

Nationalist South China Blockade Irks Commies

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Hampson, chief of the AP's China staff, here discusses the Nationalist blockade of Red China. After more than four years in China, he is en route to Hong Kong, since the Communists have forbidden further correspondence from their territory.

By FRED HAMPSON
PUSAN, Korea, Dec. 13 (Delayed) (AP)—There are a few leaks, but the Nationalist blockade of Communist South China ports is keeping tonnage down to a trifling minimum. Shanghai's waterfront, once among the three or four busiest in the world, is so dead that when an occasional big ship sneaks in, it is top news, celebrated through the city.

I left Shanghai aboard the American ship Sir John Franklin of the Isbrandtsen line. Running in the ship was shelled by two Nationalist destroyer escorts which hover constantly at the Yangtze river mouth. Damage was not extensive, but the vessel was well-peppered with three-inch and smaller caliber missiles. That was on November 29.

The U. S. state department protested to the Nationalists. When the Franklin went out December 9, there was no trouble, although we were boarded by a destroyer escort. A boarding party inspected the cargo manifest and passenger list, and waved us on. Farther out another Nationalist warship ignored us.

Still farther out we sighted a small British freighter, waiting a chance to run in. Out beyond what appeared to be the three-mile limit was a British frigate at anchor. There have been as many as 11 ships at a time hovering off the Yangtze, trying to reach Shanghai, but in three weeks only the Franklin and a small British freighter from Hong Kong made it.

Ironically, the British ship, the Elsie Moller, was damaged by Communist shore guns on her way out. Apparently the Reds mistook her for a Nationalist ship.

Blockade Runners
Isbrandtsen liners have been the only consistent blockade runners and the only large ships to enter Shanghai without safe-conduct guarantees from the Nationalists.

through Chinese territorial waters, and that's where the blockade is. You are not able to protect these ships yourself yet and you won't waive your order so that others can protect them. Why is that?"

Good Question
He looked at me for several seconds and then replied: "I think that is a very good question."
"Will you arrange for me to see Chen Yi (military mayor of Shanghai) so that I may ask it of him?" I asked.
"I am sorry," he replied, "but I am a very small official. I cannot do it. But it is a good question."

Easy Dinner For Christmas Day

Put mother in on the Christmas fun. Urge her to plan the Christmas dinner around dishes easy to prepare. Keep her out of the kitchen as much as possible. That's a good formula for a Merry Christmas to all.

We asked the cooking experts of the Swift home economics laboratories to plan a "little work" family Christmas dinner for this column. Here it is:

Ham, of course, is one of the traditional meat selections for the Christmas dinner. And a modern tendered ham is one of the easiest meats to prepare, too, because there is little work to baking it in an open pan in a slow oven.

Hams for the Christmas dinner are available in two forms—(1) the familiar cook-before-eating type which, as the name implies, requires baking before serving; (2) the fully cooked ready-to-eat style which may be served cold as it is taken from the wrapper. If preferred, it can be merely heated through for hot service. Either style carries complete baking directions on the wrapper.

For this year's "little work" dinner, they suggest a whole or half boiled cooked ham. Hot spiced cider, cheese-spread crackers, celery, carrot sticks, olives, pickles, baked ham, cranberry gelatin molds, creamed potatoes, mushroom-stuffed onions, buttered peas, rolls, butter or fortified margarine, assorted cheese, fruit cake, chilled gravy, coffee.

The first course of hot spiced cider, cheese-spread crackers and relishes to be served in the living room requires little effort.

Cranberry gelatin molds for service on the ham platter are an advance job. Slices of canned cranberry jelly may be used as a garnish instead. Onion cups, par-boiled and stuffed with creamed mushroom caps, can be prepared and refrigerated overnight for reheating in the oven for about 30 minutes just prior to serving the dinner.

Cook the potatoes for the creamed potatoes the day before and cut into big cubes. Before serving, cover the cubes with a white sauce (canned cream of celery soup may be substituted) and bake in the oven for a half an hour while the onions are heating.

A dessert to gladden the eyes is a tray of assorted cheeses, little bunches of chilled green grapes and thin slices of fruit cake. Coffee served at table or in the living room, as you prefer, climaxes this easily prepared, memorable Christmas dinner.

This writer suggests whole fully cooked ready-to-eat style ham cold, just as taken from the wrapper. It carves easily, is wonderfully flavored and needs no heating to be



TELL IT TO SANTA CLAUS—Just whisper your order into the ear of old St. Nick at a San Francisco department store and your Christmas shopping is practically done. At top, Daphne Berlin places her order after dropping a quarter in Santa's slot. Santa's ear, wired for sound, records your order and mailing clerks get your merchandise on its way—along with the bill. Below, Mable Scott transcribes the recorded order onto a regular order form.

Fair Practice Law Not For Trade Schools

SALEM, Dec. 21 (AP)—The state fair employment practices law does not apply to vocational schools, Attorney General Neuner ruled yesterday.

The law makes it illegal for any employer, labor union or employment agency to discriminate against any person because of his race or religion.

Under the opinion, vocational schools can refuse to admit a person because of his race or religion.

De Haven, Payne Rift Widens

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21 (AP)—Gloria De Haven, wife of Actor John Payne, says their trial reconciliation has not worked out. She has reinstated her divorce suit.

The new suit, filed Monday, alleges cruelty, the same charge contained in her original action, dropped October 23. The actress reaffirmed a property settlement made March 10 during their original estrangement.

The couple married March 28, 1944, and have two children. Miss De Haven asks their custody.

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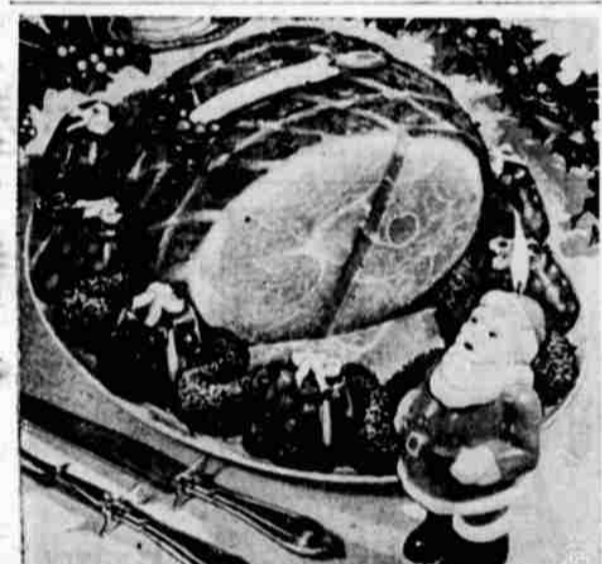
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Western Streams' Flow Declining

PORTLAND, Dec. 21 (AP)—The pollution control council of the Pacific Northwest was told here that the water flow in all Western streams is declining.

Arthur M. Piper, U. S. geological survey staff member, said the Columbia river flow has dropped 30 per cent in the past 70 years. He said there was reason to believe,

however, that early stream flow estimates were in error by a substantial margin. But he said the declines were reported as constant.

Delegates from Northwestern states and Canada today were to study uniform anti-pollution regulations.

The Supreme Court Chamber in Washington contains only 315 seats.

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