

BLAST LEAVES 1000 HOMELESS

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
AT Moscow today, Molotov en-
tertains Byrnes and Bevin
and their entire delegations at a
luncheon at the Sperandfka
palace. Thereafter the Big Three
foreign ministers begin their
formal conversations—in which,
the dispatches inform us, "the
atom bomb is reported to be of
the UTMOST importance."

THAT is easily believed. The
atom bomb is of the utmost
importance in EVERY inter-
national conference, of whatever
kind. The atom bomb ushered
in a new world, in which all the
old rules are outdated.

YESTERDAY'S meeting lasted
three hours and 15 minutes.
The heavily censored dispatches
tell us:

"Persons present (at the meet-

Truman Asks Merger Of Army-Navy

Chief Claims Further Study Of Problem Unnecessary

By ERNEST B. VACCARO
WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)
President Truman called today
for merger of the army and navy
into a single department of na-
tional defense with the air forces
fully equal to the land and sea
arms.

Stepping squarely into the

Herald and News

Telephone
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Many Hurt In Explosion Of Munition

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 19 (AP)—Seven persons were hospitalized, one of them with serious injuries, and approximately 1000 others left homeless when a flaming navy ammunition truck and trailer exploded with a terrific blast on a highway 15 miles north of here yesterday afternoon.

Six of the injured, all marines, were taken to the nearby naval hospital. One is being treated for a skull fracture and the others for lacerations from broken glass. One woman, cut about the face, also was given hospital treatment.

Speaking Of Holiday Decorations



Dame Nature clothed the out-of-doors of the Klamath Falls area today in feathery white, and Wes Guderian, Herald and News photographer, selected this weeping willow tree on the post office lawn as a first class example of outdoor holiday beauty.

Capt. McVay Acquitted Of Inefficiency

Decision Withheld On Second Charge Of Negligence

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—A navy general court-martial today acquitted Capt. Charles B. McVay 3rd, of inefficiency in the loss of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, but withheld announcement of findings on the charge that negligence on the part of McVay contributed to the disaster.

Under navy regulations, a general court finding involving any degree of guilt is withheld from publication pending a review by high naval authorities.

THE progress of the conference
so far is pictured for us as
follows:

"The first session was taken up with routine procedural matters, the second was devoted to filling papers by all three sides and getting the discussions lined up, and the third was occupied with 'exploration' of the issues."

"Best Means"
 Declaring that "it is the best means of keeping the peace," Mr. Truman proposed that the new defense department be headed by a single cabinet member operating with one undersecretary and several assistant secretaries, all civilians. There would be a departmental chief of staff, with a commander for each of the three component branches—army, navy and air.

IT is probably a necessary pat-
tern. Any important business
deal is apt to be spoiled by PRE-
MATURE publicity.

15-Cent Raise OK'd At Burns

The first major break in the pine belt AFL strike came today when the Edward Hines Lumber company at Burns reportedly signed with the union for a 15 cents an hour straight-across-the-board raise.

Hines plant is one of the largest in the Oregon pine country, and local AFL unionists declared the break here might well have an important bearing on the whole pine strike situation.

WE get a glimpse of the im-
portance of this conference
from the fact that Stalin returns
from his long vacation in time
to be ON THE GROUND while it
is going on.

Below Zero Weather Reported In This Area As Old Man Winter Tightens Grip

Sub-zero temperatures were reported from at least half a dozen sections of this area as winter's grip appeared to tighten throughout the Klamath basin.

The U. S. bureau of reclamation reported 6 degrees above zero in the city and CAA's official thermometer was 8 above at 8:30 a. m. and "falling."

IN London, legislation to NA-
TIONALIZE the sick British
coal industry is introduced in
parliament. It will probably be
passed into law without much
delay.

Vinson Claims Merger Would Sink The Navy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)
Adoption of President Truman's
recommendation for unification
of the armed forces would "sink
the navy," Rep. Vinson (D-Ga.),
chairman of the house naval
committee, declared today.

THIS is the moral:
 If you want to KEEP your business, conduct it in a way that will gain the approval of the bulk of the public.

82,000 Soldiers May Be Stranded On West Coast Unless Rail Jam Clears

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19 (AP)—Eighty-two thousand home-bound Pacific soldiers may be stranded in west coast ports on Christmas unless a jam of rail facilities is cleared, the army predicts.

Many navy men due for discharge or leave likewise may have to spend a forlorn holiday away from home, the navy said. No figures were available, however.

Canoe Upsets; Hunter Drowned

McMINNVILLE, Dec. 19 (AP)
 One duck hunter drowned and his companion swam to shore as their canoe upset in the Yamhill river southwest of here at 7:30 this morning.

James P. Bates, partner in the Portland insurance firm of Olinhart & Bates, drowned. Jack Rushlow, Hillsboro insurance man, his companion, was uninjured.

Carlan Baby Asphyxiated

CHELSEA, Mass., Dec. 19 (AP)—Medical Examiner William J. Brickley reported today that Baby Ronald Carlan died of "asphyxiation and acute general respiratory infection."

Brickley in a preliminary report on an autopsy on the 6-month-old baby whose "kidnaping" became one of New England's greatest hoaxes of recent years, told District Attorney William J. Foley that asphyxiation could have been caused when the baby might have turned over face down in his crib.

ON the home front, President
Truman, in a 5500-word mes-
sage, calls for MERGER of the
army and navy into a SINGLE
department of national defense,
with air forces fully equal to
sea and land arms.

No More Fathers To Be Drafted

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)
 Selective service tonight halted the drafting of fathers.

It also instructed local boards not to accept on a volunteer basis any father with three or more children.

Men with one or two children who volunteer will be accepted for selective service.

KUHS To Present Annual Concert

Klamath Union high school's music department will give the city its annual Christmas present tonight at 8 o'clock in the auditorium when a 200-voice choir and soloists combine to present a program of Christmas and sacred music.

U. S. Sailors Ordered To Remain Aboard Ship After Clashes With Brazilians

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Dec. 19 (AP)—American sailors were ordered to remain aboard the U. S. Cruiser Little Rock at Santos today as police investigated clashes between some 350 seamen and angry Brazilians last night at Sao Paulo, 60 miles northwest of Santos.

U. S. Consul Roland Welch said the sailors left Sao Paulo by special trains and buses under guard of police, who said the rioting began when some of the celebrating seamen were accused of annoying Brazilian women in the streets.

Western Union AFL Employes Plan Walkout

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—AFL union employes of Western Union laid plans today for a nationwide walkout of 48,000 members the morning of January 7.

Acting on authorization of a strike vote conducted by the national labor relations board December 1, the general committee filed the strike call at 8 a. m., in each time zone.

Army Foresaw Hawaii Attack

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)
 The army in June, 1940, considered a Japanese attack on Hawaii as "not unlikely" and also anticipated sabotage in the Panama canal, the Pearl Harbor investigating committee was told today.

3 Killed In Train Wreck

ATLANTA, Dec. 19 (AP)—A freight train plowed into the rear of the southern railway's limited passenger train near Gainesville, Ga. today, and railway officials said at least three persons were reported killed and several injured.

C Of C Favors Road Project

Improvement of U. S. highway No. 395 between Alturas and Lakeview was supported in a resolution adopted by the Klamath chamber of commerce directors Wednesday noon.

The roads and highways committee of the chamber recommended the action, which was taken without a dissenting vote.

Markets To Close

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—Nearly all the nation's security and other markets have announced plans to close on Monday, December 24, making a three-day weekend extending from Sunday through Christmas Day. Without exception they will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Firm Hold To Be Kept On Japs

TOKYO, Dec. 19 (AP)—A determination to keep a firm hold on the Japanese people and their future while affording opportunity for "a completely vanquished enemy to correct the error of its ways" was re-emphasized by General MacArthur today in instructions to his commands.

Japan must support allied objectives, MacArthur said, but to impose upon the nation "any form of government not supported by the freely expressed will of the people is contrary to the Potsdam terms."

Weather

(December 19)
Max. (Dec. 18) . . . 24. Min. . . 8.
Precipitation last 24 hours . . . 3.66.
Stream year to date . . . 4.77.
Normal . . . 3.78. Last year . . . 3.66.
Forecast: Partly overcast.
Thursday Shooting Hours—Klamath-Tulelake
Open 7:20 a. m. Close 4:28 p. m.