

By Charles A. Sprague

There's no use denying it, Al Brown, county clerk of Multnomah county, has the republicans of that county worried.

In 1941 the Multnomah delegation, predominantly republican, put through two bills, one to "purge" existing registration rolls by house-check on registrants, another to provide a continuing scrutiny of persons registering.

Now the Multnomah republicans in the legislature have put through the house a bill urged by the Multnomah republican county chairman to create the office of registrar of elections for that county, to be appointed by the county commissioners.

The bill passed the house after a stormy debate Monday. The senate, being quite heavily republican, may be expected to approve it; and a republican governor would hardly be one to veto a measure endorsed by the republican organization of the most populous county in the state.

I have no particular interest in the matter one way or another; but it does seem to me the Multnomah republicans are working at the wrong end of the line. They will not win elections by fresh laws for purges of registration lists, abolition of mobile registration booths, and shifts of election machinery out of Al Brown's hands.

Konev's Forces Drive 10 Miles, Take 80 Towns

By W. W. Hercher LONDON—Wednesday, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Russian first Ukraine army forces drove some 10 miles northwest and west in Germany's Brandenburg province yesterday, capturing more than 80 communities in the face of persistent counterattacks by which the Nazis strove to hold the vital southeastern approaches to Berlin, 57 miles away.

Moscow's nightly communique, announcing these gains, said about 1,000 Germans were captured in the sector northeast and east of Gage, while some 100 miles to the southeast fighting continued for the annihilation of the German garrison in the besieged Silesian capital of Breslau.

On the northern front Moscow announced gains up to 13 miles and capture of 50 Polish corridor towns by the second white Russian army. Advancing northward in a 20-mile front, these forces were within 33 miles south of Danzig, once-free Baltic port.

On the southern end of the long eastern front the Russians announced capture of 60-odd Czechoslovakian towns in a drive that carried northwestward 13 miles of Banská Bystrica, and told of repelling determined German counterattacks in Hungary on the north bank of the Danube east of Komárom.

Stassen Will Attend Meet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Comdr. Harold E. Stassen said today he is putting world peace ahead of his political future to serve as a delegate to the United Nations conference.

His selection by President Roosevelt is a "political liability," the former Minnesota republican governor told a news conference. But, he added, it is his patriotic duty to help work for a strong postwar league of peace-loving nations.

He said he would doff his uniform temporarily for the world conference so that, in civilian status, he can "speak, act and think" as he pleases.

Weather table with columns for location, max, min, rain, and other weather indicators.

INVASION OF IWO AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The Oregon Statesman

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Britain 'To Throw Everything' At Japs; Work-or-Jail Bill Shelved

Churchill Renews Promise

Roosevelt Meets With High Rulers Of Middle East

By D. Harold Oliver WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt, during a dramatic near east odyssey, has obtained from Prime Minister Churchill a new promise "to throw everything" at the Japanese.

The story of the president's meetings with premiers, kings, and princes after the Crimea conference came out in part today. The White House made public some details of his trips through Egypt and Algeria, and how Mr. Roosevelt is adding, by plane, motor and ship some 14,000 miles to his stupendous travel.

Nuernberg Is Battered Hard By 900 Forts

LONDON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Nuernberg, one of Germany's most important rail junctions and scene of former Nazi party propaganda spectacles, was battered today by 900 US Flying Fortresses in its heaviest daylight bombing of the war.

The big American armada, which included an escort of 700 fighters, encountered no enemy aerial opposition but ran into intense anti-aircraft fire. Sixteen bombers and 23 fighters were missing tonight.

A series of warnings, during which the German radio twice went off the air, indicated the allied aerial blows were continuing into the night.

Berlin Claims Sinking Of 8 Ships in Convoy LONDON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The Berlin radio asserted tonight that German torpedo-carrying planes had sunk eight cargo ships totalling 57,000 tons and two destroyers out of an England-bound convoy from Murmansk. There was no immediate Allied confirmation.

France Assured No Secret Agreements Made at Yalta

By John M. Hightower WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—France has sought and received assurances from the United States that no secret agreements were made by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin at Yalta for the government of liberated countries of Europe.

This was learned tonight as officials here studied the effects of General Charles de Gaulle's rejection of President Roosevelt's invitation to a meeting in Algiers. The general conclusion was that French-American relations are on the down-grade and may continue that way for some time.

Leathernecks Charge at Iwo



Marines charge over a rise on the beach at Iwo Jima where Japanese defenders are giving the leathernecks their toughest fight in 168 years.

U.S. Third Surges Forward 2 1/2 Miles in Fresh Attack; Canadian Troops Stymied

By Austin Bealmer PARIS, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The American Third army, slashing into or beyond the Siegfried line on a 50-mile front, surged forward 2 1/2 miles in rain and mud today and captured 10 towns and entered five others in a surprise new attack across the Moselle river.

Eden Outlines France's Part In Occupation

LONDON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was believed today to have outlined to French Ambassador Rene Massigli the part France will play in the occupation of Germany and in the Allied control commission to be established in Berlin.

In a series of conferences centering around the decisions made by the big three in the Crimea, Eden saw four United Nations ambassadors and two former Polish government leaders. Besides Massigli, Eden met with US Ambassador John G. Winant, Polish Ambassador Count Edward Raczynski and Chinese Ambassador Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo.

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The ship radiated she would reach Ambrose light in the lower channel tomorrow about 11 a. m. (EWT), which would bring her to her pier between 12 and 1 p. m. Aboard besides the American officers and enlisted men are 78 Canadian military personnel, 42 merchant seamen who were also prisoners and 623 civilians.

Gripsholm to Dock Today

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Feb. 20.—(AP)—The Gripsholm neared the end of its sixth exchange voyage tonight, bringing home 2,206 repatriates, including 463 ill or wounded American soldiers who were prisoners of war in Germany.

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As for the Crimea conference, the state department said the French had asked for clarification and the information requested had been furnished. The French request was received here Saturday and the reply went out yesterday.

FDR Plea Has No Results

Substitute Plan Will Be Offered By Senate Group

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Senate military committee shelved the work-or-jail bill today despite a new endorsement by President Roosevelt and began perfecting a much milder substitute.

The 12 to 6 vote to lay aside the house-approved measure in favor of the substitute which would strengthen the war manpower commission's present job placement program was taken shortly after the committee was handed a memorandum from the president. Dated February 11 and presented to the committee by majority leader Barkley, it reads: Roosevelt Pleads

"I hope that legislation embracing the principle of the May bill can be speedily enacted. It will assure the armed services they can rely on the flow of necessary supplies and greatly contribute to the success of our arms."

The house passed the May bill several weeks ago shortly after its enactment was urged by Mr. Roosevelt. Senator Chandler (D-Ky.), who joined Senators O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), Kilgore (D-W. Va.), Wagner (D-N.Y.), Ferguson (R-Mich.) and Ball (R-Minn.) as a co-author of the substitute, declared the committee's action means the work-or-jail bill is "as dead as Lazarus."

O'Mahoney agreed. "This is a clear indication that the committee favors a voluntary system under the war manpower commission instead of the work-or-fight principle or whatever you want to call it," Chandler added. The committee hopes to agree on final terms of the substitute tomorrow. It got through about half the text today, inserting a few clarifying amendments.

Group Okehs Nurse Draft

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Unmarried women nurses between the ages of 20 and 44 inclusive, would be liable to draft for military service under legislation approved today by the house military committee.

But committee members, concluding three weeks of consideration of the measure requested by President Roosevelt on January 6 to provide 20,000 nurses for the army and the navy, said privately they did not expect the legislation, if enacted, to be enforced, except possibly among cadet nurses.

Four Mid-Valley Men Wounded in Action

Mid-Willamette valley men reported wounded in action in the European theatre by the war department include Lt. William C. Dyer, whose wife is Mrs. Clara Belle Dyer, 201 Pearce building, Salem; PFC Raymond L. Pettie, whose wife is Mrs. Vivian L. Pettie, Grand Ronde; Pvt. Anthony T. Reiling whose wife is Mrs. Marie K. Reiling, 368 Isabelle street, Lebanon, and Pvt. Wade W. Hawley, whose mother is Mrs. Georgia May Hawley of Dallas.

Series of Explosions Shake English Coast DOVER, England, Feb. 20.—(AP)—A series of thunderous explosions from somewhere at sea shook the Dover area tonight at about 10:30 p. m. The first explosions, which lasted many seconds, were followed by another series 10 minutes later.

Nazis Must Pay Loss BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The government announced today that Germany would be required to pay for the loss of two Argentine ships torpedoed by submarines and for damage to another.

Farmers Get Stuck In Mud but Face Water Shortage

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Feb. 20.—(AP)—Paradoxically, farmers in this region are getting stuck in the mud while hauling water to relieve shortages.

The current spell of alternate freezing and thawing is drawing all the moisture to the surface, explains Weatherman C. C. Willford, and unless there's a rain or snow soon Ozark farmers will have a bad drought.

Meat Packers, Textile Trade May Get Raise

By Harold W. Ward WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The war labor board announced its willingness tonight to fatten pay envelopes of 145,000 meat packers and 80,000 textile workers, if it wins its policy fight with Economic Stabilizer Fred Vinson.

The board released its long-awaited decisions in these two cases, but held up the money items until it has settled the squabble with Vinson. He wants to give OPA veto powers over wage adjustments if they necessitate price increases.

The decisions came as the two industries were threatened with far-reaching strikes. For the textile workers, the board raised the minimum wage from 50 to 55 cents, and granted a flat 5-cent increase to preserve the present differentials. These were allowable in the board's eyes because they would adjust "sub-standard" wages.

The meat packers were told to establish a commission to set up, for the first time, a standard wage structure for the industry. Clothing, tools and sharpening of tools are to be company expenses, also for the first time.

500 Japanese Troops Killed

CHUNGKING, Feb. 20.—(AP)—More than 500 Japanese troops have been killed in fighting west of the Canton-Hankow railroad near the Hunan-Kwangtung border, the Chinese high command said tonight.

The announcement said Chinese forces attacked the Japanese 10 to 15 miles east of Ichang and about 105 miles south of Hengyang and that heavy fighting is continuing. Meanwhile, a Japanese attack 12 miles northeast of Ichang was repulsed, it added.

Lloyd George Very Sick

CRICCIETH, Carnarvon, Wales, Feb. 20.—(AP)—David Lloyd George, one of Britain's elder statesmen and spark plug of the empire's fight in the last war, was reported critically ill tonight at his home near here.

Willamette Valley Flax Growers Must Meet Foreign Competition

The problem for the future for flax growers of the Willamette valley will be competition from foreign produced flax fiber, R. Glen Ritchey, newly elected chairman of the Willamette Valley Flax Growers association, warned growers.

Galleries Fine For Sleeping

By Wendell Webb Managing Editor, the Statesman There was no reason at all why spectators couldn't have had a good nap in the state house of representatives Tuesday. It definitely was "ho hum" day, and many more like it would see the 43rd legislature bogged down so securely it might as well go to sleep itself.

Slowdown Continues in House; Actions Delayed

So—as has been forecast—Rep. James Gleason of Portland, whenever a measure came up for final passage Tuesday, asked for a complete reading of each bill, section by section. He also asked for such a reading of a senate joint memorial requesting congress to oust the OPA after the war, but there wasn't but one section and the bill got through.

Rep. Vernon Bull, La Grande democrat, sought to erase the memory of the house action on the registrar bill (HB 306) by asking for reconsideration. But Speaker Eugene Marsh ruled the motion out of order because Bull had voted "no" on the measure in the first place.

Therefore, in apparently the only "out" to keep Reading Clerk Richard Wilson from having an overstrained larynx, members moved that the longer bills be put over—including the veterans' affairs measure, set for today, and the proposal to put the fish commission on an appropriation basis, now scheduled to come up tomorrow.

Rep. Warren Erwin, Portland republican, suggested that if all bills must be read completely that an assistant reading clerk be named—as a "humane" measure. Senate in Low Gear

The house did manage to pass seven propositions, however (see page 10). The senate also stayed in low gear with hours of debate on Sen. Rex Ellis' bill to allow assessment insurance in Oregon, as in Idaho, bitterly fought by the old line insurance companies. It was beaten.

The house indefinitely postponed, in accepting a majority "do not pass" report, a bill by Rep. John Steelhammer to require all peace officers and tax commission agents to report weekly to the governor the location, operator and owner of any pinball machine on which the state tax had not been paid, or any slot machine which the state holds to be illegal.

Steelhammer's minority "do pass" report was defeated, 40 to 14. He argued that the bill would increase revenues for old age assistance.

There were two possible repercussions being discussed regarding the slow-down in the house—one centered around a threat to start the same proceedings in the senate unless the Multnomah bill was defeated there, and the other was a constitutional amendment which might preclude the necessity of reading every bill even on demand. (Legislative news page 10.)

Two Lebanon Soldiers Die From War Wounds LEBANON, Feb. 20.—Two more Lebanon men are casualties of the war, information has been received by relatives from the war department. William Green, army cavalry, was killed in action in Burma, January 20. His mother, Mrs. Lela Green, is now in Eugene with her daughter, Louise of the U.S. forest service staff.

Cloudy

today with intermittent rain showers in the mid-Willamette valley area, predicts US weather bureau, McNary field, Salem.

Yankees Capture Airfield

Jap Resistance Unprecedented; Marines Gaining

By Elmont Waite US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The three-day-old invasion of Iwo is ahead of schedule despite the unprecedented ferocity of Japanese resistance, it was learned today.

The US Fifth marine corps achieved one of the invasion's main objectives by noon Tuesday, a little over 24 hours since the marines landed on the southeast coast, when they captured the three-runway Motoyama bomber field No. 1, with fighter plane range of Tokyo, 750 miles to the north.

Al Dopking, Associated Press war correspondent, confirmed that the invasion plan called for seizure of the airfield, also known as Suribachi, by tonight. Marine's Attack Hills

Today the marines, still backed by one of the most concentrated ship bombardments in history which in six days has pitched more than 8,000 tons of steel at the Nipponese, tore into enemy hill positions on the flanks after sealing off the south third of the island's eight square miles.

There is a terrific fight ahead against Japanese on the north end of the island, on a plateau overlooking the beachhead. The bulk of the Nipponese garrison is there. As the marines consolidated their flanks yesterday, Dopking said they encountered "probably the stiffest enemy fire yet faced in the Pacific war."

Controlling the south third of the island, the rain-drenched leathernecks advanced 200 yards beyond the airfield on the north flank against Nipponese rocket, mortar and artillery fire.

On the south flank, they attacked formidable enemy positions offering stiff opposition from the slopes of volcanic Mt. Suribachi.

House Votes In Favor of Ousting OPA

The House, by a vote of 33 to 21, Tuesday completed legislative action on a memorial asking congress to end the Office of Price Administration as soon as possible after the war.

Opponents of the memorial contended it was too critical. Rep. Carl Francis, Dayton republican, explaining he does "not defend the bureaucracy of the OPA," said the OPA did a good job curbing inflation. Rep. Manley J. Wilson, St. Helens democrat, said the memorial "casts reflection on citizens doing an important job."

Rep. Henry Semon, Klamath Falls democrat and a potato grower, said that without OPA, he could have received three or four times as much money for his potatoes. But, he added, "I'd just have more money to spend, that's all." (Legislative news page 10.)

Middle East In Spotlight

CAIRO, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The increasing military and political importance of the middle east has been sharply emphasized by the conferences President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill held in Egypt and nearby on their way home from the big three Yalta meeting.

The president and the prime minister delayed their returns to their respective capitals nearly a week after leaving the Crimea. With the war in Europe approaching its climax, it is obvious that they would not have agreed to this delay if they had not considered the discussions here to be of vital importance.