

# N. C. Air Commission To Map Fight On EAL Monopoly



SHOPPERS ON THE LOOSE took over the business district today on the opening of the Christmas buying season. Like yesterday's record-breaking Yule Shopping Begins In Earnest

## Record Crowds Swamp Business Area

By TOM FERBERMAN  
Charlotte Writer

Today was a day to make Charlotte merchants lean against their "Jingle Bells." If they didn't mind being crushed in the rush, the town was bulging with thousands of Christmas shoppers from miles around, and the mobs were so large that the whistling merchants looked forward to one of the biggest buying days in local history.

There was a jingle of coin today, too, for the men, women and children were merely looking at the merchandise. They were filling up shopping bags with articles, and ordering other things to be sent home.

The cop on the beat in the middle of it all watched the crowds march across the Square and said, "You think it's bad this morning, come back this afternoon." He said the buses coming through the Square were packed, and every time he looked around, he saw more crowds.

**RECORD-BREAKER**

The day was giving the whistling merchants one of the best weeks they ever saw, for yesterday apparently broke all kinds of records. One leading merchant said definitely that yesterday was a record-breaker, any that gave plenty of indication that, from here on in to Christmas Eve, the town would be popping its seams with people. The early holiday rush was being helped along no end by a lot of reduced-price sales in the shops and stores.

Parking space was as rare as a skinny Santa Claus even at

## Body Meets Tuesday To Plan Drive

### Backed By N. C. Cities & Towns

By PETE MCKNIGHT  
News Editor, The News

A concerted campaign by North Carolina cities and towns to break the aviation monopoly of Eastern Air Lines and obtain improved air service for the state will be mapped at a meeting of the N. C. Aeronautics Commission in Raleigh Tuesday, Bob Lassiter, executive director of the Charlotte Aviation Committee, said today.

Mr. Lassiter said that a meeting of the local committee is being arranged for Monday at which time plans will be made for sending representatives to the Raleigh hearing and supporting the "united front" against EAL.

Among the proposals to be considered at Raleigh is a formal request for General Assembly action on a resolution demanding that the Civil Aeronautics Board give greater consideration to air service for N. C. cities, and to study possible legislation which would make it difficult for EAL or any other air line to maintain a monopoly, Mr. Lassiter said.

## Price Chief Out OPA-CPA Merger Is Signalled As Porter Resigns

### WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Merger of OPA and the Civilian Production Administration moved a step nearer today with the President's acceptance of the resignation of OPA Chief Paul Porter.

Even as it entered its final days as an independent agency, the OPA chief said he would resign at the district court over which he presided another of his scarce powers—sugar rationing—may go by the boards.

**SUGAR SUIZ**

The continuation of sugar control as a top official told a reporter, may be decided next Wednesday when a Federal judge hears an attack against the finish line in Federal court over its scarce power—sugar rationing—may go by the boards.

**SUGAR SUIZ**

The resignation of Porter, who succeeded Chester Bowles last February, was dated November 25 and effective December 4.

It was made public by the White House last night in a move taken as a signal for the consolidation which will become effective in broad daylight Monday, Inc. CPA Chief John Small has indicated he, too, is anxious to return to private business.

Presidential Press Secretary

## Absentee Levies Will Be Imposed On Strikers

### UP TO OPERATORS TO COLLECT MONEY

By MARVIN L. ARBOWSMITH  
WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Federal Coal Mines Administration disclosed today that it has granted "punitive" applications of bituminous coal companies to assess absentee fines against striking miners.

The agency declined to give statistics on the number of applications filed by companies or on those which already have been granted.

**MOVE TO COLLECT**

John L. Lewis dug in for a final court fight with the Government, the mine owners moved to collect contract-stipulated absentee fines against miners in their tenth day of idleness.

"We, we already have assessed fines against numerous individual coal companies to assess fines against striking miners," a Coal Mines Administration official told a reporter.

This official said the Government would continue to file the fine applications and it is up to the coal operators themselves to collect the money out of their payrolls.

**MY RUN HIGH**

Under this EAL authority, the strikers faced the threat of fines running into millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, the Interior Department is continuing to operate the Government's warrent "Big Inch" and "Little Ingh" oil pipelines as channels for bringing natural gas from the Southwest to the industrial East.

The plan contemplated some relief for the pipeline that would be stemming from the coal strike. The pipelines are now closed and war surplus gas is held by the War Assets Administration, which plans to sell them to private operators eventually.

Attorneys for Uncle Sam and the coal companies have filed a charter strategy for resumption of Lewis' contempt of court trial.

**SURVEILLANCE**

1. Criticized by some of his colleagues for expressing support to a labor union, the Interior Secretary, Harold I. Green, said that Edward R. Burke, president of the Southern Coal Producers Association, had been named to the board of directors of the National Bituminous Coal Producers Association.

2. Senator Knowland, Republican California, urged President Truman to take action to force the coal miners to work after a suspended order which the Interior Secretary had issued.

3. As a direct result of the case.

See MINE OWNERS on page 6-A

## Over 95,000 Idle In Strike's Wake

### PITTSBURGH — (AP) —

Workers idled by shortages in the ten-day-old soft coal shutdown numbered more than 95,000 today while depleted industrial coal piles held grim promise of new drastic layoffs next week.

Another 167,000 were idled from Wednesday morning through Friday morning when employees were jobless from a week-end holiday to conserve fuel. The pre-holiday morning 150,000 soft workers temporarily laid off in Detroit.

At least 17,000 were placed on three-day and four-day weeks at the Gary, Ind., and South Chicago Works of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., reducing operations there to 66 per cent of capacity, compared to 81 1/2 last week.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad cut about 500 workers at the West Virginia mine, and the hundreds were forced into idleness. Cancelled orders brought suspension of about 75 per cent of the operations of the milling firm of Grinn Brothers and Co. Inc. at Huntington, W. Va. About 400 employees were laid off.

Workers and radio to keep some 55,000 pupils up with the lessons.

**RAILROADERS IDLE**

In West Virginia, the nation's No. 1 soft coal production state, railroads, mill hands and rivermen by the hundreds were forced into idleness. Cancelled orders brought suspension of about 75 per cent of the operations of the milling firm of Grinn Brothers and Co. Inc. at Huntington, W. Va. About 400 employees were laid off.

## U. S. Will Get Bases

### CAMP O'DONNELL, Luzon, P. I. —

Philippine President Manuel Roxas declared today in a national heroes' day address that an agreement had been reached permitting the United States to establish bases in the Philippines for mutual defense.

Speaking to the United States Army's reformed division of the Philippine Scouts, who were virtually wiped out in the Bataan campaign and since reestablished as the 34th Infantry Division, he said that "the United States will be used chiefly to man these bases."

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## Selling Orders Heavy Sharp Dive Taken By Wheat Prices

### CHICAGO — (AP) —

Wheat prices plunged as much as 8 cents a bushel in the first hour of trading on the Chicago Board of Trade today in the sharpest decline since prior to the war.

Wheat for delivery in January sold at \$2.01 a bushel against a close last night of \$2.09 1/4. A late week this contract reached \$2.18. Closing quotations today were 3 3/4 to 5 1/4 cents lower.

Heavy overnight selling orders were the pit at the opening. Selling came from all quarters and demand failed to develop as the bread cereal plunged lower.

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## Red Troops Repulsed

### PEIPING — (AP) —

Nationalist counter-attacks repulsed 3,000 Red troops at Wangchuan, 30 miles southeast of Peiping, last night as Communist guerrillas continued their harassing attacks against Peiping-Tientsin railway points, the National Government reported today.

Wang Hung-Shao, Chief of Staff at the Nationalist Peiping Field Headquarters, reported that the Communist, in anticipation of an attack on Yen-an, were massing troops on the west bank of the Yellow River and were continuing to ford troops across the stream from Shanai to Sheng Province.

Meanwhile, Wang said, other Communist forces pushed into the Changchun in Manchuria, and repulsed an attack on Fuliuchuan in the same general area.

## U. S. Bomb Stand Given

### LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y. — (AP) —

The United States today agreed with Russia that the use of atomic bombs should be given top priority among the control of general arms reductions.

In a counter-proposal to the Soviet Union's arms program, the United States stressed that agreement should be reached in the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission on a system to outlaw the deadly bomb.

**DIFFERS FROM RED STAND**

However, the American stand differed sharply from the Russian position over the check on the results of the study possible legislation making it illegal for any air line to manufacture or possess atomic bombs, which would go before the General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

The Raleigh Chamber of Commerce criticized sharply what it called the "unresponsible proposal" exercised by the CAB.

Mr. Lassiter said this morning that the CAB, headed by the Chamber of Commerce, was to meet Monday's meeting would be set after Chairman John L. Wilkinson returns to the city tomorrow.

## Wisconsin Solon Attacks Elliott Roosevelt Labeled As An 'Ambassador Of Ill Will'

### WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Representative Lawrence H. Smith, Republican Wisconsin of the Foreign Affairs Committee today criticized Elliott Roosevelt as an "ambassador of ill will" and suggested that the State Department revoke his passport on grounds of un-American activities as he should be ousted and sent home.

Smith said in a statement that Roosevelt, as a Reserve Army officer, had been granted a passport for any offense against the United States and added:

"The committee on un-American activities has its hands full investigating subversive activities here some without usurping the prerogatives of the State and War Departments in matters of this kind."

**WANT AND BELIEVE IN PEACE**

By EDDY GILMORE  
COLUMBIANA — Elliott Roosevelt says that during the sixteen days he had spent thus far in the Soviet Union he found "a convincing desire for peace and friendship with the United States" among

## Coal Company Levies Fines

### PITTSBURGH — (AP) —

A spokesman for Pittsburgh-Coke Inc. today said that the company had begun to levy daily \$1 fines against the 4,000 miners who were on strike in Western Pennsylvania.

The spokesman said permission to impose the fines had been granted by the War Relocation Authority. He said the levies would be retroactive to Nov. 15, the day the coal miners voted to strike.

**PHILADELPHIA —** Consolidation said the action is merely a ploy to keep the coal miners out of the mines. It will be determined how much will be returned over to the miners for the health and welfare fund now kept up by a 5-cent-a-day levy on each miner who is administered by company funds.

Capt. O. E. Carlson, Navy Coal Mines Administrator, said that he would approve the fines if approved by the War Relocation Authority.

## Prices Up 2.18 Pct. Since June

### WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Wholesale prices have soared to the highest level in 26 years and are 2.18 per cent steeper than at the end of last June, the latest index from the Bureau of Labor Statistics disclosed today.

Roosevelt and his wife, the former First Lady, were in London, England, today. They were believed to be on their way to Moscow, the Moscow vicinity and Leningrad.

**HANDS LETTER**

During their trip back from London, Roosevelt said he had written a letter to the people of the plain people of paper and signed by three generals and four of the best-known stage personalities in Russia. The letter said:

"Mr. Roosevelt: Extending the See ATTACK MADE on page 6-A

## Police Hunt For Band Firing Tractor Bullets

SAN MATEO, Calif. — Police are hunting for a band of men who were firing tractor bullets at passing automobiles.

## WEATHER

Fair; little change in temperature through Sunday. Monday night and Tuesday, Monday night and Tuesday, Monday night and Tuesday, Monday night and Tuesday.