

By Charles A. Sprague

The interim committee appointed in 1943 to study problems of fisheries has presented its report which sets forth the difficult situation in which the state fish commission finds itself.

The interim committee complains of two things, first the state fishing law which takes annually over \$10,000 from its revenues for the general fund; second, apportionment of money from its funds to the state police which does the work of policing in the commercial fishing industry.

The recommendations of the committee are that the legislative assembly either make a supplemental appropriation to bolster the commission's finances or else take all its income into the general fund and then make the direct appropriation of an amount adequate for the commission's needs.

The legislature faces this difficulty, however; if it lets (Continued on editorial page)

Bombers Hit Nagoya and Iwo Jima Isle

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Superfortresses attacked military installations on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima today.

An island in the volcano group, Iwo Jima is about midway between the Marianas bases of the 21st bomber command and Japan. From its air strips the Japanese frequently send fighting to intercept Japan-bound B-29s.

Today's raid reflected the stepped-up tempo of 21st bomber command operations, following on the heels of yesterday's attack on factories at Nagoya. Some 100 B-29s in four formations encountered fierce Japanese air resistance. In hitting the Japanese home island of Honshu one Superfort was lost.

Today's strike was the sixth heavy blow by Superforts from Marianas bases since Jan. 1. The raid came as American planes continued their attacks on Japanese lines of communication to the Philippines and as the commander of strategic air forces in the Pacific ocean army said.

Letter Asks More Pay for State's Staff

A sum of \$3,599,520 should be appropriated to allow adding "subsistence pay" (\$20 monthly for those receiving under \$250, \$10 for those receiving more) to the stipend of 8082 employees of the state of Oregon, the joint ways and means committee was informed Tuesday.

The suggestion came in a letter from the American federation of state, county and municipal employees signed by Walter W. Whitbeck, special representative, which pointed to similar pay arrangements in Portland and said state workers now "are not able to maintain the standard of living they are entitled to."

The letter said 4711 state employees received less than \$166.67 monthly, 2205 from \$166.67 to \$250 and 1166 over \$250, and added "the state is in excellent shape financially and can make this appropriation."

House Defeats Late-Polls Bill; Patterson Heads Liquor Probe

The polls in Oregon will continue to close at 8 p.m. (not 10), there will be no blanket mailing of sample ballots, and barring further action the pay of election judges will remain at \$3 per day.

So much had been decided by the 43rd legislature today, as both senate and house appeared to be swinging into high gear on the 17th day of the session.

But Tuesday's development left a lot of things that still must be determined.

One of the latter is the dispensation of house joint memorial J, by Rep. Warren Erwin, calling on congress for immediate enactment of a limited national service act. The resolutions committee Tues-

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RED ARMIES REACH ODER

Allies Smash Into Western Front

Big Gains Piled Up By Armies

Nazis Draw Back At Many Points, As Pressure Rises

By Austin Bealmear PARIS, Jan. 23.—(AP)—The American First and Third armies and the Ninth air force delivered a knockout blow to the last German defenders of the Ardennes today when the doughboys closed to within four miles of the reich frontier with gains up to five miles on a 30-mile front and the airmen destroyed or damaged nearly 2000 fleeing enemy vehicles.

St. Vith, eastern Belgian highway center and last major bastion in the once-dangerous bulge, fell to units of the First army at 5:45 p.m. after an all-day fight, according to a frontline dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Edward D. Ball.

As the two American armies swept in behind the retreating Germans, thrusting to about five miles from the border all along the line, Ninth air force fighter-bombers carried their annihilation of the enemy through a second day and were joined by Invader and Havoc bombers which were used in this theatre for the first time as deck-level strafing planes.

Guns Rattle Town The recapture of St. Vith came one month and two days after the Americans were pushed out by the Germans' December counter-offensive. Ball said the town had been beaten into an almost unrecognizable pulp by American artillery and planes.

At the northern end of the front the British Second army gained two miles on a six-mile arc to points more than seven miles inside the German frontier. Southward the American Third army made gains up to two miles along a 20-mile front against stiffening resistance in the lower portion of the Belgian bulge.

Airmen on Rampage With the last German defenders of the Ardennes still attempting to run the flaming gantlet to the Rhineland, American airmen carried the battle of annihilation to a dramatic pitch.

In two days the ninth air force has destroyed or damaged 4708 motor vehicles and 207 tanks and armored vehicles—nearly enough material to equip an entire panzer army—as well as 1573 railroad cars and such targets as gun positions and fortified buildings.

Lumber Output Lower in 1944

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Lumber production in the first 11 months of 1944 fell 5.1 per cent below the corresponding period of 1943, the war production board reported today.

November production totaled 2,467,973,000 board feet, 17.2% below November, 1943, bringing 11-month production to 30,334,985,000.

The agency attributed the drop in output to manpower and equipment shortages.

Leads Drive



Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold (above) commands the 14th corps which is leading the American drive on Manila, according to Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The corps includes the 37th, 40th U. S. divisions. (AP wirephoto)

Yanks Rip Into Japs On Bataan

U.S. 14th Corps Finds Evidence Of Death March

By C. Yates McDaniel GENERAL MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Luzon, Wednesday, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold's 14th corps, driving toward big Clark field on the road to Manila, broadened and slightly deepened its forward wedge Tuesday while Maj. Gen. Innis P. Swift's first corps extended the left flank eastward, seizing a huge store of Japanese supplies.

While planes ripped into Japanese positions at Bataan, of grim memory to all Americans, Griswold's corps swung nine miles west of captured Caras to overrun Camp O'Donnell where American and Filipino prisoners were separated during the death march from Bataan.

Associated Press Correspondent Russell Brines counted the graves of at least 4,000 Filipinos and "several scores" of Americans at Camp O'Donnell, burned and abandoned by the Japanese, who "had attempted to obliterate all evidence of their infamous rule by destroying prisoners' barracks."

Press Close to Goal

The 14th, which is a little over 50 airline miles from Manila and about 10 miles from Clark field, scored its advance in a five mile swing southwest from Santa Monica to captured Concepcion.

The rampant airforce, underlining the growing role of land-based planes on Luzon, not only ripped enemy communications and roads of retreat on the island but also ranged to Formosa and the Ryukyu islands—targets which until recently have been the exclusive assignments of carrier-based planes and long range Superfortresses.

On MacArthur's hard-pressed left flank the Americans were continuing to neutralize enemy defenses in the vicinity of Rosario, south of the summer capital of the Philippines at Baguio.

(George Thomas Folster, NBC correspondent on Luzon, said the Japanese are applying the torch everywhere like a "disorganized, bewildered army in retreat" and it is quite possible the same fate is in store for Manila itself.)

Krakow Intact As Nazis Leave In Great Haste

By the Associated Press German troops were forced out of Krakow so suddenly they lacked time to carry out their plans of destruction and, as a result, the Polish city suffered "little destruction," the soviet-sponsored Polish provisional government declared in a broadcast from Moscow last night.

Congress Eyes Jap Isles as Outer Defense

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Congress eyed Japanese islands in the Pacific tonight with the possibility they may be taken over permanently by the United States as outer defense bastions.

Chairman Vinson (D-Ga.) of the house naval affairs committee, appointed a seven-member subcommittee to study the Japanese mandated islands and said: "Everybody recognizes that we've got to have a defense ring beyond Pearl Harbor which, in the past, has been the advance defense base of the United States mainland."

The committee will study the armament, location and resources of all Japanese mandated islands, said Vinson, "to see what relation and bearing these mandated islands will have on the future defense and protection of the United States."

Chairman Drewry (D-Va.) of the subcommittee said representatives of the navy, war and state departments will participate in the committee's deliberations. "We are going into the whole scope of the Japanese islands in the South Pacific first," he said, "we will determine whether it is worthwhile to fortify the islands, whether all or part of them will be of use to the navy after the war."

More Beef but Less Other Meats Predicted

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 23.—(AP)—George M. Lewis of Chicago, representative of the American meat institute, said today that civilians might expect eight per cent more beef, four per cent less veal, 13 per cent less lamb and 18 per cent less pork this year than last.

Estimates were based on decreased production and large government requirements.

Work Act Will Go To House

Suggestion Is Declined in Labor Draft Plan

A proposal to request immediate congressional enactment of a limited national service act (so-called labor draft) was shunted to the floor of the Oregon house of representatives today.

The house resolutions committee late Tuesday voted to report out Rep. Warren Erwin's memorial (HJM 1) without recommendation.

The action followed an hour-long public hearing at which J. T. Marr of the Oregon State federation of labor; Stanley Earl, secretary of the state CIO, and John Brost, national representative of the CIO, opposed the memorial on the grounds it was unnecessary and would not increase production.

"Bad Guess Charged" Marr said the current agitation for a service act arose in part "because some people in high command have made some bad guesses" and "we've had reverses," and that the "vast majority" of business opposed "dictatorship."

Earl contended the service act would violate the 13th amendment barring involuntary servitude. Manufacturers as termed shortages "purely local," and told the committee the AFL and CIO "have 4,000,000 out there taking turns with a rifle."

All three labor leaders indicated a belief President Roosevelt was mistaken in his expressed opinion that a service act was needed.

The hearing was opened by Erwin's presentation in which he cited, as proof of need, high military leaders' urgent pleas for a national service act. He commended, however, "the wonderful record of peace and harmony between capital and labor in this state."

The representative also said he had been receiving wires "all day," protesting the memorial, and commented it was "very peculiar" that all such messages should come from labor.

Earl said "labor represents 80 per cent of the American people." At the executive session, a motion to recommend "do not pass" was withdrawn after Erwin declared he would not submit a minority report.

Heavy Blow to Rainbow Division, Nazis Broadcast

LONDON, Jan. 23.—(AP)—The German radio broadcast a dispatch tonight from Guenther Weber, Transocean news agency correspondent, saying the Nazi counterattack in Alsace was nearing its climax and reporting bitter fighting in Haguenau forest, where Weber asserted the American Rainbow division "suffered one of its heaviest blows."

Specialists Needed For Army Service

FORT LEWIS, Jan. 23.—(AP)—That there is a critical shortage of highly trained and skilled specialists in the army was revealed today at this army service forces training center by a war department memorandum.

In addition to the urgent need for registered nurses, others needed are qualified aerial photographers, telephone repeaters, topographic draftsmen, psychiatric social workers, tabulating machine repairmen, optometrists and others.

Invaders Closing East Prussia Trap

Tremendous Winter Offensive Engulfs 1500 German Towns

By W. W. Hercher LONDON, Wednesday, Jan. 24.—(AP)—The Russian First Ukraine army reached the Oder river in German Silesia in overwhelming strength on a 37½-mile front yesterday and confidently prepared to leap that wanted defense barrier into the heart of the reich as other red armies came within 22 miles of closing the war's greatest trap on all of East Prussia.

Between those two theatres of victorious action, still another red army slogged westward over the Polish plains at a somewhat slower pace on the most direct road toward Berlin, now reported but 137 miles away, in the vicinity of Poznan.

The tremendous sweep of the soviet winter offensive, now in its 13th day on a front of more than 600 miles, was heralded by Premier Stalin in four orders of the day and by the midnight Moscow communique broadcast.

The Russian offensive in a single day had captured more than 3,350 communities, 1,500 of them inside Germany.

While Moscow's overworked sallying guns boomed out their familiar salvos of celebration, there was but one small flaw in the otherwise unbroken record of triumph: the Moscow communique disclosed that the stubbornly counterattacking Germans in western Hungary had recaptured Szekesfehvar, 30 miles southwest of Budapest.

Despite the gigantic rout of their forces in Poland, Silesia and East Prussia, the Nazis managed to muster "large forces" of tanks and infantry for the Hungarian drive, Moscow disclosed.

Not all got away, for at least 200,000 German civilians were reported by a Paris radio dispatch from Moscow to have been found by the Russians in Lodz alone.

Reporting the mass movement toward the reich before onrushing red armies, Helmut Sundermann, deputy reich press chief, said in an article entitled a report "On the barricades of the reich."

"We view the present situation with the realistic seriousness that is called for in these decisive hours and we know that these hours will tell whether we are to go down in a red inferno or emerge from the ordeal to a greater future."

Frontline Men To Get Leaves In Britain Soon

PARIS, Jan. 23.—(AP)—American troops battling on the western front will be given one-week furloughs in Britain beginning in March, perhaps sooner, European theater headquarters announced today.

The week's leave will be exclusive of travel time. The maximum number that would be away from the continent at one time will approximate 5000, according to the announcement.

Call for Nurses Brings in 8236

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Red Cross Chairman Basil O'Connor said today 8,236 nurses applied for service in the army and navy nurse corps in the two-week period ending January 23.

It was the largest number for any like period since the war started.

School Insurance Coverage Here Increased by \$235,000

Salem school directors voted Tuesday night to increase insurance coverage on the system's plants, to relax somewhat its policy on tuition, grant more money for transportation of the district's pupils and adjust pay schedules for two teachers required to travel between schools.

The resignation of Mrs. Henry Otto, teacher in Washington grade school who has found it difficult to obtain help to care for her child, was accepted. Mrs. Vern Sulko, who has been on leave, will return when the new semester opens next week to replace Mrs. Otto.

An addition of approximately \$235,000 in fire insurance, which will cost the district approximately \$400 a year and will bring coverage up to meet rising values. Burglary insurance coverage was also broadened at an additional premium cost of approximately \$200 a year, but following discussion of depreciation insurance and public liability insurance plans, both were rejected.

Threaten Germany From East and West



Arrows indicate major action on the European battlefronts (heavy lines). On the east, Berlin is the Russian front. On the west, American (dark) and British (light) fronts are shown. Shaded areas on the western front show Allied gains in reduction of the German salient, Rhine and Oder rivers, German defense barriers, are lined. (AP wirephoto)