

GULF COAST TANKER EXPLODES

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Poor old Dulles is in more hot water. Now it's the British that are in his hair over his "brink of war" statement in a recent magazine interview. The venerable London Times says of his explanation of what he said in the interview that his "footwork was good," but it doesn't think much of what he had to say. The equally ponderous Manchester Guardian says: "Dulles has again put both left feet forward."

In the olden golden days when Britannia ruled the waves she sent her fleet boldly to any spot in the world where trouble threatened and told the troublemakers bluntly to call it off or she'd blow 'em out of the water.

But in these more degenerate days anything that sounds like a firm policy upsets her no end.

I think myself that if Dulles talked less he'd be better off.

But in a situation like this cold war you just HAVE to let troublemakers know you have guns and if compelled to pull 'em you're GOING TO SHOOT.

That's the only language communists understand.

Public officials, of course, face a tough situation.

If they don't talk enough, we accuse them of bottling up the news. If they talk too much, we jump down their throats because of what they said.

Theirs is a rugged life.

Let's jump from politics to economics.

The president of the National Association of Home Builders applauds today the reinstatement of 30-year, federal insured mortgages. But he says DOWN PAYMENT requirements should also be reduced.

On the other side of the fence, a New York mortgage banker describes the return to 30-year mortgages as "a temporary shot in the arm which will have inflationary effect." Our economy, he thinks, is again approaching the point where inflation is something to be feared.

Let's look at the housing business from this angle:

When building is controlled by the market—that is to say, by supply and demand—private individuals use their own judgment as to whether to build more houses for sale. If they think there is a market for them, they go ahead and build them and take their chances on selling them. They're just out, and that's that. The point is that in a housing market controlled by supply and demand no more houses will be built if the people who are putting up the money think the houses can't be sold at a profit.

But—When the government is the controlling factor in the housing business POLITICS ENTERS THE PICTURE.

In this particular instance the National Association of Home Builders wants more houses built on smaller down payments and with longer time to pay out so that its members can build and sell more homes and make more money.

After all, it's the GOVERNMENT that is putting up the money—and if it turns out that too many homes have been built and they can't be sold at a price that will yield a profit—or break even—IT'S ONLY THE GOVERNMENT THAT LOSES.

And—if in the meanwhile everybody has made a lot of money building and selling houses on government credit, what difference does it make if the government DOES lose in the transaction? It's only government money anyway.

That's one of the ironies with big-government-run-everything.

Polio Radio Show Slated

The Teens Against Polio will strike another blow at the dread disease when they present "The Avalanche of Dimes" over radio station KFIJ Wednesday.

The show will provide the public with an opportunity to pledge their dimes and dollars to the annual Block of Dimes planned this Saturday by the Klamath Falls Exchange Club in downtown Klamath Falls.

The broadcast will take place during the time usually devoted to the Klamath Sports Album—5:15 to 5:45 p.m. and will be staged by members of the Teens Against Polio drive Dwan Epps and Roger Ferrier.

Nine members of the Klamath Union High School Music Department will be present to sing popular songs and the public will be invited to call in a bid for a vocal number. Any bid will entitle the public to hear the song and a space will be reserved on the Block of Dimes next Saturday for the bidder to redeem his pledge.

Details of the broadcast will be handled by the Exchange Club with Bill Canton and Wes Guderian taking the phone calls. Ralph Weiss, Ed Lyon, Bill Cooley, Bob Rutter, Art Coles, Noel Flynn, Vane Caley and Dick Kiwallis will announce the bids.

Flood Area Residents Start Work

YUBA CITY (UP)—Nearly 3000 persons who evacuated a low-lying section of Yuba City during last weekend's flood threat began returning to their homes today.

Civil Defense officials gave them permission to return after Army Engineers reported the rain-swollen Feather River had receded nearly seven feet in 24 hours. It was expected to keep dropping at the rate of five feet a day.

At one time, the river was within a foot of overrunning the soggy levee at Shanghai Bend, just south of Yuba City. This levee gave way Dec. 24, taking the lives of 34 persons.

Since the Christmas week floods, Army Engineers worked fervently to patch up the levee. Last weekend, heavy rains again caused the river to rise and officials ordered the evacuation of one-third of Yuba City.

Many of the residents still had not finished cleaning up and repairing the damage from the December flood when they had to pack up and leave for a second time.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the 34th and 36th victims of the Christmas flood were discovered yesterday. The body of Mitsuma Yokohari, 34, a farmer, was found south of the city limits. The body of Robert Bartlett, 25, was recovered later in the day. He was last seen climbing to a tree southwest of town while attempting to flee the flood waters.

The weatherman forecast light rain north of San Francisco and Sacramento today, but the disturbance held no new flood threat to Northern California.

Four persons lost their lives in Northern California last weekend. Damage in Marin County alone was estimated at a half-million dollars.

Elsewhere, the roads to Stinson Beach and Del Norte in Marin County were still closed to all but emergency traffic as residents of those towns began clearing away debris left by mudslides.

An emergency water chlorination service was operating in Bolinas to give the community a safe supply of water.

The Red Cross set up offices in Tamalpais Valley, on the bay side of Marin, where 300 persons fled Saturday, and in Bolinas to interview those who suffered flood damage.

Residents of the Merced area announced plans to send cattle to replace livestock lost by farmers in the Yuba City area. The first shipments are expected to be made in April.

A few miles downstream from Yuba City, Army Engineers were concerned about the fate of their one million dollar dredge, Papoose that was being battered by 15-mile-an-hour river currents.

The dredge, called in last month to close a break in the levee, was secured by cable to a double anchor. Two tugs were standing by in case the cable parted.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross sent a helicopter from San Francisco with food to the isolated Travis Hunting Lodge in the rugged Bald Mountain area of Mendocino County, 11 miles north of Covelo. Seven persons, including a 10-month-old baby, have been marooned there since the Christmas floods.

Living on the ranch are Mr. and Mrs. William T. McCullough, their son and his wife, their baby granddaughter, Janice, and two employees. Owing to the washout of a bridge, they have been unable to leave since Dec. 21.

Peddicord Pleads Guilty

PORTLAND (UP)—The defense attorney entered a plea of innocent by reason of insanity, but then the accused man took matters into his own hands.

William Clarence Peddicord, 38-year-old blind man accused of bombing the home of Eugene and Frank deWey in a \$50,000 extortion plot last April, said he had been thinking things over and had come to his senses.

"I want to plead guilty and be sentenced immediately," he told the surprised court of Circuit Judge Paul R. Harris.

His attorney, Nicholas Granet, said this caught him by as much surprise as anyone.

Finally Judge Harris said he would accept only the plea of innocent by reason of insanity.

A plea is to be entered later by Mrs. Joyce Keller, 28, Peddicord's sister-in-law, who is accused of helping him in the plot.

Polio Dance

Tickets are now on sale over Klamath County by the Teens Against Polio for the Polio Dance Saturday in the Klamath Falls Auditorium, announced Wally Wunder, teens' chairman. The dance is for adults and teenagers with music by the Starlighters. All proceeds will go to the March of Dimes drive. A dance queen will be selected from the county high school selling the most tickets per capita. She will be crowned at the dance.

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Douglas Airs Huge Growth At Hearing

ROSEBURG (UP)—Douglas County's tremendous growth in recent years was reflected in more than a dozen reports from cities and other local taxing districts at a public hearing by the Legislative Interim Committee on Local Government in Roseburg Tuesday night. All were suffering from growing pains.

Most recommendations made by representatives of the cities and districts called for planning and coordination to avoid future and eliminate present overlapping of taxing areas and to allow orderly expansion.

Several recommendations called for legislation preventing incorporation or formation of taxing districts in fringe areas of already incorporated areas which might cause unnecessary duplication.

Only one request was made for monetary aid. Supt. M. C. Deller of the Roseburg school district asked that school districts share more in national forest and rewilded lands money.

He and the other two men who spoke on school needs requested an equalization formula for the state's school districts.

Two of the most sweeping changes were called for by John Fleck, representing the Douglas County Realty Board, and County Commissioner Frank Ashley. Fleck asked for legislation which would transfer some of the tax burden from real property—possibly to personal property. Ashley called for consolidation of taxing districts such as flood control, fire, sewer and water and dog control under a single board of commissioners in the county.

On Jan. 23, the committee will meet in Corvallis. Then, on Feb. 6 and 7, it will be in Portland.

Tentative dates of March 1 in Medford and March 2 in Klamath Falls were also set. The committee also decided tentatively to have two hearings on the coast, one possibly at Coos Bay and the other at an undetermined site farther north. It is also considering a date in Eastern Oregon.

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The two ambassadors (Johnson and Wang Ping-nan for Red China) should continue their talks to seek practical and feasible means for the realization of this common desire.

The spokesman said that "our side absolutely cannot accept" the idea that the United States has "the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense" in the Formosa area.

Red China claims Formosa and maintains that its "liberation" is an internal matter.

The spokesman reiterated that Red China "will continue to strive for the liberation of Taiwan by peaceful means, so far as it is possible."

But he added that Formosa cannot possibly be a subject of the Sino-American talks at Geneva.

A Peiping broadcast quoted a Foreign Office spokesman as saying the proposal was made Jan. 12 and was the same as one turned down by Red China last November.

At the same time, Peiping let loose a series of blasts at Secretary of State Dulles. The spokesman was quoted as saying Dulles "even renewed the clamor for an atomic war against China."

Red China broke the secrecy which both sides have been observing on the substance of the protracted talks at Geneva, "so as to set forth the stand of the Chinese side," the spokesman said.

Peiping gave the text of the American proposal, which it said was submitted by Ambassador Alexis Johnson at Geneva, as follows:

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A CAPACITY AUDIENCE at the Newell Elementary School, last night, greeted Lt. Gov. Harold J. Powers, of California, guest speaker at the annual membership banquet of the Tulelake Growers Association. Places were marked for 275 members and guests. The state official was introduced by Floyd A. Boyd, lifelong friend. Seated at the speaker's table were (left to right) Ben Reimer, retiring president of the association, Lt. Gov. Powers, Mrs. Floyd A. Boyd, Floyd A. Boyd and members of the board of directors and their wives.

Red China Snubs Truce Plan

TOKYO (UP)—Red China Thursday rejected a U.S. proposal made at Geneva that both sides fore-swear the use of force in the Formosa area.

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California's Needs Told By Powers

TULELAKE (UP)—California's rapid population growth since the gold rush days, the change from an agricultural to an industrial economy and the attendant problems that confront state legislators in meeting the needs of an expanding state were outlined last night by Lt. Gov. Harold J. Powers of California to a capacity audience at the Newell elementary school. Powers spoke at the annual meeting of the Tulelake growers association.

California, now operating on a balanced budget of a billion, 500 million dollars annually will continue to operate throughout the fiscal year 1955-56 without an increase in taxes the official predicted.

He emphasized the need for a "pay as you go government" and stressed the importance of the individual in decisions made by the state legislature.

"To preserve sound principles in government," Powers stated "there must be a decentralization of power in Washington and recognition of local governments."

"As long as we keep government close to the people, so long will we have freedom of the press, freedom of speech, a government for the people and by the people."

The state of California now has a population of 13 million. He listed as a major concern of the state officials, the conservation of water resources and distribution of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural needs. Fifty-five per cent of the state's population is centered in seven counties that now have only two per cent of the state's water resources.

The immediate problem is the conservation of 60 million acre feet of water that is annually going to waste.

High income in the state is now being partly derived from industry which in the past decade has taken the lead over agriculture. Together, the two will demand increasing water provision from a source yet to be determined.

The lieutenant governor, owner of a ranch in Surprise Valley of Modoc County, where he was raised, has a long record of political service and has worked with representatives of the Tulelake community on numerous local legislative proposals. He was introduced by Floyd A. Boyd, Tulelake, lifelong friend of the official.

Powers' speech was broadcast over station KFLW. Ben Reimer, retiring president of the Tulelake Growers Association, presided at the meeting. The invocation was given by the Rev. William Hodge of the Newell Baptist Church.

NEW MEMBERS Incoming members of the board of directors, Lester Turnbaugh, president, Lowell Kenyon, Earl Schultz, John Baley Sr., Ben Reimer, Holdovers and George Voss, newly elected chairmen of committees and distinguished guests were introduced.

Recognition was also given to the past presidents of the association, Chester J. Main, Sam Anderson, Ivan Rose, E. J. Duckett, Charles K. Weiss, an Buckingham and Ben Reimer.

A musical and dance program was presented. The dinner was prepared and served by the guild members of the Tulelake Community Presbyterian Church.

Clifford Jenkins, manager of the growers association was in charge of arrangements. The meeting was attended by 275 members and guests.

The Iranian proposed that the Big Three call for payment of compensation to Syria for her 56 soldiers killed in the attack and for property damage. He also proposed that they delete a mention of Syrian interference with Israeli activities on the Sea of Galilee, which lies within Israel near the Syrian frontier.

Israel, which lost six men in the raid, has said that Syrian firing on her fishing and police boats on the lake provoked the attack.

The Big Three revised their resolution to say that Syrian interference with the Israelis "in no way justifies the Israeli action."

Delegates said one further change in the works would concern a follow-up to see how the council's efforts to prevent further attacks were being carried out.

NAMES SUPPRESSED LONDON (UP)—The British Press Council refused last night to suppress the names of persons under 30 who figure in homosexual court cases. The Council of Magistrates Assn. had suggested newspapers omit names to prevent young persons in court cases from being approached by older, convicted homosexuals. The press council, which acts as a "conscience" of Britain's newspapers, objected to the idea.

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—The Ed Sullivan Story won't be filmed this season, Warner Bros. studio said yesterday. Sullivan, Broadway columnist and star of a television variety show, can't arrange his commitments to absent himself for the eight weeks required to film a story about his life, the studio said.

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Stoph, 41, a former interior minister, was considered an almost certain choice to head a new Defense Ministry.

His appearance was an indication of the well-drilled Barracks Police, a 110,000-man fighting force which was organized in 1949 by Soviet occupation officials and built on the basis of the new full-fledged armed force.

The spokesman said that "our side absolutely cannot accept" the idea that the United States has "the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense" in the Formosa area.

Red China claims Formosa and maintains that its "liberation" is an internal matter.

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Big Three Toughen Policy

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UP)—The United States, Britain and France were expected to make last-minute changes today to toughen their proposed U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its Dec. 11 raid on Syrian posts along the Sea of Galilee.

The sponsors of the Western proposal hoped to win approval of their amended resolution at a council meeting this afternoon.

The Big Three worked out the revisions in talks here yesterday with Iranian Delegate Djalal Abdo. Informed delegates said Abdo wanted the Western resolution stiffened to please Syria and to "remove further ground for Soviet propaganda" among Arab countries.

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Johnson Named Finance Head

SALEM (UP)—Robert L. Johnson, 37, Oregon's first civil service director and now secretary of the Legislative Interim Committee on Local Government, was appointed by Gov. Paul Patterson Thursday as state director of finance and administration.

Johnson will succeed Harry S. Dorman, who is retiring on March 1.

Johnson did the survey work for setting up Oregon's civil service system in 1946, and then stayed on as the first civil service director. He took a leave of absence from that job to work for the Legislature's Commission on Reorganization of the State Government.

That reorganization commission set up the state Department of Finance and Administration, which took over all of the state's budget, purchasing, printing and office management functions.

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Blast Kills Three; Fire Razes Docks

LAKE CHARLES, La. (UP)—Cities Service Oil Co. workers Wednesday wearily battled swirling flames and choking smoke that may conceal the bodies of at least 16 seamen in a blazing tanker.

Loaded with a full cargo of 130,000 barrels of gasoline, kerosene and fuel oil, the tanker Salem Maritime exploded late Tuesday night. A crew of 41 was believed assigned to the vessel. Cities Service officials did not know how many were on board at the time of the blast.

PIECES OF BODIES Firefighters picked up pieces of three bodies Wednesday morning St. Patrick's Hospital here treated eight seamen, under a serious condition. A Cities Service worker also was burned seriously.

A spokesman for Cities Service, which owned the tanker, estimated the missing at 20. A seaman, who had been on board before the explosion, put the figure at 16.

The Salem Maritime's blast set two loading docks afire at the Cities Service plant in Lake Charles, about six miles from this city in southwest Louisiana.

The ship and the docks were a complete loss. No damage estimate was given.

About 1,500 workers attempted to douse the fire and succeeded in confining the flames to the ship and docks, away from the huge adjoining oil refinery.

At 3 a.m., a tugboat surveying the cracked, flaming Salem Maritime noticed a flashlight waving at the rear. Pulling alongside, the tug found three seamen, who jumped overboard.

IDENTIFIED The three—Frank Tolo, 25, of Brooklyn, N.Y., George Emley, and Fred Gentry (ages and addresses unavailable)—had lain trapped in the tanker's engine room for four hours. When gusts of wind shoved flames away from their side of the tanker, they climbed out of the engine room and onto the deck where they signalled the tug.

The three were hospitalized for shock and minor burns. Earlier another tug had picked up a trio who jumped into Lake Charles.