

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Stroup

I suppose it is idle speculation, but I have wondered what might be the result if, after a second failure to achieve domination in Europe, Germany would "take the pledge"—and keep it. I mean a pledge against military aggression. That would be a reform reaching to the theologian's conception of regeneration, in view of the addiction of the Prussian mind to militarism. But the possibility excites one's imagination.

In the late 1930's when Germany was getting ready for war it was spending around four billion dollars a year on its military establishment. Hitler early expanded the Reichswehr from the 100,000 men permitted by the treaty of Versailles to a force of around a million men, and by calling up the reserves had an army of about three and a half million on the eve of the march into Poland. Now suppose post-war Germany should divert this manpower and money from military purposes to economic development. Consider what might be the consequence.

Millions could be expended in improving the agriculture economy of the country through drainage, reclamation, soil conservation, improvement of breeding stock of domestic animals. The Germans have been preeminent in scientific discovery, notably in chemistry. Research could be financed on a more generous scale so that Germany once more could be in the lead in industries based on chemical and other scientific discoveries.

The congestion of population in Germany offers an opportunity for modernization of its transport system for speed and economy. German capital might again be used in foreign development, especially in the neighboring countries to the east and southeast. That capital and German technical skill might be welcomed if unaccompanied by German kultur ideas and ambitions.

Suppose the German leaders and people would accept as (Continued on Editorial Page)

Canol Project Junking Sought By Senators

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP) The senate's war investigating committee, today that three high government officials think the army's \$130,000,000 Canadian oil venture ought to be junked, will hear the other side Monday from Lt. Gen. Somervell, the man who ordered its construction.

Chairman Truman (D-Mo) disclosed today that WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson, Interior Secretary Ickes and Navy Secretary Knox jointly opposed completion of the project.

"Unless Gen. Somervell can produce greater justification for his extravagant expenditure than has been shown thus far," Truman said, "I think most of the committee believe we should take our loss and pull out."

Nelson told him, Truman declared, that at a consultation December 9 it was "the unanimous opinion of all except the war department that despite the expenditure of about \$100,000,000 already made, the Canol project was not worth completing."

The project, embracing the development of oil fields at Norman wells, construction of an 8-inch pipeline from the field to White Horse and erection of an aviation gasoline refinery at the latter point drew fire from Ickes and others at recent public hearings of the committee.

Grain Importation Meets Favor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP) Senator Butler (R-Neb.) said today the senate finance committee has recommended passage of a house-approved resolution to permit the importation from foreign countries free of duty for 90 days of grain and other products to be used for livestock and poultry feed.

Most of the imports, he said, would come from Argentina, "although there will also be some from other South American countries and from Canada."

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Bombings Mark European Fighting

Americans Invade New Britain

Establish Base For Coming Blow At Philippines

By Leonard Milliman
Associated Press War Editor
American amphibious forces stormed ashore on New Britain island, crumbling keystone of Japan's south Pacific defenses, and won their beachhead in a few hours with only light losses, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger's Sixth army began pouring ashore at Arawe, near the western end of the island, at 7:24 a. m. Wednesday and was still landing in waves two hours later in a tropical rainstorm. Virtually the only resistance encountered was by shore guns which fired on advance landing parties. They were promptly silenced by salvos from American destroyers. The American warships stood offshore and bombarded the little port for 20 minutes before the landing without receiving an answering shot.

Twenty minutes after the main body of destroyers started for home, a dozen Japanese planes began divebombing the destroyer aboard which Rear Admiral Daniel Barbey was directing the landing of the seventh amphibious force. The destroyer was not damaged. The landing was the opening move in an attempt to secure at least the western tip of New Britain, which the Japanese have held since January 1942, and open the way for an invasion of the Philippines or an assault on Truk. MacArthur, who directed the Dutch East Indies. Dutch fliers, who made the attack (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Washington Pays Liquor Deal Share

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 16—(AP) Evro M. Becket, state liquor board chairman, announced tonight the deal by which Washington and Oregon acquired approximately 35,000 barrels each of bourbon whiskey through the purchase and disposal of two Kentucky distilleries, had been completed.

Becket said announcement of the completion of the transaction had been given him by Jerome Kykendall, assistant state attorney, and Palmer H. Jordan, liquor board member, who are in Kansas City, Mo., where the negotiations took place.

The liquor should start flowing to northwest inibers shortly after the first of the year, he said. Details of the final transaction, Becket said, were not all available, but the two states had arranged to purchase the distilleries and their stocks and to dispose of the distilleries, keeping the liquor, in the same transaction.

Earlier today Becket announced the final payment of Washington's share of the \$3,500,000 necessary to swing the deal had been wired to Kansas City. The state expected to approximately double its money by the time the stock is liquidated.

The Oregon state liquor board announced at Salem yesterday that Oregon's share had been sent east.

Montgomery Bets On Sure Thing

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY IN ITALY, Dec. 14—(Delayed) (AP) His eyes twinkling, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery told his men today "A lot of people are taking money betting on when we get to Rome," and added:

"I made 10 pounds (\$40) this morning, myself." (He did not specify what he had put his money on, but the remark suggested he had not expected to see Rome just yet—unless he was wagering on a mile-by-mile basis or making some other side bet.) The Eighth army's commander said it was a general who paid off.

Rail Wage Increase Attacked

Vinson Declares Plan Undermines Whole Program

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK
WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP) Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson, urging a house committee to kill the resolution boosting wages of non-operating railroad employees by eight cents an hour, contended today that it threatens both the wage stabilization program and administrative government.

If the house joins the senate in approving it, he told the interstate commerce committee, it will be difficult if not impossible to deny wage increases to other groups. Furthermore, he argued that the legislators might bring down on themselves a snowstorm of appeals for special legislation by by-pass administrative agencies.

Vinson argued that the resolution sets congress up as an administrative agency against "every consideration of provident statesmanship, of the separation of powers, of general legislative policy, of constitutional propriety. The resolution was approved by the senate last week with only four votes cast against it. The pay raise originally was recommended by an emergency board which considered demands of the 1,100,000 workers for a 20-cent increase.

Vinson disapproved the recommendation on the grounds it violated wage stabilization policies, and President Roosevelt appointed a second emergency board which recommended a scale of increases ranging from 10 cents an hour for lower-paid workers to 4 cents for those in better-paid brackets. The unions rejected this, asked congress to approve the 8-cent recommendation, and, meantime, took a strike vote. The vote has been completed but has not been announced.

A strike call for December 30 already has been issued by five operating unions in a separate wage dispute, but the national mediation board has called a meeting in Chicago for Monday in an effort to effect a settlement.

The 350,000 operating employees—the engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and switchmen—asked a 30 per cent increase and an emergency board recommended 4 cents an hour.

Mayor Butler Ill

INDEPENDENCE, Dec. 16—Dr. M. J. Butler, mayor, was taken to the hospital Thursday.

Mid-Willamette Officials Study Public Works, Juvenile Delinquency, County Zoning Proposal

Officials of mid-Willamette valley cities who met 60 strong, in Salem on Thursday night to swap ideas on postwar readjustments and developments learned something of how other municipalities are preparing to finance public works, how they are attempting to meet the problems of juvenile delinquency and how long-standing in the struggle to include within corporate city limits heavily-populated suburban areas.

Under auspices of the League of Oregon Cities and the Salem city government, the session, called in the banquet room of the Golden Pheasant restaurant, opened with orations and closed four hours later in a flood of questions. Mayor John Houston of Klamath Falls, league president, keyed the occasion as he spoke of current battles on the political, industrial and war fronts as preliminary to that which may be anticipated on the war front when 100,000 service-men and women come home and 116,000 war industry employees seek normal employment within the state. Dean Victor F. Morris of the

Brazilians Ready For Action



Brazilian soldiers in light tanks await word to move during armored force maneuvers. Gen. Mascarenhas de Moraes of the Brazilian general staff said Brazilian ground and air forces are moving toward action on the allied side in the Mediterranean theatre. (AP wirephoto.)

Attorney General Candidates Blossom for Snell to Choose

By RALPH C. CURTIS
From among the 1559 attorneys in Oregon—that 1940 census figure being subject to temporary reduction since a considerable number are in the armed service—Gov. Earl Snell should have no difficulty in finding a satisfactory appointee to succeed the late I. H. Van Winkle as attorney general.

The position carries a salary of \$5000 in addition to the prestige which adheres to its incumbent. It will not attract every lawyer in the state, but a sufficient number that the governor may find the choice a difficult matter, politically speaking—contrary to the situation which has arisen in connection with some other vacancies occurring in wartime.

Ordinarily discussion of an appointment following death of the incumbent is delayed until after the funeral. It may be indicative of the heat of rivalry for the post, that such has not been the case in this instance.

Candidates discussed fall into three classes; present attaches of the attorney general's office, among whom Rex Kimmel, Lawrence Lister and W. A. Wiest are being mentioned; attorneys who were outstandingly helpful to Gov. Snell in his campaign, including Walter Winslow of Salem and J. W. McInturff of Marshfield; and lawyers whose names have come to attention through their

activity. (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Mid-Willamette Officials Study Public Works, Juvenile Delinquency, County Zoning Proposal

University of Oregon's school of business administration, chairman of Gov. Earl Snell's postwar readjustment and development commission, explained how the commission is attempting to obtain the correct balance between public works and private enterprise. Public works, he said, should absorb the immediate shock while private industry is retooling, but such works should taper off to allow private enterprise to lift its burden as soon as possible.

The plea of both Houston and Morris was eloquently echoed and enlarged upon by Dr. C. B. McCullough, state highway bridge engineer who is a member of the Salem postwar planning committee. A community that has not prepared for financing of needed projects and so is not ready to help absorb its returning service personnel should be ashamed to have the men and women from fighting fronts come home to it, he declared. Planning and willingly financing is the least those who have remained at home can do, according to McCullough, Houston and

Morris. Later speakers suggested, also in keeping with Morris' speech, that men and women in the service should be allowed to help with the planning; Morris had declared that so far as actual plans are concerned they should be concrete but subject to complete change at the time the money is spent.

West Salem will enlarge its standing planning commission to make postwar arrangements which probably will include a sewage disposal or treatment plant, more reservoir capacity, more sewers and water mains, Mayor Guy Newgent said. However, he added, West Salem may feel assured that the efforts of its populace will be employed should the hauxhite alumina plant be established there. Possibilities that the plant may be established at Independence were expressed by a representative of that city, who said Independence already has a sinking fund for a sewage disposal plant. Silverton's planning commission is enlisting the aid of civic organizations, churches and schools in preparations for its plans.

Tax Bill Increase Okehed

Senate Group Adds 2 Billion But Delays Vote

By FRANCIS J. KELLY
WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP) A \$2,284,000,000 tax increase bill designed to swell federal income to more than \$43,500,000,000 annually was approved by the senate finance committee late today under a situation which made its enactment before January admittedly impossible.

Increased a net of \$144,000,000 over the form in which it passed the house, the bill will capture slightly more than one billion dollars through new and higher excise taxes, with the remainder of the money coming from individuals, corporations and higher postage rates. About half a billion dollars additional was voted by the committee in individuals' income tax bills today.

The measure contains a provision freezing through 1944 the present social security tax rates at 1 per cent each on employers and employees, but since the senators believe the bill cannot be passed before January 1, when these rates were to automatically double, an effort will be made to freeze them for 60 days by separate legislation.

Majority Leader Barkley (D-Ky.), a member of the finance committee, forecast that congress will go home for the holidays about next Wednesday, remaining in recess until January 3 or 4. In any case, it was believed the bill would be subject to lengthy discussion in conference and there would be no chance to send it to the White house before New Year's day.

Chairman George (D-Ga.) was beaten 17 to 2 in a last-minute effort to speed the collection of another billion dollars in revenue by cutting from eight to five years the time that whiskey may be kept in bonded warehouses without payment of the excise tax of \$9 a gallon specified by the bill. Notably absent from the measure, too, was any attempt to inaugurate a federal sales tax.

FDR Taken In

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 17—(AP) President Roosevelt has been elected honorary master of the bench of Gray's Inn—one of Britain's most ancient societies of barristers—it was announced today. Prime Minister Churchill also is an honorary bencher.

Mid-Willamette Officials Study Public Works, Juvenile Delinquency, County Zoning Proposal

Dallas has established sinking funds for streets and for fire department equipment. Woodburn is preparing to establish a planning commission. School districts over Marion county have been notified by County Supt. Agnes C. Booth's office of the fact that they may start sinking funds for improvements and of what improvements are needed in their physical plants. Chief weakness of the program, according to Mrs. Booth, is that school boards told of needs are so conscientious that they are meeting them now and not waiting for postwar materials and labor to become available.

Eugene and Springfield have combined forces to plan not only for the cities proper but for an area six miles around their limits. Herman Kehrl, executive secretary of the league, with headquarters in Eugene, explained. The question of extending city limits or of obtaining county-wide zoning so that efforts of the zoning commission would not be futile was raised by W. W. Rosebraugh, veteran member. (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Berlin Reeling Under Thrust; Nazis Hit Bari

Vatutin's Ukrainian Army Throws Back Enemy In Tank Battle at Kiev

Already partially in ruins, Berlin suffered another thrashing last night when RAF heavy bombers gave the German capital its fifth big-scale aerial blow in less than a month shortly after the US Eighth air force's mighty bomber fleet had pounded factories and railroads in northwest Germany by daylight.

While the bomb-wrought smoke, flame and devastation continued to spread over Germany, to the east the mighty army of Russia massed the greatest artillery concentration of the war to shatter the nazis' month-long counter offensive west of Kiev.

Several squadrons of Canadian air force Lancasters took part in the new night attack on Berlin, which the German radio nervously described as a "terror attack on a considerable scale."

The American day raiders shot down 18 nazis fighters but lost 11 bombers and one escorting fighter. A great armada of United States heavy bombers, tucked in between waves of escorting fighters, roared again by daylight into northwest Germany and battered that submarine and shipbuilding area for the third time in a week against steadily diminishing enemy opposition. Returning fliers told of towering columns of thick black smoke that rose into the stratosphere.

At the same time allied headquarters at Algiers announced more than 3000 Flying Fortresses and Liberators and Lightning fighters had flown from Mediterranean bases to smash enemy communications at Innsbruck, in the Austrian Tyrol and at Bolzano and Trento, at the Italian end of the Brenner pass.

For the second straight day the Russians reported that Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's Ukrainian army had thrown the nazis out of several populated places in the fierce tank battle raging some 55 miles west and northwest of Kiev, indicating the red army again had won the initiative there and the Germans had shot their bolt.

An earlier Moscow dispatch said Vatutin had assembled a record mass of artillery to break the Germans' big counteroffensive, and a Berlin broadcast said the battle (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Senate Group Recommends Subsidy Delay

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—(AP) Dealing at least a temporary setback to the farm bloc in its campaign to kill government food price subsidies, the senate banking committee recommended today a 60-day extension of the present subsidy authority pending further efforts toward compromise.

In a surprise development the committee voted down, 9 to 8, the Bankhead bill for outright subsidy repeal and also rejected, 11 to 5, the compromise plan of Sen. Taft (R-Ohio) to retain part of the administration food price control program. The effect was to postpone a showdown until after Christmas. Majority Leader Barkley (Ky) introduced in the senate a resolution to carry out the committee recommendation by extending the life of the commodity credit corporation — which pays most of the subsidies — from December 31 to February 29; it is scheduled for consideration tomorrow.

While the door was not closed to a later revival of legislation for outright subsidy repeal, such as the flat January 1 ban voted by the house, the committee rejection of the anti-subsidy bill of Sen. Bankhead (D-Ala.) upset the expectations of farm organization leaders that the senate would readily follow the house lead.

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Thursday maximum temperature 42, minimum 24. River 2.6 ft. Partly cloudy Friday and Saturday; little change in temperature.

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