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MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1942

NO. 234

NAZIS PREPARING HELP FOR ROMMEL

Kelly's Comment

From Washington, D. C.

RFC Loan Flood
Hit By Congress
Global Relief
Funds Unfound
Some of RFC List
Escapes Secrecy

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—To the president went, dated November 30, a report from Reconstruction Finance corporation, via Jesse Jones, stating that RFC has authorized loans and other commitments in connection with the war amounting to \$18,289,576,761. The president notified his congressional leaders that he wanted RFC authorized to sell another five billion dollars of securities to take care of war activities. Congress balked.

Of these billions of dollars there was no consulting of congress. Unless a congressman learned accidentally of some operation the legislative branch was in total ignorance. Senators Danaher and McNary decided something should be done about it to let the white light of publicity stream in on RFC operations. They discovered that one way of circumventing congress had been to have the president issue a directive order to Jesse Jones for him to furnish bureau of economic warfare, for example, so many hundreds of millions of dollars. And Jones had to produce, without consulting other members of RFC board. Danaher and McNary proposed that executive orders be ignored and when a request came for a loan it should be acted upon by the RFC board and based on "satisfactory security."

Immediately certain columnists friendly to the administration charged Jones with having inspired the resistance of the senators because Jones wished to have final decision on all loans. Then in an executive committee hearing, with doors closed and no reporters allowed, Vice President Wallace of burned, roasted and flayed Jones, asserted the war effort is so very confidential that it can not be told to Jones or congress—all Jones has to do is turn over the money and the Wallace organization will do the rest. So the committee reported out the bill favorably, but it struck a snag on the floor when the committee declined to reveal the testimony at the hearings and was held up on the contention that this was legislation by committee and not by the senate.

CONGRESS has a notion that these war agencies should come to it and request such appropriations.

(Continued on Page Four)

HEATER MAKING FOR WAR HOUSING ONLY

Washington, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—The War Production board today prohibited the manufacture of gas-fired and oil-fired water heaters in 1943 except for war housing. Officials advised the substitution of coal heaters where replacements are necessary.

SIDE GLANCES

By
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Bill Hutchins all excited about decorating a Christmas tree.

Meryl Daws admitting she was busy with Christmas decorations, too.

Bob Brewer home from college and ushering at the Sunday candlelight service at the Presbyterian church.

The tall Christmas tree behind the chamber of commerce building glittering with colored lights through the fog.

John Hirschler worrying for fear his USO hockey boys and their opponents might become too mad at each other to play a nice, clean game.

Loot Ken Luckey of the Camp White news factory seeking ways and means of inaugurating a camp publication.

150-SHIP CONVOY BEING READIED IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

Plea by Desert Fox and Col.-Gen. Nehring Indicates Stand Planned in Tunisia.

By Edward W. Beattie
United Press Correspondent
London, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Marshal Adolf Hitler has appealed to Adolf Rommel for reinforcements to help keep the German toe-hold in North Africa and an Axis convoy of 150 ships is massed in southern French ports, Madrid dispatches said today.

Col.-Gen. Walther Nehring, Axis commander in Tunisia, joined Rommel in the plea, the London Daily Mail's Madrid correspondent reported, indicating that Rommel has abandoned hope of defending Tripolitania and plans to make his stand in Tunisia.

Planes, Tanks Needed
The Daily Mail, quoting reports from Vichy, said the Germans were preparing a large-scale attempt to relieve the sore-pressed Axis forces in Tripolitania and Tunisia. Rommel and Nehring were said to have asked especially for planes, tanks and gasoline.

British military observers were convinced Rommel no longer was going to offer more than delaying actions against the British Eighth army advancing toward the Axis base of Tripoli. Instead, it appeared, that he now was bending all his energies toward effecting a junction with Nehring's Tunisian army.

The German Afrika Korps now is retreating at an average rate of 15 miles a day, front dispatches said.

JOB OFFERED IN POST EXCHANGES; APPLY AT C. OF C.

Camp White, Dec. 21.—(Spl.)—Major Merrill G. Weiler, executive officer, in charge of all Camp White post exchanges, announced today the opening of an employment office in the Chamber of Commerce building, Medford, to be used as a clearing house for the employment of all civilian personnel. A frank appeal is made to the wives of all enlisted men making their homes in Medford.

This office is open for interviews each day between 10 a. m. and 1 p. m. There is no intention to limit employment to wives of soldiers at the camp. Application of any civilian applying will receive the same consideration, with no preference shown.

All post exchanges are run for convenience of the enlisted men. Help is needed in all departments immediately. Girls are urgently needed for the cafe, merchandise counter and food fountain. All civilians in this territory with experience or who would like to do this work are urged to present application immediately.

The compensation for this type of work has recently been increased, Major Weiler pointed out, adding that civilians will find the jobs pay well and that they are doing their bit to lend a helping hand in military work.

Yankee Paratroops Wipe Out Italians

Allied Headquarters, North Africa, Dec. 20.—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—The United States parachute troops of Lieut. Col. Edson D. Raff have met an Italian garrison force in southern Tunisia and destroyed it, dispatches disclosed today.

On patrol, some of Raff's men, who ever since the opening days of the Tunisian campaign have been operating as ground troops, sneaked up on a railroad station to find it full of sleeping Italians.

Coup Traps Axis Force in Libya



The plight of Nazi Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps grows worse. The latest blow to retreating Axis forces in Libya was a brilliant flanking movement by the pursuing British Eighth Army, which reached around and cut off approximately half of the fleeing Nazis about 60 miles west of the broken El Agheila line. Armored units were said to be included in the force trapped near the coastal town of Wadi Matrat.

Medford High's Military Training Termed "Medford Mayhem" by Time

Medford high's revolutionary militarized physical education program, designed to prepare its male students for the time when they will be fighting the Japs or Germans, received national publicity in an article captioned "Mayhem in Medford" in the December 21 issue of Time magazine.

Information for the article was obtained by Bill Gray of Time and Life, Inc., when he was in Medford recently.

Next Sunday the Portland Oregonian will publish a full page feature story, with pictures, on the program.

Following is the Time article: "An appealing fact dawned recently on Principal Leonard Mayfield of the Medford, Ore., high school—there had not been a single fist fight among his 350 little gentlemen in a year. A husky old wrestler himself, Principal Mayfield realistically reflected that many of his boys would soon have to know how to kill others boys. By last week Medford high's physical education program had been radically revised. The new course, called 'Personal Combat', is ranger-style training in high school. Says Mayfield: 'It's gang-fighting, that's what it is.'"

"Boys are taught how to creep and crawl, break arms, kill with bayonets and knives gouge eyes, knee the enemy in the groin. They are warned at the start to expect bloody noses and black eyes—especially when teams tear into each other with no holds barred. They take their lessons in dirty fighting seriously."

"If they can lick themselves," say their instructor, "they can lick the Germans and Japs. I don't want any kid from Medford high school bellyaching, committing suicide or getting sent to the garbage detail when he goes into the army."

There are now a half dozen citizens of the county in the mood to accept the appointment. One of the latest is reported to be Charles A. Wing, orchardist and dairyman. Fred Homes of Ashland, long active in Grange and farm circles, is an avowed candidate. Others mentioned are R. F. Kyle and Ike Staples, Medford, and William Briggs, Jr., and Ralph Billings, Ashland.

Though no statement has been made, it is the generally accepted belief among the political wise of the county that the appointee will be an Ashland district republican. The appointment will be for a pro tem period.

CONVICT FAILS IN COURT ROOM DASH

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—John R. Bayless, Alcatraz prisoner serving a 25-year term for bank robbery, made a break for freedom in the federal district courtroom today but was captured near the judge's bench by Lt. J. H. Simpson, an Alcatraz guard.

Bayless tried to escape when handcuffs were taken off him during his habeas corpus hearing before Federal Judge A. F. St. Sure. He had been sentenced for robbery of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Mansfield, Mo., in 1937.

The handcuffs were removed as Bayless went to the witness stand. He suddenly broke loose and jumped over the railing.

Gas, Fuel Oil Restriction To Stay

REDS THREATEN TO CIRCLE MORE INVADING UNITS

Russians Drive Hard Toward
Millerovo to Win as Birth-
day Gift For Stalin.

Moscow, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Red army forces, driving ahead hard in an attempt to win the city of Millerovo as a birthday present for Premier Josef Stalin were believed to have threatened additional units of the German army with encirclement near the important junction on the Voronezh-Rostov railroad. Stalin is 63 today.

Nazi Losses Mount
Front dispatches indicated there was fighting in the outskirts of Millerovo, which is about 200 miles southwest of Stalingrad. The Red army, fighting in bitter weather, was rolling the Germans southwestward and inflicting mounting losses on the enemy. The Russian noon communique announced that the Germans had suffered 43,230 killed or captured since the offensive started five days ago.

(The German high command communique admitted that the Russians had broken through on the central Don front after attacks by strong tank formations. The Germans claimed the Russians suffered heavy losses and that the fighting was continuing with "unabated vigor.")

There were 1,730 Germans killed along the central Don front in the latest operations, the noon communique said.

COLD WAVE NIPS EASTERN SECTOR

By United Press
Most of the eastern half of the United States suffered today in an intense cold wave which extended well into the middle west and southward beyond Washington, with temperatures ranging down to 45 below zero in upstate New York.

Snow covered a large part of the area. Railroad traffic, as well as highway travel, was hampered by the severe cold. Trains were delayed also by Christmas mail, which piled up at stations on main routes, and heavy passenger freight business.

Weather forecasts indicated that the cold was diminishing. Official temperatures ranged from 1 below zero at Albany, N. Y., to 1 above at Washington, the lowest December temperature for the nation's capital since 1880. New York City had its coldest weather since Feb. 9, 1934, when thermometers recorded 14 below.

Thousands Left at Depots As Holiday Crowds Travel

(By United Press)
Holiday-bound service men and civilians took every available seat on trains, buses and planes today, leaving other thousands to be turned away for lack of accommodations. Record crowds, apparently disregarding pleas of the Office of Defense Transportation, poured through the nation's important railroad terminals where trains were running hours late. All standing room was gone and platforms were filled with disappointed passengers. Air reservations were sold out through the holiday season and one air line, reporting the heaviest backlog of reservations in years, said requests for reservations exceeded "three or four times our capacity." San Francisco reported railroads there were devoting their facilities primarily to service men and trains were running two to six hours late. Detroit railroads, handling traffic "immensely" over normal, were far behind schedules. Buffalo, N. Y., also reported trains running late. In New York City, trains, buses and planes were booked to capacity. Denver railroad officials said it was the "worst rush and tieup in history." Trains were running a minimum of three hours late and some were over eight hours behind. To facilitate movement of homeward bound service men, furlough tickets were honored on all railroad lines. Air lines were booked through January 1, and only bus lines were able to accommodate all passengers.

Forty-Hour Week Won't Win War, Is Pinkley's Warning

By Olive Starcher
Mail Tribune Special Writer

"It will be impossible to win this war on a 40-hour week basis," declared Virgil Pinkley, United Press foreign correspondent and well known lecturer who spoke in Medford Saturday night before a large audience in the high school auditorium. Pinkley strongly denounced both labor and capital for quarrelling over such issues as wages and hours while the war effort suffered and declared also that there is an over emphasis on cheap politics.

"There is absolutely no reason why red blooded American men, well fed, well housed and suffering none from bombings, cannot work up to 70 hours a week if necessary. Women and children have been doing it in England for three years now," Pinkley declared. He contrasted production conditions here with those in England stating that there was closer voluntary cooperation between labor, capital and government in England. The speaker said that English labor had long since realized that the only way to safeguard the social gains of the past decades was to give them up temporarily in order to win the war and that American labor must also come to realize this.

"Seventy per cent of total war effort is production," Mr. Pinkley stated, "and all the allies need now is equipment and material. This cannot be produced in sufficient quantity working a 40-hour week. In England war workers work up to 56 hours a week before over-time is paid. Wages average \$20 a week. I visited 47 factories and talked to many laborers and labor leaders all of whom felt that by temporarily giving up their rights they were merely protecting their investment in the democratic way of life. They realize that workers in the totalitarian countries are merely slaves."

The speaker stated that many people in this country still failed to realize the nature of the menace faced in this war and pointed out that militarily speaking,

(Continued on Page Three)

TEACHERS TALKED AS TAX ADVISERS

Washington, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—School teachers, those public servants who must be experts in a good many things besides literature and arithmetic, now are being considered for jobs as income tax advisers. Treasury officials said today that while they had no idea of trying to impose an "onerous burden" on teachers, they were studying the possibility of asking them to serve as tax advisers.

WHY PAPERS LATE
Due to the tremendous volume of mail and packages being handled at Medford postoffice as Christmas approaches, rural subscribers by mail of the Mail Tribune occasionally have not received their paper on time. This inconvenience is expected to be eliminated when the Christmas mailing rush is over.

BRITISH, AMERICAN AIRMEN UNITE FOR DAY, NIGHT RAIDS

London, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—British planes from heavy bombers to fighters attacked Germany and occupied territory during the night in a new non-stop aerial offensive as part of which hundreds of planes including United States army Flying Fortresses and Liberators made one of the biggest sweeps of the war yesterday.

An American army spokesman said a "great many" German planes were shot down in yesterday's terrific air battles over occupied France, by Flying Fortresses and Consolidated Liberators which made the daylight raids with the aid of swarms of fighter planes.

In the night raids four-motored British bombers attacked Duisburg, great German industrial city and communication center.

British Whirlwind bombers, used for the first time as intruder planes, shot up trains in France, one as far inland as Orleans, 140 miles from the coast, and Boston bombers also peppered deep into France to bomb an ammunition dump and railroads while others attacked a small ship in a Belgian harbor.

The raids deep inside France marked a new phase in the Allied aerial offensive. Orleans is 70 miles south of Paris, close to the Vichy zone, and the American bombers had gone 180 miles into France yesterday to attack Romilly.

Yesterday's daylight planes had hardly finished their operations when the Royal Air Force night shift went to work.

JAPANESE STAGE COUNTER DRIVE

New Delhi, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell's British-Indian army pushed an unopposed drive along the Bay of Bengal coast in Burma today while the Japanese retorted with a sudden counter-drive into southwestern China. Moving out from their Baungaw-Buthidaung line, where they had thrust 30 miles into Burma, Wavell's forces drove ahead along a front of about 20 miles between the coast and the Mayu river toward Akay, the important Japanese-held port 60 miles to the south.

Japan opened its counter-drive 500 miles east of Wavell's offensive area. Japanese troops based on the Burmese town of Keng Tung advanced northeastward to cross the Nan Lei river into China's Yunnan province in the corner where China, Burma, French Indo-China and Thailand adjoin.

KILLED IN ACTION
London, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Lord Aspley, 47, member of commons, has been killed in action with his regiment in the Middle East, it was reported today. He received the Distinguished Service order in the World war.

To Stay

DIRECTOR BYRNES DASHES HOPE FOR RATION EXPANSION

Further Discussion Scheduled Wednesday—East's A.B.C. Rations Restored.

Washington, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes reported today after a conference with officials in charge of the government petroleum program that there is "no hope for any lessening of the restrictions upon the use of gasoline and fuel oil."

"The agencies involved have shown a splendid spirit of cooperation in the effort to solve the immediate problem resulting from unanticipated demands for military purposes. It is not expected that for the present there will be any material change in the procedure adopted by the respective agencies."

Further Discussion
The agencies will submit to me in writing suggestions as to various phases of the problem and we will meet Wednesday morning for further discussion. In the meantime steps will be taken by the respective agencies to increase the supply, and to improve rationing methods. However, in view of increased military demands and the delays in securing critical materials to extend terminal facilities and complete pipelines and barge construction, the agencies involved hold out no hope for any lessening of the restrictions upon the use of gasoline and fuel oil."

The most drastic development—a 60-hour ban on gasoline sales to some 7,000,000 private motorists in 17 eastern states—ended at 12:01 a. m. today.

The value of "B" and "C" ration coupons was cut from four to three gallons. "A" coupons, which were cut from four to three gallons last month, remained unchanged.

FRAUD CHARGED IN MAKING WIRE FOR GOVERNMENT

Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—The first federal charges of wilful manufacture of inferior war equipment were revealed today in an eight-count indictment charging the Anaconda Wire & Cable company and five officials with conspiracy to defraud.

The indictment involved \$6,000,000 worth of war contracts held by the Anaconda Wire & Cable company of Marion, Ind., a subsidiary of the Anaconda Copper company. The Marion plant is engaged in making fine gauge wire used for battlefield communications.

The company was charged with secretly installing devices which made tests of inferior wire appear perfect. Officials at the plant declined to comment on the charges.

RENO DIVORCES HAVE HIGH COURT BLESSING

Washington, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—The supreme court in effect upheld legality of Reno divorces today when it reversed the bigamy conviction of a North Carolina couple who had divorced their former mates in Nevada.

Radio Highlights

New York, Dec. 21.—(U.P.)—The British Broadcasting corporation announced today that King George V would speak to the world by radio at 10 a. m. (EWT) (7 a. m. PWT) on Christmas day.