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## **Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - Newsclippings (12/5)**

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PHOTOCOPIED October 2, 2002: NASM PRESERVATION COPY

## Ex-Texas Official Arrested

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)- Former Texas land commissioner Bascom Giles Sunday was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to commit theft in the state's \$100 million veterans land program.

More than a hundred criminal indictments have been returned in investigations of fraud in the sale of land to the state for resale on easy terms to veterans.

Reporters were called to the office of District Attorney Les Procter of Travis County Sunday to await a "sensational" arrest.

## Double Indictment

The arrest of Giles on indictments returned Saturday by the Travis County grand jury followed by a few hours that of Brady rancher L. V. Ruffin on similar charges.

Bond was set for Giles at \$100,000.

Giles resigned as land commissioner on Jan. 1 in the midst of the investigation of the veterans land program which he fathered in 1949.

He has refused to testify as to his business relationships with numerous individuals and companies involved in the probe of alleged irregularities.

Giles, Gov. Allan Shivers and Texas Attorney Gen. John Ben Shepperd composed the board to pass on veterans land sale applications.

## Resale Suspected

Testimony has shown that some land was appraised for the state at a higher valuation than it had ever previously been sold, purchased by the state, then resold on 40-year, low-interest loans to veterans.

In some cases, it was testified, veterans never knew they were buying the land and that promoters paid the necessary down payment.

Ruffin was arrested on an indictment charging theft of \$83,500 from the state in connection with a veterans land sale.

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## Senate to Study Job Situation

WASHINGTON (INS) - A Senate investigation will start Tuesday into the reasons for rising unemployment in such U.S. industries as coal, railroads, petroleum and textiles.



Sen. Matthew M. Neely (D-W.V.) in announcing the inquiry, said Saturday that his labor subcommittee wants to find out why various industries have unemployment while there is "general prosperity" in the nation.

Neely said the unemployment situation has become critical in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, many areas of New England and the South, and in mining states of the West.

[[image - black & white photograph of Senator Neely]]  
[[caption]] Neely [[/caption]]

#### Serious Warning

He declared: "Something is drastically wrong when, in a period of general prosperity throughout most of our economy, the coal industry, the textile, railroad, glass and pottery industries and various others are suffering, with thousands of their workers unemployed."

[[image - black and white photograph of four men in coats walking down steps]]  
[[caption]] EXPELLED U.S. PRIEST- Sober-faced, the Rev. George Bissonnette gets off a plane in Helsinki, Finland Saturday after being expelled from Russia. The American priest gave no reason for the ouster, but State Department officials said it was apparently in reprisal for Washington's refusal to extend a temporary visa to a Russian churchman. Bissonnette had been the only U.S. clergyman in Moscow. (AP Radiophoto) [[/caption]]  
[[line]]

#### Murderer Sentenced to Chair Gets Word Oil Hit on His Land

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) A convicted murderer sentenced to die in the electric chair has just been informed oil was discovered on his land in Oklahoma.

Harry Spegal, 28, a Champaign, Ill., taxi driver, is in the death house at Stateville Prison. A jury found him guilty Oct. 14, 1953, of strangling 6-year-old David Wayne Anderson, son of a fellow roomer in a boarding house.

Spegal was granted pauper's status in the Illinois courts although he was one of five heirs to a 40-acre tract in Oklahoma, considered worthless except for a mineral rental paid by the Sinclair Refining Co. for oil and mineral rights.

C. E. Tate, Spegal's court-appointed attorney, said Sunday Spegal received a letter from his agent, Franklin A. Jolly of Berkeley, Cal., informing him the company has brought in a well on the tract.  
[[line]]

#### Churchill May Meet Ike in D.C.

LONDON (UP)- Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill may be considering another trip to Washington to confer with President Eisenhower on the

"sad state" of the Anglo-American alliance, a high British authority said Sunday.

The source said no definite plans have been made.

But he said it "appears inevitable" that Churchill and Mr. Eisenhower will have to meet again to bolster the alliance.

The informant, a Churchill confidant, based his reasoning on the prime minister's H-bomb speech of last Tuesday.

He said Churchill's speech in which he said Britain needed its own H-bombs should have made it "abundantly clear on both sides of the Atlantic" that the alliance--so closely bound in war--has reached a "sad state" in peace.

"It may be that the old man will make another pilgrimage to Washington," the source said. "The dangers of American and Britain drifting apart cannot be overpublicized."

[[line]]

#### Soviet Fishing Fleet Sulks Off Shetlands

LONDON (UP)- A fleet of Russian steam fishing vessels anchored off the Shetland Islands grew to 40 today.

"The Russian fisherman are most uncommunicative and gave me only sour looks," said Thomas Hutchison, light keeper at Unst where the Russians are sheltering.  
[[line]]

#### One Twin Ate Pills, So Both Are Treated

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)- When Mrs. Carl Van Dusseldorp discovered that one of her year-old twin daughters, Linda and Karen, had swallowed several aspirin tablets she hurriedly packed both off to a hospital.

But when she got there she couldn't tell doctors which twin took the tablets so doctors pumped out the stomachs of both.

Hospital attendants are still not sure.

"I think it was Linda," said one nurse. "It might have been Karen," said another.

But both babies are doing all right.  
[[line]]

#### Whitman Diary Stolen in Detroit

DETROIT, Mich.- A \$1,000 reward was offered Sunday for the return of

Walt Whitman's diary, which was stolen from a collection of the poet's works on display at the Detroit public library.

The reward was posted by Detroit oil executive Charles E. Feinberg, who said the diary was "irreplaceable." The diary was valued at between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Feinberg said his biggest worry was that the thief might become panicky during the police search and destroy the diary. He said the loss would be a "great blow" to American literature because the diary has not been thoroughly studied.  
[[line]]

#### 17 Countries To Participate In Asia Talks

WASHINGTON (UP) - The Indonesian embassy reported Sunday that 17 nations already have accepted invitations to attend the Asian-African conference to be held in Bandung, Indonesia, starting Apr. 18.

These are in addition to four other nations which joined with Indonesia to sponsor the conference, namely Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan.

Thus the attendance of 22 countries already appears assured, and the embassy said that all others invited are expected to accept, bringing the number attending to 30 nations.

It said 600 delegates will participate in the conference and 400 news, radio and television correspondents are expected to cover it.

#### 17 Countries Accept

The countries which have officially accepted invitations so far, according to the embassy are: Afghanistan, China, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Japan, Liberia, Libya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Philippines, the Sudan, Syria, Thailand, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

The embassy said that the Bandung meeting is expected to be the largest international conference ever held in Asia.

Indonesia's prime minister has stated that he considers the most important objective of the conference to be, "to view the position of Asia and Africa and their peoples in the world of today and the contribution they can make to the promotion of world peace and cooperation."

All five sponsoring premiers have officially reiterated, however, that it is not their wish that the participating countries should build themselves into a regional bloc.

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#### First A-Power Sale Due in '55

WASHINGTON (AP)- The first atomic-produced electric power for commercial use in the U.S. probably will be available by late summer or

autumn, Atomic Energy Commission officials said Sunday.

They said the land-based copy of the atomic engine for the submarine Sea Wolf, at West Milton, N.Y., will produce the power that will be offered for sale.

An AEC spokesman told a reporter he believed this "undoubtedly will be the first commercial electric power from a nuclear plant."

Experimental plants in Idaho and at Oak Ridge, Tenn., have demonstrated electricity can be produced from nuclear plants, but did not produce commercial quantities. A full scale plant for production of commercial power is being built at Shippingport, Pa., but officials said electricity probably won't flow from it until the end of 1957.

The atomic engine at West Milton is a project of the Knolls Atomic Laboratory, Schenectady, N.Y., and is operated by General Electric Corp.  
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Cannon Switches, Backs Super-Carrier

WASHINGTON (AP)- Rep. Clarence Cannon (D-Mo.) Sunday withdrew his opposition to construction of a fifth super-carrier and announced he will support President Eisenhower's military budget without change.

The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee said that under present world conditions "we must have complete unanimity" and show "our allies and our enemies... that we are perfecting ever possible weapon."

Cannon made it clear he still believes super-carriers are too vulnerable to atomic attack to be worth the money. But his announcement apparently took the steam out of a prospective fight over the Navy's requests for 197 million dollars to build a fifth, 60,000-ton carrier like the recently-launched Forrestal. He is the most influential of several congressional critics.

Hearing Scheduled

The House Armed Services committee, once scheduled to hold full-scale hearings on the feasibility of the super-carriers as the result of Cannon's reported opposition, now will consider the Navy's \$1.3 billion shipbuilding program in a one-day hearing Tuesday.

Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) said Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas and other top officials will be asked to justify the giant carrier while testifying on the entire shipbuilding bill.

He added that no representative of other services will be heard on the measure. This apparently closes off the possibility, anticipated by some congressmen, that the bitter 1949 fight between supporters of the big carriers and land-based aircraft would be duplicated.

Rep. W. Bryan Dorn (D-S.C.) said he felt the committee should hear one

of the chiefs of staff and get other "qualified opinion" before authorizing the new flattop.

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#### Ike Asks Renewal Of Contracts Act

WASHINGTON (INS)- President Eisenhower asked Congress Saturday to renew the Renegotiation Act for two-years to assure that the U.S. "gets what it needs for defense at fair prices."

The act, which expired at the end of last year, permits the government to renegotiate defense contracts to guard against excessive profits by military suppliers.

Mr. Eisenhower noted in a special message to Congress that the renegotiation power is the government's "only protection against unreasonable prices" which might be charged by subcontractors.

He said the continuation of such authority is particularly important during the next two years, while the Air Force is expanding to 137 wings.

The same two-year period, he pointed out, "will see an introduction into the Air Force program of the latest type of supersonic aircraft," while the Army, Navy and Marine Corps also have new types of equipment under order.

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#### Thief Steals Dog, Chicken, Pork Chops

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)- Police identified an arrest case as a lonesome and hungry thief.

He was accused of stealing a chicken, a pan of pork chops--and a small black dog.

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#### Pacific Stars & Stripes 7



## Smithsonian Institution

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