

Reds Pour Through Oder Break

Wallace Fights For Banking Powers At Committee Hearing

Sees Significance In Effort To Trim Office Authority

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Henry A. Wallace fought to retain Jesse Jones' immense banking powers today, contending opposition to his cabinet appointment stemmed not from his lack of experience but rather the kind of "experience I have had."

Appearing before the Senate Committee, which had heard Jones frankly label Wallace "not qualified" for the dual jobs of secretary of commerce and boss of Federal lending agencies, the former vice president promptly expressed "deep concern" at congressional moves to get away from the banking function.

"He would be 'less than frank,'" Wallace said, if he told the committee that this concern sprang merely from the fact that the separation of authority was proposed.

"It has even greater significance," Wallace said, "was that my nomination for secretary of commerce was the occasion for this proposal."

Reading from a typewritten statement, Wallace said that of his lack of experience as tried by Jones "does not fool even me or the American people."

Wallace was greeted by a prolonged outburst of applause from more than 500 spectators when he walked into the hearing.

Daniels Will Replace Early As FDR Aide

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The White House is reaching Jonathan Daniels, former editor and author, as a successor to Presidential Secretary Stephen Early.

If the change is made, Daniels will handle President Roosevelt's press relations, and Early will step out into private employment.

Daniels now is one of five administrative assistants to the chief executive. Before coming to the White House he was assistant director of civilian defense. Early has been asked, and has agreed, to go to supervise Allied headquarters in Europe to back over press relations there. He expects to be gone for weeks.

During his absence, Daniels will answer questions and issue statements for the press.

Early is not keeping it secret that he would like to give up the \$10,000 a year job as presidential secretary and take one or more of several private offers that would pay considerably more.

Gen. Stilwell To Command Ground Units

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—War Secretary Stimson today announced the assignment of General Joseph W. Stilwell to command of the army ground forces, succeeding Lt. Gen. Ben Lear.

Lear's assignment as deputy commander in the European area in charge of administrative matters concerning American troops was announced yesterday.

Stimson said Stilwell is in Washington and will take over his new command immediately.

U. S. Troop Ship Sunk Off Europe With Heavy Loss

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—An American troop ship carrying more than 2,300 soldiers was sunk recently in European waters as a result of enemy action, with the loss of 248 dead and 517 missing.

Secretary of War Stimson made the announcement at his news conference today.

The remainder of the troops aboard the ship, more than 1,400 were saved, Stimson said. He gave no further details.

At Draft Hearing



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATOR Marvin Jones is shown after he had testified on farm draft deferments before the House Agriculture Committee. Later, Selective Service Director Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey issued a directive saying that 25 essential farmers between 18 and 25 are still deferred from military service. (International Soundphoto)

Would Place Cabs Under Utility Rule

All Concerns Would Obtain Franchises From State Board

Raleigh, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A bill to place taxicab companies under the supervision of the State Utilities Commission was introduced in the legislature today by Representatives Hatch of Wake, Caviness of Guilford and Wallace of Lenoir.

It would force operators to get franchises from the commission and to carry insurance or bond of an amount to be set by the commission for the protection of customers and property owners. Public hearings would be held before franchises were granted, and operators must prove good character. Franchises would expire in five years.

The commission, before granting a franchise for a taxicab company, must first determine whether additional taxicab facilities are needed, and if it does not act on a petition within sixty days the petition would be void.

A similar measure was introduced in the Senate by Carlisle of Forsyth and Currie of Durham. The measures would cause taxicab operators who were in business January 1, 1945, to file applications for franchises within 90 days.

Senator Jenkins of Bertie introduced a bill to appropriate \$1,000,000 to the State Board of Health for assistance in the enlargement of hospital and health centers, operated in cooperation with local public and charitable hospitals. The State could not pay more than fifty percent of such cost and the remainder would be financed locally.

Library Measures Favorably Passed By Committee Act

Raleigh, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The joint library committee voted favorably today on three bills by Representative Wallace of Lenoir to allow counties and municipalities to combine to establish free libraries, to provide for increases or decreases to taxes levied for libraries and to allow cities and counties to acquire funds and to levy taxes not in excess of five cents on the \$100 valuation, without a vote, for free libraries.

A sub-committee was appointed to petition the appropriations committee for an additional \$50,000 for State aid to libraries. A total of \$225,000 was asked, but the Advisory Budget Commission cut the figure to \$175,000.

Nazis Resume Attack In West

Flight From North Flank Continuing

Final Battle For Alsace Under Way; Salient Is Reduced

Paris, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The Germans launched an attack today against the U. S. seventh army along a 20-mile front from Haguenau, northwest to the lower Vosges mountains, and at places crossed the Moder river, 13 miles inside France.

General Hermann Blask opened with a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, while other Germans to the north were continuing a great eastern exodus from the Ardenne salient. Roads and rails were so littered in the north that the Germans resorted to routes in the center.

"The assault may signal the start of the final battle for Alsace," AP Correspondent Robert C. Wilson wired from Seventh army headquarters.

Earlier the Seventh army had withdrawn from seven to ten miles along a twenty-mile sector of the Karlsruhe corner, leaving Strasbourg jutting out at the end of an Allied salient.

Wilson said the Americans were reported inflicting "heavy losses" and had destroyed at least five tanks and 14 armored vehicles in early hours of the drive.

The first and third armies captured nine more towns in the Ardenne salient, now reduced to about 120 square miles.

The British second army to the north captured four more that week at the River river and moved to within 20 miles of Dugeldorf and here of Roomond.

But in Alsace, large German forces began crossing the Moder river line which Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's seventh army had taken up after withdrawing from the Hatten area north of the strategic Haguenau fortress.

The Germans last were reported using five or six first class divisions along the attack front.

FDR Names Son Elliott As Brig.-Gen.

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today nominated his 34-year-old son, Colonel Elliott Roosevelt, to be a brigadier general in the army air forces.

The proposed promotion went to the Senate in the midst of a controversy over the army's air priority system which gave a dog owned by Colonel Roosevelt precedence over three service men. The nomination goes automatically to the Senate Military Committee, which voted last Monday to inquire into the whole priority practice as well as the dog incident itself. The committee recommends for or against confirmation of such nominations.

If confirmed, Roosevelt would not be the youngest general officer. Colonel Roosevelt, who recently returned to duty in England, denied he ordered a priority for the dog, an English bull named Blaze. The three service men, flying west on furlough, were bumped off an army cargo plane at Memphis January 11 while the dog, with an A priority, was allowed to continue the flight.

Cotton Makes Sharp Gains

New York, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 30 cents a bale higher to 30 cents lower.

Table with columns: Month, Price, Change. Rows: March, May, July, October, December.

AT THE RED FIGHTING FRONT IN POLAND



Soviet artillerymen sterving their guns as pictured on what is described as the second Bych-Russian front in Poland, as Pzantymen move out into the open on the snow-covered plain. This is one of the first photos from the front in Poland. (International Radiophoto)

Clark Field Is Under Siege With Manila 50 Miles Away

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Luzon, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The swiftly moving weight of fourteenth army corps motorized troops besieged Clark Field's 13 airstrips today after a two weeks campaign on Luzon, in which ten Japanese were killed for every American.

Manila lies less than fifty miles ahead of the southbound column, disclosed officially today to have paid the relatively low cost of 657 lives during the first 14 days of their 65-mile drive from Lingayen Gulf.

More than 6,000 dead Japanese have been counted, and the figure undoubtedly is greater, because the Nipponese try to conceal their losses by dragging away many of the bodies.

An intricate maze of fortress caves which the Nipponese were building in the major defense belt for Clark field was littered with scores of Nipponese fighters.

The Bomban river, where the enemy could have put up a delaying fight, has been crossed. The town of Bomban has been seized and the town of Mabualal, last one before Clark Field, has been reached in a ten-mile spring from Capas, which has carried into Pampanga province, long referred to as "the gateway to Manila."

The state of siege was imposed on other cities of Czechoslovakia, Berlin disclosed, as Russian armies drove to within 170 miles of Prague from the Oder river sector.

The Germans said they were retreating in Slovakia. In Prague, said Moscow, workers have come on strike and the population is trying to prevent the German evacuation of machinery and materials. The population is fighting the Gestapo in various districts.

Teachers almost Overdo Appeal On Salary Increases

BY LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, Jan. 25.—In their zeal for the cause, visiting school teachers and their supporters in claims for higher salaries almost overdid the job Tuesday. There were so many visitors in the committee room that actually about a dozen members of the joint appropriations committee could not get into the hall to take their seats.

The teachers made out a good case for themselves. After presentation of the position of the State Board of Education by Paul Reid, acting controller; and the position of the Department of Public Instruction by Superintendent Clyde Erwin, the State Board and department are standing by the requests they made last fall. Alva Williams, county superintendent in Cumberland and chairman of the NCEA legislative committee, took charge. Representatives of farm groups, parent teacher associations, county and local school boards and others were present.

Dr. Clyde Erwin made an effective plea for relief. He showed how the number of recruits in the school teacher profession has been steadily declining for years, and is now nearing the real danger point. He said the investment in school houses, in buses and in other services was all nullified unless there were competent teachers to train the boys and girls after they get to the school house.

Several members of the joint committee openly declared after the session they favored giving the

Fighting In Prague With Mass Unrest

London, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The Moscow radio said today that mass unrest has broken out in Prague, old Czechoslovak capital, and the Germans announced that a state of siege had been clamped on the city.

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Prussia Is Cut Off In North Area

Moscow Says Drive At One Point Now In 120 Miles of Berlin

London, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Red army forces have broken the Oder river line in southeast Germany and are exploiting the breakthrough, while in the north they have apparently cut off East Prussia, Soviet field dispatches announced.

Moscow broadcasts said the Soviet winter offensive was at one point a little more than 125 miles from Berlin and that Red army units were fighting from the edge of Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia.

Fall of Breslau, capital of lower Silesia, and most important industrial city in the eastern Reich, appeared imminent as Marshal Ivan Konev moved his first Ukrainian army rapidly west of the Oder to encircle the city.

Konev's forces, vanguard of the Russian advance, also moved across the broken line of the Oder in the heart of Silesia at a point southeast of Breslau. Soviet front line reports said, and showed on toward the mountains of Bohemia in Czechoslovakia.

Konev was fighting for yet other crossings northwest of the Oder city and Berlin said he already had secured a bridgehead in Steinau, 32 miles northwest of the city and 158 miles from Berlin. Yet other troops under Konev's command were reported hammering into the outskirts.

The crossing southeast of the city apparently was in the neighborhood of captured Oppeln, capital of Upper Silesia, and about 30 miles northeast of a tip of the Moravian border of Czechoslovakia.

The thrust toward the southwest was apparently intended to cut off the thinly clustered cities of Silesia from Berlin and menace the German armies still fighting in Slovakia and Hungary and guarding Vienna.

To the southeast, fighting through the mountains of Slovakia, the fourth Ukrainian army, which was reportedly only about 40 miles east of Jajbunka, gateway to Moravia, a historic passageway which Bismarck once called the controlling position in central Europe.

Soviet Envoy, Six Others, Die In Plane

Mexico City, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Soviet Ambassador Constantine Oumansky, his wife and seven others were killed today in the crash of the Mexican air force plane starting to take the ambassador to Costa Rica to present his credentials as minister there.

An official said there were eleven in the plane and that only two escaped, both injured. The plane took off at 5:50 a. m. from the Mexico City airport and crashed about 500 yards from the runway while trying to gain altitude.

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Washington Again Leaning To Early European Peace

Washington, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Hitler's grand strategy for the prolonged defense of Germany possibly has been thrown completely off balance by the terrific impact of the Russian offensive.

This is the opinion of some military authorities here, who are beginning to wonder how long now Germany will be able to hold out under the onslaught.

Estimates that the European war would last until late summer or fall as a result of the German west front offensive in December now are being scrapped.

At the moment there is an open-minded attitude on how quickly and in what manner Germany may be defeated. Defeat might take the form of

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Partly cloudy today, followed by rather cool weather tonight and Friday, with occasional light rain west and north portions; cooler today and continued rather cool tonight.

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