

\$90-a-Month Pension OK'd For Veterans

Committee Approves Plan After Six Democrats Bolt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (UPI) — An angrily divided House Veterans Committee today voted for \$90-a-month pensions starting at age 65 for all veterans of both world wars.

The vote was taken at a secret session after six Democratic members stormed out protesting against the "dictatorial tactics" of Chairman John E. Rankin (D. Miss.).

The pension bill, a pared down version of Mr. Rankin's original proposal, would cost \$125,900,000 at the start, according to the Veterans Administration.

The cost would rise year by year as more veterans reached the pension age. Mr. Rankin's original bill would have cost \$2 billion to start with.

OK of Bill Seen

The administration opposes the measure, and a fight against it is promised when it gets to the House floor. But prospects for passage of the bill by the House look pretty good. Under the bill all veterans, rich and poor, would be eligible for the pension.

The walkout of the six Democrats followed a Rankin procedural ruling. One of the bolters, Rep. Walter Huber (D. O.) said he left because he was "sick and tired" of Mr. Rankin's "high-handed tactics." Another, Rep. Earl Cluett (D. Pa.) said the walkout was in protest against Mr. Rankin's "dictatorial tactics."

Other congressional developments:

Labor Law

AFL President William Green asked repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and enactment of the administration's new labor bill with a few small amendments. He said the Taft-Hartley law hampers unions in efforts to get rid of Communists.

Under the law's union shop restrictions, Mr. Green said, a union could suspend a Communist member but could not require the employer to fire him.

Security Pact

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (R. Mass.) asked Secretary of State Dean Acheson for assurances that any military secrets exchanged under the North Atlantic security pact will not fall into Communist hands.

In a letter to the secretary, Sen. Lodge also suggested that the Senate will want to know before approving the pact whether the European participants are willing to fight in a unified force in the event of an emergency.

Condon

Chairman John S. Wood, D. Ga., said his House Un-American Activities Committee will give Atomic Scientist Edward U. Condon a public hearing any time he asks for it. Mr. Condon, head of the National Bureau of Standards, was accused by a House subcommittee last year of being "one of the weakest links" in our atomic security.

Freedom Train

Rep. John W. McCormack (D. Mass.) said in the no-segregation policy of the Freedom Train will remain in effect if the train is put on the road again this year. Memphis, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala., refused to display the train with its historic documents because of the no-segregation edict. The House already has voted to send the train on a new tour, and the Senate is expected to follow suit shortly.

Taxes

President Truman decided at a conference with House tax writers today to make a statement to the public Thursday on expansion of social security.

The decision was announced at the White House by Speaker Sam Rayburn after Mr. Truman had spent more than an hour with the Speaker and Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The President has asked a \$2 billion hike in social security payroll taxes in order to extend coverage and increase benefits, the audience said.

Handwork From the Juvenile Home



Mrs. Patricia Maddox (center), probation officer, exhibits handicraft articles made by children in the Juvenile Home to Mrs. John C. Mueller, wife of the director of the Marion County Welfare Department; her daughter, Ann, and to A. J. Thatcher, city recreation director.

Scout Plane Goes AWOL After Take-Off on Its Own

FT. LEWIS, Wash., Feb. 15 (UPI) — A little, single-engine Army scout plane which went AWOL on a pilotless "solo" flight from the airfield here, was believed today to have crashed in some remote region of western Washington state.

Despite a damaged front landing gear the little plane made an excellent take-off and climbed to 3000 feet before leveling off. Then it weaved in and out of clouds banks in a series of "lazy eights."

Army and Coast Guard pilots took off from airfields in the area to follow the wandering plane, but returned to report that it had eluded them and disappeared.

In attempting to open the cockpit, Mr. Kiesner accidentally shoved the throttle on full.

The plane shot down the runway, turned a 90-degree angle, struck some pontoons and then Kiesner out. Mr. Kiesner suffered a fractured leg and lost several teeth in the fall.

Mr. Kiesner opened the front cockpit for him.

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The L-16 plane made a virtually perfect take-off on its own yesterday. The flight started after pilot Herbert A. Winter cranked the plane and passenger William G.

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