

NO FIGHT, NO FIRE

NEW YORK (AP)—When a fight appeared imminent at a party celebrating the christening of a friend's baby, Ray Tormey turned in a fire alarm. The fight failed to

develop and Tormey was fined \$25 for turning in a false fire alarm.

Mouse deer, which are native to the East Indians and Western Africa, sleep with their eyes open.

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Congressional Action Needed To Bolster Relief Supplies

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Had a disaster in your state recently? A flood? A fire? A tornado?

If so, you've shared more than \$10,000,000 worth of help from a federal activity that's just a year old — the disaster relief organization of the Federal Works Agency. Surplus materials have provided the tools of mercy. But their source — the War Assets Administration — is drying up.

"Without action by Congress, we

may barely be able to meet disaster relief calls for another year," said Major General Philip B. Fleming, federal works administrator, in an interview.

"It was much harder to get war surplus material for relief in the recent Columbia River floods than for the fires in Maine last fall.

"The past year is the first time in history that we have had coordination of federal efforts to cope with disasters.

"Communities that are destroyed or damaged by disasters often need help in the restoration of water supplies, streets, schools, hospitals, public services.

Legislation Needed
"We should have legislation for a permanent disaster relief organization."

Through June, in its first 11 months, FWA's disaster-relieving bureau of community facilities provided \$3,575,483 in materials to localities in 17 disaster areas.

That figure represented "fair value" — what the government might expect to get for the material second-hand.

The figure represents only 30 to 40 per cent of the actual initial cost. Thus "more than \$10,000,000" is what the materials were worth new.

Agencies Coordinated
"We've tried to provide what's needed, and provide it in a hurry," says Fleming.

"In the Louisiana-Mississippi-Florida hurricane disaster, we accomplished a lot merely by getting federal agencies together and eliminating paper work."

"We got the Navy to declare surplus a lot of equipment in a Mississippi warehouse and then offer it directly to the states. The normal channel would have been Navy to War Assets to Federal Works to the states."

"We are not allowed to go into the field of individual aid. That is for the Red Cross. But in the Maine fire and Columbia River flood disasters, where personal property losses were heavy, we provided beds, blankets, bedding and the like, for distribution by the Red Cross."

Clean-up Help
"And we are able to keep on helping after the disaster has passed, as in the rebuilding of roads and bridges and public buildings."

Now and then the organization has turned down requests, such as that from a Vermont town police department for six Sam Brown belts and six pistols.

On the other hand, some of the single beds it shipped from Washington, D.C., dormitories to Maine for forest fire victims are still lying unused in warehouses, Fleming said.

He explained people in Maine prefer double beds.

Dried Fruit Industry Asks Price Support

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Representatives of the dried fruit industry meet with Agriculture Department agents this week to discuss possible government purchases of the 1948 crop surplus.

The department is not compelled by law to support the price of dried fruits. It may do so, however, to bring these prices into line with those of other crops that are supported.

Since the government started buying dried fruits last September, 273,161 tons have been purchased at a cost of \$48,161,043. Of this quantity 245,077 tons have gone for foreign relief and 30,084 to school lunch programs and charitable institutions.

Industry leaders are interested in continuing the program. Before the war this country used to export 35 to 40 per cent of its prune and raisin output, but importing countries have not returned to their prewar patterns.

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Club Laughs, But Not Last

OKLAHOMA CITY — (AP) — When anyone mentioned the Oklahoma City police force, the Jungle Club always laughed.

It was just outside the city limits.

Coppers could resent its bootleg whiskey and illegal dice games. But resenting was as far as the boys in blue could go.

Until Monday.

Suddenly jungle clubbers where startled to see a city vice squad smashing in the doors. "Hey! We're in the county. . . . You can't do this to us!"

"The heck we can't," came back Chief of Detectives Dwight Brown, as his crew seized a dice table and 102 pints of Scotch and bonded whiskies.

"The city annexed you guys three days ago."

It was no gag. The wily city council had sneaked through an annexation ordinance — right past some extremely embarrassed newspaper reporters.

The city manager called in Police Chief Smokey Hilbert and whispered "Jungle Club" in his ear.

Then the police laughed.

Handicapped Orphans Find Friend in Need

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — Even handicapped orphans get a break, according to Michael McCormack of the Tennessee Children's Society. He reports the adoption of a four-year-old deaf mute and an 18-months-old baby who physicians say will never walk.

A woman who had a mute brother felt strangely drawn to the silent, smiling little fellow and adopted him, McCormack said.

Of the infant with the invalid future, McCormack said:

"The child has a real home now. She sold herself to a couple by the radiant smiles, curly blond hair and blue eyes."



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Soviets Stage Mock Air Battle

MOSCOW — (AP) — Foreign military observers said Monday that Russian jet fighter planes used in a mock air battle over Moscow Sunday appeared equal in performance to any seen anywhere.

The skies over Moscow throbbed in the biggest parade of air power ever seen here.

Greater Numbers
New type jets and heavy four-engined super-bombers were seen in greater numbers than ever before. Observers said it was a possible indication that the Russian strategic air arm was being strengthened.

The occasion was the annual Stalin Aviation Day celebration. Generalissimo Josef Stalin, deputy cabinet president G. M. Malenkov and L. P. Beria, members of the Politburo, foreign military observers and thousands of ordinary Soviet citizens watched the show of aerial might.

Defense Equipment
For 90 minutes the Russians showed equipment with which they will defend Soviet skies and cities in wartime. The planes included all types from tiny one-seat training gliders to the massive bombers.

The fact that the air force command permitted the jets to repulse the bombing attack was interpreted as an indication of the command's confidence in the new type planes.

The display was the climax of the show which opened with 96



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training fighters roaring across the reviewing stand spelling out in perfect lines, "Glory to Stalin," as a 100 piece band played the national anthem and 100 guns delivered 20 salvos.

Witnesses said Stalin, who has been reported ill recently, looked extremely well. There was a spring in his step as he climbed the stairs to the reviewing stand, they said.

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