

Chinese Reds Offer 'Clemency' In Return for Quick Surrender

NANKING, April 9 (AP)—The communists tonight offered the fleeing Chinese government "clemency" in return for quick surrender. Red armies put pressure on the invitation by smashing with new intensity at the government's slender bridgeheads along 650 miles of the Yangtze river.

Nationalist leaders confronted

the alternatives of throwing themselves on the communists' mercy or trying to block a major military drive into south China.

The deadline for a decision already has been set by the reds as next Tuesday, April 12.

The clemency offer was contained in a message from Mao Tse-tung, communist chairman, to Li Tsung-jen, acting president.

It was broadcast by the Peiping radio in reply to Li's statement of Thursday that he was willing to be "burned in oil or dismembered" if that would bring peace to suffering China.

Mao repeated his frequent demand that the government speedily accept the eight red "terms" proclaimed last January 14. These eight points amount to unconditional surrender of the government. The first and thorniest of them calls for punishment of the scores of nationalist leaders whom the reds have called "war criminals."

General tightening up the existing regulations, involving operation of state-owned and state-operated automobiles, was demanded in a report approved by the legislative joint ways and means committee Saturday.

A subgroup of the committee said they found that many state-owned cars apparently are being operated without distinguishing marking, are kept at the home of state employes nights, and are used for non-official purposes. It was recommended that all state-owned cars bear a state insignia and that the painting of these cars a uniform color be investigated.

Limitation Sought
Further recommendation was made that purchases of automobiles for state activities be restricted, so far as possible, to the lower-priced vehicles.

The committee reported out with a "do pass" recommendation a bill proposing a \$400,000 appropriation for construction of a new state printing plant at East State street and the Airport road. Money for construction would be borrowed from some state account and be repaid on a rental basis.

Another bill receiving a favorable report creates a revolving fund of \$1,500,000 from which towns under a population of 2500 could borrow, through issuance of bonds, for sewage disposal facilities.

Differential urged
Approval also was given a bill providing a differential in salaries between officials living in the state hospitals and those living outside the hospitals. A measure authorizing the secretary of state to provide adequate furnishings for legislative lobbyists, including comfortable chairs, was approved without a dissenting vote.

It was estimated that another bill receiving committee approval would return to the state approximately \$3,000,000 a biennium through increased taxes on beer and other alcoholic beverages.

Exemption Sought
A report of a special committee that the blanket reduction of 5 per cent in the operating and maintenance budgets of all state activities exempt the public welfare commission and certain items contained in the budget of the state board of higher education received favorable consideration. It originally was estimated that this 5 per cent reduction in state department budgets would save several million dollars.

The welfare budget, as now approved, aggregates \$26,866,049. Employment of a full-time attorney was added to the budget of the state agricultural department.

Moorhead Second At Speech Meet

George Moorhead's speech, "Tomestone for Butch," won him second place in the annual district 7 competition of Toastmasters International at Bend Saturday night.

The Capitol club speaker competed with representatives from Washington and Oregon. Morris L. Schmidt, Tillamook, took top honors in the convention and the right to compete in the northwest regional meeting at Seattle in June.

Gromyko Says West to Build Africa Bases

LAKE SUCCESS, April 9 (AP)—Russia's Andrei A. Gromyko accused the western powers today of developing Italy's former North African colonies as bases for aggression against the Soviet Union. American and British spokesmen denied the charge.

Gromyko told the U.N. assembly's 58-nation political committee that Libya, on North Africa's Mediterranean coast, is "triddled with a network of Anglo-American air and naval bases."

2 Men Chosen To Dig Rescue Tunnel to Girl

(Story also on page one.)
SAN MARINO, Calif., April 9 (AP)—A 43-year old miner and sandhog and a 26-year old auto mechanic were picked tonight to be the team that may reach the entrapped little Kathy Fiscus.

The veteran digger is stocky H. E. (Whitey) Blinkseder. He'll probably do most of the heavy digging and drilling down at the 104-foot level.

The mechanic is slender Tommy Francis, a 120-pounder with narrow shoulders. Francis has been delegated to enter the 14-inch well pipe holding the child prisoner.

And the reason Francis is down at that hole?

He himself has a three-year old daughter, Patricia.

Francis, who spends his spare time as a volunteer forest fire fighter, said he joined the rescue squad last night after hearing a radio broadcast of Kathy's plight.

"My wife Gertrude just about went to pieces," Tommy said as he fastened on a miner's hat, with lamp.

"Do you want me to go and get her out," I asked.

"I wish you would," she says. So here I am."

Blinkseder, a more stolid type, said that Kathy's pipe goes straight down 95 feet and curves. At Bend in Pipe

"We think she's right there at that bend," said Blinkseder.

Francis, who was one of many thin or small men who volunteered to go down the well, attached to a rope, after Kathy, has done his share of digging up to now, too.

"You build up a sweat the first time you lift an arm down there," the flyweight rescuer said.

Blinkseder joined up the first night, too.

"He couldn't sit still listening to it," his wife, Frances, said. "So off he went—and he won't sleep until it's over. The Blinkseders have two daughters, Bonnie, 18, and Barbara, 16.

Blinkseder has been in and out of mining work for 20 years, but this is his first big rescue mission, his wife says.

It will be pick and shovel, shovel and pick for 10 feet to tunnel from the 30-inch rescue shaft to Kathy's well. Then they'll use a carbide grinder powered by an electric hand drill to cut a "window" in the child's prison.

The grinder is about as big and as thick as a quarter and the thickness of the well casing is 12-gauge, of 50/1,000 of an inch, which is about as thick as a nick-

VFW Leader Asks Vets Find Civic Interests

By Thomas G. Wright
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Veterans were charged to take a greater interest in civic and political affairs by Lyall T. Beggs, national commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, at an address in the VFW hall Saturday night.

More than 300 members of district posts and auxiliaries heard the Madison, Wis., lawyer in his Salem speech. Your greatest responsibility locally is to your sons and daughters, Beggs said.

Attend school meetings, find out what teachers salaries are, take an active interest in what your children are learning, Beggs commanded.

The tall veteran of World War I action in France was introduced by Gov. Douglas McKay. Accompanying Beggs here were Ben Burns, Astoria, department commander for the VFW, Vere McCarty, Condon, senior department vice commander, Johnny Walker Jones, Portland, national rehabilitation chairman, and Hal Barnes, Portland, department chairman for distinguished guests.

The group was met at Chemawa by city police who escorted them to the Senator hotel where Beggs was a guest of honor at a dinner. Starts at Post Level

Beggs reaffirmed the organizations support of universal military training, and reminded that the quest of such legislation was started at the post level and not from the top. He made it clear that the VFW was not in support of the defeated Rankin pension bill. He said a bill now in committee calling for a pension of \$72 a month for needy veterans would receive the organizations support.

The VFW head warned that the 14-man soviet politburo was actively engaged in undermining the "American way of life," and suggested that some legislation is necessary to "take citizenship away from those persons who say they would not support the United States in a war against the Reds and put them on a boat for Russia."

Pays Tribute
Beggs paid tribute to the "boys of '98" who had the foresight to start the VFW organization to look after the interests and welfare of disabled veterans and widows and orphans of those who died "in your golden jubilee year we pay tribute to them and the veterans of World Wars I and II," he said.

Following his address, Beggs acted as installation officer for ceremonies for seven district 20 posts. New officers were installed in Salem posts 661 and 6102, Mr. Angel, Silverton; Stayton, Mill City and Woodburn.

Beggs will leave Salem for Eugene today where he will visit briefly before leaving on an inspection tour of hospital installations in Washington state.

Piano Crushes Boy in School

OREGON CITY, April 9 (AP)—Nine-year-old Thomas Svegel was killed today in an attempt to retrieve his nickel from under a school piano.

The boy and a companion, Edward Miller, 8, dropped a nickel under an upright piano as they were about to drop it in a coke machine.

Wrestling to pull the piano away, they tipped it so it crashed over on Thomas. The child's forearm had pressed across his throat, strangling him.

The accident happened in St. John's Catholic school this afternoon.

Cherry blossoms—a sure sign of spring but not nearly so sure as the increase in the number of young folks stopping in to look at diamond rings and ensembles. Folks seem to like the system I have of making available diamonds of any size, all first quality and exquisitely cut and then fitting them to a mounting of your own choosing. This way you can have the diamond you like in the mounting you like for the girl you like. Why not come in as hundreds of other couples have and let us talk it over, you can rest assured you will not be urged to buy (I'm married you know.)

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Tax Delinquent Notices Mailed

Notice to about 300 Marion county farmers and business men who are delinquent in filing their personal property tax returns went out late last week from the county tax collector's department.

"Warrants will be signed on those persons or businesses who do not pay up soon," said Sheriff Denver Young, tax collector, Nov. 15, 1948, was the "due date."

The tax is applicable to all personal property which is used to derive a profit. In general this mostly applies to businesses, farmers, apartment house owners and others. Some of the taxes are due from several years ago.

Voters Kill New School Tax Levy

NEW PORT, April 9 (AP)—Lincoln county school district voters turned out in near-record numbers to reject a tax levy that would have enabled construction of eight new schools.

Restriction on Use of State Cars Asked

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