

Charges Against Him, B-36, Aides 'Lies', Johnson Says

DECISION DUE TODAY ON MORROW OUSTER

BY LESLIE CARPENTER.
 WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The decision as to whether Wright Morrow, Houston attorney, will continue to serve as the Texas Democratic national committeeman or whether he will be replaced by Byron Skelton, Temple Attorney, rested in the hands of the credentials subcommittee of the Democratic National Commit-

tee, with the decision to be announced Wednesday.

The subcommittee will announce its findings to the meeting of the national committee Wednesday, but it was believed that the decision—whether it favors Morrow or Skelton—will be appealed to the full membership of the national committee.

The claims of Morrow and Skelton to the position of national committeeman of Texas was presented to the credentials subcommittee during a long hearing Tuesday night.

The Texans were heard after the credentials group had listened to testimony on disputes involving national committee members in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Four Congressmen Appear.

Four Texas congressmen went before the credentials committee to argue the Texas case.

Three of them—Representative Poage of Waco and Combs of Beaumont—appeared in Skelton's behalf. Another—Representative Lucas of Tarrant County—testified for Morrow.

Morrow prepared a 10-page statement of his case which declared: "This is a veritable 'tempest in a teapot' sponsored by those with other than fair motives propagated by malice and venom but not substantiated either in morals, in fact or in law. The present agitation only has the tendency to bring more strife and discord (in the Texas Democratic Party) which is absolutely unnecessary and is done solely because of the personal dislike or pecuniary gain or actual disclaim for the principles and ideals of the party."

Emerging from the closed session of the credentials subcommittee, Patman declared he told the subcommittee that if it certified Morrow "it would please the Republicans, the hyphenated Democrats, the Thurmites and the turncoats of Texas but it would be a great disappointment and shock to the loyal Democrats of Texas who gave President Truman the biggest majority of any state in 1948."

Combs presented a statement outlining the Texas law at issue.

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Hurricane Due To Swing NE, Out From U. S.

MIAMI, Aug. 23 (INS). — Northeast storm warnings were ordered hoisted south of Cape Hatteras to Cape Lookout by the U. S. Weather Bureau in Miami Tuesday night. A new storm, meanwhile, was reported brewing east of Puerto Rico.

The latest advisory on the Atlantic storm which has been named "Harry's Hurricane," was centered at 11 p. m. EST at Latitude 32.3, Longitude 76.5, or about 200 miles south-southwest

PEDDLER'S HORSE TIRES OF IT ALL

A long life in harness, pulling a vegetable cart around the streets of Fort Worth, can get mighty tiresome.

Peddler John Darby's horse, fed up with the monotony of it, made a break for freedom Tuesday afternoon, galloping happily up College Ave.

The careening wagon had dumped part of its vegetable load before the horse was stopped eight blocks later by a road block of several youngsters and a Negro man.

Peddler Darby, of 129 Viola, ran to the scene of the capture. He stroked the animal's nose and murmured:

"All is forgiven."

Van Zandt Mute As Defense Boss Replies

BY EDWARD JAMIESON.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—Secretary of Defense Johnson Tuesday branded as "lies" each and every charge made against him and his associates in connection with the B-36 bomber by Representative Van Zandt of Pennsylvania. The congressman sat mutely by, raising no question or defense.

As Chairman Vinson of the House armed services committee slowly read the charges contained in a speech made by Van Zandt on the floor of the House May 26, Johnson, on the witness stand, declared each one to be a "lie" or "utterly false."

When committee members were asked if they desired to question Johnson, several did, but Van Zandt failed to ask a single question. As soon as Johnson left the stand, the Republican congressman rushed from the room.

Vinson read from the same speech which Air Secretary Symington earlier in the B-36 investigation dared Van Zandt to make over the radio so that Symington and other mentioned in it could sue the congressman for libel. Van Zandt has declined to do this.

Trouble Holding Temper.

As Johnson answered questions after having read a prepared statement to the committee, it was obvious that he was experiencing great difficulty in holding his anger. Nevertheless, he frequently looked directly at Van Zandt as he branded the charges with being "lies."

In fact, at the close of his statement he declared that it is only because "my respect for the committee as a whole, and for the members of Congress generally, is so great that I have endeavored to remain calm under great provocation."

In his opening statement Johnson branded all insinuations, rumors and innuendoes which have been raised regarding the B-36 and its procurement program as "entirely false."

"They flow from rumors that are the figment of some malicious imagination," he declared.

Johnson, who was making his first appearance before the committee since the public inquiry began more than two weeks ago, explained that he had been anxiously awaiting this chance to testify not only to clear himself but everyone who has been maligned by the charges.

Hearings Necessary.

While Johnson agreed with Committee Counsel Joseph E. Keenan that the investigation has greatly harmed the defense program of the United States, he said that under the circumstances it was necessary to hold the public hearings so that the reputations of men involved could be cleared.

"My reputation is my most valued possession. I could not stand by while suspicions were raised about it, no matter how unfounded the charges might be. The tendency to malign and defame—to assassinate the reputations of public officials—is, to me, much the same as a new, growing and dangerous cancer.

"More than my own personal reputation, the integrity of the entire Department of Defense is

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Phenomenon Over Ft. Worth

Ghost Trail in Sky Left By B-36 in Strato Sunset

White vapor trails left by B-36s flying at extremely high altitudes over Fort Worth have become a common sight but the trails had a golden hue after sunset Tuesday evening.

The sun's rays shining on the trails from a B-36 gave them a brilliant cast. The Star-Telegram

received numerous calls, asking for an explanation.

Capt. William S. Waltman of Carswell Air Base public information office, said the earth's curvature is responsible. Although the sun already had set on Fort Worth, it was still shining at 40,000-foot altitude, thus illuminating the plane's vapor trails with an orange glow.

The trails themselves are caused by the condensation of the plane's engine exhausts. Temperature at 40,000 feet is 65 degrees below zero. Such extreme cold causes the exhaust to condense immediately, although there are six distinct trails left by the six engines of the B-36, usually only two trails are distinguishable from the earth.

They're dubbed "con trails" by airmen.

Man Charged In Bribe Try Quits Hospital

Norman D. Bailey, 57, former Dallas police captain, who was found insane and committed to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Waco on June 29 after being charged here with trying to bribe Councilman McKnight, has been at liberty since July 14.

The VA reported Tuesday in Dallas that Bailey has been free on a "trial visit basis."

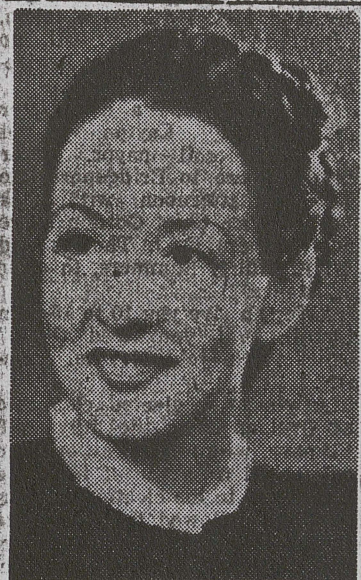
Bailey was found insane by a Dallas County jury seven weeks after he was charged with attempting to bribe McKnight into permitting New York gamblers to operate in Fort Worth.

The Tarrant County grand jury no-billed Bailey on the charge on May 7 after hearing a long report on his medical history. On the same day, his wife, Mrs. Jewel Bailey of Dallas, filed a lunacy charge against him in Dallas.

Three witnesses, including two psychiatrists, testified at the lunacy hearing that Bailey, a World War I top sergeant, has been mentally ill since suffering shell shock in combat.

The release of mental patients from VA hospitals for trial visits was described as a "routine matter" by Eric Eades, VA attorney in Dallas.

If observation proves that a patient is not dangerous, Eades said, he may be released for a trial visit with his people or



MISS GLADYS RECTOR.

Nurse Dies After Flight From Coast

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JOHNSON CALLS B-36 CHARGES 'LIES'

Continued from Page 1. brought into question. The American people are entitled to expect the utmost honesty and complete freedom from politics in the conduct of the officials associated with the Department of Defense. And, in turn, officials of the government are entitled to be free of vicious, unwarranted and unsupported rumors which unjustifiably bring into question their reputations."

Earlier Tuesday, a top Air Force officer told the committee that he would class any Air Force official who permitted either political or financial considerations to influence his decisions on the procurement of planes for national security along with Benedict Arnold, the nation's most notorious traitor.

Lt. Gen. Lauris Norstad, deputy Air Force chief of staff for operations, declared that he would resign his commission if he were ordered to make decisions which he believed originated from such "sordid considerations."

As a member of the four-man senior officers board which decided to go ahead with the B-36 program and increase the order for their purchase, Norstad bluntly declared that he is "perfectly confident" that none of his board colleagues "was influenced by such considerations."

Asked by Keenan whether he would class an officer, if so influenced, with Benedict Arnold,

MRS. ARWINE

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So we got in our car and went to my daughter's for help. We weren't afraid of him, and he didn't threaten us; it was just too much to bear alone."

It was too much to bear then, even with three of her children present, and Mrs. Arwine left the room crying.

Simple Home.

The four-room Arwine home, constructed of wood and a composition siding of brick design, looked empty from the outside but each time a car drove up from a search, some member of the family came to the front door to see if Arwine was returning.

A black baby chick pecked on the wooden floor of the Arwine living room.

John Johnston, farmer who lives two miles from the Arwine home, came rushing in to tell County Attorney Tom McMurray that "I want something done. We can't sleep tonight with Ike still loose."

State Officers.

"The man's a killer," Johnston declared, "why don't you call a state officer?" McMurray assured Johnston that state officers were participating in the search. He pointed to State Highway Patrolman Felix Webster, who is stationed at Decatur.

Looking at Webster, Johnston declared, "Why he's just a kid." The state officer told Johnston the safest place for him was at home.

"Ike came to my house for a drink of water about 11 this morning. He was sweating heavy. He didn't say he'd done anything but that he had just emptied his gun on two people. He said I was the best friend he had. He told me he was going home through the woods."

Left Notes.

Mrs. Arwine's son, Lewis, called to a Star-Telegram reporter:

"Before you go, here's a note he left I want you to see. He's been active in that kind of work and done good in this community all his life here." The penciled note said:

"Bridgport Lodge 90, IOOF. Brother Odd Fellows—I am not guilty as charged. Yours in FLT. W. L. Arwine. Aug. 23, 1949. My father died Aug. 23, 1898." Ike Arwine and Jessie Mash were brothers in Lodge 90. Ike was to have been tried on the rape charge at lodge meeting Tuesday night. The trial was canceled.

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slav government has learned this lesson in "the hard way" after receiving several damaging blows from the Soviet government's standard technique.

Tuesday's Yugoslav note was in reality addressed to Communist parties of the world rather than to "bourgeois" opinion. It was in line with the Yugoslav government's repeated assertions that it would carry the fight for equality with Moscow to rank and file Communists in every country of the world.

ber 1948 state convention had adopted a resolution seeking to substitute Skelton for Morrow, Patman said: "Wright Morrow doubtless courted national leaders of the Democratic Party after under fire. There was no visible evidence of loyalty until he was under fire. I don't think he deserves any credit for loyalty."

Backs Morrow.

Mrs. H. H. Weinert of Seguin, the Texas Democratic national committeewomen urged the recognition of Morrow in testimony before the credentials group.

Lucas did not discuss what he told the credentials subcommittee after he completed his testimony. The Tarrant County congress-

Norstad not only emphatically repudiated in the affirmative, but added:

"There is nothing in the world which would be bad enough to do or think about such a person."

Johnson, in his statement, and under questioning by committee members, disclosed for the first time several important facts in connection with his association with both the government and Consolidated. Briefly, they were:

1. He was personally asked by President Roosevelt to become a director of Consolidated so that he could be the president's "eyes and ears" to watch the production of B-24s for the prosecution of the war.

2. He was drafted for the post of secretary of defense by president Truman after telling the president that he did not want a federal appointment.

3. He first learned that he was to be appointed secretary of defense in late January, though he did not take office until March 2 of this year.

4. He issued the order certifying the last purchase of 36 B-36s shortly after taking office, but since that time has refrained from any action in connection with aircraft procurement because of the present investigation.

Reluctant To Serve.

Johnson said that he has been reluctant to serve as a director of Consolidated, but finally agreed when President Roosevelt urged him to. He remained as a director until this year, resigning when he was named defense secretary, he told the committee.

Denying that this had anything to do with the B-36 procurement program, he declared:

"I was never asked by any officer or director of Consolidated to discuss with anyone in government any aspect of the B-36. From the time I left the War Department in 1940 until my return to the military establishment in 1949, I never discussed with any official of the military establishment, or, indeed, to the best of my knowledge, any official of the government, the B-36 or any aspect thereof."

Even prior to his becoming a director of the company, Johnson said that his law firm of Steptoe and Johnson had been employed by first Consolidated and Vultee, while they were separate companies, and for the combined company. He submitted figures showing that his firm received approximately \$145,000 in legal fees from the companies during the 10-year period.

One of Six Firms.

His firm, however, was only one of six law firms employed by Consolidated during that period.

When questioned about his appointment as secretary of defense, Johnson replied:

"Let's get this straight now once and for all. I did not seek this job. I told the president that I didn't want any job in the administration and would not take one."

Later, he said, he was called by then Secretary of Defense Forrester, who had heard rumors that Johnson was trying to force him out. "I talked to Forrester and told him that there was no truth to these reports," Johnson said. It was sometime later, he added, that the president told him he was going to be named as Forrester's successor and asked him to confer with Forrester. Johnson said that they had a number of conferences between that time and the date of his appointment.

"Then you were drafted for the job that you now hold?" asked Representative Johnson of California.

"Yes, sir," replied Johnson.

Hotly denying charges that politics have been injected into the B-36 program because Floyd Odium, chairman of the board, contributed to the Democratic presidential campaign fund last year, Johnson told the committee:

"There are no politics in the defense establishment — there never will be any politics in the defense establishment so long as I have anything to do with it."

No Private Discussions.

Pointing out that his connection with Odium had been the subject of insinuations in both the "anonymous document" and the Van Zandt speech, Johnson declared that he had never had any private discussions with Odium concerning the B-36.

"There was no plot," he asserted. "There was no conspiracy. The charge is entirely false."

Johnson, who was finance chairman for the Democratic committee during the 1948 campaign, said that he had no personal recollection of "ever asking Mr. Odium for a contribution."

"During the campaign," he added, "the staff at the committee headquarters made a list of previous contributors. Mr. Odium's name was on that list. I have a recollection that he sent his contributions in on two occasions, each one amounting to \$1,500. I recall that five or six campaign contributions were made through Mr. Odium. So far as I know that is the entire extent of Mr. Odium's participation in the campaign. The charge that he contributed or was in-

strumental in raising either \$1,500,000 or \$6,500,000 is completely fantastic and utterly false." The lower figure was used by Van Zandt in his speech, while the higher figure was used in the anonymous document. Johnson later said that the entire amount collected for the campaign by national headquarters was only between \$1,500,000 and \$1,800,000.

Plans Proceeded Far.

Plans for the third purchase of B-36 bombers had proceeded so far by the time Johnson became defense secretary that the certification was laid on his desk only two days after he took the oath of office.

He said he was surprised, since Forrester had told him three days before that he had approved the B-36 program. As a result, however, he conferred with General Eisenhower, Secretary Symington and the joint chiefs of staff before acting. After getting their fullest approval of the new purchase of 36 planes, he informed Budget Director Frank Pace of his approval.

"Thank God that I was not terrorized by the rumors and insinuations and took that action," he declared. "I am proud of what I did and have absolutely no apology to make."

Nevertheless, Johnson explained, he has refrained from any personal activity in connection with aircraft procurement since that time, because of the House inquiry.

Questioned as to his reasons for this, he replied:

"I wanted to come before this committee in a way that no one could charge me with having anything to do with trying to block the investigation, or circumvent it."

In this connection, Johnson bitterly denied that he attempted to impose censorship on anyone in the defense establishment during the B-36 probe. He said that his directive was aimed in exactly the opposite direction.

'Best Guarantee.'

"Frankly," he declared, "I felt that this arrangement was the best guarantee against censorship. I believed, too, that I should refrain from participating in any discussions about the B-36 until I testified before this committee. Hence, the order putting the entire matter out of my hands. There was no censorship, no suppression and there will be none."

In reply to a question quietly asked by Keenan, "Did you have anything to do with Forrester's early departure from the defense post?" Johnson replied:

"I brand that charge under oath as a complete and dastardly lie."

Shortly after Forrester resigned, he entered naval hospital here and later committed suicide by jumping from the 16th floor of the building.

Johnson also denied reports that he had been planning to ease Symington out of office so that he could head a combination of large aircraft manufacturing companies.

"At no time have I ever discussed his resignation with Secretary Symington," he testified.

Johnson was critical of the fact that Van Zandt would publicize the rumors and reports by a speech in Congress, resulting in the present inquiry, before a preliminary investigation to ascertain the facts had been made.

"No man's name should be besmirched until there has been a look into the man's soul and an effort made to determine the truth," he declared.

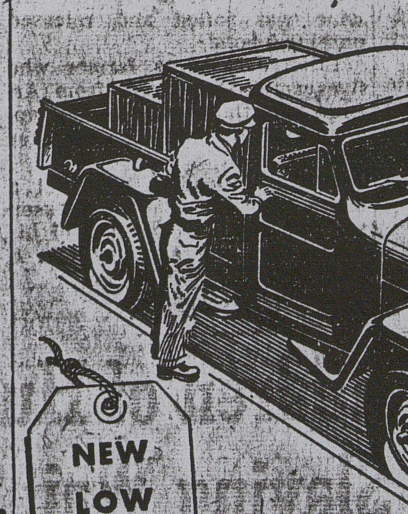
Basis of Investigation.

He made this statement after Chairman Vinson bluntly asserted that the present investigation is being made because of the anonymous document which was widely circulated in Washington, and the one speech made in the House by Van Zandt.

Preceding Johnson to the witness stand Tuesday was Mark Leva, a special assistant to the secretary of defense. Leva outlined in detail the procedure in the defense establishment on approval of aircraft procurement designed to show that it would be impossible for one or even several officials to reach any final decision alone.

Leva, who was closely associated with Forrester, also said that he does not know of the existence of a personal diary of Forrester, which had been reported to have recited some of the charges.

Cut Hauling



Yes I Dye My