discourages them from giving deferments as essential farm workers to youths who are producing primarily crops of which there is a surplus. He said that would make selective service "an instrument of agricultural production control."

The circular was issued by the Virginia state draft director, Thomas W. White. A national selective service official said he knew of no similar circulars in other states. He said state directors are not required to send such material to Washington, "but most do as a matter of information."

The Virginia circular said that "if there is an overproduction of a particular agricultural commodity it can readily be seen that further production thereof would certainly not be necessary to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest, and to defer registrants to continue to produce those commodities where there is an overproduction would be unwarranted."

Hershey, in his letter to Harrison, said he had been assured by White that it was not the state director's intention "to attempt to control the nation's agricultural production."

Harrison, saying he disagrees with Hershey, commented: "I do not believe it was the intention of Congress to put the local selective service boards in the position of being agricultural economists."

If local boards act on the basis of what they read about farm surpluses, he added, there could be a great disparity in opinions.

Harrison said in an interview that draft boards should base farm deferment decisions solely on whether the registrant is or is not necessary to farming.



REUNION—Mrs. Sam Jones of Lubbock, Tex., was reunited with her son, Nick W. Woods of Houston, after 20 years on Christmas. Woods located his mother through a chance conversation followed by a long distance phone call. He is shown giving his mother a picture of her two-year-old granddaughter, whom she has never seen.

## South Korea Blasts India's 'Red Support'

PANMUNJOM—(AP)—South Korea's foreign minister today assailed India for backing a report blaming South Korea for sabotaging the explanations to balking war prisoners.

"We are not surprised," Foreign Minister Pyun Yung Tai declared, "because we know India will side with the Communists on all important issues."

Pyun's attack was the opening blow of an expected South Korean thunderclap against India's neutrality in the touchy prisoner situation.

India, the chairman of the five-nation repatriation commission, sided with Poland and Czechoslovakia in a majority report that accused South Korea of controlling compounds housing more than 22,000 anti-Communist North Korean and Chinese war prisoners.

Only a small number of the anti-Red prisoners ever met Communist persuasion teams in the 90-day explanation period. Those that did rejected return to their homelands by an overwhelming majority.

A minority report by Sweden and Switzerland blamed Communist explanation teams for dragging out the interviews sometimes as long as five hours.

Pyun told a news conference in Seoul he did not know what went on behind the prison compounds in the neutral zone but added, "I do

not think the Communist charges are fully founded."

He said Communists were backing away from a Korean political conference because of unrepatiated prisoners on Jan. 22 "look like a faulty procedure."

The Communist high command maintains that after a full 90 days of explanations any prisoners remaining should be turned over to the political conference for disposition. Negotiations toward setting up a political conference are at a standstill.

The U. N. Command maintains the outbreak of fighting say official reports are lagging far behind newspaper accounts. They also expressed surprise at the amount of press coverage given the military push, saying there have been larger communist drives in the past.

Nevertheless, they say the dramatic manner in which the Communists forced across a 4,000-foot mountain range in Indochina for 150 miles to the Nekong River boundary apparently has caught the imagination of American editors and newspaper readers.

These officials say there has been little contact between the invading Vietminh troops and ground forces of the French Union and loyal native troops. But they say the Communists, en route for several days, have been hit heavily by air attacks.

They estimate the Vietminh troops number between 3,000 and 4,000. They have said the Communist military buildup reached its peak last year, whereas French Union forces have been continuing a buildup and seem strong enough to hold their own.

There was little talk of more U. S. aid to the embattled French Union forces. The explanation was that France and the Indochinese are receiving about as much aid as they can now absorb.

## ★ DEATH TOLL GOES HIGHER

CHICAGO—(AP)—The nation's traffic death toll over the New Year's weekend, the National Safety Council estimated today, may reach 360.

The council said its estimate was for immediate traffic deaths only and covered the period from 6 p. m. Thursday, New Year's Eve, to midnight Sunday local time.

The council's advice to the possible 360 victims was: "A wonderful way to start the new year would be to start it!"

## Democrats Question

## Korean Troop Withdrawal

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Democratic senators today questioned President Eisenhower's decision to withdraw two U. S. divisions from Korea. Republican Senate leaders gave it solid support.

Sen. Sparkman of Alabama, the Democratic vice presidential candidate last year, said he feared "budgetary factors may have played a great part in the decision."

Sen. Monroney (D-Okla.) called for a "full-dress, nonpartisan investigation by the Armed Services Committee" of long-range U. S. defense needs. He predicted that administration defense cuts planned for the year beginning July 1, "will be a major issue before Congress next year."

The administration is reported to have decided on an average 10 per cent manpower reduction in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. The Air Force would not be affected.

Sparkman, asked for his opinion

on the Korea troop withdrawal decision, said in an interview:

"One thing really bothers me. That is, we don't know what the Chinese Communists are going to do in Indochina. But we do know that for every man we take out of Korea they can put that much more pressure on Indochina. This is a bad time for us to be weakening our Far Eastern strength."

Sen. Knowland of California, the GOP Senate leader, said in a separate interview he thinks it "advisable to reduce our forces overseas" as soon as world conditions permit. He expressed full agreement with Korean withdrawal.

Sen. Ferguson, (R-Mich.) GOP Policy Committee chairman, called the move "a step in the right direction." Because of Eisenhower's military background, he said, he is certain the withdrawal would not have been ordered "if it were in the danger zone."

## 1000 Men Battle Fire To Save Observatory

## Indochina War Reports Leave Far East Shaky

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The State Department was reported today readying a statement on the new Communist invasion drive which has split Indochina and given the Far East a new cast of jitters.

And Sen. Knowland of California, Republican Senate leader, said the development poses a grave threat to Thailand, which borders on Indochina.

"Any invasion of Thailand would be considered highly critical," Knowland told reporters.

"We could not stand by. If the United Nations did not take action, it could not survive."

Thailand must be protected against Communist invasion, he said, "unless the free world wants all Asia to go down the drain."

At the State Department yesterday, a spokesman said it is "watching that Indochina situation closely and awaiting further reports."

However, officials were understood to be working up a response to the Christmas Day complaint by the Laotian Prime Minister soon after Communist Vietminh forces climbed the mountains and struck out for the Thailand border.

The diplomatic way—the practical way, for that matter—is for the United States to await statements from countries immediately affected in such cases before issuing a public statement of its own. Other than the Laotian complaint, there have been no statements from governments in the area.

American officials watching the outbreak of fighting say official reports are lagging far behind newspaper accounts. They also expressed surprise at the amount of press coverage given the military push, saying there have been larger communist drives in the past.

Nevertheless, they say the dramatic manner in which the Communists forced across a 4,000-foot mountain range in Indochina for 150 miles to the Nekong River boundary apparently has caught the imagination of American editors and newspaper readers.

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They estimate the Vietminh troops number between 3,000 and 4,000. They have said the Communist military buildup reached its peak last year, whereas French Union forces have been continuing a buildup and seem strong enough to hold their own.

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Victor Alessandro

## ★ San Antonio Symphony Next For Town Hall

Tickets are now on sale in the Office of Student Activities for the Jan. 7 Town Hall attraction, The San Antonio Symphony orchestra, conducted by Victor Alessandro.

Scheduled for Guion Hall, the show will be staged in two performances in order to seat anticipated crowds. Tickets are \$2.00.

Tickets should be purchased for either the 7 p. m. or 9 p. m. performance. Duets with the 7 p. m. time will not be accepted at the 9 p. m. show.

Student Activities plans to keep the tickets on sale for the remainder of this and next week.

## Rhee Asks Allies to End 'Futile Talk'

SEOUL—(AP)—South Korean President Syngman Rhee today called on the Allies to halt "futile discussions with the Communists" and join his nation in "the last great battle to annihilate the Red force that seek destruction of the free world."

The fiery Korean patriot, in a new year's message to his people that echoed his previous threats to unify Korea by force, asserted a decisive war with communism is "eventual and inevitable."

A few hours earlier the aged leader pledged to North Koreans in a new year's greeting, "We will come to your rescue just as soon as we can."

He told the people of the Communist-ruled North "never do we forget, even in the nightmare dreams that haunt us in sleep, the terrible plight in which you are caught."

The strong statement appeared to give new life to his repeated threats in the last stages of the war last spring that South Korea would drive—alone if necessary—to the Yalu River boundary.

But the recent breakdown of negotiations to set up the conference, he said, "can be regarded as final."

"If the United States continues to maintain its present strong stand, we shall never have to wait another three or four months in an attempt to prepare for a political conference that is foredoomed to be fruitless," he declared.

"More than ever we are convinced that as long as the Chinese Communists are on Korean soil there can be no successful conference and no peace for our suffering country."

Rhee said it was his biggest wish that "our allies come to realize fully that the war in Korea" has a close link with their future safety from communism.

"Now to make certain that these sacrifices shall not have been in vain, we call upon them to conclude futile discussions with the Communists, and to rise with us in courage and valor for the last great battle to annihilate the Red forces that seek the destruction of the free world."

"Only thus can the free world prevent the launching of Red aggression and bring lasting peace to the earth."

## Fire Is Near Top Of Peak

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Mt. Wilson's valuable observatory and television equipment were still safe today as more than 1,000 men battled two forest fires in the San Gabriel Mountains.

High winds which fanned the flames yesterday had abated, but the fire creeping up Mt. Wilson was reported near the top and in places was estimated variously as from 200 yards to one-quarter mile from observatory structures.

Some 8,000 acres had been swept in this area, and another 3,000 in the second fire 20 miles eastward, below Mt. Baldy, foresters said.

Approximately 2,500 persons have been evacuated from both regions, but a recheck last night showed the number of unoccupied cabins burned to be about 33. Earlier 136 cabins were reported destroyed in Santa Anita Canyon. The fire now menacing Mt. Wilson started there and spread to adjoining canyons.

Lower edges of this fire have from time to time threatened outskirt of Monrovia and Sierra Madre, foothill communities east of Pasadena.

Fire equipment from many towns—as far north as Bakersfield and south to San Diego—has been moved in to aid federal, state and county foresters.

The fire below Mt. Baldy is north of Claremont, and 700 to 1,000 residents in that vicinity were evacuated.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. reported its coaxial cable to the top of Mt. Wilson, where TV transmitters are located was still intact although in danger. Net work officials have pointed out that loss of Mt. Wilson facilities would knock out Los Angeles area reception but would not affect network operations, which are piped East by another coaxial cable.

Late last night observatory personnel sent their wives down the mountain by one remaining safe route and joined the fire crews.

Valuable scientific instruments, household effects from six dwellings and five automobiles were moved inside the double-walled steel dome that houses the 100-inch telescope.

One astronomer said the 100-inch and 60-inch telescopes, in steel housings, probably would be safe but heat from the fires might destroy the delicate alignment of other instruments if the flames actually reached the observatory.

## Board Created To Stop Strike Of Rail Workers

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(AP)—President Eisenhower today created an emergency board to head off a threatened strike of more than a million railroad workers represented by 15 non-operating unions.

The union members all are such employees as clerks and track walkers who don't work on the moving trains. The dispute affects 150 railroads operating throughout the country.

Creation of the three-man emergency board means that under terms of the Railway Labor Act the 15 unions are barred from striking for a 60-day period.

Eisenhower's vacation headquarters here said the members of the board will be named in a few days.

During the 60-day no-strike period the board will hold hearings and recommend settlement terms. The last half of the two-month period is reserved for union-management negotiations on the basis of the board's findings.

Eisenhower's executive order setting up the board said the dispute threatens "substantially to interrupt interstate commerce to a degree such as to deprive the country of essential transportation service."

The 15 non-operating unions recently took a strike vote, after which it was announced that more than 90 per cent of the members approved a walkout. No strike date was set, however.

## Weather Today



COLD

An expected cold front will arrive sometime tomorrow and become stationary in this area. A stronger cold front is now in the midwest and may get this far in two or three days. The high yesterday was 52, low last night 36. Expected high today about 52.