

# Spud Dumping Subject Of Anderson Talk; Methods To Help Situation Talked

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 7.—The PMA officials of the PMA are dumping surplus potatoes allegedly at the same time that high-priced spots were coming in from Canada, and for failing to make a more extensive search for useful outlets for the surplus, constitute a high point of the Anderson committee's report on its potato investigation.

But PMA officials declare that the first criticism is based on a slight inaccuracy—that the dumping referred to occurred near Richmond, Va., in July of 1946, while imports did not come until early of 1947, nearly a year later.

As to the second criticism, by "battering their heads" all during the surplus period in trying to make use of every useful outlet they could find, did develop new and larger outlets, and in general that the problem was handled

as well as it could have been under the circumstances.

The long awaited report turned out to be rather temperate in tone, and its attack on the handling of the potato problem last year consisted largely of pointing out methods by which, on second thought, the committee believe dumping might have been avoided and may be avoided in the future.

The committee charged that distribution of late 1946 potatoes contributed to a short supply later. Its suggestion was that more should have been placed in storage.

PMA officials have said, however, that safe storage capacity last fall was jammed to capacity, and the only way to try to save the rest of the huge Maine crop was through field storage in pits. That was tried, and a lot of the potatoes went bad.

There was a warning to PMA in the report that, in view of the smaller crop this year, committee-men would expect no dumping of consequence this season. Actually, there has been no dumping in recent weeks.

The committee summed up the surplus potato operation as follows: DoA bought up the surplus at a cost of \$102,106,000; it received \$13,355,000 from sales; and the loss on the operation was \$88,751,000. The committee commented:

"Too much of this cost, it would seem, may be regarded as unnecessary had a more careful search been made for means of disposal rather than dumping or destruction."

The committee conceded that early potatoes are too thin skinned and watery to be stored. On the handling of the 1947 crop, the report says:

"Instead of destroying potatoes, the department should assist in providing adequate storage space for the 1947 crop, so that potatoes can be available to consumers on a normal basis until the 1948 crops are ready for market. There will be surpluses in certain areas and the government should provide methods to aid in distribution of these local surpluses to areas where potatoes are in demand."

The committee recommended that the DoP use more of its research funds in experiments to develop new outlets for surpluses. It mentioned the use of potato cultures in bakery products as a possible outlet for large amounts, and suggested experiments in quick-freezing and cold storage. It criticized the DoA for failing to improve the potato marketing system, "although it has ample authority under the law for such action." Recommendations included development of new and expanded use, greater use for domestic and foreign relief, wider publicity on new uses, and leadership by DoA in arranging for storage of surpluses.

Referring to the potato situation at Richmond, Va., this year, department officials have pointed out that only 399 cars of potatoes were unloaded at that city in the first five months of 1947, and that only 10 of those came from Canada. In May, only three cars came from Canada. While the records do not show the character of the Canadian shipments, many of these may have been seed potatoes that normally come from Canada whatever the supply situation is in the United States. In addition, there were plentiful supplies available from Alabama at no more than the price of the Canadian shipments, and probably somewhat lower prices.

Reasons why the DoA did not push more of the surplus into processing such as dehydration, starch, and similar products include the high cost of such processing and the fact that the DoA has no funds from congress to finance processing; its funds are appropriated for payment to growers, not processors nor for processing.

## Driver Gets Stiff Fine

Clifford Zurbrugg, 22, 4517 Bisbee, as sentenced to 30 days in jail and a fine of \$100 in justice court yesterday after being found guilty of a charge of reckless driving. On a second charge, that of "driving and operating a motor vehicle at a time when operator's license had been suspended," he was also found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$25 or serve 12 days in the county jail.

Zurbrugg was apprehended by police officers Wednesday night following a nocturnal chase through a city's suburban streets. Zurbrugg, in a companion, Willis Pigg, 21, of 36 Freida, were riding on Pigg's motorcycle. Zurbrugg was driving the machine, which the officers observed weaving in and out of traffic lanes and crossing the center line. The officers gave chase and overtook the pair after their machine skidded and overturned at the southeast corner of Radcliffe and Ashburn, dumping the pair on the ground.

They were both taken into custody by the officers.

Following Zurbrugg's conviction on two counts, Pigg was found guilty of a charge of "permitting an unlicensed person to drive and operate a motor vehicle." He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 or spend 25 days in jail by Justice of the Peace J. A. Mahoney.

## Roseburg To Hold Miss Oregon Ball

ROSEBURG, Aug. 8 (AP)—Jo Ann Amorde, Sutherland school teacher, who won the "Miss Oregon" title, will be honored at a "Miss Oregon Ball" here tomorrow.

Manley Robison, travel information director of the state highway department, will attend as the governor's representative. Proceeds of the ball will be used to heighten Miss Amorde's chances to win the "Miss America" title at Atlantic City. The pretty blonde, who spent this week singing to 500 patients at Veterans' hospital, visiting service clubs, giving for pictures, and attending as, will attend the Jaycees regatta at Cottage Grove Sunday. Tuesday she will meet Governor Snell and sit at the state capital.

## VFW Head Asks Return Of Ships

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 8 (AP)—The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars wants the U. S. to demand immediate return of all ships granted the Russian government under wartime lend-lease agreements.

Commander Louis E. Starr, here visiting his family, said he understood there was a shortage of tankers in this country.

His prepared statement said the Russians received about 90 ships including four large oil tankers. "We need them, let's get them."

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## Heat Wave Deaths Hit 119

CHICAGO, Aug. 8 (AP)—After 112 heat deaths the Midwest had a cooling off period today.

Fever temperatures persisted however in the South. It was less warm in the East and the Northwest was almost too cool.

The Chicago weather bureau predicted scattered showers from the Rockies to New England. The 100-degree region included Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana where Shreveport had 106 yesterday.

Midwest and Eastern temperatures were in the 80s, and in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, low 50s of last night were expected again tonight.

## Police Search Death Suspect

SEATTLE, Aug. 8 (AP)—A nationwide hunt was under way today for a former Texas state penitentiary inmate who was charged yesterday with first degree murder in connection with the shoe store holdup slaying two years ago of Clayton W. Stockberger in Seattle.

The charge was filed in justice court against Aubrey Smith, 29, alias H. J. Love and Orben B. Smith.

Prosecutor Lloyd Shorest said filing of the charge climaxed a two-year investigation during which time 29-year-old Richard C. Britton was convicted and twice sentenced to death for participation in the fatal holdup. His most recent execution date, July 29, was commuted recently by Governor Wallinga for 60 days at the prosecutor's request.

Smith and Britton were inmates of the Texas penitentiary at the same time, FBI records show.

## Perini Baby Found Drowned

PALMOUTH, Mass., Aug. 8 (AP)—The body of Nancy Perini, 4, niece of Lou Perini, millionaire contractor and part owner of the Boston Braves Baseball club, missing since yesterday, was recovered today from the ocean in full view of her parents watching dragging operations from the family porch.

The body was recovered while District Attorney Frank E. Smith's investigators were proceeding on the theory she had been kidnaped. Police said there appeared to be no doubt the drowning was purely accidental.

The body was hooked by firemen who began dragging operations at 3 a. m. under floodlights.

As it was pulled ashore, Mrs. Perini cried, "oh, my baby," and collapsed in the arms of her husband, Charles, a Braves stockholder and associate of his brother, Lou, in the contracting business. He carried her gently into the family summer home.

## BUTTER UP

PORTLAND, Aug. 8 (AP)—One major distributor raised the price of butter one cent a pound today and others were expected to follow suit. It brought the retail price of grade A from 78 to 82 cents.

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