

## Blockade Nerves Showing in Distressed City of Berlin

By RICHARD K. O'MALLEY AND TOM READY  
 Berlin, Oct. 26 (AP)—Imagine living in a city where, if you step outside certain boundaries, you will be arrested. Imagine living in a city where all your food and other supplies are dependent on an air lift. Where you have lights a few hours in the morning and a few hours at night. Where simple, everyday items such as candles are rationed. Where winter is coming on and the prospect for sufficient coal is dim. Where war is not out of the realm of possibility.

Blockade nerves are beginning to show in Berlin. Irritability is perhaps the most frequent indication. How will the Germans come through the winter?

All right, say the western allies. This view is given by American military government officials who parcel out the food and coal brought in by air since the Russians began the blockade squeeze last June.

The average German gets a basic daily ration of 1608 calories. Heavy workers get a top ration of 2985 and housewives, 1680.

Officer Is Hopeful  
 (The average American receives about 3000 calories daily. The food of heavy workers, such as lumberjacks may total up to 6000. The average Briton received 2800 calories daily in the first six months of 1948).

This is the way the western sectors rationed coal last winter: A single individual got 500 pounds. There were five distributions of 100 pounds each. A family of three got 900, and those with families of five or more got 1100.

At present airlift planes are bringing in about 4500 tons of coal daily and altogether have delivered 144,000 tons. This is not enough to duplicate the 1947 ration.

It may not be hopeless, though. New airstrips at Tempelhof and Stegel should be ready in December. More planes are being sought.

Under blockade conditions the health of the German has remained surprisingly good. A British report said flatly that there has been "no apparent ef-

fect." One helpful factor is the abundance of drugs. One of the major concerns is what to do about German business and industry. It has been clipped hard by the Soviet control of two of the city's largest power plants. Already it has been retrenched by a third. Reserves of raw materials are being exhausted.

The best figure at which the Americans could arrive on unemployment is 141,000 at the

start of October. This is slightly lower than a month earlier. None of these problems confronts the German in the Soviet sector. There the 1,200,000 can be supplied in the normal way from the Russian zone.

The Americans and British, anticipating a pinch, started to cut their staffs months ago. The French have moved out all but essential personnel. The American military government staff has been cut from 2600 to 1200 since the first of the year. General Clay expects the 1200 to remain static. Dependents are down to a low of about 1000.

There is no joy-riding, even for the American. He will get only five gallons of gasoline a month for personal use. The German has once in awhile looked away from his own troubles long enough to admire the western allies' willingness to accept austerity, too. "We're in this together and we'll stick it out."

Woods Buy Grocery  
 Woodburn—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Woods of Inglewood, Calif. have purchased Bill's grocery on the highway at Woodburn between East Lincoln and McKinley streets from William Wiant and took possession last week. Mr. and Mrs. Wiant, who owned and operated the store for the past year, plan to move to Illinois.

### Tele-fun

by Warren Goodrich



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Portland General Electric Company is an OREGON electric system, run by OREGON people, regulated by the State of OREGON. Its earnings are LIMITED BY LAW to a reasonable return (about 6 per cent a year) on the value of electric facilities needed to serve the public adequately. State regulation

KEEPS earnings reasonable. Prices for other things have gone sky high, but the cost of PGE electricity is less than it was before the war!

FRANCHISE-SEEKING SALEM ELECTRIC UNREGULATED. By posing as a "non-profit" organization, which it is not, Salem Electric escapes paying the taxes any electric business OUGHT to pay, also avoids state regulation of its earnings and service. No state or city agency acts in the public interest to control the amount of money it takes in! It should consent to regulation before it asks the people of Salem for a franchise.

### COMPARE STATE REGULATED SERVICE IS BETTER ON ALL COUNTS!

- ★ PGE PAYS ITS FULL SHARE OF TAXES  
 PGE is taxed like any other property owner, paying its full share of taxes for support of city schools and government, the state and federal government. **Between 17 and 20 cents out of each income dollar goes back to the public** in the form of taxes.
- ★ SALEM ELECTRIC AVOIDS ALMOST ALL TAXES. It pays no state or federal income taxes, no direct taxes for support of schools, no real property taxes to the city. In 1947 its **TOTAL TAXES** amounted to only 2.6 cents out of each income dollar.
- ★ PGE LARGEST BONNEVILLE POWER DISTRIBUTOR  
 PGE is the largest distributor of Bonneville Power in the Pacific Northwest and has been ever since federal dams on the Columbia River were first built. In addition it operates five major hydro-electric plants and three steam generating plants—ample power to serve Salem and surrounding communities.
- ★ SALEM ELECTRIC HAS FAILED TO BUILD ADEQUATE STANDBY POWER SOURCES TO SERVE SALEM IN TIME OF EMERGENCY. In this way it avoids paying real property taxes. It buys power from only one source... owns no generating plants. It builds only distribution lines (personal property requiring Salem Electric to pay only a slight tax.) It invests in only the flimsiest sort of repair facilities.
- ★ PGE MUST MAINTAIN SERVICE TO EVERY SALEM CITIZEN WHO WANTS IT  
 A state regulated utility such as PGE is required to provide service of definite standard to every Salem citizen who desires it. Any customer having a complaint that is not satisfied by PGE itself has the right to appeal to the Public Utilities Commissioner, whose office is here in Salem.
- ★ SALEM ELECTRIC CAN REFUSE SERVICE. Unregulated Salem Electric is not obligated, under its present organizational rules, to serve the public's interest. It can refuse to serve "thin" areas and take only the profitable "cream" of the business in the city, as it chooses.
- ★ PGE ELECTRIC FACILITIES ADEQUATE TO SERVE CITY  
 Very few cities in the United States have permitted more than one electric system to serve them. Ultimately higher rates result when unnecessary, duplicated facilities increase the costs both systems have to meet. PGE facilities in Salem are adequate; a second system for Salem is unnecessary and will serve no beneficial purpose.
- ★ DUPLICATION OF FACILITIES BY SALEM ELECTRIC WILL RESULT IN UNSIGHTLY, CLUTTERED STREETS AND DECREASE PROPERTY VALUES. Duplicated electric services have no advantages for a city and many disadvantages. Salem is a beautiful city and should be kept that way.

**GUARD State Regulated Electric Service**  
**VOTE 505 X NO AGAINST THE FRANCHISE NOV. 2**