

Weather Bureau Launches Probe on Warning Given Flooded East States

Expanded Service Could Be Result Of Investigation

Washington—(U.P.)—The Weather Bureau has launched an official investigation to determine whether its stations gave the public all possible warning of the disastrous floods in the East.

A spokesman for the bureau said today the inquiry could lead to recommendation for an expanded flood warning service in Eastern states.

The spokesman said preliminary reports from investigators in the field indicate that weather forecasters did a "generally excellent" job in predicting high water conditions on major rivers, such as the Delaware, Susquehanna and Connecticut which are covered by the bureau's present flood warning system.

But he acknowledged that flash floods on some of the tributaries of these rivers descended on victims with little or no advance warning.

Money, Equipment Needed
He said the Weather Bureau would need "a lot more money and equipment" to extend its river forecasting services sufficiently to give adequate notice of flash floods on tributary streams. And in some mountain valleys, where heavy cloud-bursts can start flash floods rolling in less than two hours, it is practically impossible to insure early warnings, he said.

Steps to improve Eastern flood warning facilities had been taken even before last week-end's floods. A river forecasting service office, previously scheduled, will open Sept. 1 at Hartford, Conn. It will cover the New England area. At present, the Weather Bureau has only one specialized river forecasting office, at Harrisburg, Pa., for the entire northeastern part of the nation.

Rainfall Prediction Off
A reporter asked whether the Weather Bureau should not have put out more specific and detailed warnings of the extraordinarily heavy rains that drenched Eastern states in the path of dying Hurricane Diane. The spokesman said weather stations did predict rain all along the hurricane's path, but conceded that the amount of rainfall in many areas was more than the forecasters expected. He said this simply showed that "meteorologists don't know as much about storms as they wish they knew."

Asked what kind of facilities might be added to improve flood forecasting services, the spokesman said more radar stations would be one answer. Radar enables a central weather station to detect heavy rainfalls at a considerable distance, and to alert local weather observers to begin shooting in hourly reports on rainfall and river conditions when a flood is threatened.

Plea Will Be Made For Japanese Inmates

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, who spent two years in prison as a war criminal, left by plane today for the United States to plead in Washington for the release of other Japanese still serving terms for their World War II activities.

Ten years "is sufficient time to be confined," Shigemitsu said before leaving for talks with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, which also will cover Japanese rearmament.

A total of 377 men still are imprisoned in Tokyo's grim Sugamo Prison. Seven of them are Class A prisoners, men who helped plan Pearl Harbor and guided war time Japan which ran roughshod over millions of Asians.

They are the last of 28 top war criminals indicted by the International Military Tribunal after the war. Seven were hanged. Seven died in prison. Five were released because of illness. Shigemitsu served two of his seven-year sentence and was paroled.

RADIO TOWERS BUZZED
Stuttgart, Germany—(U.P.)—Radio Stuttgart complained today two American jet fighters buzzed its radio towers Monday. The station said the planes flew between its two towers, which are about 400 feet apart.

Brazil's Finance Minister Bolsters Coffee Markets

By JUAN DE ONIS
United Press Correspondent

Rio De Janeiro—(U.P.)—Finance Minister Jose Maria Whitaker, who looks the part of the family doctor with his white hair and benign smile, hopes to nurse the coffee market back to health with common sense and a good bedside manner. Like many a family doctor, Whitaker has the advantage over theorists and "miracle cure" coffee experts in that he knows the patient intimately. As a Sao Paulo banker for the past 50 years, Whitaker has spent most of the 77 years of his life in almost daily contact with the growth, financing and commerce of the little red beans for which Brazil is famous.

A noticeable tranquility in local coffee growing circles followed Whitaker's assumption of the finance post, and only the protests of interested commercial parties against the suspension of price-support by the government ruffled the calm. In the hubbub that followed the suspension, coffee futures fell 600 points on the New York exchange. After a weekend of thinking over Whitaker's succinct explanation for the move the market rapidly recovered. The New York coffee market is Dr. Whitaker's thermometer, and a stable or rising reading means the patient is healthy. "Whitaker generally prefers to let the exchange quotations talk for him," said an aide of Whitaker's. "When the market is right there is nothing more eloquent."

But during the crisis that followed the suspension of government purchases of coffee from the present crop Whitaker made some significant statements that throw light on his approach, if not his plans.

In the first place, common sense and moderation appear to be the primary reference points in Whitaker's thinking about coffee. This may not seem exciting, but for many observers here it was precisely an absence of common sense and moderation that caused a 30 per cent drop in Brazilian coffee sales last year and plunged the nation into one of its most difficult economic positions.

Nearly all the Brazilian authorities who have spoken during the past eight months of Brazil's coffee policy have called the 87-cent-a-pound export price minimum fixed by former Finance Minister Oswaldo Aranha one year ago "disastrous" . . . a gambler's long-shot that failed. **New Crop Problem**
Aranha's successor, international investment expert Eugenio Gudim, is credited with having made a successful assault on an unhealthy "soft" internal credit situation, but his lack of familiarity with the commercial aspects of the coffee business maintained a depressing nervousness in the trade.

Whitaker's common sense policy insists coffee is produced to be exported, not to be bought up by the government. That is why he suspended the government purchases.

At the same time, flooding the market with coffee without expanding old markets and finding new ones, can only depress prices, without increasing sales. Therefore, Whitaker put off support purchase right at the point where he felt supply was in proportion to current demand.

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Log Falls From Truck Killing Gaston Driver

Pendleton, Ore.—(U.P.)—Ivan Brown, 22, was killed last night when a log rolled off a log truck at Harris Pine mill here. Brown, a truck driver from Gaston, Ore., apparently walked around behind his truck as it was being unloaded. A log slipped off the rear of the truck and struck him on the forehead killing him instantly. The accident occurred about 7 p.m.

Glenn Klein Returns From Cornell Studies

Glenn Klein, Jackson county 4-H agent, arrived in Medford last night after a two month absence to study at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Klein was one of two 4-H leaders in the state to receive the Sears, Roebuck foundation to take the summer course. His study concerned human development.

July Cost of Living Shows Large Increase

Washington—(U.P.)—The cost of living in July showed the largest increase of the past 14 months, mostly because of rising food prices. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today the gain was three-tenths of one per cent. Small as it was, the increase means a penny an hour wage rise for some 650,000 General Motors and Ford Motor Company workers and for 200,000 in other industries. The BLS index of consumer prices for July was 114.7, using average 1947-49 prices as a comparison basis of 100. The June figure was 114.4. The increase put the index figure just half way between the high and low figures of the past two years. BLS also reported the take-home pay of the average factory worker last month was at an all-time high for a July, though lower than the record set in May. For a worker with three

New Type Truck Seat Absorbs Road Shocks

Detroit—(U.P.)—A new type of truck seat that will give truck drivers five times the present protection from road vibration and shock has been demonstrated by the Bostrom Manufacturing company of Milwaukee. A new torsional rubber spring suspension system will absorb many of the shocks of road travel which the driver now feels. The company said the seats sell at retail for \$90 to \$100. They said the new seats will reduce accidents due to fatigue and also would protect drivers from health disorders believed due to the constant jolting of road travel in a truck. Pasadena, Calif.—(U.P.)—The burglar who ransacked Donald L. Miller's home wanted to make sure of a fast getaway, police said. Spike holes in Miller's dirt driveway showed the intruder wore track shoes. dependents, July take-home pay averaged \$69.84 a week.

Portland Traction Case Goes To Court

Salem—(U.P.)—A fight between Portland Traction company and the state public utilities commission wound up in the Oregon Supreme Court yesterday. PUC council John McCullough filed a writ seeking to force the company to resume its former interurban service between Portland and Oregon City. The traction company had cut 10 runs a day from its service claiming there was not enough business on the line. Action on the writ is expected next week. The decision would apply only until commissioner Charles H. Heltzel made a decision on the schedules following a hearing. The mandamus writ was separate from a circuit court ruling which refused to grant the PUC an injunction against the traction company. Use Mail Tribune Want Ads Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

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