

Capital Journal

SALEM, OREGON

ESTABLISHED MARCH 1, 1888

An Independent Newspaper Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday at 444 Commercial St. Phone—Business Office 3371; News Room 3372; Society Editor 3373

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FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE UNITED PRESS

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
BY CARRIER: Weekly, \$1.15; Monthly, \$3.75; One Year, \$39.00.
BY MAIL IN OREGON: Monthly, \$4.00; Six Months, \$22.00; One Year, \$42.00.
UNITED STATES OUTSIDE OREGON: Monthly, \$4.50; Six Months, \$27.00; One Year, \$47.00.
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The Revealing Light

It was only a small news item, scarcely a hundred words tucked away in the thousands of words which flowed over the press wires yesterday, but it cast a revealing light on developments in the national capital during the past week, particularly upon President Roosevelt's order as commander-in-chief of the armed forces barring members of congress from active service in the army and navy. It told how through the resignation of Rep. Gavagan (D., N.Y.) the democratic party has lost its majority of seats in the house of representatives for the first time since 1931.

A house majority is 218 and Gavagan's loss left the party with only 217 seats. The republicans hold 208 seats, four are filled by members of minor parties and there are six vacancies.

Washington observers see in this situation the explanation of the president's instructions to the military to clean house of all congressional soldiers and sailors. Two democratic representatives, Gore of Tennessee and Jackson of Washington, have already taken leaves of absence from congress and have been inducted into the army as privates. Another round dozen, most of them young democrats, planned to join up in the same manner. Along with Gore and Jackson, these legislators have only one course left open to them if they want to do their fighting with weapons other than words. They can resign their seats in the house. But some of them are said to have been warned in off-the-record conversations with democratic leaders that even their resignations might not assure them of being inducted.

The president based his order on a constitutional provision forbidding any person holding "any office under the United States" from serving as a member of either house. Such a construction necessarily classifies any member of the armed services as being an "officer" of the government—a far-fetched interpretation, to say the least. Members of congress have served in the armed forces under leaves of absence in every war in the nation's history, it is pointed out. And members of almost every state legislature, most of whom are inhibited from holding both state and national offices, are bearing arms in this war. Like Oregon, many states have provided for blanket leaves of absence for all state officials who desire to enter the army or navy. If it is to be consistently construed, the president's order will also bar these state lawmakers.

That the president's party-saving edict is not being enthusiastically hailed, even by his partisans is disclosed by some of their comments. "My God, that's the first time I ever heard a buck private was a public office holder," said Chairman Andrew J. May, Kentucky democrat and head of the military affairs committee. Rep. Sparkman, Alabama, a reserve colonel, expressed his regret that the president had chosen to base his decision on constitutional grounds, adding: "I believe it would have been sounder had he merely issued an executive order."

The Budget Message

The president's budget message calls for \$100 billion, some \$5 billion less than original estimates for the current year ending June 30. It provides for the double task of moving toward complete victory and providing groundwork for the return to peace.

Estimates are based on the assumption that the war would continue through June 30, 1945, but the possibility of earlier victory "on one of the major fronts" is not ruled out and the president promises that should it materialize "war production will be promptly adjusted." He declared:

"With pride in the over-all achievements of American management and labor, I can say that we are now well equipped; with pride in the military leadership of the allied forces I can say that we are now in a strategic position to make full use of our equipment for decisive blows by land, by sea and by air."

Warning that demobilization begins long before hostilities end, the president urged prompt action to prepare for peace contract termination, surplus property disposal, industrial reconversion, manpower demobilization and re-employment, public works planning, veterans and security legislation and international readjustment.

To meet the project spending, Mr. Roosevelt said it would be necessary to ask for only \$70 billion in new appropriations, compared with \$100 billion in this fiscal year, but the re-employment of unobligated sums previously allotted would make available \$195 billion to be spent during the next fiscal year and later. The total war program will total \$397 billion.

The president renewed his plea for the tax program calling for \$10,500 million in new levies submitted last October and declared it still needed, "while incomes are high and goods scarce." The federal tax intake for this fiscal year is placed at \$41 billion and slightly less the following year. The approximate gain of \$19 billion over 1943 receipts reflected higher tax rates and collections as well as higher levels of incomes and profits.

The estimated deficits for this year and next will push the national debt of \$198 billion by June 30, 1944 and \$258 billion a year later and he stated that while such a debt requires interest payments of \$5 billion a year, with a national income of \$125 billion or more, such payments would not be oppressive.

The budget message is cleaner cut, with less controversial measures and politics and more to the point than his annual message on the state of the nation and therefore an improvement on the latter.

Flax Saves the Day

Were it not for flax, much of it grown right here in the Willamette valley, America's millions of cigarette users might be smoking a pipe or rolling their own with make-shift paper today as a result of the war. Prior to September 1, 1939, France and other European countries were supplying American cigarette manufacturers with flax wrappings made from linen rags almost exclusively. That started Harry Straus, president of the Ecusta Paper corporation to thinking that if cigarette paper could be made from linen scrap, why could it not be made directly from the flax from which linen is manufactured.

Straus, who had operated a paper mill in France before coming to America to launch experiments with flax, and his chemists perfected a process for making flax paper almost simultaneously with the outbreak of war. Today they are supplying the needs of more than 80 percent of the American cigarette manufacturers, due largely to the impossibility of importing suitable paper.

Most of it is manufactured at the Pisgah Forest, N. C., plant of the Ecusta company, which has an abundant supply of crystal pure water with no mineral content, an essential requirement of the process. The flax paper measures fully up to the high standards needed for cigarette wrappings. It is very thin, strong enough to withstand the strain of mechanical manufacture, does not stick to the lips and has no foreign odor or taste as it burns.

War Casualties

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Noted an item in the 10 years ago column of an exchange that Henry Ford has issued an interview expressing confidence in the business outlook. It was about then he was selling a lot of the cars that are seen around the streets today.

It Happens Here, Too.
(Roseburg News-Review)
"We have a swell group of

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Red Hot Sheepskins
New York—More than half of the graduates of New York's public schools this month will receive "ersatz" diplomas.

Fire in a printing plant prevented completion of the certificates so temporary substitute diplomas will be awarded.

Too Busy!

Williamite, Conn. — Staff Sergeant Fernand LeClaire, recuperating from a war wound in a Temple, Tex., hospital, was asked about his postwar plans by his former employer.

The sergeant replied that currently he was seeking assignment as an aerial gunner and, failing that, would work as a civilian for army ordnance because "in either case, I'll know that I'm not letting the boys down."

Sergeant LeClaire lost a leg wiping out an enemy pillbox.

White Meat, Please

Tulsa, Okla.—Ray Doris, arriving home from work, found a chicken house, with eight eating size chickens, food and water, in his back yard. Stumped, but hopeful, he called police to ask what to do about it.

"I know what I'd do about those chickens," dreamed Police Sergeant M. M. Leavell, off the record.

Insult to Injury

Farmington, Utah—The state highway patrol car was marked plainly on each side with a big blue seal showing its identity, but that didn't stop thieves. Patrolman Ted London lamented. They broke a window of the parked machine and stole a shotgun, some shotgun shells and pistol bullets.

But Adequate Funds

Two Buttes, Colo.—The bank of Baca county, says President N. G. Jones, will close its doors Saturday. It's the impossibility of obtaining experienced help, says Jones, "and other war conditions."

Delayed Action

Chicago—It was Christmas in January for Sgt. Frank Roche, veteran of 50 bombing raids from North Africa, who arrived home for the first time since he entered the army 19 months ago.

The Christmas tree lights shone through the front windows at his home—but his Christmas presents were not there.

They were sent to him abroad last October and haven't caught up with him yet.

girls in the News-Review office. They are hard workers and exceptionally efficient. In fact, they know more about the business than we do, although they're smart enough to keep our ego inflated by asking questions occasionally, just to make us feel we have some measure of importance around the place. They never seem to run out of good humor, are always courteous to the customers, and try hard to give every bit of help they can to those who may need assistance. They're really tops. But they will giggle!"

One of the aims of the present income tax is to take the profits out of war. Now, if another law could be passed to take the other kind of profits out of the war.

Horse Sense at Work.

(Corvallis Gazette-Times)
The Corvallis Lions club favors an amendment to the city charter that will require a city tax levy to provide "recreation" for the kids. We hope to live long enough to see some organization advocating some way to teach kids to work. Kids have changed a lot if they can't find ways to play of their own accord.

Martha Raye is reported to have filed a divorce suit against her captain which most of us would consider quite a break for the captain.

The war bond committee is getting lined up in a big way for the campaign just ahead and unquestionably will once more put over its quota. But one big advantage the committee has from a selling aspect—it has a very attractive article to sell.

When the Germans shot Count Ciano they made a trifling error in detail, they should have taken his father-in-law instead. But no doubt they'll get around to it sooner or later.

Santiam Grangers Install Officers

Lyons—Officers of Santiam Valley grange were installed at the regular meeting, with Albert Jutian, installing master; Alta Bodeker, marshal; Bee Hilt, emblem bearer; Celene Taylor, regalia bearer; Anna B. Julian, chaplain; Garnett Bassett, musician, and Fern Sletto, soloist.

Officers installed were Ed Taylor, master; John Lambrecht, overseer; John Bodeker, lecturer; Alta Bodeker, chaplain; Elmer Taylor, assistant steward; Celene Taylor, lady assistant steward; Celene Taylor, lady assistant steward; Elmer Taylor, secretary; Anna B. Julian, treasurer; Carl Reid, exchequer; Elizabeth Taylor, clerk; May Patton, Pomona; Bee Hilt, floral executive committee; Lloyd Reid, George Berry and Paul Johnston.

Following the installation, Taylor expressed plans for the coming year. Albert Julian gave several readings of his own composition, one being dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taylor, oldest members of Santiam Valley grange.

Amity—Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Massey spent Sunday near Ballston at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Massey.

The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

America's air-fleet administered a major defeat, physical and moral, to the Hitlerites in Tuesday's giant battle over Germany.

We have carried our attack to the very heart of Nazi defensive strength—a grand achievement. We have done great damage to three of the chief aircraft assembly plants of the hard-pressed Reich, thereby inflicting a grievous wound on enemy aircraft production at the crucial moment of the war when the Nazis are girding themselves for invasion of western Europe.

Our airmen shot down some hundred fighter planes. But only the Germans know how many hundreds of aircraft were destroyed in the plants at Oscherleben, Halberstadt and Brunswick. Only the Germans can say how much their warplane production has been cut down by this attack, but it undoubtedly is large.

A Good Job Done

We did a good job. I hear a lot of folk trying to estimate the value of that daring operation by the number of men and aircraft we lost. Certainly a loss of 595 men and 64 warplanes, including 59 huge bombers, is a tough blow. But you can't figure the thing on that basis.

When our air command considers such an attack the cardinal question to be asked is: are the objectives worth the risk. If that can be answered with a "yes," then the project is justifiable. It would remain justifiable even if the attack failed of its purpose through no fault of our forces.

Saving Many Lives

What, say you, would it cost in lives, time and money to battle our way across western Europe with a land army to those three German cities and destroy the aircraft plants? The answer is that every time we carry out a successful air assault we are doing the work of a great ground force.

We shall have a chance to check on that before long, when we put our army of invasion ashore in western Europe. And it's well for us to get our minds adjusted to the idea that we are going to see some very heavy allied losses. Tuesday's unprecedented air battle was a mild preview of what we must expect at the time of invasion, and our casualties in landing troops will be hard to bear.

Canby Telephone Rates Increased

Because of wage increases it has granted to its employees, the Canby Telephone association today received the permission of Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg to up its rates 25 cents a month on service to individual lines, two party lines and on multi party lines. The action had the approval of administrators of the office of price administration.

The Canby association was found to be required to maintain a 24-hour service due to extensive logging operations in the nearby region, and skilled operators also are hard to find as the war goes on.

The new rates affect 650 subscribers to the Canby system, and will allow operations to continue without financial loss.

The public utilities commissioner found that the new schedule at Canby will also put that company in line with charges made by companies serving other communities of a comparable size.

The rates go into effect as of January 1 at Canby.

Dinner for Church

Amity—The young people of the Amity Baptist church will have charge of the morning service Saturday. The men of the church will meet for a conference on "Evangelistic Opportunities" at 2 o'clock. A no-host dinner will be served at noon in the church basement.



Wac Driver and Mechanic—PFC Grace K. Rhoades, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry O. Rhoades, of 841 N. Cottage street, Salem, Ore., is a driver and mechanic in the motor pool of the Women's Army Corps at Fort Des Moines center, Fort Des Moines, Ia. A former school teacher at Riverside school in Klamath Falls, Ore., Pvt. Rhoades came to Fort Des Moines in October, 1942, and was assigned to the motor pool at the completion of basic training and motor transport school. She received her B.S. degree from the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore.

Serving Uncle Sam

A letter from Sgt. Amos Minneman, formerly in the stereotyping department of the Capital Journal, reports he has arrived "Somewhere in England," that he is feeling fine, had a good trip over and that his first mail has just caught up with him. He says the climate there reminds him very much of that around Salem, that the food is good and plenty of it and that where he lives there is a bathtub and a fireplace. "So far I like it swell over here," he writes.

Aviation Cadet Lee Cameron McDonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman McDonald, has been transferred from Kansas State college, Manhattan, Kan., to Santa Ana, Calif., where he will take army pilot training. He had spent five months at Kansas State.

L. J. Fitzgerald, ship's cook 1/c, is at his home on a 14-day furlough at 2067 Hazel avenue and is happy to say he helped give the Japs some thing to think about at Marcus, Wake, Bougainville, Rabaul and Tiarua-wa.

Ensign J. P. Sorensen, who has been in the South Pacific fleet for four years, and now on his way to Seattle to take a new assignment, stopped in Salem a few days to visit his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Straub of 443 North Front street. Mrs. Sorensen is still in Honolulu.

Lebanon—Naval Cadet Walter Freeman Postle, who completed his preliminary naval flight training at Livermore, Calif., late in December, was home on a brief furlough, coming last Friday and leaving Tuesday of this week. He expected to be transferred to a new naval flight base for advanced training.

PFC Richard T. Owen, with a medical detachment at Camp McCain, Miss., is home on furlough this week, visiting his wife, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Owen.

Fairview—Walter Shaw, warrant officer with a squadron of planes, is stationed at Brazil, South America, and his wife and daughter, Shirley, of Norfolk, Va., will arrive here about January 25 to be guests of relatives for the duration. She is coming by automobile with friends to Los Angeles, Calif., and will visit there for a time before coming here. Mrs. Shaw was Miss Bessie Campbell and her home was here before her marriage.

Aurora — Miss Betty Jane Maes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Maes, Canby, is awaiting her orders for transfer to

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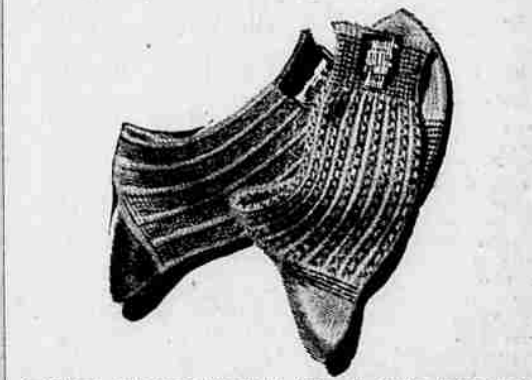
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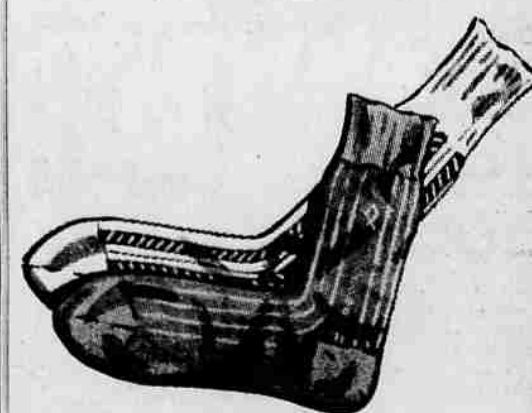
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