

FDR PLANS LOCAL WPA COMPLAINT BOARDS

Soldiers Are Sent By France To Djibouti To Resist Italy

Demands Of Italy Likely Bluff Game

French Press and Public Confident Nation Can Defend Its Colonies Against Italy; Daladier Ready for War If That Becomes Necessary

Paris, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The ministry of colonies announced today that a detachment of Senegalese troops had been sent to strengthen the Djibouti garrison. The reinforcements were requested by Governor General Deschamps...

Colonial authorities said they did not know the exact number of Senegalese enroute to Djibouti, but estimated there were between 1,200 and 1,500. The French press and the public were inclined to regard the Italian campaign for Djibouti as a bluff, and to have confidence in France's ability to defend her colonies.

Several conservative newspapers limited their comment solely to a government communique denying reports of Italian concentrations in Ethiopia and Eritrea, near the border of French Somaliland. The left wing press, the extreme right and some centrists warned the government against capitulation to the Italian demands—unofficial and made through the controlled fascist press.

Government spokesmen, meanwhile, left no doubt of Premier Daladier's determination to lead the nation to war if Italy tries to seize Djibouti. As a symbol of French defiance, a nearly 2,000-ton dispatch boat arrived before the Suez Canal today on its way to Djibouti from Beirut, Syria.

Two Clinton People Dead In Smash-Up

Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 28.—(AP)—D. W. Ray, 37, of Clinton, N. C., and a woman tentatively identified as his mother were killed and two other persons injured early today when their automobile crashed into the abutment of a bridge over Forest Lake, 14 miles south of here.

Mrs. Ray, wife of the dead man and their eight-year-old son, Wilbur Ray, were carried to a hospital. Mrs. Ray received a broken leg and lacerations on the face and legs. The child escaped with a minor scratch and shock.

The family was believed enroute home after visiting relatives in New York. The car was badly wrecked, but did not overturn.

New Methods For Curing Of Tobacco

Richmond, Va., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Curing of bright tobacco by air-conditioning at a considerable saving in time, labor and fuel, and with more uniformly satisfactory results than by the time-honored flue-cured method, was described here today.

Three Virginia Tech researchers, after two years of experiments at Blacksburg, Va., reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science that application of conditioned air improves the curing of tobacco in four ways: Time of curing is reduced from 50 to 60 percent.

Stem greenness is entirely eliminated. Uniform high quality tobacco is obtained. Labor and fuel requirements are considerably reduced.

Dr. Albert E. Capper, associate professor of chemical engineering and two graduate students, Carl D. Dalamar, of Durham, N. C., and Henry B. Smith, Jr., of New Bern, N. C., prepared the report for presentation to a sectional meeting of the scientists.

Congressional Leaders Confer



The big chiefs of Capitol Hill get together for the first time prior to opening of the new Congress. Vice President John Nance Garner (left), presiding officer of the Senate, and William Bankhead, speaker of the House, are shown at an informal conference in Washington.

Legislature Opens Just One Week Off, Facing Hard Grind

Election of Speaker and President Protem First Matters of Business; Governor Hoey's Address Will Be Made to Solons on Thursday

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—(AP)—One week from today at noon, North Carolina representatives will elect a speaker. The senators will ratify nomination of their president protem, and the 1939 General Assembly will be headed for a long hard grind.

Tuesday night the speaker and president protem will be selected at party caucuses by Democrats of the legislature, but the formal elections will open the session.

Three veteran representatives, Victor Bryant, of Durham, W. I. Fenner, of Rocky Mount, and D. I. Ward, of New Bern, have been beating the highways for months now campaigning for the speakership, and each claims that victory is in sight.

The three men are expected to arrive here Monday for last-minute campaigning.

Senator Eskine Smith, of Albemarle, is reported in the lead for president protem of the Senate, but Senator W. I. Halstead, of South Mills, also wants the job.

Little has been heard in Raleigh circles of campaigns for the legislative staffs, but some warm fights are being waged.

W. P. Brown, of Perquimans county, sergeant-at-arms for the 1937 House, wants the same job, but he has Ben M. Brewer, of Raleigh, a former sergeant-at-arms, and D. Scott Poole, of Raeford, as opponents.

As soon as the organization details are out of the way next Wednesday, the legislators are expected to adjourn until Thursday to meet to hear Governor Hoey deliver his message.

Well-considered estimates of the rival dry-wet strength in the General Assembly indicate that neither proposal would win; but it is clearly indicated that the wets are ready to launch an offensive of their own if the dries really show any signs of starting things in the legislature.

Ever since the primary results last summer the opinion has been generally held that the prohibition forces hold a House majority, with the controllers having clear title to at least 27 votes. This would indicate a dog fall as the result of any struggle.

There is a strange, almost ominous, quiet in the dry camp since the primaries. Neither Cale K. Burgess, generalissimo, or any other of the prohibition high command has broken into print with predictions of repeal on the basis of a statewide referendum.

Wets have not been lulled into any false sense of security there, and at the first hint of a dry offensive, into the hopper will go a bill permitting all cities of more than 10,000 to vote.

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RICHARD MYERS, OF CHARLOTTE, PASSES

Charlotte, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Richard A. Myers, a retired engineer and member of a prominent family, died today in a hospital here after an illness of two weeks. He was 54. He was a son of the late John S. Myers, one of the developers of Myers Park, a Charlotte residential section. Myers was a graduate in civil engineering in the class of 1905 at V. P. I. at Blacksburg, and was identified during his career with numerous private and government projects in the Piedmont Carolinas.

New Secretary



Here is a recent photo of Joseph B. Keenan, assistant United States attorney general, who succeeded James Roosevelt, son of the President, as a member of the White House secretariat.

(Central Press)

Weather Is Milder, With Snow Likely

Warmer and Rain Is Promised for Thursday; Zero on Mt. Mitchell; Nation Feels Pangs of Arctic Blast; 15 Deaths Blamed on Cold Weather

Charlotte, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Weather-bound residents of North Carolina and South Carolina were cheered today by forecasts of slightly warmer temperatures tonight and tomorrow after an icy blast from the northwest that pushed the mercury down, although not quite to expected minimums. Generally fair and slightly warmer weather was predicted for North Carolina by the United States Weather Bureau, but the forecast said the weather would be followed by rain Thursday night and probably snow in the mountain areas, blanketed by a heavy fall two days ago.

A similar prospect was in view for South Carolina.

Meanwhile, a survey of temperatures over the two states indicated

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5 Leaders In Credit Firm Convicted

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 28.—(AP)—A Federal jury convicted five officers of the Continental Credit Corporation, of Winchester, Ind., and associated firms today of using the mails to defraud in schemes which the government contended cost midwestern business houses and individual approximately \$1,200,000.

John W. Moore, Sr., Continental's president, and his son, John W. Moore, Jr., secretary-treasurer, were convicted on all 12 of the counts of indictments against them. Maximum sentences of 57 years are possible in their cases.

Kenneth P. Kimball, president of the Kim-Murph Company, of Lansing, Mich., and R. S. Phillips, former secretary-treasurer of the Mineral Felt Company, of Toledo, Ohio, were convicted on two counts. They can be sentenced to maximum terms of seven years.

Russell E. Wise, of Union City, Continental's attorney, was convicted on two counts and a maximum sentence of ten years is possible. All of the defendants were convicted of conspiracy except Wise.

Federal Judge Robert Baltzell announced he would pass sentence January 5.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Generally fair, not quite so cold near southeast coast tonight; Thursday increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer, followed by rain and snow at night, and in south portion in afternoon.

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Democracies Decide To Be Hard-Boiled On Dictator States

At Long Last Britain and France Conclude It Is Hopeless To Try Appeasement on Hitler and Mussolini, Especially Hitler; To Deal Plainly

(BY DEWITT MCKENZIE.) London, Dec. 28.—(AP)—There are many indications that at last Europe has reached a turning point in the relations between the totalitarian states (especially Nazism) and the democracies—a decided hardening of democratic sentiment against further concessions to threats.

The last few days have seen a revulsion of feeling in both Britain and France. The feeling applies both to government and public. The change is impelled by the conclusion that further bargaining is futile.

I am in a position to state with assurance that many officials of the democracies have now adopted the view that Fuehrer Hitler's mind is so inflexibly fixed on his program of empire building that nothing will stop him short of defeat in war, or the collapse of his regime. This feeling has been growing steadily ever since Germany's annexation of Austria. To make it jell, however, it has required the smashing of Czechoslovakia, the extension of Nazi domination through the Balkans and the German move to gain control of the Russian Ukraine in the spring. To this must be added the latest anti-Semitic drive and the claims of Germany's Italian ally to French territories.

Advocates of appeasement clung to the last to the idea that they could bargain with Hitler. I understand, however, that this hope has been abandoned very generally, and it is now agreed that the only value of such an approach to Berlin is to postpone an ultimate reckoning.

Unusual photo of Neville Chamberlain, British prime minister, telling banquet listeners that his German policy of moderation did not mean Britain was weak. It was this speech which the German ambassador in London refused to come to hear, because Chamberlain attacked the German press.

(Central Press)

Blackmailers Of Musica Are Sought

New York, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Police continued their search today for blackmailers suspected of obtaining at their own prices their secret of F. Donald Coster's identity as Philip Musica, arch swindler of the pre-war era.

Two men and a woman accused of extorting thousands of dollars from the president of McKesson & Robbins, Inc., by preying upon his lifelong fear of the exposure that finally ruined him, were to be arraigned today. While the round-up continued,

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Fenner Will Gain, Though He Loses Out

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—Most observers rate W. E. (Bill) Fenner as third in the three-cornered Speakership race which comes to a climax with next Tuesday's Democratic House caucus; but practically all are agreed that the outspoken Nash representative stands to lose less than either of his rivals.

This belief is based on the assumption that none of the candidatorial

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Highway To Pay \$9,000 For Gill Land For Camp

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The Highway and Public Works Commission has arranged to buy a spring in Vance county to cost \$9,000, but will get 100 acres of land "thrown in."

Charles Ross, general counsel, said the commission encountered difficulty finding land on which it could drill wells and get enough water for a new prison camp.

Telling 'Em!



Unusual photo of Neville Chamberlain, British prime minister, telling banquet listeners that his German policy of moderation did not mean Britain was weak. It was this speech which the German ambassador in London refused to come to hear, because Chamberlain attacked the German press.

(Central Press)

Labor Board Report Is Held Unfair

President Grace Says Its Only Aim Is To Destroy Relations With Employees

New York, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The Bethlehem Steel Company announced today it would contest recommendations of a trial examiner for the National Labor Relations Board that the company abolish its 20-year-old employee representation plan.

E. G. Grace, Bethlehem president, said in a statement that the examiner's findings, made public in Washington yesterday, "are not supported by the facts and are contrary to the intent of the labor act."

Dis-establishment of the existing bargaining organizations of Bethlehem employees, Grace said, "should be for our employees to decide. They have continuously shown that their desire that these organizations be continued."

Grace charged that the ten months inquiry into Bethlehem's labor policies was "instigated by the CIO" as "the latest phase of its attempt to force upon our employees an organization which they do not desire."

In his report to the Labor Board, Frank Bloom, the trial examiner, held that the steel company had engaged in unfair labor practices by "dominating and interfering" with the formation of a new union.

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County Body Would Hear All Charges

Would Serve Without Pay; President Asked To Lead Conference for Economic and Military Disarmament; Training of 20,000 Airmen Planned

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt was reported today to be considering creation of non-partisan county boards to act on complaints of "politics in relief."

A well informed person said that, although details have not been completely worked out, the President might endorse such assistance to meet criticism directed at WPA during the recent election campaign. This became known at a time when the Senate Campaign Expenditures Committee was working at top speed to get its recommendations ready for the opening of Congress next week.

The committee investigated charges that WPA funds were used to influence the results of various primary and general election results.

A person in close touch with the White House said that what the President had in mind was appointment of men in each county in the United States to sift complaints of discrimination in the administration of relief. The groups would serve without pay.

Any relief worker who thought he had been denied equal treatment could appeal to the county board, which would pass on the justice of his case and take any appropriate action.

Also, the President was asked by a delegation from the National Peace Conference to lead a campaign for military disarmament. John N. Sayre, president of the peace organization, said after a call at the White House

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Insurgents Continuing Their Drive

Hendaye, France, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Insurgent armies were reported today to be continuing their drive into Catalonia "on all fronts" along the 75-mile line between Tramp and Ribarroja, on the river Ebro.

Insurgent newspapers said the six-day-old offensive toward Tarragona and Barcelona, on the Mediterranean, had captured more than 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) of territory, at least 16 towns, scores of villages and 7,000 prisoners.

Fresh gains were reported especially southeast of Lerida, the insurgent base. A 20 mile south-south-east of Lerida, and an important center on the railway and highway to Tarragona, was reported surrendered.

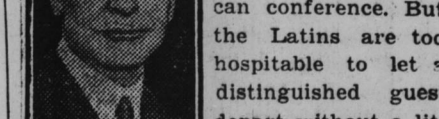
Insurgent headquarters at Iron said government militiamen were strengthening their lines in this area largely to cover the retreat of larger bodies of troops. The government's main report of successes was in holding insurgent attacks north of Tramp to no gains. Insurgent aviation led the onslaughts below Lerida, said insurgent dispatches, blasting the roads leading from Gandesa and from Lerida.

Ecuador Has Mild Revolt For Mr. Hull

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Columnist

Washington, Dec. 28.—Secretary of State Hull could fairly have considered himself slighted if a revolutionary outbreak hadn't been staged somewhere in his neighborhood during his visit to Lima, Peru, for the Pan-American conference. But the Latins are too hospitable to let a distinguished guest depart without a little entertainment of the sort to remember them by.

So Ecuador put an uprising on for the occasion. At this moment of "writing" (Continued on Page Three.)



Cordell Hull

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