

Prohibition Controversy Opens Again

HEARINGS ON BILL SET Words Called Same As Those Uttered Quarter A Century Ago

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(P)—The argument over wartime prohibition started all over again in the Capitol today and except for references to what happened before, the words might have been a recording of what was said a quarter century ago.

The principal argument was Monday morning hangovers in war plants vs. insistence on personal liberties—including servicemen's claims to a voice in the decision whether they have beer.

Introduced last March 4 by Rep. Bryson (S.C.) the legislation would impose prohibition for the duration of the war and until after demobilization of the armed forces.

Hobbs said proponents would be heard first but did not name witnesses. Dr. George W. Crabbe, general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America, said he had not arranged for the committee meeting and did not plan to testify unless called.

Rep. Wickersham (D.-Okla.), a prohibitionist, joined in opposition to the Bryson proposal because of its plan to dry up the country by statute.

"If we are to have prohibition, we should do it by amendment to the Constitution," Wickersham said. "I doubt if Congress has the authority."

Hitler Is Living On Borrowed Time

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(P)—Adolf Hitler is living on borrowed time and the loan may soon be foreclosed by his own people.

This is the belief of many persons who know Germany well. They have little doubt that Hitler's fate is early death; their only division of opinion is about how death will come to him.

On this there are two schools of thought. One, supported by Emil Ludwig, noted German historian and biographer, is that German generals will shortly decide to do away with the man who proclaimed on New Year's Day that there can be no victor in World War II.

LAW-MAKERS BACK A 'HIGH OFFICIAL'

Congressmen Say Statement Strikes Aid Axis Is True

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(P)—Three members of Congress tonight defended an essentially true statement attributed to Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, that strike threats had given Germany a propaganda weapon with which it may have delayed revolts in Europe.

One also suggested that any union leaders who doubt that labor troubles have had an effect on the war effort should be taken to the battlefronts to hear how the soldiers feel about the subject.

The new outbursts of comment about the now-famous New Year's Eve statement by an unnamed official kept at a high pitch the tumult that has raged ever since it was made public.

Chairman May (D.-Ky.) of the House Military Committee told reporters today that he didn't know whether Marshall made the statement or not but "regardless of who it was," he agreed that the rail and steel strike threats gave "hope and encouragement to Hitler and his satellite nations."

Senator Reed (R.-Kas.) defended Gen. Marshall as a "model of candor and directness," he said the statement was kept anonymous because of Marshall's loyalty to his superior officer, the President.

From Rep. Plumley (R. - Vt.) came the declaration that the people don't care who made the statement because "they know it is so."

Ceiling Prices For Coal Set By OPA Here

BITUMINOUS ONLY Flat Dollars And Cost Announced By Price Office

Establishment of flat dollars and cents top legal prices for bituminous coal sold in Wilmington and within 20 miles of the city's corporate limits became effective Tuesday according to an announcement received here from Theodore S. Johnson district director of OPA, Raleigh.

The effect of the order will be to eliminate differences in ceiling prices of the same grade of coal which may exist from dealer to dealer and to afford the consumer an understanding of top legal prices, Johnson said.

Prices were established by the Atlanta regional OPA office after consultation of November 19 with retail coal dealers in Wilmington and vicinity who sell more than 50 per cent of the total tonnage of coal in this area.

High volatile bituminous coals from District 9—Egg or lump, \$11.10 per 2,000-pound ton; \$3.90 per one-half ton of 1,000 pounds; \$3.03 per one-quarter ton of 500 pounds.

Low volatile bituminous coals from District 8—Raven red ash (Continued on Page Three; Col. 6)

NAVY IDENTIFIES LOST DESTROYERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(P)—The Navy tonight identified the destroyer sunk by an explosion off Sandy Hook as the 1,700-ton U. S. S. Turner, and said another destroyer, torpedoed in the North Atlantic was the 1,090-ton Leary.

Loss of the ships was announced by the Navy yesterday, but it withheld their names. The Turner, commissioned only last April, blew up in New York harbor with such violence that her men and guns were hurled into the sea.

ALLIED BOMBERS BLACKEN THE SKIES IN FRENCH INVASION COAST ATTACK; PLANCING REDS OPERATE IN POLAND

Stamp Two For Sausage

C. P. A. officials have announced that effective January 2nd, and continuing through January 16th, consumers may use spare stamp two in War Ration Book 4 for the purchase of all types of sausage, and fresh and frozen pork items.

SOLONS LAMBAST PENDING TAX BILL

Senators Say Bill Would Make New Crop Of War Millionaires

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(P)—Citing 200 examples of allegedly excessive corporate profits after taxes, four of the 21 members of the Senate Finance Committee today signed a minority report lambasting pending legislation which, one of the Senators said, would make "a new crop of war millionaires."

The legislation in question consists of amendments to the war contracts renegotiation act which have been approved by a majority of the Finance committee. The four minority signers are Senators Walsh (D.-Mass.), Connally (D. Tex.), La Follette (Prog.-Wis.), and Lucas (D.-Ill.).

Walsh asserted that the amendments written into the pending \$2,750,000 tax bill, would strike down the existing protection against war profiteering, "allowing and in some cases compelling large groups of war contractors to make outrageous profits."

"The renegotiation statute has provided an effective means of limiting war profiteering," the Senator said, "under it, war contractors have been allowed liberal profits on their war business, but inordinate profits have been eliminated. Through its operation, soldiers and the public have been given a measure of assurance that no group would make exorbitant profits during the war from junctions and war supplies."

Believing in the democratic principle that the best way to clarify an issue is to debate it, I should like to discuss an article by my old friend, Mr. William Hard, which appears in "The Reader's Digest" for December under the title "American Internationalism."

NEVEL DRIVE OPENS 4,000 More Germans Killed and 65 Tanks Are Destroyed

LONDON, Wednesday, Jan. 5.—(P)—The Russians smashed a weak German counter-attack near the pre-war Polish border, killed 4,000 more Germans and destroyed 65 of their tanks yesterday, while the southeast another force captured the stubbornly defended stronghold and railway station of Belaya Tserkov and 40 other Ukrainian towns.

The Moscow midnight communiqué, recorded by the Soviet monitor from a broadcast, told of a German infantry counter-attack with two battalions—perhaps 1,500 men. This force "succeeded in breaking through to the position of Soviet troops," it said, but "our units encircled the enemy formations and wiped out the Hitlerites. Over 400 prisoners were taken."

The Red army troops also destroyed 22 big German guns, 180 trucks and captured seven tanks and 47 guns in the area. Another 1,100 Germans were killed in the White Russian battlefront around Nevel, where a resurgent Soviet drive to the north captured 100 populated places and cleared the 40-mile Nevel-Velikie Luki rail line of Germans.

With the fall of the German fortress of Belaya Tserkov—announced in a special order of the day by Premier Marshal Joseph Stalin—more than a half million Germans in the Dni-pr bend faced the fate of the German army of Stalingrad unless Field Marshal Gen. Fritz von Manstein orders a mass retreat.

For in addition to wrestling back Belaya Tserkov in a four-day struggle the Russians also advanced (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

TODAY and TOMORROW

By WALTER LIPPMANN

Believing in the democratic principle that the best way to clarify an issue is to debate it, I should like to discuss an article by my old friend, Mr. William Hard, which appears in "The Reader's Digest" for December under the title "American Internationalism."

Invasion Chief Takes Last Look



Stepping from a plane somewhere in Italy, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander of the forces expected to invade Europe from the west, extends his hand in greeting to British Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery. (International)

TITO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE KEY CITY

LONDON, Jan. 4.—(P)—Fall of Banja Luka, headquarters of the German Second Tank Army in Yugoslavia, in a strong blow at the heart of the whole Nazi defense system on the Adriatic coast was expected momentarily tonight as partisan warriors of Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) reported fresh successes in the battle for the town.

Tito's broadcast communique declared his troops had captured both the city hall and prison and driven the Germans into the northwest district of Banja Luka.

Bitter street fighting still is in progress, the bulletin added, and the Germans threw in tanks and guns in unsuccessful attempts to stop the attack, launched New Year's Eve.

"Our guns are successfully counteracting the enemy tanks and the last enemy nests of resistance are being systematically smoked out," the communique said, with Yugoslav guns also denying the Banja Luka airfield to the Germans.

It declared more than 240 Germans were killed in the fight for the town prison and town hall. The Yugoslavs intercepted a telegram from the German garrison urgently asking for help, the communique continued.

GERMANY ALSO IS HIT More Than 2,750 Planes Used In Great Shuttle Raids

LONDON, Jan. 4.—(P)—American heavy bombers in titanic strength lashed northwest Germany today, with Kiel as the reported main target, while American and British medium bombers maintained a dawn-to-dusk shuttle service of explosives on the Pas De Calais area and the French invasion coast.

Together with the fighter escorts the two great missions employed probably the greatest number of war planes ever in action in one day—more than 2,750—dropping more than 3,000 tons of bombs on the enemy. A total of 18 bombers and two fighters failed to return. All the bombing was in daylight.

There were about 1,500 planes in the assault on northwest Germany, including Flying Fortresses, Liberators and American and British fighters.

They stretched across more than 100 miles of sky, darkening the heavens, and one flier said their methodical deposits of bombs on the target reminded him of a relay of dump trucks.

London announcements did not identify the exact locations, but both Swedish and German reports named Kiel, big naval base and submarine and shipyard center. DNB, German news agency, said the attack was made through heavy cumulus clouds from altitudes of 20,000 to 27,000 feet and admitted "great numbers of incendiaries and phosphorus bombs were dropped and caused great damage."

Meanwhile, the medium bombers and fighters raided the French coast all day, with the Pas De Calais Department as the only district named. Two hundred American Marauders started the procession at dawn, followed regularly by British Typhoons and Hurricanes and then by Bostons, Mitchells and Mosquitos. The Marauders then made a second trip. It (Continued on Page Two; Col. 5)

BULGARIA SHAKEN BY SOVIET DRIVE

LONDON, Jan. 4.—(P)—The Red army advance into old Poland shook the Bulgarian government of Premier Dobri Bozilov today, while new peace cries were sounded by the Hungarians, and the Poles described the Russian thrust as the "most serious political and moral crisis of the whole war."

LOCAL INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC PASSES

The epidemic of mild influenza that has affected an estimated 10,000 residents of the city is on the decline, according to the observations of officials of the New Hanover Medical Society, Tuesday.

It is believed that the peak of the current wave of illness was reached late last week. H. M. Roland, superintendent of schools, reported that approximately 30 per cent of the normal school enrollment was absent Monday, the opening day. (Schools closed Wednesday afternoon, December 15 because of the snow.)

CONSUL RESIGNS

BERN, SWITZERLAND, Jan. 4.—(P)—Jacques Giraudet, French consul general at Geneva, resigned from the Vichy government today, following the example of other French career diplomats in Switzerland.

Local hospitals were said not to be overtaxed with flu and pneumonia patients.

WEATHER FORECAST NORTH CAROLINA: Partly cloudy and mild Wednesday. Partly cloudy and slightly warmer Wednesday night. Thursday increasing cloudiness and mild except cloudy and cooler with occasional light rains in the mountains.

Cooperation of citizens with local health authorities—in the matter of going to bed at the first signs of sickness, and in the matter of refraining from calling doctors unnecessarily—was soundly applauded.

10,000 Men, An Airborne Division Are Ready For Sandhills Maneuvers

CAMP MACKALL, Jan. 4.—Some 10,000 men comprising an airborne division were posted today for the second large scale maneuvers of the combined airborne and troop carrier commands within a month which will get under way in this sandhills area of North Carolina tomorrow.

have been moved, along with their equipment, to their objectives by air.

The maneuvers, which will end next Sunday, call for vertical envelopment of key airports held by the Red forces. Combat teams, highly trained and fully equipped for extended field duty, will be dropped by parachutes and gliders to seize and hold the airfields until relieved by an infantry division driving its way through "enemy" territory.

Red Squeeze Underlines Stalin's Prediction '44 Will Be 'V' Year

By KIRKE L SIMPSON Associated Press War Analyst A three-way Soviet squeeze that threatens to entrap vast German forces lends emphasis to Marshal Stalin's declaration that "1944 will be a year of victory for the United Nations."

Russian troops are forging what appears to be a triple entrapment pattern. They are following the oldest military axiom divide and conquer, in a determined effort to surround or destroy virtually a third of all German forces still in Russia. Success must inevitably shorten the war in Europe.

There have been many indications that with the German lines split in the north, the weight of the Russian attack would turn southward to mop up. That impression was heightened by Moscow announcement of the capture of Belaya Tserkov on the extreme left flank of the Kiev bulge. Its fall represented Nazi flight from (Continued on Page Two; Col. 6)

Local Filter Center Will Present Awards To Volunteer Workers

A total of 80 awards will be presented Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the filter center to volunteer workers of the Wilmington information and filter center by Lieut. Col. Oscar C. Tigner, commander of the Wilmington Air Defense region.