

Alexander Rates Chance for Korea Truce as Tossup

By STAN CARTER

SEOUL (AP)—Field Marshal Lord Alexander said Sunday chances of Korean armistice talks to succeed are a tossup but added he did not believe World War III imminent.

He declared: "I wouldn't bet one way or another. It's a tossup as far as I can see. I honestly do not know whether the Communists are sincere."

Of the possibility of another major war, Alexander, Britain's defense minister, said at a news conference:

"No, no... we are no nearer to it than a little while ago. There is only one way to prevent it. That's for the United Nations to get together and resist aggression and let the other side know that's what they're doing."

Touring Front

Alexander accompanied by Gen. James A. Van Fleet, U. S. Eighth Army commander, has been touring the Korean battlefield to confer with combat generals. He also talked with the UN Command armistice delegation.

He said he did not think it would be wise to appoint a British delegate to the armistice talks although "I think the people in Britain would be pleased if they had a representative."

Appointment of a British representative at this time might give the Communists the false impression that the Allies were changing tactics to yield in the deadlocked talks, he explained.

Europe First

Alexander said he did not believe Korea should take precedence over Europe militarily.

If the Communists begin a major offensive in Korea, Alexander expressed the opinion "it would penetrate our line in places and be brought to a standstill within a week with very heavy losses to the enemy."

But if the Reds supported the attack with its air force, he added, "it would certainly make the situation much more difficult."

The British leader said he would like to see Van Fleet get more reserves "but I don't think more troops are available." Britain, he added, can't spare any more because of the situation in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Steamboatmen To Hold Picnic

Old time steamboatmen of the Willamette River will gather on the banks of that river at Champag State Park June 29 for their 27th annual reunion.

An informal program of music and speakers is planned for the Sunday outing sponsored by Veteran Steamboatmen's Association of the West. Capt. Fred H. Sherman is commander and Capt. E. R. Mooney is master.

BOOK SALES LAG

MILAN (AP)—Italians buy less than one book per capita each year. Italian book publishers announced some 37 million books were sold last year to more than 47 million Italians. Those in the Lombardy region are the most avid readers, they said.

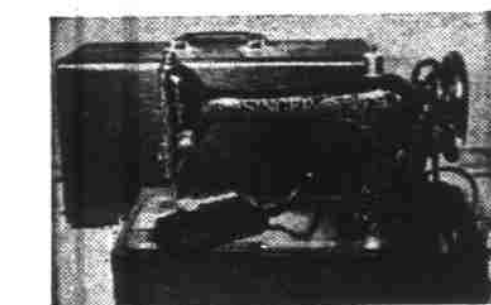
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Senate Chiefs Hold Hopes for Adjournment

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some Senate leaders still cling Sunday to hopes for adjournment of Congress before next month's political conventions despite a discouragingly high stack of unfinished business.

Senate Democratic leader McFarland of Arizona still is shooting for a final wind-up early in July, and such Senate veterans as McKellar D-Tenn and McCarran D-Nev said they think it can be done.

But a dissent was entered by another old hand at lawmaking. Sen. George D-Ga said he saw no possibility of getting all the appropriation bills passed in time for Congress to shut up shop before the Republican national convention starts July 7.

Sen. McClellan D-Ark said he wasn't optimistic that Congress could finish before convention time but in any event was opposed to an early adjournment "in this critical year." He and the other Senators expressed their views in separate interviews.

Standing squarely in the way of adjournment now are the money bills Congress must pass to keep the government going in the new fiscal year starting July 1.

So far not a single regular appropriation measure has cleared Congress. Four have passed both the Senate and the House but conference committees have still to work out the final versions.

Logger Killed Under Tractor

PRINEVILLE (AP)—Eugene Reed, 39, a logger, was killed Saturday when he was crushed under a tractor.

Ambulance attendants said he apparently was killed outright when the tractor overturned while he was operating it for the Hudesth-Pine Corp. here.

The widow, Irene, two daughters and a son survive.

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