

Lumber, Mining Given 48-Hour Working Week

Employees Not to Be Moved Until New Positions Found Regional Directors Freer

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27-(AP)—A 48-hour week for the lumber industry in all its phases and for metal mining other than iron throughout the nation was ordered Saturday night by the war manpower commission.

At the same time, Chairman Paul V. McNutt issued regulations granting board discretionary authority to area and regional directors in putting the 48-hour week into effect in order industries in the 32 "labor shortage" areas designated last month.

In general, these regulations are designed to ease the transition to the longer work week by providing that no firm which must release employees to go on a 48-hour basis shall install the longer week until the federal employment service finds "suitable employment" for the workers.

As explained by Fowler V. Harper, McNutt's chief deputy, this might mean a period of months or more before some firms in the labor shortage areas will institute the longer work week. He outlined the procedure in this manner:

By April 1, the company must file with the regional manpower official a statement of how many employees it would release by going on the 48-hour week. It should then continue working its current schedule until manpower officials advise that jobs elsewhere are ready for the workers who would be released.

This would apply only to businesses which must release employees.

Other firms, in Harper's explanation, would fall roughly into two classes:

1. Those which can go on a 48-hour week without releasing employees which would make a contribution to the war effort by a longer work week. Such businesses, Harper said, should simply change to the 48-hour week and need not notify anyone.

2. Those for whom a longer work week would be impracticable, would not contribute to reduction of labor requirements or the war effort, or would conflict with the state or local laws. These should file a statement of their case with the local manpower director by April 1 and await his decision.

The order to the lumber and non-ferrous mining industries to go on the 48-hour week was the first industry-wide application of the longer work-week principle. The labor department estimated it covered about 370,000 workers in lumber and 70,000 in mining.

WMC officials said considerable segments of the two industries already are working at least 48 hours. Last September the war production board ordered that all workers in the two industries in 12 western states be placed on a 48-hour week with pay and one-half for the work in excess of 40 hours. Subsequently the office of price administration raised ceiling levels to compensate for the extra costs.

Asked about price and wage questions where additional workers are affected by Saturday's order, Harper said the WMC had no control over these matters—that they were the concern of other agencies. Price Administrator Prentiss Brown has expressed his opposition to easing any price ceilings in order to take care of increased costs under 48-hour operations.

The general regulations as to instituting the longer work week in the 32 labor shortage areas also apply to the lumber and mining industries.

These regulations list various exemptions from the longer work week, some of which had been previously announced. They include establishments employing fewer than eight persons, state and political subdivisions, youths under the age of 16, and "persons who, because of other employment, household duties or physical disabilities, are not available for full-time work."

Harper conceded the broad grant of authority to local and regional directors might lead to conflicting decisions by officials in different areas but said that where any differences became a national matter, Washington will step in.

The purpose in giving great discretion to local officials, he said, is to have local problems (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Benefits Increase Favored

Committee Asks \$40; Adjournment Awaits Some Big Issues

By RALPH C. CURTIS

Good news for the recipients of old age assistance in Oregon was provided Saturday by the legislature's joint ways and means committee when it voted 8 to 4 to comply with Gov. Earl Snell's recommendation that the item for this class of benefits in the public welfare budget be increased from the budget estimate of \$16,880,000 to \$20,000,000. But, though it's primarily the budget-balancers' problem, to the tax planners the committee's action afforded the reverse of ease and comfort.

The increase, Gov. Snell had estimated, "would make it possible to raise the average monthly allowance to \$37 or \$40. It puts additional strain of \$900,000 on the already tightly-inflated budget for the biennium; and more than that if, as is being urged, the state takes over a portion of the counties' load. As things stand, half the total increase would be borne by the federal government, 30 per cent by the state and 20 per cent by the counties."

Guy Gordon, the governor's tax advisor, said the counties would not be able to increase their contribution by the \$600,000 this program would entail, though they might transfer some of their other public welfare funds to old age assistance, since there is a falling-off in demand for general assistance.

Gordon recommended a definite state appropriation of \$12,000,000 for old age assistance, and that all liquor revenue be frozen for this purpose. As to the future prospects of this source of revenue, C. C. Chapman predicted income would equal or exceed that of the last biennium even if the liquor supply is reduced 25 per cent, since more high-priced liquor is sold in prosperous times.

In view of this decision by the ways and means committee, there were indications that Rep. John Steelhammer's bill to tax pinball machines and mechanical phonographs and earmark the proceeds for old age assistance might be reconsidered in the senate. Figures obtained in the last few days indicate it would raise about a million dollars a year.

Adjournment by the next week end was the big question mark as the members faced their last day of \$8 compensation Monday. The idea of working for nothing being by no means novel to veteran legislators, they were less worried about that than over the volume of work ahead. Marked progress has been made recently however in cleaning up issues.

These remain: Civil service, fortified wines, taxing municipal utilities, occupational disease coverage under workmen's compensation, compulsory accident insurance, excise tax reduction, income tax reduction, community property law, distribution of income tax surplus to schools. Not nearly so formidable a list as was faced a week earlier, and some of these are close to solution.

Civil service, fortified wines and (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Willkie Seen As Candidate

Indiana Star, in a Dispatch from His Washington Correspondent, Said Saturday Night That Wendell L. Willkie's Candidacy for the 1944 Republican Presidential Nomination Will Be Entered in the 13 States Having Primaries for Selection of Delegates to the Party's National Convention.

Willkie's candidacy for the nomination "may be taken for granted without any formal announcement from him" and he "will fight for the popular vote in every state where delegates are named in primary elections," said the dispatch.

Willkie, who was the republican nominee against President Roosevelt in 1940, was in Indianapolis Saturday, but he declined to comment on reports that he would be a candidate again next year.

Mayor Proclaims Aid for War Fund



Mayor I. M. Doughton here presents his Red Cross war fund proclamation to Charles H. Huggins, general chairman of the drive, in war fund headquarters at 357 Court street. Left to right, Justice George Rossman, chairman, Marion county chapter, American Red Cross; Mayor Doughton; Chairman Huggins, and A. L. Shafer, manager, western area division, American Red Cross, here from San Francisco to aid in preparation for the campaign.

125,000,000 Rationees Sign

Today Deadline for B, C, Tire Check; Food Hints Given

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27-(AP)—Deputy OPA Administrator Paul M. O'Leary estimated Saturday night that about 125,000,000 food ration books were issued during this week's registration.

This was substantially above the approximately 123,000,000 issued in the initial registration for ration book No. 1 last spring.

Registration this week, O'Leary said, went smoothly, as a result of the cooperation of newspapers, radio, schools and merchants.

OPA Saturday amended the order banning sale of canned meats and fish to allow canned chicken, turkey and other poultry meats to be sold immediately. Canned chicken soups, however, may not be sold until Monday, when the present freeze on canned goods ends.

In another field of rationing, OPA cautioned motorists that Sunday is the last day for holders of B and C gasoline rations and operators of commercial vehicles to get their tires inspected. The deadline for holders of A gasoline ration books is March 31.

The government suggested to housewives Saturday that they make up a table showing how many of the familiar kitchen cup measurements can be procured from various cans and packages of frozen or dried foods before they start shopping when the sale of those products begins Monday morning under the point rationing system.

Salem Not in 48-Hour Area

SEATTLE, Feb. 27-(AP)—Brig. Gen. H. G. Winsor, area director for the war manpower commission, Saturday announced boundaries of the western labor areas which will be affected by application of the president's 48-hour work week order.

As forwarded by Regional Director William K. Hopkins, San Francisco, they are: Seattle area — King, Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap and Snohomish counties.

Portland area—Clark county, Wash., and Multnomah, Clackamas and Columbia counties, Ore. All districts in which there are lumbering or non-ferrous mining operations also are affected (on a nationwide scale) but only in respect to those industries.

Silverton Pilot Killed in Action

SILVERTON, Feb. 27 — Fred West, Silverton boy, was killed on an unidentified fighting front, according to meager information received here. He was a pilot of a fighting plane.

Ciano Arrival Said Delayed By Peace Aim

BERN, Switzerland, Feb. 27.-(AP)—The German ambassador to Vatican city departed hurriedly and unexpectedly for Berlin Saturday night and Count Galeazzo Ciano's presentation of credentials as Italian ambassador to the Holy See was postponed until Monday.

Well-informed Vatican observers were quick to see in these moves a further indication of the wide scope of negotiations under way since the arrival of Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York for consultation with Pope Pius XII. (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Yank Bombers Blast Brest U-Boat Base

LONDON, Feb. 27-(AP)—American Fortress and Liberator bombers bashed the German naval base at Brest on the French coast Saturday while RAF Venturas attacked Dunkerque in continuation of the greatest sustained air assault of the war on enemy installations from the North sea to the Bay of Biscay.

All the big U-boat bombers returned safely from the latest in the series of assaults in which allied planes have pounded the Nazi war machine twice around the clock and more.

The Paris and Calais radio stations suddenly went off the air Saturday night, indicating the RAF was carrying the offensive through another night.

The daylight operations followed closely a "very heavy" attack by RAF bombers Friday night on the battered German industrial city of Cologne.

Squadron after squadron of allied planes shuttled across the channel Saturday as RAF and allied fighters supported the four-motored American bombers in their raid on Brest.

Their target again was the U-boat base at that west coast port, pointing to a sustained allied air offensive to weaken the German submarine fleet and help clear the way for the landings on the European mainland.

Wilhelmshaven, which US bomber struck in daylight Friday, is another U-boat building center and haven. Cologne, left quaking under Friday night's avalanche of RAF bombs, also builds submarine engines and parts.

With the Lorient and St. Nazaire U-boat bases largely out of commission from day and night attacks by the allied bomber fleets stationed in Britain, the Germans now probably are using Brest — the third big base in France — to capacity, one British observer said.

Institutional Food Signup Extended

Deadline for institutional users of foodstuffs to sign up at the Salem rationing board office was extended Saturday to March 10, because necessary supplies had not all arrived, Florence Bell, clerk in charge of food rationing for Salem war price and rationing board, announced.

Red Cross Fund Drive to Begin

Kickoff Monday for \$42,000 Campaign; Jefferson Reports

More than 600 volunteers will put aside their own work Monday morning to go into action in Marion county in behalf of the American Red Cross war fund drive, which officially opens on a nationwide scale March 1.

"This is no small army," states Charles H. Huggins, general chairman for the drive, "and I can assure the public that it is an enthusiastic and conscientious army as any American doughboy could ask to have out on the home front in his behalf. These workers know what they are working for—\$42,000 quota from the county at large, and they know that this money is seriously needed to give the service that the armed forces must have from the local chapter of the Red Cross."

In Salem, all preliminary work in connection with the drive was completed Saturday afternoon in the war fund office, 357 State street. Official kickoff for the city comes at Monday noon's chamber of commerce luncheon meeting.

Official recognition, so far as (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

NW Firewood Rationing Authorized

SEATTLE, Feb. 27-(AP)—James C. Scully, regional rationing representative of the office of price administration, Saturday announced ration order No. 14, covering every form of firewood from kindling to sawdust, in Washington, Oregon and 10 counties of the Idaho panhandle. It is the first in the nation.

Some 4000 fuel dealers will be required to register with the OPA and furnish monthly data on supplies. Scully said consumers would not be affected immediately. Dealer registration dates have not been set.

He said the order does not ration wood but does give Regional OPA Administrator Harry Camp, San Francisco, authority to do so, and to determine when it is needed.

The order covered every person buying or selling wood or accepting it as a gift, but exempted government agencies. It defines a dealer any person selling more than four cords a month.

Dealers will report wood supplies April 5, covering March 1 inventories, and monthly thereafter.

Scully said the enabling order was issued "because firewood is the principal domestic heating fuel" in the area.

"Rationing of fuel oil, labor shortages or transportation difficulties which may affect the coal supply and the influx of war workers into the northwest, needing more fuel," he added, "may combine to necessitate heavier reliance on wood as fuel."

License Deadline Set

Monday is absolutely the last day on which 1943 dog licenses may be issued without a penalty, Lee Ohmart, county clerk, said Saturday. His office was open until 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon to accommodate late comers and did a land office business.

Britons Shatter 6 Stabs of Axis; Allies Advance

Six Armored Assaults Hit Northern Lines; Troops Take Town, Near Airport

By DANIEL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 27 (AP)—Veteran British troops stoutly entrenched on the rugged heights near the Bizerte-Tunis bridgehead shattered repeated German armored thrusts along a muddy, 55-mile front Saturday while in central Tunisia American and allied combat teams captured the town of Kasserine and drove near the Thelepte airport, 15 miles to the southwest.

Throwing about 50 tanks into short, stabbing attacks, supported by probably as much as five battalions of infantry, Col. Gen. Jürgen Von Arnim tried but failed to break into the strategic network of roads immediately behind the British line.

From the area of Sidi Neir, 13 miles northeast of Beja, to Jebel Mansour, six miles southeast of Bou Arada, axis forces stormed forward into devastating fire from British artillery.

Strengthened with new tanks, including the 40-ton Churchills, the British armor quickly counterattacked and allied war planes provided close ground support. With the fighting still continuing, the number of axis troops taken prisoner, which Friday night exceeded 400, was mounting steadily.

Six attacks were launched by the enemy early Friday and although all were temporarily smashed the pressure was renewed at two points, field dispatches said late Saturday afternoon.

Along the Mateur-Beja road, where 30 tanks and one infantry battalion began the assault, the enemy still was trying for a breakthrough in the Sidi Neir area.

In the area of Bou Arada, which is held by the British, the enemy was attempting to dent the line after the British destroyed seven out of 20 German panzers for the loss of one Churchill.

The northernmost limit of von Arnim's operations was the Mateur-Tabarka road where a column of 700 men was repulsed. The southernmost limit was Jebel Mansour, whose bleak summit has been a long disputed vantage point.

Other enemy thrusts were driven back from the vicinity of Medjel-Bab and southward from Goubellat, this latter attack having been planned to link up with the attack northwest from Bou Arada and pinch off a ten-mile British salient.

Aloft the allies used their growing air superiority to strike behind German lines, at the Bizerte docks, at Gabes and at the Sardinian town of Gagliari where the Italians said 73 were killed and 280 injured. Cairo dispatches said reconnaissance patrols of the Eighth army had darted around the Mareth line to within 40 miles of Kasserine.

6 Oregon Men In Army Dead

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27-(AP)—The war department made public Saturday the names of 761 soldiers killed in action in the African, Alaskan, Asiatic, European, south Pacific and southwest Pacific areas. Of the dead, 119 were officers, and 642 enlisted men. The list included:

In Africa:
Oregon
Second Lt. Robert C. Havens; father, Window Leland Havens, Portland.

Pvt. William Youngman; mother, Mrs. Mary Youngman, Portland.

In Europe:
Oregon
Staff Sgt. Jack M. Madison; mother, Mrs. Minnie L. Madison, Corvallis.
Maj. Tom Howard Taylor; father, Howard R. Taylor, Eugene.

In southwest Pacific:
Oregon
Pfc. Eldon L. Allen; mother, Mrs. Mary J. Grim, Irrigon.
Pfc. Rex W. Thornton; mother, Mrs. Helen M. Thornton, Richland.

Novelist Acquitted

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 27-(AP)—Author Ursula Parrott's trial, like her books, had a happy ending with her acquittal Saturday of three charges growing out of smuggling a handsome young soldier from a military stockade where he was a prisoner for being absent without leave.

Reds Batter Into Towns

Airmen Destroy 18 German Bombers; Nazis Stubborn

LONDON, Sunday, Feb. 28-(AP)—Red army troops battling forward west of Kharkov captured a number of large populated places in violent fighting Saturday, while Russian airplanes roared ahead to destroy 18 German bombers on the airfield at Zaporozhe on the Dnieper river bend, the Soviets announced early Sunday.

Russian ground forces last week reported only 50 miles northeast of Zaporozhe.

Soviet units swept into several populated places north of Kursk also, said the midnight communique recorded by the Soviet Monitor, but the bulletin told of stubborn German resistance on all fronts, with the Nazis steadily pouring tanks into the battle, especially in the muddy Donets area.

Thawing weather is hampering the Russians, but Moscow dispatches said the Soviet generals expected more frosts to facilitate their drive before the advent of spring.

Strongly-reinforced German infantry battalions were routed "in violent fighting" southwest of Voroshilovgrad, and west of Bostov along the sea of Azov. German attempts to regain positions lost the day before were beaten back at a cost of 200 Nazis killed, the communique said.

Red army aircraft were sweeping ahead of ground troops in smashing at the airfield at Zaporozhe, and the communique also reported that air units on Friday destroyed or damaged 200 German trucks with troops and supplies and silenced five artillery batteries.

Russian ships in the Barents sea sank an enemy destroyer Friday, it added.

Print Paper Ceiling Rises

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27-(AP)—The Canadian and American governments announced Saturday a \$4 a ton increase in the ceiling for standard newspaper paper. The announcement was made jointly by the office of price administration and the Canadian wartime prices and trade board.

The increase becomes effective March 1.

OPA Administrator Prentiss M. Brown said the increase was necessary "because the newspaper industry can no longer absorb the increased cost which war conditions have brought about."

The war production board recently postponed a proposed additional 10 per cent curtailment in newspaper consumption when it developed that supplies would be larger than estimated originally.

Saturday's OPA announcement said the price increase will be the first in five years and bring the so-called "port" ceiling price to \$54 a ton, with zones adjusted accordingly.

Miners Trapped; At Least 3 Dead

BEARCREEK, MONT., Feb. 28 (Sunday)-(AP)—The body of one of 72 miners trapped by an explosion was found early Sunday in the Smith coal mine.