Ickes' Idea

President Truman has been reportedly considering appointing Ickes, a fiery critic of the national scene, to the position of a former member of his Cabinet. Harold L. Ickes, the "Old Curmudgeon," gives his pointed suggestion on the editorial page today.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED 1888 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1946 | 26 Pages—Price Five Cents

COAL OPERATORS CONFER WITH KRUG

Mayor Plans Move To Provide More Housing For Vets

Baxter Will Urge Action By Council Immediately

Cites Desperate Plight Of Many

Mayor Herbert Baxter said today he would ask the City Council to "take whatever steps necessary" to provide quickly several hundred additional housing units at Morris Field for homeless Charlotte veterans.

Citing the great need for veterans' housing as shown by the huge registration for the 404 units at Morris Field, Mayor Baxter said it was "imperative" that the City Government obtain legislative permission to issue bonds or appropriate tax money to finance the conversion of additional buildings at Morris Field.

"We have gone the first mile," Mr. Baxter said, "and we must now go the second mile. Those veterans went all the way for us, and we can't do less."

The Mayor said the urgent need for housing had been "forcibly" brought to the attention of the City by the flood of over 1,200 applications for the 404 units which will be available at Morris Field.

"The need is great in every case. You can close your eyes and pick out applications, and each one will be an acute case. We've done pretty well, I guess, in getting Federal money for converting the 404 units. We applied for more, but that's all we thought we got.

FEDERAL FUNDS GONE

"Now there is no more Federal money. We will have to do it ourselves. And it is imperative that we get started without delay. So that the desperate plight of these veterans will be alleviated as soon as possible," he said.

Mr. Baxter said two methods are open:

(1) The City can still issue some bonds this year under the debt retirement limitation. "But this will not be enough," Mr. Baxter added.

(2) The City can obtain authority from the Legislature to appropriate tax money for a self-liquidating loan to be used in financing the new project and to be repaid in eight to ten years.

"The cost will be several hundred thousand dollars," Mr. Baxter estimated.

He said that there are additional barracks at Morris Field and some miscellaneous buildings which are adaptable for conversion into multiple living units. Water and sewer lines are already laid there, he pointed out.

"I think the job can be done quickly, now that building materials are moving more freely. The J. A. Jones Co., working under tremendous difficulty, has managed to get a big job done in about four months. I believe that after the first of the year we could convert the other buildings in a matter of some 60 days, making the units available about April.

"I shall present the matter to the City Council at next Tuesday's meeting. Something has to be done, and done quickly," the Mayor said.

Johnson's Views

Consolidation Plan Study Favored By State Treasurer

Charles M. Johnson, Treasurer of North Carolina and Director of the State Local Government Commission, urged strongly today that Charlotte and Mecklenburg groups interested in City-County consolidation probe the matter thoroughly, and sift all available evidence with a competent survey before proceeding.

Mr. Johnson, speaking from Raleigh, said that he could not attempt to render an opinion of the advisability of consolidation in Mecklenburg's local governments until he had all the facts at hand, but he said that a thorough investigation was in order, "to see how you stand."

"There would certainly be some savings in such a consolidation, but no one can tell how much until you have surveyed the thing completely . . . And the savings, in my opinion, are not as important as the increased efficiency which would result."

Mr. Johnson spoke briefly of other attempts at partial consolidation in North Carolina:

"In New Hanover the consolidation of tax departments has worked very well, and though Mecklenburg's situation is different, it seems that tax consolidation there would be fine. If New Hanover and Forsyth Counties are fair examples.

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

"Durham's health departments have been consolidated for many years, and have worked well under the system. But there is no question as to the advisability of such a move in those departments. There seems to be no sense in operating health departments separately."

Mr. Johnson said that the Local Government Commission would like to offer to make such a survey itself, in the belief that it would be of value to many communities in the state, but he added that he hasn't the staff

See JOHNSON on page 11-A

For Contagious Diseases

Separate Hospital Building Endorsed

By PETE McKNIGHT
News Editor, The News

The Charlotte Hospital Council, citing an urgent need for isolation facilities for contagious diseases, yesterday endorsed strongly a movement by Charlotte medical men to provide a separate hospital structure for such cases.

J. P. Richardson, administrator of Presbyterian Hospital and chairman of the Council which is composed of local hospital executives said his group gave a "hearty endorsement" to a plan to provide such facilities now under study by a committee of local medical men.

The committee, composed of Dr. W. L. Venning, Dr. C. G. Watkins, and Dr. M. B. Bethel, is now at work accumulating data on the cost of isolation hospitals in other cities.

MEETING PLANNED

Clarence O. Kuester, executive vice-president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, said today he was planning a dinner meeting for about 50 leaders of the medical profession and the community at which the proposal will be discussed. The exact time for the meeting has not yet been set, Mr. Kuester said.

No details about the size, cost, location, or method of operating an isolation hospital have yet been worked out, Dr. Venning told The News today. He added that his committee has written for all information about isolation hospitals in a number of larger cities.

"We may find the cost prohibitive," Dr. Venning said. "But everyone is agreed that the need is urgent, and we're going to find out all we can about such hospitals."

Mr. Richardson said the Hospital Council would back wholeheartedly any plan approved or sponsored by the medical profession to provide facilities for communicable diseases.

"There are no such facilities in Charlotte today," Mr. Richardson said. "The hospitals have made a herculean effort to handle the cases, particularly in emergencies. But about all they can do is to put the patient in a private room and set up isolation technique. That is far from satisfactory."

He cited a recent case at one of the hospitals when a child who was ill with chicken pox was brought to the hospital for emergency treatment for third degree burns, suffered when a kettle of boiling water was overturned. The hospital took the child, but extensive rearrangement of services was necessary to provide complete isolation.

In another instance, a local doctor took into his own home a child suffering from a highly contagious disease because the hospitals were unable to care for him.

"A separate structure, operated in connection with one of the hospitals, would be the best solution," Mr. Richardson said. "Such a building would have its own equipment, nursing service, and medical technique."

Trieste Row Continues

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

NEW YORK — (AP) — Several cracks showed up today in the time-honored disagreement between Russia and the Western powers over disposition of strategic Trieste, but diplomats were uncertain whether they foretold a real break in the Italian peace treaty deadlock.

They became apparent despite a warning by Secretary of State Byrnes that the United States could not continue making compromises on the Trieste issue and an assertion by Foreign Minister Molotov that Russia insisted on changes in some Paris Peace Conference provisions for governing the Trieste territory.

NEW DISPUTE

Molotov also raised one new dispute by asking a treaty provision fixing a deadline of possibly three or four months, after the treaty becomes effective, for removal of foreign troops from Trieste. The troops there are American and British.

Byrnes and Molotov joined argument repeatedly during three and one-half hours session of the Big Four Foreign Ministers Council last night, then called a halt until late today after they agreed, along with British Foreign Minister Bevin and Deputy French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville, to return to their showdown debate.

Diplomats who sat in on the session reported it was by no means all negative and had several results which might lead to a break in the main deadlock blocking completion of an Italian peace treaty.

Plane Missing In Far West

BURBANK, Calif.—(AP)—A Western Air Lines plane, with eight passengers and a crew of three aboard, was missing today—apparently in the snow-swept mountains north of here.

The two-motored Douglas DC-3, inbound to the terminal here from Salt Lake City, was last reported at 3:24 A. M. (Pacific Standard Time) when the pilot informed the control tower by radio that he was bringing the craft down for a landing. He was over Newhall, on the upper fringe of the San Fernando Valley, at 9,000 feet.

A Western Air Lines spokesman said at 6:45 A. M.—announcing that the craft was missing—that it had enough gas to remain aloft only until 7 A. M.

The flight, No. 22, had stopped at Las Vegas, Nev., at 1:45 A. M.

Smuts Ready To Annex Africa Land

Premier Blunt Before U. N.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y.—(AP)—Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts, Premier of South Africa, told the United Nations flatly today that he was prepared to take over mandated Southwest Africa by unilateral action if the General Assembly refused to approve his proposal for its annexation.

Challenging Russia's assertion that the U. N. Charter compels the placing of all former League of Nations mandates under the proposed trusteeship system, the 76-year-old South African leader, declared:

"If the assembly does not view favorably the Southwest African request for incorporation, then South Africa has no other alternative but to continue to administer the territory as an integral part of the union of South Africa."

BATTLE FLARES

He spoke as the trusteeship battle flared again, with a British declaration disputing Russia's contention that Palestine and all other League mandates must be placed under U. N. trusteeship.

British Representative Arthur G. Bottomley told the General Assembly's 51-nation trusteeship committee that "there is no obligation under the Charter to bring any territory under the trusteeship system."

Bottomley, while not mentioning Palestine specifically, said "it is quite clear that a mandatory power is free to place a mandated territory under the trusteeship system, or not to do so." His statement was made in defense of the South Africa's proposal to annex Southwest Africa, which Soviet Ambassador Nikolai V. Novikov charged last week would be a violation of the Charter.

INDIA OPPOSES SMUTS

In supporting the South African proposal, Britain not only disagreed with Russia but with another member of the British Empire—India—which has expressed vigorous opposition to the move to annex the mandate.

Meanwhile, the United States and Great Britain were reported working on separate plans to restrict the use of the veto in the United States Security Council. While both were definitely against any action by the Assembly on the veto question, they were said to be planning to work out self-imposed restrictions among the five permanent members of the Council.

U. S. Sub To Sink German U-Boat

BOSTON.—(AP)—A U. S. submarine will torpedo at noon today off Provincetown a German undersea craft surrendered to the Allies after V-E Day. The experimental destruction will be witnessed by Navy technicians.

The captive submersible, taken over by the United States under terms of the Potsdam agreement, was towed to the scene 30 miles east of Provincetown on Cape Cod yesterday.

The Navy will prepare descriptions of the destruction of the craft—the U-977—which will be released to the public.

THE SS AMERICA RETURNS TO THE LUXUARY TRADE — The liner America, queen of the American Merchant Marine, steams up New York Bay after reconversion from a Navy transport to a luxury liner. In the background is the New York skyline. The largest, fastest and most luxurious liner ever built in the United States was escorted to her pier by Navy planes, blimps, civilian aircraft and fireboats spouting water. She is scheduled to sail tomorrow on her maiden peacetime voyage to Europe. (AP Wirephoto).

Boiler Explosion

One Dead, 16 Hurt In School Blast

BARODA, Mich. — (AP) — One child was killed and at least sixteen others injured today when a boiler explosion wrecked a section of a consolidated school at this little Western Michigan fruit belt community.

Walter Ruppel, 13, died in a St. Joseph, Mich., hospital late than three hours after the blast ripped off one wall and the roof of the two-story building.

An estimated 200 pupils were in the building when the explosion occurred but the school superintendent said all have now been accounted for "as far as we can ascertain."

Twelve of the students were hospitalized with serious injuries, including crushed and fractured arms and legs, but none was reported in critical condition.

JANITOR ABSENT

The explosion occurred while one of the victims, sixteen-year-old Eldon Nitz, fired the basement boiler shortly before noon during the absence of the school janitor, his uncle, on a hunting trip.

The west wall of the two-story building was destroyed and the roof caved in on the seventh grade classroom where the victims were seated.

Mrs. Frederick Williams, wife of a Congregational minister, said she was at work preparing luncheon in the parsonage across from the two-story school.

"I heard the explosion, which shook my home," she said. "Then a huge puff of smoke filled the whole school yard. Then I saw the west wall and the roof fall in. I heard children screaming and I ran across the street."

When the debris blocked her approach to the school, Mrs. Williams ran back to her home and gave the alarm to the telephone operator in Baroda.

Police cars, fire apparatus and wrecking equipment converged on Baroda.

U. S. Would Limit Sites

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y.—(AP)—The United States today asked the United Nations to limit its hunt for a permanent headquarters site to four areas—New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Boston.

The New York area would include the suburban Westchester-Fairfield location first selected for the peace capital site by the General Assembly in London last Winter.

Under the United States proposal, a sub-committee would begin immediately a study and inspection of the sites and report back to the Headquarters Committee in time for formulating a recommendation to the Assembly in the current New York session.

The American proposal was offered to the 51-nation Headquarters Committee in the midst of a flood of site offers from all parts of the United States. The new deluge of applications followed the Assembly vote of last week canceling its London decision and opening the location contest to all of the United States.

British Ships Sweep Up Mines

LONDON —(AP)— A Foreign Office spokesman said British vessels engaged in minesweeping operations between the island of Corfu and Albania yesterday had "accomplished their task in part" and would continue it today.

No incidents occurred, the spokesman said.

Royal Naval minesweepers began their operations yesterday against a background of Albanian protests that the action was "unilateral" and represented a "premeditated violation" of her sovereignty.

300 Killed In Peruvian Quake

LIMA, Peru—(AP)—The Prefect of Ancahs Department telephoned today that 300 persons had been killed and 250 injured in the Conchucos area in earthquakes which started Sunday.

GI Housing Loan Denied

WASHINGTON— (AP) —His loan battle with RFC in "complete disagreement," Wilson Wyatt today pondered an appeal to the new Republican - dominated Congress for Federal help in financing rental housing projects.

An assistant to the Housing Expediter said that such an appeal is under study as part of Wyatt's search for "new devices" to provide rental homes and apartments and ease the expected rise in building costs.

It is possible that some "new aids to private financing" may be asked, either as an amendment to the pending General Housing Bill or as separate legislation.

Wyatt will await reports on cost trends before taking action, it was stated. Some housing officials believe, however, that the present sales price limit on homes may have to be increased from $10,000 to $12,000, as a result of Saturday's general abolition of price and wage ceilings.

This would put many homes beyond the reach of veterans' pocketbooks and, housing agency officials believe, would necessitate a drive for more rental accommodations.

The pending housing measure, usually called the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, is intended to provide 1,250,000 homes in the next ten years. It proposes that the Government guarantee a reasonable profit to companies erecting maintenancy projects, through insuring the profits of such operations.

Meanwhile Wyatt and George E. Allen, a director of the Reconstruction Finance Corp., entered a new day's negotiations completely at loggerheads over Wyatt's insistence that RFC grant up to $90,000,000 in loans for companies pioneering in the prefabricated housing industry.

The two went to the White House yesterday to confer with President Truman and Reconversion Director John R. Steelman. After 45 minutes they emerged, and Allen told newsmen: "There is complete disagreement between Wyatt and Allen and nothing has been settled."

Wyatt, right beside him, added: "That is a perfectly accurate statement."

Fight Dream

Girl Killed By Father In Nightmare

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. — (AP) — Victim of a nightmare in which her father dreamed he was having a fight, three-year-old Linda Joyce Pollard, died under the hail of his blows early Tuesday, Sheriff W. T. Mallock reported.

The father, Willard Pollard, 25, told the sheriff and a coroner's jury that in the dream he found himself trying to ward off attackers, but that he remembered nothing else. When he awoke, he said, he was standing over the battered body of his daughter.

The child's skull had been fractured and her right leg was broken. Mrs. Pollard, who slept in the same room, did not awaken during the commotion.

The coroner's jury took no action but at the suggestion of a physician committed to have Pollard placed under observation at a State or private hospital. Relatives said Pollard had been a victim of sleep walking for years and was injured sixteen months ago in a dynamite explosion while blasting stumps.

Talk Over Outlook For Making Deal With Lewis

No Sign Whether Progress Made

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Leading coal operators conferred for 45 minutes today with Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug on the outlook for a deal with John L. Lewis to avert a coal strike and return their mines to them, but there was no sign whether there was any progress.

The bituminous operators smilingly posed for photographers as they left Krug's office following the remarkably brief session, but referred questioners to the Secretary.

KRUG SILENT

Krug sent word through a spokesman that he would have nothing to say about the nature of his talks with the operators. The same policy of silence has been pursued by the Government and Lewis since talks started on the United Mine Workers' demand for a new contract and more pay from the Government as operator of the seized pits.

A Krug-Lewis meeting, with the UMW chief backed by his negotiating committee was the next step.

A Krug spokesman said no further meeting with the operators was scheduled at the moment.

With only three days left before further negotiations — and eight days before the expiration of the Feb. 25 deadline set by Federal Administrator Julius A. Krug to avert a repetition of last Spring's paralyzing coal strike.

Lewis has stated flatly that the present 10-cent-a-ton royalty on coal covering his 400,000 diggers would be "void" on Nov. 20 unless his demands are met for a new pact. Under the contract, he has to give five days' advance notice on Friday of his intention to scrap the current agreement.

TIME RUNNING OUT

With time running out, an industry spokesman declared meanwhile that the country's major steel companies have been caught short on coal supplies.

The industry officials told a reporter that U. S. Steel Corp. had only a two-week supply, J. Ross Lanham, ten days, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube a week.

Commenting on the outlook, Edward R. Burke, president of the powerful Southern Coal Producers Association, said:

"It doesn't look too hopeful, but it is the only sensible thing to do."

The Government has been running the 2,500 soft coal mines since last Spring's strike, when Krug and Lewis made a contract putting the miners to work for the Coal Mines Administration.

Burke's opposition centers on three features of the Krug-Lewis agreement: (1) The continuation of supervisory workers, (2) The five-cent royalty on each ton of coal for the union welfare and retirement fund, and (3) The Federal Mine Safety Code.

It was Burke's rejection of the Krug-Lewis agreement in September which resulted in an indefinite recess in the Government-sponsored negotiations between the miners and operators. Lewis and his miners' convention last month refused to sanction a contract with the rest of the industry, leaving the Southern group out.

Army And Navy Civilian Payroll Cutback Ordered

WASHINGTON — (AP)— Budget Director James E. Webb today ordered the Army and Navy to dismiss by Jan. 1 an additional 93,000 civilian employes in this country and its territories and possessions.

In doing so, Webb set a top limit of 892,600 on the number of civilians for military programs in the first quarter of 1947. This will require an Army reduction of 73,300 and a Navy cut of 20,200.

That, a statement by Webb said, means a total cutback of nearly 1,000,000 workers on Army and Navy payrolls from V-J Day to the end of this year.

WEATHER

Fair and cool this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow. Sentiment for a frost tonight. Lowest temperature expected tonight 36-40.

Temperatures at 2:30 today 58
High and low last 24 hours 64-37
Sunset today 5:18
Sunrise tomorrow 7:11

One Too Many

Bar Patrons Are Shaken By Live Owl

CHICAGO—(AP)—A customer at James Kromar's tavern donated a live owl to give a little life to the collection of stuffed birds which adorn the walls of the saloon.

But after the wise old bird went on a hooting spree and frightened some of the patrons he was removed.

Kromar said the owl was given him by a patron who said it had flown into his home. He placed the bird atop the cash register and the owl sat almost motionless among the specimens of the taxidermist's art. Most of the customers were unaware that the bird was alive.

But when the owl began to blink and hoot some of the patrons decided they had one too many and left.

Kromar decided to get rid of the owl and turned it over to the Anti-Cruelty Society.

Heads Red Army School

MOSCOW —(AP)— Anatoli Arkadievich Blagonravov, 52-year-old lieutenant general of artillery, has been elected President of the new Soviet Academy of Artillery Science. An Army man since 1916, he won a Stalin Prize in 1940 for his work in automatic weapons design.

Gets Death For Killing Girl

Vet's Plea That He Was Taught To Shoot Rejected By Judge

CAMBRIDGE, Md.—(AP)—Ross J. Abbott, 24-year-old war veteran, was under sentence of death by hanging today for the murder of his twenty-year-old sweetheart, his plea for consideration because "society taught him how to shoot" bitingly rejected.

Abbott, awarded the Purple Heart after service in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns, pleaded guilty to shooting Pansy Twigg as she swam with two girl friends in the waters of Chesapeake Bay near her home on Deal Island, off Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Chief Judge Laird Henry Jr., reading the decision of the three-man court yesterday, told the crab fisherman and handyman, "You must realize that a service record, no matter how fine it was, does not give any man the right to come back and disobey the laws of this country."

Defense Attorney Melvin Silberg had argued that Abbott was a product of postwar frustration and disillusionment.

"Society gave him a gun and taught him how to shoot," the lawyer shouted. "He shot people, and it made a hero of him."

Somerset County State's Attorney Prentiss W. Evans, who had demanded Abbott's death, hailed the verdict for its "effect on the thinking of thousands of former service men in these counties."

Abbott held his breath and trembled during the reading of the verdict. But he made no sound as Judge Henry intoned:

"We come only to the real facts: That you grabbed this helpless girl, pulled a revolver and shot her in cold blood. Perhaps no one knows if that first shot killed her, but you were not satisfied and again shot her.

"You lifted her from the water and laid her on the beach. And then again you took your revolver and shot her for a third time.

"It is not possible for this court to conceive of a more brutal or more unjustified murder than you have committed on this little girl.

"Ross J. Abbott, you are sentenced to suffer death by hanging."