

# The News-Review

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## BIG TIM RANSOM

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Having tested U. S. reaction to ransom demands, Russia now proposes to cash in on its findings. The Reds have proven to their own satisfaction that Uncle Sam is a sucker when it comes to ransom. If he is willing to pungle up dough to hoodlums who kidnap his nationals, how much will he pay to promote peace during a period of political emergency?

The administration is in trouble—serious trouble. Elections are at hand. Something is needed to draw public attention away from political scandals. An achievement to which the administration can point with pride is vitally necessary.

The administration has been begging Russia to permit it to save face in Korea. The Korean war is not popular. The general public is well aware that our State Department blundered. Thousands of American lives have been sacrificed to the department's appeasement program and its vacillation. Americans have no taste for "police action." They cannot understand a war that goes on endlessly, seemingly without purpose. The British would be more tolerant, for Britain has experienced countless police actions in its colonies, India being a good example. But a war having no victory as its ultimate goal is not popular with Americans.

### Ransom Offer Hinted

The administration realizes that the Korean situation is a decided obstacle to political victory at the forthcoming presidential election. It would like to get the matter settled. Then it could claim an achievement.

We promoted armistice talks. These talks have achieved virtually nothing and promise nothing. We have been given the run around time after time. The Reds, who like nothing better than to build up hopes and then dash them to the ground, have found the talks an excellent propaganda weapon. They also have used our peace efforts as an opportunity to build up their military strength. Meanwhile we go on in futile bargaining with an enemy who has nothing to lose and everything to gain by continuing the parley—an enemy which has no intention of making peace except on its own terms.

Those terms are now being offered. Russia proposes an end to the fighting if we will surrender Formosa to Red China and seat Red China in the United Nations.

This, says Russia, would end the fighting in Korea, Indo-China, Malaya, and elsewhere and would establish peace in Asia.

### Russia Wants Defense Buffer

What is this offer if not another ransom demand? We surrender the people and territory of Asia to the Red machine and we can have peace. Will our State Department pay the price? In the light of past action, we wouldn't be surprised if it did. Dollar-hungry Great Britain, panting for resumption of trade with China, probably will use its influence on the administration which has been very susceptible to British suggestions in the past.

Why is Russia so anxious to bring Asia into its zone of influence?

You will find the answer to that question if you will look at your map or globe. Russia's underbelly is exposed to China's border. Russia cannot wage war on Europe until Chinese territory is secure. Before China is secure as a Red defense buffer, Russia must be able to penetrate our outer line of defense, based on Formosa, the Philippines and Japan. By gaining Formosa, Russia would have a dagger pointing toward the heart of that defense line.

Will we pay the ransom—the unconditional surrender of Asia to the Russians? Will our administration attempt to salvage an election—the retention of power for its corrupt political machine—by selling Asia's millions down the river? We've paid ransom on a small scale; now how far can we be pushed?

**Scraps From the MENDING BASKET**  
 by Vahnett Martin - P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Did you ever swing a pail of water—or milk—around your head without spilling a drop? And did you, too, have a triumphant feeling as you did it—until maybe the pail accidentally hit a tree and splattered you with the split milk? I guess every youngster achieves that feat, and maybe the terrible let-down that comes with that "now I've done it" and "what will my mamma say?" I was just reminded of the time I used to walk down a maple-shaded path every evening to a farm house for our milk, when reading that "Enough milk will have been produced in the United States in 1951 to fill a river three thousand miles long, 40 feet wide, and three feet deep."

"This 'river,'" says the National Geographic Society article, "has nearly 25-million sources—the number of cows milked during the year on U. S. farms. It flows at an annual rate of 36-billion quarts, a quart a day for every man, woman and child in the country."

My gracious, that's a lot of milk, isn't it! I don't care much for statistics, unless served up interestingly as in the milk river illustration. It's a far cry from the old days when, I have read, a cow was sometimes driven along the village street and milked at the customer's door. Speaking of milk reminds me of the time I had been sent for some cream and warned "not to spill it." My little container was filled so generously

### H. J. Hash Re-Appointed To County Park Dept.

H. J. Hash was Friday re-appointed to the Douglas County Parks department board of directors by the county court. He is the first member of the board to come up for re-appointment under the staggered-term system. Hash has served one year on the board and was reappointed for another term of four years dating from Dec. 27, 1951. He was originally appointed to the board Dec. 27, 1950.

## State of the Union



## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

stored up surpluses from the period of fat production come in handy.

That calls attention to this little dispatch from Portland:

"Idaho potatoes climbed 50 cents on the Portland market yesterday to a new high of \$7 a hundred-weight. Oregon Russets also went up 50 cents, and were quoted at \$6.00 to \$6.75."

It sounds wonderful for the potato grower and so far as this year is concerned it is wonderful. But it portends a probable headache for next year. Fabulously high prices for potatoes (or any other perishable crop) almost invariably bring two things to pass:

1. INCREASED production.
  2. LOWERED consumption.
- Hence the next year headache.

While we're on this subject of prices, here are some figures from Washington:

According to a department of agriculture report, food cost now represents 25 percent of the average family's disposable income ("disposable income" is an economist's term meaning the money you have left over after paying your taxes). In 1950, the D of A says, food cost also represented 25 percent of your disposable income. It represented 27 percent in 1948 and 1949 and 28 percent in 1947. But away back in 1946 food cost represented, on the average, only 26 percent of average disposable income—or EXACTLY the same as now.

Let me tell you a secret about this stuff that is handed out by our federal government bureaus. It is not politically slanted. If it doesn't sound good for the administration in power, it just isn't handed out. All good Washington

reporters are fully aware of this situation.

The purpose of this particular handout, for example, is to say to you AS A VOTER that in spite of all the nasty talks about inflation that are peddled by the wicked Republicans who are trying to get back into power the cost of eating, in proportion to your total income, is exactly the same as back in 1946, before the BIG inflation got under way.

In other words, Mr. Truman and his Fair Dealers have seen to it that your wages have been raised just as much as the cost of your food has been upped.

If you are a worker, whose wages have been raised over and over, or a business man whose prices have gone up year after year, these figures about the cost of your food in proportion to your total income are probably not far off the facts.

But if you are a widow or an orphan, relying upon a legacy, or a pension, or the holder of one of these policies under which you retire at 50 and live the life of Riley on your insurance check that is delivered every month by the postman for the rest of your life, you belong to another breed of cats.

In that event, the cost of your food (along with the cost of all your other necessities) has gone up drastically while your income has STOOD STILL. It's the widows and the orphans and the pensioners and the insurance policy and annuity holders and such that are being rooked by the spenders who are responsible for the steadily spiraling inflation.

If you have followed the figures you are aware that people living on fixed incomes of the sort here described are very, very large in number. They are the VICTIMS of our politically-inspired inflation.

### Air Force Authorized Is Far From An Air Force In Actual Existence

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

When President Truman's budget appears in January, it is expected to call for a 143-group air force, substantially greater than the presently authorized 95 groups.

There is little doubt that Congress will authorize this new goal. But it is important for the American public to remember that, for a long time, it will be only a goal, not a reality. The people dare not slip into a mood of complacency induced by the thought that the votes of Congress have automatically assured them a great striking air arm.

The way is long between the establishment of goals and the delivery of finished aircraft for operational use. General Bradley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, recently reminded that "six to nine years are required to design, test and produce an aircraft which can survive and win in modern aerial combat."

Thirty-one of the planned additional 48 groups would be combat wings. Of the 31, some 20 are scheduled as either tactical aircraft or fighters, fighter-bombers and light bombers. Strategic bombers like the B-47 and B-52 jets, plus some reconnaissance units, would make up the other 11 wings.

The B-47 is in production but is not yet available for operational use. Bottlenecks and certain mechanical "bugs" have delayed deliveries. This aircraft is heavily relied on by the Strategic Air Command, especially since the Korean war has indicated the vulnerability of motor-driven planes like the B-29 and B-50 to interceptors in daylight raids. The huge B-52 thus far has been produced only in prototype, and is only now beginning to undergo

tests. It will be many months before this ship can be delivered in quantity, assuming it proves out in test.

The United States has several fighter planes of which it is reasonably proud. But the superior qualities of the Russian MIG's, demonstrated in Korea, show that we must push ahead swiftly to develop new and even better types.

Right now we do not have anything resembling a real tactical force. The projected expansion in this phase of military aviation is perhaps the most vital envisioned. But, inevitably, much experimentation in plane types and operational techniques will have to accompany any increase in tactical activity.

On top of all the normal lacks that can be anticipated in developing new planes, today we face certain special handicaps which magnify our difficulties. Materials, tools and aviation industry manpower are short. Particularly is there pressing need for more engineers and technicians. Even if we should have settled on all the major plane types we want, bottlenecks might easily delay realization of our goals for years.

There is no occasion for gloom. We are making progress. But neither is there any occasion for glib assumptions that Congress in 1952 is going to equip us magically with a giant air force of crushing power. If it voted the Air Force \$100 billion it still could not do this.

## Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

WASHINGTON — As you might expect there is quite a stir in LaFayette, Indiana, where the city school system recently dropped a textbook that was under sharp fire for its contents. The textbook is Magruder's "American Government."

The Greater LaFayette Chamber of Commerce sponsored the review and eventual banning of the book in public schools in that city. In a letter from J. G. Murphy, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, he says that now that some of the smoke of battle has cleared away the majority opinion in the community seems to support the action.

What the parents and teachers, along with a committee from the LaFayette Chamber of Commerce, discovered was that, in their opinion, the textbook is "subtly slanted in praise of socialism" and contains a "disguised attack on the free system of our republic."

Some time ago I raised the question about the fitness of this textbook as a public school document, basing my indecision concerning its worth on a scholarly examination conducted by several history professors. I reached no conclusion on whether it should or should not be taken from school desks, but even so I got quite a bouncing around from various groups who label themselves as protectors of our public schools. So I can only say to the LaFayette parents and Chamber of Commerce members that they are in

for a considerable workout from these same sources.

So far, however, the LaFayette citizens who sponsored the action do not seem to be frightened unduly. In fact they are making public inquiries, asking who put the textbook in the public schools in the first place, and are there any more like it? It's a good question and I hope they get an answer. I've been asking the same one in Washington about who put the Communists on the public payrolls, but nobody seems to know. LaFayette is a thriving city, peopled by sound citizens who are the product of their own public school, and most residents want their children to grow up with the same regard for America that they have. So they examined a textbook. A textbook they are paying for with their taxes, that is being used by the school teachers they employ. I can't question their right to do so. But a lot of people do, including the National Education Association, which reacts with high explosive propaganda whenever somebody questions a school textbook.

Local school administrators in LaFayette were not criticized when the Magruder textbook was dropped. Nobody was castigated, nobody burned at the stake. In fact, not a single textbook was burned, although the Chamber of Commerce can expect to be accused in left wing and other publications of having done just such a thing.

It takes experts, of course, to examine textbooks and determine if they are written in accord with the facts of American history. That is all most parents can expect, or want. But in this particular volume in use in the LaFayette schools there are a couple of statements, one in the form of a question, that are worth repeating. For instance, the book asks:

"Why is the vice presidential office one of the worst features of our government?"

I didn't know it was. And it seems that a textbook used in public schools might go into some detail as to why the conclusion is reached.

Another statement in the textbook criticized by the LaFayette parents, is:

"The indirect method of electing the president of the United States is no longer of value."

If nothing else the author of the textbook appears slightly opinionated concerning these two subjects, at least. More people in the U. S. are free to vote for a president than anywhere else in the world that I can think of off-hand. We always seem to get someone elected president, even if we don't like them after they get in the White House. So it's a little rough on Junior and his sister to tell them in a textbook—anybody's—that the way we hold our elections is valueless.

## Truce Huddle At Deadlock, Declares Vishinsky, Urging Security Council To Step In

PARIS (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky said Monday the Korean truce talks at Panmunjom have reached a deadlock.

He urged a high level Security Council meeting to help break it.

He said the Soviet proposal would not break up the talks at the front but would merely consider ways of helping get them out of the rut "in which they have been foundering for six months."

Such a Council meeting, attended by foreign ministers or chiefs of state, he said, would not delay the talks at Panmunjom and would not have the effect of shifting the negotiations from Korea to Paris.

Both British Minister of State

## Communist Action Hardens American Desire To Oppose

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Communists are playing it stupid.

Each incident like the present one — holding Americans for ransom of one kind or another — hardens and unifies American thinking.

It prepares feeling here for the most drastic measures against Communism, when and if this government thinks they're necessary.

The \$120,000 collected for the four American fliers can't compensate the Communists for the hatred, contempt and revulsion stirred up here.

That Communism is bent on world conquest is taken for granted. But jailing and mistreating a few Americans is hardly conquest on the grand scale.

Each irritation like that is so minor and crude, against the larger Communist plan, that one may ask: Why do the Communists stoop to this kind of gangsterism?

Some reasons can be guessed at: Each such episode is a deliberate needle, a slap at American prestige; and each provides the Communist masters with another ounce of anti-American propaganda.

That's the Communist view, the subjective view. It doesn't allow for the fact that each jailing episode may have an effect here far outweighing any temporary and small benefits the Communists think they get at home.

Stupidity Guaged To see the depth of the Communist stupidity involved in this—since this is the one country capable of doing the most damage to Russia if war starts—it's necessary to ask this question:

What's the smartest tactic for the Communists where we're concerned? It's this: To keep American opinion divided on the action to be taken against Communism, in kind and degree, and for this reason:

The more united we are, not only on the need for action, but on the need for strong action, the more dangerous we are.

And there has been strong division of opinion here. Last winter provided a good example in the debate on sending troops to Europe. There was wide support for the idea we should withdraw behind the two oceans.

This was the ostrich approach to reality, of course, since if we withdraw, Europe's will to resist would be weakened. Europe would have been ducksoup for the Communists, if the isolationists had won.

American Opinion Welded American thinking has been divided on other great issues involved in stopping Communism, and for various reasons, including obvious political ones.

But American reaction to the jailing and mistreatment of Americans behind the Iron Curtain was instant and unanimous: A filthy, corrupt, vicious, unnecessary, inhuman performance.

## Winter Steelhead Migration Said Above Average

The winter steelhead migration for the season through Dec. 31 remains above average, although trailing the same period last year, reports Wm. E. Pitney, field agent in charge of Umpqua River studies.

The Winchester counting station tallied 329 fish during the period from Dec. 16 to 31, bringing the total to 1176 as of Jan. 1.

This compares with 934 on the same date in 1945, 1126 in 1946, 1485 in 1947, 1247 in 1948, 489 in 1949 and 1651 in 1950.

Steelhead migration shows a wide variation because of the effect of water temperature, rate of flow and other factors, it is stated. Steelheads stop moving whenever temperatures are too high or too low. Their movement also is affected by flood or extreme low water. The number of fish tallied by the first of the year gives little indication of the total run to be anticipated, existing records show.

In 1945, with 934 fish counted before Jan. 1, the total for the season was 6,563. The movement prior to Jan. 1 was 14.2 percent of total. But in 1949 only 7 percent of the run had been counted by the first of the year. Last year, on the other hand, with 1651 fish, a record number, through the counting station by Jan. 1, the total for the season was only 4,188, making the Jan. 1 count 39.4 percent of total.

Pitney's report also lists 1,508 salmon trout counted to date, the largest number to be recorded since studies started in 1945. The salmon trout run virtually complete with only two fish observed over the counting board during the last two weeks of December.

### CHURCH INCORPORATES

Articles of incorporation were filed Monday for the Tri-City Conservative Baptist Church. It is being incorporated by Howard W. Kirkpatrick, James T. McCullough and Fred D. Towns.

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