

Wilmington and vicinity: Mostly cloudy and cooler today with occasional light rains tonight; Sunday partly cloudy and continued cool.

Wilmington Morning Star



VOL. 81.—NO. 104.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1947

ESTABLISHED 1847

France Urged To Soak Rich

Finance Minister Mayer Offers Tightened Austerity Bill Plans

PARIS, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Finance Minister Rene Mayer, warning that France is on the brink of an inflationary disaster, called tonight for a "soak the rich" program of tightened austerity which would channel idle francs into government coffers.

The cabinet approved his forced loan plan which would compel all persons earning more than 750,000 francs (\$6,000) a year from any source except real estate to invest from 25 to 50 per cent of net earnings in emergency loans to the government.

The plan also would levy a heavy tax on loafers and night club habitués who are able to work but do not, and would increase the tax burden of farmers.

Mayer presented the program to the National Assembly with the plea that the emergency anti-inflation measures should be "railroaded" through before Christmas to save France from the threat of "overwhelming inflation and economic collapse."

The stocky Socialist financial expert, in a two-hour speech, warned the Assembly that France would have to cover an all-time record budget of 1,000,000,000 francs equivalent to more than \$7,200,000,000 in 1948.

Speed Necessary

"We need an energetic and rapid effort," he said. "France has at the present moment a chance to recover, but that chance will no longer exist in a few weeks time."

The chief planks in Mayer's program were:

1. A forced loan—the first in France's history—compelling those earning more than \$6,000 annually to put from 25 to 50 per cent of their 1947 net gains into 10-year, three per cent government bonds.
2. Levy new taxes, not yet announced, to squeeze another \$664,000,000 out of the taxpayers.
3. Reorganize income tax.

See FRANCE on Page Two

FROSTBITTEN MAN FOUND ON TRAIN

Imprisoned in Box Car Seven Days, "Tramp" Loses 50 Pounds

FORT SMITH, Ark., Dec. 19.—An emaciated, frost-bitten white man was found here today in a box car loaded with lumber and haltingly whispered to officers and hospital attendants he had been locked in the car without food and water since Dec. 11.

Sheriff Prentice Maddux said the man identified himself as Earl Harrison, 24, as he told a story of eight days and nights of terror. The sheriff said Harrison gave this accounting:

He climbed into the car at Wells, Nevada, thinking it was bound for Ogden, Utah. The door was locked before the trip began. As the dark hours dragged by, Harrison realized the car was bound somewhere other than Ogden. He pounded and screamed at every stop but got no response, until finally he was too weak to cry out.

The man was found when the car was opened at a lumber yard.

See FROSTBITTEN on Page Two

The Weather

SUB FORECAST
SOUTH CAROLINA—Considerable snow Saturday and Sunday, occasional rain Saturday night and Sunday, clearing Sunday afternoon, little snow in temperature.
NORTH CAROLINA—Mostly cloudy Saturday and continued cool Sunday. Occasional light rains Saturday night.

Russia May Supply Armament To Arabs

Lebanese Official Expresses Fear Offer Of Arms Moscow Accepted Despite Moslems' Opposition

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Dec. 19.—(AP)—A high Lebanese government official said today he feared Soviet Russia might offer arms to the Arabs for use in Palestine and the Arabs would accept them.

The official, who declined use of his name, added that he knew of no overtures from Russia "as yet."

"Some Western nations have already banned shipments to the Middle East. But the Arabs will take arms from wherever they can get them, even from Russia although they hate Communism," he added.

Meanwhile, the American-owned Trans-Arabian Pipeline company has halted all field work in Trans-Jordan, Syria and Lebanon since the disorders in Arab countries which followed the United Nations decision favoring partition of the Holy Land.

Field parties were flown by special plane back to Beirut or to Saudi Arabia. All equipment was placed at depot points, one of them guarded by Arab Legion soldiers in Trans-Jordan.

While the company is marking time from the Mediterranean end, work from the Saudi Arabian end is continuing, company sources said. These informants added that no See RUSSIA on Page Two

Ban On Closed Shop Held Constitutional By Court

Violation Of Act Constitutes Criminal Act, Opinion States

RALEIGH, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The State Supreme Court in an unanimous opinion today upheld constitutionality of a state law banning the closed shop and at the same time ruled that a violation of the law constituted a violation of the state's criminal law.

"The power of the state by general legislative act . . . to condemn private contracts found to be injurious to the public welfare, to declare them contrary to public policy and prevent their consummation cannot be denied," wrote Associate Justice A. A. F. Seawell.

"The General Assembly felt that so far as it concerned the principle which it felt should be preserved there is no substantial difference between the 'closed shop' and the so-called 'all union shop,' the justice added.

"The statute protects the rights of workmen to organize; it further protects rights of workmen to express their individual opinions by refusing to join unions," Seawell wrote.

Citations Upheld

The court, in another case on the labor-management front, upheld contempt of court citations brought against 11 Rockingham strikers as the result of disorders which marked a prolonged strike at the Safie Manufacturing company last summer.

The anti-closed shop law was enacted by the 1947 legislature. In addition to banning the closed shop, it also prohibits the union shop, maintenance of membership, and the check-off of union dues.

The test of the act's constitutionality came in a test case from Buncombe county sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, and labor leaders have indicated that if the State Supreme court upheld the law, an

See BAN on Page Two

GOVERNOR CHERRY FREES PRISONERS

Two Former Escapees Who Made Good Have Sentences Commuted

RALEIGH, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Two prisoners who were returned to prison after having escaped and made good in civil life will spend Christmas in their families with their debts to society marked "paid in full."

Governor Cherry today commuted the remainder of the prison terms of William Philpot, 34, who escaped from a North Carolina prison camp in 1934 and who went to Gilbert, W. Va., married and became a highly-respected citizen.

The governor also commuted the remaining prison time of Virgil Shipes, who escaped in 1944 and became a successful business man at Fairfax, Va.

Prison department officials said that Philpot, who is serving his sentence at the Guilford county No. one prison camp, and Shipes, who is confined in the Durham camp probably will be released tomorrow.

Blackie Quits Guardhouse For Doghouse Via Pardon

FT. McPHERSON, Ga., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Blackie, an aged "pot hound" with a tail so long it was hard to tell which part was wagging, left the guardhouse under a full pardon today and took up respectable residence in a doghouse.

"As befitting the spirit of this holiday season, and because of his exemplary conduct," general prisoner "Blackie," ASN D-0000, is honorably restored to duty," Colonel Halloran read. "The unexpired portion of his life sentence is hereby remitted, Col. G. M. Halloran, dignified

Congress Adjourns After Passing \$540 Million European Aid Bill; Peace Far Distant, Marshall Says

Soviet Policies Scored In Speech

Secretary Blames Molotov For Break Of Big Four Conference

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Secretary of State Marshall said tonight that because of Soviet "frustration" policies, a lasting European peace settlement is yet distant.

It probably will have to await the outcome of Western Europe's efforts — with American assistance — to "restore a healthy society," he predicted.

In a radio talk to the nation, timed for 10 p. m. EST, Marshall reported on the break-up of the Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference at London.

He said that until the struggle between Russia and the Western powers is decided even a "paper agreement" would be difficult.

"The Soviet Union has recognized the situation in its frank declaration of hostility and opposition to the European recovery program," Marshall continued.

Placing the blame for failure to reach agreement on Russian Foreign Minister Molotov, Marshall said that at London the Soviet spokesman displayed "no apparent will to reach a settlement."

Molotov, he charged, used the conference "as an opportunity for propaganda declarations which would be pleasant to German ears."

Outcome Disappointing

Despite the outcome, which he termed disappointing, Marshall asserted that no real ground was lost or gained, except to make clearer the outlines of problems and obstacles to a lasting peace.

"We cannot look forward to a unified Germany at this time," he advised. "We must do the best we can in the area where our influence can be felt."

His reference presumably went to the 16 nations of Western Europe, including the American-British occupation zones in Germany. It was for their economic recovery that President

See POLICIES on Page Two

PESSIMISM RULES STRIKE PARLEYS

Union Spokesman Says Western Union Walkout Appears Certain

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(AP)—The government continued tonight its efforts to settle the wage dispute between AFL unions and the Western Union Telegraph company but a spokesman for the workers said a strike Tuesday morning appeared "inevitable."

The strike date was fixed earlier this week by the executive committee representing the AFL Commercial Telegraphers Union, the Telegraph Employee Union of Atlanta, and the Telegraph Workers Union of Dallas, Texas.

Together they represent 50,000 employees in the Western Union system outside metropolitan New York where the American Communications Association (CIO) has offered to join in the walk out. The AFL has not yet accepted the CIO union's proposal for joint action.

The AFL union spokesman said a strike seemed inevitable after a three-hour meeting of government conciliators and representatives of the company and unions.

Working Hard

See PESSIMISM on Page Two



SANTA CLAUS VISITS BRIGADE BOYS CLUB — Over 200 boys attended the annual Christmas party at the Brigade club last night. Santa is shown above as he passed out presents to all the boys attending. Awards for the recent Santa Claus parade poster contest were made by James Copeland, executive director.

Defense Rests In Fritz Case; To File Non-Suit Motion Today

MOVING CHRISTMAS TREES MOVE POLICEMAN TO ACTION

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Mounted Patrolman Harry Hoffman glanced at the erect-looking Christmas trees today, turned away and then suddenly looked back again.

It seemed as if they had moved. "No, couldn't be," he told himself and again turned his head.

But once more Hoffman turned his head—and then this time the trees were galloping down the street.

His horse galloped faster and he stopped the trees and the man who was holding one in each arm masking his body between them. The man, identified as Wallace Alexander, 50, was held on a larceny charge.

BRIGADE BOYS ATTEND PARTY

Annual Christmas Event At Club; Rev. W. B. Freed Program Speaker

Over 200 boys, members of the Brigade Boys club attended the annual Christmas party at the club, second and Church streets, last night.

James Copeland, executive director of the club, was in charge of the program. He was assisted by Harold Culler, physical director.

The program was opened with the youngsters singing Christmas Carols. The Christmas Story was told by the Rev. Walter B. Freed, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church, and a member of the Brigade board of directors.

Copeland presented prizes to the winners of the recent Santa Claus parade poster contest. Adrian Brown and Sherrol Inman were first place winners in the prep division. Arvin Davis won the junior class award and Burl Murray was winner in the senior class.

A special prize was presented Sonny Boyd for his unique and original poster.

The refreshments were prepared and served by the members of the Senior Fraternity.

See BRIGADE on Page Two

Along The Cape Fear

MORE ABOUT WACCAMAW

A second contribution to the history of the Waccamaw has come to the column from Col. W. N. Harriss, whose memory reaches back into the days when the Cape Fear river was navigable only for ships which drew less than 12 feet of water.

Col. Harriss says that the "first captain of the steamer Waccamaw was W. J. Potter, who was the grand father of a riot gun stood over Blackie until he should formally be pronounced a free dog."

"As befitting the spirit of this holiday season, and because of his exemplary conduct," general prisoner "Blackie," ASN D-0000, is honorably restored to duty," Colonel Halloran read. "The unexpired portion of his life sentence is hereby remitted, Col. G. M. Halloran, dignified

See CAPE FEAR on Page Two

Industry "Check" On Prices Okayed

Lawmakers To Return January 6 For Regular Session Duties

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Congress adjourned tonight, ending a 33-day special session which enacted a \$540,000,000 foreign aid program and a plan for voluntary industry checks on rising prices.

The Senate quit first, adjourning at 7:18 p. m. (EST).

The House followed at 7:32 after listening to a song by an impromptu quartet composed of Representatives Plumley (R-VT), Worley (D-Tex.), Jones (D-NC), and Morris (D-Okla.).

They alleged that they sang "I been working on the railroad" but other members said they didn't recognize the tune.

In the closing hours, the legislators sent to President Truman two measures dealing with the subjects he put before them when he called the special session to meet Nov. 17.

On foreign aid, Congress voted \$540,000,000 for France, Italy, Austria and China. Mr. Truman had asked \$597,000,000 for the three European countries.

Economic Front

On the home economic front, it approved a Republican bill based on seeking voluntary agreements from industries to hold down prices, together with continued export and transportation controls.

The President had pleaded for power to resume price and rationing controls if he decided they were required to keep the cost-of-living within bounds.

The legislators will return Jan. 6 for the regular session

See INDUSTRY on Page Two

YEN AS BIG SHOT LEADS TO MURDER

Pennsylvania Man Confesses Killing Used Car Dealer At Berwick

BERWICK, Pa., Dec. 19.—(AP)—A man who told police he shot a used car lot employe to death and threw his body in the Susquehanna river because "I wanted to be a big shot" was held without charge tonight at the Berwick police station, District Attorney W. S. Sharpless reported.

Sharpless said that police are holding 40-year-old Alex Agoston, Jr., "pending further investigation." He added he would be charged with murder when the body is recovered from the river "and maybe before."

The district attorney said that Agoston made an oral statement to State Policeman Karl Gures describing the death of Russell Balliet, 36, who had been missing since Dec. 9 when he withdrew \$1,525 from a bank to purchase a car for the man who employed him.

Gures said Agoston told him he shot Balliet twice on Dec. 9 after luring him into his car under the pretext of selling it and then deliberately attempting to get him drunk.

"I thought I could get away with it," Gures quoted the prisoner. "I wanted to be a big shot and I didn't care how many people I killed to be one. I'm not sorry for what I did."

Blood Stains Found

Police said they found blood stains in Agoston's car, a bullet

See YEN on Page Two

And So To Bed

After a recent robbery at a local grocery store located in the eastern section of the city, it was decided to install a burglar alarm system in order to foil any future break-ins.

Last night it was learned that the alarm works perfectly.

A couple of city policemen made a routine check at the store to make sure that no one had broken into it and to be sure that the alarm was in working order.

As one of the policemen shook the front door of the establishment, as is the custom of officers, he was surprised when the burglar alarm proved itself in good working order, all right, ringing loudly and insistently.

The officers were unable to do anything about the situation until they had summoned aid to open the store and out off the alarm.

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two

See DEFENSE on Page Two

See ALLIES MAY LEAVE BERLIN

See SOVIET ORGAN MAKES SUGGESTION FOR SECOND TIME

See COMMUNAL RIOTS TAKE MANY LIVES

See HINDUS BATTLE MOSLEMS IN INDIA SETTLEMENT; CASUALTY LIST HIGH

See NEW DELHI, DEC. 19.—(AP)—New communal rioting has of Ajmer and three killed and more than 15 injured in the old city of Delhi, it was announced today.

The disorders shattered the relative peace that had prevailed in India since the bloody

See COMMUNAL on Page Two

See TOBACCO on Page Two

See ORGAN on Page Two