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'Give Us Our Ball Back'



Youthful Madison, Wis. ballplayers walked wife's plea for quiet. A policeman turned ne- plect line this week when neighbor near the play area snatched and kept ball that landed in his yard. Neighbor said boys disregarded his distance away. — (AP Wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF:

Combat Losses Decline; Enemy Hit By Malaria

SAIGON (AP) — American, South Vietnamese and enemy combat casualties dropped last week to the lowest level in the first six weeks of the Viet Cong's spring offensive with 222 U. S. troops (down from 312), 246 South Vietnamese (down from 337) and 3,229 troops (down from 4,683) killed in action. Military analysts said one reason for the sharp drop in fighting was that a virulent strain of malaria is hitting the enemy troops in South Vietnam and they are having difficulty getting medicines to curb it.

Reds Rap 'Yank Rumors'

PARIS (AP) — A representative of the Viet Cong accused the U. S. today of spreading rumors about private Vietnam peace talks in an effort to calm antiwar sentiment at home. Than Ban Kiem, spokesman for the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front, however, did not specifically deny that private contacts are taking place in Paris and elsewhere but his continued attack on secret talks dimmed the likelihood of any such discussions soon. The U. S. continued to hammer at the presence of North Vietnamese forces in the South and to seek discussions on a mutual withdrawal of forces.

Prosecutor Irks Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan glowered and spat obscenities as the state called him "less than a full man" and a liar who should be convicted of first-degree murder for slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Not once in a low key, day-long summation Wednesday did prosecutor David N. Fitz ask for — or even mention — the maximum penalty: death in the gas chamber. The degree, not the penalty, is at stake in this phase of the trial. Today it was the defense's turn, with Russel E. Parsons first before the jury. Sirhan's defense, that his mental capacity was so diminished he didn't know the meaning of his act, was attacked by Fitz.

Tax Reform Targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conglomerates, foundations and gentile farmers are expected to be targets of the Nixon administration's first tax reform proposals. But millionaires who pay no taxes at all will escape for the time being. The proposals are to be presented to the House Ways and Means Committee next Tuesday with more recommendations to be sent to Capitol Hill in succeeding months. Tax laws reportedly make it easy for conglomerates to grow and allow wealthy persons to create private foundations and get tax breaks open on high charitable trusts. A "farm loss" proposal is expected to put curbs on wealthy people who farm as a hobby — a hobby that can provide tax loopholes.

French Leader To Speak

PARIS (AP) — President Charles de Gaulle makes one of his rare television appearances tonight to boost juggling interest in his referendum April 27 on constitutional reform. There was considerable expectation that de Gaulle would threaten to resign unless his proposals to transfer some of the central government's

30 INJURED:

Harvard Protest Quelled

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — More than 400 policemen swept 200 protesters out of Harvard's reserved University Hall today in a bloody clash that left 39 persons hurt and about 200 under arrest.

The helmeted officers, some swinging clubs, stormed through a mass of students to get inside the hall which had been seized Wednesday by youths protesting Harvard's Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Alive With Turmoil Harvard was alive with turmoil. Whistles, yells, jeers and curses reverberated through the area as police, in tight formations, swept back and forth in skirmish platoons.

Bottles and other objects were hurled at police, some from neighboring buildings.

Many of those arrested were carried bodily from the hall and thrust into police wagons.

Most of the police withdrew within an hour after the rush on the hall.

As the officers pulled back, (See Col. 5, Page 16)

Russ Reject U. S. Arms Proposal

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union today rejected an American proposal that they halt the production of fissionable nuclear material for atomic weapons. Instead, Soviet Delegate Alexei Roschin called for negotiations as soon as possible on an old Soviet proposal for a ban on the use of nuclear weapons, an idea repeatedly rejected by the Western nuclear powers.

Women's Job Corps Center At NMU Slated To Be Closed

U. S. Set To Shut 65 Sites

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Labor Department has confirmed plans for massive cuts in the Job Corps program, an action likely to stir some bitter congressional opposition despite an apparent effort to soften the blow.

A department spokesman Wednesday night confirmed earlier reports that 65 Job Corps centers will be shut down. He did not estimate the savings but Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., said they would amount to more than \$100 million, a figure also reported last week.

The Labor Department spokesman said an official announcement would be made Friday.

'Skill Centers' At the same time the administration will propose setting up 20 to 30 "skill centers" near city slums to provide daytime vocational training, unlike the full-time residential Job Corps centers. Dropping of the 65 centers will result in displacing about half of the current 35,000 enrollees.

President Nixon announced Feb. 20 that effective with the end of the fiscal year June 30 he was ordering the Job Corps and the preschool Head Start program transferred out of the Office of Economic Opportunity with the Job Corps going to the Labor Dept. and Head Start to Health, Education and Welfare.

The closings presumably could not be made until after that date, giving Congress time to block transfer from OEO of the two shoppiece programs.

Nelson's Senate antiprotection subcommittee has scheduled a hearing for April 18 and the House Education and Labor Committee plans to resume its hearings into the whole antiprotection program April 21.

Education and Labor chairman Carl Perkins is an outspoken opponent of transferring either Job Corps or Head Start into a line agency and has vowed to block the move.

'Mind-Boggling' The Kentucky Democrat said Wednesday the administration was "throwing thousands of boys and girls to the dogs." The "skill centers" apparently are designed to ease congressional opposition not only from backers of the Job Corps program but also from critics who have centers in their areas. "What the administration is doing is mind-boggling," a source said. "They are shutting down closing centers that cost millions of dollars. Then they are buying off congressional votes by providing one-of-the new centers to those who squawk the loudest."

C&H TELLS U. P. CITIZENS GROUP: There's Some Time Left To Settle Copper Strike

CALUMET (AP) — Termination notices sent to the 1,000 Calumet and Hecla striking copper miners Wednesday seemed to irrevocably end the future of the Upper Peninsula mine — until the company told a citizens group "some time still remains."

Universal Oil Products announced its decision to close U.P. operations April 3 after a strike had idled operations for 7½ months.

The citizens group, a nine-man organization headed by a Calumet hardware merchant, formed when the strike began because of the crucial impact of the "Copper Country" mining operations on the Upper Peninsula.

'Some Time Still Remains' Following a meeting late Wednesday, spokesman Peter Baudino said that while nobody should presume at either side was fabricating in the dispute, "it does appear as though imminently there may be some news that is exciting."

He declined to indicate what program, if any, was being made.

The group met after R. H. Spoor, vice-president of Universal Oil Products, said "some time still remains for imaginative solutions, for you realize that shutting down an operation will take time."

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Negotiations between the two were reported and local businesses reported declines in sales amounting to as much as 29 percent.

The union rejected a company offer for a three year pact which included a 25 cent an hour raise the first year, 10 cents the second and 20 cents the third.

Wages At Mine At the time of the strike, wages ran from \$2.12 to \$2.57 1/2 an hour.

Bitterness spread as families

Flood Fighters Lose 18 Blocks Of Sioux Falls

(By the Associated Press) Flood fighters surrendered an 18-square-block area of Sioux Falls, S.D., to the surging Big Sioux river today after a night-long battle to plug a 100-foot break in a dike in the city's Riverside district.

"We dumped in more than 700 tons of rock, we threw in car bodies and anything else we could lay our hands on," said Joe Vandertoe, Minnehaha County Civil Defense director, shortly before daybreak. "But it was undermining faster than we could fill it up."

The entire area, which contains a meat packing plant, the Sioux Falls stockyards and about 50 homes, was evacuated and sealed off by roadblocks. Waters were expected to reach a depth of 25 to 30 feet before cresting.

Vandertoe said pressure of the rising river — swollen by the melting of heavy winter snows washed away boulders in front of the dike early Wednesday evening, and the dike itself went out soon after.

Big Sioux Laps At Levees Some 90 residents of Fort Dodge on the east fork were braced for a flood crest the Weather Bureau said would occur Friday or Saturday.

In southwestern Minnesota at Windom, the rampaging west fork of the Des Moines complex of the Iowa community of Cherokee waited in emergency shelters for the Little Sioux to crest.

Two miles upstream from the mouth of the Big Sioux six-foot waves threatened to topple a dike at the little town of Akron.

"It's like looking at the ocean," said one work gang member. "You look west and you see ice walls."

In the flood-hit Sioux City, Iowa, area police were put on

1,424 Women Processed Overall, 1,642 women have been processed through the center since its opening, and 430 have graduated and been placed in jobs.

Northern Michigan University's Women's Job Corps Center reportedly is among 65 centers across the nation which are slated to be shut down.

The U.S. Labor Department confirmed plans for the closing of many Job Corps centers Wednesday. Others in Michigan that reportedly are to be closed are a conservation camp for men at Ojibway, near Marquette, and the west end of the Upper Peninsula, and another at downtown Hoxey.

'No NMU Comment' — NMU officials had no comment today on the reported closing of the center here, Dr. John X. Jamrich, university president, said. "Since we have had no official word from the proper agency, we have no basis for comment."

The Women's Job Corps at Northern is in its third year of operation and, as of today, had 221 women in training.

Unique in that it was the first on a university campus, the Marquette center opened in June 1966 with about 50 enrollees and, at its peak, was administering training to about 300 women aged 16 to 21, most of them high school dropouts.

Across the river from Sioux City, Mayor Albert Streeter of North Sioux City, S. D., said "this is the most water we have ever had here."

The population of 800 was evacuated to Sioux City and put up for the night in Red Cross emergency quarters. Heavy Snow Melt

The Big Sioux, swollen from a heavy snow melt in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, flows into Missouri at the junction of Sioux City, North Sioux City and South Sioux City, Neb.

Ninety families were evacuated from Cherokee on the Little Sioux but the worst was over there, officials said.

At Spencer, Iowa, about 50 miles upstream from Cherokee, seven families were evacuated, but the river there was also receding.

Serious Flooding Serious flooding also occurred along the Des Moines River in front of the northern Iowa city of Cherokee on Saturday.

About 10 homes were evacuated in Estherville in north central Iowa on the west fork of the Des Moines.

Some 90 residents of Fort Dodge on the east fork were braced for a flood crest the Weather Bureau said would occur Friday or Saturday.

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Cutback Includes Ojibway

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Former Michigan Congressman Dies

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