

By Charles A. Sprague

You have heard about the house that cost \$3500 to build ten years ago and sold a year ago for \$5500 and two weeks ago for \$8000. Or the farm that brought \$4750 seven years ago and was sold the other day for \$11,200.

Don't you suppose the county assessor has heard about these prices, too? And what do you suppose he is going to do about it when he goes to make up his assessment roll this year? Will he assess the house at 50 per cent of \$8000 or the farm at 50 per cent of \$11,200? If he should he would have to jump the assessment of all similar property in equal ratio.

This is something to think about — for the assessor and for the property owner.

Certainly the county assessor can't shut his eyes to the "facts of life" on property prices. It is reasonable to expect a general elevation of assessments. But how much? You will have to wait and see, for County Assessor Shelton doesn't indicate that he has a hard and fast rule on the subject. Some classes of property have gone up in value as much as others, such as city residences.

The assessor who has seen the ebb and flow of property prices for many years, is hardly one to be stampeded over the wide margins. He will probably use a "cooling off" period of several years to see how durable current quotations are. Fifteen years ago when property-owners stormed the gates of the capitol and court-houses of the land to get

(Continued on editorial page)

Foreigners May See Test From Distance

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — This government may let foreign observers watch the forthcoming atomic bomb tests, but may bar them from learning any technical facts obtained.

This prospect rose today in separate actions in congress and the state department.

Secretary of State Byrnes told a news conference that President Truman has approved the state department's plan for inviting the newly-created United Nations atomic energy commission to the first test in May off Bikini atoll in the Marshalls.

Byrnes emphasized this decision is not final nor binding but he made clear he hoped it would be.

In congress, the house naval committee insisted — during a hearing attended by Vice Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, the man in charge of the tests — on enactment of a law requiring the United States to keep the test results secret from other nations.

Blandy told Chairman Vinson (D-Ga.), one of the house committee members who said they too want to be on hand to see the explosions, that observers will be stationed a safe distance from tiny Bikini.

Optimism Dots China Scene

CHUNGKING, Jan. 29. (AP) — China's unity conference — with the destiny of the nation in its hands — moved toward conclusion today in an atmosphere of rising optimism and with but one major issue remaining unsolved.

A subcommittee working on the national assembly contended deadlock and called a second meeting for tomorrow. The assembly will meet May 5 to adopt a new constitution for China.

The government refused to accede to a communist demand that the Kuomintang party be limited to no more than half the assembly seats, the communists one-fourth, and other parties one-fourth.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Nah, I tried going straight — it doesn't get you any place!"

City Offered Vancouver Barracks Units, Search On for 'Vet Colony' Site

Salem Housing Authority Called Into Special Session to Consider Plans

Faced with a new problem, that of securing 8 to 10 acres for a "veterans' colony," Salem's new housing authority has been called into special session today.

The authority, a commission of five men, believing its plans to remodel barracks at the municipal airport into family housing units were moving ahead smoothly, was notified Tuesday that the airport barracks would not meet federal public housing authority requirements but that 90 units from Vancouver barracks had been allocated to the city and Willamette university.

The federal agency would pay cost of moving and preparing the buildings for occupancy. The property would be provided locally, roughly graded and with city water, sewer service, other utilities, streets and sidewalks.

Confidant Taken By Undisclosed 'Obscure' Illness

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (AP) — Harry Hopkins, the lanky, loose-jointed man of mystery who was trusted by the late Franklin D. Roosevelt with many of the nation's highest secrets, died today.

Even in death, there was a hint of mystery in the man who was so close to the late president that he lived for three and a half years at the White House.

A formal announcement by Dr. C. P. Rhoads, superintendent of Memorial Hospital, said:

"Harry Hopkins died at 11:35 a.m. today. The nature of his illness was obscure and final determination cannot be made until further facts are available."

Funeral Friday
Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at St. Bartholomew's church.

The 55-year-old son of an Iowa harness maker was considered in Washington as one of this nation's most powerful men.

As Mr. Roosevelt's closest confidant, Hopkins was present at the historic Atlantic charter meeting. Hopkins was at the Casablanca conference and the big three meeting in the Crimea.

President Harry S. Truman last May sent Hopkins as a personal emissary to talk with Marshal Joseph Stalin in Moscow on matters arising from the collapse of Germany and the war with Japan.

In July, though, Hopkins asked to be relieved of his duties and to be excused from accompanying President Truman to the Potsdam conference.

Looking wan and frail, he left Washington and a few days later accepted the \$25,000-a-year post as impartial chairman of New York's cloak and suit industry. He entered Memorial hospital 11 weeks ago and only this morning was reported to be in "serious, but not critical condition." (Additional details on page 2.)

Maison Heads YW Building Campaign

Mrs. H. G. (Fod) Maison will head the campaign committee for the new Salem YWCA building, Mrs. Frank Spears, general chairman of the building committee, announced at last night's annual meeting of the association. Mrs. Maison, who recently returned to the Salem and YW's directorate following a wartime absence, was chairman of the committee which selected the site of the present YWCA building, where it is planned the new structure will rise. The campaign is scheduled for spring.

Volunteer Involuntarily Donates Coat to UNRRA

RITZVILLE, Wash., Jan. 29. (AP) — Richard Kembel, working hard with fellow club members packing clothing for shipment overseas, became warm. He took off his heavy overcoat and tossed it on a nearby table.

Now he's wondering which of 139 boxes contains his coat.

Lehman Reinstates Gen. Morgan to UNRRA Job; Polish Jews in U. S. Zone on Way to Palestine

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — Herbert H. Lehman, director general of UNRRA, announced today that he had decided to restore Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Morgan to duty as chief of UNRRA operations in Germany.

The relief agency had called for Morgan's resignation after he expressed belief at a news conference Jan. 2 that a secret Jewish organization was promoting an exodus of thousands of Jews from Poland to the U. S. zone in Germany. The request for the resignation later was suspended.

Lehman announced his decision after several days of conferences with Morgan here and in New York.

BAD TOELZ, Germany, Jan. 29. (AP) — A U. S. Third Army intelligence report on the infiltration of Polish Jews into the U. S. occupation zone in Germany says Zionist groups within Poland financed and organized such movements westward over firmly established routes.

The report, which I have seen, said it had been found that the Jews were organized in Poland by "kibbutzes" — groups established there to prepare the Jews for life in Palestine.

"All the Zionist 'committees' have this much in common: They all render assistance to the prospective infiltrators by giving them advice on what routes to follow, where to go, how to cross the border and whom to see along the routes for further help," said the report, which has not yet been made public officially. "Where necessary they provided material aid in the form of money and clothing."

The report said the majority of the Jews making such trips were bent on reaching Palestine, but those infiltrating into the American zone firmly believed that "if Palestine is inaccessible to them, a Jewish state will be established in Bavaria."

In Frankfurt, Judge Simon W. Rifkind, adviser on Jewish affairs to Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commented:

"It is not to say these people want to settle in Bavaria. Except for perhaps a handful of German Jews of advanced years who may wish to return to their homes, the Jews do not want to live in Germany or any part of it."

The Third Army report said "the infiltrators arriving in this area, at the worst, are adequately clothed and seem to have been eating well enough to be in no danger at all of malnutrition."

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Questioned



CHICAGO, Jan. 29. — Chief of Detectives Walter Storms today identified these two as Vincent Costello (top) 18 and Theodore Campbell (bottom) 22 and said they had been questioned by police in connection with the Degnan kidnap-slashing case. (AP Wirephoto to The Oregon Statesman.) (Story on Page 2)

Powers Agree On Norwegian As Secretary

LONDON, Jan. 29. (AP) — The United Nations security council by secret ballot tonight nominated Trygve Lie, 50-year-old lawyer-diplomat and Norway's foreign minister, for the post of secretary-general of the United Nations organization.

The security council met secretly but American officials who attended the gathering of the 11-nation body said Lie's name was placed before the council by Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., American member of the council.

The council was in session only 30 minutes and the selection was said to be unanimous.

The general assembly now must act upon the nomination but Lie's election is regarded as a formality.

Thus the foreign minister will step into a \$40,000 a year post with the power to call to the attention of the security council any situation in the world that threatens peace and security.

Red Cross Flood Claim Deadline Saturday

Registration deadline for all persons suffering losses and damages in the recent Willamette valley flood is next Saturday, reports Mrs. Frances Palmer, caseworker from national Red Cross disaster relief headquarters.

All persons in this area affected by the flood, both those wishing to record their losses and those seeking Red Cross assistance, are asked to register by Saturday at the Marion county Red Cross office.

DETROIT, Jan. 29. (AP) — The Ford Motor co., announced today that final assembly of passenger cars and trucks will be halted at its Rouge plant near here Thursday night because of shortages caused by the steel strike. Twelve other final assembly plants around the country will be closed by the end of next week.

With 15,000 workers laid off last weekend the additional closings will increase the number of Ford employees made idle to 40,000.

Byrnes States Army to Occupy Indefinitely

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — Secretary of State Byrnes made it plain today that the army, which had hoped to get out by June 1, would continue to administer the American zone in Germany indefinitely.

This means, Byrnes told his news conference, that the state department will continue in its policy-making role and will not venture into the administrative field where it has had no experience.

G.M., CIO to Reopen Talks U. S. to Back Kurile Claim

Secrets Of Yalta Revealed

US Backing Kept Quiet to Avoid Telling Japan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — Secretary of State Byrnes said today U. S. military chiefs were fully aware of a secret Yalta agreement for Anglo-American support of Russia's claim to the Japanese Kurile islands.

Under the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin agreement, he said, the United States and Britain agreed to support Russia's claim to southern Sakhalin, big island north of Japan, as well as the Kurile chain, which the Japanese used as a springboard early in the war for their assault on the Aleutians.

So secret was the document that Byrnes acknowledged at his news conference that neither he nor President Truman knew of its existence until after Japan's collapse in August — nearly seven months after it was drafted.

But he emphasized that the initial secrecy was imposed for sound reasons, saying that its disclosure would have provided a tip-off to Japan that Russia was planning to enter the Pacific war.

At that time it was then February 1945—the red army forces were pressing toward the final knockout of Germany, and soviet military authorities informed the Big Three conference that it would take 90 days to shift Russian troops from the western to eastern front.

FDR, Churchill Knew of Bomb Plot on Hitler

NUERNBERG, Jan. 29. (AP) — Secret documents, hitherto unpublished, say the late President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and high vatican officials had foreknowledge of the bomb plot against Adolf Hitler months before it happened in 1944.

Field Marshal Baron Carl Gustaf Mannerheim of Finland and Marshal Pietro Badoglio of Italy were among others named in these documents as being familiar with "Plan Valkyrie," the code name for the July 20 assassination attempt.

A sworn statement by Dr. Immanuel Schaeffer, a propaganda expert under Goebbels, said Churchill was informed by a Swedish industrialist who operated as liaison between anti-Hitler forces and the British government.

An authoritative allied source has stated that President Roosevelt received progress reports of the plot from operatives of the office of strategic services in Switzerland.

Ford to Close Plant Due to Steel Strike

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Lewis, Green Together Again



MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 29.—After 10 years separation, William Green (left), head of the AFL, and John L. Lewis, of the UMW, meet across the breakfast table upon Lewis' return to the federation. (AP Wirephoto to The Oregon Statesman)

Lewis Asserts Labor Turning Point Reached

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 29. (AP) — John L. Lewis asserted today it was time for labor to "place its internal house in order" and marked the return of his miners to the AFL as "the turning point."

Lewis, claiming 600,000 miners in the United Mine Workers, re-affiliated with the American Federation of Labor—boosting its rolls to 6,800,000 paid-up unionists—and sat for the first time in ten years as a member of the policy-making executive council.

He had broken with the AFL when he founded the CIO a decade ago. Later he quit the CIO over political and personal differences with its leaders.

Lewis did not mention the CIO by name at a press conference held jointly with AFL President William Green, but said he would "leave to the imagination" of reporters how the merger would affect the CIO.

Chile Faces Protest Strike

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 29. (AP) — Chile tonight was faced with a nationwide protest strike to start at dawn tomorrow as government officials and political leaders conferred to seek a solution to the labor crisis which has resulted in bloodshed and a 60-day state of siege.

Strikes already have begun in some parts of the country where workers did not wait for the general work stoppage set for 6 a. m. tomorrow. Coal mines and railroads running south from Santiago already have ceased operations.

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES TOKYO

TOKYO, Wednesday, Jan. 30. (AP) — An earthquake of 12 seconds duration shook Tokyo at 3:40 a. m. today (10:40 a. m. PST Tuesday) but no damage was reported. The tremor was the first recorded since the American occupation.

Four Cooperatives Ask State To Continue in Flax Industry

The state's activity in the flax industry held the approval of four flax cooperatives today, in opposition to a previous appeal for its discontinuance.

Appearing at the board of control meeting Tuesday to declare the flax industry had definitely "benefitted" by the state operation (at the penitentiary) were representatives of Oregon Fibre Flax Growers' association (Springfield), the Mt. Angel Flax Growers' association, and the Clackamas county association (Canby), all of whom signed a letter asking continued state work.

Also present and favoring state flax operation were representatives of the Molalla cooperative, a member of the Willamette Valley Flax Growers' association (nine plants) which went on record before the control board several weeks ago asking the

Norblad to Tackle Housing Problem? Reservation Lost

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — The hotel room shortage has given Walter Norblad — Oregon's new first district congressman who was sworn in today — his first job here.

He arrived here to discover his room reservation had not been held. Oregon's congressional delegation managed to get him a room until Saturday, and his first job will be finding a place to live.

Norblad said he hoped to bring his wife and seven-year-old son to Washington next fall from Astoria, but housing is a big "it."

House Votes To Give States Job Bureaus

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (AP) — The house passed today a bill to switch the United States employment service back to state control a year earlier than President Truman wanted.

Southerners in the senate kept a marathon talkfest going against something else the president wanted—a permanent fair employment practices commission to deal with racial and religious discrimination.

By a 263 to 113 roll call vote, the house sent to the senate a bill to put U. S. employment offices back under state management next June 30.

If the senate okays the house measure, administration leaders expect the president to veto it. Recently he vetoed one that would have restored USES to the states within 100 days.

SNOW REPORTED TUESDAY

Traces of snow were detected early Tuesday by the Salem station of the U. S. weather bureau, which recorded light snowfall at 5 a. m. and again at 7:45 a. m. No snow stayed on the ground in Salem or immediate vicinity, however.

U. S. Steel Asks Rise In Ceiling

70-Day Midwest Truck Drivers Strike Settled

By the Associated Press
General Motors and the CIO United Auto Workers agreed yesterday to resume wage negotiations but the U. S. Steel Corp. said it would need a ceiling price increase of "very much more" than \$4 a ton to grant striking steelworkers even the 15 cents an hour wage boost already offered.

In Washington, meanwhile, high optimism was expressed by Reconstruction Director John W. Snyder over prospects for settling the steel, General Motors and other strikes.

Referring to reports, never officially confirmed, that a \$4-a-ton price increase had been offered in an effort to get "big steel" closer to the CIO demand for an 18 1/2 cents hourly increase, Irving S. Olds, board chairman of U. S. Steel, said in a statement:

Larger Increase Asked
"On the basis of an annual production of 16,000,000 tons of finished steel, which is approximately 80 per cent of our present capacity, either a wage increase of 15 cents an hour or one of 18 1/2 cents an hour will require a very much larger steel price increase than the \$4 a ton price increase previously mentioned."

James F. Dewey, specially assigned federal labor conciliator, disclosed that General Motors representatives of its 175,000 striking production workers would resume negotiations in Detroit — probably today. Dewey conferred with both parties yesterday.

Strike Against Strikes
Meanwhile, a nationwide farmers "strike against strikes" was proposed by farmers in Clay county, Nebraska.

The Nebraska farmers, asserting they can't get farm tools and machinery, tubs and refrigerators, voted to withhold their products from market until industrial disputes are settled and authorized a committee to fix a strike date.

John J. Brady, Iowa director of the Midwest Truck Operators association, announced settlement of a 70-day midwest truck drivers' strike. A two-year contract was signed granting AFL truck drivers a pay boost of from 15 to 18 per cent.

Mac Consoles Mrs. Hicswa

TOKYO, Wednesday, Jan. 30. (AP) — A message from the mother of condemned PFC Joseph E. Hicswa, pleading for clemency, drew General MacArthur's assurance that "all of the circumstances which your mother's love instinctively raises in defense of your son will receive thoughtful consideration."

Allied headquarters today made public the exchange of letters. Hicswa was condemned to death by court-martial for the fatal stabbing of two Japanese civilians. MacArthur reiterated today that he has no power to review the case, which has gone to the war department for consideration.

Four Corners Business Men to Consider Plans For Fire Control Work

FOUR CORNERS, Jan. 29. (Special) — Petitions for the rural fire control district will be presented at the meeting of the Business Men's association meeting Wednesday night. Dick Withrow is chairman of the committee in charge of the organization and Al LaBranche is president of the Four Corners Business Men's association.

The local fire department was called out Sunday night to control a fire in the LaBranche home which started in a kitchen closet. While considerable damage was done, it was controlled, with the aid of the local fire department.