

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

In the past the voters of the city of Salem have rejected proposals for charter changes looking toward a smaller city council and employment of an administrative manager. This newspaper has supported these proposals in the past, and does so again this year.

In fact its support is strengthened by the comments of Dan J. Fry when he retired from the city council a few months ago, and by Mayor Doughton who adds his testimony to that of mayors who preceded him. They likewise found from experience that our present system of administration through council committees so diffuses authority that the city does not get the best results.

There may be provisions of the proposed charter which might well be changed, but it does set up on the whole a practical form of city government. There would be an elected mayor and city council of seven who would employ a city manager. The manager's job would be purely administrative, the city would retain full power to adopt or amend city ordinances, prepare budgets, approve expenditures, and change the manager. But the administration which is simply performing the work which the council lays out, would be handled under the city manager. Members of the council would be spared many interruptions, and they would have one man to hold accountable instead of some council committee.

There must be good in this city manager plan because so far as I know no city in Oregon of any size which has adopted such a plan has reversed itself and gone back to the old form. LaGrande, Bend, Oregon (continued on editorial page)

Hannegan Sure FDR Will Run, Win 4th Term

NEW YORK, May 8 (AP)—Robert E. Hannegan, chairman of the democratic national committee, said tonight he was firmly convinced that President Roosevelt would run again and be elected, and declared that "despite the malicious whispers to the contrary, I can assure you the president is fit and ready for the fight."

He made it clear his opinion was a personal one that he had not discussed with the president "his own desires or intentions."

Hannegan devoted much of an address prepared for a \$50-a-plate Thomas Jefferson dinner at the Commodore hotel to criticizing utterances of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, possibly republican presidential nominee, which Hannegan charged showed lack of foresight.

He described Dewey as one "who copies down the answers on his little slate after the examination is all over."

"In dealing with the delicate problems that will arise among nations, the dangers that may threaten our own and all other free peoples, in anticipating the world of 1948," Hannegan said, "will the governor of New York show the same great lack of comprehension that he has exhibited for the four-year stretch since 1940?"

Hannegan quoted Dewey as saying in 1940 that it was "most unfortunate" the new deal rebo-

Senate Favors Lend-Lease

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—The senate voted 63 to 1 today for another one-year extension of the lend lease program after hearing arguments that the United States seek permanent title to Caribbean air bases acquired from Britain on 99-year leases in the 1940 destroyer trade.

The brief debate also included discussion of the need for development of a fixed policy on repayment of lend lease aid.

Senator Langer (R-ND.) cast the only vote against the extension measure. It now returns to the house for concurrence in a single amendment which broadens a house-initiated provision prohibiting the president from committing the United States, in lend lease settlements, to any post-war economic, military or foreign relations policy with the treaty approval of the senate.

Road Commission Will Consider Contracts

Contracts involving an expenditure of approximately \$150,000 will be considered at a meeting of the state highway commission in Portland Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, announced Monday.

Several delegations will appear before the commission Wednesday, including representatives of the Salem chamber of commerce.

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Weather
Maximum temperature Monday 57; minimum 44 degrees. Precipitation .05.
Partly cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday but with occasional showers near coast. Cooler Tuesday night.

Russians Launch Attack

Reds Crack Main Sevastopol Line Of Axis Defense

LONDON, Tuesday, May 8 (AP)—The red army has cracked the main axis defense belt at Sevastopol, killed more than 4000 Germans and won hilltops dominating that besieged Crimean fortress, Moscow announced today.

Russian troops now are fighting at the immediate approaches to the city, a midnight bulletin said, as soviet planes hurl "thousands of bombs on enemy positions" in the final all-out drive to crush the trapped German-Romanian garrison dug into caves bordering the city.

The 4000 axis dead were slain in a single sector where the Russians blew up 36 pillboxes and 27 blockhouses in their victorious charge, Moscow said.

Thus the fall of Sevastopol appeared near on the 29th day of the offensive which has liberated all of the 10,000-square-mile peninsula except the small pocket at Sevastopol, on the southwest (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

DR Returns To Washington From Vacation

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—President Roosevelt, bronzed and relaxed by four weeks in the south, settled back today into normal White House routine and a round of catch-up conferences. Senate and house leaders trooped into his study this morning and Senate Majority Leader Barkley reported they "appreciated the president of the status of legislation in both houses, which is getting along very well."

No recommendations for new legislation came from the chief executive, Barkley said, and there were no indications of any important legislative proposals in the near future.

While the government's seizure of the Chicago plants of Montgomery Ward and company stirred up a hubbub and resulted in congress ordering investigations while the president was recuperating from winter illness at a Georgetown, S. C., plantation, Barkley said this was not even mentioned in today's legislative parley.

Speaker Rayburn, House Majority Leader McCormack and Vice President Wallace accompanied Barkley to the White House. The latter, who lingered briefly after the others had departed for Capitol Hill, told reporters that his approaching trip to China naturally entered the discussion.

The other conferences to bring Mr. Roosevelt up to date on foreign affairs and international diplomacy followed the meeting with the quartet from congress.

Eaker's Men Ruin 3/4 Of Nazi Oil Source

By EDWARD KENNEDY
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, May 8 (AP)—The German war machine, hard pressed by the Russians, facing imminent allied invasion and possible new blows from the south, has been deprived of three-fourths of the output of its main oil source by allied bombings of Romanian fields.

This was announced today by Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, allied air commander in the Mediterranean theater, in a summary of results of the Mediterranean air force's spring offensive. Not only have air attacks cut production of the Ploesti fields by 75 per cent, but they have disrupted all lines of German communications to the Russian front, he said.

The MAAF commander's announcement followed the sixth aerial blow at Romania since Friday. RAF Halifaxes and Liberators, pounded the Romanian capital of Bucharest in the face of stiff fighter opposition last night, raining explosives on industrial targets.

The Germans lost 20 fighters in air battles near Bucharest yesterday, and nine nazi aircraft were destroyed in other operations, bringing the day's bag to 29. The allies lost two heavy bombers and 12 other planes in more than 1500 sorties.

The actions pointed up Gen. Eaker's announcement, which revealed that the Mediterranean air force had taken such a toll of German aviation, both in shooting down fighters attempting to interfere with such raids, and in the bombings of aircraft factories, that the German air force will be greatly hampered in its efforts to halt the coming great attack on Europe.

On the Italian front, land operations (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Finds Child



An Irish Setter recently found little 22-month-old Judine Houghton sleeping peacefully in the underbrush. It took the dog six minutes to locate the missing child after police and civilians had been scouring the hillsides of South Seattle for many hours. Judine is pictured with the Irish Setter after the sleeping child was found by the dog. (International)

Allies Send 4500 Planes Against Nazis Yesterday

Offensive Goes Into 25th Day; Berlin, Brunswick Get Heavy Pasting of Bombers

LONDON, May 9.—(AP)—The allied aerial offensive blazed into its 25th straight day with unadmiral fury today as formations of outward-bound planes thundered over the British east coast shortly after 8 a. m. (2 AEW) and disappeared in the direction of the French-Belgian border.

The daylight raiders set out only a few hours after fleets of RAF bombers had returned to base from night assaults on targets in occupied Europe.

By W. W. HERCHER
LONDON, Tuesday, May 9 (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's invasion command for the second straight day hurled 4500 planes against German defenses yesterday, blasting Berlin, Brunswick, channel coastal emplacements and key rail targets and bagging 119 German planes.

A morning attack on Berlin and Brunswick by nearly 2000 US Flying Fortresses, Liberators, and their escorting fighters cost the Americans 36 bombers and 13 fighters in great sky battles during which colliding axis fighters and invading bombers occasionally fell locked in flames.

A second formation of less than 250 Liberators and Flying Fortresses in the afternoon attacked rail yards near Brussels, Belgium, and coast fortifications in the Calais and Cherbourg areas of France. Five bombers were lost on that mission.

Fighting deep inside Germany and five miles above the earth in 45-below-zero temperatures the American heavy bomber airmen (Turn to Page 2—Story J)

Chinese Pounded

Only 14 Miles On Hankow Rail Left Unoccupied

CHUNGKING, May 8 (AP)—Fighting raged unabated in all sectors of the Honan province battle area today as the Chinese, severely pressed at Loyang in the north, desperately attempted to keep apart the claws of a Japanese pincers along the north-south Peiping-Hankow railway.

The Chinese high command conceded that along the railway the Japanese had driven southward from Siping to Suiping, leaving only a 14-mile stretch of the line in Chinese hands, but said a northward thrust at Chumashien by the southern claw of the pincers had been repulsed.

With captured Chengheisen as a northern base, Japanese columns struck past Yencheng and Siping to Suiping, where heavy fighting progressed, while another column, pushing northwest of Yehsien (Turn to Page 2—Story K)

Manager Plan Will Not Hurt Civil Service

Charges of some city employees that the proposed council-manager charter amendment which is to be submitted to the voters May 19 would do away with civil service were denied Monday by the committee which drew the measure.

The bill does provide, it was pointed out, that both police chief and fire chief shall be removed from civil service, but the provision which places police and fire departments under control of the manager does not remove members from those two departments from civil service.

"Any city manager who goes to work during the wartime manpower shortage is not likely to undertake wholesale firing of city employees," Pat Crossland, chairman of the committee which presented the measure, declared. "All of us know that one of the principal problems faced by executives everywhere is that of obtaining sufficient and efficient help. No one can speak for a manager not yet selected, but it doesn't take much reasoning to figure out that he's going to have to be pretty generally acceptable to most city employees as well as to the general public if the municipality is to operate efficiently."

"He will be held responsible for the functioning of the various city departments, and will, in turn, hold chiefs of departments, fire and police as well as all the others, responsible to him. No one will have any more authority over civil service employees than is held over them today—their chiefs simply will know where the authority to carry out the policies of the council lies, that is, if the city votes for the council-manager plan."

Robert Johnson Becomes Ace of Aces in Europe

A US FIGHTER BASE IN ENGLAND, May 8 (AP)—Capt. Robert S. Johnson, a cool young sharpshooter in a Thunderbolt, bagged his 26th and 27th German planes in sky combat today, unofficially becoming the first American pilot in Europe to surpass Capt. Edward Rickenbacker's record of 26 aerial kills.

And there was a one-in-a-million coincidence about this triumph in the clouds—his wingman's father was Rickenbacker's commanding officer in world war one.

The double victory over Germany gave the blond, 24-year-old flier from Lawton, Okla., a tie with Maj. Richard I. Bong, Lightning pilot in the southwest Pacific, as topmost American ace in strictly air victories.

Capt. Don Gentile of Piqua, Ohio, holds the American record in this theater for German planes destroyed, with a total of 30, seven of which were wrecked on the ground.

There was little doubt that (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Shot Hits Cpl. On Furlough

SILVERTON, May 8—Cpl. Elvin Almqvist, son of Mrs. George O. Almqvist, who was on his way home on furlough from Ft. Lewis, got within range of a gun which was discharged after a fleeing holdup man in a cigar store on Morrison street Sunday in Portland. Almqvist was shot in the left leg, just above the ankle.

He was taken first to Providence hospital and then removed to the army air base hospital. Almqvist, who is a brother of Paul Almqvist who is home on furlough from an eastern army post. Cpl. Almqvist had just left a bus after getting in from Ft. Lewis and was passing the cigar store.

Lt. Roy Rice Reported Lost From Mission

Second Lt. Roy J. Rice, jr., has been reported missing in action, according to word received by his parents Monday from the war department. He failed to return from a mission over France on April 25.

Lt. Rice had been overseas only a few weeks as co-pilot of a Flying Fortress. He received his silver wings and commission Nov. 3, 1943, at the Stuttgart, Ark., army air field, two years after he entered the armed forces. Later, he was transferred to the army air base at Alexandria, La., for training in combat flying.

Young Rice is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rice, route 3, box 673, Roberts district. The older Rice is one of the Marion county commissioners. The boy graduated from Salem high school and worked in the Ladd & Bush bank before entering aviation cadet training.

Sprague Speaks At Klamath Falls

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., May 8 (AP)—Charles A. Sprague, ex-governor who seeks the republican senatorial nomination, said today there must be no WPA for returning service men and women.

"We must do more than provide education and hospitalization for veterans," he said at a luncheon. "We must build up our economy to provide for them opportunity for employment and independent business... the big job in planning falls on congress, which must give business a chance to go forward."

Wakde Island Gets Pounding From Bombers

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Tuesday, May 9 (AP)—Allied bombers have heavily pounded Wakde island 120 miles northwest of captured Hollandia, New Guinea, and the Schouten island group 140 miles beyond, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

Escorted Liberators hit Mokmer airdrome on Biak island in the Schouten group three times, downing ten enemy interceptors.

The third assault on Mokmer within 24 hours was made at midday Saturday by Liberator squadrons which for the first time had the support of a fighter cover based on the newly-captured Hollandia airdrome.

A total of 295 tons of bombs was unloaded on Wakde island's airdrome and camp and supply areas and on the Japanese Sarmi base on the mainland nearby.

Liberators based in the Solomons sank three small enemy cargo ships near Truk in the central Carolines.

Cape Hoskins airdrome on the north-central coast of New Britain has been occupied by American marines without opposition, a headquarters spokesman said. Gen. MacArthur announced on April 4 that Cape Hoskins itself had been abandoned.

The heavy bombers ranged from Rabaul on New Britain, where 53 tons of explosives were unloaded on airdrome and supply areas, (Turn to Page 2—Story I)

Japs Try Hard To Regain Lost India Positions

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, May 8 (AP)—Japanese troops are counter-attacking strongly in the Manipur valley of eastern India in an effort to regain positions recently lost and are suffering "disproportionately heavy losses," Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters announced today.

The enemy apparently is making an all-out effort to seize and (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Bricker Should Advance To Second Place Today

By the Associated Press
Home-state voters are expected to jump Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio into second place in the race for the republican presidential nomination today.

But the result will leave him still far behind Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York who—like President Roosevelt on the democratic side—appears to be rolling steadily toward a possible first ballot nomination, although neither has publicly sanctioned the drive for delegates.

Ohio will name 59 republican delegates, more than the 34 pledged votes which, thus far, have held Lt. Gov. Harold E. Stassen in second place to Dewey, Bricker has six delegates from Mississippi.

Both the president and Dewey are expected to lengthen their leads in a West Virginia primary today which will pick 19 republican and 18 democratic delegates. Most of the republican candidates like Dewey, although some favor Bricker. Practically all the democrats want a fourth term for the president.

Missouri democrats—traditionally with the president—picked their 22 convention delegates yesterday, pledging them all to Roosevelt and naming Robert E. Hannegan, the democratic national chairman, as Missouri's national committee man. Wyoming named 16 democrats (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Nazi Germany Awaits Blow Of Invaders

LONDON, May 8 (AP)—Nazi Germany, seething tonight with anti-invasion preparations, boasted of super-fortifications and drummed pep talks into her populace, while she tightened her western ramparts against the expected blow.

DND Reporter Karl Heinz Schulz reported the beaches of Nice had been converted by the Todt labor organization into "the strongest fortifications in the world," with "guns of all calibers hidden under reddish-brown stones or green nets."

From Bern it was reported that a dispatch from the Italian border to La Suisse de Geneva quoted fascist officers as saying allied commandos based in Corsica and Sardinia had landed on the Ligurian coast of northwestern Italy within the last few days on patrols preparatory to invasion.

The account, unconfirmed by allied quarters, said some of the troops were killed or captured, but others were believed to have returned to their bases with information on German-built fortifications.

The same dispatch said Field Marshal Rommel had conferred with Field Marshal Albert Kesselring in Italy after inspecting French Mediterranean defenses.

Magnuson Attacks Alaska Highway

SEATTLE, May 8 (AP)—The much-publicized Alaska military highway was described as a gross failure tonight in a bitter attack on the \$130,000,000 project by Congressman Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), chairman of the Alaskan international highway commission.

"As a military supply road to Alaska the highway, in effect, doesn't exist at all," he declared in an interview based on a written report containing the charges, which he said would be filed in congress May 19.

US Navy Finds Japan's Defensive Perimeter So Weak That It Can Strike at Will Any Place, Time

By RICHARD TOMPKINS
NEW YORK, May 8 (AP)—America's offensive spearheads in the Pacific have found Japan's defensive perimeter so weak that the navy is actually being kept under wraps until supplies can be diverted from Europe, according to Eugene Burns, Associated Press correspondent who has just returned after covering the entire theater.

Japan's show of strength in the Pacific islands has been a bluff all along, said Burns.

Burns arrived here in four days from Kandy, Ceylon, after covering the recent allied air and surface attack on Sabang, Sumatra, from the deck of an American aircraft carrier. His visit to southeast Asia headquarters completed a series of assignments which have taken him completely around the Japanese defense perimeter.

He was at Pearl Harbor and telephoned the story of the initial Japanese attack to San Francisco. Since then he has sent eye-witness accounts from the battles of Santa Cruz, Guadalcanal, the eastern Solomons, Attu, Kwajalein, Wotje, Eniwetok, Majuro, Wake island, Sabang. In addition, he has just published "There There Was One," the story of the Carrier Enterprise during the first year of war, when she was for a time the mainstay of the navy's bitter battle to hold the Pacific until the damage of Pearl Harbor could be overcome.

Burns says American forces in the Pacific now are able to slice through the Japanese perimeter at will, and he expects an early invasion of the Philippines, where he says it will be virtually a push-over to establish bases from which to advance on the enemy in China and his home islands.

He explains that our knife-like thrusts in the central Pacific have proved the Japanese unable to move quickly from island to island, making them easy to cut off and leaving us free to "throw so much at them from our aircraft carriers (of which we have 40 times as many in the Pacific as during one period he served on the Enterprise) that it is easy to land."

With Japan holding her fleet at home for defense—Burns said—the navy has only a pretense of defense in the outer perimeter. And the United States forces are no longer deceived Burns added, as they were about Truk. "We are moving so fast in the Pacific we can't keep up with our spearheads. If we only had out there the supplies which are going to Europe."