



COTTONSEED MOUNTAIN—This cottonseed mountain contains some 18 million pounds of seed in storage at the Wichita Falls Cotton Oil Co. W. C. Smith, manager, said the seed was stored in the open after plant facilities became overloaded with more than 10 million pounds of cottonseed from a bumper cotton crop in North Central Texas.

Of Chinese War Prisoners

Year-End Head Count Made

PANMUNJOM—(AP)—Indian troops made a year-end head count of Chinese war prisoners in their custody today and 135 of the 4,385 checked asked to return to Communist China.

An Indian spokesman emphasized that the count was not a screening and did not substitute for interviews, which ended Dec. 23. However, Indian guards gave prisoners wishing to return home every chance to ask for repatriation.

There was no indication whether the count would be extended to the pro-Communist North Camp, which holds 22 Americans who refused to return home.

Nor was there any indication whether the count would be extended to the North and South Koreans or the one "Englishman" in custody.

The 135 of 4,385 tally was about 3.1 per cent, approximately the same as for the 10 days when prisoners attended explanations. Officially, the count is being made to give the Indian command an opportunity to check its prisoner rosters and to find out exactly how many captives it holds.

An Indian spokesman emphasized that "any requests for repatriation must be regarded as entirely incidental to the head count." But observers pointed out that the method used approached a de facto screening.

Prisoners walked one at a time into the wire-enclosed corridor around the compound and were handed a piece of paper on which each wrote his name and serial number.

The prisoners were kept several feet apart as they moved along the so-called chicken run to a gate where they handed the slip of paper to an Indian officer for checking against a master roster.

Each captive was alone with the officer for several seconds—long enough to ask to go back to Red China if he wished.

The count began in enclosure B, which has 10 compounds holding Chinese prisoners listed as refusing to go back to Communist rule. Prisoners from a few compounds were interviewed by Red explainers prior to Dec. 23. Many of the captives, however, have not been asked whether they want to return home.

Approximately 20,000 anti-Communist prisoners and 100 pro-Communist—including 22 Americans—

were not interviewed during the 90-day period provided by the Korean armistice.

Two months ago Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Indian chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, said he could easily screen all prisoners who were not interviewed to give each man a final chance to go home.

Later the Indians all but discarded any plans for a formal screening after learning that the Communists opposed such a procedure. However, Indian officers indicated

they felt a strong moral responsibility to give each prisoner an opportunity to request repatriation.

One source pointed out that the main requirement for a screening is merely to separate the men who want to go home from anti-Communist leaders who bring pressure against them.

The technique used by the Indians in making their head count fulfilled this requirement. The only thing lacking was the deliberate offering of a choice.

Shoulders Prepared To Fight Indictment

ST. LOUIS—(AP)—Former Police Lt. Louis Shoulders, a veteran officer who has survived investigations in the past, now is prepared to fight a federal perjury indictment in an aftermath of the Greenlease kidnapping.

Shoulders, patient and smiling for photographers, posted \$10,000 bond here yesterday to remain free while awaiting a call to Kansas City by federal authorities. The bond was posted for Shoulders by a professional bondsman.

The date of Shoulders' arraignment has not yet been announced, but his attorney, Henry G. Morris, told newsmen:

"If it becomes necessary to enter a plea, it certainly will be one of not guilty."

It was Morris, too, who said Shoulders would fight the perjury charge "all the way" and will "meet the issues as they come."

A Kansas City grand jury Tuesday charged in its indictment that the 55-year-old former St. Louis police officer gave false testimony in describing his handling of suitcases containing a portion of the

record \$600,000 Greenlease ransom money.

A little more than half of the ransom still is missing.

Shoulders has stated the suitcases were brought to a district police station along with Carl Austin Hall—since executed with his accomplice, Bonnie Brown Heady, for the kidnap-slaying of 6-year-old Bobby Greenlease—shortly after his arrest on the night of Oct. 6.

The jury, after studying testimony of other witnesses, alleged Shoulders' statement to be untrue.

Opinions of Judge, Governor Differ

AUSTIN, Dec. 31—(AP)—Gov. Shivers and L. D. Godard of Texas City differed today over whether Godard's appointment as judge of the 56th District Court was conditioned on his not seeking election next year.

Shivers appointed Godard last week to succeed Judge Charles G. Dibrell, who is retiring Jan. 1. The governor said at the time, he was making the appointment with the understanding Godard would not ask election to the post in 1954.

Godard told the Galveston Tribune today that no such agreement was involved.

A spokesman for Shivers said the governor "definitely understood by personal telephone conversation with Mr. Godard that he would not seek the office if appointed."

From Moscow to New York

By The Associated Press
The gayest and biggest New Year's Eve celebrations since the end of World War II were in prospect in many of the great cities of the world tonight—sparked by the hope that perhaps peace will have a better chance in 1954.

In Moscow, the sale of champagne tripled in comparison to last year's holiday period. And from New York to San Francisco, theaters and night clubs expected the greatest crowds of the postwar years.

Along with the hoop-la, many planned to gather in churches for watch night services bidding farewell to the old year and praying for the peace, health and prosperity that 1953 did not assure.

And as America planned to go forth for its usual jolliment, the

First Tax Cuts in Five Years Begin Jan. 1st; Effect Millions

AFL's Meany Raps Curtis' Security Plan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—(AP)—AFL President George Meany said today the plan of Rep. Curtis R. Nease to revamp the social security system is "the most morally dishonest proposal to come from a person in a position of public trust in many years."

Meany said the Curtis plan would provide "blanket paid up insurance coverage" to millions of aged, widows and dependent children out of funds contributed for years by other persons for their own and their families' security. At present, the social security system has two main parts:

1. The old age and survivors' insurance system, financed by taxes on employees' wages and employers' payrolls.

2. The system of non-contributory benefits to needy aged, needy children, etc. The federal government makes grants to help finance this program, which is administered by states and local governments. These grants are made from general tax revenues.

Curtis said yesterday he would introduce legislation to make 6,124,000 more persons eligible for benefits under the first system, to abolish the federal grants to the states under the second system and to leave supplementary relief aid to the states.

Meany's statement classed the Curtis proposals as a plan "to raid the social security trust funds as a source of hand-outs."

The AFL chief said his labor organization had long favored extending social security coverage, but not with funds reserved for those already covered.

"The problem of the present aged who can not qualify for insurance benefits because they have never contributed would not confront us today if Congress had adopted all of our recommendations for extension in the past," Meany said.

"Congressman Curtis himself must accept a large share of the blame for the failure of Congress to do so. In the 80th Congress he voted to remove about three quarters of a million persons from the old age and survivors insurance rolls."

Reds Trade Gold For British Sterling

LONDON—(AP)—Another shipment of Soviet "hammer and sickle" gold bars—the fourth this winter—arrived in London last night. The shipment, valued at \$4,200,000 was taken from the airport to the London branch of the Soviet State Bank.

Official sources said last week Russia has flown 65 million dollars in gold into Britain this winter.

Financial sources said the gold is being purchased by the Bank of England in sterling. They said the Russians want the British currency so they can purchase foreign consumer goods to bolster Premier Georgi Malenkov's drive to step up the Soviet standard of living.

★ THREE FINES IN A MILE

CLEVELAND—(AP)—Bus driver Delaney Williams, 32, hit the traffic jackpot yesterday. He got three tickets for violations committed in less than a mile of driving.

The charges were the same in each case: failing to pull his bus to the curb on discharging passengers.

Patrolman Clement Kramer notified the driver of the first offense. He said he then followed him in his patrol car and Williams did the same thing twice within the next eight blocks.

Income Tax Rates Drop 10 Percent

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Uncle Sam presents a New Year's gift tomorrow to more than 50 million individuals and 50,000 corporations—the first general tax cuts in five years.

Starting tomorrow, these three big changes will give a new look to the government's revenue structure:

1. Individual income tax rates will drop about 10 per cent from all except the highest brackets, chopping three billion dollars annually off federal revenue.

2. The excess profits tax on corporations will expire, reducing government income about two billion dollars annually.

3. The social security payroll tax, levied on both employees and employers, will go up from 1½ to 2 per cent. It is collected on the first \$3,600 paid annually to a worker. That will increase income to the special social security trust fund by almost 1½ billions annually.

Drives already have started on two fronts to give even bigger breaks to taxpayers during the congressional election year of 1954.

Chairman Daniel A. Reed (R-NY) of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, has said the 10 per cent income tax cut is not enough and he hopes for another reduction as soon as possible. Reed also called for cuts later this year in corporate income and excise or sales taxes.

The Eisenhower administration has asked that the social security tax increases—the only immediate thorn in the rosy picture of tax reductions—be canceled.

Altogether, almost 60 million individual income taxpayers will benefit from the 10 per cent reduction. But, in the lowest income tax brackets, the social security tax increase will amount to more—leaving a net loss in take-home pay for about 10 million workers.

Economists have been saying the income tax reductions should spur consumer buying and help ease threats of any business recession next year. And for corporations, death of the excess profits tax may pave the way for expansion—especially for newer and smaller firms, which can retain more of any expanded earnings.

The excess profits tax has been 30 per cent of income above a standard set by law. Piled on top of the regular 52 per cent corporation income tax, it has imposed a levy of 82 per cent on some corporate income.

After tomorrow, the income tax payroll withholding rate will be reduced from 20 per cent to 18 per cent of income, after allowances for personal exemptions and dependents. Some 46 million workers are subject to withholding.

The increase in social security taxes also will be reflected in the first pay checks after tomorrow. It amounts to a maximum of \$18 a year on \$3,600 income.

The "break even" point—where the two changes almost offset each other—is roughly as follows:

A single man with no dependents, \$900 income; a married couple with no dependents, \$1,800; married couple with one dependent, \$2,700; married couple with two dependents, \$3,600; married couple with three dependents, \$4,500.

By The Associated Press

Recent and planned layoffs of employees in industry and railroads which employ nearly 20 million workers, total 53,000 a survey has disclosed.

The nation's total unemployed, as of November, was 1,428,000, an increase of only 10,000 from November 1952. Of the 61,925,000 workers in all gainful occupations in November, 16,711,000 were in manufacturing industries and 2,956,000 in railroads.

The Associated Press survey showed that most of the 53,000 workers were laid off in the last few weeks or face unemployment by the middle of January. Although most of the layoffs appeared to be of the long-term type, there appeared openings in other fields.

Railroads and related industries appeared hardest hit by the recent layoffs, the Associated Press survey disclosed. At least 18,680 rail workers have lost their jobs or face unemployment in the near future.

WHAT CUTS WILL MEAN

WASHINGTON—(AP)—This is what tomorrow's cut in individual income taxes will mean, on an annual basis, to taxpayers in selected income groups:

For a single person with no dependents, the percentage reduction in taxes 9.9 per cent at \$2,000 income. It climbs to 10.7 per cent at \$10,000 income and then drops to 7.3 per cent at \$50,000 and 1.9 per cent at \$300,000.

For a married couple with two dependents, the percentage reduction starts at 9.9 percent at low income levels, climbs to 10.7 per cent at \$20,000; then drops to 7.4 per cent at \$100,000 and 1.6 per cent at \$100,000 and 1.6 per cent at one million dollars.

The minimum rate on taxable income drops from 22.2 per cent to 20 per cent. The maximum rate on income above \$300,000 drops from 91 to 90 percent. And the total rate for any one taxpayer's over-all income drops from 88 to 87 per cent.

West Germany's Recovery Noted

PARIS—(AP)—The 18-nation Organization for European Economic Cooperation OEEC reported today that West Germany led Western Europe during 1953 in economic improvement and production.

The organization's year-end review of European economic trends said West German recovery had been "considerable" and its output increases were "clearly superior to that of other large countries."



Weather Today



CLEAR and COOL

Little change expected in temperature. Clear weather will continue today and tomorrow. Maximum temperature yesterday was 52. Minimum yesterday 36. Minimum last night 27.

35c
23c
59c
Cello.
43c
Can
6.99
1.98
37c
43c
29c
Tax
43c
37c
2c
23c
24c
29c
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2