

# Reconversion Absorbing Attention

By W. H. MOBLEY  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—(P)—The two aspects of reconversion to civilian economy—how to head off mounting pressure for too precipitate action while war goods are still needed and how to make the change swift and effective when guns are still—absorb an increasing share of official attention.

The problem's dual phases were taken up separately today, the immediate one in a Chicago speech by William L. Batt, vice-chairman of the war production board who predicted that 1944 changeovers will present more complex questions than those of the shift to war production, and the long-range aspect by Rep. Tolson (D-Calif.) who offered a comprehensive program for blueprinting and directing the ultimate shift.

Batt told the Chicago Association of Commerce that great pressures, for return to civilian production will be generated by availability of materials in some areas and of manpower in others, as stockpiling of certain classes of war goods permits cutbacks in their production.

Jobs with a postwar future, he said, will pull labor, and peacetime markets and profits not subject to renegotiation will attract management.

Tolan, chairman of the house committee on defense migration, offered his program as the answer to "perhaps the most serious economic problem the country has ever confronted."

It was Tolson's committee which early in the war recommended centralization of the national industrial effort and the appointment of a war mobilization director, to which post James F. Byrnes was named later.

Similarly, as the first item in a 10-point program, Tolson's plan provides for creation of a "reconversion czar" to take over the planning job immediately.

Other measures proposed: A board of directors to supervise the administration's activities, comprising three members each from the house and senate, and a representative each from industry, agriculture and labor.

An advisory council named by the 48 governors to correlate sectional needs and provide information on opportunities for unemployment relief.

Appropriation of funds for employment of technical experts to keep reconversion in step with the slackening of war needs.

A congressional committee to draft needed legislation.

Immediate local surveys to determine community and state unemployment and job prospects.

An agency similar to the small war plants corporation to help little industries in the changeover.

Use of draft boards as ex-service men's employment centers.

A long-range study of the business and job possibilities of new products, new materials and new inventions.

A study of government-owned industries to determine which should be scrapped, sold, retained, leased, or held in readiness for any new emergency.

# ON the HOME FRONT

By HARRIET CHILDS

Art Perry in his Medford Mail Tribune Smudge Pot opines that gasoline rationing and the tin can salvage program have made possible the great number of carefree 1943 marriages in the Medford area.

Up here we've been crediting the same phenomena to the sugar and OLCR rations. Might also be that the local noisemakers find it just as much fun to waken the whole town—as for example the group who Tuesday night shot off firecrackers from their jolly in the high school neighborhood.

Cans or no cans, when the men have gone to war, the boys will take their places in the ever-important task of disturbing the peace.

# Yanks Strike Heavy Blows At Kiel Again

H (Continued from Page 1) H

British fighter escorts the fleet in that attack consisted of some 1500 planes. Between the two Kiel attacks, RAF Mosquito bombers hit smoldering Berlin in a night attack. British and allied planes pounded targets in northern France and along the French "invasion coast" today.

The Vichy radio left the air tonight, indicating that the aerial battering might be continuing.

The British-based US Flying Fortresses and Liberators were escorted by American fighters on all their missions today except the foray at Bordeaux, which involved a round-trip flight of almost 1000 miles. In the Bordeaux operation they were given withdrawal support by American and RAF fighters.

Crews returning from Kiel said the target was reached in clear weather. Despite the unusually desperate resistance of Nazi fighters they said their bombs crunched down exactly in the area outlined on the briefing boards, building large fires in a city which once was one of Hitler's most important naval bases.

One group of Fortress fliers reported encountering not only the usual types of German fighter planes but concentrations of rocket and twin-engine Messerschmitts towing what appeared to be 100-pound bombs on 40 or 50 feet of wire.

This was the first time such defensive devices have been seen, and the bomber crewmen were unable to explain how the "tag-along" bombs were detonated. One was seen to explode behind a Fortress.

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# Alumina Plant Site Selected

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Blakalee Barnes, vice president of the Chemical Construction Company, New York, which has designed the plant and will superintend construction, that ten months to a year will be required for construction.

"Due to the fact that no such plant as this has ever been built before, a large part of the equipment will have to be especially designed and constructed, and therefore we do not expect to be able to do a speedy construction job as compared with the construction of plants which are simply duplicates of other plants," Barnes pointed out.

Operation of the plant after it is constructed and tested will be in charge of the Columbia Metals company, in which a number of the northwest's leading industrialists are stockholders.

Announcement of the site's selection came earlier Wednesday from Congressman Homer Angell, chairman of the northwest alumina committee in congress, in telegrams to Gov. Earl Snell and the Salem chamber of commerce.

In the same telegrams Angell mentioned that he had marshaled the entire northwest delegation for a meeting with war production board officials to protest the shutdown of northwest aluminum potlines and had received a promise that no such shutdown would occur at present.

"Have requested full report on all cost and other factors with relation to aluminum production from domestic plants and foreign from which we are receiving aluminum," Angell's telegram concluded.

Gov. Earl Snell sent a telegram to Philip Wilson, chief of the aluminum-magnesium branch of WPB, in which he stressed that there is no apparent justification for closing any of the aluminum potlines in the northwest because of a manpower shortage.

"All potlines both in Vancouver, Wash., and Troutdale are in full operation today," the telegram said. "These manpower requirements are in no way taking away manpower from needed war industries in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area."

"The entire war manpower requirements have definitely eased within the past 60 days and more especially since maritime yards are on a six day week basis. I am confident that manpower investigation status of conditions will not justify closing any of the potlines because of manpower."

The northwest alumina committee including representatives of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, will meet today in Portland to see what can be done in connection with this reported threat to curtail aluminum production in the northwest.

# Martin Calls For Service Vote Action

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states on mailing time, and the following points:

1. That applications for a ballot be prepared and distributed officially by the war and navy departments, then sent to the various secretaries of state for referral to state election officials.

2. That state election officials accept, any time before election, applications for absentee ballots or wartime registration as a voter.

3. That voting material be designed for air carriage, not exceeding 8 ounce per voter and be placed in an envelope 4 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches, marked "official ballot."

4. That a service man's vote be acknowledged before a commissioned, warrant or noncommissioned officer, not lower than a sergeant, or the equivalent navy rating.

# Nazis Build 'Siegfried Line' Along Italy

I (Continued from Page 1) I

mortar barrage had churned the height.

The new commander of Britain's best known army is a 40-year-old six-footer who commanded a corps of the Eighth army through the North African and Sicilian campaigns, and is second in popularity in that organization only to Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, whom he succeeds. Montgomery will direct British ground troops in the invasion of western Europe.

Indian troops fighting a few miles inland from the Adriatic were officially reported to have advanced several hundred yards under enemy machine-gun fire and seized a spur of a mountain ridge southwest of San Tommaso.

Fifth army infantry of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark advanced over a mile west of Venafro to capture a 2300-foot height in the Samucro ridge about two miles northwest of the village of San Vittore. An allied officer said the Fifth army now held all heights overlooking San Vittore, which is six miles from Cassino on the main inland highway to Rome.

Monday night, Australian-manned Catalinas bombed Kavieng, 160 miles northwest of Rabaul.

# Flagg-PGE Suit Flares Over Trustees

D (Continued from Page 1) D

A motion by Public Utilities Commissioner George Flagg, whereby the names of Thomas Dalzell and R. L. Clark, independent trustees of the Portland Electric Power company, would be eliminated as parties to a suit instituted by the Portland General Electric company to restrain a commission emergency order which would reduce company fees, Wednesday, stirred lively argument between attorneys for the respective parties as proceedings continued before Circuit Judge George Duncan.

PGE counsels contended that since Dalzell and Clark are stockholders and therefore would be affected by any rate reduction, they should be in a proper position, legally and morally, to file a suit of this kind.

Commission attorneys countered with the assertion that stockholders have no right to bring suit as agents for a corporation unless the corporation refuses to take action on its own part. They further charged that the Portland Electric Power company is at present reorganizing under the federal bankruptcy law.

The emergency order involved extends over a period of 120 days. A temporary restraining order previously had been rendered by Circuit Judge Arlie Walker.

At present two other cases of meningitis are reported locally, both mild in nature.

Gordon was a member of the Latter Day Saints church. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie W. Geddes; sister, Mrs. Helen Hawkins of Kansas City, Mo.; brothers, Donnie Geddes of Salem, Cpl. David Geddes of Fort Knox, Ky., and Don Geddes of Le Grand; half brothers, Vern and Lytle Walker of Portland; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Speelman of Haines, Ore.

Funeral arrangements are in charge of the W. T. Rigdon company.

# Marines Push Forward At Borgen Bay

C (Continued from Page 1) C

coast toward Borgen Bay opened Tuesday. It was the first heavy attack launched by the Yanks since the original landings December 26.

Meanwhile the perimeter around the captured airbase was expanded and solidified by a junction of invasion forces at Sag Sag, seven miles southwest of Cape Gloucester.

(At the time of the invasion, one force went ashore at Borgen Bay and split up, part of it holding off Japanese from the east and the other part moving on the Cape Gloucester airbase. Apparently it was the airbase force which moved to a junction with another group which invaded the cape December 26 on the south-west side.)

Japanese resistance was directed at Target Hill in an effort to blind American observation. The enemy airforce made four night attacks which caused minor casualties.

On New Guinea, Australians have pushed along the Moon peninsula coast to the vicinity of Cape King William, less than 80 airline miles from the Saldor invasion forces to the northwest.

Japanese jungle troops are caught between these two points. Cape King William is approximately 40 miles north of allied-held Finschhafen on the peninsula.

In the Madang sector, 55 air-line miles north of Saldor, Liberators and Mitchells attacked Alaxishafen airbase and Madang township Tuesday.

The Japanese stronghold of Rabaul, on the opposite end of New Britain from Cape Gloucester, was raided Monday by fighter planes from Bougainville which swept over Rapopo airbase and tangled with 20 enemy fighters. Six of the Japanese interceptors were downed for certain and five others probably were bagged. Two raiding fighters were lost.

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# Burroughs Rite Set Thursday

F (Continued from Page 1) F

Services will be held Thursday at 2:30 p. m. at the Smith-Baun chapel in Independence for Clarence Eugene Burroughs, 69, who died near Independence on January 2. Officiating will be Rev. Waggoner, and graveside services will be conducted by the Independence chapter of the Masonic lodge.

Mr. Burroughs, long engaged in farming in Polk county, was born in Kankakee county, Ill., the son of Horace and Margaret Austin Burroughs. He subsequently moved with his parents to Missouri and thence to South Dakota, before coming to Oregon in 1901. In that same year he married Mary Elizabeth McMillan.

He is survived by a daughter, Margaret Burroughs of Salem; a sister, Ella Jamison of Canova, SD; and two brothers, Albert Burroughs of Mountain View, Ark., and William S. Burroughs of Tacoma, Wash.

The money will go to the dependents of any casualties among the air crews defending the convoy.

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# Poles Asked Give Right of Way to Reds

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from the yoke of Polish usurpers."

This fresh indication that Moscow considers these areas of old Poland to be now integral parts of the soviet union was contained in the embassy information bulletin.

It came as the Polish government in London called on its underground in Poland to give the right of way to the advancing Russian armies and to continue resistance to Germany but withheld an order for cooperation with the Russian military.

Alluding to plebiscites which Moscow announced were held soon after the partition, the embassy bulletin said "The people of western Byelorussia themselves decided the question of the form their state was to take."

# FR Resubmits Overtime Pay Rail Claims

E (Continued from Page 1) E

days after their report is filed.

The new move toward settlement of the wage dispute of the biggest segment of railroad workers came while a member of the interstate commerce commission was protesting at the capitol against drafting railroad men.

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# Russians Take Berdichev, Press Nazis

F (Continued from Page 1) F

units smashed in on a comparatively narrow front. Heavy fighting raged all day and continued Wednesday, Berlin radio said.

Although the area was not identified further it was between the Nevel - Vitebsk fighting in the north and the northern Ukraine. The fighting may be in the sector north of Zhlobin, where the Russians long have been at the upper Dnieper after a drive from Propoisk.

The Russians, as is customary when a new operation begins made no mention of the area.

In announcing the capture of Berdichev Stalin cited an "air assault" division, four infantry divisions, a tank brigade, a tank regiment and four artillery and mortar regiments. A salute of 20 salutes from 224 Moscow guns was ordered to celebrate the victory.

Later details in the Moscow communique supplement at midnight said the Germans suffered "heavy losses" in the Berdichev fighting and the Russians captured large amounts of enemy material and many prisoners.

About 4000 Germans were killed in the fighting to the east, where Tarashova was taken. Also captured in this area was the railway station of Krivchunka, 37 miles southwest of Belaya Tserkov, extending still further the great bulge to the south that was pressing relentlessly on the German Dnieper bend forces.

In the Nevel fighting, the supplement said, 400 Germans were killed as the Russians pressed to within seven miles of the rail junction of Novosokolniki, 35 miles northeast of Nevel.

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# Ration Board Volunteers Receive Pins

A (Continued from Page 1) A

consisted of three persons when appointed two years ago today included 24 active members, with the promise that another half dozen will be added shortly.

Active members of the board, in addition to Heltzel are K. E. Wilkenson, G. E. Edwards, George TeSelle, E. J. Scollars, J. D. Foley, Kenneth Wilson, Sam Gillette, J. A. Lewis, Clarence M. Byrd, William Page, J. Ed Savage, Jess A. Fehler and Grover Hillman, all of whom serve on the mileage panel; Ira H. Gardner and Ronald Blischke, who with Wilkenson, form the tire panel; James Hague, Jr., and Wayne Kuhl, stove panel; J. N. Nash, W. A. Reeves, Elton Thompson, Frank Spears, Arthur Bahn and Dr. R. B. Blachford, Jr., oil panel.

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