

Veterans Are On Both Sides Of Hoover Commission Fight

By JAMES MARLOW
WASHINGTON, (AP)—War veterans are on both sides in the fight over the Hoover commission's recommendations.

That commission suggested that all the government's big hospital programs—including that of the Veterans administration (VA)—be placed in a brand new, independent agency.

This would take VA's hospital away from that agency which was created to look out for veterans' needs.

Four big veterans organizations oppose the plan: the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Veterans of World War II, and the Disabled American Veterans.

For the idea are the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report (made up of private citizens), and the American Veterans committee, which claims a membership of 25,000 veterans.

But some members of the various veterans organizations fighting the plans are also members of the organization fighting for it.

For instance, Herman W. Steinkraus, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Steinkraus has put out a 46-page booklet explaining the plan as he sees it and calling on veterans to support it.

The American Legion has turned out yards of publicity opposing it. And the American Veterans committee (AVC) has been busy grinding out publicity and speeches in favor of the Hoover plan.

(The AVC, with its 25,000 members and a staff of about eight in its Washington headquarters, is a pee-wee compared with the Legion which claims 3,000,000 members and has a staff of around 100 here.)

But there has been bitterness in this fight between veterans. Michael Straight, national chairman of AVC, has charged the Legion has clamped down on free discussion of the Hoover plan in its posts around the country.

The Legion, of course, denies this, too. George N. Craig, national commander of the Legion, was recently asked about that in a congressional committee hearing by Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.,

and a month ago Straight charged that "the Legion's top brass is not really concerned in providing better services for the veterans. Its concern is for the members of the Legion machine who are entrenched in cushy veterans administration jobs."

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New York Democrat-Liberal. Roosevelt, a member both of the Legion and the AVC, said: "Out of the total number of employees of the Veterans administration what percent are members of the American Legion?"

Craig said he did not know and explained the Legion's membership files do not show what a member's employment is.

The Legion apparently hasn't been spending much time bothering to argue with the midget AVC but it has devoted a lot of attention to the citizens committee for the Hoover report.

That committee, with branches in 42 states and financed by voluntary contributions from people, some of them big businessmen who want to see the Hoover recommendations carried out, has banged away at the Legion's predictions and charges of what damage the Hoover plan would do to veterans.

The head of the citizens' committee research staff, Robert L. L. McCormick, is a World War II veteran himself.

The citizens' committee has painstakingly analyzed the statements of the Legion. The legion has painstakingly analyzed the statements of the committee. Both have issued big mimeographed studies.

All of this must add to the bewilderment of any veteran who gets his hands on what the fighting groups have to say.

U. S. Leads World In Waste, Says Expert On Soil

By JANE EADS
WASHINGTON—Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, internationally-famed conservationist, says the United States "undoubtedly holds the world's record for waste."

Chief of the department of agriculture's soil conservation service, he says we have allowed erosion to ruin around 100,000,000 acres of formerly good cropland for any immediate practical cultivation. We have followed this up with moderate to serious damage on a second 100,000,000 acres, he adds.

But what plagues him personally is that most of us have gotten into the habit of burning or throwing away everything for which we find no immediate use.

Many odd items of wood which so commonly find their way to the scrap heap can be used, he says. He showed how recently in a small display of his collection of wood-products. Here such common and plentiful woods as sumac, box-elder, willow and even the detested mesquite of Texas had been used for distinctive pieces of furniture and other articles.

Dr. Bennett got interested in making things out of woods that are thrown away about three years ago. He got some of his boys to pick up the various kinds of woods and send them in to him. Some with workshops made the pieces he now has. He hopes the idea will catch on, but he says "we are probably going to have to do a lot of educating in order to get anywhere with the development of any national habits of thrift" in the sense he means.

OSC Chemist Receives National Society Award
PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—An Oregon State college chemist, Prof. George A. Richardson, was one of a group of scientists receiving awards at the 117th national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

He received the 1950 Borden award in the chemistry of milk based on contributions to the knowledge of the physicochemical properties of milk and the first scientific explanation of the rennin coagulation of milk.

The award is \$1000 in cash and a gold medal. The awards were announced by the society's president, Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, Chicago.

SECTION TWO

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BERLIN REDS GET READY FOR "MAYTIME"—Members of Berlin's Frei Deutsche Jugend, Communist youth organization, work on a stadium slated to seat 70,000 persons for a giant May parade and demonstration in the Soviet sector of the German capital. Hundreds of members of the Soviet youth group have been brought to Berlin to help get ready for the May demonstrations, during which Reds have threatened to "take over" Berlin's western sectors.

Astoria Obtains State Aid In Slide Problem

ASTORIA, April 13. (AP)—The advice of a state expert was awaited here today on what, if anything, can be done to stop the Coxcomb hill slide that has wrecked or damaged 21 homes.

The expert, Lewis Scott, highway department geologist, was ordered here by Governor Douglas McKay, after the city council appealed to him for help.

The council expressed confidence in the city engineer and the local public works superintendent, but said residents were expressing doubt on the city's ability to handle the situation.

The hill began slipping in late January. Heavy winter rains drew the immediate blame, but the city engineer, G. T. McClean, said an earthquake a year ago may have started it all.

The hill moved seemingly without warning. Overnight one house was twisted three feet from its fireplace chimney. Gradually others began buckling.

Since, it has gathered momentum. Over the weekend, the hillside slipped 29 feet. In a 24-hour period ended yesterday it crept another nine feet.

Ten houses were yanked to safety, movers slipping big beams under their frames and towing them away. But some were caught.

The Lawrence Jackson home is now 150 feet downhill from its original site. It left its foundation behind, but oddly is riding the slide like a wave. If it continues to hold together until it reaches the bottom of the hill, it can be saved, salvage men say.

No end yet is in sight. In fact, the slide threatens to spread farther eastward. In the cliff north of Irving avenue, a crack 100 feet long has developed, threatening four more homes.

FORD SALES INCREASE

DETROIT—(AP)—The Ford Motor Co. reported that its dealers sold 353,315 cars and trucks during this year's first quarter.

This compares with 237,468 vehicles sold in the like period of 1949.

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400 'Concealed' Communists In U. S., Budenz Says

MIDLAND, Mich., April 12.—(AP)—Ex-Communist Louis Budenz, who may have an answer to the Sen. McCarthy-Owen Lattimore dispute, says that he could name 400 "concealed" Communists in the United States.

"But I won't do it," he declared here Tuesday. "I can't afford libel suits."

The former managing editor of the Communist Daily Worker was in Midland for a lecture. While here, he was notified of a subpoena to appear before a Senate subcommittee investigating McCarthy's charge that Lattimore is a Soviet agent.

Budenz, named as McCarthy's "mystery witness," would offer no comment on the dispute. But he did say that he had never met, talked with, or given documents to McCarthy.

"In justice to the investigating committee," he said, "I cannot say anything further."

McCarthy has indicated that he hopes Budenz's sworn testimony will show the committee that Lattimore is a Communist. Testimony given before such a group cannot be used as a basis for libel charges.

Budenz, now a professor of economics at Fordham university in New York, told a press conference that the whole policy of the Communist party in the United States is to place its adherents in positions of importance.

"One Alger Hiss in the State department," he declared, "is worth several hundred thousand other Americans." He quoted Earl Browder, former Communist chief, as saying that the party is "very small, but big in its influence."

The 400 "concealed" Communists," he said, are in various or-

ganizations that control public opinion and policy. Such persons, he said, are given exemptions from Communist party membership.

Budenz, who renounced Communism in 1948 and rejoined the Catholic church, added that anyone who names too many of these "front" members at once, "gets the reputation of being wild."

GUERRILLAS MOP UP

SEOUL, April 12.—(AP)—The defense ministry said today 304 Communist-trained guerrillas from North Korea have been wiped out and another band the same size surrounded.

The army lost 12 dead and 22 wounded in the mop-up, the ministry said.

Eleanor Roosevelt In Traffic Crash

HYDE PARK, N. Y., April 12. (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, driving to Hyde Park to observe the fifth anniversary of her husband's death Wednesday, was shaken last night in a three-car accident.

Mrs. Roosevelt was being driven home from a session at the United Nations at Lake Success, where she is a U. S. delegate. She was riding in the front seat of her sedan with her chauffeur, Russell W. Linaka.

"We saw a car coming toward us swerve off its path," she said later.

Linaka shouted a warning, "brace yourself . . . we're going to be hit" and Mrs. Roosevelt jammed her feet against the floorboards.

The oncoming machine struck another car immediately ahead of the sedan, and then sideswiped the rear of the Roosevelt auto.

The driver of the oncoming car, George B. Greaves, 26, of Salt Point, N. Y., was given a summons for reckless driving.

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