

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sengue

Republican stock is looking up since the elections of 1942 and 1943, and with good cause. Attention now is focused on the republican national convention in 1944.

But I do not like this talk of blocs and blocks. Sen. Butler of Nebraska is in the papers with a declaration that the western states will form a bloc to pick off either the presidential or vice presidential nomination. A few weeks ago there was a political meeting in Missoula when northwestern politicians gathered to talk over a northwest bloc for the national convention. Then it is reported that the purpose of John D. M. Hamilton's grand circle tour is to "block Willie."

Why these blocs and blocks? Republicans of the country should pick out their best man as candidate, first, a man equal to the demands of the time, and second, a man with a popular following so he will command votes. If he comes from the west or the east or the middle west makes little difference if he has the stuff. When the age calls for a man able to think and act in terms of world-wide responsibilities and relationships we should not think in provincial terms either for president or vice president.

And if the best the anti-Willkie forces can offer is to wreck his prospects by the political trick of favorite son set-ups then the rank and file of the party and the country at large face the prospect of a manipulated nomination like that of Harding in 1920. The maneuver to kill off Willie and then "draft" Dewey or name a nobody would be transparent. (Continued on Editorial Page.)

Liquor Probe Develops Twin Moves

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—Twin moves to drive liquor out of warehouses and the "gangster element" out of the whisky business developed here today.

On top of senate approval of a \$10,000 fund for a committee investigation of the business, the office of price administration said a growing "gangster element" is complicating the liquor price and supply problem, and Chairman George (D-Ga) of the senate finance committee announced his group will consider a plan to impose excise levies on liquor held in bonded warehouses more than four years.

Sen. Van Nuys (D-Ind), chairman of a judiciary subcommittee named to investigate the liquor situation, has asserted that big distilling interests are creating a scarcity by holding good liquor off the market. He said taxes are evaded thereby, and consumers are compelled to resort to black markets.

George did not relate his tax announcement to the current reports of hoarded whisky, but imposition of the tax would have the effect of driving at least some liquor out for consumption. At present liquor may be held in a bonded warehouse for eight years before the federal tax of \$8 a gallon applies.

Van Nuys said part of the shortage resulted from holding liquor in bonded storage in the hope of higher prices. The tax would make such storage expensive on older whisky.

George estimated the tax would (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Hull to Report To Congress

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP) Secretary of State Hull will cut a new pattern of relations between the executive and legislative branches of the American government tomorrow in a report on the Moscow conference at an informal joint session of congress.

Whether his unprecedented appearance in the house chamber will be followed by similar visits by the cabinet officers was not apparent tonight, but a move in that direction appears in a resolution introduced in the house by Rep. Kefauver (D-Tenn). Under it administrative heads would be invited periodically to report to congress and answer questions. Under tomorrow's procedure there will be no questions.

Never in the memory of congressmen has a cabinet member addressed a joint session.

Marines Do Good, Patty Berg Says

CHICAGO, Nov. 17—(AP)—Lillian Galt;

Patty Berg, famed freckled, golfing redhead from Minneapolis, said today she'd knocked off 12 pounds whilst completing an eight weeks' officers' training course for the marines at Camp LeJeune, New River, N.C. "The marines do you a lot of good that way," she said with a grin.

Salem Site Gets Alumina Plant

The Oregon Statesman

NINETY THIRD YEAR

10 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, November 18, 1943

Price 5c

No. 202

Soviets Repelled By Nazi Drives

First Admitted Setback Comes In Zhitomir-Korosty Area, Small Portion of Eastern Front

By JUDSON O'QUINN

LONDON, Thursday, Nov. 18—(AP)—A mounting German counter-attack with a field force reported to total 150,000 men sent the red army into reverse yesterday in the Zhitomir-Korostyshev region of the northern Ukraine—a small sector of the vast eastern front—in the first admitted soviet setback since the Russian offensive began four months ago.

However, in the Dnieper bend soviet troops killed 2000 Germans and seized several towns and in the Korosten rail junction area 60 more towns and hamlets were captured. Advances were also made in the Gomel-Rechitsa area and a new soviet drive was reported under way near Orsha.

The unusual announcement of the soviet retreat came in the regular Moscow radio communique, and in the later midnight supplement.

The Germans concentrated large forces of tanks and infantry on a narrow sector of the front, the communique said, and after killing 1500 Germans and destroying 80 tanks and troop carriers, the Russians "under pressure of the numerically superior enemy forces abandoned a few populated places and entrenched themselves in new positions."

The German counter-attack was seen in London as purely a defensive move and the Berlin radio itself, while talking of "growing German counter-pressure," said the Russians were forced to carry out "a certain backward movement which at the moment is not very considerable."

(Henry C. Cassidy, chief of the Associated Press bureau in Moscow, said military observers believed the Russian retreat was not a large scale movement but a tactical maneuver designed to prevent encirclement of a comparatively small advance guard. (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Aerial Drive Hits 3 Bases In Jap Islands

By CHARLES McMURTRY

PEARL HARBOR, TH, Nov. 17 (AP)—Continuing their aerial offensive in the central Pacific, army Liberators bombed the Jaluit and Mille atolls in the Marshall islands and Makin in the Gilbert group the afternoon of November 15, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced.

The communique gave the following results of the attack:

One enemy ship set on fire and three others possibly hit in Jaluit harbor.

Many fires started in hangars, shops and fuel dumps at Imjei (Emidi) and Jabor islands of the Jaluit atoll.

Several fires started at Mille atoll.

Clouds prevented accurate observation at Makin.

It was the third successive day on which Liberators of Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale's 7th air force had struck against Japanese bases in the central Pacific area in an offensive which the general said would be continued until we render them "completely untenable."

There was no enemy interception at any point in the November 15 raid and no damage to American planes or personnel. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered at Mille, but it was weak at Makin and Jaluit.

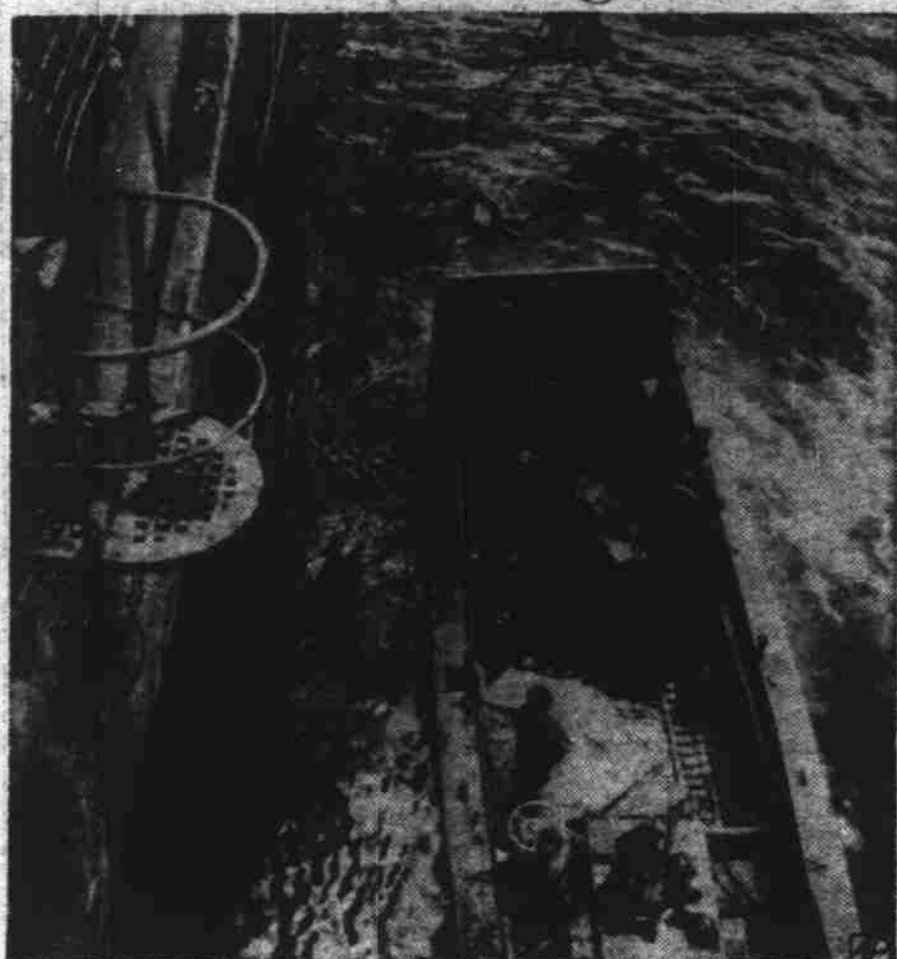
County War Chest Closing Accounts; Funds Near Quota

Efforts to conclude the Marion county war chest campaign before November 30, the date set for closing accounts, were urged upon district campaign chairmen Wednesday in letters sent out from county headquarters here.

Working toward a \$29,117 goal, the total on Wednesday stood at \$21,593.96 actually reported to headquarters and it was known that some additional amounts in subscriptions had been reported to district leaders but not yet relayed to the central office.

Districts "over the top" were Stayton, St. Paul, Sublimity, Monitor, Jefferson and Mehama. Silverton, Woodburn, Mill City and possibly others were close to their goals.

Back From Bougainville



A wounded US marine swings toward a navy transport as another wounded trooper lies on the bottom of a landing boat in which they were brought back from the beach on Bougainville island in the Solomons where the marines established a successful beachhead in the invasion of the Japanese-held island. (AP wirephoto from coast guard.)

9 Million Per Month Subsidy Plan Opposed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—The broadest food price subsidy program yet—a \$9,000,000-a-month plan to hold down the cost of bread—ran head-on into specific opposition on Capitol hill today while the storm of congressional and farm protest against food subsidies in general rose to new fury.

Sen. Reed (R-Kan.) tackled the bread price issue ahead of its formal announcement, saying he understood the subsidy to millers was planned at about 14 cents a bushel and adding:

"I'm still opposed to it. It's just part of the subsidy program to which congress is overwhelmingly opposed. But that doesn't seem to make any difference to those birds."

It was learned that the bread program, including a ceiling price on hard wheat, awaits only the signature of Fred M. Vinson, economic stabilization director, expected this week.

Meanwhile, opponents of payments to cut consumer prices added new force to their attack with a parade of state agriculture commissioners and farm leaders before the senate agriculture committee.

E. H. Everson, South Dakota secretary of agriculture, led the drive, contending that the end result of consumer price subsidies is inflation.

Subsidy supporters call the payments anti-inflationary, arguing that they are necessary to hold the line on living costs as a bar to demands for compensating wage increases.

Everson, republican former president of the Farmers Union, recalled President Roosevelt's comparison of a little inflation (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Adj. Thomas, USO, Is Transferred

Adj. C. H. Thomas of the Salvation Army, director of the Court street USO since its opening last summer, will be transferred November 28 to Eugene to resume regular Salvation Army corps work and will be succeeded here by Adj. Bramwell Glaeser, who has held a similar position in the USO at Deming, N.M. It was made known Wednesday.

Adj. Glaeser's wife and three children will accompany him to Salem.

Roosevelt Tells Forum Allies Have Advantage Of Initiative, Produce Important War Events

NEW YORK, Nov. 17—(AP)—President Roosevelt said tonight the United Nations now had the "supreme advantage of initiative" and their progress could be measured by the fact that they were producing "the important events of the war."

"We must not lose this advantage—the supreme advantage of initiative," he said in a message to the closing session of the New York Herald Tribune forum on current problems.

From Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Minister Anthony Eden of Great Britain and General Charles De Gaulle, president of the French committee of national liberation.

Churchill observed that the forum was meeting "in the glow of one of the most cheering developments in international affairs, the Moscow conference," and referred to the pledge of the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia and China "to work together not only in winning the war but in building the structure of lasting peace."

abroad after the war, if properly invested, could increase jobs in the United States and furnish millions of jobs for the whole world.

Certain private interests, he said, must not be "allowed to high pressure congress into higher tariffs while other private interests are financing unsound loans abroad at the expense of the small American investor."

He said that "by lack of planning and the selfishness of the so-called hard-headed men we can turn peace II into World War III."

US Fliers Damage Jap Base

39 Tons Bombs Dropped, Kara, At Bougainville

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Thursday, Nov. 18—(AP)—Thirty nine more tons of bombs have been dropped on Japan's Kara airdrome on the southern coast of invaded Bougainville, headquarters reported today.

Kara is one of Bougainville's often-bombed enemy bases which have been kept inoperative by constantly raiding planes of Adm. William F. Halsey in support of the invasion at Empress Augusta bay. The American beachhead is northwest of the Kara airfield sector.

In other actions around Bougainville reported today, allied air patrols destroyed 10 barges, damaged seven others as well as a small cargo ship and set fire to two fuel dumps.

A 6000 ton merchant ship took a direct bomb hit from an allied plane off Kavieng, New Ireland, and a 2500 ton merchantman was bombed and left sinking in Hansa Bay, New Guinea.

Seven Japanese planes definitely were shot down and five others probably destroyed in air actions over Wewak and the Ramu valley, northeastern New Guinea.

Elaborating on General MacArthur's communique, Admiral Halsey's headquarters said 100 Dauntless divebombers and Avengers torpedo bombers, escorted by Corsairs, attacked Kara Monday, encountering no enemy interception and all the planes got back.

Earlier fighter patrols had scouted the situation around the Empress Augusta bay sector without noting any signs of Japanese activity. The patrols then sought targets of opportunity along the Bougainville west coast, among them the barges on which the Japanese rely for supply and reinforcement.

Admiral Halsey's headquarters said the allied planes Monday harassed the Japanese on Bougainville from Buin on the south to Baka off the island's northern tip.

Navy Reveals Solomons Win

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP) Fighting a long-odds battle against nine Japanese warships, three US destroyers sent a cruiser and two enemy destroyers to the bottom and forced the other enemy craft to flee in disorder in the engagement October 6 off Vella Lavella in the Solomons.

This was disclosed by the navy today in reporting details of the fight. A communique October 9 gave only a report of the damage.

"Aware that they were far outnumbered and in waters controlled by the enemy," the navy said, "the US ships boldly closed with the Japanese until less than 7000 yards separated them."

"Then blinding gun flashes split the silence and blackness of the steamy Solomons islands and the battle was on. Torpedoes were launched by the destroyers just before the guns fired."

"Every five-inch gun was brought to bear. The first salvo struck home on the cruiser and fire quickly raced along her topsides."

Columbia Will Build Quickly If WPB Okehs

Leaders Here Voice Thanks For Cooperation; Bright Future Seen for Industry

Prompt action toward construction in the Salem vicinity of a \$4,086,000 alumina-from-clay pilot plant was promised by officials of the Columbia Metals corporation Wednesday night, a few hours after the announcement from Washington, DC, that Arthur H. Bunker, director of the war production board's alumina and magnesium division, had prepared an order designating Salem as the site for the project. The order had yet to be signed by Charles E. Wilson, chairman of WPB's production division.

News of the decision reached Salem in telegrams from Congressmen Harris Ellsworth and Homer Angell to Gov. Earl Snell and the Salem chamber of commerce. Information that the decision was imminent had come the previous day to Congressman James W. Mott who is at his home here following an inspection trip of west coast naval construction plants.

In Seattle, as spokesman for Columbia Metals corporation which is composed of a score of northwest capitalists, Pat Gallagher said that as soon as the order was signed officially the corporation would procure a site, let contracts and start to work. He estimated production of alumina might be started within 10 to 12 months. The WPB order provides that construction priorities will be granted, it was revealed; and the necessary transmission lines and sub-station to utilize Bonneville power will be ready, Gallagher indicated, by the time the plant is built.

Highly gratified at the success of their unceasing efforts since midsummer to convince the metals corporation and federal officials that Salem offered the most advantageous site for the proposed plant, officials of the Salem chamber of commerce voiced appreciation Wednesday of the cooperation among communities of the three northwest states, including bringing about reversal of a decision based on manpower considerations to build the plant elsewhere. (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Germans End 5-Day Battle Taking Leros

By STEPHEN BARBER
CAIRO, Nov. 17—(AP)—The tiny but strategic island of Leros has been captured by the Germans in five days of heavy fighting despite a "most determined resistance" put up by its British and Italian defenders, the British middle east command announced today.

The allied forces were unable to beat off the nazis, who subjected the island's 28 square miles to a terrific pounding from the air, meanwhile continuing to land reinforcements by boat and by parachute. The battle, which began with a German landing Friday, ended last night.

The Germans' tactics were similar to those used in their capture of Crete in a major victory in this area two and one-half years ago, and they won for Hitler the second Dodecanese island in three weeks. The British announced on October 26 the evacuation of neighboring Cos, 26 miles south of Leros, under similar German assault.

(Adolf Hitler used the Leros victory as occasion for a special communique from his headquarters asserting Leros was taken from defenders "superior in numbers and armament" and claiming that a total of 8550 prisoners had surrendered—3200 British troops and 5350 Italian.

(Loss of Leros to the Germans brought sharp questioning in London of Britain's entire eastern Mediterranean tactics. Some sections of the British press were openly critical, and there was talk of replacing the British middle east commander, Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, but this suggestion found no support in official quarters, which showed no great alarm at the turn of events in the Aegean.)

The Germans erected a powerful air cover over Leros, a rocky island about eight miles long and three miles wide, formerly used by the Italians as a naval base and situated strategically off the coast of Turkey at the front door to the Balkans.

Under this cover they moved in with a picked battle team of veterans, some from among the conquerors of Cos and others from nazi forces on nearby Rhodes and in the Balkans.

Photographs made during US attacks on the Molybdenum mining installations at Knaben, a power station at Rjukan, about 80 miles west of Oslo, and other war industries in Norway yesterday. (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Beirut Calm; Conference On

By WILLIAM McGAFFIN
BEIRUT, Lebanon, Nov. 17—(AP) Gen. Georges Catroux, French minister of state sent by the committee of national liberation to settle the Lebanese disturbances, conferred here today with Sir Edward Spears, British minister.

There was no announcement concerning results of their talk, which followed a consultation which Catroux yesterday held with French authorities.

Beirut continued calm following the disorders of last week which came after the dissolution of the Lebanese government and the arrest of many officials by order of Jean Helleu, French high commissioner. Helleu's action followed moves by the Lebanese government for immediate independence from France control.

500 per Cent Safer
NEW YORK, Nov. 17—(AP) American military planes have improved 500 per cent in safety since Pearl Harbor, Maj. Gen. Walter H. Frank, commander of the air service command, said today at a press conference, following opening of the army air force's air power show here.

At ceremonies planned for next Tuesday afternoon at Salem army air field, Mrs. Martha A. Harrington, 594 North Liberty street, will receive the air medal awarded posthumously to her son Robert Harrington, 19.

The Salem youth, air corps bomber engineer, was killed in action over Sicily on July 16. The purple heart medal has already been sent to Mrs. Harrington, but at the request of his commanding officer, the medal signifying special recognition of service will be presented by Lt. Charles Zeiser, commander at the airbase here, before assembled troops of the base.

Weather
Wednesday maximum temperature 52, minimum 22. Precipitation .02. River -3 ft. Partly cloudy Thursday; little change in temperature.