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NEWS IN BRIEF:

Ray Asks U. S. Court To Nullify Contracts With Huie, Foreman

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray has won a federal suit that his former lawyer and biographer were more interested in money than in his right to a fair trial. Ray asked Friday that an estimated \$1 million worth of contracts with his biographer, William Bradford Huie of Hartford, Ala., and his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., be nullified. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Tennessee State Prison here after pleading guilty to a murder charge in the April 4, 1968 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

NATO On Peaceful Path

WASHINGTON (AP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, set up two decades ago as a bristling barrier to European Communists' advances, cautiously embarked today on a path that could make it an instrument of lasting peace. The NATO foreign ministers wound up a two-day conference Friday proposing to explore with the Soviet and their allies the possibilities for settling specific differences. But they suggested a cautious step-by-step approach and shunned a Communist plan for a general conference on European security.

Harvard Drops Charges

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — By an almost unanimous faculty vote, Harvard has decided to drop criminal trespass charges against 200 students ejected from an administration building sit-in by club-swinging police at dawn last week for the forcible occupation of University Hall by the students and "we deplore the entry of police into any university," the faculty said in a resolution adopted by vote of 396 to 13. The faculty acted as the thousands of students boycotted classes to protest the summoning of police.

Lack Of Student Interest

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force, citing a lack of student interest and no pressure from antiwar groups, has decided to close out its Reserve Officer Training Corps program at eight schools. Without pinpointing any single cause for the failure, an Air Force spokesman said the schools have failed to generate the minimum of 15 officers per year. Schools where ROTC will be phased out over the next three years are Boston University, Butler University, Capital University, Grinnell College, Institute of Technology, Kenyon College, Lawrence University and Tufts University.

'Cold-Blooded Murder'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was "plain old cold-blooded first-degree murder," says the prosecution. Lynn W. Compton, chief deputy district attorney, began the state's final argument Friday with a bitter attack on the succession of psychologists who testified Sirhan could not have maturely and meaningfully premeditated Kennedy's assassination last June. Compton spoke only 12 minutes before the trial recessed for the weekend. The judge's instructions follow Compton's presentation and the case could go to the jury of seven men and five women late Monday.

Wildcat Postal Strikes?

DETROIT (AP) — Declaring "there never before has been such unrest among the workers," the head of the nation's postal carriers union warned today of possible wildcat strikes. James H. Beatty, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, said he would not sanction a strike because of the laws against it. However, he declared, "we are not going to buy this," referring to the Nixon Administration's recommendations for a four per cent pay increase, bringing letter carriers' beginning salaries to \$6,200. He also attacked the recommendation of a commission which called for a postal corporation to take over the operation of the Post Office.

Snow Blamed For Deficit

LANSING (AP) — The State Highway Department announced Friday a 15 per cent cut across-the-board cut in maintenance of state highways and blamed a \$2.5 million department deficit — caused in part by heavy snows — for the action. The cuts, effective immediately, include elimination of overtime, and the postponement of surfacing, patching and shoulder work until after June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. The snows cost some \$1 million more than had been allocated for overtime and equipment rentals to keep state highways open the department said.

It's Oscar Time Again



Academy Award nominees Katharine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole are shown above in scene from "The Lion in Winter." Below are nominated actresses Vanessa Redgrave ("Isadora"), left, and Barbra Streisand ("Funny Girl"). Other nominees shown at left are: (top) — Ron Moody ("Oliver") and Joanne Woodward ("Rachel, Rachel"); (center) — Alan 'Arkin' ("The Heart is a Lonely Hunter") and Alan Bates ("The Fixer"); (bottom) — Cliff Robertson ("Charley") and Patricia Neal ("The Subject Was Roses"). Nominated for best picture of the year were: "The Lion in Winter," "Oliver," "Juliet," and "Rachel, Rachel." Awards will be presented Monday night. — (NEA Telephotos)



Flood Damage Mounts In Five Midwest States

Reds List Principles For Peace

TOKYO (AP) — The Viet Cong has laid down what it called three basic principles for peace in Vietnam and said they will continue to fight until the United States accepts them. Radio Hanoi reported today.

The broadcast said the Viet Cong described a peace proposal set forth by President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam last Monday as a "worn-out stuff" which had repeatedly been rejected at the Paris peace talks.

The Japanese-language broadcast said the Viet Cong's principles for peace in Vietnam are:

1. The United States must end its "aggression" in Vietnam.
2. The United States must unconditionally and completely withdraw its troops from Vietnam.
3. The South Vietnamese government must end forever its role of "betraying" the nation.

Enemy Continues Shellings

SAIGON (AP) — Viet Cong gunners shelled 30 allied bases and towns in a second night of intensified rocket and mortar attacks, military spokesmen reported today. Casualties and damage were termed light.

Vinh Long City, a provincial capital in the Mekong Delta 65 miles southwest of Saigon, was shelled a second time in 17 hours. Spokesmen said 34 mortar shells exploded near the city police station, killing three civilians and wounding three others. More than 100 mortar rounds fell on the city early Friday, killing 17 persons and wounding 105.

Tay Ninh City, another provincial capital hard hit in Friday's attacks, was untouched, but enemy gunners shelled an American base camp three miles west of the city. Spokesmen said one American soldier was killed and six were wounded.

In Tay Ninh, workers probed through rubble searching for bodies. Eighty persons were

Shades Of 007

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — It was just a beatup looking 1957 Plymouth and police suspected it was sporting stolen tires—but

Rocket launchers, mechanism to squirt enough oil out the back end to cover a four-lane highway for 50 feet, another gadget to set up a smokescreen, a doo-dad to put on a psychedelic light show and a secret compartment in the steering wheel hub.

Charged With Larceny The mechanically sophisticated owner, Ronald Lee Crona, was charged with larceny in connection with what police said were stolen tires.

Crona explained he had planned on making a "007" type movie.

"We're not positive yet whether the car will do all these things," said Detective Gerald Barger, "because frankly we're not expert enough to figure out how they (the mechanisms) work. And also because it makes such a strange noise when you start it up."

Lined With Dials Barger said, "I first suspected something was strange about it when it took me 15 minutes to turn on the headlights."

The car's "cockpit" was lined with dials, switches and lights above and along the dashboard.

Job Corps Backers Hope To Force Vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — House backers of the Job Corps hope to force a vote by the end of May on President Nixon's plan to cutback the key poverty program.

Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz made official Friday what had been widely reported for several days: 59 of the 113 centers will be closed by July 1. Plans to open 30 new daytime only training centers in and near central city areas didn't pacify ardent Job Corps supporters.

"Rep. Carl D. Perkins, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, said the administration plan 'will deny hope and opportunity to thousands of underprivileged boys and girls.'"

Waters Crash Dikes In North Dakota City; 2,000 Persons Flee

(By the Associated Press)

Flooding caused mounting damage—over \$3 million in one area—and extreme hardship today for persons in five states.

At Fargo, N.D., the Red River was 11 feet above flood stage and at Jamestown, N.D., the

Mississippi River braced for the larger water runoff expected from tributaries currently swamping her hinterlands and forcing over 3,000 persons from their homes.

Hardest Hit States The U.S. Geological Survey said some rivers are carrying 2½ times more water than during the worst floods ever recorded in the Midwest.

States hit hardest by the heavy snow melt near the Canadian border are Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and, to a lesser degree, Wisconsin.

Rampaging waters from the Souris River in north-central North Dakota crashed through earthen dikes at Minot and sent 2,000 persons fleeing from their homes. County officials estimated damage for the town of 33,000 at \$3.25 million.

The Red River, swirling up from Canada on the North Dakota and Minnesota border, forced evacuation of 25 families at Enderlin, N. D. At Wahpeton, N.D., the river was six feet

above flood stage with a crest expected later today one foot higher than the previous record high set in 1897.

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(See Col. 7, Page Four)

\$6 Billion Surplus Eyed By President

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration reportedly now expects a surplus approaching \$6 billion in a fiscal 1970 budget showing the biggest cutbacks in welfare and defense.

The projected surplus is the result of what one administration source called "a second trip through the wringer" for the record \$183.3 billion budget President Nixon inherited from Lyndon Johnson.

Nixon ordered an agency-by-agency review of the Johnson budget, which had forecast a \$3.5 billion surplus, as soon as he took office last January. But when it was completed it showed a net increase in outlays—instead of a decrease—so Nixon sent it back for another look.

Announcement of the \$5.5 billion to \$6 billion surplus today is expected to be followed up with a bundle of revised agency-by-agency requests next week when Congress reconvenes after its Easter recess.

"The bulk of the more than \$2 billion in spending cuts came out of the budgets for Defense and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird already has disclosed a \$1.1-billion cutback. The Pentagon is seeking \$900 million less than was in the Johnson budget for the antiballistic missile system.

A cutback of \$1.1 billion reportedly is in store for HEW. This would be about two per cent of the department's overall budget, but actually would amount to a much larger proportionate share.

About \$18 billion of the HEW budget is for social security.

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