

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Our Balkan Peninsula

The revolution in Bolivia which has resulted in the overthrow of the pro-allied government is an event of ill omen. Bolivia is the chief and almost the sole source of tin for the United States, now that Malayan tin is controlled by the Japs. The curtailment of the Bolivian tin supply if long continued would have a damaging effect on the war and on civilian economy both in this country and Great Britain. While we have been trying to build up stockpiles of tin, it has been hard to make headway in view of the urgent demand of munitions plants and the canning industry.

The margin of allied favor in South America has always been narrow. It took a coup in Uruguay to oust the nazi element. In Argentina the nominally neutral but actually pro-nazi regime was replaced by a junta of colonels more strongly fascist in sympathy. Brazil, while ruled by a president-dictator, has been most inclined to favor the allies, but even in Brazil there is a very large segment of the population of German origin and sympathies.

All through South America the German influence in business and culture has penetrated. German airlines linked the capitals and principal cities of the continent; German traders were active in business; German consulates were ganglia of the nazi propaganda system. It has taken strong pressures to offset these influences, and probably considerable American spending money. The coups in Argentina and Bolivia show that our position in the southern continent is not too secure.

It is doubtful if the Bolivian revolution will affect the flow of commodities to the United States and Great Britain. Without these nations for a market the national income would collapse and the ensuing economic distress would soon prompt a counter-revolution. If necessary the allies could "take steps," but military action would be the last move because of the resulting disturbance all through the continent. Certainly we would not want one war within a war. Even a pro-nazi government is hardly likely to defy Great Britain and the United States to the injury of its own people.

The Washington comment on the Bolivian development is reserved, as properly it should be. Until the situation clears and "lines of force" are defined, public pronouncement by men in official status will be withheld. We may be sure that our very considerable representation in Bolivia and through South America will watch the matter intently, and observe the reaction in other South American countries, especially those more closely aligned to the cause of the United Nations. There is no cause for serious alarm; but we might remember that South America is a sort of "Balkan Peninsula" for North America.

Five-Cent Cigars

There was once a vice president who gained immortality of a sort not because of his political achievements but because of his quip: "What the country needs is a good five-cent cigar." That was Vice President Marshall, and he made the remark when the last war had boosted the price of good cigars to ten or fifteen cents apiece. After a length of time cigar-makers saw their market melting away from them as cigarettes grew in popularity. Then one of the big tobacco companies brought out a five-cent cigar, publicizing it in a famous "anti-spit" advertising campaign. Before the present war there were several nickel brands on the market, but still the sales were only about two-thirds of those of 20 years previous, while the sale of cigarettes had zoomed from fewer than fifty billion a year to 189 billion. That presented a problem for the cigar-makers to worry over. We let the Portland Journal of Commerce take over:

In those happy carefree days of the late depression—long before the war—certain cigar manufacturers announced their intentions of "stabilizing" the quality, if there is such a thing as quality involved, of 5-cent cigars. You may recall their first publicity blasts regarding pending stabilization plans. The torches were to dovelot more closely with the desires of fairly easily satisfied consumers. General improvement was admittedly in order. Insofar as we know from personal experience, however, less than nothing has resulted, unless wrapping the fuses in cellophane and raising the price a penny counts. But when the war is over and happy days are here again a definite minimum standard must be fixed for such inflammable and combustible commodities which should only be set fire to outdoors and preferably in a high wind. Further there should be effective restrictions imposed to prevent the burning of these smudge-producers in all places of public assembly and, we hope, in news offices not equipped with the most powerful pressure ventilating systems.

Neat Trick—If It Works

Detroit is planning a neat trick. Its council has adopted an ordinance to levy additional taxes on utilities operating within the city with the frank admission that it is seeking to capture excess profits that otherwise will go to the federal government. The Detroit Edison company, which serves the city with electricity, and the Michigan Consolidated Gas company, gas supplier, say that the new tax is confiscatory and that they will be forced to ask a substantial rate increase. They probably will resist the tax in court.

The question arises as to why there should not be a rate reduction if the profits of the companies exceed a fair return. While for the country as a whole regulatory commissions have not moved to reduce rates, this non-action has been due to the fact that utility profits have shown little or no increase after federal taxes. In Oregon the public utility commissioner has ordered a rate cut for Portland General Electric, but this is the culmination of an effort begun over a year ago and a consequence of the company's own previous assurances of lower rates. It would appear that the needs of the fed-

eral treasury are far more necessitous than those of Detroit. It is not very patriotic for a subordinate branch of government to connive to deprive the treasury of revenues it needs and has sought by law to collect. If Detroit's example is generally followed the federal government will lose substantial sums, which it will be forced to make up in some other way, and thus the public may be doubly mulcted. Detroit's city government evidently thinks, however, that it has hit upon a neat trick, which this one is—if it works.

It was a Texas outfit that secured the beach-head on New Britain. And they carried the flag of the Lone Star state along with the stars and stripes. Over in Italy a captured German said the officers predicted dire punishment if they were caught by Americans—because they were fighting Texans. The men from Texas not only have a reputation as fighters—they live up to it too. And they still think of their state as an independent principality.

Newspaper headline: PRESIDENT IN DC WILL TALK. At least that is better than WILL 'SING.'

The Pendleton East-Oregonian thinks we should do house-heating by electricity. That would be all right if we could just charge it.

The 1943 crop of dry edible beans is said to be the largest on record. Good news for army cooks.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, December 20 — Congressional taxmakers entered an apparent gentlemen's agreement earlier in the year that they would soak the individual income taxpayer no more until he had a chance to straighten himself out on the so-called "pay-as-you-go" — the device by which they half-coverly hiked his war taxes at least 25 per cent, under the benevolent guise of letting him pay currently after 1945.

Members of the house committee, and also senate finance, agreed the individual just could not stand more during this transition period of double taxation. Nothing was written down, but public statements were issued by many members to this effect.

Now, after nine months of searching for new methods of taxation—and failing to consider seriously a single new method, not even voting on a sales tax or a spending tax, or trying to reach the special restricted class of inflated war incomes—senate finance has submitted a bill:

To hit the same old individual income taxpayer and no one else, again by stealthy method of allowing rates to remain the same while removing two important exemptions.

Elimination of the 10 per cent earned income credit will hike the individual's tax costs about \$540,000,000 next year; disallowance of deductions for excise taxes will cost \$150,000,000 more. In all, this bill raises income taxes again by probably \$700,000,000.

How did they dare do it? Chiefly because a thoughtlessly false, if not intentionally deceptive propaganda has been built up before the public. Taxmakers in their giddiness or frustration have come to believe their own words—"the country can stand more taxes," "people have money to burn," "danger of inflation."

The truth is certain war working people have greatly increased incomes, but most people have much less after taxes and high prices.

No one advertises the truth that this government increased its toll on income taxpayers 152 per cent the first five months of this fiscal government year (July to December) over last year. Little do you hear of taxation rising 700 per cent in three major bills since Pearl Harbor, the brunt falling on old taxpayers, not the inconsiderable new war workers (9,060,000 new victory taxpayers pay only \$162,000,000).

A struggling married wage earner getting \$5000 today must pay 20 per cent or \$1000 to his federal government, in addition to state and county taxes and other federal levies on cigarettes, liquor, etc.

All you hear are expert arguments about inflation with generalized overall national figures about swollen incomes, nothing about this \$5000 man trying to buy bonds, pay withholding, terrific prices and raise a family on about half or less of what he earns.

No one, absolutely no one, takes the part of the individual taxpayer. The way the propaganda has been set up, it is considered unpopular, even remotely unpatriotic to do so.

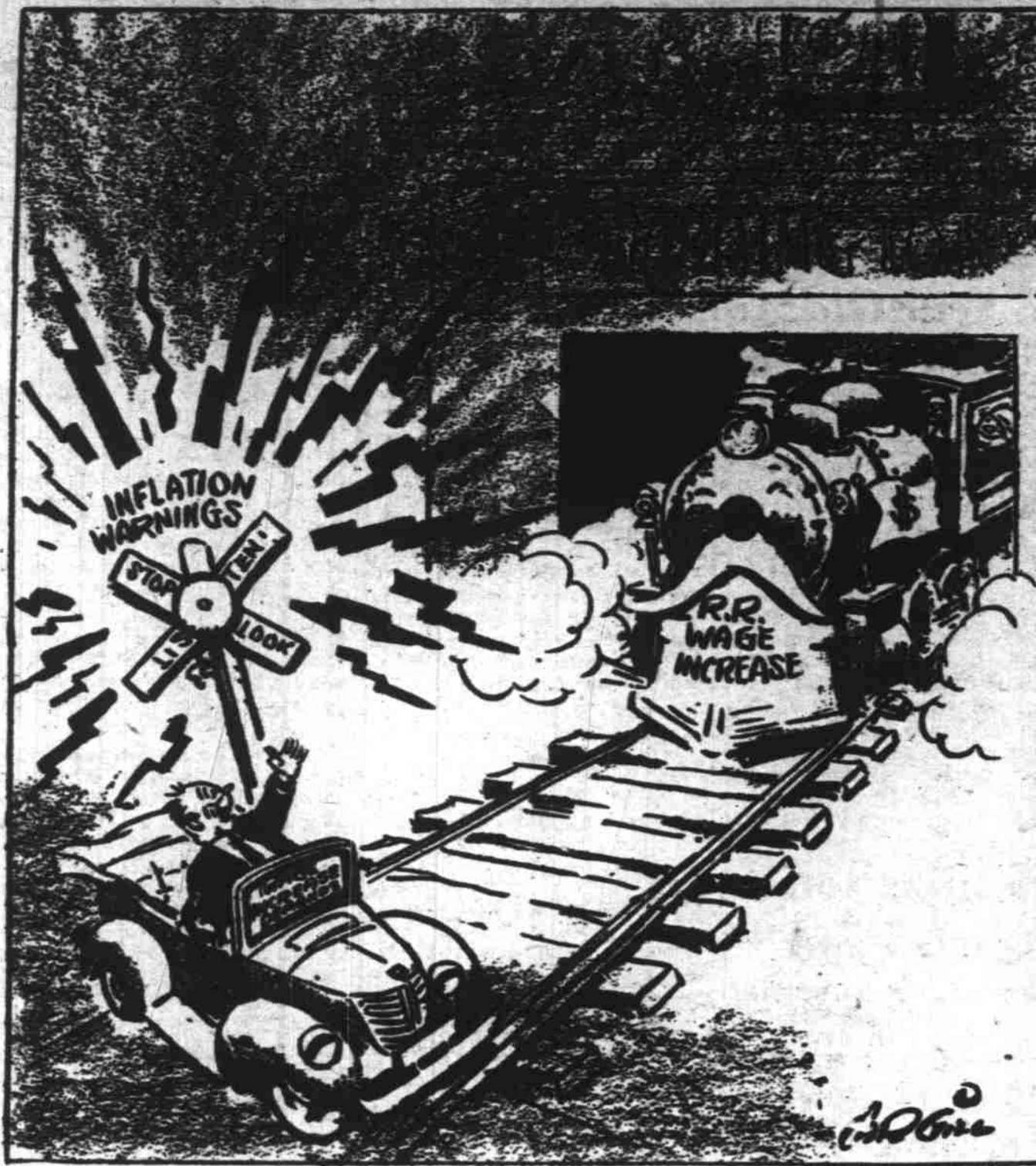
But generalized average taxation already is \$357 per person here compared with \$291 in Britain, \$261 in Canada, and our people already pay eight times more than in world war I.

This government, without this bill, will collect possibly \$45,000,000,000 this year, pay at least 47 per cent of the war cost, and its expenditures will run below expectations while its revenues will be higher than budgeted, making any tax increase less necessary. Yet the treasury ardently offsets such figures and denies this established trend of reduced deficits in its warm, excessive taxation zeal.

And this finance committee spent most of its time moderating renegotiation of contracts on its business. Perhaps some such steps were necessary to prevent injustices and leave business something for after-the-war conversion, but it lost sight of consideration for the individual taxpayer.

No fair-minded authority will deny that both the house and senate tax bills are basically awkward, unimaginative, non-partisanly inefficient upward readjustments of already overburdened tax sources, that no one concerned, including the treasury, has shown the slightest political courage toward developing new tax sources or searching out the war-inflation money in the pockets where it resides.

Somehow, politicians have the notion taxpayers never rise up at elections. It was the new deal which first fully discovered that tremendous taxation does not hurt politically, but excessive expenditures to special groups does help politically. As long as this belief prevails, the income taxpayer may continue to be the constantly fleeced goat of government.



There is a Santa Claus

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM—TUESDAY—1300 Ks.

- 7:00—News
- 7:30—Marion Farm & Home
- 7:45—Rise 'n' Shine
- 7:50—News
- 7:55—Morning Moods
- 8:00—Cheerful City News
- 8:10—Music
- 8:30—Tango Time
- 8:30—Music
- 9:00—Pastor's Call
- 9:15—The Truth
- 9:30—Music
- 10:00—News
- 10:30—Music
- 11:00—News
- 11:05—KSLM Presents
- 11:15—James Abbe Covers the News
- 12:00—Organalities
- 12:15—News
- 12:30—Musical Serenade
- 12:35—Matinee
- 1:00—Lum 'n' Abner
- 1:30—Music
- 2:00—Isle of Paradise
- 2:15—US Navy
- 2:30—Four Novelities
- 2:45—Broadway Band Wagon
- 3:00—KSLM Concert Hour
- 3:15—News
- 4:15—News
- 4:30—Teatime Tunes
- 4:45—Homespun Trio
- 5:15—Let's Reminisce
- 5:30—Tonight's Headlines
- 6:00—War News Commentary
- 6:20—Evening Serenade
- 6:45—Music
- 7:00—News
- 7:15—Portia Jim Lewis
- 7:30—Campfire Carolers
- 8:00—War Fronts in Review
- 8:15—Music
- 8:30—Mustangs
- 8:45—Excursions in Science
- 9:00—News

9:15—Bert Hirsch Presents

- 9:45—Between the Lines
- 10:00—Serenade
- 10:30—News

KGW—NBC—TUESDAY—500 Kc.

- 4:00—Dawn Patrol
- 4:30—Labor News
- 5:00—Music from Manhattan
- 6:30—News Parade
- 6:55—Labor News
- 7:00—Journal of Living
- 7:15—News Headlines & Highlights
- 7:30—Music
- 7:45—Sam Hayes
- 8:00—Stars of Today
- 8:30—James Abbe Covers the News
- 8:30—Robert St. John
- 8:45—David Harum
- 9:00—Open Door
- 9:15—Glenn Shelley
- 9:30—Mirth and Madness
- 10:00—Across the Threshold
- 10:15—Ruth Forbes
- 10:30—Kneess With the News
- 10:45—Dr. Baker's Notebook
- 11:00—The Guiding Light
- 11:15—Today's Children
- 11:30—Light of the World
- 11:45—Hymns of All Churches
- 12:00—Women of America
- 12:15—Ma Perkins
- 12:30—Pepper Young's Family
- 12:45—Right to Happiness
- 1:00—Backlog
- 1:15—Stella Dallas
- 1:30—Music
- 1:45—Young Widder Brown
- 2:00—When a Girl Marries
- 2:15—Open Door
- 2:30—Just Plain Bill
- 2:45—Front Page Farrell
- 3:00—Dr. Kate
- 3:15—Vic and Sade
- 3:30—Personality Hour
- 4:00—Dr. Kate
- 4:15—News of the World
- 4:30—Music
- 4:45—H. Kaltenborn
- 5:00—OK for Release
- 5:15—Music
- 5:30—Horace Heidt Treasure Chest
- 6:00—Mystery Theatre
- 6:30—Robert McCree and Molly
- 7:00—Bob Hope
- 7:30—Red Skelton
- 8:00—Fred Waring's Pleasure Time
- 8:15—Commentary
- 8:30—Johnny Presents
- 8:45—Concert Gems
- 9:30—Hollywood Theatre
- 10:00—News Flashes
- 10:15—Your Home Town News
- 10:30—Your Home Town News
- 10:45—Voice of A Nation
- 11:30—Music
- 11:45—News
- 12:00—s. m.—Spring Shift

12:30—William Winter, News

- 12:45—Bachelor's Children
- 1:00—Home Front Matinee
- 1:30—Music
- 2:00—Mary Marlin
- 2:15—Newspaper of the Air
- 2:30—Carols
- 3:15—Collins Calling
- 3:30—Carols
- 3:45—News
- 4:00—Stars of Today
- 4:15—News
- 4:30—American Melody Hour
- 5:30—Galen Drake
- 5:45—Red Gang
- 5:50—Harry Flannery
- 6:15—News
- 6:30—Bill Henry
- 6:45—Burns & Allen
- 6:50—Report to the Nation
- 7:00—Romance
- 7:30—Congress Speaks
- 7:45—Music
- 8:00—I Love A Mystery
- 8:15—Harry James Orchestra
- 8:30—This and That
- 9:00—Judy Canova
- 9:30—News
- 9:30—Million Dollar Club
- 10:00—Five Star Final
- 10:15—Wartime Women
- 10:30—William Winter
- 10:30—Edwin C. Hill
- Johnson & Johnson
- 10:45—Music
- 11:00—Orchestra
- 11:30—Orchestra
- 11:45—Air Flo of the Air
- 11:55—News

KALB—MBS—TUESDAY—1330 Kc.

- 6:45—Dave West
- 7:00—News
- 7:15—Texas Rangers
- 7:30—Memory Timekeeper
- 8:00—Eaven of Rest
- 8:30—News
- 8:45—Market Melodies
- 9:00—Strictly Personal
- 9:00—Boake Carter
- 9:15—Woman's Side of the News
- 9:30—I Hear Music
- 10:00—News
- 10:15—Stars of Today
- 10:30—This and That
- 11:00—Buyers Parade
- 11:15—Marketing
- 11:30—Concert Gems
- 12:00—News
- 12:15—Concert
- 12:45—On the Farm Front
- 1:00—Harrison Woods
- 1:15—Music
- 1:30—Freedom of Speech
- 1:45—Full Speed Ahead
- 2:00—Ray Dady
- 2:15—Texas Rangers
- 2:30—Yours for A Song
- 2:45—Wartime Women
- 3:00—News
- 3:00—Philip Keys-Gordon
- 3:15—Treasury Star Parade
- 3:30—Music
- 3:45—Bill Hays Reads the Bibl
- 4:00—News
- 4:15—Johnson Family
- 4:30—Rainbow Rendezvous
- 4:45—News
- 5:00—Invitation to Romance
- 5:15—Supperman
- 5:30—Show Time
- 5:45—Norman Nebbit
- 6:00—Gabriel Heatter
- 6:15—Grace Fields
- 6:30—American Forum
- 7:15—Fulton Quaker
- 7:30—Music
- 8:00—Lyrics of Lorraine
- 8:15—Education for Freedom
- 8:30—Hasten the Day
- 8:45—Manhattans
- 9:00—News
- 9:15—Tex Miller
- 9:30—News
- 9:45—Fulton Lewis
- 10:00—Orchestra
- 10:15—Ben Venudos Amigo
- 10:30—News
- 10:45—Music
- 11:00—Sinfonietta
- 11:30—Orchestra
- 11:45—Footlight Rhapsody
- 12:00—News

KOAC—TUESDAY—500 Kc.

- 10:30—News
- 10:35—The Homemakers' Hour
- 11:00—Christmas Calendar
- 11:30—Music
- 12:00—News

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Mrs. O. S.: Cannas are treated very much like dahlias when it comes to storing them. When the tops have been killed by frost lift and store them. Cut off the stalks before putting them away. Storage should be in a dry, frost proof place where the temperature ranges between 45 and 55 degrees. Many gardeners prefer to put the tubers in boxes or barrels and cover them with peat moss or dry sand to prevent them from becoming too badly shriveled.

Do not set them out in spring until all danger of frost is past. They are easy of culture and grow in any fertile, moist and deeply prepared soil. The roots should be divided in the spring with a sharp knife, allowed a bud to each piece. Set them about 18 inches apart and plant them from 2 to 3 inches deep.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

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The first jarring blows of the long expected Russian winter offensive north of the Dnieper line are being struck in the Nevel-Polotsk-Vitebsk triangle. Expulsion of the foe from all northwestern Russia is the indicated red army objective.

Berlin admits that the whole German left flank to the Baltic is being rocked by the impact, but cautious Moscow has only now confirmed the new and massive red army attack in that sector, six days after its onset.

Judging by the pattern revealed so far, the Russian drive seems aimed immediately at isolation of the Vitebsk bastion of the nazi line and possible entrapment of its garrison. To that end, red army forces estimated at a quarter million have punched south and southwestward from Nevel to within striking distance of the Vitebsk-Polotsk railway, the main stem of nazi communications for the critical segment of the front north of the upper bend of the Dnieper river.

There were intimations that the Russians already may have cut that line. If so, only one escape route remains open for the Vitebsk garrison. That is the Vitebsk-Orsha stretch of the Leningrad-Orsha railroad, and it too is under close Russian pressure from the east, south of Vitebsk.

Collapse of investment of the Vitebsk anchor must inevitably be followed by German evacuation of Orsha, the crucial rail and road junction to the south on the upper bend of the Dnieper. It would mean retreat by the invaders from their last Dnieper footholds north of Kiev and ultimate expansion of the Kiev bulge all the way to the Polotsk region, virtually in sight.

The Safety Valve

A SERVICE MAN SPEAKS

To the Editor:

I am doing what is an accepted American custom or let us say, "An American privilege." For it is a privilege, the writing of letters to the editor, in which the pulse and voice of the American people vibrate and are recorded for all eyes to see.

We who are overseas take pride in the generally honest manner in which our country's newspapers have treated the war news. It is a striking contrast to the hypocrisy and idiocy in which the newspapers of the axis nations have descended.

And we lose patience with the cynic who tells us that the American public, after viewing the newsreel war scenes and reading the screaming newspaper headlines, goes on his own merry way unmindful that there is a war.

In spite of cheap, sensational publicity — the type conceived by those who use this war to limelight themselves, we have not lost faith. For what the American warrior has done and is doing, the sympathetic are moved to tears; the haughty to humility; the stern to tenderness. The march to freedom is an eternal march. There can be no compromise, no hesitancy, no doubt.

Tomorrow's citizen will find that he has no longer a narrow groove in which to settle down to comfort and indifference. The world has grown small. Horizons, conceptions must grow large. It takes not a great visionary to realize that world responsibility is the historic destiny of the United States of America.

Very sincerely,
Mr. Terry Denton, USNR,
Acorn 7, Fleet PO,
San Francisco, Calif.

- 12:15—Noon Farm Hour
- 1:00—Bridin' the Range
- 1:15—Chronicle
- 1:30—Music
- 2:00—Whose World?
- 2:30—Memory Book of Music
- 2:45—News
- 3:15—Music of the Masters
- 3:30—Southland Singing
- 4:15—Voice of the Army
- 4:30—Adventures in Research
- 5:00—On the Upbeat
- 5:30—Story Time
- 5:45—News
- 6:00—Evening Farm Hour
- 7:30—Charlie Barnet
- 7:45—Music
- 8:30—Music That Endures
- 9:30—News
- 9:45—Evening Meditations
- 10:30—Sign Off

of the old Russian-Polish frontier.

There can be little question that the present battle is a preliminary to Russian offensive activity all the way northward to the Leningrad area. The weight of winter has closed down fully on that part of the line and with marshes, lakes and rivers frozen hard, the cold weather drive for which Moscow has obviously been preparing for months seems to be at hand.

It also seems clear that in the interchange of Russian-aillied military information at Teheran Russian plans for this winter offensive were fully revealed. The strategic dovetailing of allied operations on other fronts to synchronize with what looks like the start of a climactic red army offensive may be in close prospect. Remember that London reports massive troop movements "across the Atlantic and in Britain just now.

Wright Plane To Come to US

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—(AP)—

The airplane in which Orville Wright made his first power-driven flight is coming back to the United States after long years of exile in England, thereby ending one of the great science quarrels of this country.

President Roosevelt announced the plane will be returned to rest in the Smithsonian institution in a message to a testimonial dinner tonight for Wright on the 40th anniversary of the flight.

"The nation will welcome it back as the outstanding symbol of American genius," the president said.

Wright and his brother, Wilbur, let the plane go to England for exhibition at a time when the Smithsonian refused to recognize their flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, as the first. For many years it credited the first power flight to Samuel Langley, another aviation pioneer. Now the Smithsonian recognizes the Wright flight as the first.

Vandegrift Appointed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—(AP)—

The senate Saturday confirmed the appointment of Lt. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift as commandant of the US marine corps to succeed Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, recently retired.

Under his appointment by President Roosevelt, General Vandegrift will serve four years as marine commandant, beginning January 1.

Covering the World for the West

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