



THE TENNESSEAN

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'Not Supposed To Be Here'

U.S. Military Men In, Out of Vietnam

By ROBERT KAYLOR

SAIGON (UPI) — Small groups of American airmen in faded green fatigues, jungle boots and baseball caps are back in South Vietnam, leaving the country only briefly every four days to comply with the letter, if not the spirit, of the Vietnam ceasefire agreement.

The airmen are reorganizing a supply system for critical spare parts that has lapsed into chaos in the two years since American GIs left. U.S. government ground rules forbid military visitors from being in Vietnam more than four days, but there is a Catch-22 end-run around the rules.

EACH FOURTH day a big C141 transport jet flies the men to the Philippines, then brings them back in the morning, an overnight hop of 2,000 miles.

"I guess we're not supposed to be here," shrugged a sergeant at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airfield as his company waited for a flight out. "Well, we are. We're here for 60 days to try to help the VNAF (Vietnamese Air Force) straighten itself out."

American sources in Saigon denied the airmen's presence violated the Paris agreement.

"THEY ARE logistics specialists who come and go on an administrative basis to help with the aid program set up under the provisions of the Paris agreement."

"This is no more of a ceasefire violation than the provision which requires us to fulfill our obligations. There have been several teams such as this coming in and there will be more," the source said.

The unpublicized presence of the airmen, of questionable legality at best, underlines how South Vietnam still depends on U.S. military supplies and technical know-how.

THE UNITED STATES provides all of South Vietnam's military needs, from items that cost thousands of dollars to 35-cent washers needed to keep helicopters flying. Recent figures showed the economically strapped Saigon government had about \$175 million of its own, far

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Fighting Goes On

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian soldier fires into the air during an assault on Khmer Rouge positions along Highway 7, north of here. Small clashes were reported in

the area north of the capital as government forces attempted to push insurgents from the Tonle Sap River region.

Lawmakers, A-Scientists Meet at Oak Ridge

N-Plants Safe, Legislators Assured

By LARRY DAUGHTREY
Tennessee Staff Correspondent

OAK RIDGE—Tennessee legislators were assured repeatedly by atomic scientists here yesterday that nuclear power plants are safe, and represent the nation's best short-term energy source.

The legislators were urged to refrain from passing restrictive legislation on nuclear development, including the sort of nuclear moratorium being pushed by environmentalists in other states.

MORE THAN 100 of the 132 members of the legislature came here yesterday for a day-long briefing, tour and general red carpet treat-

ment at the massive federal government nuclear facilities, now transformed from bomb-making to research on peacetime uses of atomic energy.

The lawmakers were bombarded with so many facts and opinions from so many scientists that some were complaining of mental fatigue at the end of the day.

But the one dominant message came through from the scientists: they believe that nuclear electrical generating plants, such as the one planned by TVA at Hartsville, are safe.

ALTHOUGH representatives of several environmental groups also attended the

day's activities, they were not given an opportunity to present their case against nuclear power.

Most legislators said at the end of the day they were less concerned about safety aspects of nuclear power plants than before. But several said they also want to hear the environmental viewpoint when the legislature reconvenes in Nashville later this month.

The briefing session was sponsored by an Oak Ridge industrial development group and staffed by high-level officials of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

MOST OF THE discussion centered on the sort of conventional nuclear power plant planned at Hartsville. There were only occasional mentions of the much more controversial breeder reactor planned on the Clinch River near here.

The breeder reactor, which has even nuclear sophisticates in this town nervous, produces more nuclear fuel than it uses. But it operates on plutonium, not uranium, and plutonium is highly toxic and has a virtually indefinite life-span.

Scientists told the legislators the breeder reactor is needed because all known supplies of nuclear fuel will be exhausted by the year 2040.

THROUGHOUT THE day, safety factors were widely discussed, but the possibility

of nuclear accidents from power reactors was downplayed.

Gordon G. Fee, a safety expert here, said the nuclear industry's "so far unblemished safety record" cannot last indefinitely. "The impact of such an event (accident), when it occurs, will be of a nature that can be handled and not the frightful catastrophe which some have depicted," Fee said.

FEE LIKENED THE probability of a nuclear accident to the chances of a motorist on the interstate highway simultaneously having a blowout, losing a tire, having the steering col-

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Congress Votes Move To Halt Ford Oil Tax

By EDMOND LeBRETON

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled Congress confronted President Ford yesterday with a major move to halt Ford's tariff on imported oil.

The vote was 309-114.

THE BILL the House passed and sent to the Senate would suspend for 90 days the authority Ford claims to impose by presidential order a \$3 a barrel tax on foreign oil. The \$1 tax imposed Feb. 1, the first of three planned increments, would be cancelled.

House Democrats bid for time to construct their own energy program.

Chairman Al Ullman, D-Ore., of the House Ways and Means Committee, said: "All we are telling you, Mr. President, is to give us 90 days, put the burden on us, we'll produce a sound energy policy — but don't lock us into a pricing mechanism that will do grave disservice to this country."

IN THE Tennessee delegation, Democratic Reps. Joe L. Ewins, Harold Ford, Richard Fulton and Ed Jones voted to suspend the President's tariff. Republi-

can Reps. Robin Beard and Jimmy Quillen voted not to suspend Rep. John Duncan, a Republican, voted with the Democrats on the issue.

Ford is expected to veto the bill if it clears the Senate.

The vote by which the House passed it was greater than the two-thirds that would be required to over-

ride a veto. Forty-two Republicans joined 267 Democrats to pass the bill.

IN A SECOND blow to Ford's overall economy-energy program, the Senate joined the House in passing legislation to kill an administration plan to raise the

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Blanton Slows Staff Travel For Economy

By JOHN HAILE

The Blanton administration has restricted out-of-state travel for state employees to an "emergency only" basis as another in a series of cost-cutting measures aimed at avoiding a year end budget deficit.

In a memorandum to all commissioners, Finance and Administration Commissioner William Jones said all out-of-state travel must be justified in writing and approved by him.

TOP LEVEL staff continued to work yesterday on a series of program and personnel cutbacks which are expected to be announced next week. Gov. Ray Blanton said Tuesday the cuts must be made immediately to avoid ending the year with a deficit.

The cuts are being developed as Blanton's staff is preparing the governor's first budget, and Jones said yesterday it now appears that state revenues will grow next year by only about 5% or 6%.

That rate of growth will produce only about \$50 to \$60 million in new revenues. Preliminary departmental budget requests called for

spending more than \$300 million in new tax money.

JONES SAID he expects the administration to make some firm decision on the budget next week. He indicated that the decision could call for some new tax sources to meet the demand for state services.

Revenues in Tennessee have shown only modest growth in recent months, far below the level which had been anticipated when the legislature approved a \$2.1 billion budget last year.

The Tennessee Constitution prohibits ending the year with a budget deficit, and Blanton has already announced a freeze on hiring and major purchasing. He said Tuesday that he is preparing to make program and personnel cuts shortly to cut back expenditures even further.

The memorandum to commissioners said that state employees will continue to receive their merit raises until the end of the fiscal year. Those raises come due on each employee's anniversary date with the state, and Jones said that if a freeze had been imposed on those raises now it would have been unfair to employees who had joined the state during the months February through June.

FBI Leeway In Hijacking Cases Argued

By PAT WELCH

Tennessee Staff Correspondent

CINCINNATI—The FBI's power to act in criminal cases without regard to civil liability was argued before the U. S. Court of Appeals here yesterday in a case growing out of the 1971 hijacking of a small plane from Nashville.

The government, defendant in a \$2.5 million damage suit brought by two victims' families, argued the doctrine of sovereign immunity protected the government from being sued for the discretionary acts of its employees.

NASHVILLE attorney

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Knoxville Hamilton Bank Stock Center of Dogfight

By STEVE KORPAN

A full-scale battle between two Tennessee multimillionaires is being waged for control of Hamilton National Bank of Knoxville, the largest bank in East Tennessee.

The latest move in the financial fight came yesterday when Jake Butcher, an Anderson County banker and runnerup for last year's Tennessee Democratic gubernatorial nomination, ran a full-page advertisement in the a Knoxville newspaper offering to buy 10,000 shares of the bank's common stock at \$300 per share in cash.

LAST WEEKEND, Dean Moses, head of Transcom Investment and Financial Ltd., Inc., in Memphis, said to have assets of approximately \$126 million, announced he had purchased 46% of the bank's stock and was trying to buy more than 50%.

The struggle for majority stock control has driven the price of the stock up from last year's high of about \$275 to the current \$300 level and it could rise even more. The bank listed assets last Dec. 31 at \$384,110,922.71.

Butcher acquired 419 shares last October at \$299 a share, the highest paid to date, Butcher's attorney in Knoxville, G. W. Ridenour Jr., said last night.

IN A STATEMENT, released last night in Memphis by his attorney, Jim Reeves, Moses said:

"Dean Moses, Memphis citizen and businessman, who presently owns or controls approximately 46% of the outstanding shares of stock of the Hamilton National Bank of Knoxville, said yesterday he has instructed his attorneys to immediately examine the propriety of filing a formal

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Jake Butcher
Biggest offer yet?

GI Trimmed After Winning By Whisker

FT. CAMPBELL—An Army private won half the legal battle over his moustache yesterday—receiving acquittal on a charge of disobeying an order by refusing to trim it, but later snipped the ends of the eight-inch handlebar at the direction of a military judge.

Maj. William O. Gentry ordered the trim after he upheld military grooming

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Before...

...After.

UPI photos by Sam Parrish

Nicks Elected Regents Chief, Vows TSU Support

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

Tennessee Education News Editor

Dr. Roy Nicks was elected chancellor of the State Board of Regents yesterday moments after he gave his full commitment to the improvement of Tennessee State University.

Nicks, chancellor of the University of Tennessee-Nashville, was elected by

acclamation for the \$45,000 a year job.

ABOUT A DOZEN faculty members from Tennessee State University attended the meeting, thinking the proposal concerning a merger between UT-Nashville and Tennessee State would be discussed. The subject was never

brought up, however.

TSU President Fred Humphries said the matter will be on the next agenda of the board, adding that he will petition to discuss it if it is not scheduled by regent officials.

JUST BEFORE the board voted on Nicks, Humphries asked to be recognized and

said he thought it was important for Nicks to state his position regarding the UTN-TSU controversy.

Humphries said that "not the best of circumstances" existed while Nicks was UTN chancellor. Humphries added he had "no doubt that he (Nicks) can pledge his loyalty."

Nicks said he is "fully aware" of the circumstances and said he "will work for all institutions and in particular in Nashville, Tennessee State University."

NICKS SAID he will strongly back the plan submitted

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