

SENATE REJECTS WORK OR JAIL LABOR CONTROL

Proposal For Manpower Amendment to Rule Men 18 to 23 Defeated 60-23.

Washington, March 7—(U.P.)—The senate today overwhelmingly rejected a "work-or-jail" amendment to pending manpower legislation.

The vote, 60 to 23, came on a proposal to require every man from 18 to 45 not qualified for military service to take an essential work job under threat of \$10,000 fine and five years imprisonment.

Like House Bill The amendment, offered by Sen. Josiah W. Bailey (D., N. C.) would have written into the senate bill stringent manpower controls comparable to the "work or else" measure already passed by the house.

The amendment's one-sided defeat was believed to indicate that the senate ultimately will favor a measure stressing voluntary appeals to labor and concentrating on elimination of labor hoarding.

The manpower bill passed by the house contained compulsory provisions similar to those proposed by Bailey for the senate measure.

GOVERNOR SIGNS FORESTRY BILL

Salem, Ore., March 7—(U.P.)—A bill allowing the Board of Forestry to establish a revolving fund for the acquisition of forest land and to manage certain classes of such land has been signed into law by Gov. Earl Snell.

The governor also signed 18 other bills, among which is one (HB268) which permits school districts to take out liability insurance and medical and hospital benefits for students engaging in athletics.

Another school bill (HB208) signed allows a maximum of five days a year devoted to teachers' institutes to count as actual school attendance days. Another (HB322) lowered the age at which students must attend school from eight to seven years and raised the maximum amount of school attendance required.

1,200 CASUALTIES RETURNING DAILY

Washington, March 7—(U.P.)—Soldier casualties are arriving in the United States from overseas at the rate of 1,200 a day, the Army Surgeon General's office announced today.

About 35,000 arrived last month and 40,000 more are expected next month. The number of patients in army hospitals increased from around 87,000 last October to 140,000 at the end of January.

Doctors Give Up Affiliation With Ashland Hospital

Ashland, March 7—(U.P.)—Dr. C. A. Haines and R. E. Poston, who have operated the Community hospital for the past eight months, have given the city of Ashland, owners of the institution, 30 days notice that they will relinquish their contract at that time.

The present lease provides that either party may cancel the contract with 30 days notice, and the physicians decided this arrangement was too uncertain. It was stated.

George Smith, who has managed the institution for the duration of the doctors' contract, has been called back as a civilian employee of the military hospital service, leaving the hospital without management, the doctors said. City officials have announced no plans for operation of the hospital.

Charles Green, famous English balloonist, planned the first trans-Atlantic flight by balloon, but gave it up as being too dangerous. He retired in the early 1800s at the age of 67, after his 500th balloon ascent.

City Buys Olds Park Tract; \$20,000 Purchase Price Is Donated By Citizens, Firms

First step towards realization of a plan which has been the dream of certain civic minded Medford residents for many years was taken by the city council at its regular meeting last night when the group passed an ordinance providing for the purchase of approximately 15 acres of land, known as the Olds tract, lying along the east bank of Bear Creek between the East Main and Jackson Boulevard bridges, for a municipal park.

Purchase price of the tract was \$20,000 and this sum was contributed by 22 Medford residents and firms who paid the money into the city treasury before the negotiations were completed. "I've been waiting for this moment for 14 years" declared Mayor Clarence A. Meeker as he signed the ordinance, the mayor having been a councilman 14 years ago when the city first attempted to buy the tract for a park. "We are very glad to receive this generous gift towards a project for which we have looked forward to for so long. I am sure that it is the intent of the council to develop the park as quickly as possible." The mayor added that the municipal swimming pool, for which a special tax levy has already been passed, would probably be placed in the new park and that it would also contain a softball court and other recreation facilities as soon as it was possible to develop the site.

Many Contribute

The list of contributors to the park fund are Timber Products company, C. A. Winetrot for the Crater Lake Garage, George A. Hunt Theaters, M. M. Department store, Neff & Frohnmayer, Robert W. Ruhl, Hubbard Brothers, Inc., Mann's Department store, Gates & Lydiard, Crater Lake Lumber company, Harry Holmes and David Holmes of the Bear Creek Orchards, Pinnacle Packing company, Kampter's, Medford Ice & Storage company, Fluhrer's Bakery, R. H. Parsons, Medford corporation, Trowbridge and Flynn, Elmer Childers, Huson's Confectionary, Arthur M. Cannon.

A citizens committee handled the matter of soliciting funds for purchase of the park site. Under the chairmanship of Arthur M. Cannon, the Rev. George R. Turney, E. E. Kotoed, Dr. E. S. Phillips, C. C. Leonard, Eino Hemmla, Lester Harris and Dr. L. D. Inskip made up the committee.

According to Mayor Meeker, a master plan of the proposed park is being drawn for the city by Ben Evans, director of recreation for Seattle, who came to Medford at the request of Mr. Parsons and surveyed the site and discussed proposed development with various city officials. This was done without charge to the city. Best location of the swimming pool, game courts, buildings and the laying of drives and pathways was studied by Mr. Evans.

Underpass For Children

It was stressed that an underpass between the present children's playground and the new park would be built under the East Main street bridge as part of the early development in order that children need not cross the street.

Included in the city's planning

Jackson Co. Judge Pay Freeze Sought

Salem, Ore., March 7—(U.P.)—The Senate County Affairs committee today amended house bill 408 and sent it to the floor with "do pass" recommendation to prevent the Jackson county judge from taking a salary cut.

A salary raise passed two years ago was renewed in HB408 but inadvertently the judge was omitted, so the new amendment kept him at \$2,760 instead of dropping back to \$2,400.

WATZEK REPLACES RUHL ON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Salem, Ore., March 7—(U.P.)—Aubrey Watzek of Portland today was confirmed as a member of the state board of higher education, succeeding Robert Ruhl, Medford publisher, who had asked to be relieved from duty when his term expired. Ruhl had served nine years.

The appointment by Gov. Earl Snell, was given unanimous approval by the Oregon senate.

THOUSANDS AS OHIO WATERS COVER LOWLANDS

Nine Known Dead in Flooded Area; War Plants, Schools Suspend Operations.

By United Press Flood waters of the Ohio river spilled over lowlands from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Ill., today. Thousands of families fled from their homes along the twisting course of the river nearly 1,000 miles long.

Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky were the hardest hit. Other flood waters rolled across the river valleys of southern Indiana and Illinois, and Mississippi and Arkansas.

Nine Known Dead

Nine persons were known dead. High waters lapped around war plants, forcing them into idleness. Thousands of schools were closed.

About 6,000 families were homeless between Pittsburgh and Louisville. Another 1,000 persons fled from their homes in Indiana, and 1,700 evacuated river bottom sections in Illinois.

The high water forced coal mines to close in some sections. In other areas armories and public buildings were used as dormitories for flood refugees. At Rosiclare, Ill., grocery store employees carried the stock from their flooded store and set up shop in a hilltop church.

The weather bureau forecast colder weather for the Ohio river valley. The forecast at Chicago said the temperature drop probably would not be great enough to check the flood, however.

The flood in the Ohio valley appeared to be the worst since 1937.

LEVERETTE BUYS HUNT INTEREST IN THEATERS HERE

Purchase by Walter H. Leverette of the Medford theater interests of the George A. Hunt estate was announced today. The deal involves the Craterian, Rialto, Roxy and Holly theaters, owned and operated by George A. Hunt Theaters, Inc., in which Mr. Leverette had long been associated with the late George A. Hunt.

With the linking of the Medford motion picture houses, Mr. Leverette, increases to nine the number of theaters in his circuit, the Leverette Interstate Theaters. Other holdings include the Lithia and Varsity theaters in Ashland; the Broadway and Shasta, in Yreka, Calif., and the New Weed, in Weed, Calif. Headquarters for the Leverette circuit which has been maintained in Medford, will remain here and there will be few changes in personnel, according to Mr. Leverette.

The Leverette circuit is now believed to be one of the largest operating in comparable coast territory.

G. P. Interests Sold

Coincidental with announcement of the Medford theater transaction, it was revealed by William von der Hellen that Mrs. George A. Hunt, of Central Point, and Mr. and Mrs. von der Hellen, and A. Orin Schenck, of Medford, have purchased Mr. Leverette's interest in the Grants Pass Amusement Co. Inc., which belonged to the George A. Hunt estate and Mr. Leverette. The amusement concern owns the Rogue, Rivoli and State theaters in the "Climate City."

Mr. von der Hellen said the associate managers of the Grants Pass theaters would be taken over by Eino Hemmla who has long been manager of the Hunt theaters in Medford. Mr. Hemmla also has theater interests in Roseburg.

More Oregonians Freed From Japs

Twelve additional residents of Oregon were listed today among the names of civilian internees released from Japanese prison camps in the Philippine Islands. On the list were Alex J. Brockway, Lake Grove; Herbert Detrick, Dundee; Daisy F. Hendrix, Newberg; Stanley R. Kloder, Roseburg; Leila Boyce Nicholas, Portland, and Mrs. Esther R. Riffel, Retta and Dorothy Riffel, all of Portland; Clarence Beckman, Portland; Audrey B. and Patricia Landis, both of Hood River, and John N. Butler, Oregon City.

Insurance, Reappointment Killed by State Legislature

Salem, Ore., March 7—(U.P.)—"Three way" accident compensation and Senate reappointment legislation were dead issues in the Oregon legislature today.

The bills were killed after long, bitter battles in both the House and the Senate yesterday.

The "three way" bill would have provided that an employer must protect his employees in one of three ways—by self insurance, by common insurance carried or through the state accident fund. The measure (HB-232) came to the floor of the House on a divided committee report.

Talk New District

With the reappointment bill defeated, 18 to 12, talk continued that a joint resolution would be sought to amend the constitution by vote of the people to create a new 31st senatorial district. Such a new district would give the Deschutes-Crook-Jefferson-Lake county area a senator, leaving Klamath county by itself. Leaders of both factions on the bitter redistricting fight said they favored the 31st district idea, which would also serve to avoid the votes in the upper House. There was also opposition to any change.

Two liquor bills came out of the senate alcoholic traffic committee, apparently headed for defeat on the floor. One was the Nebray Scrip bill (SB212) to permit private clubs to pool membership permits and issue drinks upon receipt of scrip. It received "do not pass" recommendation.

Alcohol Fight Looms

A House fight on a series of

AMERICAN TANKS NOT SO HOT SAY MEN AT COLOGNE

With the 3rd Armored Division, Germany, March 7—(U.P.)—Don't talk about the superiority of American tanks to men of this 3rd armored unit.

"Our tanks are not worth a drop of water on a hot stove," said S/Sgt. Robert Earley of Fountain, Minn., who commanded the 1st tank to enter Cologne. "We want tanks to fight with, not just to drive over the countryside."

"It makes us feel pretty bad to have everyone at home talking about having the best equipment when we know our tanks lack a lot of being the best," chimed in Cpl. Charles Miller of Kansas City, Mo.

In one field alone, this company lost half its tanks. Altogether, it has been assigned three times as many tanks as normally allotted a tank company.

UNAMERICAN PROBERS FUND GIVEN APPROVAL

Washington, March 7—(U.P.)—The house today approved, 314 to 54, a resolution giving the new committee on Un-American activities \$50,000 to start its investigations.

Champ Meets Champ in Pacific



Comdr. Jack Dempsey, USCG, and Captain James Braddock, USA, both one-time holders of the world's heavyweight title, meet again in the Hawaiian Islands. Braddock is stationed with the Army Transportation Corps. Dempsey is on tour of Pacific bases. Both are directors of recreation and physical education programs of their respective services. Coast Guard photo.

Capture of Coblenz Threatened in Drive Of U. S. Third Army

By UNITED PRESS The American 3rd army drove to within 10 miles of the Rhine today in a sweep which threatened the early envelopment of Coblenz.

The lightning thrust had carried the Americans almost 40 miles in 48 hours. Vanguards of the army's 4th division were closing in on Mayen, 15 miles from Coblenz and about 10 west of the Rhine city of Andernach.

The air offensive against Germany was carried on by more than 1,150 American heavy bombers and fighters which attacked oil and railway targets in western Germany, including the Dortmund, Bielefeld and Soest areas.

COLOGNE REMNANTS PURSUED

Troops of the American 1st army pursued the remnants of the Cologne garrison toward the river crossing at Bonn, 12 miles to the south. The American 9th and Canadian 1st armies steadily squeezed in the enemy pocket around Wesel, 50 miles north of Cologne. The Germans there were pulling out across the Rhine under heavy land and aerial bombardment.

On the eastern front, the German radio reported that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov had opened his frontal offensive against Berlin with a heavy artillery bombardment and an assault on the Oder river defenses east of the capital. The broadcast said soviet forces were attacking on both sides of the Oder stronghold of Kuestrin, 38 miles from Berlin, trying to gain "broad positions" on the west bank for the intended push.

REDS GAIN CONTROL ODER ESTUARY

The red army gained control of the Oder estuary and closed in from three sides on the Baltic port of Stettin. The capture of Cammin to the northeast sealed off the port from the sea.

The German positions west of the Rhine were dissolving rapidly under the hammer blows of the four allied armies sweeping the Nazis back across the river. Field dispatches called the speed of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's advance toward Coblenz left no doubt that a general retreat had been ordered from that city, at the junction of the Rhine and Mosel, to the Dutch border, 110 miles to the north.

Patton's men had covered more than 37 miles since they jumped off from their Kyll river bridgehead east of Bitburg on Monday morning. They drove through the hilly Eifel area against disorganized resistance, flanking the traditional invasion route of the Mosel valley. At least eight divisions of the 3rd army were rolling toward the Rhine on a 35 mile front.

ISOLATED POCKETS CLEANED OUT

In the north, isolated pockets of German resistance were being cleaned out in the southeastern corner of Cologne and along the river to the north and south, but the city itself was firmly held by the Americans. The greater part of it was in ruins, the ancient cathedral being the principal building left intact.

Around Wesel the Germans held a dwindling arc extending about five miles to the west, southwest, and south. British mosquitoes and heavy bombers blasted the crowded pocket all during the night.

On the Italian front, an allied communique reported new successes by the 5th army in the Bologna area. American troops seized three more strategic heights in the mountains west of Bologna-Pistoia highway. The Brazilians on their right captured the key town of Castelnuovo, 13 miles southwest of Bologna.

The communique disclosed that heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans and 1,200 prisoners taken in the last three days.

ARMORY BUILDING IN 22 TOWNS IS UP TO GOVERNOR

Salem, Ore., March 7—(U.P.)—Levying of a tax for post-war construction of armories in 22 Oregon cities was given final passage and sent to the governor today by the Oregon legislature.

Only three senators voted against the bill (HB362) which would levy a tax of 45 mill each year for 10 years, estimated to raise about \$450,000 annually. The revenue would be used for armories as funds became available.

The general order of armories to be constructed was Baker, Bend, Portland, LaGrande, Oregon City, Pendleton, Ontario, Roseburg, The Dalles, Hillsboro, Corvallis, Grants Pass, Forest Grove, Hood River, St. Helens, Lebanon, Lakeview, Gresham, Prineville, Hermiston, Newport and Seaside. Other cities could be added if necessary.

A series of Senate-approved bills giving the Liquor Control Commission more enforcement power was a special order of business in the House later today. Most other measures handled were of secondary nature as members fretted over delay, with the goal of adjournment only a week away.

WODEHOUSE RELEASED Paris, March 7—(U.P.)—French police have released P. G. Wodehouse, English novelist, from detention in a Paris hospital, it was learned today. He had been held at the hospital since December following investigation of his broadcasts from Berlin.

WILLIAM DAVIS NAMED VINSON'S SUCCESSOR

Washington, March 7—(U.P.)—Chairman William H. Davis of the War Labor Board will succeed Fred M. Vinson as Director of Economic Stabilization, the White House announced today.

Vinson was confirmed by the Senate yesterday as the new Federal Loan Administrator. He will take over his new duties tomorrow.

"White Elephant," Shipping Base In Alaska Never Used, Is Revelation

Headquarters, Alaskan Department, March 7—(U.P.)—Military authorities today lifted the blanket of secrecy which for more than two years has prevented mention in the press of a giant \$17,300,000 "white elephant" shipping base at Excursion inlet, 65 miles southwest of Juneau.

The base, which was never used and now has been abandoned, was constructed by order of Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, dated July 31, 1942. It was to serve as a transshipment point for Aleutian war supplies to be brought by barge from Seattle and re-

loaded into vessels shuttling between Excursion Inlet and the Aleutians. DeWitt then was head of the western defense command and in command of land and air operations against the Japs on Kiska and Attu. The installation was constructed on a cost plus fixed fee basis by the Guy F. Atkinson company of San Francisco. It was completed in 14 months but by the time it was ready for use on August 25, 1943, the last Jap invaders in the Aleutians had been killed or had fled back to their homeland.