

# F A S. NEWSLETTER

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## US ENDS VOLUNTARY TEST BAN

After several months of official optimism, the negotiations at Geneva for a nuclear test ban reached another impasse and adjourned Dec. 20. This led directly to the announcement by President Eisenhower (W. Post, 12/30) that the US is no longer bound by its voluntary moratorium on tests (which had been in effect for just over one year) although it will give advance notification of any future nuclear explosions. Apparently, no blasts are planned currently and some Administrative sources express the view (NYT, 12/30) that the announced decision is mainly an effort to apply pressure to the Soviets at the Geneva talks which reconvened on Jan. 12. If is a fact, however, that test sites at Nevada and Eniwetok have been kept ready at a cost of \$12,000,000 a year. The policies of both Britain (who has indefinitely extended its decision not to test) and France (who fully intends to test its first A-bomb soon) are unchanged. Khrushchev still maintains that the USSR will not resume testing unless the West does.

### Scientists at Geneva Disagree

The above situation results from the inability of the East-West scientific experts to come to any agreement at Geneva. Although the Russian scientists finally studied the US data on detection of underground tests they rejected it as in part highly speculative and impractical and further accused the

US of maintaining that under the detection system of approximately 180 stations throughout the world agreed to in 1958, underground explosions equivalent to 19,000 tons of TNT would be indistinguishable from earthquakes if carried out in a chamber of several cubic feet. They also presented a RAND report (later made public NYT, 12/23, 12/30), which states that explosion could be "uncoupled" so that blasts equivalent to 100 kilotons of TNT would be totally undetected and blasts of 300 kilotons would resemble a 1 kiloton explosion. Such masking however apparently would require construction of a spherical chamber 800 feet in diameter. Such a hole has never been dug and would probably require several years, be difficult to hide, and be hundreds of time more expensive than the nuclear device to be tested (according to a study made by the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, 12/31).

There does seem to be growing feeling in this country (although still a minority opinion) that we must clearly face the fact that no perfect detection system will ever be devised but that what is involved is a balancing of risks. We must not underestimate, nor totally ignore, the grave risks inherent in a failure to negotiate a test ban.

### Russia Offers Compromise

One advance was made at Geneva in the form of a three point proposal by the USSR. It would require the West to agree to a nuclear test ban control commission composed of three NATO nations, three Soviet bloc countries and one neutral. In return for this, Russia would agree to the Western plan for control post staffs consisting one third of personnel from the host country, one third from the other side and one third neutrals (previously objected to) and would relinquish the right of veto on budgetary matters (W. Post, 12/15).

Khrushchev again made big headlines in newspapers throughout the world by his announcement to the Supreme Soviet that Russia would shortly reduce its armed forces by 1.2 million men from service. Much was said on rockets and nuclear weapons and claims were made that an even more powerful weapon (otherwise unspecified) was being built (W. Post, 1/15). Western sources were virtually unanimous that this maneuver represents not a disarmament but a re-organiza-

(Continued on page 4)

## NATO AND SUMMIT MEETINGS

As a result of the Western Big Four conference in France late in December a formal offer was made to Premier Khrushchev for a Summit Meeting of the US, France, Britain, and USSR in Paris this spring to be followed by a series of summit meetings at unspecified intervals. Khrushchev immediately agreed to attend such a meeting and, after some discussion, May 16 was fixed upon as the date. The communique from the Western Big Four meeting was quite general regarding the proposed agenda for the summit meeting but reports from France (W. Post, 12/20, 12/27) indicated that disarmament, West Germany and Berlin would be among the topics to be discussed.

Prior to the summit meeting the Western Allies will hold a series of lower level conferences in an effort to coordinate a common position on various problems. The first such meeting has already been held in Washington, with Secretary of State Christian Herter and the Ambassadors to the US from Britain, France and West Germany attending (NYT, 12/31). Among the major differences to be ironed out during these preliminary meetings are West German fears of compromising the Berlin situation, and NATO problems, especially the French position on NATO.

### NATO Meeting

Just before the Western Big Four Meeting, the annual December meeting of the NATO Council was held. This meeting opened in an atmosphere of sharp dispute as a result of the publicity afforded a speech by US Gen. Nathan Twining before a closed session of the NATO Military Committee. Twining attributed current NATO problems to recent policies of the De Gaulle government including, 1) withdrawal of the French Mediterranean Fleet from NATO command, 2) French opposition to integrated NATO air defense and a unified air warning system and 3) lack of action on the 1957 NATO agreement for the stockpiling of atomic bombs and the building of missile bases. The French position has been attributed, in part, to her fear of eventual US retirement from NATO (W. Post, 12/30) and to De Gaulle's desire to make France the leader of a powerful European community.

During the NATO Council meeting it became clear that France stood alone. Even French military men were quoted (NY Times, 12/18) as being in favor of a unified air command. The official communique issued at the close of the NATO meeting indicated no progress on this issue, but some reports of the subsequent conversations between De Gaulle and Eisenhower, intimated that working agreements may have been reached.

Reports of US and USSR nuclear and missile capabilities were given at the NATO meeting. Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates assured NATO of the US's present nuclear superiority over the USSR and her "effective nuclear-delivery capability." Discussion of missile development indicated the possibility of integrated NATO planning and production in the future (NYT, 12/17).

## FAS SECRETARY RESIGNS

It is with deep appreciation of his many services that we announce the resignation of Irving Shapiro, Administrative Secretary of FAS for the past two and a half years. Irv has served FAS at some personal sacrifice and will reluctantly leave Jan. 31 to take a public relations position with the American Pharmacy Assn. In order to aid the continuity of operation, he will remain available to FAS on a part-time basis until his replacement (as yet unknown) is chosen and sufficiently oriented to handle the difficult job. We are currently looking for a new secretary-manager with the know-how and dedication required, and invite suggestions.

## PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION

Concern over the present conditions of education in the US has been expressed from several sources recently. As was the case after the launching of Sputnik I in 1957, the present debate is largely inspired by comparison of American and Russian technological accomplishments. In the words of a Dec. 11 Science editorial, there is reason to suspect "that Soviet foreign policy is now the determining factor in American educational practice."

Classroom and teacher shortages are still two of the major educational problems. The deficiency in classrooms is estimated to be 132,400 units. Among this year's school teachers, 75,000 in elementary schools and 29,000 in secondary schools have not met full certification standards for teaching. HEW Sec. Arthur Flemming stated in a Nov. 23 news conference, that "we have made very little progress over the years in dealing with the huge backlog of need for classrooms." Rep. Metcalf (D, Mont.), has advocated Federal assistance to education as the only practical solution of this urgent problem.

Broader aspects of our educational crisis have been discussed by several scientists and educators. When viewed within an expanded framework, classroom shortages appear to be important only as a reflection of public and official indifference to cultural values. The fundamental problem becomes the determination of what should be the basic aims of education. There is considerable agreement among recent statements by top experts that the purpose of education in the US should not be simply to catch up with Russian missile development; i.e., culture is not only science, and science not only technology. I. Turner, in the Science editorial (Scholars In Spite Of Ourselves) mentioned above, warns that excessive emphasis on technological training may well "turn us into a country whose citizens possess no more vision than the machines they will soon be operating" and recommends that more consideration be given to liberal arts subjects or at least to a deeper study of math and science.

In the Annual Report of the Carnegie Institution, (released Dec. 14), C. P. Haskins, President of the Institution stated that because science has contributed so largely to material progress, the public often considers the technological accomplishments as the final achievements of science. Haskins explained however that the aims of science are in fact basically non-materialistic. The task and the responsibility of science is not only to win new knowledge but also to support ethical values by opposing "the insidious hardening of dogma" and by protecting the dignity of the individual.

In an extensive testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, Adm. H. G. Rickover discussed both the aims of education and some proposed ways to reach these aims. In agreement with other experts, the Admiral criticized support of "training" (which does not develop the mind) at the expense of deeper education. Rickover stated that "our unwillingness to separate children by ability and motivation keeps American schooling extremely inefficient." This system "is bad for the smart ones because they . . . become lazy and . . . unruly. Many of the children who become problems, go wrong simply because they didn't have to exert themselves to the best of their abilities."

The Admiral suggests that educational aims be broadened and standards required for diplomas raised. The Federal Government should work out a set of national standards for public schools, so that "everyone could judge exactly where the local school stood." Other competent educators did not agree with the above, while some appeared to be concerned only with a more efficient breeding of engineers and technicians.

## EISENHOWER HITS STUDENT AID OATH

President Eisenhower indicated at a news conference in December that a standard oath of allegiance ought to be "sufficient" for students participating in the National Defense Education Act. Thus he implied his willingness to do without the non-Communist affidavit also required now of students before they can obtain federal loans. The President's statement undoubtedly will greatly improve the chances of a bill to repeal at least the non-Communist affidavit in the next session of Congress. Opposition to the loyalty oath provisions continues to rise. The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin has approved a resolution opposing the oaths, thus becoming the first ruling body of a state university to disclose such a stand. The Board did not vote to withdraw from the program, however, on the grounds that it could not refuse attendance at the tax-supported University to needy students having no perception to the oath and affidavit.

## OUTER SPACE DEVELOPMENTS

After much US-Soviet discussion on the East-West balance of membership, a permanent ~~Committee~~ International Cooperation in the Peaceful ~~Use of Outer Space~~ <sup>Use of Outer Space</sup> approved by the UN General Assembly on Dec. 12. The committee is composed of 12 Western countries, 7 members of the Soviet bloc and 5 neutral countries. They are: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and United States.

The committee would aim at encouraging outer space research such as that done within the framework of the IGY and would study legal problems which may arise from space exploration. No provision for studies on the regulation of military uses of outer space is included.

The new committee expects to operate through the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) which was set up in October 1958 under the International Council of Scientific Unions to continue activities associated with IGY. Its membership is open to scientific academies of countries doing space research. An objective of COSPAR is to make room on space vehicles for scientific experiments prepared in countries without rocket capabilities. (The United States is now discussing with several countries the possibility of a cooperative program.)

COSPAR also aided the UN committee in arranging an international conference at Nice, France for the exchange of information on space research. Perhaps, the most interesting development at this conference, which concluded Jan. 15, was the unofficial negotiations among scientists from Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Spain on a proposal to create a Western Europe force in the space race. The original suggestion, by Italian physicist Edouardo Amaldi, called for the launching of satellites in three to four years and full rivalry with Russia and the United States by 1970.

Meanwhile space research efforts continued at a merry pace. An apparently successful test of the escape system of the Project Mercury (man-in-space) capsule was run on Dec. 4. A monkey, encased up and successfully recovered from the severe acceleration of launching, capsule re-entry, and impact on the ocean.

On Dec. 6 NASA announced its plans to launch several large 100-foot balloon type satellites, the first to be put up this spring. The experiment aims "to test the feasibility of a passive reflector communications system on a global basis." The advance notice was to invite world-wide participation in bouncing radio signals off the aluminum coated plastic sphere.

In mid-December the Soviet scientists, V. I. Siforov, writing in the magazine "Soviet Union" gave the first public account of equipment used in Lunik III to photograph the far side of the moon. He indicated that operation was controlled by commands from the earth and that control apparatus, contained in a space of 15.8 x 11.8 inches stopped the rocket's rotation, put it into proper orientation to aim the lenses, photographed for 40 minutes, set the rocket rotating again, developed the film, stored it, and finally transmitted (as in TV transmission) the pictures back to earth when signalled to do so.

On Dec. 31 NASA issued a "progress report" on data from Explorer VII, the final satellite of the US IGY effort. The findings indicate the possibility of new fields of radiation existing between the previously established inner and outer Van Allen belts. A large amount of meteorological data also is being recorded each day and, with the aid of computers, progress is being made on long range weather prediction.

## CHINA TRAVEL BAN UPHeld

The Supreme Court has upheld the right of the Secretary of State to refuse to issue passports for travel to Communist China (W. Post, 12/8). Involved in the action were appeals by Congressman Charles O. Porter (D, Oregon), newsman William Worthly, Jr., and writer Waldo Frank from a Federal Appeals ruling that restriction of travel is a legitimate exercise of the President's ~~discretion~~ <sup>discretion</sup> over the nation's foreign affairs. The court ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> review the lower court decision, and ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> ~~make~~ <sup>make</sup> ~~recommendations~~ <sup>recommendations</sup> on its action. Justice William O. Douglas, whose request to go to China as a correspondent for the National Geographic Society was denied last summer, did not take part in the Court's action.

## BOOK REVIEW

COMMON SENSE AND NUCLEAR WARFARE. By Lord Russell and Schuster. \$2.50.

Lucid logic and realistic persons find some pungent paradoxes in the development of more and more dangerous weapons. It seems that even greater weapons in the name of defense make true defense ever less likely, and in the name of security they steadily make humanity more insecure, and the general trend of events which might well drive farsighted people into a greater state of togetherness—seems to lead some lucid minds towards preventive war, and other lucid minds towards unilateral disarmament.

In such a world this book by Lord Russell has been roundly criticized as naive, and the brilliant mathematician who also managed to win the Nobel prize for literature has been pictured as rather fuzzy-headed (perhaps from having lived for 80 odd years). Many have sought to ask Russell—mainly in absentia—a sort of would-you-want-your-sister-to-marry-a-Russian-H-bomb question. They are excited over his views that one might even consider a Russian victory rather than accept a nuclear war which would kill all mankind.

Here is a relevant passage from his book: "The argument proceeds on the hypothesis that, if there is a war between the two blocs, the human race will be exterminated . . . one of the two blocs is so fanatical that it prefers the ending of mankind to a rational compromise . . . in such a situation, I think that the less fanatical bloc, if it had the welfare of mankind in view would prefer concession to warfare." (Bold face supplied by reviewer). Lord Russell states further, "The argument that you cannot negotiate successfully if you announce in advance that, if pressed, you will yield, is entirely valid . . . But this has no bearing on the purely academic question of what it would be wise to do if the completely desperate situation arose."

This reviewer does not agree with the author's proposals for achieving disarmament and world harmony, but it did appear that many critics on both sides of the Atlantic have been quite wrong in implying that the honorable but aged

actually gone ~~was~~ not in the British phrase, Russell in this short tract sounds a little like the well-known man from Mars, somewhat detached from earth-bound men, and he sounds somewhat as if he were speaking from the perspective of the 25th Century. To this reviewer there is much here of precisely the kind of logical statement of the desperate world situation which used to come quite abundantly from scientists in and out of FAS, and therefore it would seem well worth the quite short time it takes to read it. Even the most cynical might find it an historical echo, one of the greatest seems to be one of the slowest to leave the tower and become earth-bound.

Here is what he is saying: in quotations taken from different parts of his book:

"What I advocate in practice, and not as the outcome of an artificial logical dilemma, is a conclusion of agreements between East and West admitting the inevitability of co-existence and the disastrous futility of war.

"We have become so accustomed to nationalism that it has come to seem an inherent part of human nature. History, however, does not bear out this view."

"There is one very simple matter . . . both sides should revert to the official courtesy which used to be observed between governments . . . the ascription of superior morality to one's own side, which has been for many years habitual both in the East and in the West, is so irritating to negotiators as to make it humanly very difficult . . ."

Russell believes there is a real risk of unintended war, and the first major step he urges is the abolition of nuclear tests and the next step should be "a solemn joint declaration by the United States and the USSR to the effect that they will seek to settle their differences otherwise than by war or the threat of war . . ." He sets forth a set of premises, and one of them is that if there are small wars they are very likely to grow into atomic catastrophes. This catastrophe he sees as a threat to all mankind, and says "neither as terrible a threat as is offered by the danger of nuclear war." He thinks it fantastic to argue "Perhaps this pestilence will do more harm to our enemies than to us."

One does not have to be a genius to disagree with a genius, it is not impertinent to raise many questions about

## MISSILE LAG CONTINUES

The US today is "both open and vulnerable to direct and devastating attack," and it is unlikely that this country can close the "missile gap" by speeding up production of present strategic weapons. These two somber conclusions were contained in a study prepared for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by the Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research, a research institute affiliated with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. The report, released to the public early in December, covered a wide range of past, present and future military policies and called for an all-out developmental effort in the missile-space field. Despite warnings of this kind, the attitude of the public seems characterized by apathy while the trend of the present Administration remains conservative with regard to defense spending.

Last month the Pentagon, in a major economy move, announced a decision to doom the B-70 bomber, a 2000-mile-an-hour plane. Referring to this matter at his press conference early in December, President Eisenhower indicated that there was less need for concern over improved bombers and spending on such weapons at a time when the Atlas ICBM was coming into operation. (In his conference Jan. 13, he indicated that the length of time required to produce the bomber as an operational weapon was a factor in the decision.) Actually a series of tests on the Atlas last fall demonstrated such an improvement in accuracy and reliability that by the middle of December a major expansion of the Nation's ICBM program had won verbal Administration approval. (It should be noted that American radar observations of Russian ICBM tests indicated comparable increased reliability by the Russian missiles.) Formal approval of a plan calling for a one-third increase in our present missile program was given at a National Security Council meeting January 8th. (W. Post, Jan. 13). The Administration will ask Congress to provide about \$1 billion for 70 more Atlas and Titan missiles in "hardened" underground sites, and to build 3 additional Polaris submarines at a cost of more than \$300 million. None of the additionally proposed missiles will be available for at least three years. For this period, therefore, the US will be approximately three to one behind the USSR in the number of missiles, yet will also be without the B-70 bomber as a strategic deterrent to Soviet attack. As a Washington Post editorial expressed the situation (12/2), "the country has an increasing less flexible defense. In a sense, it has engaged in a measure of disarmament before there is any disarmament agreement, and the effect cannot but be felt on diplomacy."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas White, indicated in a speech on Jan. 11 that he will speak out against the Administration decision to cancel the B-70 bomber. White said that one of the uses of a fast, long-range bomber like the B-70 would be its employment as a launching platform for air-to-surface ballistic missiles, now under development, with a range of 1000 miles or more. A combination of bomber and missiles striking power, he went on, would not only provide an almost invulnerable deterrent, but also the "most striking power ever achieved." "It is plain that the Air Force is not prepared to shelve manned aircraft in the foreseeable future unless forced to do so," comments the W. Post (Jan. 14). "Congress has the responsibility of assessing the Air Force case against the obvious capacity of the Nation to sustain a greater defense program than the President has approved. We think the evidence is ample that funds ought to be provided to continue full-scale development of the B-70."

these proposals, and about what is left unsaid, such as an examination of problems of inspection. But it does seem impertinent to dismiss as erratic these lucidly written ideas. These sentiments and proposals and ideas may be rare today, but history may judge they really were what he is earnestly seeking: "common sense." Michael Amrine

The FAS is a national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs. The NEWSLETTER is prepared in Washington by FAS members. The staff for this issue included, Editors: E. Korn and Irving Shapiro, of the Washington Office Staff; Writers, M. G. Fuortes, E. Korn, F. K. Millar, E. Kravitz, N. Seeman, M. Singer, F. Stern; Production: I. Shapiro.

## US FALLOUT REPORTS

The US Public Health Service released reports on December 29 on Sr<sup>90</sup> levels in the Nation's major waterways, and on December 31 on levels in milk samples collected from sampling stations across the country. The data indicated that the levels of Sr<sup>90</sup> were well below the level of 80 micromicrocuries per liter recommended by the National Committee on Radiation Protection as permissible for life-time exposure of the general population to Sr<sup>90</sup>. (HEW-M5, 12/29/59, HEW-M9, 12/31/59). A similar report was issued by the AEC General Advisory Committee which stated that it did not regard as serious any "hot spots" of radioactive fallout which had occurred to date. The AEC said "Sr<sup>90</sup> soil values in the areas of interest (because of relatively high levels of fallout occurring during the course of certain weapons tests) are not higher than the average for the United States as a whole." They continued that these areas, "considered from the standpoint of Sr<sup>90</sup> contamination over the long term, which is the important consideration now, should not be considered as 'hot spots'." (W. Post, 12/31).

### Contrasting Viewpoint

Norman Polster, the Fallout Survey Coordinator for the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, stated that "fallout measurements, standards, and the significance of these measurements are in need of greater understanding." He felt that the evaluation of fallout was not yet a science, but that it posed a great moral question. He continued, "The last bomb was tested on November 3, 1958. Yet it is possible that in the US each year Sr<sup>90</sup> in the bones of children will cause 100 to 200 cases of leukemia for the next 70 years. This is one of the 'biological costs' of our weapons testing to date. This makes a mockery of 'permissible doses' as safe, of a small percentage of background radiation as 'insignificant', and of a Congressional Fallout Hearing's 'excluding moral issues'." He expressed a call for all who could supply him with fallout data to do so (SSRS Newsletter, 11/59).

### Resident Half-life of Fallout Not Known

One of the two bombs exploded in the nuclear tests in the summer of 1958 was tagged with rhodium-102 (half-life 215 days). Since then air samples have been monitored to determine the "resident half-life" of high-altitude fallout (the time it would take for half of it to come down). On Jan. 14, the quarterly report of the AEC stated that the results so far "imply" that it takes much longer for high stratospheric debris to fall than for low stratospheric debris. This was followed by news reports based on "informed sources" that the resident half-time of high-altitude fall-out was 100 years. The next day two scientists (from the Air Force Cambridge Research Center) making the determination expressed surprise at the publicity given the preliminary data and said some samples show a half-time of only 10 years. It is much too early to tell." In 100 years, 92 percent of Strontium-90 would decay, in 10 years only 22 percent.

## FAS NEWSLETTER

Federation of American Scientists  
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Form 3547 Requested

### FAS COUNCIL TO MEET

The Winter meeting of the FAS Council will be held at the Columbia University Men's Faculty Club, 400 West 117th St., New York City, on Saturday, Jan. 30th starting at 2 P.M. This is an open meeting, and all FAS members who can possibly do so are urged to attend as observers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Dr. Joseph W. Still in his letter to 13 comments on the formation of the on Science and Technology to work with the Advisory Council reported in the August 10th letter. He suggests that the Democratic and Republican parties jointly approach the AAAS with a request that the AAAS establish an Advisory Committee which would be available to all the purposes foreseen by the Democrats.

I agree to Dr. Still's intention. But will the Democratic and Republican parties act together to approach the AAAS? I doubt it.

A better way, in my opinion, would be the formation by the FAS of a completely independent committee. This would be at liberty to discuss the whole situation created by the revolutionary new physical science and technology, a situation that requires, I believe, also the understanding of the need for world legislation, limited to securing peace and cooperation among the nations.

William Esslinger

## CHAPTER NEWS

**LOS ANGELES CHAPTER**—A request from the local SANE Nuclear Policy Committee for better information on contamination of milk by Strontium 90, has elicited much interest and activity in the chapter. A committee was constituted in November, and five meetings have been held. Studies thus far reported, together with the results of other work by committee members, will be evaluated and combined in a report which will be issued by the chapter some time in February.

**MOHAWK (MASE) New York Capital District CHAPTER**—From their Newsletter: MASE member Vincent J. Schaefer is the lead author on the cover of the Dec. 12 Saturday Review. His article, "The Boy Who Learned to Grow Salt," is a delightful account of the excitement he helped generate in thirty high school students during a seven-week course last summer at the Loomis School in Windsor, Conn. The following two sentences deserve to be quoted as a summary or moral of the article: "The sealing wax scientist is replaced by the 'team' is New ideas come from brains—get rally in the singular."

## DISARMAMENT (Continued from Page 1)

tion of forces and the US again challenged the Soviet Union to permit inspection and control. The Russian announcement falls on the eve of the 10 nation Disarmament conference which will begin in Geneva on March 15. Head of the US delegation will be Frederick M. Eaton, senior partner in the New York law firm of Shearman, Stirling and Wright. Other nations to be represented at the Conference are Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. A meeting of the Western nations will be held in Washington beginning Jan. 25.

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