

Joint Confab Backs Limited Federal Ballot

WASHINGTON, March 2—(AP)—A sharply circumscribed federal ballot bill to provide absentee voting for men and women in the armed services was approved by a joint conference committee of senators and house members today.

Restricted even further in its application than had been decided upon yesterday, the federal ballot would be available for overseas service members only if they had applied for state ballots by September 1 and had not received them by October 1.

A new provision stipulates that before the federal ballots may be used, state governors would have to certify that they were "authorized" by the laws of the state. Senator Green (D-RI), one of the principal sponsors of the full federal ballot, voted against the final compromise and declined to predict what its fate would be in the senate.

Rep. Worley (D-Tex), who led the fight in the house for the federal ballot, predicted the compromise bill would be acceptable there.

A new provision was inserted in the bill to provide that "nothing in this act shall be deemed to prohibit free discussion regarding political issues or candidates for public office."

By another change, a proposed four-member special war ballot commission would be replaced by an ex-officio commission composed of the secretaries of war and navy and the war shipping administration.

"It would be better to have no bill at all than to have one such as this," Green told a press conference.

Senator Hatch (D-NM) agreed, declaring that the compromise bill would take away from service people in the continental United States the waiver of poll tax and registration requirements granted by the 1942 soldier vote law.

The bill will go first to the senate—probably next week—then to the house, and if finally accepted by both bodies still must win the approval of President Roosevelt, who characterized the original states' rights service vote bill as "a fraud upon the American people."

ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS
There being six current magazines I have not yet scanned, I herewith cross my fingers and hope we will not be held for copyright violations. However, this bit of literature (loaned to me for the occasion) shows us what the attitude is in parts of the country far away from army camps and naval training units:
1942: What a man!
1943: What! A man?
1944: What's a man?

Funeral Today For McNary At Capitol

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was expected to leave Salem at 4 p. m., on their return to the national capital.

All state officers here, along with stores and shops, will be closed during the funeral hour.

The casket will be under military guard of 16 soldiers from Camp Adair. Another military guard, comprising 36 soldiers, will be stationed outside the main entrance to the capitol building.

Six men who were fellow-attorneys of the late senator before he began his political career will bear the casket to its final resting place.

In eastern Oregon, where a federal law sponsored by McNary gave the Umatilla Indian reservation ownership of a grazing and hunting area, chiefs of three Indian tribes expressed gratitude to the late republican leader.

"Where will we find another man to befriend us, for this one has gone now?" said a resolution signed by James Kanine of the Walla Walla, James Bill of the Umatilla, and Anthony Red Hawk of the Cayuse tribe.

Phone Company Declares Dividend

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2—(AP)—The board of directors of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. today declared a quarterly dividend of \$1.50 a share on common stock payable March 31, to shareholders of record March 15. A regular dividend of \$1.50 a share on preferred stock, payable April 15 to shareholders of record March 31, also was declared. Officers and directors were re-elected.

RAF Bombers Follow Yank Blitz on Reich

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diately, but the area was the same as that in which the RAF last night made a 600-bomber assault on Stuttgart with a record low loss of only four bombers.

Counting cross-channel assaults during the day it was estimated that between 2000 to 3000 allied planes of all types had been flown against German targets since the RAF set out for Stuttgart last night.

Clouds still covered southwest Germany as they did last night, but the fires set by the RAF served as beacons for the Americans, and lack of visibility failed to shield the targets from the allied overcast-bombing methods.

Returning American fliers said that, as on Tuesday's long trip to Brunswick, today's thrust failed to coax up the battered German fighter force, and anti-aircraft fire was their only hindrance.

"I saw only 10 bursts of flak all day and the most fighter pilots must have been out having lunch," said Lt. Col. John E. Kild, a command pilot of 608 North Avenue, La Grande, Ore.

The night and day operations together cost the allied air forces only 15 heavy bombers, one medium bomber and three fighters.

The American Marauder medium bombers flew more than 400 sorties for the loss of one plane. They started several fires in the Amiens railway yards.

The German air force has not opposed any formation of allied planes in strength since the first phase of the campaign to wipe out the German aircraft industry ended last week.

American heavy bombers pounded the Pas-de-Calais area of France and penetrated to Brunswick in central Germany Tuesday with the loss of only one ship.

The RAF's loss of only four bombers out of 600 in last night's Stuttgart attack was a record for a night operation over Germany.

The persistent offensive against targets in northern France—today's attack was the 49th in the last 72 days—was given weight by two forays of Marauders and additional flights of British Mitchells, Bostons and Mosquitos, the last of which now are known to be capable of carrying 2000 pounds of bombs.

The Chartres airfield is a final training base for Nazi fighter pilots and also is used as a repair depot for Messerschmitt 109's and Focke-Wulf 190's.

"We hit the target to a damn jelly," said Lt. Joe McCarty, a bombardier of 608 West 189th street, New York City. "The whole place was covered with smoke."

Russians Gain In Estonia

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miles southwest of Vitebsk itself.

Dispatches from Russia, however, said the Vitebsk operations carried great power and the offensive was still to reach its climax. The Germans' first lines, protecting the almost surrounded city, were reported breached Wednesday.

The communique indicated that major gains of the day were made in the Pskov fighting, especially to the south where on Wednesday

HOLLYWOOD TODAY AND SATURDAY

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Nazi-Won Ground Is Regained

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forces jammed their way forward at dawn Tuesday along a 1000-yard front in the center of the 10-mile stretch between Carrocato and Cisterna.

Before the American troops and their curtain of artillery fire succeeded in stemming the Nazi power drive, official reports indicated the enemy overran an important road junction and was shoving down a highway toward the village of Campo Morto, which is only seven miles from the vital allied supply port of Nettuno. The American counterattack, launched at 7 p. m. Tuesday, regained the road junction.

(Secretary of War Stimson said in Washington that allied troops had repulsed a two-day enemy attack in force, but added the warning that "it is doubtful whether its full strength has yet been exerted.")

A steady rain during the opening day of the attack aided the defenders, as it soon turned the ground into a quagmire and confined the heavy German tanks to the highways. Yesterday the weather continued bad, but skies were clear today.

Writing from the beachhead, Edward Kennedy of the Associated Press told of the happiness of allied troops as they saw the big Fortresses and Liberators come sweeping out of a blue sky and dump their explosives on enemy guns and troops. Above and around the bombers were squadrons of escorting fighters.

The Russians merely announced last night that they had captured several heavily fortified strong points in German defenses "in the Narva direction" and in addition improved bridgehead positions west of the town.

WASHINGTON, March 2—Predicting that most ferocious fighting lies just ahead, Navy Secretary Knox endorsed the Austin-Wadsworth labor draft bill today as the surest and fairest means of stabilizing employment in plants and shipyards that must feed the war machine.

"The present program for selective and controlled employment needs immediate tightening up," he told Chairman Reynolds (D-NC) and Senator Austin (R-Vt.), the only members of the military affairs committee who appeared to receive his testimony.

Austin is co-author of the pending bill; Reynolds and a large proportion of the other committee members oppose the compulsory system.

Conceding that war production left nothing to be desired in any major field last year, Knox continued:

"But we face 1944; and output for 1944 must be even greater than for 1943. In 1944 we will be fighting mightier battles with heavier losses in every quarter of the world. This means more and more men, more and more equipment, more and more supplies and more and more ships."

Sweeping his arms wide to describe casualty lists "that long" already pouring into the states, the cabinet official said the resistance the Germans are putting up in Italy demonstrates the kind of battles that may be expected when the allies' amphibious troops pound their gun butts on Hitler's European front door.

He said that if people who are not fully employed would go to work where they are needed, and then would stay on the job, there would be no manpower problem.

"And that is precisely what a national service law would be expected to accomplish," he declared. "Our manpower problem has, all along, been especially hard to solve because of excessive switching from job to job."

The illusion of an early victory, caused by the collapse of Italy last summer, boosted the rate of job swapping, absenteeism and turnover in industry to new high levels, he said, asking the committee to judge how much more serious such manifestations would become when Germany is whipped.

"We could have a slump in production that might seriously imperil our fighting in the Pacific," he said. "Japan is hoping for just that sort of demoralization."

As for the argument that a national service law means "regimentation and slave labor," Knox said:

Washington State Approves Service Vote

OLMPIA, March 2—(AP)—The house of representatives approved tonight a moderately amended version of the soldiers' vote bill which passed the senate two nights ago.

The vote was unanimous after the controversial amending of the measure was completed during its second reading.

Lepke Gets Execution Stay From Dewey

ALBANY, N.Y., March 2—(AP)—Governor Thomas E. Dewey tonight gave Louis (Lepke) Buchalter and two "Murder, Inc." henchmen a brief additional span of life pending a last ditch appeal to the United States supreme court.

Seventy minutes before the gang-murder chieftain, Louis Capone and Emanuel Weiss were to have died in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison for the 1936 slaying of Joseph Rosen, Brooklyn storekeeper, the governor ordered a sixth stay for the trio.

Dewey, through his counsel, Charles D. Breitell, said he had requested Correction Commissioner John A. Lyons to postpone the executions of Buchalter, Weiss and Capone "until later in this week."

Breitell's statement added that "under the circumstances there is no need for a respite by the governor at this time."

Breitell explained that the new stay was granted after counsel for Buchalter advised him he had arranged for an application to the United States supreme court at noon Saturday for a writ of certiorari.

Lepke's attorney, J. Bertram Wegman, seeks review of a US circuit court of appeals decision, made late this afternoon, upholding a lower federal court ruling denying the gangster a writ of habeas corpus.

Wegman had sought a habeas corpus writ on the ground the transfer of Lepke from federal to state custody last January was illegal because President Roosevelt had not granted a commutation.

Lepke was surrendered to the state on condition he be returned to federal custody if not executed. Buchalter was serving a 14-year sentence on a narcotics charge.

The new lease of life for the 47-year-old gang overlord followed a report that he had made a statement implicating three nationally prominent persons.

Breitell declined to either affirm or deny such a statement had been made.

Breitell said the further stay would expire at midnight Saturday. It was indicated unofficially, however, that another stay might be granted if the US supreme court did not act immediately on the Lepke application.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—(AP)—Back in prohibition days police searched a St. Joseph building and excavated 100 times for a still they thought was hidden there. They never found it.

Today they learned they were on the right track all along. A man who recently purchased the building discovered a 10-gallon still while remodeling. It had been built inside a partition.

Troops Added, Admiralty Isles

B (Continued from Page 1) B

firmly established, restoration work immediately commenced on the airfield which was pitted by bombs unloaded on it during the pre-landing bombardment.

Supporting ground operations of the First cavalry division units at Los Negros island, Fifth army air force Liberator and Mitchell bombers, with fighters and dive-bombers manned by Australians, smashed at the Japanese air base at Hansa bay with 170 tons of bombs. Numerous fires were started and damage was reported heavy.

Liberators ranging farther north attacked a five-ship enemy convoy off Hollandia and left a 7,000-ton vessel, biggest in the convoy, sinking after scoring direct hits on it.

In the Madang area, on the coast south of Hansa bay, attack planes and divebombers started fires on airfields at Madang and Alexishafen, and blasted gun positions and supply dumps.

Mitchell medium bombers and fighters from Solomon's bases struck Rabaul, the bomb-saturated enemy base in northeastern New Britain, and nearby Duke of York island with 38 tons of bombs.

Jap Navy 3rd Sunk

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quent attacks on the big Japanese base at Saipan and nearby Japanese-held Guam, which was seized from American forces early in the war.

With such mobility of the American fleet, few enemy bases may be considered secure from attack unless the Japanese navy should attempt to intercept United States fleet movements. That possibility exists but the naval authority said he did not expect such action until the Japanese are forced back so far that they have to fight.

To inquiries about the duration of the war, he said that the United States is not overlooking any bets. As an example he cited the invasion of the Admiralty Islands by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He said the action started merely as a reconnaissance in force but when opportunity developed became an attack and occupation.

Finland Ready For Armistice, Says Journal

By EDWIN SHANKE

STOCKHOLM, Friday, March 3.—(AP)—The Finnish newspaper Social Demokratt, mouthpiece of the social democratic party which is the strongest in Finland's parliament, indicated today that the Finnish government intends to make every effort to negotiate an armistice with Russia.

"It is to be believed we will try to move along the road of negotiation if there is even the slightest possibility to do so with freedom and independence preserved," the newspaper said.

An informed Finnish source said the article was inspired by the majority view of parliament, which gave the government a vote of confidence Tuesday at a secret session.

Censorship refused to pass accounts of the parliament's vote. Earlier a Finnish foreign office spokesman said that the Finnish cabinet was giving the peace dilemma "major consideration," but there was no official indication that the government had reached a decision on whether to accept Moscow's terms.

The Social Demokratt expressed the opinion that the Moscow terms were "meant only to form the basis for further negotiation and that Finland will have a chance to express its own views."

The newspaper said that at first glance the conditions proposed by Moscow are "harsh and even cruel."

In noting that "German reaction will have an influence on some points," the newspaper put its finger on one of the main armistice stumbling blocks—the presence of German troops in north Finland. The other touchy question is the demobilization of the Finnish army.

The Finnish cabinet continued meantime to study the question

Finland Ready For Armistice, Says Journal

of peace or continued war on the losing side, but informed Finnish political sources predicted that there would be no move within the next few days.

Senator Wants Liberty Ship Building Ended

NEW YORK, March 2—(AP)—Opposition to construction of any more Liberty ships and opposition to converting them into hospital or troop ships, came today from Senator Mon C. Wallgren (D-Wash.), a member of the Truman committee.

The senator's statement came at a public hearing of the special senate sub-committee investigating Liberty ships.

A witness, John Lyle Wilson, assistant chief surveyor of the American bureau of shipping, New York, strongly defended Liberty ships, declaring they had been the "salvation" of the nation's war time shipping. He agreed, however, when Senator Wallgren asked if the time hasn't arrived to abandon Liberty ship building in favor of faster vessels.

A. G. Bates, vice president of AGWI Lines, Inc., New York, described the condition of one of the 43 Liberty ships his company operates.

Senator Wallgren asked Bates "if 1500 troops had been aboard the ship you described, would they not have been in bad shape?"

"They certainly would," replied Bates.

Bates stated his opinion that Liberty ships are "not as suitable nor as safe as the regular type-passenger ship."

Senator Wallgren said he favored completion of only those Liberty ships now on the ways and cancellation of orders for "several hundreds" others now scheduled in favor of faster ships better able to out-maneuver submarines.

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THE HOUSE THAT THE REALITY
LIBERTY
OPENS 6:45 P. M.
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BIG THRILL PROGRAM!
Excitement! Adventure! Thrill! Action!
Thank Your Lucky Stars
CO-FEATURE
THE LONE WOLF TURNS SPY TO MAKE NAZIS TURN PALE
...and cops turn green with envy!

HOW SPIES DIRECT SUBMARINE TERROR!
U-BOAT 29
THE DRAMA BEHIND WAR HEADLINES!
Coard VEIBT
Valerie HOSGON
Sebastian SHAN
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