

RED ARMIES ONLY 55 MILES FROM BERLIN

Americans Cut Off Japanese Withdrawal To Bataan

Wallace Nomination Widens Democratic Congress Split

Cleavage Is Worst Since Court Fight

Struggle Is One Between Liberals And Conservatives

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The biggest Democratic party split since the 1937 court fight appeared to be developing today around Henry Wallace's nomination.

Stopped of its window dressing, the battle is fundamentally one between those who regard themselves as a liberal element of the party headed by Wallace and the old line Democrats represented by Senator Robert Wagner, George Goetzell, North Carolina, and others.

Legislative leaders, headed by a compromise they hoped would keep any panned up animosities from spilling out on the Senate floor. But there was every indication both sides intend to have their say before the issue of Wallace's appointment as secretary of commerce is fully settled.

In the absence of any direct word from President Roosevelt, Senator Robert Wagner of Kentucky, the Democratic leader, planned to ask that Wallace's nomination be sent back to the commerce committee. There it would await the final enactment and signing of a bill directing the Commerce Department of control over the economy.

Stettinius, Hopkins Visit Italy Front

Rome, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius and Harry Hopkins, personal representative of President Roosevelt, visited Allied headquarters yesterday and today.

The secretary of state arrived at an airfield near Allied headquarters yesterday afternoon. Hopkins conferred at length with General Eaker, commander of Mediterranean Allied air forces, and Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commanding general of the United States army forces in the Mediterranean theatre.

The official announcement said several other conferences were held today, then both the secretary of state and Hopkins boarded "airplanes" and left.

Yesterday Hopkins was received by Pope Pius in a private audience for 40 minutes. The President's envoy also engaged in several conferences of Italian leaders in what was an information gathering mission for the President prior to the "big three" Allied meeting of Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA Fair and colder tonight. Thursday partly cloudy and warmer.

BOMBERS HIT HONG KONG HARBOR



JAP SHIPS IN HONG KONG harbor are shown being peppered from the air by the U. S. Navy planes of Vice-Admiral McCain's task force.

Legislature Given Bill To Enroll Men For W. C.

Another Would Hike State Employee Pay; Change Loan Bills

Raleigh, Jan. 31.—(AP)—The legislature received bills today to authorize admission of male students to Woman's College in Greensboro and to provide for a general ten percent wage increase in employees of State departments and agencies.

Senator Corey, of Pitt, introduced the joint resolution boosting the pay of State employees ten percent over their present income from salaries and the war bonus. It would become effective July 1, beginning the next fiscal year.

From Senator Penland of Clay came a memorial to Congress asking relief to counties whose taxable property is taken over for national forests and parks, and Senator Matheny of Rutherford sent in a bill to place jurisdiction of youthful violators of the motor vehicle laws in the hands of juvenile and domestic relations courts.

House committees today referred re-reading of bills further to regulate the small loan business in North Carolina and to provide for the establishment of a small-month base hatchery in Western North Carolina.

Representative Rutledge of Cabarrus objected to a measure, introduced yesterday by Representatives Vazler of Mecklenburg, Hinton of Guilford and Chalk of Richmond, which would have placed loan businesses under supervision of the State Banking Commission.

Rutledge said it would force out of business many small operators who lend money out of their pockets at small interest rates and were de-

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New Landing Is Without Opposition

Not a Man, Plane or Ship Lost in Move; Naval Base Menaced

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Luzon, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Landing unopposed from 150 ships 60 miles northwest of Manila, strong United States eighth army forces blasted any hopes the Japanese may have held for a large-scale withdrawal to Bataan by driving swiftly east today toward a juncture with the sixth army, which would seal off the historic peninsula.

This second invasion of Luzon, timed with a sixth army push now within 30 miles of Manila, was disclosed in today's communiqué of General Douglas MacArthur. The 38th division and a combat team of the 24th, which fought heroically on Leyte in the central Philippines, were put ashore Monday on Zamboanga province in the 10 miles between the Santo Tomas river mouth, and San Antonio, without loss of a man, plane or ship.

Three American survivors of the "death march" from Bataan—Captain George Crane, Topkap, Kans.; Captain Richard C. Kadel, Fort Knox, Ky.; and Captain Winston Jones, an Oklahoman—mingled with Filipino guerrillas wildly greeting the invaders.

The Yanks of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger posed an immediate menace to prized Olongapo naval base in Subic bay by racing eleven miles out the first day, past flag-waving Filipinos, occupying such towns as San Felipe, San Narciso, San Antonio, San Marcelino and Zastillos and seizing an airfield—the 23rd air base won on Luzon.

Filipino field correspondents said no change forces have been disclosed in the area since 1942, although 300 passed southward two weeks ago, killing a Filipino woman in one town without provocation.

The beachhead extended above the Santo Tomas river, giving the Yanks control of a long bridge there.

Two Indicted In Alleged Bribery Over Basketball

Erie, Pa., Jan. 31.—(AP)—The Kings county grand jury today handed down an indictment charging Harvey Stemmer and Henry Fisher with conspiracy in connection with the alleged bribing of five Brooklyn College basketball players to throw tonight's game with Akron University in Boston.

Outlook For Service Act Is Brighter

Washington, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Chances of passage of limited national service legislation brightened perceptibly today as the House neared a showdown on that controversial subject.

Two days of general debate indicated to sponsors that there would be votes to spare when a vote is reached, probably late tomorrow, for a bill requiring men between 18 and 45 to work in essential jobs under pain of induction, fine or imprisonment.

Still to be determined during consideration of amendments today and tomorrow is the final shape of the legislation.

Cotton Soars Around Noon

New York, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened 29 to 40 cents a bale higher. Noon prices were 49 to 85 cents a bale higher. March 21.81, May 21.65, July 21.26.

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LIBERATION OF MANILA SEEN NEAR



HEADQUARTERS OBSERVERS believe the last formidable barriers barring the way to Manila have been breached, and expect the early liberation of the Philippines capital.

Americans Move Over 30-Mile Front

Paris, Jan. 31.—(AP)—White-clad infantry of the American first army stormed across the snow-dusted German border at two new places today, and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' artillery started pouring shells into the main concrete works of the thirty-five mile Siegfried line.

Paris, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Ten more American divisions edged steadily forward today into a 30-mile fortified zone as the center of the western zone.

(Berlin radio said the Americans had launched a new attack with strong forces, including tanks, on both the West Wall and along a liquid front. General Eisenhower was said to have massed sixty divisions, nearly half of them armor, for a full-scale offensive along the whole front.

The German line was broken in several places, but they still held their front and nowhere have they been driven back.

The names of more identified

17 Babies And Guardian Perish In Fire In Home

Auburn, Maine, Jan. 31.—(AP)—At least 17 babies ranging in age from six months upward, and a woman, perished in fire which swept a children's home here early today.

Eight other children escaped from the flames which started about 5:30 a. m. and quickly enveloped the wooden cottage type home situated in the new Auburn section of the city.

The woman, whose identity the police were checking, was said to have been about 40 years old.

The names of the children were not immediately known. Their bodies were taken to a funeral parlor.

Auditor Says ECTC Books Were Altered

Greenville, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Alleged alterations in certain records and instruments of certain college and student funds entrusted to Dr. Leon Meadows, former president of East Carolina Teachers' College, on trial in superior court here for embezzlement and false pretense, formed the basis of testimony today by M. L. Widenhouse, of the State auditor's department.

The records purportedly contained transactions in connection with the handling of the special college and student monies and the State charges that Dr. Meadows mishandled \$18,606.34, which was not accounted for in a State audit of the affairs of the institution.

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Infantry Is Close Upon Spearheads

Other Columns Are Near Stettin, Upon Shores of Baltic

London, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Red army troops have captured Landsberg, 68 miles east of Berlin, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

Marshal Gregory Zhukov's plunge toward Berlin also toppled Meseritz, Schwiebus and Zulliebau, southeast of Landsberg.

London, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Russian troops plunged to Zielonzig, only 55 miles due east of greater Berlin, the German radio said today, and indications mounted that the Germans were preparing to fight street by street for their queen city.

Zielonzig, only twenty miles short of the Oder, is 62 miles from Berlin's city limits.

A German broadcast at noon said infantrymen of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's main first White Russian army were keeping up with armored spearheads driving toward Berlin on a wide front.

The closest that Moscow has put Zhukov from Berlin is 73 miles at captured Stolzenberg, 25 miles northeast of Zielonzig, and on the opposite side of the Warthe river.

Three battles are raging in the bend formed by the Oder and Warthe rivers, which merge at Kustrin, 22 miles northwest of Zielonzig, said Berlin. Zielonzig is 25 miles northeast of the Oder river fortress city of Frankfurt.

High Soviet tank drives increased the peril to Berlin.

A German broadcast said Zhukov's northern wing had reached to Soldin, only 36 miles from Stettin on the Baltic. A push to Stettin would cut off all north-eastern Germany and put Zhukov in position for a drive on Berlin from the north.

Moscow said another Soviet column was 60 miles from the Baltic port of Kustrin, about midway between Stettin and Danzig.

Zhukov also was striking south-westward and reached the Oder at a point about 88 miles southeast of Zielonzig. Here his troops were close to a link-up with the first Ukrainian army of Marshal Ivan Konev, which has advanced west the Oder at points on a long front in German Silesia.

Today's German communique said Russian attacks from their bridgeheads across the Oder in Upper Silesia were stopped and in the center declared "our troops engaged in heavy battle against enemy infantry and tank units pushing to the west in the Oder-Warthe bend."

Moscow dispatches declared Zhukov's tanks were sweeping westward toward the Oder east of Berlin and quoted captured German officers as saying the Nazi positions broken in Brandenburg are "the last defense line before the Oder."

Great armored battles were reported in which German royal tiger tanks were pitted against Stalin tanks of the Russians.

In East Prussia, the capital of Königsberg was nearly surrounded, and German escape to the sea had been blocked there.

Stocks Firm Near Close

New York, Jan. 31.—(AP)—Betting support steadied the stock market today after the first hour sell-off in continuation of yesterday's decline. Early losses ranged from fractions to more than a point, with steels, rails and such investment favorites as American Telephone leading the retreat. The rally put a considerable number of key issues at moderate net gains and some specialties were a point or so higher near the fourth hour.

Bonds were irregular and commodities higher.