

DRAFT PERIOD CUT

VIENNA, Austria, (AP)—Poland for compulsory infantry service is going to cut her draft period, will be cut from 24 to 18 months, the deputy defense minister, Gen. for the air force and navy from Jerzy Bordzilowski, said Thurs- 3 years to 2, and with other mil- day, Bordzilowski said the period itary units from 27 to 24 months.



Our sincere wishes for a happy holiday to all the good friends whom it has been such a pleasure to serve.

- Shorty Jim
- Billie Irene
- Curly Louise
- Edna

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ORPHAN AIRLIFT—Harry Holt (right), Oregon rancher, holds one of the 81 Korean war orphans who arrived in San Francisco from the Far East. Holt, himself the adopted father of eight Korean children, is responsible for the organization of "Orphan Airlift," which brought the children to the United States and new homes. Man behind Holt is unidentified.

Christmas Business Slow, But Indications Now Point To Surge In Late Shopping

NEW YORK (AP)—"Christmas business," says a big New York retailer, "has been pretty awful. But it's coming to life now." A leading Washington merchant, who had kept his fingers crossed during most of December, reports a sudden buying spurt last Friday and Saturday followed by "very strong" sales this week. He says: "We think this shopping season will end up with a bang, not only locally but all over the country." This sudden switch in retailer sentiment was disclosed in an Associated Press survey of Christmas shopping trends in 25 major cities. Up until last week, many merchants were despondent. Now some

are beginning to smile again. "It will be a good Christmas," says a department store executive in Pittsburgh. "Nothing can stop that." Optimists who figure there might still be a good chance of beating last year's record buying binge are comparing the 1956 shopping pattern with 1951. Then as now, Christmas came after (rather than before) the fourth week-end in December, creating the illusion in many people's minds that they had more time to shop. Merchants recall that Christmas sales in 1951 lagged during most of the season but that a sudden surge of buying in the final week swept retailers shelves clean. Now, they contend, there are signs that 1951 may be repeated. Consensus among retailers is that total Christmas sales will set new records but the gains over 1955 will be slight. W. G. Austin, manager of the Kansas City Merchants Assn., states: "We can't possibly recover what has been lost so far this year. But I think the Christmas season is going to end up one per cent over last year." In Chicago, W. T. White, general manager of Wieboldt's, asserts: "We have every reason to believe this year's sales will make or break the sales levels of last year." A spokesman for Goldblatt's cautiously adds: "It will all depend on the weather." Declines are looked for in the Pacific Northwest, where sagging demand for lumber has depressed wages and heavy snows have snarled traffic. Portland, Ore., merchants say business is off about 5 per cent. In Seattle, where a heavy snowstorm was preceded by a bus strike, earlier hopes for a 3 to 8 per cent increase have been tossed aside. Newspaper strikes have cut into Christmas sales in Kansas City and Cleveland. Boston retailers are counting on an 11th hour spending spree, with credit figuring prominently as a sales tool. Richmond, Va., stores complain that high costs are eating into profits. Texas merchants expect profits to be lower this season despite a 3 per cent gain in sales. Philadelphia's big John Wanamaker store says its sales should be up 3 to 5 per cent. Gimbels and Macys in New York balk at giving percentage figures. Macys says only that "the final score isn't in yet. Gimbels, however, reports "tremendous gains over last year for its bit new suburban branch in the Yonkers, N.Y., Cross County Shopping Center.

Plan Under Way To Issue Bonds To Finance Necessary State Institution Buildings

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP)—A plan to issue bonds to build new state institution buildings is getting support in both political parties, but it will cause a big argument in the Legislature.

State Treasurer Sig Unander, a Republican, is the sponsor of the proposal under which the state would issue 20 million dollars worth of bonds for institution buildings. This would have to be referred to the people under the Constitution.

Unander has a companion measure under which state surplus would be placed, at the end of each biennium, into a bond redemption fund. Unander says this, which could be enacted into law by the Legislature, would improve the state's credit. The Bond Commission could use this fund to pay off all bond issues.

State Sen. Walter J. Pearson, a Democrat, who was state treasurer before Unander was, also supported the bonds for institutions idea. Since he will be a power in the new Senate, and possibly its president, Pearson might be able to sell it to the Senate.

The late Gov. Paul Patterson, a Republican, supported a similar idea at the 1955 session, but it didn't get out of the House Tax Committee.

However, Rep. Charles A. Tom, Rufus Republican, says he "will fight any proposal for a bond issue for buildings with every ounce of strength that I have." Tom has influence, too.

Issues of bonds for buildings might solve the dilemma for the Democrats, who will be short of money next month when they get control of the state government.

The proposed budget will contain 25 million for institution and college buildings. If those structures could be built with bonds, the Legislature could even increase basic school aid and still balance the budget.

Oregon now has 174 million dollars worth of outstanding bonds, which is a debt of something like \$112 for every man, woman and child. The average for all states is \$58.

However, the picture isn't as

had as that, because most of those bonds are self-supporting, rather than being financed by property or income taxes.

The bonds financed by taxes are 43 millions of veterans bonus bonds and 4 millions of reforestation bonds. Deputy State Treasurer Fred Paulus, one of the country's leading experts, says bond issues cost a lot more money.

The most recent bond sale forced the state to pay 3.04 per cent interest, compared with only 1 per cent in 1952.

If the state issued 25 millions worth of building bonds to be refunded in 20 years, it would cost more than 4 millions in interest, Paulus says. A property tax of only 1 mill would finance the whole bond issue.

There will be other proposals for bonds in the Legislature. The Highway Commission wants authority to issue 5 millions more in order to match federal road allotments; and there will be a request for 2 millions more for higher education.

Paulus doesn't think, however, that issuance of these additional bonds will harm Oregon's excellent credit rating.

Oregon's bonds now are rated AA which is only a shade below the top AAA rating. These ratings are important because they determine the amount of interest the state has to pay.

Iraqi Politico Draws 3-Year Jail Sentence

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—A former Iraqi minister of economics was sentenced to three years at hard labor and four other political figures were placed on probation for a year at a secret trial Tuesday. The court did not announce the charges. Defense attorneys said the five were accused of attempting to topple Premier Nuri Said's government.

The ex-minister was Kamel Chadurchy, 59, president of the proposed National Congress Party. (Political parties are banned in Iraq.)

The other four were Faik el Samarra, 45, former vice president of the Istiqlal (Independence) party and former deputy; Sadiq Shenshal, 49, a lawyer and former deputy; Hussein Jamil, 48, president of the Iraqi Bar Assn., and former justice minister; and Sami Basahim, 34, a deputy.

NEWEST MEMBERS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—Columbia, Iraq and Sweden are the newest members of the Security Council.

The General Assembly elected them Wednesday to two-year terms on the 11-nation council, replacing Peru, Iran and Belgium in the Latin-American, Middle Eastern and West European seats.

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