

# Capital Journal

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## Barter Scheme Flops

Efforts of the United States forces of occupation to make over the German economic system in the American zone have failed so utterly that a special committee appointed by Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy military governor, to investigate the results of a barter center established only last September has recommended that it be abolished. The center was established partly to provide a regulated exchange medium for the convenience of Germans and Americans having things to sell, and partly as a means of curtailing black market operations.

Dealing in imported United States food, cigarets, clothing and other necessities, the center became immediately popular, and has done a flourishing business. Among other things it has given the Americans a ready access to many rare and beautiful pieces of art, at a price. But it has not operated as a curtailing influence on black market operations. If anything, it has acted as a stimulus to the illegal trade by supplying it with an abundance of American goods at low prices, which articles are resold at exorbitant prices. It works this way:

In order to make the barter center attractive to the German people it is necessary to employ German appraisers who invariably appraise those articles which the Germans want at low figures, while objects attractive to Americans are priced sky high. This results in low prices on clothing and other imports needed by the Germans, while such commodities as silver, china, glass, etc. bring fancy prices. The same situation applies to shoes, coffee and soap—all of which are in strong demand on the black market where they command fancy prices.

Cigarets continue to hold their place as a most stable medium of exchange. A carton of any American brand of fags brings 45 barter units in the center. A pound of coffee worth 40 cents, and equally in demand on the black market, brings only 22 barter units. At the same time one house dress was priced for sale at 25 units, a high quality crystal wine glass was marked 14 units and ordinary radio sets, some badly used, were priced three or four times as high as a pair of rare antique candleabra of the finest silver.

The basic principle of the barter center was that fair appraisals be made, more or less equalizing values. But it appears that the Americans are getting two and one-half times as many units for a carton of cigarets than they can get for a pair of new high quality shoes, while they are offered all sorts of trash in exchange for high quality commodities at prices all out of proportion.

The investigating committee found out that the barter center was a first class substitute for the black market itself when it came to soaking the Americans.

## Champion of Intolerance

The passing of Governor-elect Eugene Talmadge, 62, who recently won a fourth term as Georgia's governor on a promise to maintain white supremacy, ends a stormy and colorful political career. It removes the chief rival of Senator Bilbo of Mississippi for national leadership of racial and religious intolerance in politics.

Talmadge was the idol of the illiterate crackers, but his last return to power was due to Georgia's peculiar county unit election system whereby a minority vote can elect provided it carries enough counties. The law has since been upheld by the supreme court. He served as governor 1933-37, and again 1940-43. He was both lawyer and farmer and had held several state offices. He was given to wearing red suspenders, taking off his coat, and shouting in the vernacular of small farmers, among whom he had a great following. He always put on a good show and vituperative charges and counter charges filled the air.

Talmadge campaigned for white supremacy and "old time religion." His speeches were interspersed with rhymes and quotations from the Bible and appeals to fanatics.

He came into the national picture as a bitter critic of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal." He broke with the federal government over relief funds; was an "enemy" of Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, later vice president, and had tiffs with Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior. Ickes referred to him as "His Chain-Gang Excellency."

His attacks in the administration culminated in a "Grass Roots" convention in Macon, Ga., in January, 1936. The convention adopted a platform for a return to pre-New Deal democracy. A Talmadge lieutenant called for "good of Gene" to run for president and adopted a formal resolution asking his permission to enter his name in the primaries. The convention, however, exerted no influence nationally.

Talmadge ruled as a dictator, by bayonet as well as by law. Seventeen times he called out troops to oust public officials and to quell strike riots, permanently alienating what labor vote he had. His attack on the state university cost him the governorship four years ago, and university graduates backed and elected Ellis Arnall.

## Too Many Cooks

While the deplorable conditions existing at the migratory farm labor camp on the outskirts of the Salem airport are but another manifestation of the evils attendant upon the general housing shortage, they are also due in a large measure to a lack of concentrated responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of the camp.

Of the 110 families housed in the temporary wooden barracks perhaps half of their number are not migratory workers at all in the sense that they follow the harvests up and down the coast. That portion of them are simply transient workers left stranded here and forced to turn to the labor camp for shelter because they were unable to find anything else. Under ordinary circumstances their care would logically fall to public welfare agencies, which probably could have done no more for them under existing circumstances than is already being done. That there is no where else to house them except wholly inadequate facilities of a temporary army camp is just too bad.

But for the main portion of these unfortunate people, there is plenty of room for complaint. They are a part of the army of wandering farm hands that have come to be a regular part of the harvest headache. They are encouraged to come into a community when there is need for their services and to that extent the community and the farmers and food processing plants who employ them should, if they desire to retain their good will, make it their business to see that those who become stranded are provided with suitable living quarters operated under the direct supervision of local organizations. Because of the migratory nature of such help it is entirely proper that the federal government should subsidize local organizations created to fill the needs. But the actual administration should be localized in order to prevent the accumulation of such conditions as have arisen here by reason of the government's neglect of the camps.

## What To Do?

By Beck



## The Fireside Pulpit

Reverend George H. Swift  
Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Religious Transportation—In 732 A.D., Christianity was at death grips with the Saracens who swept all before them in their march across North Africa, through Spain into France. Had Christianity been ever so little weaker than it was in 732 A.D., when the conquering Moslems all but crushed them in their last stand at Tours, Europe would undoubtedly have fallen to Islam. We can only imagine what a different civilization we might have in America today had the cross been superceded by the crescent. We can quite safely say that the splendid system of highways throughout the Roman empire was at least a contributing factor in saving Europe for Christianity.

We know the importance of good highways to modern civilization; they are just as essential in the field of religion. The many different religions in the world are highways to God, Buddhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, or the many other religions, ancient and modern, are roads upon which peoples travel in quest for the eternal God. We believe, of course, that some of these roads are better than others. "In the fullness of time," Christ established and laid out the Christian highway. He taught his followers all about it and they were instructed by Christ himself to teach others about the highway to God. So well have they carried out his

wishes that hundreds of millions of people are traveling it wherever it has been extended into all parts of the world. The older religions had and certainly have their purpose and place. They are at least by-ways or secondary highways. Until one is converted to traveling the Christian highway, he had better cling to his own. Religious freedom entitles each one to travel the highway in which he has the most faith; it bears no responsibility for those who leave all highways and flounder about through uncharted regions, hoping that through good luck they may some day stumble upon God.

The Magi searched for the way to God through the guidance of a star, the Jewish shepherds through the voice of an angel, both groups were successful. God has many ways of making us conscious of his presence and His way of life for us. May we be diligent this Christmas season in our quest for God!

## Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Had a nightmare last night—dreamed there was going to be a white Christmas.

Now Salem has joined that unique class of cities, villages, et cetera in which a locomotive has been stolen. Yep, sure enough, stolen, carried away and as yet unreturned—vanished in thin air, as it were. When a customer was examining a mechanical train at the Salem Hardware store the other day with an idea of purchase the sale was nipped in the bud. It was discovered somebody had swiped the engine.

His Music Doesn't Soothe This Savage Breast  
Dear Sips:

For ten years now, come Michaelmas, I have read your column with profit and enjoyment, but my loyalty was vastly shaken Thursday evening upon encountering your incredible tribute to the singing voice of Bill Carver, the picketing troubador. I contemplate with dismay the possibility of your appointment as the C-J's music critic. I bow to no man in esteem of Bill Carver. I hail his many virtues, value his friendship, and estimate his grin as worth \$2.00 of anybody's money on a tough day. I deem his strength, like that of Sir Galahad, is as the strength of ten because his heart is pure, but by the beard of my grandsire, sir, I maintain

that as a singer he is a flat failure. The word flat is used advisedly. I denounce, in ringing syllables, the dubious motive which actuated you in confusing his voice with that of Caruso, and believe you to be in grave danger of a clout with a sock-full of spaghetti should any true Neapolitan appear in this area. I have seen strong men totter at the impact of one of Bill's high C's at thirty paces, and am convinced that in encouraging his indiscretion you are increasing the hazards of Court street pedestrians. (Signed) Leo C. Dean.

Frank Zinn is observing his 26th year of mail carrying come this Christmas time and, as usual, he's wearing a sprig of mistletoe in his mail carrying hat in a direct line over his nose. And, he confesses, during the 26 years he's had the bait hanging out it hasn't hooked a snack. "But, by gum," opines Frank, "I'll keep on trying; no Zinn has ever been discouraged by a mere 26 years."

Chewing gum seems to be a futile pastime, a lotta work and getting nowhere. But it's done all right for Mr. Wrigley.

Plane Carries 50 Pianos  
Chicago, Dec. 21 (UP)—Officials of the Rudolph Wurlitzer Co., De Kalb, Ill., said they would ship 50 pianos today from Chicago to Los Angeles on one plane. They said it would be the largest air shipment of pianos ever made.

Because of a paper shortage during World War II, students at Yenan University in the Chinese communist capital often took notes on the back of Japanese propaganda sheets.

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## Novelties

(By the Associated Press)

### Santa on Strike

Los Angeles, Dec. 21 (AP)—Bundle-laden Christmas shoppers paused for a second look when they saw Santa Claus marching back and forth in front of a department store.

As he paraded, the Santa passed out candy kisses to children from a bag slung over his shoulder, and on the bag was a sign reading: "This store is unfair!" He was a picket.

### Sweet Co-eds Sour

Grand Forks, N. D., Dec. 21 (AP)—The girls at the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house are drinking their coffee straight for a while.

Two houseboys, William Weight and Phillip Dahl, set out to spread salt on the icy sidewalks in front of the sorority. They had 22 pounds well distributed before they discovered it was sugar.

## MACKENZIE'S Column

By DeWitt MacKenzie  
(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)  
British Prime Minister Attlee's announcement in the house of commons yesterday that negotiations soon would be undertaken looking to the independence of Burma—one of England's treasure houses—precipitated a brief but highly significant debate between the imperialism of a rapidly passing day and the socialism which is its antithesis.

Attlee's statement brought Winston Churchill to his feet with the pungent and colorful charge that the prime minister was speeding "the decline and fall of the British empire." The old Tory maestro was in a rare oratorical form, which means that so far as the deft manipulation of words is concerned he was in a class by himself.

Still, to many, his was a voice echoing the past and declining to recognize the march of time. Of course one can understand his feeling, for as he pointed out:

Appalling Says Churchill  
"I have held Burma since 1885. I have always followed its affairs with attention, because it was my father who was responsible for the annexation of Burma."

Churchill's father—one of the great of England's aristocracy was secretary of state for India at that time. The Churchills were empire builders, and proud of John Bull's endless possessions. So one can realize how Churchill felt when he flung at Attlee:

"This haste is appalling—scuttled is the word, and the only word that can be applied." To this the prime minister replied with a line which speaks volumes to those who recognize that the days of imperialism are past. Attlee said:

"The government of this country has not been too fast—it has been too slow."

### Could Be Cut Loose

The implication there is plain. Had England acted sooner, perhaps her chances of keeping Burma and India within the commonwealth as sovereign states would have been better. Attlee said he has expressed similar hopes for India. As matters now stand there is no assurance these oriental countries may not cut loose entirely from the mother country.

But whatever they decide, we must recognize—as the Attlee government does—that the day is past when different races can be held together by imperial ties alone. The British dominions are bound by blood—a natural union. But there is no such bond between the English and the Burmese or the Indians. The same can be said of the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies—or of any other imperial hook-up, in which a "mother country" tries to impose its will on peoples of another race.

## Hobby Gardener's Pamphlet Published

"The Hobby Gardener's Guide," a well edited and printed pamphlet sponsored by the Men's Garden club of Salem was placed in circulation this week after several months of preparation. Articles have been contributed by the membership, the subject matter covering the control of insects, use of humus and fertilizers, the propagation of many varieties of plants, shrubs and trees as well as notations of the experiences of the gardeners.

The pamphlet of 82 pages, printed on book paper, was produced under the supervision of the editorial board consisting of James M. Glass, editor; John E. Black, format, and Ernest Iuffer, technical adviser.

### Navy Man Discharged

Monmouth—Nelson Whelchel Jr. has arrived in Monmouth following his discharge from the navy. He had been in the service three and one-half years and had been stationed in the South Pacific area prior to receiving his discharge. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Whelchel of Rt. 1, Monmouth.

### Woodrow's Week Before Xmas Specials

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## Death of Talmadge Precipitates Bitter Fight Over Governorship

Atlanta, Dec. 21 (AP)—Eugene Talmadge, newly-elected governor of Georgia, died today less than a month before his scheduled fourth inauguration. The 62-year-old champion of white supremacy succumbed quietly at Piedmont hospital where he had lain in a coma since last night.

Funeral services were tentatively scheduled for Monday at Talmadge's home town of McCrae.

Death of the governor-elect before taking office—unprecedented in Georgia—presaged a bitter political fight for the governorship. Authoritative sources said the constitution appeared to require continuation in office of Talmadge's political foe, youthful Ellis Arnall, possibly until another governor is elected four years hence.

Sources high in Talmadge councils, however, said the legislature—also by constitutional provision—had the right to name an alternate governor, and forecast election of Talmadge's son, Herman.

If Arnall should refuse to surrender office, these sources said, impeachment proceedings would follow.

There is no precedent in the state, but the constitution provides the governor shall remain in office until his successor is qualified and elected. The legislature which meets in January formally elects the governor.

Talmadge's death was announced simply by a physician who stepped from the governor-elect's room and said:

"He died at seven o'clock."

Talmadge first was stricken with a stomach hemorrhage in Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 4, and twice he was pronounced better and dismissed from the hospital. He entered the hospital for the last time Nov. 29, and has been improving until last Sunday when he suffered a relapse.

Two days ago his physicians said he was suffering with an acute inflammation of the liver cells possibly caused by the administration of plasma and pronounced his condition critical. He had received much blood by transfusion since the first hemorrhages.

Members of the Talmadge family, including his wife, son and campaign manager, Herman, and two daughters, Mrs. Bill Kimbrough and Ms. Charles Smyly, were near his bedside when the governor-elect died.

## Rowes are Tendered Farewell at Stayton

Stayton—Bidding farewell to Harry J. Rowe, manager, and welcoming Robert Stewart as their new manager, occasioned a dinner party at the Bon Ton for employees of the local Mountain States Power company.

Short talks were given by Stewart and by Rowe, who has been with the local plant for the past 27 years. Plans were also discussed for the formation of a Kilowatt club to be made up of employees and their families.

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Rowe, Robert Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. C. Greenough, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dombrowsky, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Landon, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wenchenky, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Samok, Shirley Bates, Misses Maxine DeJardin and Dorothy Titus, all of Stayton; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Cline, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Shury of Mill City; Mr. and Mrs. Vardie Shelton of Jordan; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Badger of Seio.

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presented by Jim Davis of Independence, and LeVonne Mull and Ann Thompson presented two vocal duets. Feature of the program was a talk by Past Grand Master Charles P. Poole of Eugene who spoke on the theme of "Homecoming" and the IOOF work. He presented three 25-year jewels, one to Wilmar Powell and the other two in absentia to S. C. Halladay of Couer d'Alene, Ida., and Walter Brown of Chiloquin, Ore.

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