

# The News-Review

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## DEATH TAKES NO HOLIDAY

By CHARLES V. STANTON

The slaughter is about to begin. This weekend will see hundreds of persons killed, thousands injured and millions of dollars worth of property damaged.

We are making no idle prediction, for every holiday brings its tragic toll of dead and injured. The Fourth of July, with its heat, crowds, fireworks and travel, is the most productive agency of death, injury and damage.

Motorists will be speeding to beaches, mountains, celebrations and other points of visitation. Everyone will be in a hurry and in a carefree mood, intent upon crowding as much fun and excitement into the brief weekend as possible. And while millions frolic, press wires throughout the nation will be mechanically tabulating the list of dead and injured.

But no tabulation can portray the agony, the blood and horror-filled moments. Some motorists will die instantly; others will die more slowly despite ministrations to ease the torture in mangled bodies. Many will wake from drugged sleep to face future life as permanent cripples. Still others will spend weeks and months on beds of pain but, fortunately will have the satisfaction of eventual recovery.

Not all deaths and injuries, however, will be attributable to motor vehicles. Drowning will claim many lives. Adults and children alike will be killed, maimed or injured through careless handling of fireworks. Sunstroke, overexertion, falls, fights and overindulgence will contribute to the roster of casualties.

We will pay dearly for our few hours of fun. Accompanying our careless waste of human life over the double holiday, will be a tremendous loss of property.

The Fourth of July, due to use of fireworks, has an exceptionally high incidence of fires. Homes will be burned, in some cases taking lives of occupants. Grass fires will be prevalent everywhere. And there will be some forest fires.

Shooting of fireworks in forest areas is prohibited by law, but we can anticipate many violations. Fireworks, however, are not the sole cause of fires in the woods. The careless smoker, the camper who leaves his fire unattended, or who departs from a camp leaving unquenched embers and the person who thoughtlessly tosses burning material from a motor vehicle can create a blaze which may rage through thousands of acres of merchantable timber.

As trees go up in flame and smoke, we seldom stop to realize that we must consider as a part of the cost the payrolls the trees would have produced as they passed through various stages of manufacture, the commodities that could have been purchased with money from those payrolls, and the subsequent loss of further circulation in various channels of trade. Too, we must consider the homes that could have been erected, business buildings constructed, furniture produced. We must include taxes lost, both from the land and from income, together with hundreds of more intangibles.

We know full well that words of warning are largely wasted. Thoughts of pleasure outweigh admonitions for caution. In our pleasure we grow thoughtless and careless.

Newspapers everywhere are urging the public to be careful, but, at the same time, are proceeding with preparations to publish the dire news they know will be forthcoming—news of tragedy and destruction.

If we seem pessimistic it is because there is no escaping facts. Newspaper files year after year contain tabulations of Fourth of July casualties. The list is proportionate to the duration of the holiday.

We can only hope that a FEW people will give heed. Perhaps repeated warnings may save a life here and another there. Someone may be caused to stop and think before he carelessly sets a fire or causes an accident. If so, the warning will not have been in vain.

But of one thing we may be sure—death will not be taking a holiday.

## Hoover Opposes Chairman For Joint Chiefs Of Staffs For Armed Services

WASHINGTON, July 1.—(AP)—Herbert Hoover said today it would be "dangerous to the country" to create a chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the armed services as proposed by the Truman administration.

Such an office, the former president declared, would place too much power in any military officer's hands.

Hoover testified before the House Armed Services Committee on legislation to amend the armed services unification law of 1947. Generally, the measure is aimed to give more power to the secretary of defense and iron out "bugs" in the two-year-old law.

Backers have contended the proposed revisions will permit savings of many millions of dollars. The Senate passed the legislation May 26.

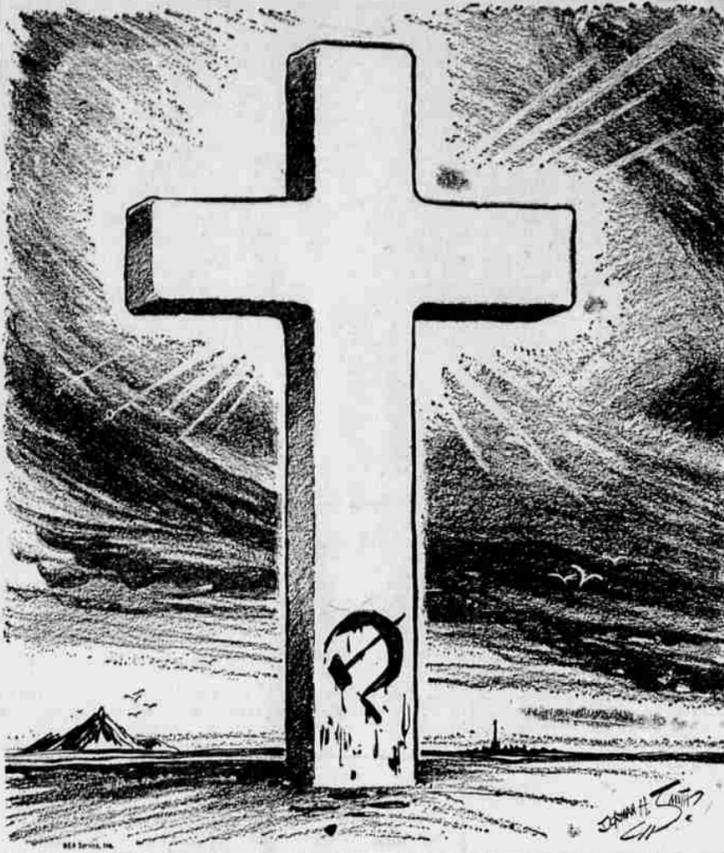
Hoover endorsed the general purposes of the bill but strongly opposed a section which would create a chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Each of the armed services is represented on the Joint Chiefs by its chief of staff. Under the present arrangement, each is equal in theory and they try to reach their decisions by mutual agreement.

Chairman Vinson (D., Ga.) said he agreed with Hoover that the proposed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff might become, in effect, a single chief of staff for all the armed forces. Vinson added: "I want to put something in this bill so that it can't happen." Roy Short (R., Mo.) said he is "a little alarmed about the tremendous powers" proposed in the bill for the secretary of defense. Hoover told this story today as illustrating the need for closer coordination of the armed services.

Old Time Gospel Meets Continued At Oakland  
Old Time Gospel meetings are to be continued indefinitely, weather permitting, in the little tent at the east end of the City Park at Oakland, announced Evangelist William Elmer Brown, who is conducting the meetings. Brown announced that he will preach "God's word in its fullness," as was preached by the early apostles and disciples. All Bible subjects will be preached and taught.

## But Still Impregnable



## Scops from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

The dear little wrens with their tip-tipped tails went back and forth (to continue from yesterday's column) from dawn to dark, in rain and sun, while the babies held up widely gaping bills for food. Sometimes they worked, indefatigably, until after eight o'clock in the Oklahoma twilight. The thing I remember so vividly is the way they always paused a moment on the clothesline, both going and coming, and trilled one of the most exquisite bird-songs to be heard.

How they could sing, with a green worm on the way to the nest! They paid no attention to us, flying within a foot of Mother as she washed in the basement under the back porch; the electric washer troubled the wrens not at all! They fed the young while we watched interestedly. And then on a Sunday afternoon, right after we came home from church, the parents decided the time had come for the wee ones to fly!

Smaller than the tiny wrens were the "winged jewels," ruby-throated hummingbirds, dipping their long bills into Mother's prize scarlet gladioli, the dark purple velvet of a wall of morning-glories, every bright-colored chalice in the garden. And oh,

## Oregon Seventh Among States In 3-Year Highway Building Projects

During the past three years (1946-47-48) the State Highway Commission has been contracting a three-year highway construction program which has totalled approximately \$52 million in money and which will result in the improvement of some 1,891 miles of roads in the extended motor transportation grid of the state. In comparison with the progress made in other states in the conduct of its highway construction program for this period, Oregon stands in seventh place among the 48 states of the Union.

Of the \$52 million, approximately \$40,300,000 represented federal aid projects, the remaining \$11,700,000 state projects to which no federal money is attached. This work constitutes what is called the "first postwar program," as initiated by the 1944 road act of Congress, which earmarked \$36 million (\$21 million of federal funds and \$15 million of state funds) for federal aid construction in Oregon during the three-year period.

The second postwar federal aid program was authorized and initiated by the Congress in June, 1948. Under this program, the Highway Commission will have available approximately \$21 million in both state and federal funds for construction work during the coming two years. The program for which was set up, in major part, by the commission at its May meeting. On June 27 and 28, at a meeting held in Portland, the commission let contracts totalling approximately \$3 million. One of the largest lettings in amount and number of projects in the history of the commission. One \$300,000 project included in the list is for construction work on the Ochoco Highway and is a segment of the second postwar program, the remainder being remaining construction items of the first postwar program. There will remain for subsequent contracts about \$3,250,000 of the first postwar program, of which \$1,700,000 covers the completion of the Harbor

## In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

port raw materials, process them and export the finished products. In order to export successfully, they must produce at a price that will meet world competition. Here is the nub of Britain's "deepening" crisis: HER PRESENT PRICES ARE SO HIGH THAT SHE CAN'T SELL ENOUGH IN THE WORLD MARKETS TO MAINTAIN HER ECONOMY. Her prices are too high because her costs are too high.

If you ever ran a grocery store in a town where all your competitors were underselling you, you will understand Britain's problems. You have to sell to live. If you sell at a loss, you're sunk. You can't raise your prices, for if you do your customers will buy from your competitors and that will cook your goose. Your only hope is to cut your costs. That is Britain's fix. She has to cut her costs or her economy will wither and die.

WHAT brings us back to the problem of politics. Britain is governed by the Labor Party, which has strong Socialist leanings. The British economy has been extensively nationalized. In the nationalized industries, the government is the employer. The government fixes wages. British labor is growing restive under present wage ceilings. It wants more money. The government, under stern necessity to hold down costs, has so far refused increases. That tends to shake the confidence of wage-earners in the Labor government.

Meanwhile Britain's exports continue to shrink alarmingly. WHAT will the Labor government do about it? I wouldn't know. But it is rather generally expected that it will "devalue" the pound. That is too complicated to go into here. Suffice it to say that it would amount to cutting British wages by the device of paying labor in money that would have less purchasing power in terms of imported commodities.

As to that, we shall see what we shall see. HERE is what I'm really driving at: In the United States last November, postwar prosperity was still running high. The "experts" thought there had been a change in political philosophy and that Dewey would win. But, when it came to the pinch, the voters refused to shoot Santa Claus. They declined to change horses in the stream. They preferred to let well enough alone. The same thing happened in Canada—with perhaps less surprise.

But in the United States and Canada the tide of postwar prosperity was still running strong when the voters voted. Nobody has ever yet shot Santa Claus. T seems to me that the real test of the leave-it-to-papa political philosophy that has been and still is sweeping the world will come in Britain. In Britain, the tide of postwar

prosperity is ebbing. The jagged rocks of stern reality are beginning to show above the surface. Life is already rugged for most Britons and is getting rugged. And the parliamentary elections are still a year off. Unless the Labor government can pull a startling rabbit out of the hat, realities will be sterner a year hence than now. By then, there may be no British Santa Claus to shoot. In that event, it wouldn't be a case of swapping horses in the middle of the stream because the stream would have dried up. The voters might then turn to the CONSERVATIVES as having something to offer, after all.

## Output, Distribution Costs May Be Detrimental To Big Firm Facing Competition

NEW YORK, July 1.—(AP)—Maybe some companies have been getting too big for their breeches. The American mass production system is tops when it comes to getting more goods to more people at less cost than any other yet developed. But that doesn't mean that some companies may not now be more the victims of elephantiasis than examples of efficiency.

At least, the distribution committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers suspects as much. Its chairman, Renton B. Turk, New York engineer, thinks, naturally enough, that most companies would be better off if they called in mechanical engineers for a good look into their distribution costs. "Those who believe like Turk say it's possible for a company to get so big it can't compete on even terms with smaller ones—this, despite the accepted American view that big companies always have the advantage over small.

Some companies may have tried to reach out for too much since the war. They may be too set on blanketing the nation with their product, when they'd do better just to be regional. After all, the United States is a regional proposition in many ways, with a variety of tastes and needs. Too, there is the high cost of transportation, mounting steadily since the war. It costs more to service distant markets.

Other companies may have strained to get customers they can't serve profitably, meanwhile ignoring or losing some they could—all with the object of making their business look bigger and bigger, or setting ever higher sales records.

Many companies may not know what actual distribution costs are, product by product, or how to turn them down to look for bugs. Ignorance can be more costly than blisful for a businessman, the engineering committee says.

It suggests that if some of these companies reduced, they might discover that what they lost was flabby flesh and that they would look better in the eyes of profit and loss statements. It's possible, these observers say, that the country might be better off, too, since the business one company drops as unprofitable may be done gainfully by others.

However, there are many to champion the cause of bigness, to point out the savings and services of the large, integrated company. There are those who hold that a company cannot stand still, that it must continue to grow or it will lose out. It's still possible, however, that other companies might find, if they knew exactly what each opera-

## Berlin Workers Charge Soviet With Reprisals

BERLIN, July 1.—(AP)—The anti-Communist Berlin Railway Union charges that the Soviet-controlled railway management has begun reprisals against men who took part in the crippling 38-day rail strike. The union said 375 men were fired without notice. The 14,000 strikers reported back to work this week.

The strikers had gone back to work on the promise that there would be no reprisals against them. Rail traffic remained stalled, meanwhile, while crews worked to repair damage caused by the long stoppage.

The Russians released to West Berlin authorities seven tons of power plant machinery seized in a truck convoy Tuesday. The incident had aroused a British-American protest.

The cargo was sent from Frankfurt to Berlin for construction of a new power plant designed to make West Berlin independent of the Soviet sector. The need was emphasized last winter during the Soviet blockade of West Berlin, when the Western Sectors spent nights in darkness. This had made the seizure an incident which was out of the ordinary.

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Phone 100  
If you do not receive your News-Review by 6:15 P.M. call Harold Mubley before 7 P.M.  
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## Neighbors Offer Practically All To Get Murderer

MISSION, B. C. July 1.—(CP) Neighbors of the Silver Hill killer, Ivar Johnson, have offered a reward for his capture—dead or alive.

Living in daily fear of their lives, they have decided to offer all they have—which isn't much financially—in an effort to avenge the lives of two of their kin, and end the reign of fear.

Between them, the simple folk in the Swedish community have offered 10 chickens, a calf, \$2, an apple crop, and the yield of two pear trees.

Another neighbor, Mrs. Anna Tholander, will knit a pair of socks for the man who finds Johnson.

This reward is in addition to the \$200 offered by the municipality. Eight days now have passed since Johnson, a 70-year-old bachelor-farmer, shot two of his own neighbors, Mrs. Maria Lindberg and Mrs. Charlotte Barrett. The shootings climaxed a dispute over a road allowance. A twin murder charge stands against him.

The organized search by police and possemen has been called off, and police believe he is either dead—a suicide in the dense forest—or has fled the district.

## Southern Coal Operators Still Mull Strike Threat

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., June 30.—(AP)—The Southern soft coal producers and United Mine Workers started their sixth week of negotiations Wednesday faced with an ultimatum of reaching agreement by Tuesday or having a strike.

The union told the operators that miners will not come back to work at the end of their 10-day vacation Tuesday if there is no new contract. President Joseph E. Moody of the Southern Coal Producers Association said. A strike at mines represented here by the SCPA would involve between a fifth and a fourth of the nation's 400,000 soft coal miners.

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