

FAST HOUSING PROGRAM BACKED

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
THERE'S a thrilling story on the wires today.

President Truman calls for a huge housing program—two million seven hundred thousand homes to be completed within the next two years, of which a million two hundred thousand will be STARTED THIS YEAR. Total cost to be around sixteen billion dollars.

(To get the JOLT of this vast program, we have to spell the totals out. Astronomical sums have been juggled before our eyes so long that we find it difficult to grasp mere FIGURES.)

THESE homes are to be built principally by private contractors, most of them to sell for no more than \$8000 or to rent for \$50 a month or less. A part of the plan is financing the low cost homes by insured mortgages up to 90 PER CENT of their value based on necessary CURRENT costs.

The federal government is to spend \$850,000,000—how not described in detail, but presumably in assistance in financing and planning. There is so far no talk of outright government ownership and management of any of the houses to be built.

IF, that is, private industry TAKES HOLD.

THE price ceiling theory is again, this morning's dispatches inform us, the sticking point.

A school of Washington thinking that is by now quite familiar to us insists that prices should be held down and INCENTIVE provided by SUBSIDIES to be paid out of the treasury and added to the national debt. (On the reckless principle of charge it to Uncle Sam and HOPE he can pay his debts.)

There is a hopeful suggestion in the news that congress won't stand for the subsidy idea—hopeful because it is high time for us to begin to pay our way as we go instead of putting out IOUs and trusting to luck that they can someday be redeemed.

WE must be careful, incidentally, not to go ALL OUT against price control. As long as demand fantastically exceeds supply, some measure of price restraint will be necessary. Not until we reach the point of FULL production, with accompanying active competition, can we safely remove the brakes from prices.

But we mustn't permit price control to STIFLE incentive. If we do that, we shall find ourselves in the same mess Europe is in.

If we have sufficient incentive, we Americans can do anything WITHOUT incentive, we shall be in grave danger of sinking into the muck of stagnation—as so much of Europe is doing.

IF you are wise, you will keep your fingers crossed when reading or listening to much of the current argument against price control. A lot of it is propaganda, put out by those who want to get all they can as quickly as they can.

On the other side of the fence, there is propaganda IN FAVOR OF price control, put out by those who want the government to be EVERLASTING and the individual NOTHING.

That is one drawback to our modern abundance of communications facilities. Limitless power to reach the public ear tempts everybody to be a propagandist.

THIS proposed immense building program in which the government will step on the starter in the hope that the engine of private initiative will CATCH and go and keep on going, is further evidence that President Truman is making up his mind that we've simply GOT TO GET STABLE.

The new price policy by which he hopes to break our costly industrial deadlock is thinking along the same line.

Once we get started, he is obviously reasoning, volume and competition will bring us the things we want at a price we can afford to pay. That is sound American doctrine.

Let's hope he succeeds in getting the engine started.

THIS is worth repeating: There is nothing wrong with America that a period of great activity and WIDESPREAD PROSPERITY won't cure.

Temperature 0 At Sun Mountain

Snow flurries to add to the already heavy layer of snow which covers the Klamath basin were forecast for the weekend. The mercury rose slightly with a minimum of 9 degrees reported by CAA at 8:30 a. m. It warmed up some and at 1:30 this afternoon it was 36 above.

The folks in the mountain areas were still shivering and zero was the report from Sun Mountain this morning; 4 above on the Greensprings and 6 above at Quartz Mountain. At Altamont the state highway thermometer recorded a 4 minimum. All roads were sanded and there was little new snow.

Progress Made To End Steel Tie-Up

President Optimistic About Settlement Of Disputes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—White House Secretary Charles C. Ross reported today good progress is being made toward ending the 20-day-old steel strike.

His statement to a new conference re-emphasized other reports that President Truman is optimistic about settlement of the disputes, which has thrown into idleness 750,000 steel workers.

Ross, in response to questions about reports that Reconversion Director John W. Snyder might be replaced by Price Administrator Chester Bowles, said no change in the reconversion leadership had been made and none is contemplated.

"There has been no change in the directorship of the office of war mobilization and reconversion. No change has been discussed and none is contemplated."

Urges Replacement (The Chicago Sun reported today that "highly influential" democrats had urged President Truman to replace Snyder with Bowles and move Paul Porter, chairman of the federal communications commission into Bowles' post.)

A government official, who asked not to be named, had said earlier that there is a possibility that Bowles might quit as a result of differences over an impending government wage-price pronouncement.

Bowles' appearance before a congressional committee to discuss wage-price policies was postponed a third time today, from Monday until next Thursday.

President Truman yesterday cancelled a Florida vacation because of the "immediate critical situation."

Indian Woman Found Stabbed

Lola Gallagher, 22-year-old Klamath Indian woman, is in Hillside hospital in a critical condition suffering from a deep abdominal knife wound.

Special Indian Officer John Arkell said he was holding Orlan "Beagle" Ball, 37-year-old Klamath, on a charge of drunkenness pending the outcome of Lola's condition. The woman was found wandering on Chilquin street at 10:30 a. m. today by James Wright who rushed her to Klamath Agency hospital.

Lola identified Ball as her assailant. Arkell said, the alleged stabbing took place in the Moore rooms across from the SP depot, the woman told the officer.

Arkell said Ball had served time in the Oregon state penitentiary and in city and county jails of this area.

Landing Puzzles Grandad

BAKER, Ore., Feb. 9 (AP)—"Isn't there a better way to land a plane than this?" inquired John A. Burton, 82, from his upside down position in a Stinson Voyager which lay on its back in a stubble field near Union Friday afternoon.

Mr. Burton was addressing the pilot, his grandson, Capt. Robert B. Alexander, who was wearing the DFC, Air Medal and other decorations for his war service in Europe and China.

Mr. Burton had just completed his first airplane ride and, hanging head down from his safety belt, assured his grandson that he was uninjured. The accident occurred when the plane struck a snow-drift in the field in which Capt. Alexander was attempting to land after a flight from Baker.

A week ago Friday Capt. Alexander rolled his car over twice while driving here from Oklahoma. His wife received a broken leg in the accident.

50 Students, 39 Policemen Injured In Cairo Outbreak

CAIRO, Feb. 9 (AP)—Egyptian students battled Cairo police today during a demonstration against Britain's attitude toward revision of the British-Egyptian treaty. At least 50 students and 39 policemen were injured, and approximately 150 students arrested before quiet was restored. Shouting "Down With Britain" and "To the Revolt," the students surged through the streets of Cairo. Police lines were broken and a bus was set afire.

The demonstration started after a mass meeting protesting against the recent British reply to Egypt's request for revision of the 1936 British-Egyptian treaty.

The fighting flared up when approximately 3000 students, caught between police lines near a Nile river bridge, started hurling stones. Bystanders joined in the riot on the side of the students.

The 1946 treaty provides for the establishment of a military alliance between Egypt and Great Britain and for the maintenance of British forces in Egypt for 20 years.

Egypt has asked for evacuation of all foreign troops and a revision of the status of the Sudan, which is now jointly controlled by Britain and Egypt. In her reply to the Egyptian request, Britain agreed to undertake revision of the treaty.

Herald and News

Telephone 8111

PRICE FIVE CENTS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1946

Number 10741

Awards Go To Outstanding Girls, Too



Leaders in their fields in 1945 were these two girls—Minta King, Henley, left, the county's 4-H club gardening queen, and Gaila Elchendorf, KUHS freshman, county canning queen. They and Francis Skinner, county club agent, are happily examining the \$25 checks given each of the girls by The Herald and News. Frank Jenkins presented the checks at this week's meeting of the Kiwanis club, at which Skinner and the two "queens" were guests.

Trial Of General Homma Of Gory Bataan March Ends With Defendant In Tears And Prosecution Demanding Death On Gallows

MANILA, Feb. 9 (AP)—The war crimes trial of Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma ended today in its fifth week with the Japanese defendant, erstwhile conqueror of Manila, Bataan and Corregidor, in tears.

The prosecution demanded that the general, accused of ordering the Bataan death march, be given the same sentence as his military contemporary, Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita—death on the gallows.

What fate the U. S. military commission has in store for him likely will be made known Monday at 3 p. m. (2 a. m. Monday Eastern Standard Time).

In civilian attire, the general who once barked surrender orders to Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, wept openly as Maj.

John Skeen, of Baltimore, chief of defense counsel, said: "Should his life be taken, the world would lose a man devoted to peace."

Big Charges These were the big charges flung at Homma by the prosecution and the answers of the defense:

Charge 1—Homma was responsible for the 1942 march to prison of Bataan's surrendered Americans and Filipinos during which thousands were tortured

and died. Answer by Capt. George W. Ott, Wilmette, Ill.—The Japanese, short on transportation, had to handle "many more prisoners of war than anticipated" and mistreatment resulted from the "whims" of individual guards—not Homma.

Charge 2—Homma unnecessarily slaughtered defenders on Corregidor island in Manila bay after the fall of Bataan by continuing his artillery fire after the white flag was run up.

Answer by Capt. Frank Codner, Somerset, Pa.—"The only testimony we have in this regard is that of Col. John R. Pugh, of Washington, (General) Wainwright's aide on the island, that 'I saw three fresh dead about three o'clock on the afternoon after the white flag was run up and I attributed them to artillery fire.'"

Bombed Manila Charge 3—Homma's planes bombed Manila after General MacArthur declared it an open city in the last days of 1941.

Answer by Lt. Robert Pelz, New York—Fifty American-Filipino trucks, laden with troops and explosives, allegedly moved through Manila's streets two days after the declaration, making the city in fact not an open city.

The attorneys said testimony of rape and butchery attributed to Japanese soldiers was "stretching the theory of command responsibility."

Chances dwindle today that Edwin W. Pauley's nomination as undersecretary of navy will be favorably recommended to the senate.

The naval committee which has been considering the nomination was reported evenly divided on the question, and a tie vote means Pauley's name would go to the floor without the important advantage of the committee's approval.

The outlook was definitely better for the administration in the case of George E. Allen, named for a two-year term on the reconstruction finance corporation board. Republican opposition to his nomination appeared to be crumbling and his prompt confirmation was generally believed assured.

Packing Plant Burns To Ground

MEDFORD, Feb. 9 (AP)—The Crater Meat company packing plant, a major source of chops and steaks to residents of this area—burned to the ground last night with a large stock of meat inside.

A spokesman for the company, owned by Stanley Morgan, said no estimate of loss would be made for several days. Cause of the blaze was not immediately determined.

Senate Refuses To Limit Debate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—The senate today refused to limit the debate on the FEPC bill. The motion for limitation, designed to put an end to the prolonged southern filibuster against the plan to establish a permanent fair employment practice commission, was offered by Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky.

SON BORN

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 9 (AP)—A son, weighing just an ounce short of eight pounds, was born to Ruby Keeler, ex-wife of Al Jolson, now wed to Brokeur John Lowe. The Lowes have two other children—Theresa, 3, and Christine Ann, 13 months.

Group Split Over Pauley

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Tavern Slayer Found Guilty

PORTLAND, Feb. 9 (AP)—After nearly five hours' deliberation, a jury found Harold Wayne Hollister, 28, guilty of first degree murder in the holdup-shooting of Joe Mezzina last November.

The jury's recommendation of life imprisonment makes a life sentence mandatory. Circuit Judge Martin W. Hawkins announced February 11 would be the tentative date for sentencing.

Charles W. Ribison, defense attorney, asked 15 days to prepare action requesting a new trial. Hollister, ex-paratrooper, showed no emotion when the verdict was announced.

AFL Selected Bargain Agent

COQUILLE, Feb. 9 (AP)—Workers of Coos Bay Lumber company's Coquille branch chose the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers' union as bargaining agent at a national labor relations board election yesterday.

The AFL received 208 votes to 86 for the CIO International Woodworkers of America. Eight voted for no union, and 75 did not ballot.

WEATHER

(February 9)
Max. (Feb. 9).....35 Min. 9
Precipitation last 24 hours00
Stream year to date9.61
Normal7.11 Last year5.55
Forecast: Snow flurries.

Separate Air Arm Rejected

War Department Tells Congress Plan Won't Work

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—The war department jolted congress today by coming out against creation of a separate air force.

Legislation to set up an independent air arm, army leaders told congress, won't work.

Their views were expressed in a letter to Chairman Manasco (D-Ala.) of the house expenditure committee by Acting War Secretary Kenneth C. Royall, who said the opinions he voiced were shared by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and General H. H. Arnold, wartime head of the army air force.

Manasco's committee has jurisdiction over several pending bills to establish an independent air force, as well as over proposals for merging national defense in a single department combining army, navy and air forces.

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2,700,000 Homes To Be Constructed

By FRANCIS M. LEMAY
WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—President Truman's recommendations for the greatest house-building program in history won immediate and enthusiastic bi-partisan support today on Capitol Hill.

Democrats and republicans alike applauded the objectives of the emergency campaign which has set its sights on the construction of 2,700,000 new homes in the next two years.

Wilson S. Wyatt, the housing expert and generalissimo of the projected campaign, said it could "move into high gear" by April 1 if congress acts promptly and votes the necessary legislation.

Only one phase of the over-all program failed to click with congressmen. That was the proposal that the 40,000,000 existing dwellings be placed under price control. Major opposition to this developed.

Rep. Wolcott of Michigan, senior republican on the house banking committee, which handles housing legislation, said if the administration would drop its fight for price ceilings on old houses, "I don't see why we can't put through the legislation the president asked for, by unanimous consent, within 24 hours."

Objections to two phases of the plan were voiced by industry groups. The National Association of real estate boards protested the price control features and the Producers' Council, Inc., representing building materials manufacturers, objected to proposals for subsidies to spur output of materials.

Instead of subsidies, the council suggested a 10 per cent increase in prices of materials, arguing that this would add only about \$180 to the cost of a \$6000 home.

The "bold" housing program, prepared by Wyatt on instructions from Mr. Truman, contemplates about 16,000,000 in housing construction during the next two years. The houses would be built principally by private contractors, with most of the dwellings selling for no more than \$8000 or renting for not more than \$50 a month.

Announcing the vast undertaking last night, Mr. Truman called it a "veterans' emergency housing program," and Wyatt emphasized it is intended to bring living space into line with veterans' pocketbooks.

The estimated cost to the federal government is \$850,000,000.

Returning to press a Ukrainian demand for council investigation of the Indonesian situation, Manulsky told the council it was true, as Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin had contended, that Britain was assigned by the allied high command to operations in the Indies.

But, he said, "this was to receive Japanese capitulation and to disarm Japanese—this task has not been accomplished."

Manulsky said Former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota had suggested a United Nations investigation, and presented this as a reason for council action. Sending a UNO commission to Java, the Ukrainian argued, would strengthen the confidence of the people in their right to appeal to the United Nations.

Dutch Problem Bevin responded that the situation was primarily a Dutch problem. He said the council should not "interfere."

"Now about Stassen," said Bevin, turning with a laugh to U. S. Delegate Edward R. Steytinius Jr.

"If there is one country in the world that is prolific with advice, it is the United States. I think they do it in delight—because they do not have to carry it out—but I don't mind."

Meeting simultaneously with the Security Council, the committee of permanent headquarters ran into parliamentary maneuvering, and adjourned temporarily.

KF Youths Held In Auto Theft

MEDFORD, Feb. 9 (AP)—Two Klamath Falls youths were held here for investigation into a car theft at Klamath Falls.

State Patrolman Seth M. Bullis Jr., said he stopped the car they were driving and while checking the license plate, one of the youths—later arrested by city police as Richard Caldwell Foust, 17—slipped from the car and slugged him, knocking two of the patrolman's teeth out.

The second youth gave the name of Kyle Howard Molgard, 17.

The car Foust and Molgard were allegedly driving was reported to state police here as stolen from Shelly M. Kilgore, 2024 Oregon, last night. The boys, both Klamath Union high school students and members of last year's Pelican football squad, were believed to have gone to Medford to see the Klamath Falls-Medford basketball game last night.

Teen Agers Riot Over Pants Sale

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 9 (AP)—Four police riot cars were required to restore order when several hundred teen age boys and girls stormed a sale of blue jeans pants at a downtown department store today, overturning tables and trampling each other in their eagerness to get the desired garments.

One clerk took refuge underneath a table.

"It was a full dress riot," said Police Sgt. E. L. Newton. The children had gathered outside two entrances to the store and stormed into a basement salesroom when the doors were opened. They were readmitted a dozen at a time after order was restored.

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