

VIET MINH ABANDONS OFFENSIVE

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
From Washington:
The cost of living in January rose on the government index to 115.2—the same as last September and just under the all-time high point.

How come, you ask, when declining prices of farm products, which are the basic foods, are presenting a problem that is worrying more or less everybody?

Well, it's like this:
Our farm policy is designed to keep prices of a list of basic foods and fibers (along with tobacco) high, regardless of supply and demand. As a result of this artificial support, these price-guaranteed commodities are persistently overproduced and huge surpluses of them are building up.

But—
Because of the support—
Prices to the consumer remain high, regardless of the surpluses. When prices to the consumer remain high, the cost of living remains high. It can't be otherwise.

But, you say, how about meat? It isn't protected by any kind of support or subsidy. Why does the price of meat remain relatively high?

Wait a minute.
Meat animals are finished on grain—especially corn. When the price of corn is kept artificially high by support the cost of meat animals fed on corn has to remain high. High-priced grain makes high-priced meat.

And so on all down the line.

Personally, I can see just in the argument that as long as prices of what the farmer has to buy are kept up by artificial aids—tariffs, fair-trade laws, etc.—it is only fair that prices of what the farmer has to sell should be kept up similarly.

But a crisis is approaching. Vast surpluses of these price-protected foods and fibers are accumulating. In time, the cost of maintaining these surpluses will break the back of the price-support system. When that time comes, the surpluses will be thrown on the market and the result will be price chaos.

Then agriculture will be in a mess. That's about the long and the short of it.

Speaking of messes and how they can be straightened out, let's turn to a situation that is closer home than the national farm problem.

Let's consider the Klamath central heating utility, which furnishes heat to the downtown area of our city. There was a time when it wasn't doing so good. Its equipment was getting out of date. Its mains were old and leaky, and it was practically impossible to get enough heat to its customers to meet their needs—especially in cold snaps.

The situation was admittedly bad.

About that time, something constructive was done. The heating utility was taken over by a hard-headed group of business men who were its customers. A lot of new money was put into it. Its equipment was improved. New mains were laid. New boilers were purchased. Efficient service was given.

Now the Klamath Heating Company—all locally owned by its customers—is completely out of debt. It doesn't owe a dollar, except for the current month's operating bills. It has just paid a six per cent dividend on its outstanding stock—33 a share on its par value of \$30 per share.
Everybody is happy. The customers get good heat and the investors get good dividends on their investment. That's what happens when problems that are bothering people are handled intelligently.

I'd like to add a word of personal commendation here. Things like that don't just happen. They have to be MADE TO HAPPEN. It takes PEOPLE to make things happen.

Glenn Lorenz was one of the people who made things happen to our city central heating utility. He took hold of it and worked like a horse on its problems. To my personal knowledge, he gave up his vacations during two winters to stay home and work on it.

I'll bet he's getting more real satisfaction out of the success that has come to the Klamath Heating Company than he ever got out of anything before.

Window Cleaner Runs Amuck

REIGATE, England (AP)—Cold rain began to spot the shop windows in Reigate's business district the other day and in 46-year-old George Orr something seemed to snap.

George is a window cleaner. Witnesses told the judge yesterday George grabbed a beer bottle and started down the main street on a dead run, smashing every plate glass window in sight.

By the time the cops got him cooled off, he'd reduced 234 pounds 18 shillings (\$937.72) worth of display windows to a mess of splinters.

The judge sentenced him to six months in jail for causing malicious damage.

KOREAN FIRE

SEOUL (AP)—Five Korean women burned to death today in a fire which destroyed a small Korean home. Police said the blaze started when a candle ignited a paper door.

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Egypt Said Still Pro Western

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Egypt's under-40-year-old bosses assured the Western Powers today that a new and younger man in the top job doesn't mean a turn against the West.

British and American officials in Washington and London already had figured that the removal of conservative, 63-year-old Maj. Gen. Mohamed Naguib from the Nile republic's presidency would not change Egypt's foreign policy of friendliness with the West and determination that British troops must quit the Suez Canal zone.

Rumors circulated in Cairo, however, that the West was concerned at Naguib's replacement as premier and chairman of the ruling military Revolutionary Council by 36-year-old Lt. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser. Maj. Salah Salem, fiercest of the council members and the national guidance minister, hurriedly summoned foreign correspondents last night to tell them:

"There will be by no means any change in our policy, either external or internal."

Salem said the republic's policies "have always been made by all members of the (revolutionary) council," the group of young army officers who led the revolt against ex-King Farouk and have dominated the government ever since. The council's membership remains unchanged, except for Naguib's removal.

Earlier the council had insisted that Nasser had been the real leader of the revolt against Farouk and that Naguib had been only a front man. Nasser, Naguib's vice-premier, also has been Egypt's chief negotiator in the now-stalemated British-Egyptian talks to settle the Suez Canal issue.

Salem said the revolution leaders from the start had agreed that no council member should have more power than another. The showdown with Naguib came, he said, when the President threatened to resign unless he was given veto powers on council decisions and the right to dismiss Cabinet members.

Other state officials included: Assemblywoman Pauline Davis, representing district two which includes this area; Stewart G. Wilson, executive secretary of the joint committee on agriculture; Charles Dick, chief of division of plant industry, California Department of Agriculture; W. M. Allen, associate nematologist, University of California; Romain Young, administrative assistant director of agriculture and Harold W. Poulsen, chief of the bureau of fruit and vegetable standardization.

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TAKES OVER EGYPTIAN HELM — Lt. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, 36, makes a smiling arrival at Revolutionary Council headquarters in Cairo for the session at which he was named new Egyptian premier. Nasser succeeded Maj. Gen. Mohamed Naguib, front man in the uprising which ousted King Farouk and made a republic out of Egypt.

Potato Growers, Officials Meet To Discuss Nematode

TULELAKE — Nematode control in the Tulare area was discussed with high level California state officials at a meeting held in the March Theater Thursday.

Present at the meeting were three members of the Joint Interim Committee on agriculture and livestock: Senator V. W. Hoffman, chairman; Assemblyman George Clark, district 31, comprising Merced and Madera counties and Assemblyman Lloyd Lowrey, district three, Yolo and Lake counties.

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Bricker Bill Faces Final Vote With Issue In Doubt

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate, after five weeks of controversy over proposed curbs of treaty powers, appeared to be at the point of decision today with the issue teetering in the balance.

Whether any proposed constitutional amendment would get the two-thirds vote required seemed likely to be decided by a hairline margin.

Sensors Knowland of California and Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, the Republican and Democratic floor leaders, said they believed final voting would come today.

The possibilities as the Senate reached the crucial point were three:

1. Passage of a three-point package plan proposed by Knowland and other Republican Senate leaders and already tentatively approved by majority vote. Knowland says it is acceptable to President Eisenhower.

2. Passage of a substitute proposal by Sen. George (D-Ga.) which the administration opposes, although not as determinedly as it did the starting point of the debate, an amendment offered by Sen. Bricker (R-Ohio).

3. Failure of either of these two proposals to muster the needed two-thirds margin. That would almost certainly shelve the whole issue for this year.

Approval would have to be followed by similar House action and ratification by 38 states to write the amendment into the Constitution.

Late yesterday the Senate defeated 50-42 a new section by Bricker, which he described as embodying the heart of his original proposed amendment.

Twenty-nine Republicans and 13 Democrats, most of them Southerners, supported Bricker. But 32 Democrats along with 17 Republicans and Sen. Morse (Ind-Ore) voted "no."

The next test, due today, is to be on the substitute offered by George for the tentatively approved plan of the GOP Senate leaders.

George and Johnson both predicted the substitute would get the simple majority needed to displace the GOP leaders' plan. But neither would claim that it could win the necessary two-thirds vote on final passage. Both said the result would be "very close."

A highly placed Senate Republican who asked that his name not be used conceded that the George substitute probably would win a majority on the first test. But he said he did not think it could get two-thirds.

The white-haired Sack, natty of dress and calm of manner, is in jail here, accused of first-degree murder in the death of his third wife last week.

The new investigation concerns Roger Sherman, 40, a salesman who died in a pool of blood in Sack's apartment house three years ago. It was called a natural death, an intestinal hemorrhage being blamed.

District Attorney John B. McCourt said he ordered the case reopened for investigation after learning of two things. One was that the examining physician noted bruises on Sherman's throat. The other was a report from Sherman's sister that she visited Sherman's apartment the day he was believed to have died, and found he was not there.

The body was found the next day in his apartment above Sack's. Physicians said death probably occurred at least two days previously. McCourt said the sister insisted someone must have brought the body in after she left.

Sack is accused of asphyxiating last week his third wife, the former Goldie Rosa Goodrich, 56, a Great Falls, Mont., school teacher he married in 1932.

In the past he also has been questioned in these cases. In 1923—the death of his first wife in an apartment fire in Chicago. In 1925—the gunshot death of his second wife in Chicago. Accused of first-degree murder, he was found insane, and spent until 1932 in a mental hospital.

1939—Seattle police held him 10 days, questioning him about the disappearance of a Monroe, Wash., housekeeper, and J. C. Young, a Seattle man who had rented a chicken farm to Sack. Neither person ever was found.

Sack has lived here since 1940. He acquired the apartment house in 1943.

Police Dig Deeper Into Sack's Past

PORTLAND (AP)—Police are starting investigation of still another death in the background of George F. Sack, 57, who in his life has been questioned now about the death or disappearance of six persons.

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ELTON SMITH was elected the second president of the Klamath County United Fund Committee at the first annual dinner meeting held Thursday evening in the Willard Hotel.

Approval Given For New Viaduct

The State Highway Commission has promised Klamath Falls construction of a viaduct over the South Sixth railroad tracks, establishment of one-way traffic on Main Street and Klamath Avenue and on Sixth and Seventh Streets. Construction will begin in the year starting July 1, 1954.

Announcement of the commission's plans was made this morning by Mayor Paul Landry after his return from Salem where he, Greer Drew and Kasper Moty, members of the Cross Town Traffic Committee, attended the highway commission meeting.

Landry also said that a final appeal to the commission for a truck route through Klamath Falls was denied. The commission stated that no funds were available for such a route, so construction will be up to the city.

A resolution is being drawn, to be read at next Monday night's council meeting, regarding the truck route and the recommendation that a measure be placed on the ballot for the May election authorizing a bond issue to raise money for the route.

The truck route, as proposed by the Cross Town Traffic Committee, will start in the vicinity of Copeland Lumber Yards on Main, go diagonally to Third, south on Third to Plum, north on Plum to Oak, to Spring and connecting with Highway 97 north.

Provisions for the West Side Bypass are being made by the State Highway Commission also, and definite location of the traffic route will be announced in about five months, the commission told the mayor.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity. Generally fair, through Saturday with some high clouds; in Cascades. High Saturday 47; low Friday night 24. High yesterday 54. Low last night 26. Precip last 24 hours 0. Since Oct. 1 10.61. Same period last year 10.49. Normal for period 8.10.

KLAMATH BASIN	
POTATO SHIPMENTS	
Shipped	Same Day
Today	Last Year
52 cars	56 cars
Total for season	
1953-54	1952-53
7875 cars	8674 cars

Rebel Army Blasted In Campaign

By MAX CLOS
SAIGON, Indochina (AP)—The French command said Friday Vietnamese rebels have abandoned their month-long offensive against the royal Laotian capital of Luang Prabang and are pulling back into the jungles to the north under heavy air attack.

The crack Communist-led, Division 308, which had threatened the little royal seat of temples and straw huts, suffered heavy losses in its campaign, the French said. The Vietnamese first started the pull-back last Tuesday, when they lifted the siege of the beleaguered fortress of Muong Sai, 55 miles northwest of Luang Prabang. Then, the attackers of the royal Bao River valley, the French said Friday, the enemy division had retreated northward 75 miles from Luang Prabang.

It was the second time the Vietnamese had staged a lightning assault on Laos, cutting across it and threatening the borders of Burma and Thailand. And it was the second time they had pulled back hastily without engaging in a single major battle.

Both campaigns were seen as intended more for political purposes than military. Luang Prabang has little or no strategic value, nor does the kingdom of Laos as a whole, the little sister in the associated states of Indochina along with Viet Nam and Cambodia.

This year's campaign was believed by many observers to have been timed especially for the Berlin conference of the Big Four foreign ministers. The Big Four agreed to discuss Indochina at the coming conference with Red China and other nations in Geneva April 26.

A French spokesman said Friday the Vietnamese withdrawal was "a great defensive victory for the French."

A communique said: "The offensive actions by our forces from Muong Sai and Luang Prabang have forced the Vietnamese to give up their objectives."

The Vietnamese had threatened to overrun the Luang Sai garrison until the French reinforced it with parachute troops. American-supplied bombers and fighters were reported Friday to be continuing the chase, bombing and strafing the retreating rebels.

Hope Seen For Forest Roads

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Ellsworth (R-Ore.) said Thursday that Budget Director Dodge appears "to like the general idea" of his bill to finance construction of more forest access roads.

Ellsworth said Dodge is directing aides to study the bill, which would start a five-year 125-million-dollar construction program to permit the maximum allowable annual cut in the nation's forests. The maximum is 6,000,000,000 board feet. The annual harvest have been running under five billion.

Ellsworth said the additional revenue from the higher cut would more than repay the cost of road construction. He estimated the cost at 25 million dollars a year, and the sales at 30 million.

The congressman said Dodge favored access road construction, but objected to the bill's provision that financing would be mandatory by treasury loans to the Forest Service.

That would run counter to current efforts to keep within the nation's debt ceiling, Dodge told Ellsworth.

Ellsworth said he is willing to amend the bill to require congressional approval of the appropriation instead of mandatory loans.



CHECKING THE WEATHER this morning as the 9 o'clock photographer happened by was Merle Hodge of Hendricks and Hodge Shell Station at Spring and Esplanade.

President, Directors For '54 Chosen By United Fund

United Fund President L. Ernest Taylor figuratively blew out the candle on the Fund's first birthday cake and bowed out to Elton Smith, 1954 Fund president, at the first annual dinner meeting Thursday night.

The nominating committee, headed by Truman Runyan, read the slate of new officers and directors which was accepted unanimously.

Officers for 1954 are Elton Smith, president; Roy Murphy, first vice president for a second term; Robert Smith, second vice president, also for a second term; Harold Ashley, secretary, second term; Mrs. Earl Sheridan, treasurer.

Twenty new directors for a three year term are: Harold B. Ashley, Warren Bennett, E. M. Chilcote, Arnold Gralapp, John Novak, James Pinniger, Myrtle Wimer (Fort Klamath), Martha McCollum, R. B. Zimmerman (Chiloquin), R. J. Luse.

Marion Foster, Walt H. Turner, Frank Blackmer, Rex M. Dye, Joe J. Thomas, William Tyner, Wilbur L. Kesterson, Harvey Denham (Merrill), Lou Drager (Merrill), O. R. Samples (Gilchrist).

The program for the evening began with presentation of the colors by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, all United Fund agencies; pledge of allegiance, invocation by Lt. Dallas Madsen, Salvation Army; introduction by President Taylor.

Elton Smith, 1953 treasurer, reported a net income to date January 1 of \$109,008.66. Gross income of the drive was \$117,843.47 — \$8,280.47 more than the \$109,563 quota. Pledges received since the end of the campaign totaled about \$10,000 with more expected at the end of the first quarter in April, an indication that the payroll deduction plan is successful.

Rex Dye, 1953 campaign chairman, was given special recognition. He reminded the group that success was only half won: the test is whether the Fund sustains interest, enthusiasm and support in future drives.

Featured speaker for the evening was G. R. Durham, executive director of the Oregon Chest, whose topic was "The Soul of the City."



SMILES WERE THE ORDER OF THE EVENING as United Fund-ers officially climaxed the 1953 drive and dedicated themselves to the 1954 at the first annual dinner meeting Thursday evening at the Willard Hotel. Discussing the successful '53 drive are, left to right, G. R. Durham, executive director of the Oregon Chest and featured speaker of the evening; Mrs. L. Ernest Taylor; Rex M. Dye, 53 campaign chairman; "Ernie" Taylor, first Klamath County United Fund Committee President.