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Congress Set To Consider Many Matters

Important Questions Facing Solons Coming To Showdown

VITAL MEASURES SEEN Pay-As-You-Go Tax Plan, Size Of Army Among Problems

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Important questions already confronting the new Congress—a pay-as-you-go tax plan, the size of the armed forces, the Flynn nomination, among others—come to a showdown in committees this week.

The Treasury is drafting a proposal for putting income tax payments on a current basis and the House Ways and Means committee will start work Wednesday, or Thursday with members of both parties committed to speedy action.

Will Dispose of Flynn Case

Senate committees will dispose of the nominations of Edward J. Flynn to be minister to Australia and Wiley B. Rutledge to be a supreme court justice and send them to the floor for action.

As for actual legislation in that chamber, Democratic leader Barkley of Kentucky announced that a bill for the merger of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph systems will be called up this week, with quick passage indicated. It was passed by the Senate last session but died in the House and a Senate committee reported it out again without further hearings.

A bill passed by the House but not by the Senate—to outlaw payment of fees to commission agents on war contracts—will be re-offered, Chairman Vinson (D-Ga) of the House Naval committee said, with modifications designed to meet Senate objections that it was too sweeping and would penalize legitimate sales representatives. Vinson told the sales committee last week that 121 "so-called sales engineers" in Washington had collected some \$150,000,000 since 1939 procuring war contracts for manufacturers.

Senators who believe the nation should strike a balance of its manpower between men needed for the fighting fronts and for production at home will ask the general staff tomorrow just how big an army it wants. Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, deputy chief of staff, is to appear before the military committee at a closed hearing to supply specific figures.

Chairman Reynolds (D-NC) said the committee also proposes to learn the manpower demands of the Navy, Merchant Marine and necessary civilian pursuits, including agriculture. Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt is to testify later this week.

Reynolds and other senators have been disturbed over reports that the armed forces might call for as many as 12,000,000 men. Senator Bankhead (D-Ala.) declared on the floor that some 7,000,000 already had entered the services and that present plans call for the induction of 400,000 more each month. With the need for food and munitions growing, Bankhead said, it would be dangerous to withdraw many more men from productive activities.

Acting Chairman McKellar (D-Tenn.) of the Appropriations Committee indicated that the ultimate size of the fighting forces also might be discussed at a closed session of that group tomorrow.

The controversial proposal of setting up a standing House committee on aviation comes before the Rules committee tomorrow in the form of eight separate resolutions for the plan. Minority leader Martin of Massachusetts and other Republicans have endorsed it but the Democrats

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MacArthur Feels Ultimate Japanese Defeat

Southwest Pacific Chief Sees New Lessons Learned In Papua To Hasten Island-By-Island Advances

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Jan. 24.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur, Allied commander-in-chief in the southwest Pacific, said today that in his forces' hard fought but winning battle for Papua "a new form of campaign was tested which points the way to the ultimate defeat of the enemy in the Pacific."

This new method of warfare, the general said, primarily involves "the continuous, calculated application of air power."

He remarked particularly that in the northeastern New Guinea fighting the Allies' air arm had been found effective and important not only as an offensive-defensive weapon but as an instrument of troop transport and supply.

"Our air forces and ground forces were welded together in Papua, and when in sufficient strength with proper naval support, their indissoluble union points the way to victory through new and broadened strategic and tactical conceptions," MacArthur said in written comment on the action now concluded.

Close coordination between air

FLYNN APPROVAL APPEARS LIKELY

Chairman Of Senate Committee Predicts Confirmation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Approval by the Senate Foreign Relations committee Wednesday of President Roosevelt's nomination of Edward J. Flynn to be minister to Australia appeared to be likely although five senators whose attitude is in doubt could alter the result.

Chairman Connally (D-Tex) and Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky both predicted the committee would report favorably the nomination of the former Democratic national chairman, who also was picked by the president for his personal ambassador in the Southwest Pacific area.

One informed committee member, who asked that his name not be used, predicted the vote would be strictly partisan. There remained, however, the possibility of defections from the ranks of the 15 Democrats and eight minority members.

The membership of the committee, in addition to Connally and Barkley, is as follows: Democrats, George, Georgia; Wagner, New York; Thomas, Utah; Van Nuys, Indiana; Murray, Montana; Pepper, Florida; Green, Rhode Island; Reynolds, North Carolina; Guffey, Pennsylvania; Gillette, Iowa; Clarke, Missouri; Glass,

Anti-Poll Tax Bill Hits Snag In Form Of Obscure Ruling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—A proposal of Rep. Marcanonio (Al-NY) to exert pressure by publicity for passage of his anti-poll tax bill hit a snag today in the form of an obscure house rule.

Marcanonio's measure, which would outlaw the poll taxes required by some southern states as a voting qualification, was sent to the judicial committee, on which Marcanonio was denied a seat and which has shown no inclination to act.

The aggressive sponsor had announced that he would circulate a "discharge petition" to bring the bill to the floor for a vote over the committee's head and would make public daily the names of his colleagues who signed it and those who refused to sign.

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U. S. Bombers Blast Foe's Munda Bases

Big Planes Smash At Airfield And Dumps Four Times Saturday

MANY RAIDS STAGED Japs Counter With Two Aerial Assaults On American Areas

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—American bombers blasted the Japanese air base at Munda in the central Solomon islands four times Saturday, the Navy announced today, starting fires, knocking out anti-aircraft batteries and apparently blowing up an ammunition dump.

The attacks were among seven raids against enemy outposts in the South Pacific from Friday morning through Saturday night (Solomons time).

Japanese Counter The Japanese countered with two aerial assaults—one against the American base on Espiritu Santo island in the New Hebrides group, southeast of the Solomons, and the other against Guadalcanal.

Ground fighting on Guadalcanal was continuing and the Navy communique reported 145 enemy troops were killed Wednesday through Friday. Whether our front lines on the island were advanced in these operations was not stated.

The nature of the enemy air operations against Espiritu Santo, results of which were not reported, caused considerable conjecture here in the absence of any information as to how they were carried out. Espiritu Santo is 535 nautical miles southeast of Guadalcanal and about 900 miles from the nearest Japanese air bases either in the central and northwestern Solomons or in the Ellice islands which lie northeast of the New Hebrides.

Land-based Jap planes would be used in the attacks, the Navy communique said. The Japanese would hold a public hearing Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at which time Willard Dowell, of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina Merchants' Association, and others will argue for removal of the entire levy on sales.

Rep. Turner of Guilford has introduced a bill to remove the sales tax from prepared meals or foods sold or served on or off the premises of restaurants, hotels and other public eating places.

In presenting his measure for entire abolition of the sales tax, Rep. Sellers declared the tax was imposed primarily as an emergency measure with the assurance that it would be abolished when the need for it was gone. He said the need "certainly had passed" if the state was able to pile up a surplus exceeding \$30,000,000, which is expected to be on hand at the end of the current biennium.

Public hearings are slated for Wednesday on the education amendment and the nine-months school bills. The joint committee on constitutional amendments will meet at 10 a. m., to hear arguments on measures introduced in both houses to change the education amendment as adopted by North Carolina voters in the 1942 election.

At 3 o'clock a sub-committee of the Joint Education committee will meet to hear discussions of the proposal to add a ninth month to the state-supported school term.

Rep. Arch Allen of Wake and Senator Brooks of Durham have presented bills to carry out terms of the education set-up compromise.

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HUNT FOR ROMMEL IN FULL CRY AS BRITISH DRIVE ON; REDS GRIP VITAL JUNCTION

TAKE STAROBELSK Important Railhead Near Rostov Falls To Soviet Army

GERMANS RUSHING MEN Reports Claim Troops Coming Up From Occupied Area

LONDON, Monday, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Russian troops sweeping forward in the Caucasus have captured Peschanokopskoye, only 50 miles northeast of Tikhoretsk, key railway junction of the vital Novorossiisk-Stalingrad and Rostov-Baku railroads, the Soviet midnight communique as reported by the Soviet monitor said early today.

Further to the north, deep in the Ukraine Soviet columns pushed into Starobelsk, 130 miles southeast of Kharkov, in a drive that may be intended to envelop that Nazi stronghold from the south.

95 Miles From Rostov Peschanokopskoye, an important railroad town, is only 95 miles southeast of Rostov, and other Russian troops captured several other towns in the same area, including Krasnaya Polyana, 21 miles east of Peschanokopskoye, and Bezostanoye, 55 miles southeast.

This same Soviet drive also took a town named Novo-Mikhailovskoye, apparently 37 miles southeast of Peschanokopskoye, although another town of the same name is located 22 miles south of Armavir, taken by the Russians earlier to cut the railway linking the Germans at Maikop with the rest of their forces.

The fall of Starobelsk, lying midway along a branch railway from Valukhi to Voroshilovgrad, was announced in a special communique, and other towns were reported taken in the same area. Soviet forces also were said to be advancing in a parallel thrust farther north about 90 miles from Kharkov in the Valukhi area.

The Russians quoted captured prisoners as saying the Germans were rushing divisions east from occupied countries, and that one infantry division brought from Dunkerque consisted "mainly of middle-aged men."

Two battalions of this regiment suffered heavy losses in their first encounter, the prisoner said. A tank division was brought into the battle from guard duty at Bordeaux.

Starobelsk is 125 miles southeast of Kharkov and 50 miles north of Voroshilovgrad, the respective industrial capitals of the Ukraine and Donets basin. It lies on the Aldar river, a tributary of the Donets.

Other Russian forces are within 78 miles of Kharkov directly to the east, and from 56 to 70 miles from Rostov on the east and north. The communique said Starobelsk

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Massive Allied Offensive To Win War Considered

LONDON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Hopes for a supreme Allied bid for victory this year were spurred today by persistent talk of momentous decisions in the making or already agreed upon in councils of the United Nations.

Speculation over what course the grand strategy would follow covered a wide range and official quarters maintained steadfast silence. The very fact that the talk would not be down was considered in the best informed quarters as evidence that something big was in the wind.

With the Allies registering successes the world over—on Russia's frozen steppes, in the New Guinea jungles and on Africa's desert sands—press discussions leaned toward the possibility of a massive offensive timed to strike the Axis nations simultaneously and knock the enemy out of the war in the next twelve months.

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RAF DEALS NAZIS TWO HEAVY BLOWS

Big Bombers Follow U. S. Planes At Lorient; Western Germany Hit

LONDON, Jan. 24.—(AP)—The RAF dealt the German war machine two smashing blows last night blasting the U-boat nest at Lorient for the fourth time within 10 days and pouring a cargo of bombs on the heart of industrial western Germany.

Following up yesterday's daylight attack by United States Flying 17 tresses on Lorient, the RAF's heaviest bombers unleashed a "great weight" of high explosive and fire bombs in a concentrated 30-minute assault on the submarine pens and docks there last night.

Visibility was good, the Air Ministry said, and many fires were left burning. Some of them, returning 150 miles, could be seen for 150 miles. Only three British bombers were reported missing from the night's two expeditions.

With this latest powerful blow at Lorient, it became evident that the Allies hope to flatten the French port from which Nazi submarines prey on Atlantic shipping, to knock out its power plants and workshops and pound its massive U-boat shelters to pieces.

Lorient has been raided more than 50 times since it was converted into a super-submarine base in the summer of 1940. Its thick concrete covered stockades are believed to accommodate at least 20 U-boats and possibly 30.

Yesterday's was the second daylight attack by U. S. Flying Fortresses on Lorient. Their first visit to the heavily-defended city was on January 3.

Although the Air Ministry's communique treated last night's raid on Western Germany as secondary to that on Lorient, it was described as "heavy" and bomber pilots said a glow of great fires could be seen through the clouds that hung over the target.

The German DNB news service said "residential quarters were damaged in several places in western Germany and that the 'civilian population suffered losses.'" To the

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BEYOND TRIPOLI Americans And French Smash At Germans Near Ousseltia

INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES Nazi Column Advancing At Pont Du Fahs Severely Damaged

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AFRICA, Jan. 24.—Pressing straight on through Tripoli, the British Eighth Army kept up its hot chase of the Axis rearguard toward Tunisia today, and in Central Tunisia American troops joined with the French in a savage smash at the Germans in the Ousseltia region.

Aided by an American armored unit, the French inflicted "severe losses" on enemy troops and vehicles in an attack against one German column advancing southwestward from Pont du Fahs, French headquarters reported.

The communique also reported other local clashes in this area, and repulse of an enemy attack farther east in the mountains which the Germans seek to dominate, and indications grew that the battle might be nearing to cut off Rommel's retreat into Tunisia.

Rains Hold Off Rains which had bogged down combat activity for weeks had held off for several days now, facilitating the plans of either side for a large-scale action to clinch control of the "waist of Tunisia" where Marshal Erwin Rommel's African corps must pass to join the defense of Tunis and Bizerte or be cut off and perhaps destroyed in a pocket.

(An Allied staff officer in Tunisia was quoted by a Reuters correspondent as saying it was "extremely likely" that some of the reconnaissance elements of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army already had crossed into Tunisia from Tripolitania, and said parts of the fugitive German force already had passed through Gabes, 100 miles northwest of the Libyan border.)

With the battles of Tunisia and Tripolitania merging into one as the hours ticked away, Flying Fortresses and Lightning fighters fought one of their greatest actions in North Africa to date, shooting down 19 enemy planes and crippling 16 more in a fierce contest during another heavy bombardment of Bizerte.

The Middle East communique received from Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's headquarters said Eighth Army warriors "after occupying Tripoli continued their advance and by evening were in contact with the enemy well to the west."

This was believed in the vicinity of Zuaera, 65 miles west of Tripoli and 35 miles from Tunisia, where Marshal Erwin Rommel was attempting to join the remnants of his 2d Army Corps, estimated at 40,000 to 70,000 men, with the 70,000 troops of Col. Gen. Jürgen von Arnim.

Zuaera is the end of a railway line running west from Tripoli and the last port from which the Axis might attempt a limited evacuation of its forces by small boat.

It was considered unlikely that Rommel could bring much heavy equipment with him as a result of how skilled they become.

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Turkey Reported Looking For Invasion In Spring

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Information gathered in the wake of a visiting Turkish press mission indicates that Turkey considers May 1 her crucial hour, seeing an outside possibility that Hitler may attempt then to break through into the Middle East and drive behind the Russians in the Caucasus.

The press mission, five leading Turkish journalists brought to India by the British on a goodwill tour, spent several days in New Delhi, and is returning to Turkey early in February. May 1 is considered the critical date because then the passes through the barrier of the Turkish and southern and eastern mountains will be cleared of snow, and the ground sufficiently dry for motorized operations.

Such an outlook is by no means officially aired, but was obtained from a competent source cognizant with the Turkish viewpoint. The supposition is based by the Turks on these points, this informant said: One—The attack would be designed to divert both the Anglo-

WOOLCOTT, NOTED AUTHOR, SUCCUMBS

'The Man Who Came To Dinner' Passes After Collapse Saturday

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—(AP)—The hectic career of Alexander Woolcott, author, actor and commentator, ended here just before last midnight when he died from a heart attack. He was 56 years old.

Virtually the last statement he made of any length was over the radio when he declared that in his opinion there was no cure for Germany "by human means."

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Axis Submarine Warfare Rises Again In Atlantic

(By The Associated Press) As the Allies girded themselves for an all-out offensive against submarines—termed by Admiral Harold R. Star the Navy's "first enemy"—the announced toll of Allied and neutral merchantmen sunk in the Western Atlantic by enemy action since Pearl Harbor rose over the 600 mark.

The announced destruction of eight vessels, two of them American, in the week ended Saturday, brought the shipping losses to 601. Seven of the eight sinkings took place off South America and in the raider-infested South Atlantic.

Seventy four lives were lost and 53 persons were reported missing. Officials in Washington and abroad painted a pessimistic picture of the submarine situation. It was reported from London that decisions on the Allies' 1943 world strategy, believed now in the making, called for a concerted campaign on the seven seas to put the Allies on the offensive in undersea warfare.

Britain's first lord of the Admiralty, A. V. Alexander, said "the enemy is now using new U-boats in larger packs and with new tactics. The U-boats now are even more concentrated than be-

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Allied Patrol Finds Crude Jap Hospital In New Guinea Wilds

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA, Jan. 24.—(AP)—A Japanese hospital containing 250 enemy living and dead was found 600 yards south of Girus yesterday by Allied patrols mopping up the Sanaandua battlefield. Many of the patients were lying on crudely-constructed beds in the rain-soaked jungle so near to death their plight was hopeless.

Fifty litter cases were removed to Allied hospitals in the area for treatment and medical officers expected to remove 50 more. Seventeen others were able to walk slowly toward the rear.

While all organized Japanese resistance in Sanaandua has collapsed and the Papuan campaign officially has been declared ended, patrols continued to capture or kill stray groups of enemy soldiers.

NOTICE!

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Pullman Berth Murder Still Defies Solution

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 24.—(AP)—The murder on the main line—so bizarre and baffling a crime as ever escaped the pages of fiction—to materialize into real life—still defied solution today.

Investigators ran into one blank wall after another as they sought to learn who cut the throat of beautiful blonde Mrs. Marjorie Virginia Brinson James, 21, bride of a naval officer, in her berth, lower 13 of a tourist sleeper on the Southern Pacific's West Coast Limited, as it sped through Oregon early yesterday, San Francisco bound.

However, a Negro dining car waiter was held for questioning and a United States Marine pilot was detained as a material witness.

Also after police had worked for 10 hours aboard the speeding train and had held the limited four hours at Klamath Falls, they disclosed one possible clue.

Eugene W. Norton, of Daly City, Calif., and William Van Dyke, a Marine who had occupied berths near No. 13, said they were awakened about 4 a. m. by the voice of a woman saying:

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