

# West to Accept Russ Offer--If No Strings Attached

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### Salem School Budget Jumps \$300,000

#### Fertilizer Plant May Process Army Ore

SEATTLE, April 26—(AP)—A \$5,000,000 plant built at Salem, Ore., to produce a 1 1/2 million tons of fertilizer from northwest clays may be used to process army ore stockpiles. The plant is now operated by Columbia Metals for making ammonium sulphate fertilizer. Pres. John R. Allen of Manganese Products Inc., reported his firm had been given 30 days to submit a price to the army on ferro-manganese production. Allen said he would have the plant producing fertilizer and processing ferro-manganese at the same time. He said the army had a large stockpile of ore at Las Vegas, Nev. Eventually Manganese Products, Inc., would produce its own manganese ores from the Olympic peninsula, he said.

A. W. Metzger, manager of the plant for Columbia Metals, said Tuesday night at Salem that he was unaware of the project. He said, however, that Manganese Products Inc., was one of the firms bidding for the plant. Operations by Columbia Metals will cease Friday except for the disposal of 800 to 1,000 tons of fertilizer still on hand. About 15 of the crew of 65 will be kept on until June 30 to sell the fertilizer and maintain the plant. (The government opened four bids for the fertilizer plant several months ago, but none was accepted although negotiations continued for disposal of the plant.)

#### Vote Due On Extra \$717,475

By Robert E. Gangware City Editor, The Statesman  
Salem district school voters will be asked to approve a tax levy of \$717,475 outside the 6 per cent increase limitation in a school election May 20. It was decided Tuesday night by the district school board and budget committee.

#### Defense Hints At Romance In Spy Trial

WASHINGTON, April 26—(AP)—The defense hinted broadly today that Judith Coplon, 27, pretty former government worker, intended to marry the Russian agent with whom she was seized in an alleged espionage conspiracy. Defense counsel Archibald Palmer gave this surprise twist to the case as selection of the jury was completed in Miss Coplon's two-day-old espionage trial. Eight men and four women—including five government workers—were chosen. Accused with Miss Coplon in a separate indictment in New York is Valentine A. Gubitchev, 32, a Soviet engineer and former United Nations employe. Gubitchev was released today on \$100,000 bail, huge bail. Step by step, Palmer asked the prospective jurors if they would have any prejudice in the following instances: Against a divorced person, or an American contemplating marrying a citizen of another country.

#### Shanghai 50 Miles Ahead of Red Army

By Fred Hampson  
SHANGHAI, Wednesday, April 27—(AP)—Communist - menaced Shanghai got more jittery today with the disruption of telephone service to Soochow (Wuhsien). It could mean the reds were within 50 miles of this great city. The break came in mid-morning after red troops, boasting they already had crushed two Nationalist armies, were advancing southward to the west of Shanghai heading for Hangchow. Long-distance service to Soochow, 50 miles northwest of Shanghai, went out at 10:45 a. m. Communications officials said the "line was cut." This could mean either of two things: Red troops already had

#### Sullivan Quits Cabinet Over Carrier Dispute

WASHINGTON, April 26—(AP)—John L. Sullivan resigned today as secretary of the navy, firing roaring broadside at Secretary of Defense Johnson for halting construction of the navy's super-carrier, the USS United States. The New Hampshire Irishman said he was deeply disturbed because Johnson acted "so drastically and arbitrarily" without consultation with the navy. Johnson dismissed Sullivan's attack with a terse statement from his office: "I regret very much that my old friend and colleague, John L. Sullivan, has joined the aircraft carrier issue on personal grounds, and I believe that he, too, will soon regret his action of today." Sullivan's resignation, widely expected since Johnson lowered the boom on the big flat-top Saturday, came in an exchange of letters with President Truman. Both of their communications were couched in the polite pattern protocol. But Sullivan cut loose his pent-up wrath in a letter to the new secretary of defense. He said that navy planners consider his construction "indispensable" to the continuing development of American sea power—"so much so that twice they have sacrificed other construction to give it top priority."

#### County Budgeters Okeh \$10 Raise for Employes

By Conrad G. Frange Staff Writer, The Statesman  
Approval of a \$10 per month wage increase for Marion county employes and action on several departmental budgets marked the first day's work of the Marion county budget committee which Tuesday set down to form this county's 1949-50 budget. The six-man committee will continue deliberations this morning when three hearings are scheduled. They include hearings on the county agent's budget at 10 a. m., predatory animal control budget at 10:30 and a group of dairy and cattle-men at 11 a. m. The pay increase affects about 85 county employes and does not include elective officials. The vote came after a long discussion. Marion County Judge Grant Murphy cast the lone dissenting vote. He said he favored a general increase of 15 per cent in most cases and more or less than this amount in others. Department budgets approved included those of the county assessor for about \$40,000 compared with \$38,782 as the current budget; circuit court, \$23,265 compared with \$20,265; county coroner, \$1,635 compared with \$1,585; county court and commissioners, \$15,595 compared with \$15,878; county court house, \$17,264 compared with \$16,264; district attorney's office, \$7,324 compared with \$7,160; registrations and elections \$18,895, compared with \$23,325. Also approved was a \$255 budget for the Jefferson justice district constable and a \$1,250 budget for the Erietenbush justice court. Discussed but not voted into completion were budgets for the county clerk and for the county health officer. Slated for probable balloting today will be budgets of the county sheriff's office and county jail and district court. Judge Murphy was elected chairman of the committee and D. B. Hill of Mill City, secretary. (Additional details on page 7)

#### Wistaria Unseats Porch Post



After 26 years of snaking its way around a porch post the wistaria vine shown above has torn the post from its mountings and now clutches it firmly in snake-like coils. The vine is at the home of Miss Dora Pherntson, 1573 Bellevue st., where it was planted 26 years ago by her mother. Leaves and blossoms of the wistaria almost hide from view the porch when the vine is in full bloom. (Statesman photo).

#### U.S. Says Siege End Possible

By John M. Hightower  
WASHINGTON, April 26—(AP)—The western powers virtually accepted today Russia's public proposal to lift the blockade of Berlin in exchange for a four power conference on Germany. But it was made plain that the offer is accepted only if no secret strings are attached. A state department statement declared that if Moscow's policy actually stands as it was reported in a dispatch by the Tass (Russian) news agency early today "the way appears clear for a lifting of the blockade and a meeting of the council of foreign ministers." At the same time, however, it was learned that the Russians had been told that the United States, Britain and France do not intend to delay their plans for unifying western Germany and creating a German government, probably by July 15. Since some top officials believe that the real purpose may be to upset these plans, it is still doubtful whether a real and final agreement on the Berlin blockade will be reached. President Truman was in close touch with the developments, and there was no question but that he approved the state department action, as he does all major foreign policy steps. Philip Jessup, ambassador-at-large who had been conducting talks with the Russians, conferred with Mr. Truman on the problem this morning. State Department Report

The 1,000-word state department report on the situation was issued here as a direct result of the Tass report. The Tass article said in substance that if a date can be agreed on by Russia and the west for a meeting of the big four councils of foreign ministers then "reciprocal restrictions on communications and trade could be lifted" before the meeting. This appeared to be a major concession by the Kremlin. Previously the Russians had insisted on prior settlement of outstanding currency issues in Berlin. On some occasions at least they had taken the position that a foreign ministers meeting should be held more or less simultaneously with the lifting of the blockade. Western Position

The western powers have long taken the position that they were willing to discuss any German issues with the soviets—after the lifting of the blockade. The state department said negotiations have been under way since February 15 between Ambassador-at-Large Philip Jessup for the United States and J. A. Malik, Russian representative on the U. N. security council. Jessup himself appeared optimistic over chances of reaching an agreement with the Russians. After making a personal report to President Truman on his talks with Malik, Jessup told reporters "things look hopeful."

Less Optimism in Germany  
In Germany, both Gen. Lucius Clay and Robert D. Murphy, former political advisor to the military governor and now head of the state department's German division, took a wary attitude toward the soviet offer to lift the blockade. This was in contrast to optimism expressed at the state department in Washington.

BONN, Germany, April 26—(AP)—A battle over the site of West Germany's capital flared tonight following agreement between the western allies and German politicians on the outline of government. The struggle among Frankfurt, Bonn, Stuttgart and Kassel became so tense that Emil Neujens, who coordinates claims of the capital candidates, collapsed and was taken to a hospital.

House Debates T-H Act Repeal  
WASHINGTON, April 26—(AP)—Before packed galleries, the house plunged into stormy debate today over an administration bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley labor law. Rep. Lesinski (D-Mich), sponsor of the repeal measure, shouted that the present law "Which enabled the atomic energy commission to protect atomic secrets from communist labor officials."

But Rep. McConnell (R-Pa) told the house that the Lesinski bill would cut out a provision of the present law "Which enabled the atomic energy commission to protect atomic secrets from communist labor officials."

House leaders said a final vote is not expected before late Friday.

#### IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The annual meeting of the Oregon Chest held Monday in Salem was a heartening affair. Men and women gathered from many parts of the state to review the work of the past year and plan ahead. The Oregon Chest, in case you do not know, is the vehicle which raises money for the support principally of eleven child-caring agencies in the state. It shares in the funds raised by various community chests though the largest portion of such funds remain in the locality to support local institutions. The Oregon Chest grew out of the Oregon War Chest which raised money for the National War Fund during the late war. At the meeting Monday Loyal Warner of Salem was reelected president; the executive director is Irl S. McSherry and the Chest has offices in the Ladd & Bush bank building. Why, it may be asked, should people contribute for support of these institutions? Why shouldn't the state pay the bill and take it out of our taxes? Of what concern is it to people in this county for example, since the institutions aided are located elsewhere? These are pertinent questions. I'll try to answer them. As to state responsibility: the state does contribute at a fixed rate for support of court-committed children; and the legislature granted an increase in the rate this year. But the state's contribution (continued on editorial page)

#### 4-H Poster Awards Made at Show



Healthiest Gene Fowler and Reba Smallwood, Marion county's healthiest boy and girl, according to the contest at Silverton Monday morning which opened the five-day annual 4-H Spring Show being held at Silverton. Gene is the son of Mrs. Lillian Fowler of Bethany school and Reba is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Smallwood of Keiser. Both youngsters are 13 years and in the seventh grade. (Statesman Farm photo).

#### Reappraisal of City Property In County Due

A plan to appraise real property in Salem, Silverton and Woodburn for county tax purposes within the next year was revealed Tuesday. Marion County Assessor Roscoe "Bud" Shelton appeared before the Marion county budget committee Tuesday and sought a \$2,000 fund to have the job done. The money, he said, would pay expenses of two appraisers from the state tax commission, whose salaries would be paid by the commission. Shelton said he estimated it would take about a year to appraise all property in metropolitan areas in the county and that from four to five years would be required to complete the appraisal on all rural property.

#### Appeal of Ruling on North Marion High Vote Withdrawn

Appeal of the case of the legality of North Marion's Union high school district No. 6 to the state supreme court has been withdrawn and official note from Bartlett Cole, attorney for the objectors, disclosed Tuesday. Decision of Circuit Court Judge E. M. Page supporting the legality was announced February 17. Objectors to the union had been William G. Gooding, Jack Murray and Edwin J. Miller. The appeal was abandoned on agreement that a date would be set for voters to pass on dissolution of the district. The district boundary board recently set the election date for May 16. After withdrawal action had lagged Agnes C. Booth, secretary of the Marion County district boundary board, threatened to withdraw the dissolution election. Abandonment of the appeal was in answer to the threat.

#### School Budget Meet Tonight At Woodburn

WOODBURN, April 26—(Special)—The Woodburn school board will conduct a public hearing at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Lincoln school on the district's proposed \$202,900 budget for the 1949-50 fiscal year. The hearing will precede a district election Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. at the school on a proposal to exceed the 6 per cent tax limit by \$107,953. Only \$21,496 of this year's \$129,450 school tax levy falls within the 6 per cent limit. Major increases in the 1949-51 budget are due to increased attendance and higher operating costs. The district also is faced with losing \$40,000 of state basic school support funds because of non-standard conditions in its grade schools. Surveys of both high and grade school facilities are being made to determine building needs. A district meeting will be called later to cope with this problem.

#### California Endurance Fliers Land Plane After 6 Weeks Aloft

FULLERTON, Calif., April 26—(AP)—Six weeks of droning monotonously through the skies ended today for Bill Barris and Dick Riedel. They boosted the world's endurance flight record to 1,008 hours, landing at 11:45 a.m. (PST) to the cheers of their townspeople. Tired, but smiling and fresh-shaven, the two Fullerton airport employes were able to walk away from their little Aeronca monoplane, "The Sunkist Lady," without help. "We're pooped, but we'll be all right in a short time," said the 36-year-old, graying Barris. "The worst thing was the monotony of the engine. It just about drove us crazy. We'd never try it again. This is our last try." His blond partner, Riedel, 34, was first out of the plane. He quickly embraced his wife, June, and two children, Dickie, 10, in a wheel-chair with arthritis, and Barbara, four. Barris' wife, Betty, and their two children, Patty, two, and Steven, one, were right there, too. An estimated crowd of 8,000—half of Fullerton's population and then some—turned out to welcome the boys back to the field they left March 15. Thus after three previous unsuccessful attempts, Barris and Riedel became the first fliers to stay up more than 1,000 hours consecutively. Their flying took them to Florida and back. On April 14, they passed the previous endurance record of 726 hours set by Wes Carroll and Clyde Schlieper of Long Beach, Calif. The old mark was set 10 years ago.

#### Animal Crackers



OUR SENATORS  
Lost 23-3