

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Seventeen states have passed the memorial to congress proposed by the committee on constitutional government calling for submission of an amendment to the constitution which would limit income and estate taxes to 25 per cent, save that in time of war congress may by three-fourths vote suspend the limitation for periods of one year at a time. A hearing on this proposal is scheduled by a legislative committee this afternoon.

I want to express my unqualified opposition to this amendment. It imposes a restriction which has no place in the fundamental law of the land. It represents an attempt on the part of its sponsors to freeze an idea into the constitution that might seriously hamper the congress in the financing of our government.

An amendment to the federal constitution is a far different thing than amending the state constitution. Here we can change our constitution with ease, either by submission of an amendment by the legislature or its initiation by the people and then a majority vote at an election. The machinery for amending the federal constitution is more cumbersome. So if this 25 per cent limitation is written into the constitution it could be removed only with difficulty. The basis of the idea for the 25 per cent limitation is that taxes in excess of that amount discourage initiative and may destroy private enterprise. It is also argued that during the 1920's the policy of reducing taxes really produced more revenues.

Granted that the idea be sound, that does not justify freezing (Continued on Editorial page)

House Group Doesn't Bottle Up George Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14. (AP)—The house rules committee late today cleared the way for the house to consider legislation enabling Henry A. Wallace to become secretary of a trimmed-down commerce department.

Though many of its members were openly hostile to Wallace, the committee refused by a 6 to 4 vote to bottle up the senate-approved George bill divorcing the reconstruction finance corporation from the commerce department.

Some critics of Wallace had hoped to shelve this bill until after the senate votes on Wallace's nomination to be secretary of commerce. Their idea was that the senate would reject the nomination rather than give Wallace command of the RFC and its subsidiary agencies, wielding vast lending powers.

The rules committee vote today was considered a victory for the democratic leadership in that it apparently improves Wallace's chances to enter the cabinet though without the powers inherent in the RFC.

Weber's Term Now 5 Years

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14. (AP)—The death sentence once imposed on Pvt. Henry Weber of Vancouver, Wash., for refusing to drill has now been cut down to five years at hard labor.

This was disclosed today by Maj. Gen. Myron C. Cramer, army judge advocate general, in a letter to chairman Thomas (D-Utah) of the senate military committee.

Thomas became interested in the case after the death sentence was pronounced at Camp Roberts, Calif. Senator Wheeler (D-Mont) demanded an investigation, telling the senate: "Whoever sentenced that boy to hanging ought to be discharged from the army."

Donald M. Nelson, 26-Year Old Woman Marry

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14. (AP)—Donald M. Nelson, 56, former war production board chairman, was married tonight to Marguerite S. Coulbourn, 26-year old former campus beauty queen, by justice Thurman Arnold.

The only attendants at the ceremony in justice Arnold's chambers in the court of appeals were Lieut. (jg) and Mrs. Marvin L. Farris.

Goebbels' Newspaper To End Publication

LONDON, Feb. 14. (AP)—Der Angriff, Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels' own newspaper, will publish its last edition next Saturday, the Berlin radio announced today, leaving the Berliner Nachtausgabe the only afternoon paper in the Nazi capital.

Newsworthy

There are pulchritudinous secretaries at the 43rd legislature.

The Oregon Statesman

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Weather

	Max.	Min.	Rain
San Francisco	60	52	10
Eugene	47	38	50
Salem	48	39	40
Portland	45	39	trace
Seattle	45	34	trace
Willamette river 14.5 ft.			

ALLIES LUNGING NEARER RUHR VALLEY; SOVIETS TAKE 7 SILESIA STRONGHOLDS

U. S., RAF Bombers Aid Reds

Russ Liquidate Schneidemuehl, Holdout Fortress

By W. W. Hercher
LONDON, Thursday, Feb. 15 (AP)—The Russian First Ukraine army, lunging across Silesia 13 miles in a day, seized seven German city strongholds yesterday and killed more than 4000 Germans in a two-pronged drive towards Berlin and Dresden with the aid for RAF and American bombers that smashed Dresden, Chemnitz and other centers in the path of the advance.

Some 45 miles behind the soviet spearheads, in an irregular arc of by-passed territory, the Silesian capital city of Breslau was surrounded, the German radio said, in a battle that was approaching a climax.

7000 Nazis Killed
In Pomerania the First White Russian army liquidated the holdout fortress of Schneidemuehl, 15 miles behind the lines, killing more than 7000 Germans and capturing 5000 after a two weeks siege. The tremendous booty taken at that strategic Berlin-Danzig rail junction included 203 German airplanes.

The Schneidemuehl garrison, despairing of rescue, wrecked itself in vain efforts to break out, a supplement to the Moscow communique said early today.

In Budapest, which fell Tuesday, the Russians picked up another 12,700 prisoners, mostly abandoned wounded, raising the list of captured in that one city to nearly 123,000. The final toll will be higher, as Moscow said a fragment of the garrison escaped only to be surrounded again west of the Hungarian capital.

200 Towns Taken
The day's successes, announced in two orders of the day by Premier Stalin and the regular nightly Moscow communique, also credited the First Ukraine army of Marshal Ivan S. Konev with bagging 2100 prisoners and taking more than 200 population centers in Silesia.

Dresden lays 68 miles or less ahead of the southern arm of Konev's drive, by Russian account, while the Germans said the northern arm had reached within 71 miles of Berlin.

John Mitchell Dies in Texas

LEBANON, Feb. 14.—John Milo Mitchell, 29 year old son of Patrick Mitchell, route two, died of a gun shot wound at Ft. Crockett, Tex. His father was notified Tuesday. Funeral services will be held Saturday from the Howe funeral chapel here and burial will be in the IOOF cemetery.

John Milo Mitchell was born in Nebraska in 1916 and enlisted in the army in 1940. He had served overseas for 57 months. Survivors besides the father are two brothers, in the army, James overseas and Joseph in Kansas; Richard in Montana and Robert in Washington; three sisters, Velma Tesch and Patsy Anderson, Montana; Helen Smith, Redmond.

Party, Economic Interests Will Divide Senate on 2 Measures

Political party and economic interests will divide the votes in the senate on at least two measures on today's well-filled calendar, sideline prognosticators predict.

Under terms of senate joint resolution 7, the Oregon state legislature would ask congress to place before the people a constitutional amendment limiting to two successive terms the time a president of the United States may serve.

The workmen's compensation fund would be increased from \$4,500,000 to \$7,500,000 by senate bill 41 which comes to the floor of the senate today. Two years ago the fund was increased from a half million to its current status. After the fund ceiling has

Doughboys Duck Sniper Fire



Two American infantrymen, under fire of Japanese snipers, crouch low as they dash through the ruins of buildings in downtown Manila where the Nipponese put the torch to many structures as they retreated. (AP wirephoto)

Roosevelt Expected to Visit Italy, Call on Pope; May Include France in Journey

By Edward Kennedy and Joseph Dynan
PARIS, Feb. 14.—(AP)—President Roosevelt is expected to visit Italy and call on Pope Pius, and perhaps come to France during his current visit abroad, it was reported reliably today.

Current Samuel I. Rosenman, a special adviser to the president, left by a special plane today for Italy and was expected to confer with his chief there.

The president is expected to inspect war ruins in Italy and return to various spots he visited in that country as a young man. It is quite conceivable that after a stay in Italy the president will come to France, where arrangements to receive him have been made both by the French government and by allied headquarters.

High-ranking administration officials and army officers have been summoned to be prepared to meet the president. Judging from this the president may intend to make inquiry into the problem of the relief of French civilian population. It is reported that white house directives for more of this relief have not been fulfilled.

One of the war's greatest scandals may come out in this connection if Mr. Roosevelt visits France.

Chinese Break Japanese Hold On Vital Rail

CHUNGKING, Feb. 14.—(AP)—The Japanese hold on the vital Canton-Hankow railroad has been broken by the recapture by Chinese forces of the town of Pingshek, 165 miles north of Canton, the Chinese high command announced today.

The Chinese troops now are in possession of a 16-mile section of the rail line extending north from Pingshek, the announcement said. The Japanese recently claimed their forces occupied the entire length of the railroad. Repairs of sections of the tracks torn up by the Chinese would have given the enemy rail communication from Korea and Manchuria to Canton and Hongkong.

1946 Oregon License Plates to Be Metal

Oregon automobile owners will be issued metal motor vehicle license plates next year for the first time since 1942, the state board of control decided Wednesday.

The board authorized the Irwin Hodson company of Portland to furnish approximately 410,000 pairs of the plates to the secretary of state at a cost of \$85,729.25.

Practice Paris Alert Creates Excitement

PARIS, Thursday, Feb. 15.—(AP)—An air raid siren sounded in Paris shortly before midnight last night, creating considerable excitement until the all-clear sounded a few minutes later.

Doomed Nips Fight Furiously

Japanese Killing Civilians, Blast Manila Buildings

MANILA, Thursday, Feb. 15 (AP)—Fighting for each street intersection, American infantrymen pushed for inexorably with caution Wednesday toward the South Manila bay front while enraged Japanese killed civilians in cold blood and dynamited and fired sections of the city so well known to tourists.

The enemy demolition fires blackened the skies as the Yanks tightened a circle on doomed Nipponese weakened but still fighting in an area between the Pasig river mouth and the bay front.

Explosions and flames swept over the bayside stretch from the port area south to the Pasay residential sector.

The devastation, threatening to match that wrought on Manila's ravaged Escolta business district on the north side of the Pasig, perhaps portends the beginning of the end of Japanese ability to resist in Manila.

There was a marked falling off of Japanese artillery fire, due in large part to the fact that American guns throughout Tuesday and Wednesday burst down with concentrated deadliness upon a system of connecting fortresses in the old walled city, Intramuros, and adjacent dock area. There a tiring enemy has been battling day and night for well over a week.

China Factions Negotiating

CHUNGKING, Feb. 14.—(AP)—China's communists and the Chungking government, whose long-standing differences have been declared a hindrance to China's war effort, have been negotiating for two weeks with the assistance of U. S. ambassador Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hurley, information minister Wang Shichieh disclosed today.

The communists after the two weeks of discussion rejected a four-point settlement offered by the Chungking government whereupon the government made new proposals which the communist delegate, Gen. Chou En-lai, has taken back to Yenan, Wang declared.

8 Navy Men Killed In Bomber Crash

SEATTLE, Feb. 14.—(AP)—A twin motored navy bomber crashed into a hillside 4 1/2 miles northeast of Arlington, killing the pilot and crew of seven, the 13th naval district announced.

The plane was on a training mission, the announcement said. Names of the men aboard will be announced after the next of kin have been notified.

Stettin Under Attack

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Stettin is under almost constant air attacks as Russian guns boom in the distance, the Free Danish press service said today, quoting eyewitnesses.

PARTLY CLOUDY

today with slightly warmer temperatures in the mid-Willamette valley area, predicts U. S. weather bureau at McNary field, Salem.

Big Three May Hold Great General Peace Conference When All Fighting Is Done

By Flora Lewis
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Indications mounted today that the big three have definitely decided to hold a grandiose general peace conference when all the fighting is done.

This represents a change from earlier official views, especially among American authorities, that World War II would wind up with a series of piecemeal settlements unlike the long, formal peace of Paris and Versailles.

Doubtless, the conference will await the defeat of Japan. Officials hope that an international security organization will be set up by then.

Many Problems
The peace agency could handle many of the problems facing the Allies. It now appears, however, that the new map of the world will be drawn up in a separate, special meeting which will probably result in a treaty.

Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill referred to a peace conference in their communique on Poland. They said the extent of German territory awarded Poland would be reviewed at such a meeting.

War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes, giving a first hand report on the big three meeting, said "It is to be expected that there will be a peace conference."

Not Like Versailles
The grand parley is bound to be different from Versailles, however. The league of nations covenant was included in the treaty signed there, which made peace with Germany.

This time, the Dumbarton Oaks charter is expected to be a separate treaty and probably will come before the senate for ratification before the map-making pact is even written.

Actual peace with Germany may not be signed for many years.

Germans Told To Throw Out Last Scruples

LONDON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Nazi propagandists exhorted the German people today to "cast overboard our last scruples" and to "kill, murder and poison" their enemies.

Charging that the Crimean declaration expressed the Allies' aim "not only to cut off Germany's head and limbs, but to exterminate us," German radio commentator Joseph Saal advocated "our last scruples must be cast overboard and all-out fanatical resistance must be the laconic reply to the pact of our enemies."

The exhortation to murder came from Paul Schmidt, German foreign office spokesman, as quoted by the Stockholm newspaper, Svenska Dagbladet in a dispatch from its Berlin correspondent.

Truck Kills OSC Student

CORVALLIS, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Phyllis Smyth, 21-year-old Oregon State college senior, was killed today when struck by a wood truck as she walked to her campus classes.

Police officer A. Dearing said the truck driver, Charles Tony, claimed he was forced to swerve to avoid colliding with another car.

Born in Baker, she was the daughter of Mrs. Vern Eilers, who operates a fountain lunch room at the college. She would have graduated from the school of education this June.

Illinois Doughboy Kills at Least 70 Germans, Stops Counterattack by Himself, Then Dies

By Robert Emsen
WITH THE 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION, Feb. 14.—(AP)—The Germans finally killed Bill Miller, but not until the Illinois doughboy had killed at least 70 of them and stopped an enemy counterattack single-handed.

Pfc. Wilbur C. Miller of Des Plaines, Ill., didn't have to be in the front lines, but he wanted to make the war a personal affair. In Normandy's hedgerows his Browning automatic cut down many a German until a slug in the hip put him in the hospital.

His pals will tell you that while he was convalescing from that wound Bill Miller used to pray for recovery so that he could get back into the line. When he left the hospital, Miller had a limp. Three times he was offered rear chelon assignments, but turned them down.

German Defense Slackens

8000 Warplanes Help Canadians Beat Back Nazis

By Austin Beahmer
PARIS, Feb. 14.—(AP)—While almost 8000 allied warplanes battered German installations from the Siegfried line to the Russian front today, British and Canadian forces lunged nearer Hitler's industrially vital Ruhr valley against resistance that began to slacken after a week of steady pressure.

The Canadians advanced all along the front of their powerful wedge which is inflexibly turning the flank of German divisions holding the northern end of the Siegfried line and the Rhine plain.

They pushed to points northeast of Kieve, four miles south of the forest three miles north of Goch and established a second bridgehead over the Niers river, west of Kessel.

Nazi Attacks Fall
The German command hurled at least four counterattacks against the Canadian units driving eastward, but they were officially described as generally lighter than previous counterattacks and all were repulsed, some with the aid of allied planes.

Allied vanguards, muddied and tired from their terrific effort of the past week, stood and cheered as wave upon wave of fighters and fighter bombers tore into the attacking Nazis and magnificently aimed artillery sent sheets of steel through the enemy's ranks.

Under this terrible assault the German infantry and armor broke and tonight apparently was pulling back into prepared positions under dogged pressure by Montgomery's men.

Weather Favorable
For once the weather was against the Germans. Brilliant, springlike sunshine flooded the battle zone as the enemy launched his counterattacks, enabling allied planes to take to the air in the greatest number since the Canadians opened their push west of Kieve last week.

One allied column was fighting forward within a mile and a half of the heavily-fortified road center of Goch, eight miles south of Kieve, Goch already was outflanked by the capture of Bedburg and Hasselt, twin towns east of Kieve. Another road center, Calcar, was the objective of other British troops who neared Moyland, three miles to the northwest. Moyland is 18 miles from the important Ruhr valley of Wesel.

8000 Airplanes Unload Bombs Upon Germany

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—More than 1300 RAF bombers swarmed over Germany last night, smashing at the industrial city of Chemnitz in support of the onrushing Red army and delivering secondary blows at Berlin and a synthetic oil plant at Rositz.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Approximately 8000 allied planes, more than 8000 of them heavy bombers, spread destruction throughout Germany during the last 24 hours, blasting at least 10 industrial centers and delivering a tremendous blow to Dresden, eastern gateway to the heart of the reich.

This around-the-clock bombardment, one of the greatest of the war, was aimed at the vital fuel and communication targets of Dresden, Chemnitz, Magdeburg and Bohlen—all south of Berlin and within 120 miles of the capital—and at Neurnburg, Bonn, Dortmund and Vienna and Maribor in Yugoslavia.

Willamette to Reach 17.5 Feet Crest Here

The Willamette river at Salem is expected to reach a crest of 17.5 feet early today, according to information from the weather bureau at McNary field, late Wednesday. At Albany, it was expected to reach 19.5 feet. Flood stage at both places is 20 feet.

The Santiam at Jefferson had reached a crest of 14 feet, one foot above flood stage. All rivers will begin to fall late Thursday.

German Spies Will Be Hung

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—(AP)—William Curtis Colepaugh, an American whom the prosecution called "a double-crossing traitor," and Erich Gimpel, his German accomplice, were convicted today as Nazi spies and sentenced to die by hanging.

Without displaying emotion, Gimpel—and then Colepaugh—stood before a seven-man military commission and heard Col. Clinton J. Harrold, its president, say: "This commission, by a secret written ballot, finds you guilty upon all three counts, and you are hereby sentenced to be hanged by the neck until dead."

Realizing that another wave of Germans was attacking, Miller dropped in among the enemy dead and waited, reloading while he stood there squinting out over the top of the trench.

Then they came for him—40 to 50 Germans. Miller squeezed his trigger. He wiped out the whole attack, and forced another 80 men to surrender rather than face his devastating fire.

That was Bill Miller's greatest moment. But just then an enemy potato masher grenade whistled into his trench from a hidden position and it killed him.