

INFLATION DANGER FLAGS WAVE

In The News

By FRANK JENKINS

A WASHINGTON dispatch tells us this morning that Herbert Hoover is coming back to Washington to push along a new drive to reorganize the government as a step toward economy.

His theme will be that excess spending and high taxes are threatening the existence of the Republic.

How far will he get with it?

Not very far (AT PRESENT) I'm afraid. The government passes spending laws and in the same seemingly miraculous manner the money is forthcoming. Prices go up, of course, but the demagogues tell us that is all the fault of the wicked profiteers, and we accept the explanation.

We love to see money spent, and so we go on voting for those who spend it.

AFTER reading the Hoover dispatch from Washington, you really ought to read another one that clicked off the teletype at about the same time. It comes from New York and relates that New York City's eight million people are facing a water shortage that has teeth that can AND WILL bite.

The bite, the story adds, is about due. The city's water commissioner says that UNLESS CONSUMPTION IS DRAMATICALLY CUT (either voluntarily or by RATIONING) water pressure in the mains will be dangerously down by January 1—which is only about three weeks off.

The reason pressure in the mains will be down is that there isn't water enough in the reservoirs.

FOR years the people of New York have been warned that they are using too much water. That if they go on using too much water there won't be enough left to go around.

But heck! Everytime anybody in New York turned the tap WATER CAME OUT. Wasn't that proof that all this talk about an impending shortage was just calamity croaking by a lot of old fossils who hadn't kept up with the world and so don't know that we are living in a new era when everything that anybody wants can be provided by the mere waving of a wand at the psychological moment?

Of course it was!

Doesn't water continue to run out when you turn the tap?

IT'S the old story of the boy who cried wolf. He kept crying WOLF and the wolf didn't come. So, in time, the people just laughed raucously when they heard him yelling his warnings and said: "Heh! heh! heh! That's just that sap kid blowing off again. THERE AIN'T NO WOLF."

But there was a wolf. It came in the course of time and ate everybody up.

I KNOW the stock moral to be false. It is this:

"Pay no attention to those who go around bellowing warnings of impending calamity with every other breath. They're PHONES!"

Well, there's a lot of truth in that. Those who cry warnings of something that isn't going to happen are just as reprehensible as those who tell us not to worry our little heads about what is going on—little papa knows what he is doing and it will all come out hunky-dory in the end.

We've had plenty of that kind. One school of politicians tells that if we put our chips on the other school of politicians we'll come up skinned and bleeding.

STILL—

The fact remains that New York's water is finally running short. The time can come when the government will run short of money.

PRESS-RADIO CLINIC

SPOKANE, Dec. 5 (AP)—The second annual college press-radio clinic, sponsored by the Spokane Press club will draw journalism students from 10 Northwest colleges and universities here Saturday. The clinic will be staffed by working representatives of Spokane newspapers and radio stations.

HST Swims, Pitches Horseshoes, Ponders 'State of the Union'

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 5 (AP)—President Truman, Missouri "side stroke" swimmer, barnyard-style horse shoe pitcher and famous before-breakfast walker, gave his vacation fancy full rein today.

Tanned and rested by a week in the Florida sunshine, the chief executive, the picture of a contented man, looked forward to more of the sunshine and water menu begun last week.

There's work ahead which, naturally enough, will be mixed with pleasure.

John F. Steelman, assistant to the president, may get in today, Presidential Press Secretary Charles G. Ross said.

His arrival will start putting people to work, including Truman himself, on the "state of the union" budget and economic messages going up to congress in January.

Suggestions
Steelman spent the week-end in Washington getting suggestions from cabinet officials and other top-ranking administrators. Most of these suggestions, Ross told reporters, have been put in "written form."

Truman apparently will ask in-

U.N. Seeks To Fill Tough Jobs

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (AP)

The United Nations, opening the final week of its fourth session today, is looking for men to fill three important jobs and may have a fourth post to fill before the session ends.

The posts are:
A U. N. high commissioner to administer Libya until that former Italian colony becomes an independent nation two years hence.

A commissioner to take over the European refugee problem early in 1951.

A director for the U. N. public works program in the Near East, to take Palestine Arab refugees off the dole and set them to work building roads and irrigation ditches.

Unless Israel is successful this week in fighting off a plan to put Jerusalem under international control, there will be a high commissioner post vacant for the Holy City.

The tough fight over the future of Jerusalem is scheduled to be resumed in the special political committee tomorrow.

Man Nabbed At Home Of Ex-Wife

LAKEVIEW—An ex-husband was in the toils of the law here again today, this time charged with breaking and entering the residence of his former wife, Mrs. Emma Hansen of South Lakeview.

Arrested Saturday night at the Hansen home was Ted Nobles. Arresting officers included Night Marshal Tim Murphy who had previously warned Nobles away from the house, and Deputy Sheriff Todd Shelton.

Nobles was in the county jail and may go directly to the grand jury in the light of past records. He was out on property bail provided 10 days ago by Ray Powell and Richard Claudon, following arrest on two counts, one of rape and the other of burglary in a dwelling, also the Hansen home. The man was tried on the rape charge involving his former wife three weeks ago but the jury failed to agree and he was held for re-trial. Bail was originally set at \$3,500, but later reduced and property bond supplied.

Nobles is a painter by trade. He and Mrs. Hansen, who took back vreed one year ago.

Work Pushed On New NW Air Defense

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—The air force said today it has cancelled or cut other projects in order to provide \$50,000,000 to speed work on the U. S.-Alaskan radar warning system.

Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of staff, made the announcement. He did not disclose what other approved projects had been eliminated or curtailed.

Air force officials said congress authorized an overall expenditure of \$85,500,000 for construction of the defense network. But, they said, the lawmakers stipulated that funds for the first phase must be diverted from money already appropriated for other air force activities.

The radar net is designed to detect enemy aircraft approaching the United States from the Arctic Northwest. Canada will cooperate by establishing a similar system with its borders.

German Storm Kills Ten

BERLIN, Dec. 5 (AP)—Ten persons were killed and 16 injured yesterday when winds up to 80 miles an hour toppled war-wrecked buildings across North Germany.

Five persons died in Berlin. Shipping was warned of the storm. More than 100 vessels sought shelter in the mouths of the Weser and Elbe rivers.

Hamburg was one of the hardest hit centers. The new 500-foot mast of the radio station there buckled and fell. Hundreds of persons were evacuated from their homes because of the danger of collapse.

17 Shopping Days Left

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—Six big groups may be the initial targets of a special house committee getting ready to investigate lobbying.

While the committee, headed by Rep. Buchanan (D-Pa.), has charted no fixed course and probably won't for several more weeks, Buchanan told newsmen it may be guided largely by a library of congress reports on lobbying.

"Especially Active"
This report, prepared by W. Brooke Graves of the legislative reference service, says:
"Some of the fields in which lobbies have been or are now especially active" include "the tariff lobby; the natural resources lobby in its various forms; the real estate group, battling against any kind of public housing program; the air lines lobby; the agriculture lobby, and the dramatic struggle between the representatives of the dairy interests and the oleomargarine manufacturers."

During the first six months of 1948, the report said, more than \$3,500,000 was spent on lobbying activities.

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Info Supports Officer's Russ Atomic Leak Story



BOY SCOUT OFFICIALS MAKE PLANS — Delbert L. Yantis, left, field executive of this area, is discussing Scout plans with the new Scout executive of the Modoc Area council, Harold J. Shearer. Shearer has recently begun his duties in Klamath Falls as executive, after serving four years as the number one assistant executive in Eugene.

Prober Lists Lobby Groups Under Fire

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New U. S. Senator For Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 5 (AP) Connecticut's new U. S. senator will be 50-year-old William Benton of Southport, who between 1945 and 1947 served as assistant secretary of state for public affairs—a big postwar job.

Benton, in an interview here yesterday, said he plans to leave for Washington shortly after Christmas to set up his senatorial office and find a place to live.

Benton, a self-described independent who supported the late Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Harry S. Truman, is to succeed Raymond E. Baldwin, a republican. Baldwin has resigned, effective December 19, when he becomes a Connecticut supreme court associate justice.

Bratton Vault Robbed Of 'About \$585'

Burglars entered the Bratton Packing company office, Kenosha, Wis., late last night and pried open the door of a walk-in vault to make off with about \$585.

Deputy Sheriff Marion Barnes said the burglary apparently took place after last night's snow which is evidenced by tracks.

The prowlers jimmied open a door to the building, then another to the office before getting at the vault. They took \$535 in currency and \$50 silver, leaving \$383 worth of checks tossed on the floor of the vault.

The burglary wasn't discovered until this morning.

Shirley Temple Says Husband's Acts Made Her Consider Suicide

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5 (AP)—Shirley Temple divorced John Agar today, testifying that her marriage to the handsome actor was turbulent. She accused him of paying too much attention to other women and of drinking too much.

Courtroom spectators gasped when the one-time child star testified that Agar's conduct once forced her to leave their house and consider "driving over a cliff."

She said that when she was five months pregnant Agar brought another woman into her bedroom and urged her to go out to a party.

Frequently, she said, he left her alone in night clubs while he danced with other women and kissed them.

Also, she declared, Agar frequently came home "very drunk" and with lipstick on his face.

Miss Temple, 21, and Agar, 28, were married in Beverly Hills, Calif., September 19, 1945, while Agar was in the air force. It was one of movieland's big romantic events.

They have a daughter, Linda Susan, 22 months.

Crater Rim Fall Injures Ashland Youth

A 17-year-old Ashland youth narrowly escaped death early Sunday afternoon when he lost his footing on the Crater lake trail, and slid almost 400 yards downward to break his fall in a clump of willows.

Nursing comparatively minor injuries at his home in Ashland is Norman Wyers, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Wyers.

Young Wyers was in a party of six Ashland young people who had gone to the lake early Sunday to toboggan. There was insufficient snow for the sport, and the six decided to walk down the rim trail to the lake's edge.

Slipped
About two-thirds of the way down, Wyers walked out on a point to look below when he slipped and started his slide down the mountainside. Rangers estimated his fall between 300 and 400 feet and said the clump of willows saved him from crashing onto the rocky slide below.

Wyers was able to get back on the trail and there two of his companions, Monte Robertson, 17, and Bill Allen, 18, brought him to the rim where rangers gave first aid. Wyers suffered a sprained left wrist, cuts on the right hand, and abdominal abrasions.

Others in the party included Norma Yorton, 17, Lois Melcher, 18, and Barbara Anderson, 17, all of Ashland.

Heavy Snow
RANGERS reported a heavy snowfall in the park started at 8:30 last night. Five inches had fallen up to 11 p. m., it came down lightly during the night but started snowing heavily this morning. There was a 9-inch fall on the ground at 10 a. m. and still coming down. All plows were out. There was an icy covering on the roads but snow packed today, rangers advised. Minimum temperature in the park this morning was 19 degrees.

GOP WOMEN MEET
SEASIDE, Dec. 5 (AP)—The council of Oregon Republican Women, Inc., convened here today.

U.S. Spending, Loose Credit, Factors Cited

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—Warnings of inflation are fluttering again in the capital, but most of the economic lookouts discount any immediate peril. They see fairly steady, prosperous sailing throughout 1950.

President Truman is not expected to revive his demands of a year ago for drastic "standby" anti-inflation powers.

This is despite the rise in credit to new peaks, the firming of prices, and the fall improvement in business and employment.

Government economists and some private experts report the revival of an "inflationary potential." They base the report mainly on heavy in-the-red spending by the government and on the new round of wage-and-pension increases.

Yet few of them expect a major price whirl in the next 12 months. Deflation?

The "deflation" is not over for some important industries. Many economists believe the long-range hazard is deflation.

A consensus of the forecasts might boil down to this:
1950 will be another year of high income and high production, on a level of prosperity not too unlike 1949 had not far below record-smashing 1948.

Inflation warnings have been uttered by two bank presidents and other witnesses before Senator Douglas' (D-Ill.) economic subcommittee. These have stirred speculation whether Truman will again seek controls over prices, wages, commodity trading and materials allocation.

The decision, if it is not already made, will come in the next month as the president prepares his annual economic message to the new session of congress.

Persons in close touch with White House planning say a new bid for controls is unlikely and, even if one comes, would be turned down by congress.

This view is voiced by Senator Flinders of Vermont, a republican manufacturer and a member of the senate-house economic committee who usually votes with the democratic majority.

"I don't see any reason for any inflation controls at all at this time. I think we are on a pretty even keel right now."

Possible Changes
The committee may recommend, however, some change in the federal reserve board's power over credit and interest—a topic which touched off last week's squabble between Secretary of the Treasury Snyder and Federal Reserve Board Member Marriner Eccles.

Eccles charged the treasury with having an "easy money bias." He said treasury's insistence on keeping interest rates low—so as to hold down the interest cost on the national debt—makes it easy to borrow money, encourages inflation, and prevents federal reserve from keeping a checkrein on credit.

Eccles, Snyder and Federal Reserve Chairman Thomas B. McCabe will battle that issue out in a secret session of Douglas' committee this week.

Inflationary
Meantime all hands admit that it is inflationary for the government to be pouring into the public's hands \$3,500,000,000 a year more cash than it takes away from the public. That is the estimated rate of red ink spending for this fiscal year, ending next June 30.

Another 1950 fillip will come in January when the veterans administration starts handing out \$2,000,000,000 in GI insurance refunds. Experience shows that most veterans spend such windfalls quickly.

STORM TROUBLE
BANDON, Dec. 5 (AP)—Telephone and power crews were busy today restoring service lines battered yesterday in a heavy rain and gusty windstorm along the Southern Oregon coast. Power failures were frequent in the Coquille, Coos Bay, Myrtle Point and Bandon areas.

BC Railway Tracks Under Heavy Guard

NELSON, B. C., Dec. 5 (CP)—The home of the Doukhobor who invited his followers to leave Canada earlier this year, was destroyed by fire on Sunday. Police believe it may have been the work of his own people.

The burning was the latest development in events which prompted a crackdown by the British Columbia government following the dynamiting of Canadian Pacific railway lines through the West Kootenay valley.

Extra Police
Police reinforcements, the number not officially disclosed, were sent to the district during the weekend. They include provincial police and Royal Canadian mounted police.

Hundreds of miles of railway track are under guard today. Railway speeders precede each train, and all bridges are under special watch.

BULB GROWERS MEET
EUGENE, Dec. 5 (AP)—The Pacific Bulb Growers association will have its annual meeting in Eugene tomorrow with about 50 delegates expected to attend, according to C. W. Wester, Eugene, in charge of arrangements. E. M. Blenis, Leaburg, is now president of the association, and C. W. Walker, Albany, is secretary.



FOLKS SURE EAT A LOT in holiday season, thinks Warren Mason, who operates the vegetable department of a downtown grocery. Mason is lugging in two boxes as he reads for the morning's business.