Japan Jittery As Invasion Looms

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

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World Security Charter Approved

China Is First To Sign Pact

SAN FRANCISCO, June 26 (UP) — China, the first of the United Nations to suffer from fascist aggression, today was the first to sign the new world charter designed to maintain an enduring pence and prevent any future aggression.

Wellington Koo, chairman of the Chinese delegation at the United Nations conference, started what was expected to be an eight hour signing ceremony by affixing his signature to the 10,000-word document which holds the hopes of the world that another world war can be avoided.

President Will Speak

The delegates of 50 nations approved the charter at an historic public meeting last night at 10:50 o'clock. Tonight they will listen to President Truman give it his blessing and promise to seek immediate ratification by the United States.

Koo admitted that he was honored and "filled with emotion" on "this great day."

"I confidently hope and believe," he said, "that built on the foundation of victory in Europe and the early and final triumph over Japan, the new security organization . . . will be able to spate the future generations the horrors of recurrent war and to ensure to them the blessings of peace and prosperity."

Twenty-six years ago next Thursday the treaty of Versailles was signed ending world war I. That treaty incororated the covenant of the league of nations—man's first but futile attempt in this generation to create international cooperation and prevent future wars.

Pitfalls Foreseen

The delegations which helped to produce the present document are aware of all the pitfalls ahead of them. Some of the delegates—the venerable field marshal Jan C. Smuts of South Africa, the tall, very-correct Earl of Halifax of Britain, the white, bushy-haired Joseph Paul-Boncour of France,

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ICKES SUCCESSOR?—Reported fifth change in the cabinet of President Truman will see Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, above, independent Wyoming Democrat, succeeding Harold L. Ickes as secretary of the interior If the change is made, it will end the record of 12 consecutive years Ickes has served in the cabinet

Prisoners Used for Bayonet Practice by Japs

CHUNGKING, June 26 (UP) — A Korean sublieutenant who deserted the Japanese at Swatow charged today that he had witnessed the bayonet massacre of 154 American and British prisoners of war at a Japanese prison camp near Zentsuji, Shikuko island in the main Japanese group, on April 26, 1944.

The Korean, whose name can not be revealed, deserted the Japanese at Swatow in March and arrived in Chungking this month.

He said he had been forced by the Japanese to join their army and was on a mission to the Zentsuji camp when he witnessed the massacre, which he attributed chiefly to a shortage of food but also to provide practice for Japanese army recruits.

He said that at the time there was a shortage of food not only for prisoners but also for the army and for the general public. The Japanese picked sick prisoners for the bayonet practice.

About 220 Japanese soldiers participated in the bayoneting, the Korean said. They were divided into three groups, each of which was allotted about 50 prisoners. The prisoner of war camp was located about seven miles from the town of Zentsuji in a mountainous area so no civilians witnessed the execution. Other prisoners however, saw the whole proceedings.

The Japanese, he said, tied each prisoner to a wooden cross and the Japanese major in charge made a speech to the victims, telling them:

"You are all Christians and it will be glory for you to die in the same way as Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ had a resurrection in three days you will certainly have one also."

The major then ordered his soldiers to attack the prisoners. The Korean said the Japs were inexperienced and "shivered" so that they could not wield their bayonets effectively. They were seldom able to kill a man with one stroke. He said the slaughter continued until 5 p.m. that day with all the Japanese officials and men of the camp watching the procedure.

The Korean said the Japanese had five large camps for prisoners of war in Japan proper, in the vicinity of Kukakawa, near Tokyo, Zentsuji, Fukuoka and Kyushu and Shimoneseki in the western part of Japan. He said there were large camps in Korea at Seoul and Chemulpo, one at Kwelung, Formosa, and another at Kiangwan, near Shanghai.

He said he understood that Gen. Jonathan Wainwright was at Zentusji and British Gen. A. E. Percival who surrendered at Singapore, at Chemulpo.

Tokyo Reports Great U. S. Fleet Massed; War Plants Blasted

GUAM, June 26 (UP) — Tokyo reported a 200-ship American invasion fleet off Okinawa today and Premier Kantaro Suzuki, criticized at home for his conduct of the war, called on his people to sacrifice their lives freely in the coming decisive battle of Japan.

One enemy broadcast speculated American invasion forces may land on Amami and Kikai islands, 110 miles northeast of Okinawa, to gain further bases before striking at Japan itself.

"The life and death of any individual Japanese," said Suzuki in a statement to his nation, "is no longer worth giving consideration." He called on Japanese to "offer their lives to the eternal cause of our country."

The totalitarian Nippon political association — Japan's fascist-like "sure victory" party—called on Suzuki's government to take "stronger action" in coping with the war crisis growing out of the loss of Okinawa.

The political association arranged a meeting with Suzuki and other government leaders for Wednesday morning at which time "vital issues will be thoroughly discussed and decided," Tokyo reported.

The American pre-invasion bombardment of Japan meantime rose to a new high pitch with nearly 500 Superfortresses blasting buildings at 10 Japanese arms and aircraft works into smoking rubble in a daylight raid.

It was the heaviest precision demolition and greatest multiple air assault yet made on Japan.

Radio Tokyo said the 200-ship invasion fleet was in the American-held Kerama islands just southwest of Okinawa. It was said to include three battleships, three cruisers and a number of large, medium and small transports.

The jittery Tokyo radio, turning to the threat to the home islands, suggested today that

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Drive Pushed To Reach E Bond Quota

Responding to the appeal of the war finance committee for larger purchases of Series E war bonds, citizens of Union county yesterday purchased these securities in the amount of $18,200, bringing the total for the 7th war loan campaign to $577,080.

While this still is far below the $741,000 quota in E bonds set for the county by the United States treasury department, members of the county committee today expressed the belief that continued heavy buying for the remainder of the week will put the county over the top. Sales of all types of bonds to date total $781,175, against a quota of $964,000.

This belief is predicated upon receipt of a substantial amount of bond credit through payroll purchases by members of the armed forces whose homes are in the county, and by county employees of commercial and industrial concerns, the railroad and other organizations.

It also was indicated today that sales of bonds to corporations, for which the quota for the current campaign is $223,000, will be reached or exceeded by Saturday the final day of the campaign.

W. C. Perkins, county chairman, said today that the committee is highly gratified at the response by Union county citizens to the committee's appeal for them to purchase more E bonds.

He said many had already purchased bonds to the limit of their ability, while others have been deferring purchases.

"Now is the time for the latter to buy their bonds," he said. "If we can maintain the pace we have reached in the last few days, there will be no question of the county reaching its quota."

Federal reserve bank officials anounced today that bond purchasers in Oregon have exceeded the state quota of $110,000,000, due largely to oversubscribing the corporation bond total. It was revealed that the state as a whole is $14,500,000 short of its E band quota of $55,000,000.

Final Testimony Starts in Bowman Murder Hearing

A parade of witnesses who testified concerning the family and business affairs of the Albert (Bert) Bowman family and to his reputation passed through the witness box in the circuit court late yesterday and today as the trial of Albert Forrest Bowman on a charge of slaying his father drew to its close.

The state today launched its rebuttal after the defense completed its case late yesterday afternoon.

One of the outstanding witnesses for the defense during the final testimony for the accused slayer was his 15-year-old sister, Larose Bowman.

Threats Are Told

She testified that her father once threatened to "kick your teeth in," and also said "I'll kill that damn Forrest."

Other witnesses who testified concerning the Bowman family affairs and business transactions, from the viewpoint of outsiders, included John Dickinson, brother-in-law of the accused, Harold Craig, a neighbor, DeLile Green, manager of the state liquor store, L. E. Bramwell, manager of the Union bank, Harley Smith, La Grande merchant, Earl Stigaulde, Bowman ranch employee, Mrs. Mary Kail, mother-in-law of the accused man, and County Clerk C. L. Graham.

Rebuttal witnesses called by the state included Leo Mann, Frank Pearson and M. Hand, neighbors of the Bowmans, Steck Tally, Lyle Ferguson and others.

They testified generally to the good reputation of the elder Bowman, and included in some of the testimony was that he was not quarrelsome or pugnacious when either sober or under the influence of liquor.

The witnesses were vigorously cross-examined by the defense.

Counsel for both sides today expressed the belief at the taking of testimony will be concluded today and that arguments will consume most of tomorrow's session, making it possible to give the case to the jury on Thursday.

Volcano Eruption Endangers Soldiers At Aleutian Base

FORT GLENN, Umnak Island, in the Aleutians, June 26 (UP)—Military personnel of Fort Glenn were believed safe from evacuation today after a violent eruption of 6,000 foot Mount Tulik a month ago endangered the garrison.

The mountain had long been inactive, but a month ago soldiers heard ground rumblings and saw smoke seeping from the broad cloudcapped crater 10 miles from this base.

A week later Mount Tulik started earth-shaking eruptions. Smoke and flames shot toward the sky.

All military transport planes in the area were put on a standby basis for use in evacuating personnel if necessary and the army sent powered barges from other bases. The volcano then quieted and the army released the planes. The barges, however, still are available for quick evacuation.

Lt. Robert Renkegt of the 54th troop carrier squadron, who flew over Tulik a week ago to get official pictures, said flames still were shooting 100 feet upward and smoke rising to a height of 15,000 feet made flying difficult. He said he saw five distinct cones inside the mountainwide crater.

Dusting Is Urged to Save Pea Crop from Weevils

Seriousness of the pea weevil infestation in Grande Ronde valley pea crops was emphasized today by R. W. Schaad, county agricultural agent, in a effort to spur growers to take action against possible great loss.

"Of the 18,000 acres of peas in the valley, half of which are in edible peas and the other in Austrian, from 10 to 85 per cent is affected at this time," Schaad said.

His estimation of the overall loss, should farmers fail immediately to dust, ranges to 40 per cent of the total crop, or a money value of $190,000.

"Total production in the valley in edible peas is estimated at 9,000,000 pounds," he said, "which at 4½ cents a pound will approximate in value $405,000. Farmers stand to lose 40 per cent of their expected return in this crop if they take no action to combat the weevil or $162,000."

Total Austrian pea production is estimated at seven and a half million pounds. At 3 cents a pound an estimated 10 per cent loss will amount to $28,500, or a total loss for both crops of $190,000.

"For many reasons in addition to the monetary loss, we cannot urge too strongly that Grande Ronde valley farmers take action immediately before the weevil has progressed too far to stop this season.

"Possible loss of markets, loss of valley reputation as a seed and Austrian pea growing area and a loss of outlet for this year's crop are among the foremost," the farm agent declared. "Our office is ready to cooperate in any

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Shorter Working Hours Seen As Employment Key

Creation of new jobs to provide employment for returning veterans, and at the same time prevent dislocation of those now employed, is seen by H. G. Voruz, chairman of the Union county veterans employment committee as the key to the past-war employment situation.

At a meeting of the committee last night, he said it would be an injustice to workers who stayed on their jobs during the war period to be ousted in favor of a veteran, and he suggested that shorter hours of labor to spread employment may be one of the major factors in solving the employment problem.

Rev. Floyd White said it is inconceivable that the nation should go through another depression, and expressed the opinion that the question of providing employment for returning service men and women will necessitate only the application of common sense and justice.

Balikpapan Again Bombarded By Allied Warships

MANILA, June 26 (UP)—Radio Tokyo reported today that an allied fleet again was bombarding Balikpapan on Borneo and that allied troops had landed on tiny Ternate island in the Moluccas.

The new developments in the East Indies came as the American 37th division in northern Luzon was within four miles of Tuuegarao, where a gallant guerrilla force fought off almost constant Japanese counterattarcks.

"Some 30 odd surface units, including cruisers and destroyers, are now bombarding Balikpapan," said the enemy broadcast The oil center, on the east coast of Borneo, has been under sea and air fire for more than two weeks.

"Enemy minesweepers are reported clearing our minefields, but no indications of a landing are observed," Tokyo said.

The Japanese Domei news agency reported the invasion of Ternate, which lies a few miles off the west coast of Halmahera in the Molucca islands, northwest of New Guinea. The island commands the approaches to Ternate harbor, one of the finest ports in that part of the East Indies.

Bishop Remington Is Elected To Pennsylvania Post

PHILADELPHIA, June 26 (UP)—The Rt. Rev. William P. Remington, Pendleton, Ore., missionary bishop of eastern Oregon, today was elected suffragan bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Pennsylvania to assist Bishop Oliver J. Hart in administrative duties.

Rev. Remington was selected on the first ballot by delegates to a special election meeting. He will have all of the rights and duties of a bishop, except that of succession.

The new suffragan bishop was born in Philadelphia. He served as rector of churches in Philadelphia and St. Paul, Minn., until the first world war.

During the war he was chaplain of the army base hospital at Minneapolis. He was suffragan bishop of South Dakota until 1922 when he became missionary bishop in eastern Oregon.

Durham Goes to Prison for Life

Facing a life term in the state prison at Salem, George Washington Durham, escaped convict and jail breaker, yesterday was taken to the state penitentiary by Sheriff Jesse Breashers and members of the state police.

Arrested near Hot Lake several months ago while in possession of a pistol, after escaping from the state prison, Durham was found by a jury in the circuit court here to have been convicted of crime in other places which made him subject to the state's habitual criminal act, the penalty for which is life imprisonment.

Ceiling Price On Apple Crop Shaded

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —The office of price administration has lowered shipping point ceiling prices for the 1945 apple crop by eight cents to $3.45 a standard bushel for the period lasting from now until July 20.

This will mean a new retail ceiling price about two-tenths of a cent lower than the ceiling for the previous period from May 29 to June 25, OPA said.

The OPA also announced that white potatoes grown in 1945 will be given July ceilings identical to those set for July 15 to 31, 1944, except in a few areas. OPA said the new prices will not affect retail ceilings.

New VFW Post is Formed In Union

Earl Culver will install a new Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Union tomorrow night at 8 o'clock.

Culver, a representative of departmental headquarters in Portland, will conduct the meeting in the Legion hall, where officers for the coming year will be elected. A delegation from La Grande is expected to attend.

KRUPP ON TRIAL?—Alfred Krupp, 37, munitions maker who made Germany's vast armament program possible, may be tried as a war criminal. He is being held in secret hideaway by British military authorities.

Draft Deferment Orderer for Rail Workers in West

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —Essential railroad workers in the west will be eligible hereafter for draft deferment regardless of their age, selective service headquarters said today.

Workers eligible for the new deferment must be employed in specified "critical" jobs on railroads operating west of Lake Michigan, the Illinois-Indiana state line and the Mississippi river.

The critical occupations are:

Train and engine service—Engineers, firemen, conductors, brakemen and switchmen, including switch foremen and yardmen; general transportation occupations — train dispatchers, yard masters, telegraphers, including operators and tower men; maintenance of equipment—blacksmiths, boilermakers, car men, car inspectors, electricians, machinists, sheetmetal workers, including foremen in these crafts; signal men, signal maintainers.

In a memorandum to local draft boards, selective service directed them to give special consideration to deferment requests for these workers.

Forest Fire Burns Valuable Timber

BEND, Ore., June 26 (UP)—More than 4,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber was lost in the lower Metolius river fire this past week, Deschutes national forest officials estimated today.

Most of the timber covered in the 800 acre fire was virgin pine, on the steep green ridge slope of the Metolius basin, near the northern tip of the Deschutes forest.

New Ration Stamps Are Valid Sunday

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —Five new blue and five red stamps become good on Sunday. The stamps can be used through Oct. 31.

They are blue, for processed foods: J-1, K-1, L-1, M-1, and N-1; and red, for meat-fats: A-1, B-1, C-1, D-1 and E-1.

Red stamps E-2 through J-2 and blue stamps N-2 through S-2 became invalid after June 30.

Consolidation of Schools Proposed

Consolidation of six elementary school districts with the Imbler district will be passed upon at a special election to be held July 10.

The districts are: Summerville, Pleasant Grove, Dry Creek, Pumpkin Ridge, Alicel, and Willow Creek, it was announced today by Ethel S. Hansen, county superintendent of schools.

Miss Hansen also announced that the reports of resident pupils' attendance are due from the various districts, and must be filed before the districts can receive state school support fund money.

House Votes Huge Jap War Fund

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —The house today passed and sent to the senate legislation to give the army $38,500,265,951 with which to fight the Japanese in the year starting July 1.

The bill, passed by voice vote, will bring to about $410,000,000,000 the total made available by congress for war purposes.

The house appropriations committee said that if the Japanese are defeated before June 30, 1946, this will be the last gigantic supply measure of the war.

Strike Halts Work On Superfortresses

DETROIT, June 26 (UP)—Strike action by CIO automobile workers today shut down B-29 bomber production at Hudson motor company, crippled war output at the huge Ford Rouge plant and idled more than 50,000 workers in the Detroit area.

Five thousand UAW-CIO members struck at the River Rouge plant, forcing another 3,000 into idleness. Hudson's plant was closed when 3,800 CIO members joined picket lines in sympathy with 600 co-workers who had rebelled against reassignments.

Meantime, an unauthorized walkout of CIO maintenance workers hit two additional Ford plants in a spread of the CIO's jurisdictional battle with AFL skilled trades workers.

LEADS OPA FIGHT — Rep. Thomas A. Jenkins, Ohio Republican, above, led the fight for shifting the transfer of OPA pricing and rationing to the department of agriculture.

U. S. Minesweeper Is Lost Off Borneo

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —The navy today announced the loss of the minesweeper Salute as a result of enemy action in the Borneo area.

The 945-ton vessel, which carried a wartime crew of about 100, lost nine members—six killed and three missing.

Loss of this small craft brought to 310 the number of American naval vessels lost from all causes in this war.

The ship saw action in the Leyte island invasion and in minesweeping operations in the Philippines area.

She was engaged in convoy and escort work prior to the Borneo operations in which she was lost.

Columbia and Snake Projects Approved

WASHINGTON, June 26 (UP) —The house appropriations committee has recommended that the war department be given an additional $15,400,000 for flood control and rivers and harbors work during the 1946 fiscal year.

A $4,000,000 item authorized for advanced planning included funds for studies of the following previously approved flood control projects: Snake river lock and dam construction, Oregon, Washington and Idaho; Umatilla dam, Columbia river, Oregon and Washington.

Hearing on City Budget Will Be Tomorrow Night

Public hearing of the budget of the city of La Grande for the fiscal year of 1945-46, which starts July 1, will be held by the city commission at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow evening in the commission chambers in the city hall.

The budget providing for expenditures aggregating $179,857, covers expenditures to which the city is definitely committed and others which will be made if certain wartime restrictions are relaxed suffciently.

The budgeted costs are $39,033 higher than the aggregate of last year's budget, but because of substantial reducations in bond interest and redumption and transfers of money from reserves and surpluses, the amount that must be raised by taxes is some $12,000 below that of the past fiscal year.

This will result in a reduction of approximately 3 mills in the tax rate surpluses, the amount that must be raised by taxation is below that of the past year, which will effect a saving of approximately 3 mills in the tax rate.

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m.
Temperature:
Maximum 82
Minimum 52
Forecast: Partly cloudy, probable showers tonight and Wednesday.