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HOUSE ORDERS PROBE OF SEIZURE OF MONTGOMERY WARD STORE AS FIRM OPENS BATTLE ON COURT INJUNCTION

Authority for Govt. Action In Question

Two Top Executives of Company Barred From Their Chicago Offices

WASHINGTON, April 28.—(AP)—A resolution proposing an investigation of the government's seizure of Montgomery Ward and Company's plant at Chicago was pushed through the rules committee of the house today and sent to the floor for consideration.

Bi-partisan support put the resolution offered by Rep. Dewey (R-N.Y.), through the committee after it had been amended by the rules group to call for a general investigation "with respect to the seizure."

The committee eliminated from the original resolution the words "with a view of determining, among other things, the authority in law for such seizure and whether the opinion of the attorney general rendered in connection with such seizure discloses adequate grounds for reaching the conclusion that such seizure was authorized by law."

The resolution would authorize a select committee to conduct the inquiry.

The rules committee opened the hearing over the objection of its chairman, Rep. Sabath (R., Ill.).

"I am not informed on the character of the labor dispute in Montgomery Ward's," said Dewey, "but there is an orderly procedure for handling such disputes. What I want to find out is whether there is any authority for the action that has been taken there. I have had messages from all parts of the country."

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

THE news from India has been getting better and better as the days pass. Recent dispatches are THRILLING in their possibilities—suggesting that after long, hard and often disappointing years of training and preparation our side is beating the Japs at their own jungle game and HAS THEM SCARED.

THE "Chindits"—that strange, wholly NEW, daringly original fighting force that we have CREATED especially to meet the peculiar conditions involved in warfare in Burma—appear to have sprung a startling surprise play on the little yellow men.

Dropping from the skies in a way that the Japs seem not to have anticipated, they are reported to be ASTRIDE MORE THAN 100 MILES of the enemy's communications inside Burma.

Tojo's men, caught off base, are attacking the Chindits with suicidal fury. An allied observer says: "The Jap jungle troops are coming in to the attack like a boxer with his head down and are DYING IN DROVES. They rush BLINDLY into our mines and booby traps and into machine gun and rifle fire."

THESE Chindits are air commandos. They are like nothing the world ever saw before. They drop in from the air in parachutes and gliders, carrying mules and machines with them. They dig into defense lines. They bulldoze out airports in the jungle, from which fighter planes begin AT ONCE to operate and into which supply planes roll. All

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Handshake Precedes Ejection of Ward Store's Head



Above picture was taken the day before Sewell Avery, president of Montgomery Ward & Co., was forcibly ejected from his offices in the firm's store in Chicago. It shows Avery (left) greeting W. C. Taylor, undersecretary of commerce, as the latter arrived to take over the business upon President Roosevelt's order, which Avery refused to recognize. Taylor, now in full charge of the store, says Avery was put out of his offices for "refusing to cooperate" in federal operation of the business.

Russians Launch Offensive in Area Of Romanian City

LONDON, April 28.—(AP)—The Russian army is pressing a determined offensive with powerful tank-supported forces north of the Romanian city of Iasi and fierce battles are raging in that area for the second successive day, a Romanian communique said today.

The bulletin, broadcast from Bucharest, said that local Russian penetrations were "sealed off or reduced by counterattacks." Moscow made no mention of such an offensive and declared no important changes had occurred on any of the fronts.

The communique declared however, that Russian torpedo launches and red army aircraft still were making steady attacks on German water craft in the area of Sevastopol, apparently seeking to prevent evacuation of Nazi forces from the besieged Crimean port.

Four German barges, two torpedo launches and a patrol vessel were reported sunk there by Russian air and naval action yesterday.

The Moscow bulletin said that a regiment of Germans was wiped out by Russian artillery fire when large enemy forces were observed deploying for an attack on one sector of the second Ukrainian front.

"Making use of the panic that followed among the Germans," the communique added, "our warriors gained possession of strongly fortified positions."

Both the Germans and Romanian communiques said Russian attempts to break through on the lower Dniestr were repulsed.

From Stockholm came a report that the Germans were awaiting a new Soviet drive on the Salla sector in Finland on the far northern front. The Swedish paper Aftonbladet in a dispatch from Helsinki said the Germans had repulsed a Russian attempt to break through there.

15 Men Killed, 20 Injured In Fire on Naval Craft

PORTSMOUTH, Va., April 28.—(AP)—Fifteen civilian workmen died from suffocation and 20 others were injured last night at the Norfolk navy yard when fire broke out in the hold of a naval ship undergoing repairs. The cause of the fire was not disclosed.

Japanese Driven From Positions In Kohima Battle

SOUTHWEST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, April 28.—(AP)—A tank-supported British battalion, lashing out west of the allied base at Kohima, has driven the Japanese invaders of northern India from several of their strongpoints in that sector, Admiral Mountbatten's headquarters announced today.

The bulletin added that the allies were making steady progress in "very difficult country." Field dispatches from the Kohima front yesterday said that allied reinforcements were continuing to pour into Kohima from Dimapur, 35 miles to the northwest, and that an assault to drive the Japanese back into Burma appeared imminent.

(A Tokyo broadcast last night asserted that the Japanese had launched a general offensive against allied positions at Kohima.)

Today's communique from Mountbatten's headquarters said that Japanese bombers and fighters had made a sweep over the Kohima and Tullhal areas Wednesday—the first recent report of enemy aerial action in support of the invading ground forces.

The bulletin declared that one of the raiders was shot down, four probably were destroyed and eight were damaged.

British bombers struck back at the Japanese around both Kohima and Imphal, 65 miles to the south, while American bombers penetrated into Burma, blasting Japanese railway communications at Shwebo and Ywataung, the communique added.

In northern Burma, meanwhile the Chinese 38th division was reported continuing its steady southward advance despite bitter Japanese resistance.

Contents of Forgotten Bag Reveal Consistency

WINSTED, Conn., April 28.—(AP)—Ralph W. Allen, Winsted coal dealer, found a traveling bag in his automobile. It had been left by a forgetful hitch-hiking soldier stationed at Boston, Mass., and its contents included seventeen green bananas and a copy of "Strange Fruit," the Lilian Smith novel which has caused much official frowning in Boston.

Conquest Of Hollandia Is Completed

Panicky Japs Flee Into Jungles, M'Arthur Says; 100 Missionaries Rescued

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, April 28.—(AP)—American bombers flew today from four seized Japanese airdromes at Hollandia, bases within range of Palau and the Philippines, as the result of a lightning invasion operation on Dutch New Guinea which the Sixth army began Saturday and ended Thursday.

Panicky Japanese there were routed into the jungles and, 400 miles to the southeast, other Japanese were driven from the air base village of Alexishafen by Australians a day after the capture of Madang 10 miles to the south. Between the Hollandia Americans and the Alexishafen Aussies, an estimated 60,000 Japanese face slaughter or starvation.

Enemy resistance around Hollandia, 1,150 miles southeast of the Philippines and 800 miles from Nippon's naval base of Palau, "has ceased, and disorganized and demoralized enemy troops have fled inland to the southwest," Gen. MacArthur announced today.

"The operation can now be regarded as completed."

Troop barges, ships sunk on the alert on both sides of the Hollandia invaders. Seven hundred miles to the northwest, 10 barges loaded with fully armed Nipponese were sunk by a Liberator which also destroyed two cargo ships, set two fishing boats afire and shot down an enemy bomber. Patrol planes sunk two coastal vessels off Manokwari.

Some 250 miles to the southeast, more than 100 Boston Havocs used 60 tons of explosives to keep four airfields neutralized at bypassed Wewak.

Long-range bombers flew north-west to strike a new blow at Wewak.

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Alcohol Plant Project at Springfield Still Alive

SALEM, Ore., April 28.—(AP)—The War Production board still is considering the proposed Springfield alcohol-from-wood plant, WFB Chairman Nelson has telegraphed Governor Snell.

The WFB's war requirements committee had turned thumbs down on the project on grounds of a labor and materials shortage, causing the governor to protest to Nelson.

Nelson told the governor that he is reviewing the entire question of wood waste alcohol production in the Pacific Northwest, and that he would notify Snell when a decision is reached.

America's Navy Chief Passes



Civilian head of the world's mightiest sea force, Frank Knox, above, secretary of the U. S. navy, died today at the age of 70. His death was the first in President Roosevelt's cabinet since Claude A. Swanson died in July, 1939. Swanson was secretary of the navy at the time.

Music Supervisor At RHS Resigns

Miss Phoebe Hawthorn, music supervisor and teacher of English and Spanish in the Roseburg high school, has tendered her resignation, effective at the end of the current school year, to take a similar teaching position in the schools at Eugene.

Miss Hawthorn, a graduate of Linfield college, has been with the Roseburg school system for the past three years.

Principally outstanding in her work has been the development of choral groups and the training of soloists and groups of singers to provide entertainment for civic programs. During last year students from the high school, under Miss Hawthorn's supervision, appeared in 75 programs outside the school. She also introduced the annual Easter concert by the high school glee clubs as a public program.

Albany Woman Dies As Greyhound Bus Hits Truck

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., April 27.—(AP)—Mrs. Anne Strlemer Toews, Albany, Ore., was among five passengers killed yesterday when a southbound Greyhound bus crashed into a parked truck 50 miles north of here. About 12 other passengers were injured.

Japanese Drive In Honan Province Meets Reverses

CHUNGKING, April 28.—(AP)—Considerable improvement in the Chinese situation in northern Honan province was announced today by a Chinese army spokesman, who said Japanese forces driving on Loyang from the southeast had been hurled back about 10 miles.

Another enemy column which for a time menaced Loyang from the east has been halted in strategic Hulao pass, the spokesman said, and a Japanese drive down the Peiping-Hankow railway has been blunted 40 miles south of Chenghsien, a strategic junction, now in Japanese hands.

Chinese military authorities announced earlier in the day that enemy troops entered Chenghsien the morning of April 22, confirming front dispatches that had indicated several days ago the city had fallen.

Loyang was a major objective of the Japanese offensive launched 10 days ago in the wheat-producing section of central China below the Yellow river. The enemy has been trying to wipe out a salient the Chinese hold across the north-south Peiping-Hankow railway line.

Invasion Targets Get Daily Strafing

(By the Associated Press) Restless waves of allied planes swarmed over invasion targets in Europe today after the RAF exploded an estimated 3,500 tons of bombs on the aircraft and radar plants of Friedrichshafen and the railroads of northern France and Belgium.

The British lost 36 planes last night. In the record daylight attacks yesterday, nine heavy bombers and nine lesser planes were lost and three Nazis were destroyed. Chief rail targets of the night were Montzen in Belgium and Aulnoye in France. Mosquitos struck Stuttgart; other planes laid mines. Targets yesterday were military citadels, railroads, airdromes, road junctions and the like—mainly in northern France and Belgium where invasion threats are the most real. Weather again grounded the bulk of the allied Mediterranean air fleets.

Agent Election Ordered At Myrtle Creek Mill

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The national labor relations board Thursday ordered separate elections among employees of the Umpqua Lumber company, Myrtle Creek, Ore., to determine which of four A. F. of L. and C. I. O. unions will act as their collective bargaining agents.

Heart Attack At Age of 70 Proves Fatal

Former Candidate of GOP for Vice-President Was Veteran of 2 Wars

WASHINGTON, April 28.—(AP)—Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, 70, died today at his Washington home from a heart attack.

Knox was stricken with "a gastro-intestinal upset" while attending the funeral in Manchester, N. H., last week of J. A. Muehling, his business partner for the last 40 years. He returned to his office Tuesday morning but about two hours later became ill and went to his home. The secretary suffered a severe heart attack as he prepared to go to bed Tuesday.

Knox had been in the cabinet since July 11, 1940. President Roosevelt summoned him to serve, as France fell, in the critical month of June, 1940, at the same time he asked Henry L. Stimson to become secretary of war. Both men were republican leaders, Knox having been his party's vice-presidential nominee in 1936 as running mate of Alf Landon.

A long-time critic of President Roosevelt's domestic policy before the war, Knox saw eye-to-eye with the president on all vigorous foreign policy measures.

By appointing Knox and Stimson, Mr. Roosevelt sought not only to gain tough fighting men to head the armed forces but also to remove their civilian administration from partisan politics.

Veteran of Two Wars

War was an old and bitter story to Frank Knox. As a rough rider he was in Cuba with Theodore Roosevelt in 1898. During the first World war he became an artillery officer in France, there earning under fire the title "colonel" by which most of his long-time friends knew him. Few knew his full name—William Franklin Knox.

In this war he regretted that he was too old to go into uniform again, and he gave all his energy to the job of being civilian boss of the biggest American navy in history.

In civilian life, Knox was the publisher of the Chicago Daily News. He followed Theodore Roosevelt in the "Bull Moose" campaign, bolting the G. O. P. He returned in 1916 and was an active worker behind the scenes. When he accepted the navy portfolio under Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940, Knox was "read out" of the

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Mississippi River Tearing at Levees; Flood Deaths 24

(By the Associated Press) Swollen dangerously high by the flooded Missouri and Illinois rivers, the Mississippi was tearing today at levees protecting Dupon and Harrisonville, Ill., forcing authorities to order evacuation immediately of lowland residents in those districts.

The three rivers already have torn open levees and inundated well over 500,000 acres in 58 counties of Missouri and Illinois. To the west, the Arkansas river in Oklahoma had its third highest flood stages, and in Wichita, Kans., flood damage to homes from the same river was estimated by the Red Cross at more than \$1,000,000. County Engineer Petticoard said damage to bridges near Wichita totaled \$147,000 more.

The floods have taken a toll of 24 lives in Illinois and Missouri. The Missouri river was expected to crest today at Jefferson City, Mo. Some streets there already were under water. The Missouri's crest is expected to reach the Mississippi late Saturday and raise the stage of the latter to 39 feet at St. Louis by Sunday night.

Nearly 10,000 Illinois and Missouri militiamen, coast guardsmen, Italian prisoners of war and volunteer workers were patrolling levees and strengthening weaker points on both sides of the Mississippi.

Levity Fact Rant

By L. F. Robinson

If one considers the Gestapo-like manhandling of Sewell Avery, head of the Ward store, occasion for laughter, think how uproariously funny would be a similar act of less majesty against John L. Lewis.



Technical Sergeant Horace Faubion, second from left in front row, above, left a rapidly growing lumber industry in Roseburg to find himself in charge of a crew of Leatherneck lumberjacks in the South Pacific. The "Rainbow Lumber mill," pictured above with its crew, received its name from the odd shapes that resulted when the untrained marine corps crew made its first cuts from native lumber. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Corporal George B. Buchanan, Winnesho, La.; Sergeant Faubion, Roseburg; Private Willfred B. Curry, York, Pa.; and PFC Peter P. Klepala, Bowls, Minn.; back row, left to right, PFC Max R. Floyd, Bloomfield, Ind.; Cpl. Francis J. Hathaway, Philadelphia, Pa.; PFC Carl E. Mann, Monclo, W. Va.; PFC Elmer C. Lee, Omaha, Nebr.; and Cpl. Thomas B. Glenn, Molalla, Ore. Man seated at extreme right, rear, is unidentified.