

FORECAST:

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY: Clear to partly cloudy with little change in temperatures today but somewhat colder tonight; Sunday clear to partly cloudy and somewhat colder.

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Vandenberg Hits Russian 'Good Faith'

GOP Leader Says Moscow Fails To Reciprocate, Good Will

CITES INSTANCES Repeated Attempts To Get Answer On Lend-Lease Bills Have Failed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich) said tonight that Russia has failed to reciprocate the fair play and good will extended by the United States in foreign relations.

Vandenberg, president pro tem of the Senate and chairman of the Foreign Relations committee, was referring specifically to Moscow's refusal to answer requests for the settlement of lend-lease accounts.

Speaking at a dinner given by Michigan Chambers of Commerce in honor of the State Congressional delegation, Vandenberg said:

"It should be our anxiety to establish mutual fair play and establish goodwill in Soviet-American relationships.

"It seems to me," he continued, "that we have rarely failed in this obligation. On the other hand, it seems to me that this can not be said of Moscow."

Vandenberg said that the United States lend-lease \$11,300,000,000 to Russia during the war and never hesitated "long enough to count the cost."

He also said Moscow ignored notes from the State department relative to 125 merchant ships lend-leased to Russia and said these are "just a couple of symbolic incidents."

"I respectfully suggest," Vandenberg said, "that such expenditures are not calculated to fertilize mutual goodwill and understanding."

He asserted it could not be considered an unfriendly act or act of keeping with the dignity of the nation.

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HOEY AND CLARK PROTEST DISPOSAL

Steelman Asked To Halt Surplus Sale Until Decision On Shipyards

Wilmington Star Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—President's Assistant John Steelman today received protests from Senators Clyde Hoey and Representative J. Bayard Clark of North Carolina relative to the reports that surplus property is being moved from the now idle North Carolina Shipbuilding company's facilities located in Wilmington, N. C.

The members of North Carolina's congressional delegation cited an earlier pledge by the Maritime Commission to leave the Wilmington facilities intact until a final decision is handed down on the North Carolina State Ports Authority's offer to buy the facility for \$1,200,000.

R. B. Paige of Wilmington, the authority chairman, has been asked to send here a list of the property reportedly being removed by the Maritime Commission, which owns the yard.

Maritime officials contend that they are taking away only property that would deteriorate otherwise, the office of Representative Clark said.

Steelman is studying the Ports Authority purchase offer upon instructions from President Truman, who was asked by the North Carolina delegation to have the Maritime Commission reconsider its refusal to sell the yard.

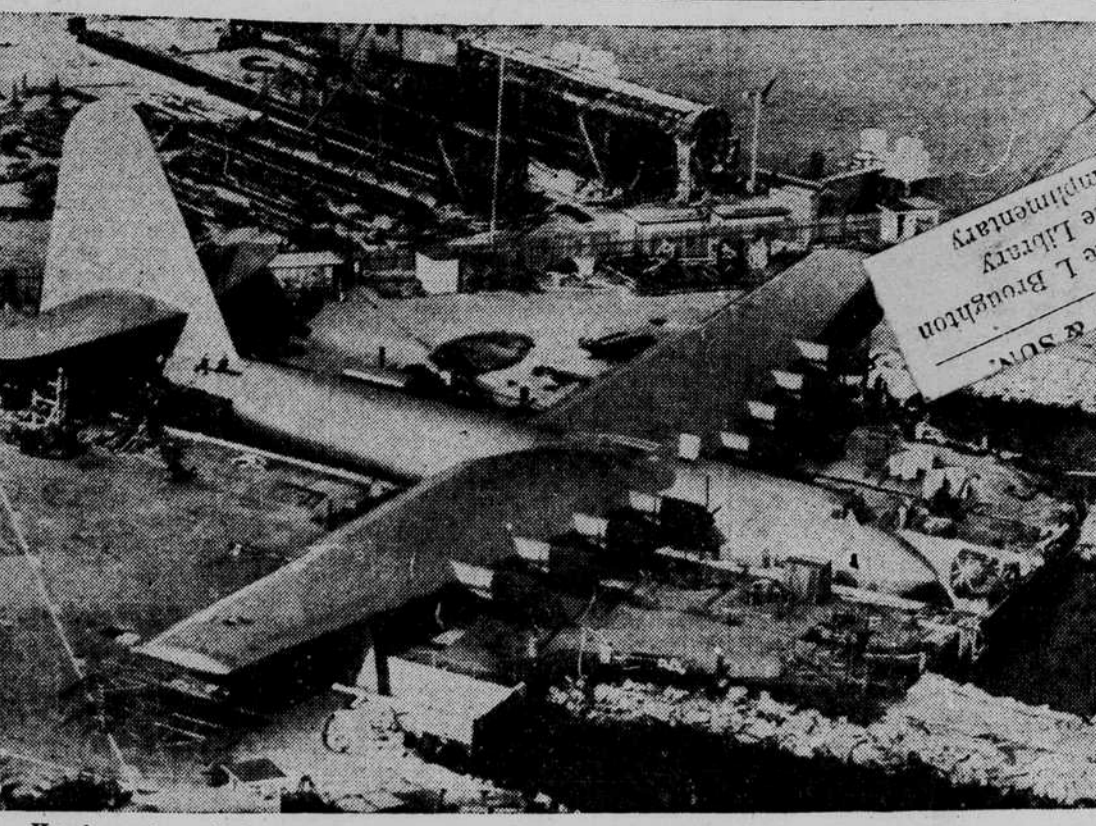
Steelman, who has had one conference with Senator Hoey and one with Representative Paige, probably will have another next week.

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS By Alley

OLE TOM CALL ME A LIAR, BUT I DIDN' MIN' NONE — SHUCKS! DAT'S PRAISE FUM! DE MASTUH, HE-SE-IF!!

Illustration of a man with a cane and a hat.

World's Largest Seaplane Nears Completion



Here's a view of the world's largest flying boat, built by Howard Hughes, as it nears completion at Long Beach, Calif. Note that the motors and propellers are already installed on the large craft which cost about \$18,000,000 to build.

GOVERNOR NAMES BRIDGES AUDITOR

Greensboro Attorney Will Serve Term Of Late George Ross Pou

RALEIGH, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Henry L. Bridges, Greensboro, attorney and captain in the army during World War II, tonight was named by Governor Cherry to fill the unexpired term of State Auditor George Ross Pou, who died last Saturday night.

Bridges is a former deputy clerk of the Guilford County Superior court.

The governor tonight said Bridges will assume his duties immediately.

Bridges, who is 39 years old, is a native of Franklin county. He is the son of the late John J. and Ida Loraine Carroll Bridges. As a boy he lived in Zebulon and later at Millbrook where he attended high school.

He is a graduate from Mars Hill Junior college and took his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest in 1931. He taught school at Germantown in Stokes county, but returned to Wake Forest for the study of law; he was admitted to the bar in 1933.

Bridges practiced law for two years in Greensboro with the firm of O. W. Duke, and became deputy clerk of Guilford County Superior court in August 1935. He served in that office until he entered the army in September, 1940 as a member of the National guard.

During World War II, he served in Georgia and California, and later had overseas duty in Trinidad and in Alaska. He was released from service on Dec. 14, 1945, and on terminal leave was promoted to the rank of major.

Bridges is married to the former Clarice Hines. They have two children. He is a member of the Baptist church and is a member of the Masonic lodge.

CITY TO STUDY DRAGLINE BIDS

Price Quotations From Four Firms Opened At City Council Meeting

Bids submitted by four companies for the delivery of a dragline to the city and opened at a meeting of the city council yesterday will be given further study before any action toward the awarding of a contract, an official said following the session.

The spokesman said that the delivery dates included in the bids were too far in the future but refused to say definitely whether they will be rejected. The prices quoted, ranging from \$9,353.40 to \$13,761, were just about what was expected, he said.

The city's request for a priority to purchase equipment for drainage construction work from the War Assets Administration was refused by the legal department of the Federal Housing Administration even though a favorable recommendation was given by agents of the bureau following a visit to areas in the city suffering from inadequate drainage facilities.

In other action by the council, beer and wine licenses were granted to Otis W. Taylor, 914 North Fourth street and George T. Lane, 928 North Fourth street.

Today And Tomorrow

In any discussion of the problem of Britain's post-war difficulties, there is a tendency to assume that the British-American partnership is closer than it is. Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Bevin did on the whole work together almost always when there was issue with the Soviet Union, and generally speaking 'each government was given the other tacit, and now and then active, support within its sphere of influence.

The Soviet government has, of course, objected to this diplomatic collaboration, and some voices have been raised against it both in England and in America. It is now evident that an important

object of Soviet diplomacy is to draw Britain away from the American connection as the time for a European settlement comes nearer.

The mounting difficulties of the British position at home and in the empire will almost certainly have a determining influence on the outcome. For what the British people may wish to do, and what necessarily could compel them to do, are not certain to be the same. It would be dangerously misleading to suppose that the working arrangements of Mr. Byrnes

JOINT COMMITTEE SLASHES BUDGET BY SIX BILLIONS; WAA SELLS BIG, LITTLE INCH

143 Million Bid Wins For Houston Firm

Famous Lines Will Carry Natural Gas To Points On Eastern Seaboard TO PAY ALL CASH

Price Received Within \$2,700,000 Of Original Construction Costs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—The government knocked down its Big and Little Inch pipelines for \$143,127,000 today to carry natural gas to the East.

The War Assets administration snapped up the cash offer by the Texas Eastern Transmission corporation of Houston, Tex.—only \$2,700,000 short of what the lines cost to build—and Administrator Robert M. Littlejohn expressed hope the company would take over by May 1.

But first: 1. The Justice department must approve from the anti-trust standpoint. Littlejohn said he was informed it could rule within a week.

2. The Federal Power commission must grant a certificate of convenience and necessity. Senator Myers (D-Pa) predicted the commission will "never permit the transmission of natural gas to the Eastern seaboard" and insisted

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PLANE REPORTED DOWN IN SWAMP

Unidentified Craft Crashes, Burns; Seven Army Men Killed In Smash

MONCK'S CORNER, S. C., Feb. 14.—(AP)—An unidentified plane was reported to have burst into flames and crashed in Wampoo swamp six miles east of here shortly after sundown tonight.

Civil aeronautics administration officials at Charleston said no scheduled planes were missing.

Searching parties from a forest service station set out immediately on horseback and a Coast Guard search and rescue unit dispatched a truck from the Charleston base to hunt the crash scene, deep in the woods beyond auto roads.

Forest Ranger A. C. Wells said the first report was made by a logging operator who was unable to identify the type of plane.

SEVEN DIE WHEN PLANE CRASHES, BURNS

MACON, Ga., Feb. 14.—(AP)—The wreckage of an Army passenger plane, the bodies of its seven occupants burned beyond recognition, was found today in the dismal heart of a Middle Georgia swamp.

The plane, a twin-engine C-45, burst into flames and crashed last night shortly after taking off from Robins Field, 15 miles south of here. All aboard were Army personnel en route to Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio.

A searching party reached the scene of the crash shortly after 7 a. m. after nearly 10 hours of hacking its way through the dense underbrush. It took another four hours for a messenger to negotiate the mile and a half back to the field with news that all aboard were dead.

Army officials announced that an investigation into the cause of the crash would be made as soon as bodies were removed.

Along The Cape Fear

EXIT JUDGE — Yesterday we continued our tale of the famous Simpson-Whitehurst duel placing particular emphasis upon the fact that as far as reputable historians are concerned the winner, the loser, the motive, and the outcome still remains a deep dark secret.

One historian will tell you that Capt. Alexander Simpson killed Lieut. Thomas Whitehurst, a fellow officer aboard the good ship Viper; was convicted at New Bern; and then allowed to escape to England before the execution could be carried out.

Another historian contends that Whitehurst killed Simpson because the captain sympathized with the colonists while he, Whitehurst, was a strong supporter of the royal governor, William Tryon.

Most historians see some connection between the divergent views on the Stamp Act and the battle. However, Governor Tryon contends that political beliefs did not have anything to do with the affair as the men were fighting over a woman.

MUTUAL AGREEMENT — How Simpson not only fatally wounded Whitehurst in the duel but also went to the trouble to burn in his

(Continued on Page 2; Col. 2)

Light Trim In Londnn Blackout



Despite the fuel and power crisis in England, which necessitated drastic rationing of electricity, a London barber hangs on to give a customer's hair a light going-over with the aid of a hurricane lantern.

Unemployment Total Mounting In Britain

LONDON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—The government announced tonight that there were signs Britain had "turned the corner" on the road back to industrial production and lighted homes, but despite encouraging trends in the coal shortage unemployment continued to spread.

Prime Minister Attlee met with his nine man "coal cabinet" to consider an approximate date for restoration of at least part of the power cut off completely from more than half the nation's industries in the gravest fuel shortage in the nation's history.

There was no official indication of a date for the switch-on, but when it comes industry will be given priority.

Sir Guy Nott-Bower, undersecretary of the ministry of fuel and power, was the author of the "turn the corner" statement, but he added that "if we have turned the corner it is only just."

His statement coincided with a note from Attlee declining with thanks the offer of President Truman to divert American coal on ships on the high seas to British ports.

Attlee said that the need for coal (Continued on Page 2; Col. 1)

OPA LOSES ROUND IN SUGAR BATTLE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—OPA, fighting a challenge to its industrial rationing methods, lost in the U. S. Court of appeals today and turned to the Supreme court.

The Appeals court, in a 2 to 1 decision, held invalid the agency's "historical use" system of rationing sugar to the bulk sweetened condensed milk industry.

OPA attorneys contended this might force scrapping of the industrial rationing system and ultimately affect its method of rationing for household use. Meanwhile, rationing continues as usual at least until March 4.

Carl Auerbach, chief OPA counsel, told the court in arguments last week that OPA officials had been unable to find any satisfactory method for industrial allocation other than the "historical" method.

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Taylorsville Citizens Go Bathless; Sheriff Blamed

TAYLORSVILLE, Feb. 14.—(AP)—Nobody got a St. Valentine's day bath here today.

A pump in a 301-foot well broke down yesterday, cutting off the town's water supply and forcing town officials to haul 85,000 gallons of water from Statesville and North Wilkesboro for storage as protection against fire.

Living on one of the highest points in town, Mayor Ray Jennings' family was one of the first of approximately 3,000 residents to be affected by the shortage.

A crew from Alexandria, Va., was pulling the broken pump from the 300-gallon-per-minute well today for necessary repairs and a branch at the edge of town was damaged to augment the imported water in storage.

Meanwhile, persons living on high spots throughout the town hauled their personal water supplies from wells outside the corporate limits.

Mixing humor with their predicament, some residents joked that Sheriff Fred Smith of Alexander county was elected last fall on a "dry" platform and he is really drying things up around here—even to the town well.

Armed Forces Protests Are Given Go Bye

GOP Majority Prevails In Rejection Of Efforts To Lower Cut

Taft Makes Plea Knutson Sees Way Now Clear For 20 Per Cent Drop In Taxes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(AP)—The House-Senate Budget committee voted 50 to 22 today to slash \$6,000,000,000 out of President Truman's \$37,500,000,000 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

It thus overrode Army and Navy protests that cuts in their funds would endanger national security and, in the words of Chairman Knutson (R-Minn.) of the House Ways and Means committee, cleared the way for a 20 percent cut in individual income taxes.

The reduced figure of \$31,500,000,000 is not necessarily the amount that will be made available for the next fiscal year. It amounts to a suggested ceiling, but Congress is not bound to stay within it.

The committee rejected all efforts, including a plea by Senator Taft (R-Ohio), to hold the budget reduction at a figure which would take fewer dollars from the \$11,200,000,000 that President Truman requested for the Army and Navy.

Chairman Knutson (R-SD) of the Senate Armed Services committee fought the huge slash doggedly in the House of Representatives. He told reporters it would take \$1,750,000,000 from the Army and Navy and "I refuse to vote for anything that will hamstring our armed forces while the peace of the world is unsettled."

Prior to the committee session, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, chief of staff, and heads of the Army and Navy, backed by President Truman, had pleaded against cutting the armed forces budget.

Just before the crucial vote was (Continued on Page 2; Col. 5)

RESEARCH GROUP URGED ON HOUSE

Commission Would Study Possible Merit Rating System for Teachers

RALEIGH, Feb. 14.—(AP)—A commission to conduct necessary experiments and research leading to a merit rating system for public school teachers was recommended to the legislature today by Rep. Umstead of Orange.

Umstead was chairman of a special commission appointed two years ago to study such a system. That group made a lengthy report, the gist of which was embodied in bill form. The commission recommended today would present its findings to the governor and 1949 Assembly.

It was estimated that \$50,000 would be needed to conduct such a study, leading to the payment to teachers of salaries according to their merit and capacity.

Eleven persons would constitute the experimental commission. One would represent classroom teachers; one, the North Carolina Education Association; one, the North Carolina Teachers' association; one, the school administrators; two, the teacher education institutions; two, the General Assembly—one from each branch; one, the State Board of Education, and one, the general public.

The last would be ex officio as the state director of the division of professional services. Dr. James E. Hillman, the governor would appoint.

And So To Bed

Yesterday afternoon about four, a State Highway patrolman, making his regular rounds, gazed for a moment in amazement as he saw a mule pulling a two-wheel cart around in circles.

The limb of the law halted his patrol car and went to investigate. He found the mule was being driven by a white man, who was slightly under the influence. The man was pulling the reins hard to the left and the mule just kept circling. The patrolman arrested the driver.

But the story does not end here. The patrolman boarded the cart to drive it to the owner's home when a passing auto came to a sudden halt.

"Say, Buddy, yelled the driver, 'is that what give you cons to drive in North Carolina?'"

The lawman, smiled, blinked, blushed and completely "Gee or Haw", completely ignoring the driver's remarks.