

Austrian Minister Says His Country Unable To Pay Reparations Claims

LONDON, Jan. 24 (AP)—Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber said today his country would be unable to pay reparations to anyone.

Gruber told a news conference that if Austria was to be the free and independent nation advocated in the Moscow declaration, "the conditions making freedom and independence possible must be provided."

Yugoslavia has asked the four-power foreign ministers' deputies framing the German and Austrian treaties that Austria be made to pay reparations to compensate in part for German-Austrian war damages suffered by the Yugoslavs, estimated at \$11,000,000,000.

Gruber said Austria, if made to pay reparations, would not be able to stand alone economically and added categorically: "We deny all claims."

The foreign minister, who with other Austrian officials will present their country's views to the deputies Thursday, also denied that Austria could afford to lose any of her territory and hope to survive as an independent nation.

Calling Austria the "first victim of Nazi aggression," Gruber said the peace treaty should preserve the country's 1937 borders, recognize its sovereign status, and end military occupation.

Russia stood firm in rejecting demands by small nations for an equal voice with the United States, Russia, Britain and France in writing the German and Austrian treaties.

Fedor T. Gousev, deputy foreign minister, sharply challenged claims by Australia and other small nations to the right of full participation in the deputies' conference now preparing preliminary treaty drafts for the Big Four foreign ministers' meeting in Moscow in March.

"This right to draft treaties was not grabbed," Gousev snapped at last night's session, authoritative American sources reported. "It was bought with the greatest amount of blood," the Australian's Col. W. R. Hodgson, leading the fight of the small allied belligerents, had protested that the little nations were "even scant opportunity to determine what went into the treaties for Italy and other axis satellites and now were being denied a full voice in the German and Austrian settlements."

Informants said Gousev declared that the Big Four made the major decisions during the war and should continue to do so in the peace treaties.

Pumice Plant Sale Made

The Insulite Pumice Products company, manufacturers of the light weight pumice building block, have recently sold their plant to L. P. "Pat" Montgomery, 5449 Harlan drive.

The plant was established in late 1945 by the Krueger brothers who have operated it since that time.

Montgomery plans to operate the business at its present site, 634 Market. He has lived in this vicinity since his family moved here in 1910 and attended schools here. He has been associated with the lumber industry, building materials and hardware.

College Enrollment Up For 1948 Seen

PORTLAND, Jan. 24 (AP)—Oregon had trouble taking care of the flood of college students this year, but the worst is yet to come.

So said Dr. Louis C. Packer, chancellor of the state system of higher education, last night at the annual Builders Exchange meeting.

He estimated this year's 17,000 enrollment at the state's five colleges would be exceeded by 2000 next year. To meet the situation, he proposed more buildings, equipment and higher salaries to obtain an expanded and more capable faculty.

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Flashes Of Life

FIREMEN BURNED UP
ROCKVILLE CENTER, N. Y., Jan. 24 (AP)—For the past 51 years the Eureka fire company—oldest of Rockville Center's six volunteer fire groups—has been collecting trophies for its fire fighting skill.

Yesterday, while no one was in the fire house, the trophies, fire records, a pool table and other accessories went up in flames.

QUICK RESCUE
SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 24 (AP) Firemen, responding to a call to rescue David Wyman Jr., 2, from a locked bathroom, met the youngster and his mother on the porch.

The embarrassed parent explained David unlocked the door and headed outside on the run when he heard the siren of the approaching truck.

HOME PLANNERS
PULLMAN, Wash., Jan. 24 (AP) Co-authors of a bulletin written at Washington State college were Stanley A. Smith, head of the agricultural engineering department, and Miss Esther Pond, then extension economist in home management.

The bulletin, recently published, is entitled, "Planning Your Home."

The authors apparently wrote with conviction.

Now they are married.

Fall in Home Fatal To Man
DALLAS, Ore., Jan. 24 (AP)—A three-foot drop killed A. N. Newbill at his home here yesterday.

Newbill, putting up a kettle for a home syrup factory, slipped

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Ship Sinking Still Studied

PORTLAND, Jan. 24 (AP)—It may take weeks to learn what caused the sinking of the Drexel Victory at the mouth of the Columbia river Monday night, investigators said here today.

A six-man board, representing the coast guard-merchant marine investigating unit, opened its study of the problem yesterday.

Among unofficial theories they may investigate are: (1) a huge comb swept so much water from under the vessel that it dropped onto a sandbar and cracked its plates; (2) a shoal was formed in the channel recently; (3) the plates cracked from structural faults when the huge wave hit the ship.

The wreck may frighten some shipping away from the Columbia river unless the cause is determined soon, said Capt. D. J. McGarity, port of Portland director.

from a low platform and struck his head on the concrete floor.

A resident of Dallas for 36 years, he and Mrs. Newbill observed their golden wedding anniversary last year.

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Teacher Pay Up Bill Proposed

SALEM, Jan. 24 (AP)—Four county school superintendents began work here today on a bill to increase salaries and raise the status of county school superintendents.

The four—Agnes Booth of Marion county, Roy Cannon of Multnomah county, Lulu Gorrill of Douglas county, and Lynn Gubser of Yamhill county—said their salaries are so low that most of them receive less than the teachers working under them.

A similar measure was passed by the senate in 1945, but the senate killed it.

The Oregon Education association also is working with the superintendents.

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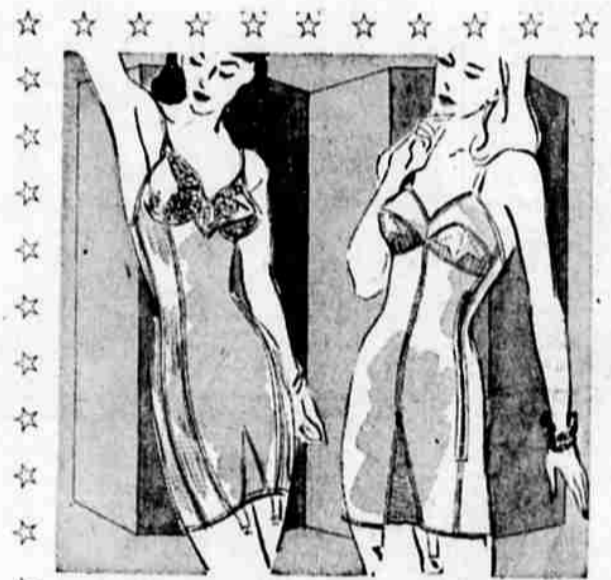
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