



The Gregg twins, Helen and Walter Jr., hold their pet cat near their partially-destroyed home. A relative stands behind them. The twins suffered minor injuries in the blast. The cat came through unscathed. (AP Wirephoto)

Air Force To Continue Bomb Flights

WASHINGTON (UP)—The government launched a high-level military inquiry today into "wider implications" of the Florence, S.C., atomic bomb accident.

At the same time Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy made it plain U.S. Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers will not stop carrying unarmed atomic bombs in round-the-clock training flights in these "perilous times," despite fresh "ban the bomb" demands from Russia and others.

Ignoring U.S. claims that unarmed bombs cannot produce nuclear explosions, radio Moscow declared that an accident like the one at Florence could touch off World War III if America ordered its striking forces into action in the mistaken belief an enemy attack had started.

DEFENSE OFFICIALS, without issuing any formal counterstatement, indicated there is virtually no danger of starting a major atomic war by accident. They said there are two major precautions:

• There is a foolproof system for recalling U.S. atom bombers if they start a retaliatory attack that proves unwarranted.

• The bombers cannot be law drop nuclear bombs without the President's specific approval.

McElroy announced that chiefs of three major Air Force commands have been ordered to set up "a high level group to investigate the wider implications of this unfortunate occurrence."

McElroy said the commanders have been directed "to determine if there is any action which should be taken, which has not already been provided for, to insure the maximum safety of our operations."

McElroy, in a statement issued last night, said the accidental dropping of an unarmed nuclear bomb near Florence Tuesday "demonstrated the accuracy" of a recent Pentagon statement that no nuclear explosion would occur from detonation on an unarmed bomb.

McElroy's renewed assurance did not stop demands at home and abroad for action ranging from investigations to banning flights with nuclear bombs.

McElroy said he has asked the Air Force to keep him fully informed of results of its inquiry into the accident.

Presidential Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said he assumed the Air Force report will be sent to President Eisenhower when it is completed.

Ills Plague Vanguard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The Navy's Project Vanguard, grounded by repeated frustrations, apparently floundered in serious difficulty today.

None of the officials in charge would comment. The Navy has lowered a strict curtain of secrecy over its space research program, dogged by misfortune.

SEATO Condemns Asian 'Neutralism'

MANILA (AP)—The SEATO Council ended its fourth annual conference today with a swipe at neutralist nations which won't recognize the dangers of communism and a promise of only slightly more economic aid to help the Asian pact members develop their resources.

The foreign ministers of the eight nations outlined the results of their meeting in a 1,200-word communique which pinpointed "the insidious character" of Communist subversion as Southeast Asia's "most substantial current menace."

Without naming them, the council warned "some non-Communist governments" against "failing to distinguish between the aims and ideals of the Free World and the purposes of international communism." The communique said because of "the insidious character of Communist subversion, there was particular danger arising" from these governments.

THE COMMUNIQUE announced no big new program of economic aid to meet Pakistani charges that such neutral nations as India were getting more help than Free World allies.

Instead, the Council of Ministers pointed out that SEATO's three Asian members — Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines — had gotten more than \$700,000,000 in economic aid in the past year, principally from the United States.

The communique said the programs of extensive bilateral and other economic arrangements between the SEATO countries would continue. In addition, it cited U.S. Secretary of State Dulles' announcement that the United States would put up \$2,000,000 for a program of vocational and in-the-job training for Asian members, and the Australian grant of one million pounds (\$2,230,000) to the Asian members.

OTHER conference decisions summed up by the communique included authorization for SEATO to set up liaison with the anti-Communist NATO and Baghdad alliances and to conduct a new program of combined military maneuvers.

The council also approved plans for a U.S.-Philippine defense college in the Philippines.

Founder of LOVE Held for Jury

U. S. Accuses 'Orphans' Friend

A 37-year-old Whitestone "humanitarian" today faces Grand Jury action on charges involving shipment of strategic electronic equipment abroad to be relayed behind the Iron Curtain.

He is John H. Diess of 20-15 Parsons boulevard, who waived a hearing yesterday before U. S. Commissioner Salvatore Abruzzo in Brooklyn Federal Court and was released in \$2,500 bail to await jury action.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Charles Stewart said Diess had claimed the proceeds of his business were turned over to the League for Orphan Victims in Europe, (LOVE), of which he was a founder. However, Stewart said, Diess actually kept the money.

Federal Authorities said

FCC Probe

Whiteside Grilled Again

WASHINGTON (UP)—House investigators today recalled Thurman A. Whiteside, Miami attorney, for the fifth day and all but despaired of understanding his tangles financial dealings with resigned FCC Commissioner Richard A. Mack.

Congressman John E. Moss (D-Calif.) said he had given up trying to learn from Whiteside the inner workings of Whiteside's financial world.

Moss said the House Commerce subcommittee investigating alleged wrongdoing in the Federal Communications Commission must get "all" of the financial books of Whiteside, Mack and the two companies in which they both had interests.

Subcommittee Chairman Oren Harris (D-Ark.) meanwhile pressed to complete the group's investigation of the hotly disputed Miami television Channel 10 case and get on to other matters still awaiting subcommittee action.

Whiteside, a life-long friend and financial "angel" of Mack, spent two hours yesterday afternoon answering subcommittee questions.

Sagan Wed To Publisher

PARIS (AP)—Francoise Sagan, 22-year-old writer of best-selling sexy novels, today married her 41-year-old publisher, Guy Schoeller.

The author of stories about broken marriages and illicit love against a gay Riviera background was married by the mayor of a shabby section of Paris. The couple will live in a more elegant part of town.

Crisona Sees Bigger Voice For Queens

Arrangements for Queens to get an additional vote on the Board of Estimate are "all set," according to Borough President Crisona.

Crisona said last night that plans have been laid to rush a message to the Legislature before the current session ends asking for a new law which would revise the board's voting formula to give Queens a bigger voice.

Under the Home Rule law the mayor must submit a "message of necessity," approved by the City Council, to alter voting power on the board.

"IT LOOKS as though it is all set," Crisona said.

"The board members are in agreement and the mayor will prepare a message of necessity for transmittal to Albany before the Legislature's session ends."

"If time is limited we will ask Council Majority Leader Joseph T. Sharkey to call a special session on Friday to act."

"If there is enough time we will ask that the Council meet on Monday or Tuesday."

UNDER THE present voting setup on the board, the mayor, council president and comptroller each have three votes; Manhattan and Brooklyn borough presidents each have two votes, and Queens, Richmond and Bronx presidents have a single vote each.

Under the new proposal Queens and the Bronx will be raised to two votes and the mayor, Council president and comptroller will be hiked to four votes each.

The total of board votes thus would increase from 16 to 21 votes.

For 20 years, a fight has been waged to give Queens a stronger voice on the board. Failing to muster enough approving votes in the Council has always blocked the drive.

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Queens Anchorage for New Throgs Neck Bridge

Man-Made Island Started in East River

They're building an island of sand, steel and concrete in the East River off Cryder's Point.

And that's the reason for that heavy equipment and the colony of shacks popping up on the shore of Little Bay just west of Fort Totten in Bayside—a scene of mounting activity that puzzles thousands of Belt Parkway motorists passing it every day.

The reason for building the man-made island 600 feet offshore is, of course, the future \$90,000,000 Throgs Neck Bridge to arc

the river from Beechhurst to the Bronx.

WORKMEN FOR J. Rich Steers Inc. and the Frederick Snare Corporation of Manhattan have started sinking the Queens anchorage for the bridge there at a cost of \$10,500,000.

The contract signed with the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority calls for completion of the project in three years.

The 250-by-350 foot anchorage is designed to hold the south end of the suspension cables of the bridge.

Eighteen sheet-steel pilings 50 feet in diameter and

filled with sand are being driven into the river bed to form the foundation.

LAYERS OF "swiss-cheese concrete" will then be lowered to a depth of 135 feet below mean tide.

The operation will continue until the concrete slabs, piled one on top of the other, reach water level at high tide.

Atop the base will be erected a hollow tomb-like enclosure where the suspension cables can be dajusted when necessary.

The island-building is expected to take a couple of

months. Meanwhile workmen are transported to the offshore spot by barge and cabin cruiser across Little Bay.

THE WORKYARD being built on shore is being supplemented with a pier jutting into the bay where the construction crews' craft can dock.

When the island's completed it will become the base of operations. Electricity and water will be piped in and cranes and derricks will heave to.

The Steers-Snare job includes erection of the first of 21 piers to support land

and water approaches to the suspension arch.

THE CONCRETE towers of the bridge will be erected by Merritt, Chapman and Scott at a cost of \$7,520,000, metal towers by Bethlehem Steel for \$10,160,000 and suspension cables by U. S. Steel for \$6,300,000.

The awarding of other contracts involving \$47,500,000 are pending.

Bids on the Clearview expressway approach through Bayside will be called for in about three months, according to Arthur Hodgkiss, assistant general manager of the TBTA.

LABOR CHIEFS PRESS IKE ON IMMEDIATE TAX CUT



Bayside parents carry signs protesting plans to construct a gas station at 222nd street and Northern boulevard.

Bayside Protest

Gas Station Under Fire

"Bayside needs more grass not more gas!"

With signs and placards bearing this slogan, more than 100 Bayside residents turned out yesterday to register vigorous protest to application for a gas station at the corner of Northern boulevard and 222nd street.

The gathering was a preliminary demonstration and marks the mid-way point in a campaign led by the Bayside-Oakland-Windsor Civic League to prevent erection of the gas station.

THE DRIVE will be climaxed when the petitioners appear March 18 before the Board of Standards and Appeals, the date set for a formal hearing.

At yesterday's demonstration, men, women and children alike carried the posters denouncing the proposed gas station.

Said Mrs. Eugene Oeschger of 43-20 222nd street: "We want our homes to be part of a community, not part of another gas station."

LEAGUE PRESIDENT Leonard Finz of 47-28 216th street, one of the demonstrators, told The Star-Journal that the gas station was being opposed on three grounds:

1.—It would create a traffic jam. Cars coming off the Belt Parkway at the Northern boulevard exit, he said, would turn into the station and make additional bottlenecks.

2.—The area already has its share of gas stations.

3.—The additional traffic would create a hazard for children living behind and around the station itself.

"In addition, there's the problem of eyesores," Finz said. "We who live in this community must preserve the beauty as well as the safety of the area we are proud to call home."

SAID ANOTHER demonstrator, Mrs. William Kurtz of 43-15 122nd street: "We would like to walk in this neighborhood without fear that our children will be run down."

How Big a Shortage? City Officials Differ

The feeling was growing in City Hall circles today that, like an iceberg, much more remains to be seen of the affairs of the city Real Estate Bureau than appears on the surface. The mayor orders an investigation; investigators report shortages in the "hundreds of thousands of dollars," when the reports get back to City Hall, the runaround starts.

Officials of Mayor Wagner's cabinet give the reports credence by refusing to confirm or deny them.

Then City Hall announces that the shortages have been traced and "all appear to be legitimate."

Since Investigations Commissioner Charles Tenney began looking into the Bureau's affairs 18 months ago, two of its top aides and its chief accountant have resigned.

THE ACCOUNTANT, Seymour Wilson, 34, of Huntington, resigned a week ago Tuesday, a day after Tenney reported finding a shortage of \$49,000 in a special Real Estate Bureau fund that paid private management firms for collecting rents on city property.

And now—so it appears—Tenney and City Hall are involved in a controversy.

His investigators, checking the records of Comptroller Lawrence Gerosa, reported yesterday they had found shortages of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the Real Estate Bureau's accounts.

REPORTERS went to William Peer, the mayor's executive secretary. The newsmen were kept standing on one foot for hours as Peer neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

Then last night, Peer called the newsmen in. He said Tenney told him he had examined the vouchers relating to checks concerning the shortage, and: "All appear to be legitimate payments for out-of-pocket expenses of Real Estate Bureau personnel."

"The hundreds of thousands," unofficial sources said, may come to \$250,000. Tenney de-

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Also Demand Extension of Jobless Pay

WASHINGTON (UP)—The nation's labor leaders called on President Eisenhower at the White House today to lay on the line their demand for a recession-fighting immediate tax cut.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, signaled in advance he would mince no words

country's 5,200,000 unemployed. He contends both the Eisenhower Administration and the Democratic-controlled Congress have done nothing about them or the business slump.

The AFL-CIO is also backing a bill to set up federal standards that would increase jobless benefits paid by the states to at least 50 per cent of "lost" wages and extend them for a maximum 39-week period.

AFL-CIO LEADERS further urged a comprehensive program of federal spending on roads, highways, defense, schools, housing, hospitals and slum clearance.

Meany was joined at the parley by Walter Reuther, head of the Auto Workers Union; David McDonald, head of the steelworkers; David Dubinsky of ladies' garment workers; George M. Harrison of the railway clerks; Harry Bates of the bricklayers; James B. Carey of the electrical workers and AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer William F. Schmitzler.

The AFL-CIO leaders sought to win sympathy from Eisenhower for a tax cut by raising individual exemptions from \$600 to \$700.

REUTHER yesterday added another wrinkle by suggesting Congress give the President standby authority to waive income tax deductions from paychecks for 90 days, if other measures fail. Reuther said this would shoot 500 million dollars a week "high velocity purchasing power" into the economy.

Urging a combination of anti-recession steps, Reuther said: "If the fire is in the basement, it will be in the attic if you wait a month. I'm for putting out the fire in the basement."

Reuther directed his comment at the administration's wait-and-see stand on a tax cut. Vice President Nixon and Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell have both come out for tax relief unless there is a quick upturn. But there has been no other indication if or

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Cop to Be Fingering By Bookie Ring Figures

Witnesses cooperating in the investigation of an alleged police-protected bookmaking ring in Brooklyn will be shown photographs of about 250 plainclothes policemen.

The offices are the 143 members of the Brooklyn morals squad and more than 100 men in other boroughs.

Brooklyn District Attorney Edward S. Silver disclosed yesterday that his staff had obtained the photographs from the police department for his investigation.

SILVER MADE it clear that not all members of the Brooklyn Morals Squad are under suspicion.

When four material witnesses were taken into custody Monday, Silver said there was evidence that police corruption was involved in the operation of the \$250,000-a-year bookmaking syndicate.

Three witnesses appeared yesterday before the Grand Jury investigating the alleged bookie-police tieup.

Two other witnesses who had been called to testify were told to return tomorrow after the jury recessed the bookie-police inquiry until then to hear evidence on an alleged abortion ring it is also investigating.