

## Many Issues Are Awaiting New Congress

### A MOUNTAIN OF WORK

#### 78th May Have Opportunity Of Laying Peace Foundations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(AP)—Fresh from a three-weeks vacation and flush with ideas gleaned from the grass roots, the 78th Congress meets its second and last regular session tomorrow with a mountain of work awaiting it.

Political considerations, always strong, will have a special part in the deliberations of the lawmakers this national election year. Republicans confidently hope to mark the end of 12 years of Democratic administration in Washington.

President Roosevelt is to decide tomorrow on whether to deliver his annual "state of the union" message in person; it is expected Tuesday.

Home-front issues dominate the immediate program, among them subsidies, taxes, service men's benefits, the soldiers' vote, contract termination and renegotiation, wages, strikes, industrial reconversion, and post-war planning.

Aside from those and other issues that normally will develop during the next 12 months, more optimistic legislators believe the 78th Congress, in its closing months, will have the history-making task of laying the foundation for permanent peace.

Party leaders have pledged the same non-partisan cooperation on matters directly affecting the war that has characterized all congressional sessions since the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

But the harmony is expected to stop there. All seats in the House and many in the Senate are at stake in this year's elections, and there are few incumbents who would admit privately that their actions will be guided largely by the (Continued on Page Two; Col. 2)

## WEATHER PLAYING HAVOC IN STATE

RALEIGH, Jan. 9.—(P)—North Carolina's heaviest snowfall of the year—ranging from two inches at Charlotte to as much as eight inches in Boone and Yadkin counties—generally has stopped bus schedules and caused many county schools to be ordered closed because of icy roads.

The state highway patrol reported that the highways are cleared from Raleigh to the west, but that the roads still are icy in spots and dangerous. Major John Armstrong, highway patrol chief, urged that motorists stay off the roads unless their business is urgent.

From Williamston to the coast, and about 30 miles west of Williamston, sleet and snow still is falling, he said, and travel in that area was termed "dangerous."

No serious highway accidents have been reported.

All bus schedules out of Raleigh have been cancelled. Railroad offices here reported rail traffic has not been affected. Eastern Air Lines said air traffic is back on its normal schedule after being cancelled from 3 p. m. yesterday until 6 p. m. today.

A four-inch snowfall here has caused Wake county schools to be ordered closed until further notice. City schools will be open tomorrow, however.

Light snow, mixed with rain, was reported falling early tonight at Wilmington, with temperatures falling. Streets there were termed dangerous for driving, and bus schedules to Raleigh and New Bern was cancelled.

Yadkin county reported seven to eight inches. Some schools will open in Yadkin county tomorrow. Winston-Salem reported 4.4 inches of snow, with some bus schedules leaving there cancelled last night but resumed this morning.

A four- and one-half inch snowfall was reported at Durham, followed by a heavy freeze last night. The snow melted somewhat during the day, but was reported freezing again tonight. City schools will be closed Monday, and Durham county schools Monday and Tuesday. Durham police reported numerous accidents, all minor. City buses suspended early Sat. (Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

## WEATHER

NORTH CAROLINA: Fair and continuing Monday. Temperature 45 to 50, with 20 to 25 central and 25 to 30 east portion Monday night. Tuesday partly cloudy and warmer.

Stage of Cape Fear river at Fayetteville 14.20 feet.

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## 776 U. S. War Casualties Are Returned From Italy

### One Blinded Man Says The Air Ever Better—Many Mental Cases

AN EAST COAST PORT, Jan. 9.—(AP)—"I can't see the good old U. S. A.—but even the air smells better!"

This shout came from a soldier who lost his sight in a land mine explosion during the crossing of the Volturno river in Italy.

He and other blinded soldiers stood aside while their buddies described the scene as a big floating hospital that shuttled between Africa and Italy virtually picking up wounded during the Allied invasion, came back to this port bearing 776 American war casualties.

It was the U. S. Army Hospital Ship Acadia, a former East Coast liner now operated by the transportation corps of the Army service forces. Last June it became the first unit designated as an Army hospital ship under the Hague Convention, and today's arrival was the first at this port.

"Despite the information and one day's experience, to avoid combat with terms of the Hague Convention. It carried no combatants, mail or arms.

As the 7,800-ton vessel was warped into the dock here, where a fleet of ambulances and buses and scores of medical corps men were lined up to receive the patients, two military bands ashore struck up a medley of college tunes and swing music. Every man who was able to walk jammed the rail.

"Man, that's American!" grinned Pvt. Steve Czekner of Allentown, Pa. "That music is something we can understand."

To Czekner, severely burned in (Continued on Page Five; Col. 8)

## U.S. Troops In England Reported Favoring GOP

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 9.—(AP)—Chairman Harrison E. Spangler of the Republican National Committee said today a survey of some of the American troops in England by four reserve officers friendly to the GOP showed a majority of the expeditionary forces favored the Republican party in the 1944 presidential picture, and not the "new deal" administration, as claimed by some Democrats in Congress.

Spangler said the survey was made at his request by some captains and lieutenants known by him and formerly identified with the Republican organization. He would not name them, but said the poll, taken in a casual way in the course of their regular activity, covered about four "scattered battalions." A battalion of infantry is about 900 men.

The GOP chairman received news from a press conference preliminary to tomorrow's opening session of national committee and state leaders to plan for the coming campaign and pick a convention city and date.

Spangler said all indications pointed to the convention being held at Chicago the latter part of June. The last convention, in Philadelphia, began June 24. The time and place will be selected Tuesday with tomorrow's executive session of national and state chiefs given over to "family" campaign discussions and an address by Spangler in the afternoon.

Tomorrow night, Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, new chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, will address a dinner at the Stevens hotel.

Spangler said an arrangements committee to recommend a keynote and permanent chairman and plan the mechanical end of the convention would be set up Tuesday and meet informally Wednesday morning.

"I don't think the soldier vote is more Democratic than Republican," the GOP chairman told reporters as presidential candidacies continued to highlight the hotel lobby talk among the party leaders from the 48 states.

"We have surveyed that and the conclusion is that it will vote about the same as the people in civil life. Our latest figures show (Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

## TAX BILL TO GET ITS FOURTH TEST

### Sharply Disputed Measure To Be Called Up In The Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(AP)—The \$2,275,600,000 tax increase bill will be put to its fourth big test in Congress this week under circumstances which bar its proposed sharp excise tax boosts from taking effect before March 1.

Already approved by the House but later amended by the Senate finance committee, the sharply disputed measure will be called up in the Senate this week, Finance Chairman George D. (G-) Cannon announced.

However, he disclosed that he would not seek action on the controversial proposed amendments to the war contracts renegotiation bill, written into the tax bill, by law, Jan. 17, in order to accommodate Senator McKellar (D-Tenn) who has been ill. McKellar has frequently praised operation of the present law.

Since a minority of the finance committee has filed a report criticizing the renegotiation amendments, debate on that section may be lengthy.

The section covering the excise tax increases—estimated to yield an add-on of \$1,011,100,000 a year—provides that the new rates shall take effect on the first day of the first month which begins more than 10 days after enactment of the act.

No one in Congress has suggested that the bill can be cleared to the White House by Jan. 20.

George announced he would ask the Senate to vote first on a committee-approved rider which would freeze the Social Security tax for the rest of 1944 at its current level of 1 per cent each on employers and employees.

He said he would call up next the strictly revenue features of the measure, including excise boosts which would send the tax on hard liquor up to \$9 a gallon, the rates on furs, jewelry and cosmetics to 20 per cent, and the admissions tax to a penny on every nickel of charge.

The bill would hit individual (Continued on Page Three; Col. 8)

## Solon Declares Ship Launched With Crack In Hull, Fall Of Patty

SEATTLE, Jan. 9.—(AP)—The Liberty ship Chief Washakie, Rep. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash) said tonight, was "launched with a crack" in her hull that had been caused full of red lead putty and covered over with paint."

The Chief Washakie arrived in Seattle last week from Alaska and the Congressman then disclosed that it had broken open on the voyage and had split twice more after being repaired.

The ship arrived here with a split in the side and heavy chains running fore and aft on the fore deck to relieve the "hogging strain" which threatened to snap off the bow.

Disclosure of the crack assertedly launched with the ship was made (Continued on Page Five; Col. 7)

# Worst Disaster Of War Threatens 700,000 Nazis In Southern Russia; Allies Puncture Cassino Defenses

## BLOWS THROWN BACK

### Blows Hurl In Reserves To Halt Advance On 10 Mile Line

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Jan. 9.—(AP)—American and British infantry have punched one-third of the way through the powerful six-mile Nazi defense belt guarding Cassino, it was announced today—hurling back strong German counter-blows in advances which resulted in the capture of the hamlet of Giusto and took the Allies to a mountaintop a mile below Cervaro.

Terrific mountain battles, unlike any seen in this war since the Italians and Greeks fought in the ravines of Albania three years ago, developed as the Germans hurled reserves into the struggle to halt the Allied advance on a 10-mile front toward Cassino, the stronghold 70 miles south of Rome.

Despite heavy losses, the Fifth Army pried the Nazis out of deep trenches and log-lined dugouts, and field reports placed the most advanced Allied elements about four miles from Cassino itself.

Allied airplanes surging out in the greatest waves in weeks pounded home a double blow on an aircraft plant at Reggio Emilia in northern Italy, heavily attacked German forces in Yugoslavia, and nipped targets in southern France in intruder forays.

American infantrymen pushing on from San Vittore seized the village of Giusto half a mile farther on after a short house-to-house battle, and reached Monte Le Chiala, 1,500-foot peak just south of Cervaro, four miles southwest of Cassino. Other Allied forces closed in on Cervaro from Mt. Maio to the northeast.

To the southwest, Fifth Army men worked up 900-foot Mt. Porchia, two miles southwest of fallen San Vittore, and its sister peak Mt. Cedro less than a mile away.

Despite the German counterattacks, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's offensive had not slackened in the last 100 hours.

But only direct hits by heavy bombs and shells could penetrate the enemy dugouts and defenses strung across the mountains and into the plains around Cassino and the infantrymen had to fight through machinegun fire and minefields to win the strongpoints one-by-one at heavy cost.

The Germans brought up parts of the Hermann Goering division, held in reserve, to support their counterattacks.

The Germans were shoved back in one fierce assault they staged against Mt. Maio.

On the Eighth Army front, there was only patrol activity and artillery fire as snow began to thaw in the coastal area. New Zealand Maoris wiped out one enemy platoon.

Headquarters announced that Belgian, Polish, and British com (Continued on Page Five; Col. 2)

## Two North Carolina Boys Ready For Japs—Seven Shot Down



Manned and ready on a 40mm anti-aircraft gun of a Marine defense battalion in the southwest Pacific, this pair of North Carolina Marines, Corb. Richard S. Ruth of Charlotte, (left) (624 Marsh Road), and Pfc. John H. Dillard of Hays, near North Wilkesboro, await a visit from the Japs. The white squares on the gun indicate seven planes shot down. Jap flags will be painted in later. (AP photo.)

## WESTERN REICH IS RAIDED ANEW

Berlin Radio Says Ancient City Of Aachen Among Nazi Targets

LONDON, Jan. 9.—(P)—RAF Mosquito bombers, maintaining the Allied pace that has sent warplanes over Germany every night of the new year, roamed the western Reich for their eighth consecutive night last night and the Berlin radio said the ancient western city of Aachen was among their targets.

The Vichy radio network covering several stations in southern France west of the air tonight.

Morning channel watchers reported limited activity over the misty Dover Straits today, but the bomb-weary munitions workers of Germany and the occupied countries apparently were unmolested by heavy Allied daylight bombers for the second straight day.

There have been no American heavy bomber operations since Friday's strong attack on a southwest German target which neutral reports described as a "death blow" to the poison gas components plants at Ludwigshafen.

The RAF's heavy bombers have not been in force since Nazi shipping and the harbor at Stettin, Baltic port, were dealt a crippling blow Wednesday night—to make respite from concentrated attacks one of the longest the Germans have enjoyed since the round-the-clock offensive began three weeks ago with thousands of bombers and fighters shuttling across the channel.

Aachen, highly-industrial city of 160,000 population lying within a few miles of the common boundary of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, has been raided (Continued on Page Five; Col. 2)

## Tin Tube Ruling Relaxed By WPB

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(AP)—Purchasers of tooth paste, shaving cream and other goods packed in collapsible metal tubes will not be required to turn in a used tube before receiving a full one after March 1, the War Production Board announced today.

Used tubes were chiefly important for their tin salvage value, the WPB said. Since the tin content was reduced last year, the tubes now being turned in yield less tin.

The production agency urged that consumers continue to turn in used tubes on a voluntary basis after March 1, especially old tubes purchased a year or more ago, which have a high salvage value.

## MID-PACIFIC JAP BASE IS POUNDED

PEARL HARBOR, Jan. 9.—(P)—Seventh Army Air Force five bombers raided Mill Atoll in the Marshall islands Friday and the Japanese immediately retaliated by attacking Tarawa in the American held Gilberts, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

The Japanese caused no damage on Tarawa. The attack was made at night, as usual. Nimitz did not disclose the damage caused at Mill, where the Japanese airbase presumably was the target of the five bombers.

Navy fighter planes escorted the dive bombers but the Japanese offered no aerial opposition. Heavy interception has never been encountered in any of the 18 raids on Mill, closest airbase in the Marshalls to the Gilberts.

The announcement: "Dive bombers of the 7th AAF, accompanied by Navy fighters, attacked Mill atoll in the Marshall islands on January 7 (West Longitude date). No fighter interception was encountered. In the evening of January 7 enemy planes dropped bombs at Tarawa without damage to our installations."

## Officer Who Flew It Sings The Praises Of New Rocket Plane

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—(P)—The Army Air Forces indicated today that one of the chief handicaps in the use of any new weapon against an enemy—the need for long training of personnel—has been avoided in the revolutionary jet-propelled combat plane.

Brig. Gen. E. W. Chidlaw, chief of the Army Air Forces material division, suggested this in a discussion of some of the flying characteristics of the new propellerless plane which the AAF and Britain's RAF announced last Thursday. In a brief address during the Army hour broadcast over NBC network, Chidlaw told of his impressions while flying the plane. "I found," he said, "it acted as most conventional planes do."

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Monday, Jan. 10.—(P)—American Marines are pressing the ground attack against the Japanese in the Borgen Bay area of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, while other Marines south of the airdrome have met the enemy in patrol clashes.

The attack at Borgen Bay was conducted by Leathernecks after a reorganization of their forces, a spokesman at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said today.

Patrol clashes south of the airdrome occurred in an area where the Marines had advanced subsequent to capture of this important field Dec. 30.

Liberator bombers of the South (Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

## REDS NEAR RUMANIA

### Powerful Armies Sweep Through 110 More Towns

LONDON, Monday, May 10.—(P)—The Red army struck to within 33 miles of the main German escape railway between Odessa and Warsaw yesterday with the capture of Zhornishche, threatening to inflict the war's worst disaster on 700,000 Germans in southern Russia.

Two powerful armies under Generals Nikolai F. Vattutin and Ivan S. Konev swept through 110 more towns and hamlets, killed 2,300 Germans in two actions alone, beat off scattered enemy counterattacks, and captured immense booty, said a Moscow-broadcast-telegram recorded by the Soviet monitor.

The Russians were disclosed to have crossed into the last province short of the Rumanian border, 65 miles beyond their spearheads; they had hammered back the Germans on a 40-mile front in old Poland where their deepest penetration was 30 miles, and had tightened the trap already being fashioned for a huge segment of German forces pinned into the Smela-Kanev sector of the Dnieper bend.

The rail junctions of Sarny, Shepetovka, Vinnitsa, Khrystynovka, Smela and lesser points all were threatened with early seizure by the advancing Russians, who were folding back the German forces toward the Carpathian mountains, and thus splitting the enemy's southern units from his armies in central Russia.

Moscow reports said fresh Hungarian troops had reached the front in an attempt to bolster the shattered troops under German Field Marshal Gen. Fritz Erich Von Manstein.

A total of 105 German tanks, however, was declared destroyed in two days by the Russians, and 78 enemy planes were knocked down in the same period.

Soviet airmen were aiding the Russian ground surge toward the vital Warsaw-Odessa line, destroying 13 German planes on the airport at Vinnitsa, 20 miles above Zhmerinka, a junction on the trunk railway.

Buki, a district center in the Kiev region only 12 miles north of the Smela-Khrystynovka-Vapnyarka railway, was among the towns seized by General Vattutin's forces. The Russians also were threatening to cut that subsidiary German escape route near Khrystynovka far to the southwest.

Inside old Poland the Russians were reported within five miles of Sarny, a junction on the Wilno-Rovno line, whose seizure would force the Germans to rely for north-south communications on railways meeting at Brest-Litovsk, 130 miles farther west.

In their spreading drive across Poland's pre-war frontier, the Russians also seized Bereszyca, 22 miles southeast of Sarny, and 25 miles inside Poland.

Attacking along a 450-mile front from near Sarny, key rail junction 35 miles inside old Poland, to the Kirovograd sector in the Dnieper Bend to the southeast, the Russians not only were within striking distance of the Warsaw-Odessa trunk railway, but also were nearing the several feeder rail lines leading to it out of the Dnieper Bend.

Moscow dispatches said the collapse of all German forces in the Dnieper Bend, estimated to number from 500,000 to 750,000 men, (Continued on Page Five; Col. 5)

## GERMAN RETREAT CALLED CHAOTIC

### Nazi High Commander's Plans For Withdrawal Went Awry

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 9.—(P)—The German army's westward flight across the Russian Ukraine "could be described as chaotic today," because the high command's plans for a methodical retreat went awry when the Red army struck suddenly and swiftly in numerous offensives, Berlin correspondents said.

A slow and organized retreat had been prepared, but the swift Russian smashes tangled German communications and caught them with insufficient air support and a shortage of fuel oil, the news paper Svenska Dagbladet's Berlin correspondent wrote.

German military spokesmen gravely admitted to Swedish newspapers today that their armies are fleeing during "one of the decisive hours of the war" in a desperate battle upon which "the outcome of the whole war depends."

"Such a tone has never been used before by a German spokesman," observed Svenska Dagbladet's correspondent.

From a source in a position to obtain accurate information concerning the German war machine, and whose observations have been corroborated from other sources, came this "inside picture" of the eastern front:

"The German general staff was completely astounded at the increasing strength of the Russians, particularly by their persistent massing of tanks and infantry.

"The general staff was partially prepared for a retreat, but their (Continued on Page Five; Col. 5)

## Present War With Japan Is Only, At Its Best, A Limited Offensive

By HAROLD STREETER  
Associated Press War Writer

The war with Japan among the Pacific's islands is, even in its present stages, a limited offensive.

That is a most important fact to bear in mind while studying reports well sprinkled with references to "invasion forces," "amphibious operations," "aerial assaults," and "fierce jungle battles." It helps one keep his balance.

The references are correctly used. Since Dec. 15, invasion forces of the United States Sixth Army in amphibious operations have landed at two points on New Britain island and at one point on northeastern New Guinea; there have been telling aerial assaults in support of these; and there have been fierce jungle battles during which more than 2,000 Japanese were slain and several thousand (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

## TODAY and TOMORROW

By WALTER LIPPMANN

It would have been better, no doubt, if the remarks about strikes prolonging the war had first been made directly to the labor leaders in a face rather than broadcast anonymously. I was present when the remarks were made, and I have no doubt myself that if the leaders had had a chance to hear not only the broad conclusion but had been able to ask questions and have the matter thoroughly explained to them, they would see the point.

For it is evident from what the labor leaders have said in reply that they honestly do not understand how strikes and the threat of strikes may prolong the war. When they do understand it, they will not quibble over whether the effect has been to prolong the war six months, six weeks or even six days.

While the speaker was making his remarks, I recalled an incident which after twenty-five years is still a terrible reminder of how tragic can be the effect of the thoughtlessness of a civilian upon the lives of soldiers. I was then an intelligence officer attached to Colonel House's mission in Paris which was arranging the armistice of 1918. The Germans were ready to surrender but there had to be formal agreement by the Allies before the terms could be submitted to the Germans. On the front tremendous battles were raging, (Continued on Page Five; Col. 1)