

# British Reported Looking to U. S. to Aid in Greece, Turkey

By Jack Bell and Alex H. Singleton  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—Congressional leaders were reported today to be looking to President Truman if he decides the United States should take over hard-pressed Britain's economic commitments in Greece and Turkey.

They sought meanwhile to weigh the impact of such a move upon world stability and delicate relations with Russia.

Diplomatic and congressional informants said word has come from London that the British, their domestic economy strained to the breaking point, cannot much longer maintain troops in Greece and give Turkey economic and military assistance.

President Truman declined four times at his news conference today to say anything about the reports of possible American shouldering of Britain's commitments in Greece.

However, the president and Secretary of State Marshall were said to have held a bipartisan group of congressional leaders at the White House yesterday that the alternative to American action may be eventual communist control of Greece.

Republicans and Democrats who listened to the discussion of what was described as a critical situation in one of the world's trouble spots were represented by colleagues as having indicated they will go along if the president decides the United States must step in in order to preserve European stability.

Some republicans, however, were said to believe that a full explanation of the program must be made to congress and to the people before any final decision is made. It is highly possible that the final attitude of congress will be determined by the public's reaction. There are these possible alternatives for the United States, a number of legislators said:

1. Substantial economic assistance for Greece itself and for Britain in maintaining the police job there, or
2. Adoption of a hands-off policy in an area where interests of Russia and the western powers conflict.

Final legislative approval was given Friday to a measure providing for the state acquisition of facilities at Camp White near Medford for possible use as a state hospital annex to relieve crowded conditions at the institution in Salem.

House passage of the senate bill so providing came near the end of a comparatively busy day during which the house assessment and taxation committee voted to introduce a measure to raise \$2,000,000 annually by levying a 2-cent tax on each package of cigarettes—a proposal which was defeated by referendum vote 67,542 to 60,321 two years ago.

**Referendum Probable**

The bill providing for the 8,000,000 Camp White facilities from the war assets administration provided only that title would rest with Oregon. Establishing a state hospital there will require a referendum, under statutes prohibiting such institutions from being outside of Marion county except by popular vote.

The house also passed without dissenting vote its memorial asking the government to give Chemawa Indian school to the state, after Rep. O. H. Bengston of Medford said there was a rumor that some thought is being given, on the part of the federal government, to abandoning the Indian school which is not now operating at capacity.

In another major action Friday, the house voted 44 to 15 against a bill to allow any registered elector to vote in school elections, heretofore limited to property owners. Opponents objected to letting non-property holders saddle districts with debt. Proponents said nearly everyone paid school taxes anyway through the property-offset phase of income taxes.

**House "Yes" Votes**

The 15 "yes" votes (with only J. O. Johnson absent) were cast by Reps. Barry, R. H. C. Bennett, R. A. Bennett, Condit, Dammach, Gantenben, Harvey, Hendricks, Lonergan, Niskanen, Pier, Thomas, Wilson, and Wilson, Hall.

Introduced in the house were seven measures including those calling for a \$970,076 deficiency appropriation for state departments and institutions, and requiring probate courts to have petitions stating facts and reasons before ordering hearings on possible commitments to state hospitals.

House bills passed by the senate included those providing for a state commission to buy federal surplus materials and permitting the governor to commandeer fire-fighting equipment in emergencies. The senate sent to the house a bill to let school boards exclude mentally unfit children from schools.

**Eight Bills in Senate**

Eight new bills introduced in the senate included measures to allow divorcing persons to remarry after 60 days instead of six months; continue a wartime permit for the use of oleomargarine in state institutions; permit a one mill "County Historical Fund" tax; authorize purchase or construction of a \$600,000 governor's home in Salem, and provide means for withdrawal of an area from a rural, fire protection district.

Additional tax proposals also were being considered Friday, and the legislature's major revenue-producing program was understood to be nearing completion in the house assessment and taxation committee. A sub-committee of that group suggested an extra-cent gasoline tax to enable increasing the cities' and counties' share of highway revenue to 12.5 and 20 per cent, respectively. Present share is 5 and 15.7 per cent.

The house alcoholic control committee Friday tabled a bill to permit sale of mixed drinks via scrip in clubs, but said it would consider a new measure to allow sale of liquor by the drink in hotels, restaurants and clubs.

**Bills Up in House**

Among 18 bills up for final action in the house today is its own measure requiring inspections of school buses every 90 days.

Up for final action in the senate are a house bill to exempt gifts to charitable associations from the corporation excise tax, and a measure to require a board of health approval for small community water systems.

The house will resume at 9:30 a.m. today, the senate an hour later. (Legislative actions on page 2.)

## IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Stroup

Defeat of HB 368 keeps in the law the provision that only property taxpayers may vote at school elections on tax and bond issues, but it leaves Portland school district in a predicament.

The issue came up when it was proposed to give the Portland district the opportunity to call special elections for tax and bond purposes. They wanted the law fixed so no taxpayer qualification would be required. It was decided, though, that it could not be fish for Portland and fowl for upstate—in other words eligibility to vote should be the same.

Whereupon it was decided to amend the present law, making it statewide and removing the taxpayer qualification. That was the bill which got beaten 44 to 15 in the house.

The theory behind the taxpayer qualification is that if property has to pay the tax decision on taxes or bonds should be restricted to property owners. The state however is very inconsistent in this regard because it makes no such requirement in voting in state or county or city elections.

As a matter of fact the property tax qualification is pretty much of an anachronism. In this state heavy taxes are raised from incomes, a large share of which goes for education. Liquor revenues which support public welfare are derived from many who own no real property. The headline tax hit everyone who operates a motor vehicle, and sales and cigarette taxes.

(Continued on editorial page)

## P-82 Pilot's Betty Jo in Person



NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 28-(AP)—Lt. Col. Robert E. Thacker (left) of El Centro, Calif., and his co-pilot, Lt. John Ard (right) of Inglewood, Calif., are happy as they are greeted by their wives after landing at LaGuardia field here after a non-stop flight from Honolulu in their fighter plane, Betty Jo, named for Thacker's wife. (AP Wirephoto)

## 14 1/2-Hour Hop From Hawaii Sets Record

NEW YORK, Feb. 28-(AP)—Betty Jo, the army's sleek twin-engined P-82 fighter plane, swooped into La Guardia field here today after a non-stop flight from Honolulu in 14 hours and 33 minutes today, streaking nearly 5000 miles over land and sea.

Lt. Col. Robert E. Thacker of El Centro, Calif., the pilot, minimized the 4978-mile flight, longest distance ever flown by a fighter plane, but said it had proved that fighters could make long distance escort trips.

"There was nothing heroic about it," he told newsmen as he rubbed his tired eyes. "There was nothing to it. Please don't make a hero out of me."

Nevertheless, the long-postponed flight aroused widespread interest as the Betty Jo zoomed across the country this morning, her New York goal jeopardized because of a mechanical failure which made it impossible to drop three of her four auxiliary gas tanks.

With 60 gallons of gasoline left of the 2215 loaded into the P-82 at Honolulu, the fighter hurtled over the airport here at 8:06 a. m. (PST). Thacker brought her in to a perfect landing at 8:08:44.

## P-51 Speeds To New Mark

NEW YORK, Feb. 28-(AP)—Paul Mantz, veteran speed flyer, sped across the country in a P-51 Mustang today to set a new non-stop transcontinental mark of six hours, seven minutes and five seconds for a single-engine, propeller-type plane.

The 43-year-old pilot said he could have set a much faster record if his radio had not failed shortly before he reached La Guardia field.

## Salem Taxi Firm To Install Radios

Ten two-way ultra-high frequency radios are to be installed in the Salem taxi company's taxicabs when the sets are received in May, Robert Lynn Clark, company owner, announced yesterday.

Clark said the antenna and transmitter will be installed at the top of the First National bank building. He said application had been made to the federal communications commission for a frequency assignment in the 152 to 162 megacycle band.

## Oregon Civil War Vet Returns from Midwest

PORTLAND, Feb. 28-(AP)—Theodore P. Leland, 98, found the Midwest too cold and now is back in Portland for the rest of his life. That's what Oregon's only surviving veteran of the civil war told a reporter today. He left the state last fall, intending to live in Michigan.

## FOREST VISITS COUNTED

PORTLAND, Feb. 28-(AP)—Some 2,750,000 travelers went through the 19 national forests of Oregon and Washington last year, the U.S. Forest service reported today.

# The Oregon Statesman

NINETY-SIXTH YEAR 10 PAGES Salem, Oregon, Saturday Morning, March 1, 1947 FOUNDED 1851 Price 5c No. 289

## Hospital Annex Approved

By Wendell Webb  
Managing Editor, The Statesman

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## Furniture Fire World Scorcher, Hamilton Avers

Ralph Hamilton, of the Hamilton Furniture company, last night found his world scorched from pole to pole and meridian to meridian.

A fire which started at the store about 6 p.m. of supposedly electrical origin, destroyed two davenport and chairs and badly scorched five floor lamps and two world globes.

"The one world that was scorched the worst," explained Hamilton after the fire, "was the deluxe model, while the standard world was only scorched from the Mississippi river to the Indian ocean."

The davenports and chairs were moved into the street by city firemen and the flames extinguished.

## Committee of Senate Votes To Bury OPA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—The senate appropriations committee today voted 11 to 2 to bury OPA by June 30, but members said controls over rent, sugar and rice will continue under other agencies. The committee recommended a grant of \$17,991,815 as OPA windup expenses.

The committee was informed that a rent control bill is ready for early senate consideration, Chairman Bridges (R-N.H.) told reporters, adding, "there is a move afoot to transfer sugar and rice controls to the department of agriculture."

Bridges read into the record a letter from Chairman Taber (R-N.Y.) of the house appropriations committee that OPA had "failed to keep faith with the government" in reducing its payroll.

Taber said 1000 OPA field workers could handle sugar controls and 3000, rents. Instead, he said OPA still has 12,800 workers in the field.

The house, in a recent vote, aimed a much harder blow at OPA. It voted to cut \$9,000,000 from its current year's appropriation, a move which OPA officials said would hurt the economy of business immediately. The final decision may be made in a senate-house conference committee.

## Bomb Explodes In Haifa Bank

HAIFA, Palestine, Feb. 28-(AP)—One person was killed and six injured in a bomb explosion on an upper floor of Barak's bank here today during mounting tension over arrival of a refugee ship carrying 1,350 uncertified Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

Crowds surged through Haifa's main street during the day and a man in a dark coat was hustled by British troops to prevent their storming the suburb of Bat Galim as urged by curfew speakers. Excitement appeared subsiding tonight, despite the departure of a British transport deporting some of the newly arrived refugees to Cyprus.

The explosion killed a Jewish employe of the British navy pay office, and injured an English girl and four other Palestinian Jewish members of the staff and a British soldier, who discovered the bomb and attempted to defuse it.

## Funds Released For McNary Dam

PORTLAND, Feb. 28-(AP)—The way was opened today to begin McNary dam on the Columbia river this spring.

The chief of engineers at Washington announced release of \$1,440,500 to begin the work, and the Portland office immediately made plans to call for bids about March 10.

A sum of \$1,162,803 was also released for work on the Columbia river channel, Bonneville dam, and other northwest projects.

## President Opens Red Cross Drive

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—President Truman called on the American people tonight to "respond promptly with donations to the Red Cross which opens its annual drive tomorrow to raise \$60,000,000."

"Let us remind ourselves," he said in a broadcast from the White House, "that many times a year the people turn to the Red Cross—once a year the Red Cross turns to the people. That time is now at hand."

## Agriculture Officials See Drop In Food Prices if Crops Good

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—Barring a poor crop year, housewives and family breadwinners can look forward to a reduction this year in their grocery bills, agriculture department officials predicted today.

They said also that prices of many non-food items in the family budget must come down if the big volume of the nation's 1947 industrial and agricultural production is to move into consumption and use.

An official department report issued today showed that farm prices on Feb. 15 were at substantially the same level as a month earlier.

This is the way food officials size up the price outlook.

The nation now has as large a supply of food as it has had in

## Truman Selection Rejected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—A senate committee wrote "no" today across Gordon R. Clapp's nomination to head the Tennessee Valley Authority but President Truman signalled for a fight to the finish on the atomic energy commission.

The president told a news conference after the committee acted that he is staying behind Clapp to the finish just as he is beside David E. Lilienthal, nominated for chairman of the atomic energy commission. Clapp, long-time associate of Lilienthal, was named to the latter's TVA directorship.

Mr. Truman praised Clapp warmly as a career public servant. He recalled that during his own senate service he several times saw nominees confirmed after adverse committee reports.

The public works committee recommended Clapp's rejection after hearing criticisms similar to those raised against Lilienthal himself before the atomic committee where his nomination as chairman of the atomic energy commission is pending. They included accusations that Clapp tolerated Communists in the TVA and characterizations of him as a "New Dealer."

The committee's vote was 7 to 5—two Democrats and three Republicans for confirmation, with Democrats and four Republicans, including Cain of Washington, against.

Sen. McKellar (D-Tenn.), a leader of the fight against Clapp, expressed himself as "delighted" and said "he ought to have been rejected."

## Budget Saving Earmarked for Debt Reduction

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—The senate voted today to take a one per cent nibble out of the public debt with part of the money it figures on saving in trimming President Truman's \$37,500,000 budget.

Sen. Knowland (R-Calif.) said the one per cent payment—\$2,600,000—sets up goal of paying off the whole \$260,000,000 in 100 years.

Knowland had wanted to set aside \$3,000,000,000 toward debt reduction. Sen. Taft (R-Ohio) wanted to hold the figure to \$1,000,000,000 so as to leave more leeway for translating budget cuts into income tax cuts.

The compromise on \$2,600,000,000, advanced by Sen. Millikin (R-Colo.), prevailed, 82 to 0.

## Eighth Vessel Calls for Help

NEW YORK, Feb. 28-(AP)—Atlantic ocean gales which have plagued shipping for a week were abating today but at least eight vessels still were reported in need of help in the wind-whipped waters.

The fishing motor vessel Princess Puff, eighth to falter, lost her rudder 220 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, the coast guard said, but the Norwegian tanker Sommerstad was standing by and a Royal Canadian mounted police vessel was scheduled to go to her aid.

## Slot Machines in Idaho Legalized

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 28-(AP)—The Idaho senate after two hours of impassioned debate adopted 27 to 12 the house-approved legislation to revive the legal operation of slot machines which proponents said would help finance a \$10,000,000-a-year minimum educational program passed earlier today in the house of representatives.

The slot machine legislation was returned to the representatives who concurred in the senate amendments restricting the devices to incorporated cities and towns.

## Lumber Controls To End March 31

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—The office of temporary controls said today that most government controls over production of lumber, soft wood, ply wood, hardwood flooring and mill work will be lifted March 31.

The civilian production branch of OTC said, however, that because of the millwork shortages it will continue to require channeling of specified sizes of western pine and Douglas fir shop lumber to millwork or cut-stock manufacturers.

## Britain Asks Economic Commission in Europe

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Feb. 28-(AP)—Great Britain called upon the United Nations economic and social council today to give top priority to the creation of a permanent economic commission which would help the war-ravaged nations of Europe get back on their feet. The council opened its fourth session with more than 30 items on its agenda.

## WOOL PRICE INCREASED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—The agriculture department today increased selling prices of government-owned wools an average of between 2 and 3 cents a pound, clem basis.

## House Votes to Outlaw Portal Pay Litigation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28-(AP)—Legislation virtually outlawing portal-to-portal pay suits received overwhelming approval today in the first formal test of sentiment on labor measures since the republicans seized control of congress.

By a roll call vote of 345 to 56, the house sent the bill to the senate after first crushing attempt

## Sleeper Car Breaks Loose On Mountain

GALLITZIN, Pa., Feb. 28-(AP)—A runaway sleeper on the Pennsylvania railroad's New York to Texas "Sunshine Special" raced crazily down mountainside tracks in the pre-dawn darkness today, killing a Pullman porter as he tugged futilely at the emergency brakes, and injuring 11 others.

Its sleepy passengers flattened themselves in the aisles to avoid flying glass during the agonizing three and one-half mile backward run which started after the cab broke loose from the train at the crest of the Allegheny mountains while one of its two engines was being cut off.

The wreck occurred a mile and a quarter from Bennington, where the railroad's "Red Arrow" plunged over an embankment last week, killing 24 and injuring more than 150.

Railroad officials began an investigation. The car had finally halted when the rear wheels left the rails and plowed into an embankment.

## Warm Month Above Average Bureau Notes

The warmest February since 1934 was proclaimed by the Salem weather bureau in its month-end report last night.

The mean temperature for last month was 2.8 degrees above the normal, having registered at 45.5 degrees. The mean maximum temperature for February was 55.7 degrees, or 6.9 degrees above normal, and the mean minimum was just average at 35.3 degrees, the weather bureau said.

High temperatures of the month were recorded on the 7th, 22nd and 25th at 62 degrees and the lowest on the 27th at 24. The 62-degree temperature was the warmest since October 24, 1946.

Rainfall was a little over one inch below normal for February at 3.43 inches. Total rainfall for the year is now recorded at 6.66 inches, and the wettest day of the month was on the first with 1.07 inches.

## WU Speakers Sharing Lead In Tournament

Competing among 350 students from 37 western colleges, Willamette university forensics students last night shared with Pepperdine college students from Los Angeles, high honors in the state semi-finals drew near a close in the all-western speech tournament at Linfield college, McMinnville.

Willamette students to continue today after placing in the semi-finals yesterday were Bob Sayre and Chuck Mills and Ira Jones and Ed Ladendorff, junior men's debate team; impromptu contest, Kathleen Secord; interpretation, Betty Ferguson; oratory, Miss Ferguson and Tom Courtney; speech of occasion, Kathleen Secord.

Dr. Herbert E. Rabe, Willamette university speech professor, in announcing the outcome last night, said that final winners would be announced tonight.

## China Premier Soong Resigns

NANKING, Saturday, March 1 (AP)—Premier Soong resigned today and, in a farewell appearance before the legislative Yuan (council), blamed China's economic woes on the Communists.

Soong had been called to explain "China's muddled economic situation."

Speculation in Nanking was that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek would assume the premiership. Soong said the generalissimo had accepted his resignation.

## Boy Hit by Car; Driver Arrested

Robert A. Knuth, route 9, Salem, was arrested on a charge of "an improper left turn involving an auto-pedestrian accident" by city police last night after the truck he was driving allegedly struck William Welch, age about 9, at the intersection of Duncan avenue and the Silverton road, investigating city police said.

The Welch boy, son of Mrs. Sybil Teausau, 420 Evergreen ave., was treated by the Salem first aid squad for a fractured right leg and taken to the Salem General Hospital, where his condition was reported as "fairly good" last night.

## Weather

Station	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	55	35	98
Portland	57	25	60
San Francisco	61	44	00
Chicago	22	12	03

Willamette river: 4 feet.

FORECAST from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem: Partly cloudy today and tonight. High temperature today, 60; low tonight, 30.

## Animal Crackers



I'm half off.