

# Truman Asks Service Merger To Convince World That U. S. Prepared For Atomic Bomb

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—President Truman asked congress today to merge the army and navy into a single department of national defense to convince the world we "mean business" in our determination to be prepared in this age of sudden, atomic warfare.

Warning that any future war will erupt "more suddenly than the last," with the United States very likely the first target, he told the lawmakers that unification of the services was the most effective preparedness insurance.

"I urge this as the best means of keeping the peace," he said in a 6,000 word special message to the house and senate.

## TRUMAN SIDES WITH ARMY IN CONTROVERSY

Mr. Truman's unequivocal recommendation for a merger was a clear-cut victory for the war department, which had advocated it, and a defeat for the navy, which had opposed it bitterly.

The president offered a seven-point program to carry out the merger. He coupled it with an urgent plea that congress also approve this request for compulsory military training for 18-20 year old youths. This is necessary, he said, to provide a reserve "upon which we can draw if, unhappily, it should become necessary."

"A grave responsibility will rest upon the congress if it continues to delay this most important and urgent measure," he said. Legislation for universal training has been languishing in committee since the president first proposed it October 23.

Mr. Truman's merger proposal, almost identical to the plan advocated by the war department, raised the possibility of navy resignations. Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal and his assistant, H. Struve Hensel, who have been outspoken against a merger, now must cease opposition or clash openly with their commander-in-chief.

## FORRESTAL OUTSPOKEN IN OPPOSING MERGER

Forrestal fired his latest anti-merger salvo only last night. He made public a letter from former war production chief Donald M. Nelson, who said unification would not be in the best interest of all services.

Under the president's proposal, the new cabinet department of national defense would be under a single civilian secretary. Air powers for the first time would enjoy equal status with land and sea forces, all three being under separate assistant secretaries. The navy would keep its carrier and water-based aviation but not land-based units. It would also retain the marine corps.

Noting that congressional committees have held extensive hearings on merger legislation, Mr. Truman said: "Further studies of the general problem would serve no useful purpose. There is enough evidence now at hand to demonstrate beyond question the need for a unified department."

## PROGRAM ADVOCATED FOR CONGRESS ACTION

He therefore asked congress to adopt this program:

1. Creation of a single department of national defense "charged with the full responsibility for armed national security" and consisting of the armed and civilian forces now included in the war and navy departments.

2. A civilian, nominated by the president as a cabinet member, would head the new department as secretary of national defense. Under him would be a civilian undersecretary and several civilian assistant secretaries.

3. There would be three branches of the new unified department—land forces, naval forces and air forces, each under an assistant secretary. This would result in creation of a separate air force, although the navy would keep its separate carrier and water-based air units.

4. The undersecretary and the assistant secretaries would be available at all times for assignments by the president or the secretary of national defense.

5. The president and the secretary should be given authority to set up central coordinating and service organizations in the armed services, principally in the scattered field of procurement. This would reduce costs of operation by eliminating duplication.

6. There would be a chief of staff for the overall department with subordinate commanders for each of the component branches—army, navy and air.

7. The chief of staff and the commanders of the three coordinate branches would make up an advisory body to the president and the secretary.

## CHIEF OF STAFF POST WOULD BE ROTATED

As "an added precaution" against overemphasis of any one branch of service, Mr. Truman recommended that the post of chief of staff be rotated among the services at least every two or three years. No one officer should serve as chief of staff for more than a single term except in case of war emergencies, the president said.

"Unification of the services must be looked upon as a long-term job," he said. "But in the comparative leisure of peacetime, and utilizing the skill and experience of our staff and field commanders who bring to us victory, we should start at once to achieve the most efficient instrument of national safety."

In his message, the president took note of the opposition to merger not only from Forrestal and Hensel but also from such uniformed navy leaders as Adm. Ernest J. King, former chief of naval operations, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, present operations chief, Adm. William F. Halsey and others.

"I can assure the congress," the president said, "that once unification has been determined upon as the policy of this nation, there is no officer or civilian in any service who will not contribute his utmost to make the unification a success."

## MILITARISM FEAR DECLARED WITHOUT BASIS

He also rejected arguments that creation of a single cabinet post of national defense would place too much power in the hands of one man and possibly lead to militarism.

"There is no basis for such fear," Mr. Truman said, "as long as the traditional policy of the United States is followed that a civilian, subject to the president, the congress and the will of the people, be placed at the head of this department."

In a clear reference to rocket bombs and atomic weapons, Mr. Truman said that "technological developments have made the armed services much more dependent upon each other than ever before."

"If there is ever going to be another global conflict," he said, "it is sure to take place simultaneously on land and sea and in the air with weapons of ever greater speed and range. Our combat forces must work together in one team as they have never been required to work together in the past."

"We must assume, further, that another war would strike much more suddenly than the last, and that it would strike directly at the United States."

Therefore, he said, we must maintain in constant readiness unified and effective strength to convince any future potential aggressor "that this nation, in its determination for a lasting peace, means business."

## PLAN PARALLELS LEGISLATION ALREADY OFFERED

Mr. Truman's merger plan closely paralleled legislation already introduced by Sen. Lister Hill, D., Ala. Merger proponents greeted the president's message warmly and said it more than fulfilled their expectations.

Mr. Truman started out in his message by admitting that during the war just concluded, this nation paid a "high price" for the lack of central direction and unified command in Washington. The joint chiefs of staff set up during the war, he said, was a form of coordination and "better than no coordination at all, but it was in no sense a unified command."

Warning that national security was being gravely "risked" if present imperfections in the American defense organization were not corrected "now," the president said:

"However great was the need for coordination and unified command in World War II, it is sure to be greater if there is any future aggression against our world peace."

Mr. Truman hammered repeatedly at his underlying reason for unification: To be prepared in event of another war.

"Among the things that have encouraged aggression and the spread of war in the past," he said, "have been the unwillingness of the United States realistically to face this fact, and her refusal to fortify her aims of peace before the forces of aggression could gather its strength."

"The future peace of the world will depend in large part upon whether or not the United States shows that it is really determined to continue in its role as a leader among nations."

## U. S. Battleship Storm-Periled Off Azores

### JAPANESE KNEW CODE BROKEN IN SPRING OF 1941

Investigating Committee Told Nazi Spies in U. S. Tipped Off Axis Partner.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Japan learned from Nazi spies in the spring of 1941 that the United States had broken some of its codes, the Pearl Harbor investigating committee was told today.

Committee Counsel William D. Mitchell introduced messages exchanged between Berlin and Tokyo which revealed that German espionage agents in this country tipped Japan off about U. S. code-breaking.

The intercepts were introduced as Vice Adm. Theodore S. Wilkinson, former chief of naval intelligence, was recalled for further questioning about events leading up to the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

### Nazi Spies Effective

The first message, taken from army files, was dated April 16, 1941. It was from Tokyo to Berlin and said Japan suspected "that codes" were being read "by foreign powers."

The next dispatch, from Berlin to Tokyo on May 3, was more definitive. It advised the Japanese government that the Nazis were maintaining an effective espionage system in the United States which had "quite reliably" been reading diplomatic messages from Washington to Tokyo.

Despite this and other messages of similar import, evidence before the committee indicates that Japan never changed her codes to an extent sufficient to make them unbreakable by the United States.

Gen. George C. Marshall, former army chief of staff, testified recently that the United States continued to break Japanese codes throughout the war. He said information gleaned from such intercepts made possible some of the greatest allied victories of the Pacific war.

Speedup Eyed Committee members were weighing the possibility of speeding up the hearings by calling Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short and Adm. Husband E. Kimmel to the stand immediately after the Christmas recess.

Short and Kimmel, army and navy commanders at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese blow fell, have been accused of dereliction of duty.

Chairman Alben W. Barkley, D., Ky., planned to call an executive session late today to consider the future course of action.

### ARMY POINT CUT MAKES 600,000 ELIGIBLE DEC. 31

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The army today liberalized its discharge provisions to make an additional 600,000 men and women eligible on Dec. 31 to return to civilian life.

It lowered the point discharge score from 55 to 50 points for enlisted men and from 73 to 70 for male officers other than those in the medical services.

At the same time, it reduced the length of service requisite to separation on Dec. 31 from 42 to 36 months for enlisted men and from 48 to 45 months for male officers not in medical departments.

The army, also, for the first time, made length of service a criterion for discharge of Wacs personnel. Enlisted Wacs will be discharged after 30 months and Wac officers after 39 months of honorable service.

Wac officers and enlisted personnel married to a discharged World War II veteran may be separated on application without other qualification. Other married Wacs who enlisted before May 12 are eligible for discharge on application. The discharge scores for Wacs remains unchanged—32 points for enlisted Wacs and 37 points for officers.

### CRUISER SKIPPER FOUND NEGLIGENT BY NAVY COURT

Capt. McVay Should Have Ordered Zig-Zag Course Is Decision; Was Efficient

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Capt. Charles B. McVay III today was found guilty on a navy charge that he was "negligent" in failing to order the cruiser Indianapolis to follow a zigzag course before her sinking last July 30.

The cruiser was sunk by a Japanese submarine in the Philippines sea with the ultimate loss of 80 lives.

McVay was found innocent on a second navy charge that he was guilty of "inefficiency" in failing to order the crew to abandon the ship promptly.

Adm. Wilder D. Baker, president of the court, said that the specifications in the charge that McVay had not issued "timely" orders to abandon ship "was not proved."

McVay, who testified in his own behalf yesterday, said he did not order the ship to pursue a zig-zag course because he did not believe it necessary in view of cloudy weather conditions.

### CHURCHILL PLANS VACATION IN U. S.

Washington, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—Winston Churchill, former prime minister of Great Britain, will come to this country for a vacation late in January.

The White House said that Churchill was acting on a recommendation of his physician, Lord Moran, that he have a complete rest and spend at least a month in a warm climate.

He will go to Florida during February to stay at the home of Col. Frank Clarke of Quebec. Churchill has accepted the invitation of Westminister College, Fulton, Mo., to deliver an address on world affairs on next March 5.

The White House said President Truman had endorsed the invitation and would introduce Churchill to the college audience.

### CHAMBER BALLOTING ON BOARD DIRECTORS

Balloting on Jackson County Chamber of Commerce directors will take place during the next several days, with ballots containing the names of 18 persons nominated by the general membership going into the mails today. Nine will be elected from the list.

Marked ballots are to be returned to the Chamber of Commerce not later than Dec. 27 at 2:30 p. m. according to Frank Hull, manager.

### More Display Company Latest Addition to City's Industry

Newest industry for Medford and Jackson county is the More Display company, operated by Cecil Ray More, who within the past week moved his business from Santa Cruz, Calif., to the Rogue River Valley. More will begin operations on a limited scale tomorrow in the old dance hall at Four Corners and is now negotiating for a site within the city limits upon which to construct a permanent building.

When permanently established, More states he will probably employ 18 or 20 persons on a year-round business. The firm supplies designs and material for advertising displays for some of the nation's largest firms. A basis for these More uses such materials as lodgepole pine boughs and cones, manzanita branches, mullen plants, grape vine trunks, fir boughs, driftwood and sea shells. These articles will be assembled, treated and shipped from the Medford plant. Orders being filled now are for spring displays. More said, and he is also now working on plans for next year's Christmas displays.

Among the firms which used More's displays for the present Christmas season were Neiman & Marcus, Dallas, Tex.; Marshall Field company of Chicago, Bullocks, J. W. Robinson company and the May company, Los Angeles, and Roos Brothers of the Bay area.

### Building Planned

More's permanent building will be erected of pumice blocks in U-shape, with two buildings 80 by 28 feet and one building 50 by 28 feet.

More began business with his father, L. R. More, Florida, who pioneered in the display business, supplying firms with the first preserved palm trees ever used for display purposes. The elder More still operates a Florida branch, supplying tropical material for firms throughout the nation.

### Advantages Here

Medford's climate, availability of natural materials, and access to air lines and express and freight facilities influenced More's decision to move his operations from Santa Cruz to the Rogue River valley, he declares.

### Big Three Ministers Begin Moscow Conference



Envoys of the Big Three nations (left to right), Foreign Minister Bevin, Great Britain; Foreign Commissar Molotov, U. S. S. R., and Secretary of State Byrnes, United States, stand for opening of current conference at Spiridonovka Palace, Moscow, Russia.

### Big Three Conference Gains Momentum With Return of Josef Stalin to Kremlin

Moscow, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—The Big Three foreign ministers conference gained momentum today with the return of Generalissimo Stalin to the Kremlin. The talks were known to be proceeding in an atmosphere of cordiality and earnestness.

There was no mistaking the zeal with which the conferees were attacking their problems so that the Big Three can attend the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations assembly with substantially unconflicting if not identical views.

### News Blacked Out

With a fourth session listed today, the foreign secretaries have spent more than eight hours in intensive round table discussions in the marble-lined conference room of Spiridonovka palace. Not a word of their progress or topics has been revealed.

Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin looked a bit worn out when they emerged from the Tuesday afternoon session with Molotov which lasted three hours and 20 minutes. They had just tackled the first concrete problem.

The news blackout will be continued, all parties having agreed that they can seek a more effective understanding without a preliminary public airing. During the London council of foreign ministers in October, it was recalled, the Soviet press was highly critical of foreign news commentators, whom it charged with helping to complicate the issues.

### In Close Touch

Byrnes and Bevin are in daily touch with the White House and Whitehall, either by radio or direct telephone. British air couriers make daily flights to London, weather permitting.

He died on the gallows of the drab southwest London prison, barely a mile from his wealthy father's town house. He had been estranged from his family for several years, but they had sought evidence to save him.

Amery pleaded guilty before an astonished court at the Old Bailey on Nov. 28 and received an automatic death sentence in a trial lasting only eight minutes.

Yosemite Park derived its name from the Yosemite tribe of Indians, whose name meant "grizzly bear."

Byrnes has been keeping the dominions envoys fully informed, while the French and Chinese ambassadors enjoy free access to both him and Byrnes.

Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Bevin were expected to call upon Generalissimo Stalin on or before Friday, his 66th birthday. Stalin returned to his desk in the Kremlin yesterday after a Black sea vacation lasting more than two months.

### Seek City Tract ON NORTH FIR ST. FOR BUSINESS USE

Request has been made that the city sell four lots adjoining the north end of the city equipment yards at Fir and Jackson streets and that permission be given to install spur tracks on Evergreen street next to the property. City Superintendent Frank Rogers announced to the council last night.

The matter has been referred to the land appraisal committee for investigation.

Lots 24 and 25, Emigh voted changed from a residential to a light industrial zone in order that a nursery can be built there. The property is owned by J. Vernon Marshall who plans to establish three green houses. He will specialize in growing camellias.

### Lot Sales Approved

Sale of the following lots was approved: Lot seven and eight, Block three, West Walnut Addition to Phyllis and Lois Simmons, price \$200;

Lot 11, Block two, Tuttle Third Addition to Richard L. Simmons, price \$100;

Lot four, Block three, West Walnut Park to George W. Simmons, price \$100;

Parts of Lot eight, Block three, Medford Heights Addition and of Lots three, eight and nine, Imperial Addition to James Chamberlain, price \$350;

Lot seven, Block seven, Medford Heights Addition to Helen M. Bullis, price \$175;

Lot eight, Block seven, Medford Heights Addition to Seth M. Bullis, price \$175;

Lot 11, Block one, Kenwood Addition to Ralph McGonagle, price \$150;

Siskiyou Heights Addition to Edward W. Brennan, price \$200;

Lot 17, Block one, Kenwood Addition to O. D. Tucker, price \$150;

Lot seven, Block four, Mary Place Addition to H. F. Girard, price \$300;

Lot four, Block two, Summit Avenue Heights Addition to Earl H. Johnson, price \$275.

### ELEVATOR BURNS

KallsPELL, Mont., Dec. 19.—(U.P.) A fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the KallsPELL Mercantile company's grain elevator and warehouse here last night. Harry Keith, company manager, estimated damage between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

### LISBON DISPATCH SAYS WASHINGTON BATTLING WAVES

Report Received as Cruiser, Carrier Prepare to Dock in England For Repair.

London, Dec. 19.—(U.P.)—An unofficial and unconfirmed report from Lisbon today said the American battleship Washington was in danger off the Azores, presumably from gales sweeping wide reaches of the Atlantic.

A United Press dispatch from Lisbon said the U. S. embassy was checking with the Portuguese navy department on the report circulating there that the 35,000-ton Washington was in danger.

The navy department said it was unable either to confirm or deny the report immediately. No details were available, the Lisbon dispatch said.

### Other Craft Damaged

The report of danger to the Washington came as the American cruiser Augusta and aircraft carrier Wasp prepared to dock in South England for repairs of storm damage that delayed the homeward voyage of some 6,500 U. S. troops.

The Washington, which with the sister ship North Carolina make up the Washington class battleships, was completed in March, 1942, at a cost of \$76,885,750. Her normal complement is about 2,000 men.

### BLIZZARD MOVES ON NEW ENGLAND

By United Press A paralyzing blizzard bore down on the New England state today, its tall flicking across New York City, while new heavy snows spread an eight to 12-inch blanket over much of the eastern half of the country.

A special weather bureau bulletin said that gale winds bearing six inches of snow would sweep into New England from the south during the day. Northeast storm warnings flew from R. I. for winds to rock Island, R. I., for winds to 50 to 60 miles per hour, with 70-mile gusts expected to knife across the southern portion.

### Entire Area Hit

The entire eastern seaboard was hit, the precipitation taking the form of rain in the southern coastal states.

The city's transportation departments fought to keep the lines operating. Surface transportation was reduced to half speed.

In the face of the approaching blizzard, New Englanders were warned to leave their automobiles at home. The snow brought some relief from the frigid temperatures in most sections of the east, but the thermometer continued to dip below zero in New England. The low during the night was nine below zero at Caribou, Me.

### NAVY AMMUNITION BLASTS LA JOLLA

La Jolla, Calif., Dec. 19.—(U.P.) One thousand persons were left homeless today by the flaming explosion of a loaded navy ammunition truck within 100 yards of a crowded navy housing project.

Rockets, depth charges and shells ripped through the Torrey Pines and Camp Calais housing centers, smashing every window and leaving 80 per cent of the homes uninhabitable.

There were three blasts, so severe they rocked downtown San Diego, 14 miles away, but no deaths resulted.

Civilian hospitals reported nine injured but said only three were held for treatment late last night. Sixteen marines at Camp Matthews, flanking the highway, were treated for cuts.

The civilian truck driver, John Ayala, of Fallbrook, was not injured. He leaped out of the big truck when its gas tank exploded.