

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Squire

The senate, after a period of regurgitation, passed the McKenna joint resolution calling for the creation of a tax study commission of 15, ascribing it to authority though not compulsion to engage a firm of "nationally known experts." Now it goes to the house, where it probably will meet with less resistance, since it is one of the few "request" measures of the governor. The trailer will be an appropriation bill for \$25,000, which was the same amount authorized for investigation of the liquor commission.

To this commission are assigned 18 duties. It might be better to say 17, because the first commandment, "to make a study and analysis of the entire tax structure of the state" is repeated in the 18th commandment: "to make a full and complete study and survey of the present tax system, including methods of assessing, collecting and administering the entire tax structure of the state of Oregon." The other 16 commandments of the resolution which the commission is enjoined to carry out are:

1. To make a study of the tax factors affecting industrial development and to determine the possibility of so revising the tax structure of this state so as to make it advantageous for industry and business to locate within its borders.

(Here is the meat in the coconut so far as the Portland crowd is concerned. Portland suffers great distress because it sees some industries

(Continued on editorial page)

McNutt Offers Tempered OK Of Service Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 - (AP) War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt delivered a tempered endorsement of the work-or-jail bill today. But senators who questioned him at a closed hearing said he expressed confidence that the current manpower problem could be handled by the existing voluntary system.

On the record, McNutt renewed his recommendation for the limited national service bill, amended to place overall control of the program in James F. Byrnes' office of war mobilization and reconversion. To enact the bill in the form it passed the house, with selective service in charge, would hurt rather than help the war effort, he declared.

His recommendation, McNutt asserted, "was not based upon any conclusion that our manpower program has failed, but upon a recognition of the fact that at this crucial period of the war we must be sure that there will be no failure in our ability to man urgent plants promptly."

Sgt. McKinlay Dies in Action In Italy Sky

Sgt. Ebert F. McKinlay, youngest son of Mrs. J. F. McKinlay, 539 North Winter street, was killed January 21 in action over Italy, his mother has been notified by the war department.

In the service since October, 1943, McKinlay arrived overseas shortly before last Christmas. He was a member of the crew of a B-17 bomber.

McKinlay, employed by Standard Service stations while attending school here, had completed his sophomore year at Willamette university when he enlisted in the air corps. He was a member of Kappa Gamma Rho fraternity.

In addition to his mother he is survived by two brothers, Lt. Philip McKinlay, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and Cpl. George McKinlay, a paratrooper in France, and by one sister, Evangeline McKinlay, student at Willamette university.

U. S. Bombers Hit Nip Ships

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Forward Area, Thursday, Feb. 6 - (AP) - Attacking with rockets and bombs, marine Mitchell bombers hit a large ship in a convoy north of the Volcano Islands Tuesday and left another one north of the Bonins burning, Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported today.

The ships were hit as marine bombers disrupted the two convoys bringing supplies to the sorely pressed Bonin and Volcano island groups on the Marianas-based B-29 road to Tokyo.

Army Liberators hit the installations at Chichi Jima and Ototo Jima in the Bonins on the same day. Three enemy fighters were seen airborne over the targets but they failed to make interceptions.

The Oregon Statesman

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Weather

	Max.	Min.	Rain
San Francisco	64	45	trace
Eugene	59	44	38
Salem	59	44	1.56
Portland	59	45	1.16
Seattle	59	43	1.29
Willamette river @ ft. 1 in.			

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

12 PAGES

7th Oder Crossing Reported

Moscow Silent On Zhukov's Push for Berlin

LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 8 (AP)—Soviet troops established their seventh bridgehead over the Oder river in the Kuestrin area little more than 30 miles from Berlin yesterday and broke into the city of Kuestrin itself, according to German accounts.

Moscow still did not confirm any of the river crossings which Berlin said had been made by Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian army.

The nightly communique broadcast from Moscow told only of mopping-up operations east of the river, including the capture of Guestebe, on the east bank 33 miles northeast of Berlin, and limited advances in the 50-mile-wide soviet bridgehead in Silesia, far to the southeast.

The new Russian bridgehead south of Kuestrin brought the Berlin-Kuestrin railroad under Russian artillery, the German radio said.

The only indication from Moscow that Zhukov's forces might be west of the Oder was unofficial. It was a broadcast quoting the red army newspaper Red Star as saying, "fighting is going on in the fortified forest of Berlin."

Moscow's communique, however, announced that 15,460 prisoners had been taken on the eastern front Sunday and Monday, and that since January 11 eight German generals had been killed and five generals and four top-ranking colonels had been captured. The officers, all of whom were named, included the commanders of two army corps and 11 divisions.

More than 50 towns were taken in the westward drive in Silesia, the communique reported.

Yesterday's communique from the German high command stated without elaboration that the Russians had been "able to widen a little" their bridgeheads both in Silesia and near Kuestrin.

German military commentators also turned their attention once more to Zhukov's right wing in Pomerania, announcing that Pyritz, 22 miles southwest of the Baltic port of Stettin, had been lost to the soviets and then regained, while Russian pressure continued on a 90-mile front extending eastward from Schwedt, 33 miles south of Stettin, through Pyritz, Arnswalde, and Deutsch Krome.

Weber to Get Life in Prison

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif., Feb. 7 (AP)—The death sentence imposed by a court martial on Pvt. Henry Weber, 27, for having refused to drill was removed today and he was sentenced to dishonorable discharge from the army and life imprisonment at hard labor.

Last Monday a general court martial decreed death by hanging for the Vancouver, Wash., soldier.

The charge was that he argued for 45 minutes with two superior officers, and finally flatly refused to engage in army drill, declaring he would rather be shot than take up arms.

Gripsholm Will Leave With Wounded Today

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 - (AP) - The Swedish steamer Gripsholm is scheduled to leave from Marseilles tomorrow and arrive in the United States about February 21 or 22, the state department disclosed today.

The exchange ship is carrying American wounded war prisoners and internees from Germany.

Facts About City Election

Date: Friday, February 9.
 Polls Open: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Who may vote: All registered voters are eligible to vote. It is not required that they be taxpayers.

Polling Places: Ward 1, Garfield school; ward 2, court house; ward 3, city hall; ward 4, state heating plant; ward 5, St. Vincent de Paul school; ward 6, Englewood school; ward 7, Leslie Junior high. (In ward 1 are precincts 9, 10, 15, 22; ward 2, precincts 2, 11, 23, 27; ward 3, precincts 16, 17; ward 4, precincts 4, 5, 12; ward 5, precincts 7, 8, 14, 21, 26; ward 6, precincts 1, 3, 19, 20, 25; ward 7, precincts 6, 13, 18, 24.)

Questions to be voted on: 1. Whether to authorize the purchase of 47 acres in Bush pasture for park purposes and issue \$175,000 in bonds for payment.
 2. Shall the city issue a franchise to Salem Electric to establish an electric distributing system in Salem?

No Wonder This Man Doesn't Like 'Don't Fence Me In'

FORT SCOTT, Kans., Feb. 7 - (AP)—Someone dropped a nickel in the restaurant juke box and out came "Don't Fence Me In." "Turn that thing off," yelled another customer in the place. The protesting man, it developed was in custody of deputy sheriffs who were taking him to Tulsa on charges of kidnapping and robbery.

Third Invades Reich on New 24-Mile Front

PARIS, Feb. 7 - (AP)—The US Third army thrust elements of four divisions across the Our and Sure rivers into Germany from Luxembourg at 10 places on a 24-mile front today as the US First army burst through the last main zone of the Siegfried line defenses in the Oler river sector near Schleiden.

At the same time the Third army forces already in Germany exploited the breach they had made in the Siegfried line's permanent works east of St. Vith, making gains of a mile southeastward through the Schnee Eifel hills and taking Wascheid, three and one-half miles north of the stronghold of Pruem.

These forces formed an arc around Pruem as close as three miles on the west down to seven miles away on the southwest with the capture of Holling.

First army doughboys, moving up in a heavy rain, cracked the Siegfried emplacements' innermost belt by capturing Hellenhalt, two and one-half miles southwest of Schleiden and pouring across the Oler river.

There they left the main system of concrete barriers and pillboxes behind them and threatened to outflank the Schleiden-Gemund sector of the west wall.

Hitler Would Take Position Of President

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 7 - (AP)—Reports published here today said Hitler was planning to relinquish his dictatorship of Germany with a view to bidding for peace, and that Franz Von Pappen was scheduled to become chancellor with Hitler as president.

Possibly nazi-inspired, the reports met an attitude of skepticism in informed quarters here. They were circulated by the Free German news service, which has not proved too reliable in the past.

Some observers said the reports sounded like trial balloons sent up to test allied reaction to a government so revamped.

Neutral observers do not overlook the possibility of some similar governmental development, however, as the military pressure on Germans nears the breaking point.

Three Valley Men Reported Prisoners Of War in Germany

The names of three mid-Willamette valley men are included in a list of 2837 army personnel reported by the war department as prisoners of war in Germany.

The men are Pfc. John R. McCracken, son of Mrs. Clara A. McCracken, route six, box 356, Salem; Pvt. Robert N. Hyatt, husband of Mrs. Virginia P. Hyatt, 1017 E. 5th St., Albany; and 1st Lt. Evan J. Evans, son of Evan G. Evans, 518 10th st., McMinnville.

Shirley Rudolph Macon Killed in War Action

The name of Shirley Rudolph Macon, chief gunner's mate, whose wife is Mrs. Ella Mae Macon, 775 Center street, Salem, is included in a list of naval personnel reported killed in action.

Hotel Bill Defeated In Senate

Houses Passes 28 Measures In Heavy Docket

The 43rd legislature was sliding into high gear today after disposing of some of the session's most controversial measures.

Dead were such proposals as the civil rights (hotel) bill, which the senate defeated 24 to 8 in surprisingly short order, and mobile registration booths which the senators voted to bar previously and Wednesday declined to reconsider.

And in the house a determined effort to boost the pay of election workers more than \$4 a day failed on a motion of reconsideration.

The bill providing for the \$4 was passed with senate amendments.

The house passed 28 measures Wednesday. Others included salary increases for the state superintendent of schools (\$4000 to \$5400); the lowering of the age limit for compulsory school attendance from 8 to 7 years; and the authorizing of school districts to take out insurance against injuries to athletes.

Several liquor bills to tighten enforcement of the Knox law also were approved by the senate, and in the house a series of veterans' measures passed, including those for preferential hiring, civil service credits, continuance in elective offices, and community buildings.

Major new introductions included a house bill to enable veterans to receive both state and federal help in education, but not at the same time, and a senate measure providing for a retirement system for employees of the state board of higher education.

Galleries were filled in both legislative bodies at times Wednesday, the 31st day of the scheduled 50-day session. (Legislative news on page 2.)

Tree Roots Clog Norway Street Sewer

The 24-inch main line storm sewer on Norway street between McCoy street and the railroad tracks Wednesday became clogged backing up water in the entire neighborhood in the area and at 3 p. m. calls by the score were received by City Engineer J. Harold Davis from householders who announced excitedly that the water was filling their basements.

Long before these calls started coming in Davis was aware of the situation and had a crew of men working in an effort to relieve the stoppage. He said the men were pulling huge chunks or bundles of weeping willow roots from the sewer indicating that the growth had become so heavy it stopped foreign objects until a complete dam was effected.

Davis said there was no opportunity to pump the water back of the stoppage because it would have to go somewhere. He said his crew intended to keep on pulling roots and at the same time digging down to tap the sewer. In the event the rains continue he said it was probable the sewer would be broken and the water pumped over the impediment.

Lt. Lewis on Missing List

STAYTON, Feb. 7 - First Lt. Darel D. Lewis has been missing in action over Austria since January 20, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lewis, have been notified by the war department.

His wife, the former Henrietta Lyons, is living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lyons of Lyons, Ore. Lieutenant Lewis was graduated from Stayton high school, enlisted in the army air corps in 1942, and was commissioned a pilot in March, 1944. He has been awarded the purple heart medal for wounds received while co-pilot on a B-24 in Italy.

Oregon Birth to Death Ratio Highest Since '21

PORTLAND, Feb. 7 - (AP)—Oregon's birth and death rate decreased last year compared to 1943, but the 1944 ratio of 185.4 births for every 100 deaths was the highest since 1921.

Dr. Frederick Stricker, state health officer, today reported births totaled 24,621, a 3.3 per cent decline, and 13,291 deaths—a 9.2 decline.

'BIG 3' PLOTS LETHAL PUNCHES FOR RAPIDLY WEAKENING GERMANY

Making Decisions Vital to World



Josef Stalin



Winston Churchill



Franklin Roosevelt

Worst Storm in 10 Years Rips Oregon Coast; Astoria Suffers Heaviest Damage

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 7 - (AP)—Storm warnings were ordered continued for 24 hours tonight along the Oregon coast as power and communication service crews labored to restore service in the wake of the worst coastal storm in 10 years.

The Columbia bar was closed to all shipping today. Most of the damage was centered at Astoria where the city was without light and power most of the night and lines continued to fall intermittently all day as high winds whipped western Oregon from the California line north.

Naval observers reported a 75 mile an hour gale blowing off shore and fear was expressed for fishing vessels known to be out in the area. Coast guard stations reported no distress signals sighted, however.

Heavy rains accompanied the wind. Logging camps at some districts were idle as falling trees halted bus and highway traffic several hours. At Tillamook fishermen spent the night at dockside as high rollers pounded small craft moored in the bay area.

Trailers at several auto camps were reported overturned in the Astoria section, and one truck driver said his metal truck cab was torn off and blown 20 feet in the air.

Gusts of 80 and 100 mile velocity were reported at scattered sections of the coast.

Skunk Ahoy! House Really Moves Fast

A fine specimen of skunk (not the kind that voted against your favorite bill) broke out of a cardboard box in the house of representatives Wednesday and precipitated the fastest movements witnessed in either legislative body this session.

The skunk, an estimable daughter of the Portland zoo skunks, was placed on the desk of Rep. John Hall in tribute to the Multnomah county representative's 46th birthday. She was carried in by Rep. John Steelhammer of Salem who made the presentation.

Nearby legislators and their secretaries, unaware that the kitty-creature no longer was fitted with the aroma d'ultra of its ilk, took to their heels, chairs or desks. A five-minute recess was called to restore order.

Just so there would be no hard feelings, the house forthwith passed a memorial to congratulate Hall on his anniversary and Rep. Jack Bain led the "Happy Birthday" song—in which the skunk didn't join.

War Chest Membership Meet Set Next Week

The annual membership meeting of the Salem United War Chest has been called for next Thursday, February 15, at the Marion hotel, and will be held in conjunction with the regular luncheon meeting of the Salem Lions club, President Lowell E. Kern announced Wednesday.

Legion of Merit Goes To Lt. Gen. Breerton

LONDON, Feb. 7 - (AP)—Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Breerton, commanding general of the first Allied airborne army, has been awarded the legion of merit by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, commander of the US strategic air forces for his "outstanding service" while commanding the Ninth air force from Jan. 1, 1944 to Aug. 7, 1944.

Yankees Clear Manila Center Of Jap Forces

MANILA, Thursday, Feb. 8 - (AP) The fire-ravaged business district of Manila has been cleared of Japanese demolition squads by Yanks now holding all the area north of the Pasig river but American troops still are held up in the Pasig suburbs at the southeast edge of the city by continued bitter resistance at Nichols field.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who visited the city yesterday during which a Japanese shell fell within 100 feet of him, announced the slow progress in a communique today which listed enemy casualties in the Luzon campaign at about 48,000.

American casualties for the corresponding four-week period were reported as 7076, including 1609 killed.

Fred Hampson, Associated Press war correspondent, relayed field reports stating there still were a few small pockets of the enemy in the north sector of Manila which the communique reported "cleared."

He said Japanese troops were in the center of the city south of the Pasig and began burning part of it Wednesday. This district contains the Manila hotel, the Army and Navy club, the high commissioner's residence and other historic buildings.

State police and prison guards were combing the countryside near the Pacific highway one-half mile north of Hubbard early this morning in search of Robert R. Mix, prison trusty who escaped as an officer stopped an Oregon state penitentiary truck shortly before 8 o'clock Wednesday night.

With the truck they took into custody Eugene Perry Shank and learned for the first time that Shank and Mix had escaped from the prison annex south of Salem sometime after dusk.

Mix, who came to the penitentiary from Multnomah county on Feb. 8, 1940, sentenced to serve 15 years for assault with intent to kill, is described as 29 years old, weighing 188 pounds, of slender build, six feet two inches tall, with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was clad in striped denim prison garb and wore a piece of white adhesive tape across some boils on the back of his neck when he escaped, state police said.

Mix, who came to the penitentiary from Multnomah county on Feb. 8, 1940, sentenced to serve 15 years for assault with intent to kill, is described as 29 years old, weighing 188 pounds, of slender build, six feet two inches tall, with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was clad in striped denim prison garb and wore a piece of white adhesive tape across some boils on the back of his neck when he escaped, state police said.

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Lasting Peace Is Discussed

Official Bulletin Reveals Leaders In Conference

By the Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 - (AP)—The "big three," in secret, historic session in the Black Sea area, have agreed to aim coordinated, knockout punches at fast-weakening Germany, and are now discussing a "secure peace."

This was disclosed late today in an official announcement that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin are in session with their highest diplomatic and military advisers.

The tone of the pronouncement indicated that they have substantial hope for achieving real Anglo-American-Russian cooperation for the future of Europe and the world.

A three-power statement issued in Washington, Moscow and London at 4:30 p. m., EWT, gave the first official word of the meeting which practically the whole world knew was taking place. The statement showed that the military phase of the talks has ended and the critical political discussions have begun.

Three overall political subjects were listed in the official report, released by the White House heretofore.

1. Joint plans "for the occupation and control of Germany." The big three have long since agreed on unconditional surrender and on plans for the initial stage of military occupation, the problem now is how to keep Germany weak and unable to start a new world war for many years.

2. The "political and economic problems of liberated Europe." Every liberated country in Europe now has a shortage of some kind of essential civilian supplies and all of them are real or potential powder barrels politically. Hottest spots are in the Balkans where British and Russian influences and interests conflict.

3. Proposals for the "earliest possible establishment of a permanent international organization to maintain peace." The main problem here has been the conflict between Russia and the United States over the question of a great power veto in the world security council. The British have been seeking a compromise and are expected to get it. A major question also is that of mandated territories, such as the strategic islands formerly held by Japan in the central Pacific.

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