

# IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

War Food Administrator Jones has restored autonomy of these agricultural agencies—the farm security administration, the agricultural adjustment administration, and the soil conservation service. He did this by stripping the commodity credit corporation, another federal agency, of policy-making powers in the field of food production. But two new bureaus blossomed where only one bloomed before: the food distribution administration is dropped and its powers divided between a new office of distribution and a new office of price. Definitely degraded in the reorganization are the commodity credit corporation and its chief, J. B. Huston. Now FSA, AAA, and SCS are made independent, responsible only to Jones.

This is another chapter in the battle of the bureaus which has been raging in Washington with particular fury in the department of agriculture. It began in the early days of the new deal, when the first agricultural relief act was passed containing everything in the way of panaceas that the politicians had heard of from greenbacks to payments for pig-killing. Soon Henry Wallace had a purge, ousting George N. Peek and a number of others high in the department. Since then the battle has been going on among the various bureaus and their chiefs.

For a long time the AAA was at the top of the heap. It drew fire of the veteran extension service which was strongly entrenched out through the country by virtue of its agricultural college connections. Last year FSA was in danger of summary execution. It was too "leftist" for many of the politicians and competing bureaus were jealous of its power and hostile to its purposes and methods. Lately there has been a battle between the (Continued on Editorial Page)

## Marion Bond Figures Climb To \$751,000

Augmented by the \$102,325 invested by bond purchasers who attended the premiere at the Grand theatre, sales to individuals in the Marion county fourth war loan campaign climbed Tuesday to \$751,000, approximately one-third of the goal for this type of investment, as the war finance committee turned its attention to another special event scheduled Thursday.

This will be an army exhibit of field artillery pieces and other war equipment—the materiel which helps speed victory at minimum cost in American lives, which war bond money purchases—to be on display from 2 to 8 p. m. in front of the courthouse.

The exhibit will consist of equipment of the Trailblazer division, in charge of Maj. H. Blithe, special services officer for the division through arrangements made through cooperation of Capt. Douglas McKay. The Trailblazer division also will provide a 20-piece band which will be stationed at the Victory center platform. The public is invited to view the exhibit without obligation to buy bonds. Joe Land, special events chairman for the Salem war finance committee, announced.

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## School Board Proposes 6 Mill Levy

The Salem school board, acting on a recommendation of the school board postwar planning committee, Tuesday night voted to submit to city voters on March 7 the matter of an annual levy of six mills over each of the next five years beginning with July, 1944, for the purpose of raising a money reservoir to finance general improvements in facilities of the Salem school district.

Chairman Donald Young named a committee of three from the board to further acquaint the public with the proposition: Roy Harland, Ralph Campbell and Mrs. David Wright.

Supt. Frank E. Bennett announced that the composite war bond goal of all the Salem schools from elementary to high school had been set at \$25,820, with \$11,911 of the total already reported in on last Friday. Each school has its individual bond drive, campaigning for a jeep or a jeep or whatever piece of equipment it may select.

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# The Oregon Statesman

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## Fifth Reported in Cassino

### Allies Destroy 46 Jap Planes

Matupi Harbor Hit; Enemy Interceptors Mauled

By OLEN CLEMENTS

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Wednesday, Jan. 26—(AP)—Allied fighter planes, torpedo and dive bombers in second-day visits to Lakunai airdrome at Rabaul, New Britain, shot down 46 Japanese planes for sure, bringing to 64 the number of enemy aircraft destroyed over the important Japanese base in two days against a loss of 11 allied planes.

The latest visits, on Sunday, reported in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique today, were made by escorted bombers before dawn and then later by fighter planes. The previous attacks were made Saturday.

In the pre-dawn Sunday raid the bombers destroyed eight parked planes, 17 gun positions, started large fuel fires and damaged a cargo vessel in Matupi harbor. Enemy fighters which attempted to intercept the raiders were badly mauled, 32 of them being shot down and 14 more probably destroyed, while the allies lost five planes, the communique said.

Later in the day allied fighters returned to embattle Rabaul and knocked down 14 Japanese fighters and probably one more out of a force of 60 which rose to intercept. The attackers emerged from this action without a single loss.

Losses for both sides in air fighting over Rabaul since January 1, based on communique figures, stand at 243 Japanese planes shot down against 55 allied aircraft.

Other medium bombers with escorts ranged to the Admiralty islands, northwest of New Britain, to set three 1000-ton enemy cargo ships afire and bomb and strafe the Momote airdrome and jetty area at Lorengau.

Allied planes have found the hunting of Japanese merchantmen in the Admiralty islands area profitable this month, sinking or damaging seven vessels and numerous barges and small craft. Those sunk included:

## Nelson Says Production Reaches Goal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—(AP)—Donald M. Nelson reported tonight that war production has reached the volume "considered necessary for victory."

The war production board chairman did not use those words, and there still will be major shifts of emphasis, but the idea was directly implicit in his announcement that December totals were approximately the same as those of November, with no over-all increase planned for 1944.

Declaring that "the nation has definitely solved the major problems involved in mass-production of munitions," the WPB chief's monthly production communique disclosed this record-breaking naval ship construction in 1943:

Two 450,000-ton battleships, eleven carriers, 15 aircraft carriers, 50 carrier escorts, 128 destroyers, 206 destroyer-escorts, and 56 submarines.

The navy's goal for 1944 calls for almost 50 per cent more new tonnage than was built in 1943, Nelson said. Production of naval ships in December, however, was 5 per cent under the November peak.

Four of the six major munitions programs declined in December—ships, guns and fire-control equipment, ammunition, combat and motor vehicles. Two programs were up—aircraft and communications and electronics equipment.

## Rayburn Sought, Vice President

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—"Rayburn for vice president" boom is taking shape in the house, with one member declaring it already is under way.

Southern democrats opposed to Vice President Wallace are the sponsors. They expect backing of southern governors and senators, despite a remark by Sen. Maybank (D-SC) that "We haven't picked our man yet."

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### Russians Gain Rail Junction

Nazis Yield Last 50-Mile Hold On Trunkline

By JAMES M. LONG

LONDON, Wednesday, Jan. 26—(AP)—Russian troops have fought their way into the streets of Krasnogvardeisk, important rail junction 30 miles southwest of Leningrad, Moscow announced today while other forces to the east have sent the Germans into retreat from their 50-mile hold on the Moscow-Leningrad trunkline.

In still a third sector of the northern front, 80 miles south of Krasnogvardeisk, the Volkhow army of Gen. Kyrill A. Meretskov advanced to within artillery range of the last of the two German escape routes to the south.

Chasing the Germans into Krasnogvardeisk, Gen. Leonid A. Govorov's Leningrad armies continued the pursuit into the streets of the town where the rail lines from Estonia and Latvia meet. The Germans, who have been in constant retreat before the power of Russian planes and guns, were expected to fall back shortly from the town which is already outflanked east and west.

Vladimirskaya, 9 miles east of Krasnogvardeisk on the spur line to Tosno and Chernovo, six miles west of the rail junction, also were captured.

The Moscow midnight communique reported that 100 Germans were killed in the northern advance and a German railway train stocked with tanks and guns captured.

## Argentina Said Ready to Sever Axis Relations

NEW YORK, Jan. 25—(AP)—President Pedro Ramirez of Argentina concluded a 15-minute radio address to his nation tonight without making any reference to Argentine relations with the axis.

It has been widely predicted that Argentina plans to sever relations with the axis, and it had been believed possible that Ramirez would announce the rupture tonight.

Instead his broadcast as monitored by the National Broadcasting company and the federal communications commission, dealt with the earthquake at San Juan.

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Argentine Foreign Minister Alberto Gilbert told a press conference tonight that Argentina was prepared to take "the final step" to eliminate all espionage activities which endanger the dignity of the nation. He did not elaborate.

(Reuters, British news agency, said the foreign minister announced Argentina would sever relations with the axis. The remark about "the final step" might appear to mean this.)

## Rent Control Considers 30 Applications

Most of the approximately 30 applications which came before Salem's rent control committee Tuesday night were from property owners asking authority to raise rents.

In many cases, according to Merrill D. Ohling, committee chairman, even the renters concurred, declaring that higher rentals rightfully should be collected. One large apartment house was included.

No statement as to the committee's action could be given Tuesday night, Ohling said because of the amount of business which had come before it and because of its desire to protect both renters and landlords from public discussion until such time as a report could be prepared which would reveal trends.

## Waves Destroy Homes At Redondo Beach

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Waves as high as 40 feet today undermined an entire block of apartment houses and residences at Redondo Beach and threatened the destruction of several other buildings along the Strand as the year's highest tide of 6.7 feet was reached.

Police said property damage might total several hundred thousand dollars. No lives were lost and there were no reports of injuries.

### Sgt. Panther Is Prisoner

Staff Sgt. Hubert W. Panther of Salem, who in December was reported as "missing since November 6," is a prisoner of war of the German government, his sister, Mrs. Atha Allen, Silverton road, was informed in a message delivered to her Tuesday through the international Red Cross.

Panther, member of the national guard in the Des Moines, Ia., unit, is a graduate of Salem high school with the class of 1938. He is the son of O. W. Panther, now employed in Azusa, Calif., near Los Angeles.

Mrs. Allen's notification was from the adjutant general, who had received his information through the international Red Cross and who assures her a letter with more information follows from the provost marshal general.

### Indict Briggs As Forger Of Letter

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A federal grand jury today indicted George N. Briggs, confidential aide to Interior Secretary Ickes on charges of forging the "Hopkins letter," the celebrated document which implied that the White House is in political cahoots with Wendell Willkie.

Besides forgery, the indictment accused Briggs of false pretense and using the mails to defraud. In effect, the jury absolved all others mentioned in the bizarre case.

The language of the three bills of indictment was that Briggs alone wrote the celebrated letter; that he signed the name of Harry Hopkins, close adviser to President Roosevelt; that he carried on the correspondence leading to its publication in an anti-Willkie book, and obtained money from the book's author.

The 55-year-old Briggs, brother of the late cartoonist Clare Briggs who drew "When A Feller Needs a Friend," had no comment but his attorneys said he was "naturally surprised" at the indictments. Bail was fixed at \$3000 which Briggs is expected to post tomorrow.

Upon conviction, he is liable to 35 years imprisonment and \$8,000 in fines. Briggs himself had said he was the victim of "power politics" in the whole affair and he guessed he'd have to get used to it, "like olives."

### Soviets Want Friendship, Myers Says

"There is sincere intention among soviet officials and private citizens to establish a long term friendship with the United States," Fred Myers, national executive director of Russian War Relief, Inc., told members of Salem's RWR committee at a dinner meeting here Tuesday night.

This conviction on the part of "those of us working with Russian War Relief" is based upon "our experience with soviet officials and the recipients of American relief supplies," Myers explained.

Two years ago the soviet Red Cross asked Russian War Relief officials to require that all relief shipments be labeled with the American flag and with a suitable Russian inscription explaining that this material was a gift from the people of America, Myers said.

Of the \$16,000,000 worth of relief supplies, sent to Russia in 1943 by the relief organization and not to be confused with lend lease shipments, half went out through the port of Portland, he said. Minimum goal for 1944 is \$21,000,000 worth, the committee was told, with the suggestion that a full understanding of the facts would lead Salem to continue to give and to increase its contribution of aid to the soviet people.

### Senator Dies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Frederick Van Nuys, senior senator from Indiana and as chairman of the judiciary committee one of the senate's most influential members, died in his sleep early today. He was 69 and was serving his 12th year in the senate. Death apparently resulted from a heart attack. Because of a slight cold, he did not attend the senate session yesterday.

Van Nuys was a democrat but was not counted a "new dealer" and his opposition to some administrative measures had kept him in conflict with elements of the party in Indiana.

### Allies Gain 12 Miles

Other Villages Taken; Nazi Resistance Low

By Wea Gallagher

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Jan. 25—(AP)—Fifth army patrols were reported tonight to have entered Cassino, long a bastion of the Germans' cross-Italy line, and this may indicate the beginning of a German withdrawal from the southern Italian front.

Allied troops extended their bridgehead south of Rome more than 12 miles inland and apparently forced Field Marshal Gen. Albert Kesselring to withdraw units from the bloody Cassino area to meet the threat to the Nazis' two major supply arteries from Rome.

(American patrols entering the outskirts of Cassino could see into the "heart of the town, only 400 yards away," the London radio said tonight in a broadcast recorded by CBS, and "the only sign of life was a single German walking down the street.")

"But even if Cassino has been evacuated," the broadcast continued, "the surrounding heights still are held by the Germans." (A German broadcast said the town of Velletri, 24 miles southeast of Rome on the Appian Way, had been destroyed by allied bombs and intimidated American troops had occupied the town and cut the highway.)

### Britons Refuse To Recognize Bolivia Junta

By ROGER GREENE

LONDON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The British government announced refusal today to recognize Bolivia's military junta but left the door open for a resumption of relations if conditions change.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced in commons that the recently named minister would not proceed to take up his post in Bolivia, but Eden included the significant word "now" and shortly thereafter a foreign office spokesman told reporters it did not plan to close the legation at La Paz.

Britain's action followed a similar move last night by the United States. Eden said he believed the Bolivian coup had been aided by German agents and added the British government was "in step" with the United States both as to diplomatic recognition and economic action.

Sixteen Latin American countries have declined recognition of the Bolivian government and all others except Argentina are expected to follow suit. Those already having acted were Uruguay, Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Paraguay, Chile, Mexico, Haiti and Ecuador.

### MacArthur Works On 64th Birthday

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Wednesday, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 64 today but looking years younger, spent his birthday visiting veterans of the Pagan, New Guinea, campaign and his old friend, Lt. Gen. Robert Eichelberger.

Reaching the age when normally American army officers retire, Gen. MacArthur continued his work policy under which he has not had a day off since the Japanese attacked the Philippines.

With no trace of gray in his hair and a springy step, Gen. MacArthur is in excellent physical condition. He has been a general officer for 25 years.

## Amphibious Invasion



With everything running smoothly, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, (top, reads a report on the progress of the new invasion after landing with force of his allied Fifth army on the west coast of Italy behind German lines. Center, a British soldier, rifle slung over his shoulder, stands guard over the first German prisoners captured in the drive. Below, Pfc. Bob Kearney, left, of New York City, and Sgt. Jack Malone of Modesto, Calif., found the going damp and took a minute out to wring seawater from their clothing. (All AP Wirephotos from Signal Corps Photo via OWI radio.)

### Yanks Employ Armored Units To Advance on Roman Plains

By DON WHITEHEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS Correspondent Representing the Combined American Press ON THE FIFTH ARMY BEACHHEAD SOUTH OF ROME, Jan. 25.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Out in the flat fertile plains south of Rome American troops supported by tanks are having to blast German machine gunners from every farmhouse in their drive across the Mussolini canal.

Hastily throwing up a defense against the swift Fifth army drive inland from their Nettuno beachhead the Germans have evacuated Italians from their homes and turned each building into a fortress which the Yanks are attacking with tanks and machine-guns.

For the first time in the Italian campaign the Americans are fighting over country suitable for tanks, and armor is being used effectively to support infantry advances. Armor aided the doughboys in their push last night, into enemy territory.

Late yesterday afternoon two units commanded by Capt. Bumleigh Packwood of Whitefish, Montana, and Capt. Charles Britt of Lonoke, Ark., moved across the Mussolini canal to seize two road junctions.

Fifteen minutes after their attack began the fighting started and it continued all night long but the Yanks drove the enemy back from house to house to reach their objective, even though the Germans threw in reinforced units in an effort to halt them.

"Packwood chased the Germans all the way back to the objective," grinned Lt. Col. Lyle W. Bernard. "The boys went ahead against heavy machine-gun and armored car fire."

"Our men ran the Germans from house to house," said Capt. Charles Noble of Santa Ana, Calif. "When things got too hot in one house the Krauts would drop back to another."

In one house the Germans had five machine-guns set up. Packwood sent one unit under Lt. Philip Horan of Akron, Ohio, out to clean them out with tank support and the troops assaulted the stronghold driving the Germans out.

During the night the enemy brought troops in by trucks and dropped them behind the dough-boys on lateral roads but in each case Packwood or Britt would send men back to wipe them out.

### British Raid Fiume

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 25.—(AP)—British bombers have raided the Adriatic port of Fiume, causing "considerable damage," a dispatch from Budapest said tonight, quoting an official announcement from Zagreb.