

REDS CLAIM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
THE news from Prague as this is written is censored and unreliable, but it seems reasonably clear that what had already come to Finland, to Poland, to Romania, to Bulgaria has now come to Czechoslovakia.

Moscow has TAKEN OVER.
TO us, this is peculiarly tragic. The Czechs are our kind of people. They have a long tradition (longer, in fact, than ours) of devotion to the liberty of the individual. They have a genius for industry. Whenever they have been left alone, they have developed a high standard of living. They are basically tolerant and decent.

We know in our bones today that they are suffering all the tortures of the damned—as we would be suffering if at one swift, awful stroke all of our liberties had been taken away and we were left writhing under the heel of a despotic conqueror.

THE Finns, too, are our kind of people. But the Finns have known relatively little of real liberty. What they have experienced of it has been in brief flashes, sandwiched in between long periods of despotism. Poland has never known much of real liberty. And so it is with Romania and Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. In their cases, the despotism of communism is just another in a long series of despotic interludes.

But Czechoslovakia, which tracks back to Bohemia and Moravia, with their centuries-long struggle for the right of the individual to think as he pleases and, within the limits of the rights of others, to DO as he pleases.

Well, somehow the loss of liberty by those who have it long enough to become accustomed to it and to learn how to appreciate it seems to hit us with a harder jolt than loss of liberty by those who have never had it long enough to GROW INTO IT so that it becomes a part of them.

KEEP this clear in your mind, for it is fundamental:
Communism didn't come to Czechoslovakia as the result of an ELECTION in which everybody got out and voted and communism won out.

There was a period of disturbance, and debate.
Then—
SUDDENLY—
ARMED MEN APPEARED BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

That was the end of it. It came just like that. Liberty was dead, and communism had taken its place.

HERE is a realistic thought:
Czechoslovakia tried to work with Russia. She accepted her position. She WANTED to throw in with us in an effort to rebuild Europe, but Russia said NO! So the Czechs stayed with Russia. They tried to work it out. They hoped against hope for the best.

The headlines tell us what came of it.
WE'D like to work with Russia. As a matter of fact, there is nothing we want more. For nearly two years, we tried earnestly to do it. We'd love to tackle the job again if we could see any hope of success.

But this much is becoming clear:
Anyone who is going to work with Russia must be AT LEAST AS STRONG AS RUSSIA. Czechoslovakia was little and weak. Russia is powerful. So what WAS Czechoslovakia NOW IS RUSSIA.

Let's heed the lesson.
Let's stay STRONG.

School Election Data
Time: Thursday, 2 p. m. to 7 p. m.
Where: Klamath Union high school, for voters in KUHS district, Shasta school.

Lakeshore gardens nursery, E. N. All residence, Midland road.
Purpose: To adjust boundaries of Klamath Union high school and county unit districts to take care of situations where high school pupils are attending schools not in district in which they reside.

Probe Demanded In Sale Of "Frozen" City Lots
Discovery that the city, against its own orders, has sold nearly all of the lots in an area, supposedly withheld from sale, prompted City Councilman Wendell Smith to demand an investigation at last night's council meeting.

Originally the lots were ordered "frozen" by the council until the state highway commission made a decision regarding construction of the proposed north entrance highway. The property is located along the sector set aside for a parkway, bordering the highway site in Hot Springs addition.

WEATHER

Max. (Feb. 21) 48 Min. 30
Precipitation last 24 hours .00
Stream year to date .11
Last year 3.38 Normal 7.74
Forecast: Partly cloudy.

Herald and News

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1948 Telephone 8111

Logging Train Blast Kills Two

Dixie Rebels Plan Ouster For Truman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AP)—Dixie rebels switched tactics today. Their aim now is to knock President Truman out of the democratic presidential nomination to avoid having to fight him within the party.

Their strategy is to try to convince northern democrats that (a) Mr. Truman has no chance to win in November and (b) the party should get another nominee less inclined to press for congressional action on anti-lynch, anti-poll tax and similar racial equality proposals.

Senator McClellan (D-Ark.) told a reporter:

"The time has come when the party may realize that President Truman can't win. Maybe then we can get another nominee."

McClellan and six other southern senators met yesterday with two of the protesting Dixie governors still in Washington.

The Southerners made clear they are willing to think about a great many other men, so long as the one finally picked is not publicly identified with the president's civil rights program.

They came up with some names. Senator Olin Johnston (D-S.C.) said Secretary of State Marshall would be just the man. The difficulty is, however, that Marshall has said flatly he will "never" run for public office.

McClellan, who says he doesn't think President Truman could win in November even with southern support, plugged Senator Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.) as a substitute nominee. But Byrd, who attended the meeting, asked that his name be kept out of that kind of talk.

Another revolt leader, who asked not to be identified, said the name of James F. Byrnes, former secretary of state, is on many of the Southerners' minds.

Fort Klamath Youth Hurt

Gene Page, 20-year-old Fort Klamath youth attending Oregon Vocational school, is in Hillside hospital today with serious head injuries received when he was thrown from his car as the machine struck a bridge late last night near the Bonanza junction.

Page and three other OVS students, Donald Wimer of Fort Klamath, Robert Doak and Dick Flury, both of Chiloquino, were returning home from a basketball game at Bly when Page's car struck an icy section of highway, skidded and the rear end of the machine struck the bridge. Page and Doak were thrown out of the car but Doak was uninjured. Page, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guss Page of the fort, has had head hurts, his nose was split open, and he has shoulder and back injuries.

His mother was at his bedside today and said his condition was improved. The car was damaged but the four youths were able to drive it into Klamath Falls. Neither Flury nor Wimer was injured.

Crashed Freighter Sprawls After Plunge



Truck Dives Off Highway

Two Washington truck drivers miraculously escaped death last night when their northbound diesel truck-trailer struck a rock, plunged over a 30-foot embankment and crashed into the Southern Pacific roadbed about a mile and a half north of Barclay Springs on highway 97.

John Edward Agar, Bremerton, Wash., driver of the truck, and his relief driver, Thomas R. Anderson, Seattle, who was sleeping in the relief compartment at the time of the accident, were badly shaken up but escaped with only a few scratches and bruises. Neither required medical attention.

The truck, a Peterbilt diesel freighter of the Los Angeles-Seattle line, crashed through the rock-guard wires which border the SP tracks in that area, snapping one pole and several strands of the wire, and came to rest across a siding and spur-line on the roadbed.

The accident occurred at approximately 9:10 p. m.

Agar said he was driving at a moderate rate of speed, northbound, when he hit a large rock near the center of the roadway with his left front wheel. The impact whipped the front axle to the left, and the machine skidded about 160 feet before leaving the pavement. Agar said the truck was upright when it plunged off the road, but rolled over on its right side after smashing into the tracks below. He said the truck clipped a passenger car in the rear fender as it skidded off the road, but the car evidently was not damaged. The driver did not stop.

Anderson, asleep in a small compartment just behind the cab of the truck, barely escaped being crushed.

A spectacular plunge over a 30-foot embankment sent this huge truck-trailer crashing onto the Southern Pacific railroad tracks just north of Barclay Springs late Tuesday night when the big machine struck a rock on the highway. The line of lights visible in the center of the picture is the lighted rock guard bordering the track. Both driver and relief driver of the truck were uninjured. In the lower picture, John Edward Agar, left, of Bremerton, Wash., driver, inspects the sleeping compartment where his relief driver was asleep at the time of the accident. At right is Ronnie Brown, reporter for The Herald and News.

Steel Man Says ERP Sure Way To Depression In US

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AP)—Steel man Ernest T. Weir said today the Marshall plan might lead to a depression here more serious than any threat of "collapse and communism" in Europe.

Yet, the chairman of the National Steel corporation contended, the administration is using "a tremendous propaganda campaign" to try to win quick approval for its multi-million dollar European recovery program.

Weir outlined his views in a statement prepared for house foreign affairs committee hearings on the plan.

"To those who are alarmed by the prospect of an expansion of Russian communism," Weir declared, "I say that a serious depression in the United States is the greatest thing to fear."

And one is sure to come, he said, if huge sums "wasted through inefficient spending abroad" are piled onto the "fantastic cost of government at home."

Weir said he was not making the point that all aid should be denied Europe.

But he said it should be on this basis:

"1. Continue urgent relief of human suffering by proven agencies.

"2. Then make a thorough, careful, further study of Europe's ability to fill its own needs; the practical possibility of effective use of our aid by Europe; and the effect of aid on the U. S. economy.

"3. Establish for this study and the administration of aid an independent agency free from political influence x x x.

"4. Appropriate at this time an amount no greater than the actual needs that are shown to be justified x x x.

"5. Make commitments for no more than one year at a time."

Weir asserted:

"I cannot subscribe to the president's position that precisely \$8,800,000,000 spent between now and July 1, 1949 will save Europe but that anything less will be money 'poured down a rathole.'"

The senate foreign relations committee has decided that \$3,300,000,000 should be spent on the program during the first 12 months ending March 31, 1949.

The house committee next week will begin its own closed door study of how much to allow.

Makes It 12



Deputy Sheriff Jack Franey became the 12th man to run for sheriff of Klamath county today. He seeks the GOP nomination.

Franey Files For Sheriff

Jack Franey, deputy for 12 years, came into the sheriff's race today, making an even dozen candidates seeking the office being vacated by Sheriff Lloyd Low.

Franey is a republican, the ninth member of his party to file for the nomination.

Also this morning came an announcement from Deputy Marion Barnes that he is not in the running for the office. He had often been mentioned as a likely candidate.

Deputy Franey has worked under Sheriff Low for the past 13 years and declares that he feels the experience he has gained qualifies him to seek election to the office.

He is a native of Wisconsin but has lived in Klamath county for 24 years and is well acquainted over the entire county. He is 48 years old, married, resides at 2030 Fremont, is a member of the Elks lodge and the 40-and-8 organization of American Legion.

3000 Phones Out Of Order

More than 3000 customers were without telephone service today as trouble occurred somewhere along the South Sixth street circuit of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

Disruption was noted at 6 a. m. and a crew dispatched to a point near the Midland road but at noon today, Manager Charles Seavey said the source of the trouble was not located and a cable crew had been summoned from Roseburg.

No toll lines are out and communication is satisfactory at all points south except in the south suburban area, Seavey said. Just when the source of trouble will be located was not learned early this afternoon, but Seavey observed that when it was found it would not take more than one hour to make necessary repairs. A wet cable is thought to have caused the disruption of service. Early today it looked as if the trouble would probably be found in an underground section.

Late Spud Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25 (AP)—Potatoes: 11 broken, 22 unbroken cars on track; arrivals, California 1, Idaho 5, Oregon 3, Maine 2; market about steady; Deschutes Russets No. 1 bakers delivered, \$6.65.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 (AP)—Potatoes: 31 broken, 36 unbroken cars on track; arrivals, California 1, Idaho 6, Utah 2, Colorado 1, by truck 4; market about steady; Idaho Russets No. 1-A, \$5.10-5.25.

Benes Gives In After 5 Day Holdout

PRAGUE, Feb. 25 (AP)—Communist Premier Klement Gottwald took over control of Czechoslovakia tonight with a new cabinet made up almost wholly of his supporters.

President Eduard Benes, who held out for five days against the communist battering ram, yielded to Gottwald's demands.

Gottwald said "reaction" was whipped.

He told a dense throng in the capital's business center Benes had capitulated in "something that was not in complete accordance with his wishes."

14 Resign
The president accepted the resignations of 14 members from the former coalition—12 who resigned last week in the deepening crisis and two social democrats who declined to go along today with the left wing.

The new cabinet retained Jan Masaryk, non-party man and son of Thomas Masaryk, the nation's first president, as foreign minister. Masaryk has preached cooperation with the west. But his retention was viewed here largely as an astute communist move trading on the name of the beloved father of his country.

The new cabinet includes 11 other communists besides Gottwald, two national socialists, two Catholic people's party members and one Slovak democrat, all of these friendly to the communist program. Thus the opposition in the minor parties is not actually represented.

Back to Power
The social democrats in the cabinet represent the party which has been a key to the current crisis. It swung back to the support of the communists this week after several months of estrangement, and with the switch, Zdenek Fieringer vaulted to power again.

Fieringer, a pro-communist who was deposed as party chairman last year, becomes minister of industry in the new cabinet.

Long before the official announcement from Brno, the presidential palace, the government radio announced that the president had capitulated to communist demands.

This announcement gave the impression that the last obstacle to iron communist control of the nation had been swept aside.

Some 50,000 persons clogged the business section of the city for a communist demonstration as the announcement came—in time to call off a general strike threatened by the communists.

Gottwald himself made the announcement.

"The decision was not easy," the premier said in an address over a radio.

Courtright To Be Transferred
B. G. Courtright, the superintendent of the Klamath Indian reservation, will be transferred to the Duck valley reservation, Utah, on April 1. The Herald and News learned today.

He will be replaced at Klamath by Ray M. Bitney, regional Indian service forester at Phoenix, Ariz. Bitney was formerly superintendent of the Red Lake reservation, Minnesota, spent a year at the Taholah reservation near Hoquiam, Wash., then returned to Red Lake. He entered the army and on return was sent to Phoenix.

Courtright, for more than 10 years superintendent of the Klamath, is a career with the Indian service. He has been recently on leave, but has returned to active superintendency which he will hold until relieved by Bitney in April. Courtright would make no comment on the change in answer to inquiry this morning, but information on the matter came from an unquestioned source.

Low Water Held Cause Of Explosion

Two men were killed and a third seriously burned early Tuesday morning six miles south of Canby, Calif., when a logging train locomotive of the Ralph L. Smith logging operations blew up.

Fatally burned in the explosion were Mike Link, 56, engineer, and Harold Miller, about 21, brakeman on the train. Another brakeman, Arthur Werner, about 27, remains in a critical condition at the Alturas hospital, his body badly burned by steam.

Train Stopped
The explosion occurred on a siding as the logging train had pulled to a stop at about 2 a. m., according to A. B. Hood of Klamath Falls, head of Ralph L. Smith operations in this area who left early yesterday for Alturas and Canby. Word of the tragedy reached Canby some time after the explosion when C. H. Parsons, locomotive fireman, walked three miles to the Big Lakes camp to summon aid. Parsons was blown from the cab but was able to walk. He is at his home in Canby suffering from shock but his condition is reported good. He has burns on the lower leg.

Link, Miller and Werner were moved to the Alturas hospital where Link died at 5:30 a. m. yesterday, and Miller succumbed at 10:30 a. m. Link was unmarried but young Miller is survived by a wife and child. Werner is also married, his wife, it is understood, is a sister of Harold Miller, the brakeman.

Cause of the accident is thought to have been low water in the boiler but an inquest is scheduled for later in the week on the return of District Attorney Charles Leeder of Alturas, now in Southern California.

At an early hour this afternoon the Alturas hospital reported Werner's condition still grave. He has deep steam burns about the face, above the waist and around the groin.

Hood said all members of the logging crew had been with the Ralph L. Smith operations for quite some time. Link is an old employe and well known in the Canby-Alturas sector.

Senate Okays Rent Proposal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AP)—The senate today passed by a voice vote the house-approved bill extending rent controls one month beyond next Sunday.

The measure now will be flown to the Caribbean for President Truman's signature. Mr. Truman is vacationing in that area.

The senate acted under a suspension of its rules making it unnecessary for the banking committee to pass on the bill.

Last night the senate passed its own bill to continue rent controls 14 months.

The present rent law is due to expire Sunday.

The house voted yesterday to keep it alive "as is" through March.

High State Officials Pay Visit To OVS



Governor John Hall (right) and Secretary of State Earl Newby (center) were surprised yesterday at the magnitude of Oregon Vocational school, which they visited. They are shown above talking to Jesse L. Carter, an auto mechanics student.