

Centralians Wait for News Of Missing Son

By Tom Gordon
Missourian Staff Writer

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Griffin live at the corner of Singleton and Adams streets in Centralia. The house doesn't seem much different from others, but it is. A visitor will notice the family sedan has two bumper stickers pleading the case for American prisoners of war and those "missing in action" in Southeast Asia. The front door has a similar sticker and by the driveway is a lighted flagpole that flies its flag 24 hours a day.

The Griffins have been flying the flag since their son Rodney, 24, the middle of three sons, entered the service almost four years ago. He has been a MIA nearly three years.

"I haven't dreamed of Rodney too much," Mrs. Griffin said. "But when I have he was home."

Rodney was not on the POW list released Jan. 27 by the North Vietnamese, but the Griffins keep hoping. "I feel Rodney's still alive and well and that he will be home," Mrs. Griffin said. "I just don't believe he's dead."

Rodney, an Army sergeant, was declared missing in action May 2, 1970. The Griffins learned about it three days later when an Army casualty officer visited their home.

Rodney and seven other soldiers were shot down while aboard a helicopter in the fishhook area of Cambodia during the invasion. The men escaped the aircraft after it crashed, but they came under heavy fire. One managed to escape and said he saw one man executed and three others taken prisoner.

American troops found no trace of the others. The seven men were declared MIA soon after the incident, but captured enemy documents later reported four of the men as prisoners of war. Rodney wasn't among them. Two of these men appeared on the recent POW list.

The Griffins said North Vietnam has not released all the prisoner names. "I think they lied," Mrs. Griffin said. "They gave us enough people just to get us out of there."

The Griffins said Rodney may be among the 1,300 listed MIAs in Laos and Cambodia. They said he may even show up unexpectedly when the listed prisoners return.

There have been months of regret letters from the Pentagon and frustrated expectations. Mrs. Griffin had joined the National League of Families of POW-MIAs soon after Rodney's disappearance. She has attended conventions, written letters and counseled other wives and relatives about their plights. She spent Christmas answering about 30 letters from sympathetic people who have Rodney's name on a POW bracelet.

She also has found more time for God. "I think prayer helps you make it through the day," she said. "It sure has helped me."

Before Rodney's disappearance the Griffins would receive about two letters a week from him. In one letter Rodney rejoiced over getting his "first VC." In another he said he hoped the war would be over so his younger brother Darrell "wouldn't have to go."

The last letter was dated May 1, 1970, written during the Cambodian invasion. Rodney said he hoped "Nixon knew what he was doing."

The Griffins say Rodney's absence has been a test for them, a test they said they've passed thus far.

"They say the Lord doesn't put any more on your shoulders than you can stand, and perhaps this proves it," Mrs. Griffin added.

"Before he left, Rodney said, 'Don't worry, mother, I'll be home because I've got too much here waiting for me,'" Mrs. Griffin recalled. "Those words keep ringing in my ears."

In Proposed M.U. Budget

Ratchford Asks \$11.8 Million Increase

By Kevin Horrigan
Missourian Staff Writer

JEFFERSON CITY — University President C. Brice Ratchford asked the Missouri House Appropriations Committee Wednesday for an \$11.8 million increase in general revenue appropriations over the \$106.3 million suggested by Gov. Christopher "Kit" Bond in his budget recommendations. The increase covers general operating costs.

With federal and other funds added, the total University budget request is \$170.2 million. Bond had recommended a total of \$158.3 million, some \$10 million more than last year's budget.

Ratchford told the committee the increase is needed to meet mandatory and essential cost increases, to serve the projected enrollment faced by the University, and to improve some present programs and start needed new ones.

If Ratchford's request is honored, the total University budget will be \$22 million higher than last year's. Ratchford explained the need for the increases as follows:

- \$3.4 million for fixed costs, such as for opening new buildings and unexpected price changes in commodities such as fuel oil;
- \$1.9 million for costs from enrollment increases in both on-campus and extension students;
- \$5.2 million for merit and market salary increases which Ratchford said were needed to make the University competitive in the job market;
- \$1.8 million for 5 per cent inflationary adjustments in expenses and equipment;
- \$2 million for supplemental funding for deficiencies at the St. Louis and Kansas City campuses;
- \$800,000 for library improvements;
- \$865,000 for teaching and research equipment;
- \$5.8 million for new and improved academic programs in health sciences, academic effectiveness, administrative effectiveness, urban programs, environment, rural programs and student services.

Ratchford said the University had been falling behind for three years in program quality and improvement was badly needed "if we are to have a quality university."

To justify the request for salary and wage adjustments, Ratchford presented a series of slides showing how the University compared to private employers and the federal government in competing for staff personnel. Another slide showed the University's ranking in average salary levels for professors, associate professors and assistant professors in comparison to other public universities.

According to the slides, 68 per cent of public universities pay full professors an average higher salary than Missouri's \$19,000. While only 46 per cent pay their associate professors more than Missouri's \$15,500 average, 60 per cent pay their assistant professors more than Missouri's \$12,500.

"We are not competitive for quality faculty," Ratchford said, "especially for the assistant professors who are the cutting edge for building

a quality faculty."

Committee members had few questions on specific items in the University request, but Rep. Joe Holt, D-Fulton, had several questions involving the University's relations with Local 45 of the Public Service Employees Union.

In response to one of Holt's questions, Ratchford said, "We have a good personnel policy and have established procedures to hear grievances."

When Holt asked Ratchford about the University's hiring of Columbia attorney Larry Woods to prosecute a suit brought against Local 45, Ratchford said it always has been the University's practice to hire legal assistance in litigations.

Only 13 of the 34-member appropriations committee heard Ratchford's presentation because of a heavy schedule of hearings elsewhere in the Capitol. But Ratchford will testify again before the committee Monday night when he speaks on capital improvement requests for the four campuses.



Activity slowed Wednesday at the Homecoming Command Post project at the Pentagon as officials wait for word from Hanoi on when the first

American POW will be set free. No one knew when freedom might come, except that it was supposed to be before Feb. 11. (UPI Telephoto)

No POW Interviews

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines (UPI) — An Air Force spokesman said Wednesday newsmen will be barred from interviewing returning prisoners of war because hostile or bitter statements by the freed Americans could endanger POWs left behind in North Vietnam.

Although the POW evacuation task force gathered here was on full alert Wednesday, ready to leave on an hour's notice, there still was no indication when the first prisoners would be released.

"We're thinking of a basic point—not jeopardizing the position of returnees who have not come back with the first group," the spokesman said, explaining why the corps of 194 newsmen and cameramen gathered here would be prohibited from talking to POWs.

"Obviously you can understand that any off-hand remark someone might make that subsequently appeared publicly could jeopardize the others still in North Vietnam. It would be very tragic."

Truce Violations Occur Along DMZ

SAIGON (AP) — Powerful North Vietnamese forces launched new attacks along the demilitarized zone Wednesday in a violation of the still-unsupervised cease-fire, field reports said.

The fresh fighting came as the peace agreement passed its fourth day of continuing but declining violations and officials disclosed plans for more U.S. meetings with both Vietnams to prepare for postwar relations.

President Nixon said he will hold a summit meeting with President Nguyen Van Thieu and also announced he is dispatching Henry A. Kissinger to Hanoi to open postwar communications with the North Vietnamese and discuss reconstruction.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew wound up two days of conferences in Saigon with Thieu and other top South Vietnamese officials on postwar technical and financial aid to South Vietnam. He is leaving today for Cambodia, his second stop on a seven-nation Asian tour that also will take him to Thailand, Laos, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Battlefield reports reaching Saigon said North Vietnamese troops overran South Vietnamese marine positions re-established just before the cease-fire as a new eastern anchor on the northern defense line at the mouth of the Cua Viet estuary, four miles below the demilitarized zone. About 90 marines were reported killed, wounded or missing.

North Vietnam's Foreign Ministry repeated its claim that the Vietnamese Communists have "completely honored" all terms of the Vietnam peace agreement, and again accused the South Vietnamese of breaking the cease-fire.

The new secretary of Defense, Elliot L. Richardson, said in Washington the fighting is

subsiding day by day, and within a week or 10 days he expects "a pretty stable situation." He attributed the continued fighting to "a counteraction of surges by both sides" as they moved for position just before the cease-fire took hold.

Nixon told a news conference in Washington he will meet Thieu sometime this spring at his home in San Clemente, Calif., He said Kissinger will visit Hanoi Feb. 10-13. South Vietnamese officials in Saigon said Thieu would meet Nixon sometime in March, but they gave no specific date.

Nixon Rejects Amnesty; 'Price Must Be Paid'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Nixon Wednesday rejected amnesty for draft dodgers and Army deserters, asserting they must pay criminal penalties for violating federal laws if they want to return to this country.

Nixon also heatedly told a news conference he doubted that Vietnam War critics were interested in healing the wounds and divisions in this country over the long, bitter conflict.

But he declared "amnesty means forgiveness" and he added, "We cannot provide forgiveness for them. Those who served paid their price. Those who deserted must pay their price, and the price is not a junket in the Peace Corps or something like that, as some have suggested."

Samuels Still Considered Despite AEC Investigation

By Tim O'Neil and Rick Wilson
Missourian Staff Writers

Dr. Larry Samuels is still under consideration as a candidate for director of the nuclear medicine division of the department of radiology at the University Medical Center. Medical Center officials said Wednesday.

Officials made the statement after Dr. Samuels, Route 1, admitted Tuesday that radioactive material found on a farm in Ohio where he had previously lived had been placed there by him.

Civil Defense officials from Columbus, Ohio, discovered 105 canisters of isotopes on the farm last week. Dr. Samuels admitted he had burned, buried and stored the canisters there from 1965 until 1970. Dr. Samuels said one of his assignments was radiation disposal officer for the Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Dr. Samuels said he did not know his disposal procedure was against the hospital's rules.

Medical Center officials said Wednesday Dr. Samuels' candidacy had been discussed over the past two days, but nothing has been decided. They said Dr. Samuels has no official status with the Medical Center, but that his name had not been dropped from the list of candidates.

Dr. Samuels, however, said Wednesday he thought the incident would hurt his chances for getting the position.

Dr. Gwilym Lodwick, chairman of the department of radiology, said Dr. Samuels sent a letter of application last summer to the department when he learned the position was vacant. He said Dr. Samuels was interviewed for the position, but the department is continuing to screen additional applicants.

The Atomic Energy Commission will begin an investigation next week of Children's Hospital's methods for disposing radioactive materials to determine if the hospital has broken any AEC regulations.

Race for Mayor Gathers Steam

Two more persons picked up petitions for mayor Tuesday and Wednesday at the city clerk's office bringing the total to three possible contenders in that race.

Ron Smull, 810 E. Walnut St., picked up a petition for someone else whom he declined to identify. Smull said it would be "at least a week to 10 days" before any additional information would be available.

Al Tacker, 1209 E. Ash St., said he was entering the race because he feared the real issues of the April 3 city election would not be presented.

The 27-year-old Columbian said important issues range from "the specific, such as housing, consumer protection, and alternative forms of transportation to questions of citizen participation, the quality of life, and the future direction of Columbia."

Tacker is director of Everyday People, which he described as a community crisis information referral counseling center.

Tom "Bumgardner, 2250 Concordia Drive, is currently the only mayoral candidate to have filed his petition.

Muskie Challenges Fund Impounding

By Our Wire Services

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, proposed Wednesday that Congress be ready to provoke a "head-on constitutional collision" with President Nixon over Nixon's refusal to spend appropriated funds.

Nixon at the same time, at a White House news conference, defended his impoundment of funds and vowed to continue the practice.

Sentiment throughout the country is "don't break the family budget by raising taxes or raising prices," the President said.

The rhetoric appeared to be drawing Congress and the White House closer to a confrontation which ultimately may have to be settled by the Supreme Court. At issue is the loss of congressional power to the executive branch.

Claiming that Congress represents special interests, Nixon said he will represent the general interest of the nation.

"I will not spend money if the Congress overspends, and I will not be for programs that will raise the taxes and put a bigger burden on the already overburdened American taxpayer."

Muskie, testifying at Senate hearings into whether the President is violating the Constitution by refusing to spend appropriated funds, proposed a showdown.

"If necessary, we should be ready to write into our authorization and appropriation measures such clear directives for their execution that administration officials can only disobey at the risk of a head-on constitutional collision," Muskie said.

Nixon's impoundment of about \$12 billion appropriated last year and his

intention to kill other social spending programs this year have aroused strong feelings in Congress.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C., backed by 50 other senators, has introduced a bill to require the President to spend funds if both houses of Congress refuse to assent within 60 days to an impoundment.

Sen. William E. Brock II, R-Tenn., said he opposed impoundments but Congress "has no right to challenge the President" until it curbs its own tendency to overspend.

On other legislative matters, at his news conference:

Nixon, who did not consult Congress on most of his major war decisions, said Congress will have to support any effort for peacetime reconstruction in Indochina as "an investment in peace."

Stennis Condition Critical After 7 Hours of Surgery

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., shot twice during a holdup in front of his home, rested in critical condition Wednesday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after nearly seven hours of surgery that disclosed no apparent permanent damage.

"The senator is doing excellently in view of his extensive wounds," a hospital spokesman told reporters at a late afternoon medical briefing. "As to prognosis, it is guarded. Vital signs are good."

The spokesman, Army Maj. Frank Garland, said Stennis had been given "multiple transfusions" and remained in the intensive care section, but that he no longer was receiving blood and appeared "responsive." Garland indicated that doctors now were concerned about what he described as "a possibility that serious infection could result" from the

wounds. Police, meanwhile, continued their search for the two youths believed to have shot Stennis with what was thought to be a .22 caliber weapon. Officials reported no immediate progress.

President Nixon, deploring the "senseless" assault on Stennis and praising the 71-year-old Mississippian as his "most indispensable" supporter on Vietnam in the Senate, ordered Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst to prepare strong new proposals for gun control legislation.

But the senator's son, Mississippi State Rep. John Hampton Stennis, told reporters at the hospital he doubted the shooting would change his father's opposition to gun control laws. "I do not think he is the type of man to take a new position on a matter of personal policy that would be influenced by a personal matter," Stennis said.

The son said Stennis, who regained consciousness 10 minutes after surgery was completed, was in good spirits and "determined to be back on the job as soon as he can."

Cries of outrage and calls for strict new legal deterrents to street crime swept Congress the morning after Stennis, 71, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and one of the most respected and influential members of the Senate, was robbed and then shot Tuesday night by assailants described by police as two black youths who immediately fled the scene.

Birthdays

Mrs. Fred Cottle, Joan Davidson, Judy Davidson, Ann K. Gardner, Charles Gilpin, Dale Gilpin, Raymond Gilpin, Karla K. Goebel, Mirth Madden, Mrs. Elmer McQuitty, A. C. Mustain, Sidney D. Palmer, Mrs. George R. Parks, Craig Pedersen, Mrs. E. B. Swift, Neil Tise, Mrs. Harry C. Winfrey.