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Matsuoka To Visit Axis Partners

Reported U. S. Diplomatic Move Creates Stir

1,000 Jobs at \$780 a Year—4,000 Applicants



To the first 1,000 persons who could pass the physical examination, New York City offered jobs at \$780 a year doing laundry work. Twenty hours before opening of applications, job hunters were waiting. Here's the scene as the applicants step on tables and floors.

Gala Event Made Of First Blackout

Seattle Stages First Major Blackout Test Without Reported Accident; Streets Are Thronged With Shouting Crowds.

Seattle, March 8.—(AP)—All the lights of Seattle—well, nearly all of them—licked off for 15 minutes last night in the first defensive blackout test for a major American city, but that didn't blackout the festive spirit of most of the city's 400,000 residents.

The experiment went off on schedule with almost complete cooperation of all the citizens and without reported accidents.

The only emergency call reported by police was one asking them to "stop a man beating his wife."

Thousands paraded the downtown streets, shouting and whistling for the duration of the blackout. Hundreds gathered before a hotel and yelled a warning to one guest who had neglected to douse his room lights.

Patrons deserted the movies for the quarter-hour to join the joyous crowds, then returned to their seats.

There were no traffic mishaps. All automobiles within the city were stopped and those entering were halted at the city limits.

During the period from 10:40 to 10:55 p. m. only navigation lights in the harbor, running lights on a moving train, a few isolated lights and blobs of illumination from an aircraft company and a shipyard working on defense orders broke the "island of blackness" for which blackout organizers had called under a special city ordinance.

Police Accused Of Beating Two Students

San Francisco, March 8.—(AP)—Two veteran police officers pointed out in a lineup of 68 policemen were suspended temporarily from the force today, accused of beating two Stanford University freshmen picked up as vagrants last Saturday night.

Deputy Police Chief Michael J. Riordan announced formal complaints charging unprovoked assault would be filed today against the officers, Patrolmen Joseph Green and John J. Desmond.

They were picked from the lineup of uniformed policemen yesterday by

(Continued on Page Five).

Offer Of Aid To Belgrade Unconfirmed

Berlin and Rome, However, React With Annoyance to Hungarian Newspaper Report of Effort to Sway Yugoslavia.

(By The Associated Press) Although substantiated on the surface by nothing except a Hungarian newspaper dispatch, Germans and Italians reacted with annoyance today to a report that President Roosevelt had suggested some manner of aid to Yugoslavia to keep that nation out of the axis.

State department officials at Washington said they "never heard of it."

Germany and Italian newspapers hammered on the theme. Pressed for additional substantiation of the Budapest report, an authorized Nazi spokesman commented: "We have the impression it is authentic."

One Italian newspaper, regarded as expressing government views, said editorially "we are in the presence of the first scandalous intrusion of the United States of America into Europe's politics and war."

"Roosevelt's proposal of war aid to the Belgrade government so Yugoslavia would not adhere to the tripartite pact and thus would maintain a hostile attitude toward the axis powers obviously exceeds the American policy of simple aid to Britain."

Virginio Gayda, a fascist editorial spokesman, indicated that Yugoslavia would be asked to "clarify her position and intentions" toward the axis powers.

Yugoslav official circles declined to issue a denial of the Hungarian press reports that the United States had offered aid to Yugoslavia. They said no denial was necessary "because the whole business is so ridiculous."

Crash Tax Bill Killed

House Rejects Bill Introduced by Late Senator Long; Other News of Legislature.

Raleigh, March 8.—(AP)—The House today killed the "crash tax" bill which Senator F. W. M. Long of Halifax county sponsored in the Senate before his death earlier in the legislative session.

The measure would have provided the addition of 50 cents to the cost of each auto license for a fund to pay hospital expenses of accident victims.

Representative Abernathy of Nash had moved for reconsideration of the vote by which the House rejected the measure yesterday on second reading, but the bill died when the representatives adopted a motion by Pickens of Guilford to table Abernathy's motion.

Pushing toward adjournment now virtually assured by the end of next week, both houses considered general business today and not just local legislation as is usual on Saturday sessions.

The House received from Burgin of Henderson a bill to provide \$50,000 a year for emergency marketing work by the State Department of Agriculture.

Senator Ingram of Stanly sent forward a measure to authorize the State Utilities Commission to supervise aeronautical affairs and provide standards corresponding to federal regulations.

The Senate also received from Cherry of Gaston two measures introduced at the request of the state elections board—one to allow men in military service to cast absentee ballots in primaries and the other to allow commanding officers to certify absentee ballots in place of notaries public.

The House appropriations commit-

(Continued on Page Three).

British Leaders in Ankara to Woo Turkey



General Sir John G. Dill (left), chief of the British Imperial General Staff, and British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden (center) confer with Turkish Foreign Minister Suku Saracoglu during their visit to Ankara, Turkey. Their conferences appear to be bearing fruit in stiffening Turkish resistance to German demands, with indications that Turkey may enter the war on Britain's side.

Aid Bill Near Passage

Harrison To Have Last Word On Lease-Lend Legislation

By CHARLES P. STEWART

Central Press Columnist Washington, March 8.—Although Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi has been an outstanding fighter for the upper congressional chamber's adoption of aid-Britain and American defensive legislation, he hasn't been the official leader of the campaign for the administration's program.

The discussion has been a mixture of a foreign affairs, military affairs and naval affairs debate, and Senators George, Morris Sheppard of Texas and David I. Walsh of Massachusetts, as chairman of the senate's foreign, military and naval affairs committees, in the order named, have been the appropriate solons to figure as experts along the lines of their respective specialties.

Pat, by the way, could have been foreign affairs chairman if he'd chosen to be. When the committee's last chairman, Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, died not long ago, Pat was in line to succeed him. He already was chairman, however, of the senate's finance committee. It isn't customary for the same statesman to head two different and important committees, and Pat preferred to stay on his finance job. Consequently, Senator George, next on the seniority list, assumed the post.

But if Pat's been a trifle obscured, by his chairmanship's nature, in consideration of aid-Britain and domestic defensive plans, oh, how he'll loom up when the controversy arises as to methods of footing the bill for these twin undertakings! It'll have to be footed by taxation, and dopping out taxes is the finance committee's particular function. It behooves the taxpayers, then, to develop a heap of interest in Senator Harrison.

Chairman Robert L. Doughton

(Continued on Page Two)

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, By HENRY AVERILL

Raleigh, March 8.—If you ask him why he's here, Will Lucas will tell you in his most urbane manner that he's just looking on and doing nothing in particular; but it's really an open secret that the chairman of the State Board of Elections is keeping an eye on any effort to weaken the laws which he was so powerfully effective in getting written into the North Carolina code two years ago.

It was no easy job abolishing absentee voting and markers in primaries, and equally as tough going when it came to throwing more drastic safeguards around those practices in general elections. So Mr. Lucas doesn't have any idea of staying down in Wilson, even though that's not so far off, while there exists the possibility of a last minute forced re-write of the election laws as re-written in 1939.

Mr. Lucas is primarily interested in the proposal (House Bill 710) introduced by Basil Whitener of Gaston and many others for the purpose of permitting voters now in military, naval or marine service to vote in primaries by absentee ballot.

He doesn't see how anybody can object to the principle—everybody must agree that the "boys in service" in general elections.

(Continued on Page Three).

Lucas In Raleigh To Watch Changes In Election Laws

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel, By HENRY AVERILL

Raleigh, March 8.—Now that the current session of the General Assembly is on its last legs, the time has arrived when the law makers begin to dump their last-minute bills into the machinery.

Most of these are local (some of them meritorious but many of them purely "spite" bills), but many are concerned with matters of statewide interest and importance. Among these, too, there are many bad bills which have been purposefully held out to the eleventh hour

(Continued on Page Three).

Visit Hints Of Closer Cooperation

Conferences of Japanese Foreign Minister at Rome and Berlin May Mean Formation of Common Program of Action.

(By The Associated Press) A hint of tightening cooperation between Japan and her European axis partners came today in an official German announcement that Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka would reach Berlin shortly for "personal deliberations on all questions arising from collaboration as set forth in the three-powers pact."

One suggestion for Matsuoka's visit to Berlin and also Rome was that the axis might be contemplating formulation of a common program of action against Britain and the United States both in Europe and the Far East.

The possibility also was suggested that Japan is loath to participate actively in the war against Britain and wishes to explain her position to Adolf Hitler.

Air War Resumed.

Three Nazi bombers were reported shot down today in dog fights off the English coast as the Nazi air force resumed its attacks on Britain after a night of comparative quiet.

The German high command said a Nazi submarine and Nazi speedboats had sunk two British destroyers and eleven armed merchantmen totaling 61,400 tons in attacks on convoys.

Offer To Greece.

Balkan observers intimated that Germany's price for staying a threatened attack on Greece would cost the Greeks every hard won mile of their gains against Italy and return their troops within their old frontiers.

German diplomats were said by some sources to have promised Greece that she could retain all the territory she held before October 28, when the Italians first attacked, if she would sign a peace giving Premier Mussolini a "paper victory" in Albania.

But despite 150,000 Nazi soldiers poised for action on the Greek-Bulgarian border, the Greeks battled grimly on in central Albania without a word of additional comment from Athens, where German diplomatic pressure so far apparently has fallen flat.

Turkey Defiant.

Turkey continued urgent defense measures and Turkish statesmen made ready to state the country's position in the tense situation. The government-inspired press expressed defiance of Germany and urged Yugoslavia to resist axis overtures.

From Albania came Greek claims of new successes on the central war front in which 1,050 Italians were captured. These reports coincided with unconfirmed advices of another shakeup in the Italian high command in Albania—the fourth since the campaign began.

Carol Gives Interview

Ex-King of Rumania Expresses Appreciation for Asylum Given By Portugal.

Lisbon, Portugal, March 8.—(AP)

—In the first interview he has granted the press since he abdicated the throne of Rumania last September, former King Carol asserted today he was very grateful to Portugal for giving him asylum.

"I want to rest," the ex-ruler said. Signs of the worry and anxiety of recent months were clearly marked on Carol's face, although he gave the impression that he was far from dejected.

The former king who fled from Spain last Monday with his red-haired companion of many years, Magda Lupescu, said he wished to express his gratitude to Portugal as well as to the American public for the interest and sympathy shown in his plight.

"I appreciate their sympathy," Carol said, "and I want to thank them."

The interview took place at the residence of the wealthy Portuguese businessman, Augusto Lopes Joly—the ex-king's long time friend.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Mostly cloudy with light rain or drizzle this afternoon and early tonight; slightly colder tonight; Sunday partly cloudy and continued rather cold.

(Continued on Page Three).

(Continued on Page Three).

(Continued on Page Two).