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Nazis Push 'Far Beyond Larisa'

House Committee Studies Money Measures

New Board No Surprise

Highway Commission Appointments As Expected to be Made, Averill Declares.

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

Raleigh, April 21.—The only people April-flooded by Governor Broughton's Friday highway commission announcements were representatives of the afternoon news-

The wasn't even a mild surprise in the whole commission-lead, nor could there have been even minor eyebrow-lifting at the shifts that will send Robert Grady Johnson to the ABC chairmanship and Oscar Pitts to head of the prison division; had it not been for the timing of their announcement.

As late as noon Friday the governor, in answer to a specific question, made the unequivocal answer that there would be "nothing" on the prison division until the first meeting of the new highway commission on May 2.

And that will be for the afternoon papers, he said with a smile to your reporter who had just expressed inability to "applaud any appointment made at 4:40 p. m."

Nevertheless, at about four o'clock in the afternoon Governor Broughton handed out to morning paper men typewritten announcements that Pitts would be recommended for prison head and Johnson would be elevated to the liquor board chairmanship upon the effective date (August 1) of Cutlar Moore's resignation.

It seems that the governor did call representatives of the wire services but too late for them to get anything in the afternoon report.

He explained that Mr. Johnson had submitted his resignation to the highway commission sooner than expected and gave the impression that he (the governor) was not aware this would be done. That, he said, altered things so that he thought the announcements should be made immediately.

This sudden and unexpected resignation of the prison head was in sharp contrast to scores of previous resignations during the Broughton regime—most, if not all, of which were in the governor's hands (even weeks) before they were announced. It appears to be the only instance of its kind on record in this administration.

Raleigh politicians—meaning by that the politicians who are interested in the city campaign now in progress of bitter liquidation—scouted close connection between the announcement of the Pitts promotion and a gubernatorial statement carried simultaneously in this morning's News and Observer in which Broughton denied that he is participating in any way in the city battle. It has been openly and repeatedly charged that Pitts is working tooth and nail to elect former Detective Captain Bruce Poole over incumbent Commissioner of Public Safety Roy Powell; and that other smaller-city politicians who are close to the gubernatorial bosom are doing the same. Pitts has denied only the allegation that he is a "Catawba voter." He has established residence here.

The theory of these politicians is that the Governor found himself forced, by direct questioning, to clear his own skirts of taking part in the city race. This he did by flat and categorical denial.

They further theorize that this statement seemed too much like a repudiation of, or slap at, Pitts and so it was deemed advisable to confirm complete gubernatorial confidence in him by a gubernatorial pat on the head in the announcement of his coming promotion.

They translate the two occurrences roughly like this: "I'm not taking the slightest part in the city race; but if my best political henchman Pitts is, it's perfectly all right with me, as you can see by the fact that I'm going to give him a better job—one that pays \$6,000 instead of the \$4,200 he's now getting."

Tax Experts Are Called To Testify

Chairman Doughton Predicts Revival of at Least Some of World War "Nuisance" Taxes; Higher Income Levies Expected.

Washington, April 21.—(AP)—Treasury and congressional tax experts were summoned by the House ways and means committee today to lay the groundwork for writing a new \$3,500,000,000 tax measure intended to boost the nation's tax intake to \$12,600,000,000.

Meeting behind closed doors, the committee asked for "suggestions" from John L. Sullivan, assistant Treasury secretary, and from the staff of the joint committee on internal revenue taxation, an arm of Congress. Both have been working separately and in collaboration on estimates of possible money sources.

On the other side of the Capitol, meanwhile, Senator Glass, Democrat, Virginia, recommended that under present circumstances "every person with any income ought to pay taxes."

Indorsing the idea of higher levies, Glass told the reporters that universal taxation "in this emergency" was "imperative." It would have a salutary effect, he said, for "when people have a responsibility for providing the money they also will have a responsibility to watch how it is spent" by Congress.

As the House committee began its search for more money sources, predictions were made freely that the tremendous new revenue program would necessitate an increase of from 25 to 50 percent in existing taxes, a return of many World War levies and the tapping of untouched fields.

There was talk that the present basic 44 percent rate levied against individual incomes might be increased to 8. Senator Clark, Democrat, Idaho, said it should be more.

Chairman Doughton, Democrat, North Carolina, of the ways and means committee predicted revival of at least some of the so-called "nuisance" taxes levied during the last war and repealed soon thereafter. Taxes of that period included those on railroad tickets and freight shipments, insurance policies and soft drinks.

There still are few highways even resembling the "super" type in North Carolina as shown by the fact that three-lane and four-lane roads (27 feet or more in width) increased only 4.4 per cent from 90 to 94 miles.

Major prevailing types on the rural state highway system are bituminous surface treatment, 4,018 miles, and Portland cement concrete, 2,686 miles. The major width is 18 to 19 feet, there being 4,919 miles of such width.

1. On the rural state highway system, 1,046 miles in 260 sections were improved other than by widening, and 360 miles in 76 sections were improved by widening alone.

2. On the municipal state highway system 53 miles in 139 sections were improved other than by widening, and 21 miles in 23 sections were improved by widening alone.

3. On the county road system (rural) 1,055 miles in 559 sections were improved other than by widening, and seven miles in six sections were improved by widening alone.

Learning the Art of Air Defense at Fort Bragg



Colored soldiers at Fort Bragg, N. C., man anti-aircraft guns for a review as the selectees from New York, New Jersey and New England post, with a total of 70,000 officers and men expected by summer. (Central Press)

Tsouderos Is Greek Premier

2,544 Miles Of Highways Improved During Past Year

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

Raleigh, April 21.—Thousands of motorists stopped and most of them cursed at least a little bit when they were forced to "Stop" or "Proceed Cautiously" or go by a dusty "Detour" on North Carolina's highways last year. Folks who travelled a lot said they seldom went anywhere without running into some form of construction or repair work.

"Twelve Month Progress in North Carolina Road Improvements," a summary prepared by the division of statistics and planning of the state Highway Commission, proves that much good came of all this—as a grand total of 2,544 miles of road was widened or otherwise improved during the twelve months which ended last December 31.

That to give just a little idea of the work accomplished, is road enough to go from here all the way out to see the movie queens in Hollywood, California.

Perhaps the most surprising feature of this summary of road repair and building is the fact that the 2,544 miles were in 1,050 different sections—in other words, the highway commission's forces worked on 1,050 different projects. That made the average length of an improvement less than two and one-half miles; an indication that little long-trench new construction was attempted.

Here's how the 2,544 miles was divided:

1. On the rural state highway system, 1,046 miles in 260 sections were improved other than by widening, and 360 miles in 76 sections were improved by widening alone.

2. On the municipal state highway system 53 miles in 139 sections were improved other than by widening, and 21 miles in 23 sections were improved by widening alone.

3. On the county road system (rural) 1,055 miles in 559 sections were improved other than by widening, and seven miles in six sections were improved by widening alone.

During the year there were numerous mileage transfers and additions made, which, without making deductions for transfers and duplications, added 23 miles added to the rural state highway system, five miles added to the municipal state highway system and 578 miles added to the county road system.

Of this 578 miles added or transferred to the county road system, involving 546 sections of road, only 165 miles (29 per cent) were classed as having any type of surfacing.

It is very noticeable that these additions to the county system were made in very short sections, the average addition being only slightly more than a mile in length. No less than 72 of the 100 Tar Heel counties were involved in these additions.

Italians Occupy Entire Ionian Coast

Rome, April 21.—(AP)—The Italian high command reported today Italian forces had reoccupied the entire Ionian coast of Albania as far as the Greek frontier.

In the Mediterranean, the war bulletin said, Italian planes torpedoed and sank a 15,000-ton oil tanker and an 8,000-ton auxiliary cruiser out of an allied convoy.

The newspaper Il Popolo di Roma said "a big battle to wipe out the Greek army" was in progress at Perati Bridge, which spans the Viosia river at the Greek-Albanian frontier. Earlier reports said fascist dive bombers had blasted the bridge, trapping the Greeks on the Albanian side.

Reynolds Would Ban U. S. Convoys

Washington, April 21.—(AP)—Senator Reynolds, Democrat, North Carolina, said today that the proposed compromise restriction on convoys would command more strength than a flat prohibition against the use of American naval vessels for escort purposes.

The compromise, suggested by Senator Nye, Republican, North Dakota, would require the President to obtain congressional approval before ordering convoys. The resolution will be considered by the senate foreign relations committee April 30 along with a strict ban on convoys offered by Senator T. Bay, Republican, New Hampshire.

Internal administration polls indicated that at least 13 members of the group would vote to pigeonhole any anti-convoys legislation.

Reynolds, a member of the foreign relations committee, said he would support both the Tobey and Nye resolutions.

16 German Planes Downed

Cairo, April 21.—(AP)—At least 16 German aircraft were shot down in Greece yesterday, the biggest total in one day since the German army began its offensive, the royal air force headquarters announced.

Fourteen of the Nazi planes were destroyed in one big battle over Athens, the British said.

Seven of the German planes shot down over Athens were listed as JU-88 dive bombers.

New Regime Announced

Athens, April 21.—(AP)—Enmanuel Tsouderos became premier of wartime Greece today, succeeding Alexandros Korizis, who committed suicide last Friday.

The new government announced as the Greeks acknowledged that the German drive on the east had made a new dent in the allied line and King George II had called upon the nation to fight "to the very end."

Tsouderos had been named minister of foreign affairs and finance and provisional minister of economy in the cabinet formed yesterday by Admiral Alexander Sakellarios and the vice premier and the king in the dual role of monarch and premier.

Admiral Sakellarios remains as vice premier.

Tsouderos, in his fifties, has been active in Greek public life for more than 20 years. He is a native of the island of Crete and began a political career with his election to parliament in 1920.

One of Greece's leading economists, he carried on negotiations with Greek war debt. He has held other Greek war debt. He has held cabinet posts previously as minister of finance and communications and more recently served as president of the Bank of Greece.

Cotton Prices Are Lower

New York, April 21.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 4 to 6 lower.

At mid-day, prices held unchanged to 5 lower.

Air Assaults Are Made On Transports

Greek and British Troops Retreat on Greek Plain of Thessaly; Italian Troops Push Greeks Across Albanian Border.

Bomb, April 21.—(AP)—German mechanized forces have pushed southward "far beyond Larisa" in pursuit of Greek and British troops retreating on the Greek plain of Thessaly, the German high command said today.

Other Nazi forces operating to the west seized a high mountain pass near Metsovo, 40 miles north-west of Larisa, after crossing the Pindus mountains, the daily war bulletin said.

The communiqué emphasized air assaults against British troop transports along the Greek east coast. A 7,000-ton merchantman was said to have been destroyed in the port of Volos and two transports were reported "heavily hit" at Khaliss. Another transport was sunk from an convoy in the Mediterranean, the high command said.

Authorized sources previously had said that the Nazi mechanized units were pushing steadily southward after the retreating Greeks and British across the whole 60-mile width of the plain of Thessaly.

The German seizure of Metsovo Pass offered a new threat to the Greeks retreating into northwestern Greece from Albania along an ever-narrowing path.

Italian forces which are pushing the Greeks across the border say the retreating forces have only one main road left open, that which runs southward from Ioannina, Metsovo Pass is 25 miles east of Ioannina, which in turn is about the same distance from the Albanian border.

German commentators said the reichswehr's panzer units should traverse the flat plain, which extends roughly 35 miles to the south before running into the southern mountain chains, easily and effectively in what they called the "final phase" of the war.

Greek resistance was said to be crumbling following the taking of Trakali, 40 miles west of previously captured Larisa, and the British, constantly harassed from the air, were described as withdrawing toward harbors.

Somewhere behind his advancing troops, Adolph Hitler observed his 52nd birthday yesterday in a flower-decorated railway dining car in the presence of military leaders, while informed circles in Berlin turned their thoughts toward the political reorganization of the Balkans.

The impression prevailed in Berlin.

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Head of New Government Has Had Twenty-Year Political Career in Greece.

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Most Washington News Now Concerns War, Stewart Says

By CHARLES F. STEWART
Central Press Columnist

Washington, April 21.—Except a little purely local stuff here and there, there's no new news outside the war, defense and aid-the-democracy classification. There's a fine assortment of that, however. It's got plenty of variety, it hits in every direction and some of it's amusing.

For instance word came the other day from Rome that a pardon had been granted to George Ehret and Grace Guntner, two Americans convicted in Italy and sentenced to heavy fines and also to prison terms for violations of the Fascists' wartime currency regulations. The United States embassy pointed out to Duce Mussolini that the pair had offended through ignorance of the emergency rule on the subject; not intentionally. Accordingly, Benito waived the imprisonment item. He collected the fines, though. The fascist regime sees no particular sense in keeping its jails unnecessarily cluttered up with foreigners. It prefers them at large, spending money. But any of their cash that it gets its clutches on, in the form of fines, it hangs onto.

State Secretary Cordell Hull's reaction to the Copenhagen govern-

ment's retaliation of the bargain he made with Henrich de Kauffmann, Danish minister in Washington, for an American protectorate over Danish-occupied Greenland, also was entertaining.

Of course the retaliation came only nominally from Copenhagen. It came really from Herr Hitler. Still, technically, it had every appearance of being strictly according to international boyle. At first it was a bit difficult to see how Secretary Hull could question the validity of the Danish foreign office's representation that Minister de Kauffmann had exceeded his authority in closing the deal.

He didn't exactly question it, either. He merely answered, in effect, "Oh, well, in that case we'll go ahead with the bargain." That's present day diplomacy.

Incidentally, Minister de Kauffmann, recalled to Denmark, undoubtedly displayed first-rate judgment in announcing that he isn't going. He thinks he's safer in Washington. He adds that he's here as the Danish people's representative; not as representative of only an alleged government run from Berlin.

For that matter, Washington's half full today of diplomats representing governments that don't exist any longer.

I've had occasion several times lately to refer to gossip in the effect that we're likely soon to have

(Continued on Page Three.)



Cordell Hull

WEATHER
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Generally fair tonight and Tuesday, colder tonight.