

## U.S. Dollars Bolster Fight In Italy on Slipping Reds

Rome, Feb. 21 (AP)—Italy is winning her fight against communism despite the worst over-population, the greatest unemployment and the lowest average income in western Europe.

The Red leadership has played and lost its two best cards—labor control and the general strike. Anti-communist opposition is moving ahead with a program of currency stabilization and postwar reconstruction which has gone far to wipe out the hopelessness and economic chaos in which communism breeds.

James D. Zellerbach, American ECA chief in Italy, says he does not believe the communists could even come close now to tying up the country with a nation-wide strike or putting any major industry out of operation.

Up to a year ago the communists could, and did.

Zellerbach said the European recovery program, which has poured aid into Italy at the rate of almost \$800 a minute, had been a major factor in the sapping of communist strength. He said although beating communism was not the main purpose of the ERP, it was "definitely an important by-product."

Italy's communist party claims two million members, although previously the party had admitted declining membership in the two years since it was frozen out of the government. Actual party strength probably is far below two million.

The party's biggest weapon was its control of the five million strong Italian General Confederation of Labor (GCIL). That is crumbling.

The communist-led nationwide general strike wore out its force a year ago. The communists threw everything they had into it in July 1948 after party leader Palmiro Togliatti was shot at the door of the chamber of deputies.

While he was recovering, his party loosed general strikes so violent that opponents called them a communist "rehearsal for revolution." Twenty-one persons were killed and more than 200 injured in rioting before the situation was brought back into hand by tough tactics of riot-trained police of Minister of Interior Mario Scelba.

Never after that were the communists able to muster as much strength.

Italy still has two million unemployed. Her population is increasing faster than emigration carries off the surplus.

The average earned income is only \$4.50 a week—half the average in other western European countries. But currency has held its value.

Zellerbach said employment has made greater gains than show. "More Italians are working now, even though just as many are unemployed," he said. Italy's total population has increased almost four million in the last ten years.

"The average family is eating better, too," he said. "They still may not be eating well—but it is better than before the war."

The Italian is beginning to feel this recovery. It is close to his pocketbook, and to his way of life.

"It has given him hope," Zellerbach said, "and that has had a strong influence upon his political ideas."

Rev. Mann Speaker  
Hopewell—Rev. R. C. Mann, superintendent of the United Brethren churches of the Washington-Oregon conference, was guest speaker at the Hopewell E. U. B. church Sunday. Mrs. Mann accompanied him here from Portland.

The picture was slated to run through Tuesday.

Lebanon — The controversial Italian movie, "Stromboli" starring Ingrid Bergman, encountered no organized opposition when it opened Sunday at the Park theater. No one knew it was coming.

Matinee goers were handed a change of program by Theater Manager Ben Adams, who, up until Sunday, had advertised another attraction. The theater marquee was revised to "Stromboli" that morning, however, and by night throngs of curious patrons were crowding the theater.

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Pleasant Chore—Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Blanche Thebom uses a coat hanger to see her work as she shampoos her five-foot three-inch tresses in New York home.

## East Salem School Already Feels Enrollment Pressure

East Salem, Feb. 21—A special guest speaker for the February meeting of the Mother's club of Washington school Thursday was Superintendent of Schools Frank Bennett. He spoke of the need for more school rooms in the system using charts with statistics that prove this need.

The new Washington school need could be readily understood by the mothers present, when even the music room must be used for a class room the growth of the community changing to require it in just a few months between the time the building was planned and erected.

A play, "Valentine Rivals" was given by the Camp Fire Girls under the direction of the leader, Mrs. Don Goodman. Lunch was served by the fifth grade mothers with Mrs. P. H. Brydon as chairman. Fourth grade mothers will be hostesses in March.

At the business meeting with Mrs. Cleo Keppinger president, presiding, mothers voted to sponsor the latest play by the Salem Civic Players. Several mothers were present for their first meeting.

Auburn—The monthly meeting of the Mothers club was held at the school house Friday afternoon. Howard Pyfer, representing the health department was guest speaker, and used a moving picture film on teeth. These pictures are being shown in preparation for the dental clinics to be held in March. They will include pre-school children, three to six, and include those of the first and second grades.

Plans were discussed for the rummage sale March 16. Mrs. S. W. Burris is general chairman, and the children of the school will be asked to help in the bringing of articles for the sale.

Half of the proceeds will be turned in to the student fund of the school.

Arthur Myers, principal of the school, reported Auburn's share of the paper drive funds as \$13.36. Mrs. Glenn Laferty's room won the attendance award this month. Hostesses for the social hour were Mrs. Harold Bressler, Mrs. Elwin Pierce and Mrs. Arlo McLain.

The February meeting of the Edina Lane home extension unit will be held Friday at the YWCA social hall. Meeting starts at 1 and Eleanor Trindle will give the demonstration on "Giving Home Sewing a Professional Look." Hostesses will be Mrs. F. D. Thompson, Mrs. H. C. Saalfeld and Mrs. Wallace Guthrie.

Merry Minglers will meet Thursday afternoon in the home of Mrs. Leonard Malm on Silverton road.

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## Liz Taylor, Screen Star, to Wed Nick Hilton, Hotel Heir, in May

Hollywood, Feb. 21 (AP)—Luscious Liz Taylor, curvaceous 18-year-old screen star, will marry hotel heir Conrad Nicholson (Nick) Hilton, Jr. May 6 in a "big church wedding," her mother announced today, but the actress is disappointed because her announcement party has been spoiled.

"Elizabeth wanted to surprise the girls, poor little thing," said Mrs. Francis Taylor. "We're having a tea tomorrow afternoon and she wanted to surprise everybody, but Mr. Hilton in New York let it out to some columnist. He asked the columnists to wait a couple of weeks, but they didn't."

Miss Taylor broke her engagement to William D. Pawley, Jr. several months ago, and previously was reported engaged to army football star Glenn Davis. Her name also was linked romantically with Howard Hughes, but her mother said there was nothing to that.

Mrs. Taylor said Conrad and her daughter have been "going steady since about Christmas." "They liked each other right from the word 'go,'" she said. "They're so happy. Elizabeth liked Conrad from the moment she saw him, but she didn't want much publicity on it because every time she went out with somebody, it was written up so much."

Mrs. Taylor said Elizabeth invited "20 of her girl friends," including actress Jane Powell, to the announcement tea today. She said they haven't decided on the church yet but will start making arrangements shortly.

Young Hilton, 23 is in the hotel business with his father and will work in Los Angeles, Mrs. Taylor said.

"He doesn't mind her being in pictures, so there's no conflict there," she said.

She said Conrad met Miss Taylor on the Paramount lot after asking a friend, Pete Freeman, son of a Paramount executive, to introduce them.

Wind-Borne Radioactivity Might Have Staggering Effect

Chicago, Feb. 21 (AP)—An atomic scientist envisages scorched earth warfare on a staggering scale with wind-borne radioactivity from carefully-placed hydrogen bomb blasts.

Harrison S. Brown of the University of Chicago said that if the hydrogen bomb works, radioactivity from it could kill every living thing in an area 1,500 miles wide and 3,000 miles deep.

"If the hydrogen bomb works," Brown said, "it is easy to visualize a series of hydrogen bomb explosions carried out along a north-south line at about the longitude of Prague, Czechoslovakia."

"The radioactivity produced by the explosions would be carried eastward by the winds, destroying all life within a strip 1,500 miles wide extending from Leningrad to Odessa and 3,000 miles deep, extending from Prague to the Ural mountains."

After the radioactivity passed over the Urals, Brown said, it would begin losing intensity. By the time it crossed the Pacific to the west coast of North America, he said, it would be harmless.

The United States could be attacked in a similar manner, Brown said.

Amity Sets Clinic

Amity — A pre-school clinic will be held at the Amity grade school Thursday morning from 9 o'clock to noon. A Yamhill county nurse and doctor will be in charge, assisted by members of the Woman's Civic club who are sponsoring the clinic. Cards are being sent to parents of pre-school age children.

club will meet Thursday at 1 o'clock in the home of Mrs. R. H. Ballard, 290 Evergreen avenue.

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## Price Support Meets Dated

Government farm price support programs, now in operation or proposed, will be discussed at a series of meetings throughout the state in late February and March, Robert W. Schmidt, chairman of the Oregon State Grange agricultural committee, announced this week.

The public will be invited to the meetings, which are being called as a result of action taken at the last State Grange meeting. Delegates refused to take a stand on the Brannan plan and recommended instead that the State Grange sponsor a series of conferences for discussion of that and other farm programs.

Vern Livesay, Portland former member of the State Grange agricultural committee, will present the Brannan plan at the meetings. The agricultural act of 1949 will be discussed by Jay Wescott, state PMA fieldman. Ben Buisman, editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin, will explain the National Grange farm program. Discussion from the floor will be invited.

Initial meeting will be at Salem February 17, in the Dairy Co-op plant auditorium. The following day, a southern Oregon meeting will be held at the courthouse in Medford.

Other meetings have been scheduled at Bend February 24, The Dalles February 25 and La Grande March 11.

## Grade School Bonds Voted

Dayton, Ore., Feb. 21—Grade school bonds in the amount of \$249,000 were approved 203 to 90 at a special election of the school district Monday. The bonds will be used for the construction of a new grade school building located west of Dayton near the present high school.

Award of construction contract will be made as soon as possible, probably late April or early May. The building will be of frame construction with cement floors and a brick veneer exterior. The plant will include 16 classrooms, gymnasium and offices.

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