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Violence marks arrival of U.S. "Freedom Riders"

Laos solution talk by world delegates

GENEVA (Reuters)—Western delegates to the international conference on Laos hoped today to pick up more support from non-aligned countries for the setting up of working groups to seek a formula for Laotian neutrality.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Malcolm MacDonald, acting British delegation chief, planned to confer before the conference resumed on the best way for the 14-country gathering to move forward.

The Communist bloc was backing open debate as opposed to working groups. Western delegates hoped to pick up more backing for the working group idea—already supported by India—from other neutral countries.

MacDonald, British high commissioner to Canada in 1941-46, and Gromyko were expected to release an up-to-date report from the Indian-Canadian-Polish truce control commission, which is supervising the cease-fire in Laos.

An authoritative source said the report mentioned minor cease-fire violations, but said all was quiet in general. The cease-fire was agreed upon earlier this month by the three Laotian factions after nine months of civil war.

Several Western and neutral participants have called for the strengthening of the commission so that its police powers are more effective.

Thailand has proposed to Britain and Russia, who called this gathering as co-chairmen of the 1954 conference on Indochina, that representatives of the right-wing Laotian government headed by Premier Prince Boun Oum be seated at the conference table.

Britain and Russia may submit this to the conference but if they do Communist delegates will oppose it. The Boun delegation has refused to take a seat, for its part, because the pro-Communist Pathet Lao, land of Lao, is at the conference table.

The Pathet Lao is a military organization, but has a political wing, the neo-Lao Haksat. The Boun group claimed the Pathet Lao should have been excluded on grounds that it is not a government in any sense.

Integration battles flare in Deep South

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—New groups of so-called Freedom Riders are expected to arrive in this racially-tense city today to continue a violence-marked bus tour of the southern states.

"We are still recruiting people," a spokesman said in announcing that Negro students and ministers were coming from Charlotte, N.C., and Nashville, Tenn., to reinforce the group that was twice the target of angry mobs here.

"Many, many groups are on the alert — we call them reserves," said Ed King of Atlanta, Ga., executive secretary of the student non - violent co-ordinating committee.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said white and Negro Freedom Riders are sticking by their plans to leave here by bus for New Orleans, despite Governor Ross Barnett's warning to "stay out of Mississippi."

No departure time was announced.

National Guardsmen, ruling Montgomery under governor John Patterson's edict of martial law, still patrolled the streets and guarded the Greyhound bus station where the first group of Freedom Riders was beaten unmercifully by rioters Saturday.

James Bevel, a Negro who identified himself as a Nashville student, said he drove here with four other students Tuesday night to join the Freedom Riders and that five Nashville ministers also had left the Tennessee city to join the movement. The Congress of Racial Equality announced previously that six of its members are here to take part in the "freedom ride."

Barnett told U.S. Attorney-General Robert Kennedy that Mississippi doesn't want any of the approximately 500 federal marshals here to aid in maintaining the peace in his state.

WON'T ESCORT RIDERS

Kennedy's chief assistant, Deputy Attorney-General Byron "Whizzer" White, said on return from an overnight trip to Washington that there is no plan for any of the marshals and deputies he supervises here to escort the riders on their planned trip to New Orleans.

He said the federal government assumed that Mississippi and Louisiana authorities would protect the buses.

Patterson charged that the marshals "caused that rioting" at a Negro church meeting Sunday night when they escorted Martin Luther King Jr., to the scene. "They escorted him to the church. It loked like the president of the United States."

Patterson, in his press conference, said that those sponsoring the "Freedom Riders have Communistic backgrounds . . . This is well known by federal agents."

Hanging abolition debate brings mixed reception

OTTAWA (CP)—A capital punishment debate continues in the Commons today on a government measure to establish two degrees of murder in Canada — one punishable by death at the gallows, the other by life imprisonment.

Reaction of the score or so of MPs who spoke Tuesday was mixed.

Several MPs insisted that the death penalty be retained as it stands. Others felt it should be abolished altogether. And there were opinions falling somewhere in between.

Many members — including the abolitionists — expressed support for the principle of the bill, spearheaded in the Commons by Justice Minister Fulton, who said it reflects the views and demands of Canadian society.

The bill would retain the death penalty for "capital murder" cases involving deliberate killings or slayings committed during a crime of violence. It sentence of life imprisonment also would provide a mandatory for those convicted of "non-capital" murders and for juveniles under 18 convicted of capital murder.

Hon. Earl Rowe, veteran Progressive Conservative member for Dufferin-Simcoe, urged MPs not to get "soft" or "chicken" in considering the death penalty.

"We are not here to protect the criminal but society," he said.

"In the twilight of my career, I'd shudder if I cast my vote for total abolition of the death penalty."

Two Liberal MPs with opposing views on capital punishment — Hubert Badanal, Fort William, Rodger Mitchell, Sudbury, said that members should be allowed to vote on the measure as their consciences dictated.

Mr. Badanal favored abolition of the death penalty while Mr. Mitchell said it should be retained.

Paul Martin (L-Essex East) said the free-vote request was aimed at the government to release members from any obligations to follow the direction of the party whip.

Death date postponed

The execution date for Louis Leforte, found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging March 16, for the killing of Tina Marcelle McKay, has been moved to June 27 pending the verdict of the Appeal Court in Vancouver. The date set for the hanging at the trial in Prince Rupert was May 23. No verdict has been announced so far by the Appeal Court.

Students aid fire victims

Students of Roosevelt Park elementary school have staged their own Hampton Apartments Fire Relief Fund, itwas learned today, from principal G. F. Greenhough.

Mr. Greenhough said that the students have raised $125 specifically to aid the 13 victims of the April 20 fire who attend Roosevelt Park school.

In the meantime the Daily News' Hampton Apartments Fire Relief fund rose to $1,382.25 today with a donation of $50 from the Catholic Men's Club. This does not include the $125 from the Roosevelt Park school students which will be distributed separately.

West coast given raw deal

VANCOUVER (CP) — Clarence Wallace, head of the Burrard Dry Dock Company said today the federal government has not given west coast yards a fair share of government contracts.

He said British Columbia yards are the hardest hit in the serious depression that has struck the Canadian shipbuilding industry.

He spoke at the ceremonial laying of the keel of a fourth British Columbia government ferry.

Quick action saves life

PORT SIMPSON, B.C. A Prince Rupert man narrowly missed death by drowning Saturday on a trip from the city to Port Simpson when he fell overboard from a gillnetter.

The man was Robert Gray of 830 Second Avenue West who was travelling to visit his grandmother, Mrs. Maud Cooper here.

The boat ran into heavy weather off Slippery Point, seven miles north of Prince Rupert. Gray, a non - swimmer, missed his footing and failed to grab the rigging, going overboard. The boat immediately circled and after several attempts, he was pulled from the water unconscious by Mrs. Nancy Ryan and Lloyd Ryan, who was skipper. Gray remained unconscious for more than one and a half hours.

Prompt treatment by those on board the boat and also by Dr. G. W. Fiddes and Mrs. Violet McKay on his arrival in Port Simpson saved Gray's life. He has now been admitted to the Prince Rupert General Hospital.

Seaman escorted to Vancouver

A seaman who missed his ship was taken under RCMP escort to Vancouver today.

He was Thomas Sommers, 24, of South Shields, Northumberland, England, a crew member of the grain ship MV Harpalyce, which left last night at 5:30 for China. Sommers gave himself up to police when he found the ship had left without him.

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Skeena Health unit to move to new Centre on Thursday

The Skeena Health Unit will be moving from their old building into the new Community Health Centre Thursday announced City Health Director Dr. Wilfred Sinclair today.

The move is expected to be completed in one day and patients to the health unit are asked to curtail their visits or postpone them to Friday as much as possible to aid the staff in their move.

The address of the new centre is 333 Fifth Street and the telephone is 6763.

Dr. Sinclair's resignation is effective May 31 and he will be commencing private practice in Port Coquitlam about a week later, he said.

At city council Tuesday night L. W. Clay was appointed a sanitary and milk inspector for Prince Rupert. He has been appointed to a similar position in Smithers where he will be sanitary inspector for the town. Dr. Sinclair said in a letter to council that it would be probable that he would be carrying out similar work here from time to time. The council approved the appointment.

City Administrator R. W. Long said that a replacement for Dr. Sinclair had not been made and that a local doctor would probably be appointed to act during the interim period.

The appointment of a city health director is made by the provincial department of health.

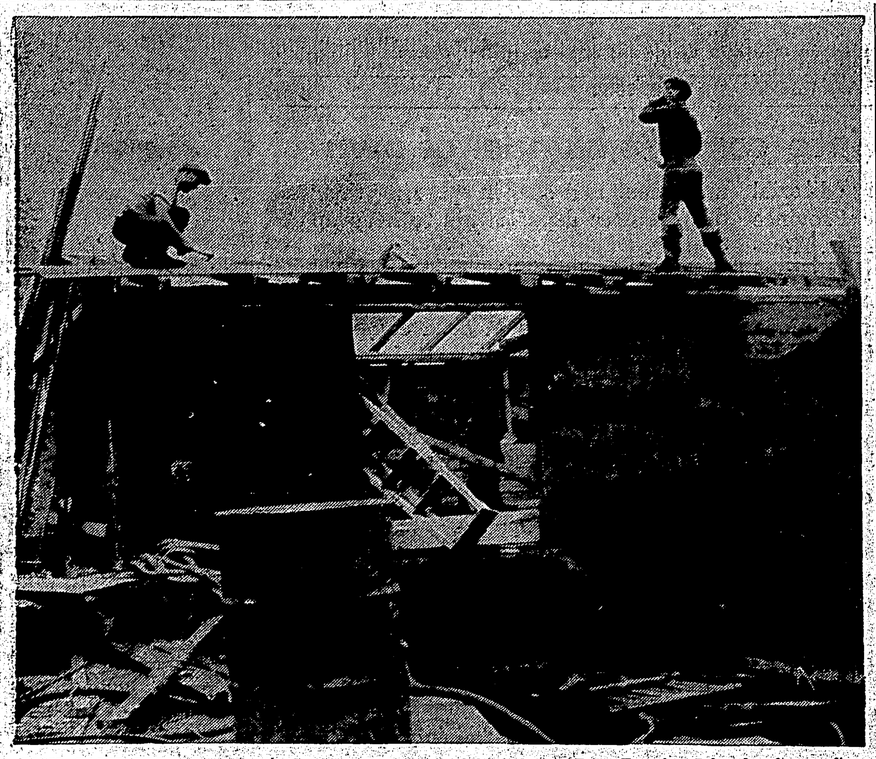
Speeding cyclist licence suspended

Driving without due care and attention cost James Victor Rollason of 210 Elizabeth Apartments $50 when he appeared in police court this morning before Deputy Magistrate R. A. McLean.

Rollason, who also had his licence suspended for two months, pleaded guilty to the charge.

RCMP said that the charge was laid last night when Rollason, driving a motorcycle, was chased by the police patrol at speeds up to 80 miles per hour.

Police stated that Rollason went through stop signs and refused to stop.



FISH CAMP FIRE damage is being hastily repaired at Goose Bay, Dundas Island, after a fire a week ago which threatened to destroy the anchorage. A nearby float is being "cannibalised" in order to get the fish camp back into operation as soon as possible. It is owned and operated by Elmer Clauson of Port Simpson. Jack Groven, 17, manager of the camp, is on the right top. The scow on which the building floats was damaged but not sunk by the fire. — Staff photo by John Pain

Unemployment drop still leaves jobless total higher than 1960

OTTAWA (CP)—Unemployment in Canada dropped by 83,000 between March and April to a mid-April total of 622,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today. The jobless total, a post-war record for April, represented 9.7 per cent of the labor force, compared with 8.8 per cent a year earlier.

The decline was the second monthly drop in the unemployment figures after a five-month winter climb to a February peak of 719,000.

However, the April total was 70,000 higher than a year earlier — and the unemployment rate was up over last year in all regions.

Employment increased by 170,000 between March and April, an increase described by the federal labor department as "unusually large" for this time of year. The increased demand for labor was accompanied by a large net influx of 87,000 into the labor force.

More than a third of the employment gain between March and April took place in agriculture. Construction accounted for another third, and service, manufacturing and transportation accounted for most of the remainder.

The unemployment study is based on a survey of 35,000 households across Canada.

The March-to-April drop in unemployment, greater than in the same period of 1960 but about the same as in 1958 and 1959, was almost entirely among male workers.

The 9.7 per cent rate of unemployment in April compares with a rate of 11.1 per cent in March and 11.3 per cent in February, the peak of winter unemployment over the last winter.

Although the unemployment rate was up over last year in all regions, there was also a gain in employment across the country. In most parts, the gain was more than seasonal.

The detailed picture in the Pacific region:

Unemployment on the Pacific coast represented 10 per cent of the labor force, a drop from the 12.3 per cent rate of March but still higher than the 8.6 per cent rate of April, 1960.

There were 58,000 out of work in April, compared with 71,000 in March. The labor force grew slightly between the two months rising to 579,000 from 575,000.

The number at work totalled 521,000, compared with 504,000 a month earlier.

291,000 lbs. of fish landed

Four vessels landed a total of 291,000 pounds of halibut in Prince Rupert today.

Karen T and Susan, both U.S. boats, landed 75,000 pounds and 63,000 pounds respectively. The Karen T sold its catch to B.C. Packers for 52,000 pounds of medium at 20.1 cents a pound; 22,000 pounds of large at 20.8 and 1,000 pounds of chix at 15 cents a pound.

The Susan sold its load to Pacific Fisheries for 45,000 pounds of medium at 20.1 cents a pound and 18,000 pounds of large at 21.14 cents a pound.

The Canadian boat Attu, sold its 88,500 pounds catch to Atlin for 68,000 pounds of medium at 19.3; 20,000 pounds of large at 21.1 and 500 pounds of chix at 14.

Snowfall, the other Canadian boat, sold 65,000 pounds to Booth Fisheries for 25,000 pounds of medium for 19.6 cents a pound and 40,000 pounds of large at 21 cents a pound.

Box car entered

A Canadian National Railways box car, containing Northland Navigation Co. Ltd. goods and parked on Northland property, was broken into sometime between 10 p.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday.

RCMP said today that a thief or thieves opened a case of cigarets and took 10 cartons and also took nine half-pound tins of tobacco.

Total loss was about $45. Entrance was gained by breaking the box car seal. Investigation is continuing.

First big fire

PRINCE GEORGE (CP) — Workers Tuesday night continued a struggle for control of a 23,000-acre forest fire, the first major outbreak of the season in the tinder-dry Peace River region. With eight tractors, the firefighters earlier managed to contain the blaze at Stewart Lake, about 40 miles west of Dawson Creek.

New air fare named by CPA

Canadian Pacific Airlines are considering an air fare from Prince Rupert to Vancouver of $86, as compared to the existing Terrace-Vancouver rate of $78 return.

Mayor P. J. Lester said, following a meeting between the council and the company recently, that he did not consider this equitable.

On his recent visit to Ottawa the matter of fares was discussed with the air transport board, the mayor went on, and he is now considering a further application to the board to have the proposed city to Vancouver fare reduced.

CPA have notified Mayor Lester that they are reconsidering the fare structure "with a view to equalizing fares between northern points". They have also mentioned an economy fare rate.

Impaired charge dismissed in court

A charge of having care and control of a motor vehicle while impaired, against George Edward Fielding of the Aero Apartments, was dismissed in police court this morning by Deputy Magistrate R. A. McLean.

Police said that the charge was laid following an incident in the late evening of May 20 when Fielding was checked in his car on Atlin Avenue.

JFK has hand in Cuban deal

WASHINGTON (AP) President Kennedy was reported today to have taken a personal hand in the behind - the - scenes manoeuvres which led to the creation of the "tractors for freedom" committee to free captured Cuban invaders.

Authoritative sources said Kennedy was deeply interested in obtaining freedom for the anti-Castro prisoners if possible.

The three leading figures on the committee—Walter Reuther, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dr. Milton Eisenhower — have refused to confirm or deny they had been in contact with Kennedy. But Reuther reported a "green light" from unspecified Washington officials.

While various departments maintained an official hands-off position, Kennedy's encouragement was seen in a variety of indirect aids from different federal agencies that indicated White House backing.

- A U.S. coast guard plane provided transport for prisoner representatives.
- The state department made plain it would waive the Cuban embargo to let the tractors through.
- The treasury is reported seeking ways to allow tax deductions for gifts to the committee.
- The White House was said to have decided the exchange would not violate the Logan Act — a law that bars private U.S. citizens from dealing with foreign governments in any matter in dispute with the United States.

On the other hand Sam Rayburn of Texas, speaker of the House of Representatives, said Kennedy told congressional leaders at a White House conference Tuesday that the government "is out of it and is going to stay out."

But help from the top or not, the deal may still have a stormy time.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, Minnesota Democrat, predicted today that Fidel Castro will back out. It was the Cuban prime minister who first proposed exchanging the 1,200 prisoners for 500 tractors.

B.C. ROUNDUP

"Chief" climbers draw for massed tourists

SQUAMISH (CP) — Residents here who have given free board and lodging to two climbers at present scaling a 2,000-foot high rock face here, now are buying them new climbing boots.

The climbers, Ed Cooper, 22, of Seattle and Jim Baldwin, 23, of Prince Rupert, have worn out their $40 climbing boots scaling the first 500 feet of the cliff, The Chieftain.

The climbers are credited with drawing more tourists to the area than the $21,000 spent on promotion by the tourist commission.

"There must have been more than 8,000 cars out there on the weekend," said local resident Pat Brennan.

Money for the boots has been supplied by the local Independent Loggers' Association.

The climbers went to Vancouver Tuesday to buy the boots. They said they would resume their gradual climb up the cliff face today if the weather is favorable. Their average progress is 60 feet a day.

Two Squamish machinists are making steel pegs and rock drills used in the climb.

Cadet inspection tomorrow night

Capt. Cook Sea Cadet Corps will undergo its annual inspection at 8 p.m. tomorrow with the parade scheduled for the Court House grounds if the weather is favorable.

Inspecting officer will be Capt. J. C. Gray, CD, RCN, of HMCS Naden who will be accompanied by Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Area Officer Lt. Cmdr. W. W. Bowditch, CD, RCN.

In charge of the local Sea Cadet Corps will be Lt. Eric Barton, RCSCC. Parents and friends of the cadets are invited to attend. In the event of inclement weather the inspection will be held in the HMCS Chatham drill hall.

Prince Rupert has now gone 858 days without a fatal traffic accident.

PNR collapse?

VICTORIA (CP) — The Pacific Northern Railway is one day away from possible collapse. British Columbia government officials said they have not received any reply to their queries about the PNR's $250,000,000 plans for a railway to the Yukon border from Summit Lake, north of Prince George.

Prince George starts

VANCOUVER (CP) — CNR's SS Prince George left here Tuesday to inaugurate her 14th season of summer cruises to Alaska since she was built in 1948. The 5,800-ton vessel has about 200 passengers aboard. She will make 13 cruises between Vancouver and Skagway this year.

WEATHER

Variable cloudiness with scattered showers. Not much change in temperature. Winds southeast 15 in exposed areas. Low tonight and high tomorrow, 40 and 55.

TIDES

Thursday, May 25, 1961
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	00:56	16.4 feet
	22:21	18.7 feet
Low	04:00	7.6 feet
	16:00	7.0 feet