

Franco Tries Double-Flank Drive on Goal

Relief Shakeup to Be First Issue When Congress Opens

Byrnes Wants Truth on Need Of new Funds

Actual Balances Always Hard to Ascertain Says Chairman

Report on Politics Will Affect Outcome; FR May Cooperate

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Senator Byrnes (D-SC) said tonight that he would call the senate unemployment committee into session next week to discuss the desirability of immediate changes in the administration of relief.

The committee chairman added that the group would seek information on how much WPA money remains and the truth of reports that existing funds will be exhausted Feb. 7.

(The \$1,425,000,000 appropriation for relief last session was intended to last until March 1. Aubrey Williams, deputy relief administrator under Harry Hopkins, told reporters recently, however, that the funds would be exhausted early in February. Since that time, President Roosevelt has elevated Hopkins to secretary of commerce, placed WPA under Col. F. C. Harrington, an army engineer, and made Williams administrator of the National Youth Administration.)

Campaign Expense Report Is Factor

The movement among some congress members for changes in the administration of relief may receive impetus from the report of the senate committee on campaign expenditures, due to be made Jan. 3.

Chairman Sheppard (D-Tex) indicated today that the report would denounce politics in relief in vigorous language.

He said the bipartisan group would be in complete agreement on its report, the first draft of which is to be completed tomorrow. Since some members have been outspoken in censuring reported politics in WPA, the committee chairman's assertion that a unanimous report was in prospect was accepted generally as meaning it would use terms strong enough to satisfy the most critical.

Byrnes said he had received no information about the status of WPA funds other than that which has been carried in newspapers.

He asserted there always had been "great difficulty" in ascertaining the exact amount of WPA funds available from time to time, because varying amounts of "unexpended balances" have been reappropriated annually.

Lima Accord Has General Support

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A considerable portion of the public and press of leading South American capitals has expressed belief that the eight Pan-American conference, which closed at Lima yesterday, served an unmistakable warning on Germany, Italy and Japan to keep out of the western hemisphere.

Many representative newspapers and public figures have indicated, however, that they fail to see any threat of armed invasion from those quarters.

Highway Workers Warn Train Crew so Wreck Less Serious

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Martin Lund and J. E. Bunting, two state highway "trouble shooters" today were credited with saving the six-man crew of a Union Pacific freight train from death or serious injury last midnight.

Innocent Causes of "Christmas Tree Slaying"; Father Absolved



Tragedy Tree not On Slayer's Land

Eight Feet Away; Funeral Held for Victim as Charges Wait

ELYRIA, O., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Survivors found today that the Christmas tree which William Rousseau, 37, was alleged to have been taking for his children when he was shot to death by William Case, 84, was not on Case's farm.

County Engineer Harry L. Dunham said the tree was in the right of way of a township road, eight feet from Case's property.

The white-bearded farmer who was known to rural children as a kindly "Santa Claus" is under \$1,000 bond on a manslaughter charge. Prosecutor Howard Butler said he would not change the charge but that the grand jury might make it murder.

December Rain Is Well Under Norm

The maker of December rains will have to hurry if he hopes to put on even an average performance for the last month of the year.

Overnight precipitation, recorded yesterday morning, amounted to .83 inches, heaviest since the same volume was recorded December 3, and pushed the month's total rainfall to 5.05 inches, still .63 inches below mean average.

A nine-day dry spell, from December 10 to 18, served to keep the month's rain total down.

The weather bureau predicts unsettled conditions with occasional rain for today and Friday, with snows over mountains and little change in temperature.

Youth Quizzed in St. Helens Break

ST. HELENS, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A Warren youth was detained by state police today for questioning in connection with the escape of four prisoners from the Columbia county jail here Christmas eve.

Consolidating Small School Districts Aim

Teachers See Wastes in Present System; Nine Points in Program

Retirement Plan Will Be Principal Effort at '39 Legislature

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Consolidation of small school districts into larger units was approved as part of a nine-point state legislative program today at the opening session of the 39th annual Oregon State Teachers' association by members of the representative council.

Proponents of consolidations said that there are 2200 school districts, the same number of school boards and 7000 school directors in Oregon now. Consolidation would eliminate much administration expense and equalize opportunities for children in adjacent districts, they argued.

Urge Non-Partisan Choice of Executive

The report also recommended that the state superintendent of public instruction be elected on a non-partisan basis.

The council also voted to introduce at the legislature a bill providing for retirement of teachers voluntarily at 62 and involuntarily at 70. The teachers would contribute four per cent of their salaries and would receive the actuarial annuity of their contributions plus \$20 a month paid by the state at retirement.

The council also asked that Oregon Normal at Monmouth be renamed Western Oregon College of Education; Eastern Oregon Normal at La Grande, Eastern Oregon

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Veterans Get no Preference, Held

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Representatives of three veterans' organizations complained to state WPA Administrator E. J. Griffith today that veterans were not getting preference in WPA hiring in Oregon.

The trio, Julius C. Moreland, American Legion; Cicero F. Hogan, Disabled American Veterans, and G. O. Pike, Veterans of Foreign Wars, said that while instructions to give veterans preference have been issued they have not been carried out.

France Plans To Double Her Africa Forces

Second Warship Ordered to Djibouti, Result of Press Demands

Rome Dispatches Assert Hopes of Acquiring Territory Ended

PARIS, Dec. 28.—(AP)—France prepared virtually to double her military and naval forces in Somaliland today with orders for new reinforcements to face any threats from Italy's east African empire.

A second warship was assigned to the east African port of Djibouti, named in Italian agitation for French territory, while the 1,969-ton dispatch boat D'Herbville, mounting three 5.5-inch guns, proceeded from Beirut, Syria, back to Djibouti, her base during the Italian-Ethiopian war.

The second vessel was the 2,441-ton destroyer Epervier of the eastern Mediterranean fleet. She is capable of 37 knots and was expected to reach the Somaliland port before the slower D'Herbville.

During the afternoon Navy Minister Cesar Campinchi conferred with Erik Labonne, French resident general in Tunisia, who has been in Paris conferring on the colonial situation and arranging details of Premier Edouard Daladier's projected trip to Tunisia January 3.

(A dispatch from Rome said Italian sources indicated that Italy virtually had abandoned any hope of territorial gains at France's expense and said the territorial aims were abandoned.)

Mahoney Cleared Of Traffic Death

ALBANY, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Willis Mahoney, former mayor of Klamath Falls and unsuccessful US senatorial candidate at the November election, today was freed of charges in connection with the death last year of Thomas Zimmerman in a traffic accident.

The county grand jury returned a no true bill in the case.

Mahoney appeared today before the inquisitorial body.

Mahoney was exonerated of blame by state police shortly after his car struck and fatally injured the man.

Portland Shakes off Cold and Rainy Spell

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Clear weather and mild temperatures prevailed here today after several days of heavy rains. The thermometer recorded 49-degree maximum and the lowest point was only 43.

Higher Pay to County Officials Here Slated If Solons Enact Bill

Judge's Salary Nearly Doubled, Other Officers' Pay Would Be Raised in Measure Designed to Unify Rates for all Counties in Oregon

Salaries of six Marion county officials would be increased by a total of \$6100 a year under a proposed pay schedule drafted for probable introduction in bill form at the coming legislative session. The schedule, applying to all counties in the state, is based on "requirements of the office and ability of taxpayers to pay as measured by formula," a combination population and assessed valuation scale, according to a copy in circulation here yesterday.

Under the new proposal, the Marion county judge would receive \$3000 instead of \$1800 a year, the sheriff \$3200 in place of \$2000, the treasurer \$2100 as against \$1500, the county superintendent \$2500 in contrast with \$1500, the assessor \$3000, an increase of \$1200, and the clerk \$2700, a boost of \$300.

The total salary bill for heads of these six county offices would amount to \$16,500 a year as against \$10,400 as provided in the 1939 Marion county budget.

The list suggests salaries for Linn and Polk county officers as follows:

County Judge, Linn \$2600, Polk \$2300; sheriff, Linn \$2800, Polk \$2500; treasurer, Linn \$1,920, Polk \$1750; superintendent, Linn \$2400, Polk \$2040; assessor, Linn \$2600, Polk \$2300; clerk, Linn \$2400, Polk \$2300.

The schedule places Marion county third high among the counties on the population-valuation scale, with Multnomah first, Lane third, Linn ninth and Polk 15th.

The proposed standardization based on this formula was understood to have been worked out by the state sheriff's and other county officials' associations.

Order Protecting Games Maintained

Judge Fee Indicates They Are Probably Illegal, Delays Decision

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Federal Judge James Fee today continued in force the temporary restraining order forbidding city, county and state officials from interfering with the operation of so-called electrical novelty games distributed by the Western Distributors, Inc.

He said he thought the games fell within the language of the state anti-gambling law which prohibits games of chance such as slot machines, pinball games and dice devices, but said he wanted to make a further study of the authorities before passing upon the case.

Judge Fee issued the temporary restraining order last week a few hours before city and county authorities planned to launch a drive to seize the machines.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Sheriff Martin Pratt supervised the destruction of 14 slot machines today under provisions of the anti-gambling law passed at the general election. Judge J. H. Hendrickson ordered the action after denying a motion of eight defendants to suppress evidence on the ground the devices had been taken illegally.

Wrong Killing Is Admitted by Trio Who Did not Stop

SPOKANE, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Three Spokane youths who were arrested and admitted the hit-run killing of John L. Stromberg near Spokane nearly three years ago didn't kill that man at all, Deputy Prosecutor Carl Quackenbush said today.

But, they did hit and kill another man, he added.

Morris Button, 19, Kenneth Halverson, 18, and Tom Morris, 19, were arrested in connection with the Stromberg death last week.

After investigation, the prosecutor said he was convinced the youths did not hit Stromberg in April, 1936, but Ralph Ervin in October, 1936.

"The boys are not charged with responsibility for the killing, but only for failure to stop," the prosecutor said.

Niles to Resume War on Gambling

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The city vice division will be maintained and there will be increased activity to curb reported reopening of gambling establishments, Chief of Police Harry Niles revealed today. He denied published reports the vice-squad would be replaced by instructing police captains to enforce gambling laws.

Avoids Direct Move Against Loyalist Line

Steel-Concrete Defense May Be Captured by Oblique Attacks

Major Victory in Air Is Hailed in Report of Insurgent Force

HENDAYE, France. (At The Spanish Frontier), Dec. 28.—(AP)—Generalissimo Francisco Franco's grand offensive in northeastern Spain appeared tonight to have developed into a broad double-flanking movement designed to capture Barcelona's outlying steel and concrete defense lines without frontal assault.

Dispatches from the Catalonia front indicated the generalissimo was concentrating the greatest force on the southern flank of the 31-mile line which guards main approaches to Barcelona between Balaguer and Borjas Blancas and about 70 miles west of the government's Mediterranean capital.

The flanking maneuver had been developing more slowly on the southern flank on the north where the textile town of Artesa today was the object of a bitter contest between insurgent and government artillerymen. The government still held Artesa, about 15 miles northeast of Balaguer.

An insurgent official communique hailed "a great air victory" in which insurgent planes reportedly shot down 20 government Curtiss-type planes. The communique issued here gave no indication where the battle took place, although unofficial dispatches said it was fought over the southern Lerida battlefield.

The government's official communique said one insurgent Fiat and Messerschmidt plane was brought down in air battle, while anti-aircraft guns hit two insurgent Dornier 17's and one Heinkel III, bringing all three down in flames behind the government lines.

Insurgent newspapers said the six-day-old offensive had brought capture of more than 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) of territory, at least 16 towns, scores of villages and 7,000 prisoners and the destruction of 39 government planes.

(The Spanish government press agency, in a dispatch to London from Barcelona, however, asserted that insurgent forces were being held well in check.)

Blows Delivered

On 75-Mile Front

The insurgent offensive began with battering blows all the way from Tremp 75 miles south to Ribera on the Ebro river. But it was only as the force began to concentrate on the two flanks of the government fortifications facing Lerida that Franco's strategy became apparent.

For nearly a half year the government had been building the heavily fortified line from south of Balaguer to Borjas Blancas, cutting across a network of communications from the west to Barcelona.

Five Held Guilty Of Fraud Count

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Five men accused of swindling midwestern banks and business concerns of \$1,200,000 were convicted by a federal court jury today of using the mails to defraud.

The five, all officials of the Continental Credit corporation of Winchester, Ind., and associated firms, will be sentenced January 5.

Conviction of John W. Moore, sr., and his son, John W. Moore, jr., president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Continental corporation on all 12 counts of an indictment makes them liable to maximum terms of 57 years.

R. S. Phillips of Toledo, O., and Kenneth P. Kimball of St. Louis were convicted on two counts that provide maximum sentences of seven years each.

Russell E. Wise, Union City, Ind., was convicted on two counts, the maximum sentence for which is 10 years.

Good News to Hay Fever Sufferers Seen, Award

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Award of a \$1000 medical prize to Charles E. Code, M.D., 28, of Minneapolis, for discovery of a "mechanism" in the blood which may explain asthma, hay fever and the allergies such as food sensitivity was announced here tonight.

FRANCO FORGING AHEAD IN GREAT DRIVE



In an "end the war" drive, General Franco, insurgent generalissimo, forged ahead on two battlefronts in Spain in an attempt to bring about an early termination of the civil war. Aiming at Barcelona, insurgent troops took the key city of Vitanova de Maya, at the end of an improved highway leading to Artesa, "key to Catalonia" and 34 miles northeast of Lerida. Map shows territory held by loyalist government forces shaded. The Franco army occupies the whole area. Casualties on both sides during the drive were reported to exceed 10,000 of the 500,000 total of fighters.—IIN photo.