

Empty Stockings  
Plans For Yuletide Program  
Shaping Up

# Japs Intercepted U. S. Messages Before War

## Long Absence Ends Stalin Back At Desk In Moscow After Vacation

MOSCOW.—(AP)—Generalissimo Stalin, rested by a long vacation, was back at his desk today as the Foreign Ministers of Soviet Russia, Great Britain and the United States prepared for their third formal session on world problems with a feeling of reserved optimism.

Stalin returned from his 68-day holiday yesterday, just four days before his 66th birthday, and plunged immediately into his duties as president of the Council of People's Commissars.

His long absence from the Kremlin had given rise to rumors abroad that he was ill, but these reports had been denied both by Soviet officials and by U. S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, who visited Stalin at his Black Sea retreat near Sochi.

Harriman reported on his return that he had found Stalin in excellent health and enjoying his holiday. Similar assurances as to the Generalissimo's health were given only two days ago by U. S. Secretary of State James V. Byrnes and British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin by High Society officials.

Stalin's return was announced in a friendly note to the press in all Moscow newspapers, saying: "Yesterday, Dec. 17, the president of the Council of People's Commissars, Joseph V. Stalin, returned from his vacation to Moscow and resumed his duties."

## Protection For Buyer Quality Control In Houses Talked

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—An aide of John W. Snyder said today the reconversion director is planning work aimed at assuring new home buyers value for their money.

This official, who is representing Snyder at the Government-sponsored housing conference, said it has been decided "there will be in some sort of quality control on the part of the purchasers get their money's worth."

The official, who asked that a reporter not be used to report this subject will be discussed with labor and management representatives of the construction industry at concluding sessions of the housing conference today.

White officials have not worked out, it is understood that general plan is to have the National Housing Agency's building specifications when they apply for Government aid in obtaining materials.

Under a program recommended by Snyder by other Government agencies, it would turn down applications for such aid if it felt the prospective home was out of line with cost.

This provision would be incorporated in a new regulation on this issue, industry and labor were in agreement that the Government should tell the public in blunt, unadorned language, but no speedy cure-all for the housing shortage.

Harry C. Bates, chairman of the American Federation of Labor's Housing Committee, said the public should be told that only 400,000 homes can be built next year. The need in 1946 has been estimated at more than 3,000,000 new dwellings.

The same view that it will take a long time to build the homes was expressed by L. C. Hart, vice president of the Producers Council. He said that the Government should make this clear.

## Knew About Yank Ships At Hawaii Disclosure Made In Attack Probe

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—A Senate House committee learned today that the Japanese intercepted an American broadcast Dec. 6, 1941, that gave them information on the number of battleships, cruisers and destroyers being ordered or anchored in Pearl Harbor.

This disclosure came in a Japanese naval officer's statement, obtained through Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo and submitted to the Pearl Harbor committee. It was put into the records after Vice Admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson, former chief of Naval Intelligence, had testified.

The warships caught by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, may have had an hour and a half to get out of the harbor before they had been sent from Washington as the fleet was destroyed.

The fleet would have been sent from any of the bases on the West Coast or at Lahaina Roads, another Hawaiian anchorage, rather than at Pearl Harbor.

A summary of Japanese plans received from MacArthur showed the enemy was well prepared to attack any ships anchored outside the harbor.

JAPS READING MESSAGES  
The Japanese had heard at length about American activities in breaking the Japanese codes today at the first time it had received evidence that the Japanese also were reading American messages.

Cmdr. Tomo Tachibana of the Japanese naval intelligence staff, furnished Col. P. P. Fanning of MacArthur's staff with his conjecture on what happened, since the staff officer in charge of the documents on surveillance at Pearl Harbor had died and the documents had been destroyed.

Tachibana did not make it clear whether the Japanese had broken one of the American codes, but he said that on Dec. 6 the United States broadcast of the number of battleships, cruisers, destroyers and other vessels in the harbor or out on training maneuvers.

Tachibana said the Japanese also deduced from the signals to the location of the battleships and ships and small craft anchored in the harbor or out on training maneuvers.

"Again by combining the flying time (judged according to signal intercepts) of airplanes shuttling between bases and aircraft carriers out on training missions, and units as well as passenger and cargo ships stopping over at the location of training areas of the United States, Tachibana said, adding:

"The same time etc. of airplane patrols at Hawaii were deduced in the same way.

Tachibana's statement also brought out that in their preliminary reports, he said, he had learned that the Japanese were to "prepare for the possibility that was within the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands may become."

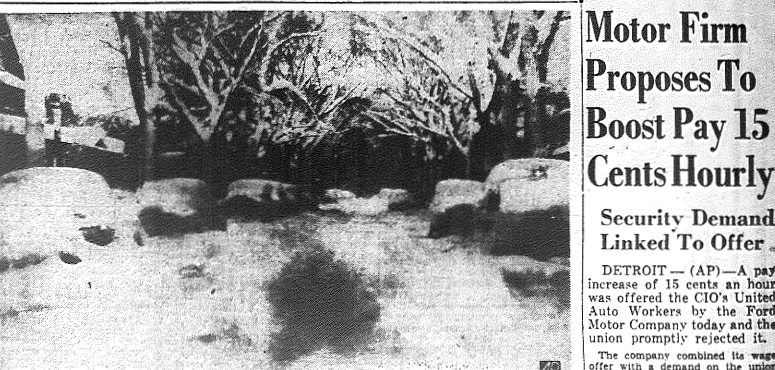
## Navy Court Martial Captain McVay Gives Dramatic Story of Indianapolis Sinking

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Capt. Charles B. McVay III testified at his court martial today that he did not believe it was possible to maintain a zigzag course the night the heavy cruiser was lost because of the visibility conditions made it unnecessary.

Capt. McVay is being tried on charges of negligence and inefficiency in the sinking of the ship July 30 while en route from Guam to Leyte. The Navy has attributed the ship's loss to an enemy submarine officer took the credit at his own request.

He said visibility was poor that night and that he had no choice but to order the zigzag course maintained.

# UAW Wage Offer Before War



WHITE CALM AFTER BUFFALO'S ROARING BLIZZARD—A thick blanket of snow covers houses, streets, trees and automobiles in Buffalo, N. Y., after a week-end blizzard, one of the worst in the city's history. This street scene is typical of conditions throughout the residential districts. (AP Wirephoto).

## Keep A Gun Cocked' Training Urged By Legion Chief

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—John Steele, National Commander of the American Legion, declared at a congressional hearing today that the United States must "keep a gun cocked" through adoption of universal military training.

## Gale Strikes 2 U. S. Ships

LONDON.—(AP)—Two American warships, the aircraft carrier Wasg and the cruiser Augusta, were damaged in a 70-mile an hour gale which swept over the mid-Atlantic and battered the coast of England today.

The U. S. Navy port office at Southampton announced that the Wasg was en route to Southampton to pick up troops when she ran into the storm Sunday. Steel curtains on the hangar deck were washed away.

The Augusta, en route to the United States from Le Havre with troops, had her starboard side crushed in one or two inches and received similar damage to the bulkheads.

No casualties were reported on either ship.

Port officials said the Wasg was expected to put in at Plymouth this morning for temporary repairs, and that the Augusta had turned back and would arrive at Southampton or Portsmouth later in the day.

Meanwhile, two persons were blown off the docks at Aberdeen, Scotland, last night and drowned before rescuers could reach them.

The infantrymen are Pfc. Mike Colston, Duluth, Minn.; Sgt. Verlo Bertoldo, Decatur, Ill.; Sst. Vernon McCarty, Model, Tenn., and Lt. Frank Burke, Trenton, N. J.

The Marine is Capt. Robert M. Dunlap, Galveston, Ill., and the Navy officer is Lt. Richard McCool, Norman, Okla.

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See STORY TOLD on page 3-A

## Motor Firm Proposes To Boost Pay 15 Cents Hourly Security Demand Linked To Offer

DETROIT.—(AP)—A pay increase of 15 cents an hour was offered the CIO's United Auto Workers by the Ford Motor Company today and the union promptly rejected it.

The company combined its wage offer with a demand on the union for a "company security" arrangement involving fines up to \$5,000 for "illegitimate strikers."

Richard T. Leonard, Ford announcer for the FAW-CIO negotiations, immediately after a reading of the company proposals that Ford's offer was completely unacceptable to the union.

The Ford offer compared with a 10 cent increase offered by the UAW-CIO, which was estimated at 13 1/2 cents an hour.

While union negotiators announced their rejection of the Ford proposal, they said discussions would be resumed Thursday.

After its rejection of General Motors' 10 cent offer, the UAW-CIO said it was "not an official" or representative position in the union "but is not an employee."

labor-management disputes in the auto industry this has been put by management under the heading of "instigating an illegitimate strike" when such person has an official or representative position in the union "but is not an employee."

SCHOOLS CLOSED  
SCHOOLS and most city offices in the Buffalo area remained closed and passenger trains were running up to six hours late. A few New York Central trains still were being rerouted around Buffalo over the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, but freight traffic remained paralyzed in most Buffalo rail yards.

Shuttles continued to sweep in off Lake Erie today but weather officials said "no more than five inches" of fresh snow could be expected.

While thousands of persons struggled to restore highway and railroad communications in two lake region storm areas, the remainder of New York State reported a clear, bright day.

New York City reported one death caused by the cold weather. The cause of death was pneumonia.

This was a modification of the company's original proposal of a \$5 a day fine which would have been levied on the offender.

Some 100,000 of the contract as proposed by Ford the union would agree not to participate in the "illegitimate strike" which (1) was properly considered under grievance procedure; (2) was not specifically provided herein as company prerogative; (3) has as its

## 19 Nabbed On Theft Charge

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The FBI announced today that nineteen persons in New York, Philadelphia and Miami Beach, Fla., have been taken into custody as the result of the theft of merchandise valued at more than \$125,000.

James Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said that three of the persons arrested in New York City. The merchandise was either owned by the Government or moving in interstate commerce, he said.

See FORD OFFER on page 3-A

SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

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