

British Fleet Linked to Hearing on Aid Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

mean waters, it was said, the English war ships would be sent abroad for the defense of other parts of the empire."

Another Opposes Bill
The day's second witness, James S. Kemper, president of the United States chamber of commerce, also opposed the administration bill.

Kemper said the national policy council of the United States chamber had concluded unanimously, after studying the administration bill, that enactment of the legislation "would not contribute to the defense of the United States."

Contending such legislation would give the president power to involve the United States in war, Kemper said the chamber favored instead the selling, leasing or giving of military equipment to the British empire "and other democracies now or hereafter fighting aggressors, without committing any recognized act of war."

The chamber was willing, he said, that credit or cash be given to Britain and her allies. Also, he added, it would support "such further and additional aid as may be possible, consistent with our own defense requirements."

Limitations Demanded
In advocating "further aid," however, Kemper said the chamber wanted some limitations. These were, briefly, that no act of war be committed by the United States; that American ships be kept out of war zones except with the expressed approval of congress; that no soldiers or sailors be sent into the war zone without prior approval by congress.

While Kemper testified, Speaker Rayburn told reporters that the house foreign affairs committee "is giving serious consideration" to amendments to the administration aid to Britain bill but that no decisions had been reached.

The committee members had met amid signs of some conciliatory move to win over legislators who favor the program with reservations.

Objections Listed
Kemper listed five objections to the bill which he said the chamber entertained in part, they were that:

"The president is specifically excluded from the restraining influence of any law.

"The president can, without the knowledge of the congress, and over the objection of our army, naval and air experts, deliver not only to the British empire but to other unnamed countries, all or a part of our navy, all or a part of our airplanes, all or a part of our tanks, guns and other military equipment.

"While the bill is not clear... it is fairly debatable whether the president can, regardless of law, seize the private property of a military character, or susceptible of military uses, of any individual, firm or corporation... and turn such properties over to unnamed countries.

"The president can spend public funds or incur... on behalf of the government... financial obligations not limited in amount... without the prior knowledge of the congress."

Compromise Probable
Conflict over the aid bill, intensified in one quarter by a biting exchange between President Roosevelt and Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.), developed some signs today of conciliatory moves to win over legislators who favor the program with reservations.

House sponsors of the measure made it plain that they would not yield an inch on essentials, but privately they discussed the possibility of compromises on the top cost of the program and on the

Stock and Bond Averages

STOCKS
Compiled by Associated Press
Feb. 5.

30	15	15	60
RR's Ind's Ut's Fgn.			
Wednesday	59.0	17.0	34.3
Prev. day	58.3	16.4	34.0
Month ago	63.5	16.7	35.1
Year ago	70.8	18.9	39.2
1941 high	63.9	17.7	35.5
1941 low	58.3	16.1	34.0

20	10	10	10
Ind's RR's Ut's St's			
Wednesday	62.4	104.7	100.1
Prev. day	62.0	104.6	99.9
Month ago	62.5	105.2	100.6
Year ago	57.9	102.2	96.2
1941 high	64.2	105.3	101.3
1941 low	61.1	104.6	99.8

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bill's time limit—two points of objection.

The big sensation of the moment, however, was Mr. Roosevelt's oblique charge that Senator Wheeler, adamant foe of the lend-lease bill, was a source of satisfaction to the chancellor of the German reich, Adolf Hitler.

The president spoke out late yesterday after Wheeler made the charge that there was not a single modern combat warplane in the army, because the administration had deprived the air force of new plane deliveries in order to aid Britain. The Montanan cited what he said were "absolutely reliable" figures on the number of planes sent abroad.

Comment on these assertions was asked from Mr. Roosevelt at his press conference. He replied:

"You can work out all sorts of things with figures, official and unofficial, and that must be satisfactory to the head of the German reich."

Mr. Roosevelt let it go at that, without naming Hitler. Neither did he mention Wheeler by name.

Retorted Wheeler: "In a democracy the people are supposed to be given the facts... I am perfectly willing to compare my patriotism with that of his (the president's) closest advisers. I have no interest financially, or otherwise, in Germany or England."

This was the second time Wheeler has referred cryptically to financial interests abroad, but he did not elaborate on what he meant.

Senator Johnson (R-Calif.), like Wheeler a bitter opponent of

the lend-lease bill, called Mr. Roosevelt's statement "an outrage."

Emergency Cargo Ship Bill Sent to Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—(AP)

The house completed congressional action today on an emergency bill carrying \$313,500,000 for construction of 200 new cargo ships described by President Roosevelt as necessary to protect the United States against a world shortage of such vessels.

The measure now goes to the white house.

Final action on the bill came when the house accepted senate amendments, including one which would give the maritime commission \$65,000,000 additional contractual authority to carry on its regular shipbuilding program.

The new cargo ships would cost a total of \$350,000,000, but \$36,500,000 to start preliminary work on new facilities for construction of the vessels already has been made available to the commission from other sources.

Rev. Perry Smith to Head Scout Financial Drive

Appointment of Rev. Perry Smith as chairman of the committee to head the annual financial drive for Douglas county Boy Scouts was announced today. The budget is being prepared and the drive will start Feb. 12.

Disposal of Bills Begun In Oregon's Legislature

(Continued from page 1)

imbursing hospitals for care of indigent accident victims.

Sen. Rex Ellis (R-Umatilla) introduced a bill today to prevent the state public welfare commission from refusing to accept new old age pension cases.

He said the commission did so several months ago and then put the old age pension applicants on direct relief. This cost the state \$3 more a month per case, Ellis said.

State departments would be permitted to contract with insurance companies for life and health insurance for their employees, a bill introduced today by the senate insurance committee provides. The employees would pay part of the cost.

Pension Bills Offered.
A measure designed to raise between \$1,750,000 and \$2,500,000 annually for old age pensions by levying an eight per cent tax on utility services was introduced in the state legislature yesterday.

Eighteen of the legislature's 27 democratic members sponsored the bill, saying it was their answer "to the attempt by republicans to raise the maximum for old age pensions (from \$30 to \$40 a month) without making any attempt to provide funds for an increase."

The tax, which would be levied against consumers and collected from utilities, would affect electric, gas, central heating and telephone utilities, but not water. Bills under \$3 would not be taxed.

Some of the democrats said they had not given up their attempt to pass a three per cent tax on dividends of national corporations operating in Oregon. It would raise \$1,000,000, they claimed.

At the same time the democratic caucus was held, Representative Frank J. Lonergan (R-Portland) introduced a measure to place a two per cent sales tax on all commodities except foodstuffs, with 60 per cent of the revenue to be used for pensions and 40 per cent to relieve property taxes. He said it would raise \$4,000,000 a year.

Governor Sprague, opposed to new taxes, advocated increasing the maximum pension limit from \$30 to \$40 a month, but he did not specify how the additional money should be raised. The average pension now is \$22 a month.

To Retire Judges.
Supreme and circuit judges would be given a retirement pension of \$200 a month for life after they reach the age of 70 and have served 18 consecutive years by a bill introduced by Representatives Lonergan and William M. McAllister (R-Jackson).

Judges who have served six consecutive years and are physically incapacitated would be forced to retire on the same pension.

Liquor Funds at Issue.
A measure which would dis-

tribute all funds collected by the state liquor commission from licenses and sale of individual permits to counties, cities and towns where the permits and licenses are issued, was introduced by the house alcoholic control committee.

The bill also would eliminate the liquor commission's enforcement agency by providing that enforcement of the liquor law should be solely by local police officers and the state police.

Another provision of the bill would give licensees the right of appeal from orders and rulings by the commission.

The committee also will introduce a bill to provide the right of appeal and permit the licensee to continue operation under bond pending disposition of his case.

Governor Sprague signed a bill to repeal the law requiring tourists to register their automobiles upon entering Oregon. The law will be dead 90 days after legislative adjournment.

Gas Tax Cut Asked
Speaker Robert S. Farrel Jr., introduced his first bill of the session. It would reduce the gasoline tax from 5 to 4 cents a gallon and save \$1,180,000.

Farrell said the bill would reduce the amount available for highway construction, since the highway commission will save \$2,400,000 in reduced payments for debt retirement.

British Warplanes Raid Coastal Bases of Nazis

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waves of planes engaged in the attacks.

Hitler's high command listed five Germans killed, 24 wounded and an unspecified number of apartment houses destroyed by bombs and fire in the center of Dusseldorf.

"Damage was slight. War vital objectives nowhere were hit," the Nazi high command asserted.

London quarters described the widespread British thrusts into Germany and increased Nazi activity over Britain as "beginning gasi" and that 400 fascist strag-

a new offensive period on both sides."

An official British announcement said two more German bombers were shot down last night and today, with one "crashing in flames and the crew killed"—Making a total of 32 Nazi raiders destroyed so far this year. Against this toll, the British acknowledged the loss of only one RAF plane in fighting over Britain since Jan. 1.

Nazis Strike at Sea

In the war at sea, the Germans reported that 60,000 tons of British shipping were sunk by Nazi U-boats, bombers and a warship "operating overseas." The warship alone reported a bag of 40,000 tons, bringing its total to 110,000 tons over an unannounced period of attacks upon Britain's vital life-lines of supply.

Fire bombs fell in London during the night and German bombers were reported over eastern England and the midlands, but the official morning communique declared casualties reported from all areas were "not large."

British Advance in Africa

In the African war theater, the British reported their troops were closing in to speed show-down fights for Italy's colonial capitals of Bengasi, Libya and Asmara, Eritrea.

Premier Mussolini's high command asserted, however, that fascist legions counter-attacking on the north front in east Africa had thrown back the British with losses.

The Italian war bulletin acknowledged that "on the southern front, ourudub (native) detachments withdrew from advanced posts near the frontier east of Lake Stefanie after bloody fighting."

Cairo dispatches said the British had reached the outskirts of Cheren, 120 miles inside Eritrea, in their drive eastward to the Red sea.

More Italians Captured
British general headquarters in Cairo reported that "urged on by our pursuing troops, the Italians are increasing the speed of their withdrawal toward Benivity over Britain as "beginning gasi" and that 400 fascist strag-

glers had fallen into British hands.

Cheren is only 40 miles from Asmara, Eritrean capital, on the road to Massaua, Red sea port which a British military source in London predicted would be captured within a week. The Union Jack now has been moved two-thirds of the way across Eritrea.

Seventy miles southwest of Cheren, another British column has hammered its way beyond Barentu along tortuous mountain trails in contrast to the modern highway connecting Cheren with Asmara and points east.

In the Barentu sector, the Italians were said to be fighting a fierce rear-guard action and hampering the British advance also by sowing road mines and dynamiting bridges spanning mountain gorges.

Even so, British dispatches said hundreds of Italians had been captured and quantities of armament taken in southern Eritrea.

Other British units invading

western Ethiopia were reported 60 miles inside Haile Selassie's homeland, while south African troops were penetrating southern Ethiopia from British Kenya. The Italians were reported to have suffered hundreds of casualties at hands of the south Africans.

Far to the north in Libya, the British have pushed beyond the Biblical oasis city of Cirene to a point 100 miles from the main Italian defense area of Bengasi. By taking Cirene, the British said they flanked the Italian Mediterranean port of Apollonia 10 miles to the north.

Greeks Take Prisoners
In the Greek-Italian war, the Greek high command reported the Greeks "occupied important enemy positions," but did not locate the area of operations. "Many prisoners" were captured, it said.

Mr. Krogel Here—C. F. Krogel, of Dixonville, was in Roseburg yesterday on business.

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