

# Small Business Takes Beating In Mobilization

By Clarke Beach

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—(AP)—A small factory in Boston manufactures the tiny washers that are molded into rubber heels so that the heels can be nailed to shoes. It can't get the little bit of steel it needs to keep in production.

It is one of the major suppliers of such washers. If it can't turn them out the entire shoe industry will be adversely affected. And defense workers must have shoes.

Defense plants need electric power, and utility companies need copper and aluminum wire to transmit it. But a small Caroliton, Ga., wire plant almost went out of business because all of its copper and most of its aluminum supply was cut off.

A Minneapolis company tows barges on the Mississippi river many of them laden with supplies for defense plants. It couldn't buy enough barges to fulfill its contracts because shipbuilders couldn't get enough steel for them.

Many a small business is taking a beating as a result of the mobilization program.

**Appeals Received**  
The senate small business committee has received so many appeals for help that Chairman Sparkman (D-Ala.) says it is gravely concerned lest large numbers of small businesses go to the wall.

The senators' concern isn't wholly a matter of sympathy for the little fellows. Many point out that in a period of total mobilization the country would need their productive capacity. And they don't like to see small business getting smaller while big business gets bigger. Too much concentration of economic power, they say.

The committee has arranged for many small factories to get the materials they need, but it believes that they are only a small fraction of those that are in trouble.

**Hearings Planned**  
Sparkman has instructed the committee staff to prepare for hearings beginning January 12 on the current problems of small business.

Although the chief problem now is in the shortage of materials—principally steel, aluminum, copper, zinc and plastics—before long it is expected that the draft will threaten the foremen and skilled workmen around whom many small enterprises are built. Sparkman has appointed a subcommittee, headed by Senator Benton (D-Conn.), to keep watch on the manpower problem.

Since July the committee has been sponsoring small business clinics throughout the country. Local businessmen are brought together for a full day's session and are told by Washington experts how they can do business with the government during the mobilization period.

**To Centralize Efforts**  
Sparkman has introduced a bill, with Rep. Patman (D-Tex.), chairman of the house committee on small business, to set up a smaller Defense Plants corporation. This would centralize all the government's efforts on behalf of small business.

The legislators are recalling what happened in the first years of the last war. Between December 1941 and December 1943 the total of business concerns in the United States dropped from 3,400,000 to 2,990,000, a net loss of 410,000. Nearly all of these were small businesses.

Small manufacturers of civilian goods were squeezed out of existence for lack of materials and skilled workmen. They couldn't convert their plants and get contracts for war goods in time to save themselves.

Laurence G. Henderson, staff director of the senate committee, on the other hand, says that a critical situation is developing.

His staff recently reported to the committee that "a large segment of small business today is critically handicapped by material shortages" and that "unless drastic remedial action is instituted at once many small manufacturers are going to fall by the wayside."

Henderson says NPA's program of help to small business isn't proving very effective. He adds that the national production authority or some other government agency should be sponsoring the business clinic program but that the legislators are doing it because none of the executive agencies has taken the initiative.

## Weather Shift May Prelude Cold 50 Years

Associated Press Science Editor

By Howard W. Blakeslee  
BOSTON, Jan. 6—(AP)—The unusual weather this last fall is merely an introduction to about 50 years of colder climate to come.

How much colder? Enough so that farmers should be told right away that growing seasons will be shorter during the next 25 years.

Enough so that the public should be told it is being misled by stories that world climate is getting warmer.

These are conclusions of Dr. Raymond H. Wheeler, student of weather cycles, and chief of staff of the climatic research division of the Weather Science Foundation, Crystal Lake, Ill., and psychologist of the Babson Institute of Business Administration, Babson Park, Mass.

The present weather changes fit war predictions based on weather which Dr. Wheeler, then a psychology professor at Kansas university, made seven years ago.

**Charts History**  
He had then charted 17,000 battles in world history, to find that world wars take place in warm periods. And he pointed out that both World Wars One and Two came in a warm period.

In cold periods, like the one now starting, he found that although wars continued, they were smaller, usually civil conflicts. Nations in the cold times turned to reconstruction. Love of liberty grew stronger. He said Christ lived in one of the cold periods.

To date, the weather war predictions have fitted current history. Dr. Wheeler's present predictions are concerned solely with predictions about the warm cycle, which he says is just ending, and the cold just ahead.

**Important Cycles**  
His studies show two important cycles, one of a hundred years between two warm peaks, the other a thousand years. We are now entering the cold half of a hundred-year cycle, Wheeler says.

The cooling signs, he says, actually began about ten years ago. Arctic explorer Donald MacMillan returned from the north last summer with a report that not in years had there been so much ice. In recent years, winters have become sporadically much more severe. Palestine suffered an unprecedented snowfall. Blizzards have appeared of the sort characteristic of cold periods, such as the one in the west two years ago.

**Weather Explained**  
The erratic weather this last fall is explained, under his studies, as characteristic of the periods when climate is shifting from warm to colder.

Dr. Wheeler says weather experts have been ignoring the ups and downs of the hundred-year cycle, and paying attention only to the thousand-year period. The last previous thousand-year warm peak was about 1000 A.D. The next is due some time after 2000.

This thousand year shift, now on the warming-up side, has caused frost lines to advance northward in Finland, Norway, Alaska, Russia, Siberia and Canada. In Greenland, farms and cemeteries that had been buried under ice and snow for six hundred years, are now uncovered. Glaciers have been receding all over the world. Warm water fish have been migrating northward for several decades. Southwest winds have been increasing.

Because of these signs, Dr. Wheeler says, the public has been



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## Enlistment Rush Noted

SEATTLE, Jan. 6—(AP)—A rush of enlistments was reported today by armed forces recruiting offices here.

Most recruiting officers attributed it to an increase in number of men being drafted, and reports that draft ages may be changed.

Army and air force enlistments the Nile in the coldest winters; and the Baltic sea will freeze over between Germany and Sweden.

this week were reported double those of the first week of December, and marine enlistments nearly three times greater.

The navy reported its recruiting station staff had to work after regular hours to handle the rush, and the coast guard said it had enough applicants to fill Seattle quotas through March.

### MALHEUR INCOME UP

ONTARIO, Jan. 6—(AP)—Farm income dropped slightly in Malheur county last year, County Agent Harry Sandquist reported today. He said the total was \$28,797,750, which was 4.8 per cent under the previous year and 14.1 per cent below the peak year of 1948.

## French Drive Relieves Red Threat to Hanoi

By Seymour Topping

SAIGON, Indochina, Jan. 6—(AP)—French machinegunners have cut their way back into the fortress of Chucpaphian in the fiercest fight of a big push against the Vietminh in northeast Indochina.

High French officials said today the offensive, forcing masses of the communist-led rebels off balance, has relieved at least temporarily a long standing threat to Hanoi.

"The facts speak for themselves," said the aggressive French commander, Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny.

Visibly confident, he returned with the Vietnamese (pro-French) premier Tran Van Huu to Saigon

from a visit to Hanoi, a provincial capital, trading center and defense bastion of the north.

### Post Abandoned

A delayed dispatch from the front said the French recaptured Chucpaphian Friday. The post, 18 miles northeast of Tienyen, had been abandoned to the rebels in a withdrawal from the Indochinese-Chinese frontier zone last fall. Tienyen, between the French-held ports of Monca and Haiphong, is a base of the massive French forces which struck inland Thursday to clear the salient.

The main body has met little resistance other than the treacherous terrain, though French officers estimate 12,000 Vietminh regulars and others thousands of guerrillas had concentrated in the area. Countless ravines in the thick jungle had to be crossed on thin bamboo strands. Bad weather limited aerial support and scouting.

### Columns Converge

A French army communique said two French columns have converged on Chucpaphian, one thrusting northeast from Tienyen

and the other driving 10 miles straight west of Hanoi.

The Vietminh troops were reported withdrawing and a French military spokesman expressed doubt that any substantial number now remain within the Tienyen-Hanoi-Chucpaphian triangle.

In any case, the French action appears to have broken up prospective attacks on Monca and Tienyen.

A French communique Friday night indicated the rebels still were harrasing the line of French posts to the south which guards Hanoi and its communication corridor through the Red river delta to Haiphong. But the main power of Vietminh blows which started Christmas day appears to have been spent.

### AUTO SHOW CANCELED

SEATTLE, Jan. 6—(AP)—The Seattle Automobile Dealers association announced cancellation today of its 1951 auto show scheduled for March 10 to 18. President Richard A. Smith said the action was taken because of the national emergency and uncertain automobile production schedules.

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TO WALK 'SEA OF ICE' — Field Marshal Lord Montgomery has from clouds attached to his shoes before strolling on the "Sea of Ice," French glacier in massif of Mont Blanc.