

Reporter Gets Interview With Hukbalahap Leader In Central Luzon Hideout

Editor's Note: James Halsema of the Associated Press staff in Manila has obtained the first interview with Luis Taruc, leader of the rebellious armed peasants, since Taruc went into hiding five months ago after reconciliation attempts with the government broke down. Halsema reached Taruc's camp after a 15-mile night march, escorted by 200 armed peasants.

By JAMES HALSEMA
SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL LUZON, Feb. 5 (AP) — Luis Taruc, leader of central Luzon's armed peasants, boasted today that his Hukbalahap forces could overthrow President Manuel A. Roxas government if the United States withdrew its support. Taruc made the statement in an exclusive interview in his temporary hideout in the rice fields 35 miles north of Manila, which I reached after a 15-mile night march in the company of 100 of his armed followers.

"The Roxas regime," the 35-year-old leader of an estimated 700 armed peasant guerrillas, said, "is dependent on the help of the United States army."

"Without American aid to the fascist government of Roxas, we could take the initiative in this struggle if we wanted, but we do not want to."

Asked how the Americans were aiding Roxas, the slim, smooth-faced Filipino replied that the United States had armed and trained the 100,000 Filipino military police who are engaged in a campaign to capture him and his followers. They were supplied, he said, by U. S. army surplus equipment.

Taruc referred sarcastically to Roxas' recent state of the nation speech to congress in which the president said the worst problem in central Luzon when he took office was restoring peace and order.

"The most pressing problem is and has been for centuries, the ending of the feudal land tenure system," Taruc said. "Once the land problem is solved peace will return to our blood-soaked fields."

Taruc has been a fugitive since the end of August, when a wave of violence ended an uneasy truce between the Huks and the government.

Taruc took to the field, fearing assassination, and since then has been repeatedly reported cornered, but he said he had never been so much as scratched in five months of skirmishes.

"This is a rough life to lead," Taruc observed, "but the country air has restored my health after an illness I had when I lived in the cities."

HIGH SCHOOL

News Notes and
Comment

By MARY O'BRIEN

Presided over by its president Clarence Bussman, K-Club met



Mary O'Brien

in activity period today, Wednesday. A committee of three members was appointed to write an amendment to the student body constitution to make baseball a major sport. The athletic club is also drafting a new K-club constitution including enforcement of rules for wearing K-sweaters and stripes.

Compiling the nine weeks' honor roll was the task of Honor Society in activity period today. Grades are averaged for each student, excluding only physical education grades. To be on the honor roll a student must have a grade average of 1.5 to attain grand honor roll standing, students must have a 1.0 average.

Elections put off until mid-year were held in a noon meeting of Latin club today. Retiring president is Clarence Bussman.

Sports section of the El Rodeo will be edited by senior Wes Robinson this year. His appointment to the annual staff was just recently made and was

Red Chairman Britain Bound

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (AP) — Communist Party Chairman William Z. Foster and some Hollywood actors were among 2318 passengers aboard the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth when she sailed for Southampton today.

Foster said he would tour Europe "to see what the people of Europe are doing to try to save some of the pieces from the wreckage." He said he would visit England, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, but not Russia.

His last visit, Foster said, was in 1938 when the communists "tried to establish a peace front to stop Hitler and Mussolini" but "nobody would listen to us then."

The communist leader said he planned to write a series of articles for the Daily Worker and a book on postwar Europe.

Screen star Robert Taylor and his actress wife, Barbara Stanwyck, planning to see British producers, and comedians Stanley Laurel and Oliver Hardy, planning to act in the film "Robin Hood," were other passengers.

one of the last positions remaining to be filled.

Tomorrow, Thursday, the drama section of AAUW will present "I Knew George Washington" in the Little Theatre to study hall students only. Proceeds of play admissions go to the University Women's scholarship fund of KU.

Flashes Of Life

BANDITS CHICKEN-HEARTED?

BOSTON, Feb. 5 (AP) — When two holdup men threatened Harry Gordon in his market, he made a hasty but effective choice of defensive weapons.

Gordon jabbed a pencil at the eyes of the nearest thief and held him at bay while he reached for a meat cleaver.

That did it. The intruders fled.

RIGHT COLORS, WRONG FLAG

LAWRENCE, Kans., Feb. 3 (AP) — The British flag waved merrily atop Fraser hall at the University of Kansas, leading to a speculation a distinguished English visitor was on the campus.

But it soon came down.

A new janitor, told the university flag was "a big red and blue" one, had run up the Union Jack by mistake.

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ELUSIVE FIRE

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 5 (AP) — Three fire trucks rolled out to an intersection in the business district after an onlooker reported a car on fire.

Early arrivals said a man had leaped into the blazing vehicle and driven off for the fire station after the alarm was given. In fact, witnesses near the fire station said later the trucks almost ran him down as they sped out to answer the call.

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The unidentified driver then turned his smoking vehicle and followed the engines.

By the time he arrived at the intersection from which the alarm was first given the firemen had returned to the station by another route.

The department is still wondering what happened to the car.

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BOYS' TWEED LONGIES

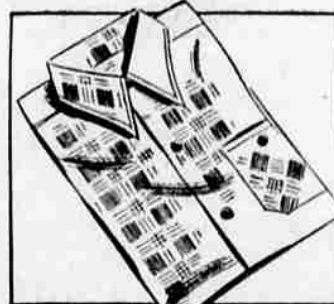
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Striped Knit Shirts

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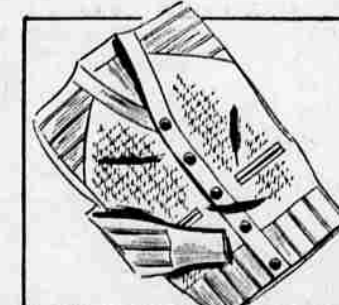
98^c



Flannel Shirt

Soft plaid. In-or-outer style. Long sleeves. Convertible collar. Assorted plaids. 8 to 12.

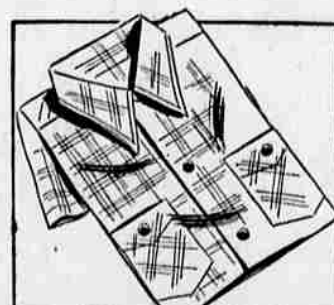
2⁹⁸



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