

DESPERATE FRENCH HOLD FORT

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Weary and outnumbered French Union forces are continuing today their desperate defense of beleaguered Dien Bien Phu. . . . Nearly every hour, the French have had to face heavy Communist attacks. . . . These heavy thrusts have carried the communists to within a mile of the fortress center. . . . In the stand-or-die battle, the greatly outnumbered garrison has been launching desperate counterattacks for the past 48 hours.

Some three years ago, it was OUR BOYS IN KOREA who were facing myriads of communist Chinese pouring over the Yalu river from Manchuria. The situation is the same now as it was then, except that it is the Frenchmen who are holding the line.

If they are trampled into the bloody mud, communism will have gained face in Asia. If the communists are stopped, as they were in Korea, communism will have lost face in Asia—as it did in Korea.

That's about the long and the short of it.

Recurring thought: If the FRENCH GOVERNMENT were only as good as these Frenchmen who are selling their lives so dearly in Indochina, the free world would be a lot safer.

Grave question: Is the situation in Asia getting better or worse?

Well, if we were still involved in a battle to the death in Korea, while the French are involved in their battle for life in Indochina, the situation would be WORSE. I think we can all agree on that.

On the home front, Senator John Williams of Delaware offers this statement:

"The lawmakers in congress who support major tax cuts this year must be equally willing to back an equivalent increase in the national debt limit. . . . It should be made clear to the people in this election year that any tax cut not offset by a decrease in spending must be paid for with borrowed money." In this screwball election year (all election years are screwball) that practically rates as man-bites-dog news.

It may be that in all the ruckus you've forgotten this John Williams. By way of refreshing your memory, he's the small-town grain dealer who by some freak got elected to the U. S. senate from Delaware in 1946 and promptly started in applying to his new job the same hard-headed, sensible rules that had made him successful in the grain business in his small home town.

You will perhaps recall that one year he sent in a check for his income tax and no long afterward got jumped to PAY AGAIN. He started slouching in a quiet way and in the course of time, with very little help from anybody, he turned up some nasty scandals in the internal revenue bureau.

As a result of his dogged, quiet never-say-die work, the scandalous situation in the internal revenue bureau got a badly needed airing.

If we had fewer high-powered orators, ready to blow off at a moment's notice in any direction that promises VOTES, and more quiet, efficient ex-grain dealers in our government, we'd probably be a lot better off.

One thing I'm reasonably sure of is that we have too much glamor and showmanship in our government and too little hard common sense.

Truck Loses Tiff With Cow

Operated by Alayious Vincent Monzel, 2669 Radcliffe, a pickup truck was badly damaged about 9 p.m. Friday, when it collided with a cow at the intersection of Summers Lane and Highway 56.

The driver reported to Oregon State Police that the cow walked onto the highway in front of him and that he was able to slow down to about 30 miles per hour before striking the animal.

The pickup was towed away but "bossy" walked off under her own power and was last seen in a field adjacent to the baseball park.

Weather

FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity: Mostly cloudy with a few showers tonight; occasional showers Sunday. High Sunday 59; low tonight 35. High yesterday 51; low last night 29.

LETTER WRITERS

TOKYO — Two high-ranking officers in Japan's wartime Imperial Army have turned from the sword to poetry for a living.

Col. T. Sugaya and Col. R. Kurimoto write love letters, in English or French, for a fee. Their rates are 42 cents for a letter of routine emotion; 55 cents for extreme passion.

KLAMATH BASIN POTATO SHIPMENTS

Shipped Today 35 cars 24 cars

Total For Season 9707 cars 10,738 cars

The Klamath Falls News

Price Five Cents—12 Pages

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Telephone 8114 No. 2867



LOUIS KALINA, acting mayor of Malin, longtime fire chief and owner of Kalina's, Malin's first mercantile store, shows the latest 1954 chapeau, worn by volunteer fire fighters, to the Governor and Mrs. Patterson, during their Malin visit to the fire hall.



TULELAKE REPUBLICANS met for a chat with Mrs. Paul Patterson when the Governor's car stopped at the M. A. Bowman office in Merrill. Seated (l to r) Mrs. Joe Cox, wife of a Tulelake sheepman and rancher, and daughter Barbara, Tulelake; Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. O. V. Reeves, Reeves Hardware, Merrill. Standing, Mrs. Bill Nelson, whose husband, member of a pioneer family, also farms at Tulelake.

Ike Plans For Message Told

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower will visit with the American people Monday night via television and radio to talk about their "fears" and "concerns."

White House press secretary James C. Hagerty announced the plans Friday, indicating at the same time that one of the topics will be Communism in America.

Hagerty said Atty. Gen. Brownell will go before the TV cameras and radio microphones Friday night with a talk related to the President's Brownell to discuss a legislative program to deal with Red subversion.

Hagerty said the President will tell the people Monday night that he has asked Brownell to give them a detailed report on what the Justice Department and the courts have done toward "breaking up" the "Communist conspiracy in our country."

Hagerty indicated, too, that the President would also touch on fear of Russia, anxiety over economic conditions and other foreign and domestic problems.

Eisenhower is expected to devote only a passing mention to the hydrogen bomb. Recent American hydrogen tests in the Pacific have caused ripples of alarm around the world.

The NBC, CBS and AEC television networks—possibly joined by Dumont—will carry the President's talk from 5:30 to 6 p. m. PST. The NBC, ABC and Mutual radio networks will broadcast the speech at the same time. CBS radio will carry it from 7:30 to 8.

Hagerty said Brownell will speak from 6 to 6:30 p. m. PST, Friday and will discuss the activities of the Communist Party above working of Red front groups as well.

One official source said the Brownell speech "might" contain new charges about Communists in government before the Eisenhower administration came in, but that was not certain.

Union Demands Rejected At Latest Meeting With PIRC

At a meeting held here yesterday between a PIRC employers committee and an IWA-CIO negotiating committee, the employers committee reiterated its refusal to recommend cost increases.

The employers again rejected the union demands for (1) a wage increase of 12 1/2 cents per hour across the board, (2) standardization of job names, titles, and pay coupled with a job analysis and evaluation program to be paid for by employers, and with future centralized union control, and (3) a third week of vacation with pay after five years seniority.

Commissioner George Walker of Portland, of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, presided over the session.

C. L. Irving, employer spokesman, said: "There has been no change in the economic picture facing the lumber industry that would cause us to agree to recommend an increase in labor cost. Rather, the reverse is true. Price and realization indexes have continued their steady drop. Increased costs would increase unemployment."

Commissioner Walker recessed negotiations, subject to call. Indications are that no meetings will be scheduled until after the IWA strike vote is tallied on April 15. IWA members have been voting on "authorizing the Northwest Regional Negotiating Committee to call a strike in the event it becomes necessary to secure a settlement of the points in negotiations." The voting is to be completed by April 10.

In addition to Klamath Basin Pine Mills in Klamath Falls, 14 lumber companies in southern and central Oregon and northern and central California are represented by PIRC in current negotiations.

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GOVERNOR AND MRS. PAUL PATTERSON, stopped for a brief visit at the Mt. Laki, Community Church, enroute to Merrill and Malin Friday morning, where they visited with groups of supporters and friends. The tour took them through the farming area of the southern part of the basin. The trip followed breakfast at the Willard Hotel attended by chairman and co-chairman of the Klamath County Central Committee, the Klamath County Republican Club, the Paul Patterson for Governor Committee and Oregon legislators.

Governor's Visit To Basin Ends With Dinner Speech

Governor Paul Patterson, accompanied by his wife, made a brief tour of the Malin-Merrill area yesterday prior to making a talk before the combined Kiwanis and Rotary clubs at noon and a political address last night at the Willard Hotel attended by the public at large.

A breakfast started the day off when the governor met with Republican representatives from the Klamath County Central Committee, the Republican Club and the Patterson for Governor Committee. Representatives Hank Semon and Ed Geary were also present at the meeting.

Following the breakfast the party left for a tour of the Merrill, Malin area accompanied by Joe Kittredge and Elmer Lemler and Wyatt Padgett.

Patterson talked briefly with constituents at the M. A. Bowman office in Merrill, and paused again to discuss farm problems and outlooks with a group gathered there.

Returning to Klamath Falls the governor addressed a joint meeting of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, where he said:

"The age of the Pacific is here; future history will be written around the Pacific, not the Atlantic."

The governor said that because of the Westward trend, Oregon must prepare itself to assimilate the people that will eventually come as resources of the Far East turn populations here for a place to live.

He credited the Oregon Development Commission for its attempts to interpret the resources of different parts of the state in terms of the needs of industries considering locations here.

"New industry," the governor said, "will take the peak of employment in August and raise the February low, thus providing year-round employment."

He looks forward, he said, to an increase in food processing and to additional new manufacturers from the East who will settle closer to the new markets being provided.

Governor Patterson cited the importance to our economy of the "tourist industry," but encouraged

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Tidal Wave Of Rebels Attack

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — The defenders of Dien Bien Phu beat off wild new Vietminh attacks Saturday. They held the Communist-led rebels at bay a mile from the heart of the besieged dust bowl fortress.

French counterattacks, backed by tanks and heavy artillery fire, shattered every Vietminh mass assault trying to crack the key defenses of the fortress, where many fighters have gone for five days without rest.

(In Paris, the French News Agency said Vietminh regulars who invaded Cambodia Friday, captured two cities — Voecne Sai and Siem Pang — and were heading on for Stung Treng, on the Mekong River.)

A brief French communique said repeated Vietminh attempts last night to break through the last-ditch defenses had failed. In tidal waves of infantry, braving murderous French fire, the Communist rebels had pushed to within a mile of the fortress center in some places.

The outnumbered French Union garrison clung desperately to a narrowing patch of trenches, bunkers and barbed wire. But they were in grave danger. The position's outer defenses were wrecked, all its fortifications riddled by Vietminh artillery which poured in endlessly.

Vietminh casualties soared as their Communist commanders hurled a human sea of attackers against Dien Bien Phu, trying to engulf it for the first major Red victory in the Indochina War. A French army source estimated that the Vietminh have lost 20,000 killed or wounded since they swept down on the fortress in mid-March. The French claimed 7,000 of those were killed.

The French have not announced their own losses.

(In Paris, where such information is sifted and released, officials said the defenders of Dien Bien Phu had suffered "heavy" losses, but light by comparison with those of the enemy.)

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