

### Truman Refuses Hiss Comment

Washington, Jan. 27 (AP)—President Truman dismissed with crisp words of no comment today all questions on the Alger Hiss case.

He told reporters some questions were not asked with good intent.

The first question to Mr. Truman at his weekly news conference was this:

"Mr. President, regardless of the outcome in the higher courts, will you or will you not turn your back on Alger Hiss?"

No comment, Mr. Truman shot back, adding that that's a nice question.

Secretary of State Acheson had said he would not turn his back on Hiss—the former state department official who was convicted by a New York jury of lying when he said he never slipped government papers to a communist spy ring.

Several republican members of congress have been flinging criticism at Acheson for his statement about his attitude.

After this first question and answer exchange today, another reporter asked Mr. Truman whether there was any point in asking any other Alger Hiss questions.

The president said there wasn't, that they weren't asked with good intent and that he didn't intend to answer them.

### Anthony Guerra Again in Prison

Anthony Guerra, who lost his freedom under parole several months ago when Salem police nabbed him for indecent exposure, was back at the Oregon state penitentiary Friday after duplicating his earlier errand ways.

The only difference was that Thursday night when he was chased down by a squad of uniformed and plainclothed officers was that he had taken his own freedom from the penitentiary.

A tip on Guerra's afternoon activity led officers to the environs of Salem General hospital where he succeeded in outdistancing one officer during a sprint, but was flushed from some bushes at gunpoint by another patrolman.

Taken to police headquarters for questioning, Guerra cleared cases of indecent exposure with little girls, a case where a young woman had been chased and another instance where he had lunged at a car driven by a woman.

He had been able to walk away from the penitentiary because he had been working outside the wall as a trusty. Warden George Alexander was reported to have promised that his wandering ways would be curbed. Guerra was originally sent to the penitentiary from Multnomah county for three years for grand larceny in 1947, but was paroled in 1948, but returned several months ago on an indecent exposure violation.

### Superstition? Pathetique Proves Fatal to Man Who Plays It

Stockholm, Sweden, Jan. 27 (AP)—Some English musicians believe that Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" is fatal to men who play it.

The director of the Nottingham, England, orchestra had banned the symphony because one of his musicians died each time it was performed.

But Johannes Norrby, director of the Stockholm Concert association, is not a superstitious man. He decided to include Tchaikovsky's sixth symphony in a performance Wednesday night.

Just before the performance he called a special press conference to announce he was flouting the English superstition.

"Tchaikovsky's sixth symphony does not murder musicians," he told the reporters.

The orchestra went through the performance without incident up to and including "Pathetique." Then they swung into Shostakovich's sixth. Halfway through the scherzo one of the clarinetists, Ludwig Warschewski, who had played in the Stockholm symphony for 30 years, collapsed.

Six doctors in the audience rushed to the stand. They could do nothing. They pronounced Warschewski dead.

Tchaikovsky was said to have foretold his own death in "Pathetique."

The first death in the Nottingham orchestra after it played

### Super Douglas Fir Trees in Northwest

Portland, Ore., Jan. 27 (AP)—A super race of Douglas fir trees is being planned for the west coast region, Chief Forester W. D. Hagenstein told the annual meeting of the forest conservation committee of the Pacific Northwest Forest Industries here today.

Hagenstein called it a "real milestone in American forestry" and said the Douglas fir industry in 1949 made forestry history when it adopted a region-wide seed certification policy for assuring superior trees from artificial reforestation.

The forester said the forest industries tree nursery at Nisqually, Wash., which produces seedlings for use throughout the Douglas fir region, will use only certified seed in the future.

### House Passes Insurance Tax

Washington, Jan. 27 (AP)—Key house democrats were reported standing firm today behind President Truman's insistence that any cuts in excise taxes should be balanced by tax boosts elsewhere.

Democratic members of the tax-drafting house ways and means committee were said to have agreed on that position, in order to prevent the government from losing revenue through cuts in levies on such things as transportation and amusement tickets, luggage and jewelry.

Republicans still kept up pressure for a simple excise repeal bill—without the balancing features asked by Mr. Truman. One GOP effort to push through such a measure failed yesterday.

That effort came as the house took up a bill—which it later passed—levying a \$90,000,000 income tax on part of the \$4,500,000,000 investment earnings of life insurance companies which were untaxed in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Passage of that measure marked the first congressional action on a part of Mr. Truman's new tax program. He told congress Monday a tax law which lets insurance companies go untaxed should be removed.

### West Germany To Send Envoys

Bonn, Germany, Jan. 27 (AP)—The West German government today made plans to send envoys immediately to Washington, London and Paris.

A communique last night said Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had accepted an allied invitation to send the representatives abroad. The invitation was given by Sir Brian Robertson of Britain, this month's chairman of the allied high commission.

Allied spokesmen did not define immediately the scope of duties to be permitted to Germany's first postwar consular representatives.

### Sliding Hill Area Menaces 10 Houses

Astoria, Jan. 27 (AP)—A hill which threatens 10 houses here is sliding downward at the rate of more than half a foot every 24 hours, the city engineer said today.

G. T. McClean reported the slide area has moved about 5 or 6 feet since last Friday. Three houses have been evacuated.

The people who lived there blamed the city, contending the slide was due to improper drainage. McClean denied that, saying the drainage system had been kept up, with breaks repaired as fast as possible.

Other Astoria hills have started similar slow slides in the past.

### 17 Hi-Y Chapters in Salem District

The Salem district now has 17 Hi Y chapters, reported Roth Holtz, boys work secretary for the YMCA. All but one chapter has secured an adviser.

Thursday night the recently formed George Williams chapter was voted into Parrish junior high school, making four in all. The Clinton Ostrander chapter has been added to Leslie junior high, making three for that school.

Next Wednesday night two of the senior high school chapters will be up for inspection. Two additional advisers have recently been secured: Henry Myer for the A. A. Stagg chapter and Dave Hoss for the Arthur Cotton club.

### Nine Killed in Collision

Besancon, France, Jan. 27 (AP)—At least nine persons were killed and 11 injured last night

### Orchestra to Be Reorganized

Reorganization of the Salem Community orchestra is under way and the first rehearsal of the musicians is slated for 7:30 o'clock next Monday night at 1390 Madison street. All musicians interested in the project will be welcome.

No serious programs are to be attempted but those in charge believe the musicians will be able to provide considerable entertainment.

Resignation of Frank Fisher who was largely responsible for organization of the orchestra last year and who directed the musicians necessitated a change in operations.

Under present plans a number of experienced men will be asked to direct a series of informal concerts. These include Vernon Wiscarson, Victor Palmason, E. O. Bandel, Thomas Faey and John Wallace Graham.

As the result of a conference held recently, Dalbert Jepsen was named chairman of a committee to continue the orchestra. Other members are Mrs. Lorene Roberts, Dr. Dean Brooks and William Skeewis. Names to a membership committee were Victor Palmason, Jerry Brown and Vernon Wiscarson.

### 'Y' Area Council Meets March 4

A number of YMCA officials were in Salem Thursday night making plans for the annual Pacific Northwest Area council meeting of the Y scheduled for Salem March 4-5.

Tinkham Gilbert, vice president of the council and chairman of the program committee presided. In attendance were Gus Moore, general secretary of the Salem Y; Dick Crakes of the Eugene board; Dr. DeNorvil Authank of Portland; Nathan Lynch of the Portland metropolitan board; Jack Pugh, general secretary of the Portland Y, and Dwight Welch, associate area secretary of Portland.

While the program has not been completed, the principal speakers have been selected. They are Eugene McCarthy, president of the national council of the YMCA; Ed Sproul, national program executive of New York City, and Emery Nelson, member of the world service staff for the western region.

The council meeting is expected to attract several score YMCA officials from the northwest states.

### Cherry Growers of Valley in Session

The annual general meeting of cherry growers in Marion-Polk county area was being held in the Mayflower hall Friday afternoon.

Oregon State college's extension department was to be in charge of the meeting, and the main speaker was listed as Don Rasmussen, assistant county agent in charge of horticulture.

Rasmussen led a discussion of growers' problems such as insect control, disease control, soil management, etc.

Much of the meeting was conducted as a round-table discussion, with cherry growers an-

### 3-Car Collision Leaves Police Puzzled

A three-car collision Thursday night still left Salem police with a puzzle Friday morning.

An express wagon registered to Ralph Nelson, route 4, rammed a parked car belonging to Dewey Rand, 631 South Commercial street, which was parked near his residence.

Rand's car rammed a third machine belonging to Ruth Halbert, also of 631 South Commercial.

The driver of the Nelson vehicle failed to remain at the accident scene, but he left the wagon there. It had been involved in an accident earlier in the evening, a police report indicated.

### Coos Bay Cities Without Water

Coos Bay, Ore., Jan. 27 (AP)—The towns of Coos Bay and North Bend were left without a water supply today when part of the earth dam at the storage reservoir collapsed.

The dam went out at 11 a.m. breaking the main pipeline, and also a by-pass pipe line which goes around the reservoir.

Crews went to work immediately to restore the by-pass line, and hoped to get water flowing again by tonight. The main line will take longer to restore, since the tumbled earth must be cleared away by bulldozers.

### Chiefs of Staff Talk on Formosa

Washington, Jan. 27 (AP)—Senator Connally (D., Tex.) said today the joint chiefs of staff believe Formosa would be strategically important to the United States if in enemy hands—but it not worth occupying by American troops.

Connally gave out this report after Secretary of Defense Johnson and General Omar N. Bradley met with the senate foreign relations committee for more than two hours. Connally heads the committee.

Johnson and Bradley were called before the group to testify on the island's military value after republicans assailed the administration's policy toward Formosa.

The republicans have been protesting ever since President Truman announced Jan. 5 that this country will give no military aid to the Chinese nationalists defenders of Formosa.

Connally told reporters at a news conference:

"Johnson and Bradley both said that at no time have the joint chiefs of staff or the department of defense recommended any occupation of Formosa by the United States."

### Hydrogen Bomb Investigated

Washington, Jan. 27 (AP)—The congressional atomic committee held a session with the Atomic Energy Commission today and there were hints later that the talks concerned the proposed super-powered hydrogen bomb.

Chairman McMahon (D., Conn.) of the senate-house committee told reporters "We have examined current matters of interest."

"We have been discussing plans for advances and the technological improvement of atomic weapons and I anticipate your questions by saying this includes all types of atomic weapons."

The atomic matter of chief interest in Washington is the question whether the United States shall undertake to make a hydrogen bomb that some scientists figure might be 1,000 times more powerful than the original A-bombs dropped on Japan.

A reporter asked McMahon if it would be safe to say that the committee was informed on the hydrogen bomb.

McMahon said he could not go beyond his statement.

The committee session was the first since Senator Vandenberg (R., Mich.) gave up his work with it.

### Citrus Growers Smudging Orchards

Los Angeles, Jan. 27 (AP)—Citrus growers had the smudge pots going out in the cold gray

### When Two Passenger Trains Collided Head on 15 Miles North of Here

Rescue workers probed through the wreckage at an early hour this morning in a search for possible additional victims.

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### down again today hoping to avert further damage to oranges and lemons.

The firing started late last night in the Redlands and Covina districts where minimums were expected to dip to 26. Other indicated cold spots included San Fernando and San Gabriel valley communities—ranging all the way from Canoga Park and Pacoima to Azusa and Cucamonga.

Elsewhere southern Californians donned overcoats, worried about their automobile radiators and prepared for another smudge blackout.

### Baum Testifies On OPS Defense

Portland, Jan. 27 (AP)—A physician testified today that the Oregon Physicians Service, which the government contends is monopolistic, was formed to achieve a closer relationship between patient and physician.

Dr. William W. Baum, Salem, who was president of the Oregon State Medical society when the OPS was formed in 1941, said he and other doctors first set up a prepaid medical plan in Salem in 1929.

Baum said that, after its formation, he stopped accepting tickets from commercial hospital associations, but treated their patients on an individual basis. He said he saw no reason to build

### Nelson Talks On Appraisals

Taxes to meet the costs of local government are imposed by the public through their elected officials and directly by ballot. The assessor's only function is to furnish the distribution pattern for spreading those costs. How equitably the load is divided depends on good technical administration.

In this manner Robert B. Nelson, employed by the state tax commission and a member of the American Institute of Appraisers summed up a discussion of property appraisal for the benefit of the membership of the Salem Board of Realtors Friday noon.

Nelson said his office had not appraised a single piece of property in Salem, adding that the recent blanket increase in property values which resulted in about a 25 percent additional tax load with the work of the assessor's office. The speaker did not know when the job of reappraising Salem property

up an organization which was competing with his own.

Later on the state-wide OPS was formed. He said it brought a closer connection with patients than a commercial organization could.

Other doctors insisted that there had been no concerted plan to boycott commercial groups.

### Editor Wood III

Wenatchee, Jan. 27 (AP)—The after effects of a mild heart attack hospitalized Rufus Woods, pioneer Wenatchee publisher, today. Woods, father of the Columbia basin development, suffered the attack at his home Tuesday. He was sent to bed for "quiet."

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Mat. Daily From 1 P.M. Lusty Saga of the Marines!

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NOW! OPENS 6:45 P.M. BING CROSBY "TOP O' THE MORNING"

WAYNE MORRIS "YOUNGER BROS."

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Feel free to permit your wife or sweetheart to see "The Great Lover," starting today at Warner's Elsinore!

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CAPITOL Theatre Silverton Oregon NOW PLAYING Claude Jarman Jr. David Brian in "INTRUDER IN THE DUST" — and — Abbott & Costello in "AFRICA SCREAMS"

Palace Theatre Silverton Oregon NOW PLAYING MAUREEN O'HARA · PAUL CHRISTIAN · VINCENT PRICE BAGDAD COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

BASKETBALL GAME Saturday PACIFIC UNIVERSITY VS. WILLAMETTE UNIV. 8:00 P.M. Willamette Gym Saturday, Jan. 28th Preliminaries Start, 6:30 This Will Be a Benefit Game In Behalf of The March of Dimes

DANCE Saturday Crystal Gardens Two Floors Two Bands ONE PRICE Old Time and Modern

HI-LITE Your Evening with a Snack from the HI-LITE DRIVE-IN (Formerly Reeds) 698 South Twelfth

DANCE MARCH DIMES BENEFIT SATURDAY Glenwood Ball Room JOE LANE & HIS Western Ranch Gang With DAVE WEST