



## Mine Owners Frame Reply To Demands Offered By Lewis

Author of Disputes Act Denies Dispute Existed Month Ago

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—Bituminous operators called off the scheduled conference with the United Mine Workers today to frame an answer to each of John L. Lewis' 18 demands.

Counter proposals were discussed over the week-end by the operators and the negotiating committee will devote today to wording their replies to the demands made on them at the start of the contract negotiations March 1.

Fred Van Horn, conference chairman and head of the operators group, said the negotiations would resume tomorrow.

Representative Smith, Virginia Democrat, co-sponsor of the Smith-Cannally act, questioned today John L. Lewis' claim of a dispute last month between miners and bituminous operators under terms of the labor disputes statute.

"My own construction of the act would be that a dispute does not exist until there are two parties involved," Smith said. He added to a reporter that he could not see how a dispute could have been present when Lewis filed notice February 26 with the NLRB, necessitating a strike vote in 30 days. The board unanimously has rejected a petition of the Southern Bituminous Coal Producers Association, challenging the existence of a dispute and asking the board to drop its plan for a strike vote after March 28.

Smith said the operators could appeal to the courts from the NLRB action, a step the southern group is known to be contemplating.

## Iwo Marines Make Ready For Final Blows

Aboard Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner's Expeditionary Force Flagship, Iwo Jima, March 12.—(AP)—Battle-weary Marines brought up tanks, flame throwers and other weapons today for what may be the final assault on a long high ridge in the northeastern tip of Iwo Jima, where the major forces of the surviving Japanese are still entrenched.

The many caves which spot the ridge could conceal several thousands if that many survived the long battle.

After 22 days of the most bitter fighting in Marine history, the Japanese have been driven into a rugged area which roughly is about one mile deep and takes in Iwo also remains to be cleaned up on the miles of coast line. A small pocket northeast sector, but for all practical purposes the entire east coast is now held by Americans.

Two patrols of the fourth division penetrated to the northeast beach and found mines and booby traps, but no enemy troops. With the support of heavy artillery, and naval gunfire, Marines Sunday pushed slowly to the vicinity of the high ridge, where possibly the largest remaining force of Japanese is rolled up for the final stand.

## New U. S. Landing



AN AMERICAN ASSAULT FORCE, according to Tokyo Radio, has landed on the southwestern tip of Mindanao Island in the Philippines. The invasion is believed to have been made at Zamboanga where, said the Japs, an American task force had shelled installations. Mindanao is the second largest island in the archipelago. (International)

## Legislators Meet To Hear First Lady

Raleigh, March 12.—(AP)—Members of the North Carolina General Assembly returned to Raleigh for their 99th legislative day today, prepared to hear an address by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and to get a head start on legislative work by holding two sessions.

Although a majority of predictions now place adjournment as late as the middle of next week, a good many legislators still hoped that today may begin the last week of the 1945 session. Bills were still pouring into the hoppers as the tenth week ended, however, and House and Senate calendars will be long. Both houses are expected to hold night sessions in an effort to bring their work to a close.

One major problem remains out of nearly a score already settled, and concerns control of the sale of synthetic wine in North Carolina. Finance committee action on twin bills seeking to place wine control in the hands of the alcoholic board of control, and to limit on-premises licenses to operate A hotels and restaurants is expected to be taken early this week.

The wine bills were introduced Friday and were supported by Governor Cherry. A statewide bill seeking to provide for a statewide liquor preference six months after the war, which also had the governor's support, was rejected by the Senate Finance Committee some weeks ago.

Medical care and hospitalization will probably be the subject of heated floor debate when the big medical care bill is reported out by the joint appropriations committee, which gave it a favorable report last week. Two other bills, providing for modernization of the machinery for commitment of persons to the State's four mental hospitals, and for reorganization of the administrative board of the hospitals, will also be open for floor debate.

## Legislature Could End By Saturday

Monday Or Tuesday Much More Likely; Congestion Lingers

BY LYNN NISBET Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, March 12.—Senate leaders, including Lieut. Gov. Ballentine, say the 1945 General Assembly can adjourn by midnight of Saturday, March 17. Speaker Oscar Richardson and other House leaders agree impossibility of adjournment by that time, but believe it will probably be necessary to come back Monday and Tuesday to complete ratification of important bills.

When the General Assembly two years ago adjourned, since the adjournment on March 19, 1943, it had completed 53 legislative acts and had received 1223 bills—358 in the House and 265 in the Senate. The current assembly convened three days earlier (on January 3 as compared with January 6 last time) and when business was concluded Saturday the 1945 assembly had completed 53 legislative days and had received 1230 bills—387 in the House and 402 in the Senate.

Presiding officers and major committee chairmen are trying to keep down introduction of bills, but they fear members returning from week-end trips home will bring back for Monday night a flock of local measures and perhaps some statewide bills. Such bills are usually watched closely by a few veterans who know from experience that efforts are sometimes made to ease through snail bills and increasing legislation during the hectic closing days of a session.

Any tax levy, corporate limit extension or other six-day roll call bill accepted Monday would probably prevent some floor action Saturday. Previous sessions have resorted to the device of holding adjournment day, putting bills on second reading just before midnight and on third reading immediately after and then recessing until the enrolling office catches up with its work. Senate leaders think that device might enable the assembly to quit Saturday night.

Since the adjournment any time between March 17 and 22 will mean the 1945 session has gone longer than its two immediate predecessors, but will still not be in the long session.

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## Arguments In Meadows Case

Greenville, March 12.—(AP)—The trial of Dr. Leon R. Meadows, charged with embezzlement and false pretense in connection with the alleged misappropriation of more than \$18,000 of special college and student funds while president of East Carolina Teachers College, today entered its seventh week.

The longest trial on record in the annals of North Carolina criminal court history, the Meadows case was not expected to reach the jury before the end of the week, and some observers even predicted that it would not be given the jury until early next week.

Arguments by six attorneys, three for the State and a like number for the defense, began this morning, and were unlimited as to time, and summations to the jury by opposing counsel will require several days, to be followed by the court's charge by Judge Clawson L. Williams.

# U. S. Rhine Bridgehead Driven Farther Into Inner Germany

YANKS CROSSED RHINE ON THIS REMAGEN BRIDGE



EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS in this peacetime picture, the bridge across the Rhine at Remagen was found undamaged and ready when the U. S. First Army struck suddenly and seized it for putting armor and infantry across into the heart of Germany—the first war-time crossing of the Rhine since Napoleon's day. First Army spearheads are reported still advancing miles beyond the bridge. (International Soundphoto)

## Allied Planes Hit Stettin To Back Reds

London, March 12.—(AP)—Allied bombers from Britain, credited by an RAF spokesman with laying waste more than 150 square miles of the Ruhr, attacked Stettin today in support of the Russian army.

The German radio said the 200-mile-long train of bombers which flew 600 miles across northern Germany, also bombed the Baltic U-boat base of Schweineunde, 35 miles northwest of Stettin, and only 25 miles ahead of the Red army.

The Russians last week reported attacking in the suburbs across the Oder river from the important port. The German alarm system indicates other widespread attacks were taking place as the Allied aerial offensive carried through its 28th day.

## Flood Threat In Ohio Passes, With \$10 Million Saved

Portsmouth, Ohio, March 12.—(AP)—Portsmouth today had won its five-day "battle of the levees" with a \$10,000,000 victory.

An estimated 3,000 residents began moving back to their homes and business plants as the flood-swollen Ohio river dropped to the 60-foot stage, two feet below the top of the section of the flood wall on which citizens and State guardsmen had battled nearly a half million sand bags to plug up the river front defenses.

City officials estimated that the fight that kept out the raging Ohio had saved as much as \$10,000,000 in damage to industrial, mercantile and residential property.

## HOUSE FACES TEST OVER SERVICE ACT

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—A test was due in the House today between two bills—almost opposite in theory—to make the fullest wartime use of the nation's manpower.

They are:  
1. The House work-or-fail bill, passed nearly six weeks ago.  
2. The Senate substitute, which cleared that chamber last Thursday and comes formally before the House today.

## Russians Shifting Large Forces To Berlin Front

Men Released From North Are Moved Up For All-Out Drive

Moscow, March 12.—(AP)—The Red army supreme command began to shift large forces to the Berlin front today after smashing enemy resistance between the mouths of the Oder and Vistula rivers.

Only a small chunk of territory at the northern extremity of Fomcrana and the Polish corridor remained to be overrun by Marshal Rokossovsky's armored vanguards before he would be available for command of a vital sector of the front facing the German capital.

The regrouping Russian strength was expected to mass the greatest concentration of men and guns for offensive operations since the Red banner was first carried over German soil.

Strong infantry and artillery formations pressed closer to Danzig and Gdynia, twin seaboard ports. They are expected to be scenes of bitter fighting of the kind now taking place in the naval port of Kolberg, where 1,600 German prisoners were counted yesterday.

Colonel Ernst von Hammer, Nazi military commentator, reported a new Soviet thrust westward from the Upper Silesian industrial area, within 23 miles northeast of Morawiska—Ostawa, guardian city of the Moravian gap.

## France Pays \$40 Millions

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—France today paid a \$10,000,000 installment on material shipped to French North and West Africa during the last two years.

This brought total payment to \$153,668,907. The value of shipments to French North Africa and West Africa from February, 1943, to January 31, 1945, has been placed at \$185,402,935. The difference between this value and the total payments thus far made—about \$31,000,000—represents items now in negotiation.

The lend-lease of civilian supplies to French North and West Africa will end June 30. Private trade or French mission procurement thereafter will handle exports from this country.

## Raging Fires In Nagoya Lighted By Superfort Raiders

21st Bomber Command Headquarters, Guam, March 12.—(AP)—Speeding over their targets at only 5,000 feet altitude, B-29s poured 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs at Nagoya, Japan's greatest warplane producing center and third largest city, today. Pilots said they started raging fires, which converted a five square-mile area into a hellish inferno and raged unchecked hours afterwards.

Radio Tokyo admitted the flames burned ten hours, but claimed they were controlled by 10 a. m.

## WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Considerable cloudiness and mild tonight, light showers west portion late afternoon and night. Tuesday, mild temperatures, fair west portion.

## Forlorn Hope Is Given Germans In Appeal By Hitler

London, March 12.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler in a grim, phrase-puzzling proclamation marking the 10th anniversary of Nazi military conscription, yesterday offered the German people no more than the forlorn hope the Allies "will get tired and yet be broken."

He renewed the Nazi plea of a "fanatical resistance," bolstering his appeal with the assertion that the Allies "will sink by their orgy of victory," were intent on extermination of the German nation.

The proclamation, broadcast from Berlin, said the year 1918 will not be repeated, implying that Germany would fight on in guerrilla warfare if her armies are smothered.

## High Court Won't Rule In Ward Case

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—The Supreme Court refused today to rule on the validity of government seizure of 16 Montgomery Ward properties.

As its reason for refusing, the court said that the review petition in the case was filed "prior to the judgment of the circuit court of appeals."

This means that the high tribunal refused to rule in the case before the circuit court hears arguments and reaches its decision.

The Justice Department and Ward asked the high tribunal for a speedy final determination whether President Roosevelt had authority under the war labor disputes act—and the Constitution—to order the army to take possession of Ward facilities in seven cities.

The U. S. District Court in Chicago ruled the seizure was illegal. The department filed an appeal in the seventh Federal circuit court, but urged the Supreme Court to assume jurisdiction immediately, so that arguments before the circuit court would be obviated. Ward later joined in requesting the Supreme Court to take the case at once.

## Studio Strikes Cut Hollywood's Movie Activities

Hollywood, Cal., March 12.—(AP)—Picket lines were established at entrances to motion picture studios this morning as a strike of 12,000 AFL union craftsmen over jurisdictional authority regarding set designers went into effect at all the major companies.

Herbert Sorrell, president of the conference of studio unions, which voted the strike, said the work stoppage would "take these studios up in a knot, and the only one who can stop it is Uncle Sam himself."

Sorrell boasted that within two or three days, production of movies would be cut in half. Only studios not affected by the strike are Technicolor, where no set designers work, Walt Disney, Monogram, and Producers Releasing Corporation.

## Improbable Foe Can Now Stop Yanks

Coblenz Besieged And New Crossings In North Probable

Paris, March 12.—(AP)—First army attacks bulged the three-mile-deep Rhine bridgehead several hundred yards farther overnight along a river strip which the Germans said was 12 1-2 miles long.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges had thrown so many men, cannon and tanks into the rugged westward, east of Remagen, that nothing less than a major German counter attack could budge his Americans—and there was no indication that the Nazis would be able to organize such a force from the ashes of their defeat west of the Rhine.

The dashing United States third army just to the south eliminated all Germans west of the Rhine and Moselle rivers except for two small pockets. The tank and foot troops of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., captured 14 towns and won domination of all the west bank of the Moselle except a 15-mile stretch between Cochem and Erden.

Coblenz was besieged. Some enemy stragglers were being dragged from a two-mile-square pocket in a wood midway in the 16 miles between Mayen and the Rhine. At least eight towns of inner Germany east of the Rhine were under the American flag. The Germans peppered the bridgehead with light artillery fire during the night, but made no new counter attack.

The enemy said a crossing attempt was imminent between Emmerich and Wesel, where the last enemy para-hate troops were driven across the river.

American advances into the rolling green hills east of the Rhine won more high ground from which German artillery had failed to knock out the Ledersdorf bridge.

## AVIATION TREATY SENT TO SENATE

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—President Roosevelt sent to the Senate today with a request for ratification a treaty on international civil aviation concluded at an international conference at Chicago last December 7.

## Yanks Drive On Mindanao Objectives

Manila, March 12.—(AP)—Tank-equipped Yanks swept over the airstrip Saturday afternoon one mile inland from their invasion beach on the south tip of Mindanao island, and at last reports were driving rapidly toward important San Roque airfield, a mile and a half northwest of Zamboanga.

Opposition was light. The Japanese offered troops of the eighth intermittent machine gun and mortar fire, but it did not slow the American advance.

An eight-day air bombardment by the 13th air force and a two-day naval shelling by Vice Admiral Kan-kai's seventh fleet units preceded the 21st Philippine island invasion landing.

The coastal towns of San Mateo, San Jose, Calarian and San Roque were captured.

Wade airfield, which is 200 miles from Japanese-held, oil-rich Borneo island, was one of the first military objectives in the attacks. The San Roque field, which has a 4,000-foot bomber runway, may already be in United States hands.

The convoy in making the 400-mile journey was unobscured by either Japanese planes or submarines.

In announcing the invasion, General Douglas MacArthur said in his communique today that the operation strengthened the American blockade of the South China Sea and further severed Japan from her ill-gotten holdings in the East Indies.

On Luzon island, meanwhile, the first cavalry and sixth infantry divisions pressed their systematic reduction of Japanese caves and pillboxes along the bitterly contested Antipolo Wawa line on the Marikina watershed east of Manila.

## AIR VIEW OF DEVASTATION WROUGHT IN COLOGNE



SHATTERED COLOGNE, seen from an artillery-spotter plane, presents a picture of devastation and desolation after its capture by American forces. Partly-submerged in the Rhine River are the Hohenzollern, Hangbrücke and Sudbrücke bridges. In the center, surrounded by wreckage, is the Hauptbahnhof railroad station. At right is the famed Cathedral. Signal Corps Radio-telephoto. (International)