International Agreement On Wheat Distribution Sought In Conference at Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—(AP)—Representatives of 48 nations are gathered here to draft plans for making sure the world gets plenty of wheat at prices fair to consumers and farmers alike.

Here are spokesmen for the world's five major wheat-selling nations—the United States, Canada, Argentina, Australia and Soviet Russia—and most of the wheat-buying countries.

The conference goal is the writing of a new international agreement aimed principally at (1) assuring importing nations a dependable supply at all times; (2) dividing the world market fairly among exporting countries, and (3) stabilizing prices.

Delegates gathered amidst speculation that it may be very difficult for the conference to get together on the matter of prices. This speculation grew out of the fact that world grain supplies are improving and prices are on the downtrend from wartime peaks.

A similar agreement was negotiated last year, with 39 nations participating. But it was never put into effect because the United States—the largest wheat exporter—did not ratify it.

The agreement was submitted to the Senate for approval as a treaty. But it was pigeonholed by the Foreign Relations Committee in the Republican 80th Congress.

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan will head a United States delegation of international trade and grain experts. He has said such an agreement is essential if this country is to hold its share of the world market.

Otherwise, he said, it would be necessary to curtail wheat production sharply from wartime and postwar levels.

The previous agreement assured this country a minimum foreign market for 185,000,000 bushels annually. This compares with an average of about 50,000,000 bushels in the thirties.

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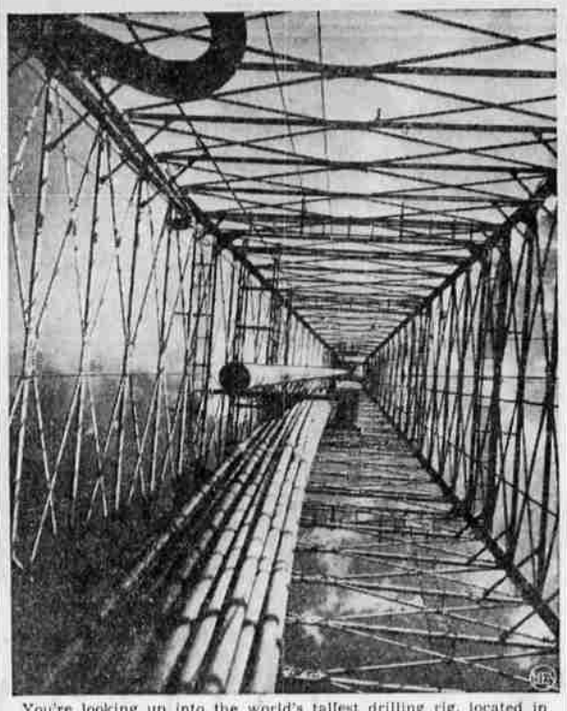

You're looking up into the world's tallest drilling rig, located in the swamps of Louisiana. This rig is the most powerful ever assembled, and is designed to drill 18,000 feet into the earth in a search for oil. That pipe you see suspended inside the rig is 135 feet long.

Congress Sidelights

By Harris Ellsworth

Congressman, 4th District of Oregon

When a person stands at the top of a very high ski jump and prepares to step off, he must have certain qualms. He must briefly ponder the possibilities of disaster which may befall him on the steep and slippery path. He might even envision a crash landing. I suppose I may feel just a tiny bit like that as Congress and this Administration are poised for the take-off.

Judging from the first session of the House which transacted business, it is going to be a fast ride. Three resolutions were passed with such overwhelming Administration majorities as to give the impression that there was almost no opposition. House Republicans numbering 171 represent the smallest Republican membership in the House of Representatives since 1940.

Now that committees of the House have been named, it is revealed that the Administration is going to have its way on all important legislation. Minority membership on several vital committees has been cut sharply. For example, the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, which will handle legislation on the report of the Hoover Commission, will have 18 Democratic members and only 7 Republicans. The former ratio was 15 to 10. The Judiciary Committee ratio was 15 to 12 in the 80th Congress. Its ratio is now 17 to 10.

Committee assignments of Oregon House members have not changed. Congressman Angell continues on Public Works; Stockman on Appropriations; Norblad on Armed Services; and I am on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. All four of these committees are major committees, and the matters they handle are of vital importance to the State of Oregon. I feel our delegation is very fortunate in having seniority enough to command such excellent committee assignments.

District Appropriations

The Budget which was sent to Congress by the President recommends appropriations for projects in our Fourth Congressional District as follows:

Flood control dams: Lookout Point, $11,000,000; Detroit, $11,300,000; Dorena, $2,924,000; Cottage Grove, $140,000; and Fern Ridge, $208,000; Willamette River bank protection, $500,000; appropriation of $1,000,000 for the Coos Bay Harbor project is included.

It is too early to predict what attitude the Appropriations Committee will take toward such items in the present budget, but in view of the fact that both the Willamette flood control and the Coos Bay Harbor projects are so far along toward completion, I am hopeful that maximum appropriations for them will be made.

Reclamation Discussed

Recently members of Congress from the Northwest states met with Michael W. Straus, commissioner of reclamation, and heard him and his department heads review and discuss reclamation plans for the Northwest. I was glad to note that principal emphasis is to be placed on increasing the supply of electrical energy. Land development is important, but the crying need now, and in the immediate future, is for more power. Installation of the remaining generators at the Grand Coulee Dam will be speeded as much as possible. It is anticipated that a supplementary appropriation of $4,000,000 for this purpose will be hurried through Congress within the next few weeks.

War Materials Being Assembled By United States

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 — (AP) — A speedup of the government's program of stockpiling war materials may cause a scarcity in some civilian products.

The munitions board offered that warning as it announced the increased spending this week. It said the Government is just trying to catch up on its lagging $3,700,000,000 layaway program.

A high official who declined to be quoted by name said it did not mean any new threat of war.

The list covers 68 critical items needed for the U. S. war chest. They include lead, copper, zinc, pepper, rubber, industrial rubber, sisal, manganese, and chrome.

The heavy buying in lead, copper and zinc may cause some temporary domestic shortage, the board said, but it would not be felt too badly. These items will be obtained through a voluntary quota arrangement with producers.

Some materials such as rubber, industrial diamonds and sisal have been delivered or contracted for from Marshall plan countries cooperating with the Economic Cooperation administration. The total runs to about $25,000,000.

Old Age Pension Boost Voted by Alaska House

JUNEAU, Alaska, Jan. 27.—(AP) The territorial House voted yesterday to increase Alaska old age pensions to $90 a month maximum from the present $60.

An amendment to that effect was adopted by a 22-to-2 vote after prolonged discussion of proposals for an increase as high as $175. The House also adopted amendments to eliminate the citizenship requirement and reduce the resident requirement to one year.

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Change in System of Motor Vehicle Revenue Allocation To be Asked of Legislature

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 26.—(AP)—The Oregon Legislature will consider a new system of distributing state motor vehicle revenues to counties.

State Reps. Giles L. French, Moro, and Henry Peterson, Ione, said they would introduce a bill to provide for a plan whereby thinly-settled counties would get more money, and the big counties would get less.

French said the bigger counties are now getting more money than they need.

The counties now get 19.5 per cent of state gasoline tax receipts, license fees, and other classes of motor vehicle revenues. It is apportioned on the basis of the number of cars in each county.

The proposed formula is similar to the federal government's distribution of money to the states. It would be based one-third on area, one-third on registration and secondary highways.

French said an attempt was made to pass a similar bill in 1941.

Parole Board Sought

A bill to create a three-man state parole board on a full-time basis was introduced in the House.

The measure calls for annual salaries of $5,000 for the members, who would be appointed by the governor for staggered terms.

The bill was introduced by Reps. Herman Chindgren, Canby, and W. W. Chadwick of Salem.

The current parole board is appointed by the governor but serves on a per diem basis, meeting usually once a week.

The Judiciary Committee of the House presented a bill increasing the annual fees of the Oregon state bar from six to twelve dollars.

A bill to permit voters to register by mail was introduced by Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, Portland Democrat.

Widow of Slain Man Accuses 'Other Woman'

MOBILE, Ala., Jan. 27—(AP)—A 29-year-old wife charged with murdering her husband told detectives yesterday she was paid $6 a week to baby sit for "the other woman."

Mrs. John J. Foster was booked at city jail on a murder charge after her husband, a 39-year-old telephone worker, was found shot to death in their kitchen Tuesday night. Their 20-month-old child was in the house at the time.

Detectives Clarence Barclay and Huge Prine said Mrs. Foster told them that at her husband's insistence she acted as baby sitter for the woman with whom she accused him of associating. The "other woman" had two children of her own.

"I didn't want to keep the children, but my husband insisted that I did," detectives quoted her as saying in a signed statement. "I loved my husband, and I was doing all I could to try and keep the family together."

POLIO FATAL TO CHILD

MYRTLE POINT, Ore., Jan. 27—(AP)—Judith Ann Vatne, 7, who died in a hospital here Monday, was an infantile paralysis victim, it was learned yesterday.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Vatne, she had been ill two days before going to the hospital.

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COSTLY OPERATION

SEATTLE, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A top official said yesterday the Hanford atomic energy project construction program is costing $4,000,000 weekly and will continue for an extended period and "certainly during the next two or three years."

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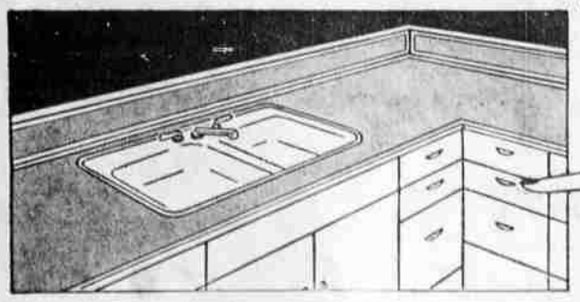

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