Northwestern Flood Crest Bears Down On Coast Area

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS ★★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1948 26 Pages—Price Five Cents

Volunteers Battle To Add Height To Dikes

Town Of 1,000 Is Evacuated

PORTLAND, Ore. —(AP)—The Columbia flood crest bore down on the Clatskanie area today in its rampage to the Pacific Ocean. The river lapped less than three inches from dike top and was going higher.

Four hundred civilian volunteers struggled to heighten the nine dikes in the threatened area two-thirds of the way down the 100-mile barricaded stretch between Portland and the sea.

Behind the hard pressed earthworks is the town of Clatskanie. Its population of about 1,000 has been evacuated. So have residents in other districts of the area.

U. S. Army engineers described the situation in the Clatskanie area as "critical." And it put the same label on five other areas, extending as far upriver as Portland where the crest passed yesterday.

MARGIN NARROW

But nowhere was the margin between safety and destruction as narrow as the cryptic "freeboard, two-tenths of a foot" reported by the engineers, around Clatskanie.

Upriver, the most vital "critical" points were in the sandy and Multnomah drainage districts along Portland's north and eastern outskirts. There 200 troops and 700 civilian volunteers fought to bolster flood-battered dikes and keep Portland's airport and the big Troutdale aluminum plant from inundation.

Other critical areas were Sauvie Island slightly downstream from Portland; Scappoose, 22 miles down, and Deer Island, near the Oregon shore about midday between Scappoose and Clatskanie.

Of these the Scappoose area seemed in the greatest danger. The engineers said there was a combination threat of dike softness and only one and one-half foot freeboard. Troop-civilian teams battled soft dikes on the two islands.

The crush of water seaward meant the worst was over upriver where the toll is twenty known dead, an unknown number unaccounted for in the Vanport disaster, 50,000 homeless and damage in millions of dollars.

The flood crest has passed the major cities—Portland, Oregon's metropolis, and Vancouver and Longview on the Washington side of the state separating river. These communities, and many others, are hoping now to get back to normal.

It will be a long haul. An estimated 10,000 homes were swept away by the rampaging river. The entire city of Vanport was destroyed. Dikes were washed out. Communications were disrupted. Transportation was crippled. Hundreds of square miles lay under a murky shroud of water that will remain for weeks.

The fight now is against disease, to search for the dead, to bring families back together again, to feed and clothe those who lost everything, to supply temporary housing.

TRUMAN ORDERS AID

Impetus to the tremendous task came from President Truman. He ordered Federal agencies into full speed rehabilitation of the stricken region. Volunteer agencies, local and national, struggled to get their own aid programs going.

The Red Cross and Salvation Army reported gains in providing housing, shelter, food and medical care. The Red Cross said it is caring for 7,000 families registered in the Portland area alone. It praised Portland's response in donating twenty tons of clothing and 200 tons of food. And more still is coming in.

The Salvation Army announced 30 canteens in operation in dike areas. More than 100,000 sandwiches have been distributed along with quantities of blankets, shoes and other necessaries, it said.

Federal Works Administration, Public Housing Administration, Department of Interior and Reconstruction Finance Corporation teamed up their national offices for rebuilding the entire area and restoring refugees to their homes.

DISEASE CURBED

Health authorities believed they had their problems under control. Typhoid immunization teams started all shelter areas. Planes have sprayed flooded areas with DDT.

Portland's Housing Authority has asked for war surplus buildings, tents and trailers for the emergency housing. The wheels are turning toward building low cost housing projects to replace the 800 multiple dwelling units shattered in Vanport.

The Navy is ready to break out surplus vessels from its moth-ball fleet at Astoria, Ore., for use in the emergency housing. Two de-commissioned hospital ships can be moved to Portland from the port of the river's mouth and there are idle ocean tankers available to supply power for river towns where transmission lines or local generators are wrecked.

WEATHER

Fair weather with mild temperatures this afternoon, tonight and Thursday.

Temperature at 2 P. M. today ... 80
High and low last 24 hours ... 80-58
Sunset today ... 7:31
Sunrise tomorrow ... 5:09

More Weather Data on page 7-A

—Curious Or Hungry?

News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin Studio

Homer, the pet bird who has been going to Berryhill School for the past six weeks, is so friendly he'll eat food out of Nancy Lee Wilson's mouth. The bird was adopted by students in Miss Laura Owen's sixth grade. He starts his vacation tomorrow, too.

Feathered Scholar

Homer No Roamer, He Likes School

By MARTHA AZER LONDON
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Take Homer now. He's re-ally a bird.

He can't spell cat, dog, or anything else. But he's still going to get all A's on his report card when they're passed out at the Berryhill School tomorrow.

Miss Laura Owens, his teacher, said so. And she oughta to know. She said he's made such good progress in the six weeks he's been to school that he deserves good marks. And that's all right with the 43 boys and girls in his sixth grade room. They agree with Miss Owens. What's more, they helped him make good marks.

NEAR TRAGEDY

Homer, you know, is a young purple grackle who nearly met his doom in a bullfrog's mouth. That was several weeks ago; but Mrs. Edwin Clarkson saved his life.

It happened like this: One morning, Mrs. Clarkson (who has a beautiful garden in Charlotte) was in her bedroom. All of a sudden, she heard a loud noise out in her garden. She looked out the window, and saw a huge bullfrog pull the young bird under the water.

Mrs. Clarkson rushed out and got a net, and fished the bird out of the water. She dried him off, and warmed him with a heating pad. Then, she got on the telephone, and called Miss Owens. Mrs. Clarkson asked her if she would like to have him for a pet. Miss Owens said yes.

DUBBED "HOMER"

Right away, the boys and girls in Miss Owens' class took to the bird. They liked Homer for a name, so they called him that. But they had trouble with Homer. He wouldn't eat, and he was so scrawny, they were afraid he'd die.

So, they fed him. They forced him to eat. They'd pry his mouth open, and feed him scrambled eggs with a tweezer. Then they used a medicine dropper to give him water.

Pretty soon, Homer began to perk up a little. He began to try out his wings, and to fly around the room. That made the children happy. They fed him some more, and varied his diet. Whatever they found he liked, they'd get for him.

Homer liked the children, too. Although he had a special cage in the room, he didn't have to use it. It was all right with Miss Owens for him to fly around the room and light on somebody's shoulder. Sometimes while he was on somebody's shoulder or head, he'd stay there for awhile and listen to the teacher, too. And, sometimes, the children thought he was listening so intently, he must be making mental notes.

Homer liked his schoolroom so much, he never tried to leave it. Even when the windows were all wide open, he'd never fly out.

One day he fooled the children, though. He flew to the window, and lit on the sill. He looked out at the trees and up at the sky. He had the children worried. They thought he might fly away.

But he didn't. He turned right around, and flew back into the room.

Even on week-ends, Homer wasn't left alone. Because every week-end, he'd go home with a different classmate. He was friendly with all of them.

But the time for parting has come. School will be out tomorrow, and Homer will be given a long vacation. He'll be banded, and let loose to make his own way in the world.

He's going to be set free in Mrs. Clarkson's garden. That way, the children can keep track of their friend, for as long as he wants to stay around.

So, you see. There's no getting around it. That Homer is a bird. He re-a-ally is.

B-29s Fill Skies In Mock Attack

ANDREWS FIELD, Md. — (AP) — The Strategic Air Command ordered the biggest mass formation of B-29s into the air today for a mock bombing raid on Selfridge Field, Mich.

The orders called for bomber groups at widely-scattered points to rendezvous over Kansas City, Kans., at about 12 noon (EST) today and from there strike at the targets 640 miles north in Michigan. They were to have fighter escort.

On the basis of the number of groups, the mock attack apparently involved about 225 B-29s and 325 fighters (P-51s and P-80 jets).

HOUSE APPROVES RECORD ARMY-AIR FORCE BILL

Six Nations In Accord On Germany

Western Powers Reach Agreement

By ALEX H. SINGLETON

LONDON — (AP) — A six-nation conference on Western Germany's political and economic future reported officially today it has reached agreement on recommendations covering the whole field.

That was the heart of an 80-word communique summing up the results of six weeks of talks which brought together high-ranking diplomats, financial and production experts from the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg.

It mentioned directly none of the major accomplishments of the talks—among them the recommendation to establish a separate Western Germany early next year, plans for creating an international control board over the Ruhr's key minerals, or long range methods for preventing rebirth of German aggression.

REPORT DUE

But it did say that a report on its recommendations will shortly be made public. Diplomatic officials here said this probably would not come before another two weeks—after the recommendations have been reviewed in detail by the Governments concerned.

The text of the communique:

"The informal discussions on Germany between representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the three Benelux countries, which began in London on 23rd February and which, after a recess beginning on 6th March, were resumed on 20th April, have resulted in agreed recommendations over the whole field."

Protest Anti-Communist Measure

Foes Of Mundt-Nixon Bill Converge On Washington

WASHINGTON —(AP)— More than 3,000 foes of the Mundt-Nixon Anti-Communist Bill gathered in Washington today to protest the legislation. Most of them came from New York aboard three special trains.

They were greeted by former Rep. Jerry J. O'Connell of Montana, a backer of Henry A. Wallace for President, as "patriotic defenders of our ancient Amerliberties.

"The Mundt Bill would wreck the Bill of Rights," O'Connel said.

A large number of police were at Union Station, but there was no disorder.

Two mass meetings were scheduled for today and later the delegations were to call on their Congressmen.

The demonstration was arranged by a self-styled "Committee to Defeat The Mundt Bill" after the Senate Judiciary Committee hailed public hearings on the House-approved measure Monday.

Most of those from New York are associated with the Committee for Democratic Rights. Others are members of the national non-partisan delegation, which is urging passage of civil rights legislation.

Many in the crowd carried placards advocating anti-lynch and other civil rights measures.

Leon Henderson, head of Americans for Democratic Action, said in a statement today that Communists secretly hope Congress will pass the Mundt-Nixon Bill.

"The bill represents a handy short-cut to the kind of political martyrdom on which they thrive," the former price control boss declared. "It gives the Communists the one perfect issue on which they might be able to erect another united front with American liberals."

Henderson, who helped set up the ADA as a self-described non-Communist liberal political organization, issued his statement as Senate and House-passed bill headed for Washington and a noisy protest against it.

The measure requires the registration of all Communist Party members and expressly forbids any activities aimed at setting up a foreign controlled dictatorship in this country.

The bill was drafted by Rep. Mundt (R-SD) and Nixon (R-Calif). It passed the House overwhelmingly last month.

Hendenson said:

"ADA believes the Mundt bill is a dangerous, futile measure which merits full public consideration by all Americans with serious stakes in the maintenance of political freedom.

"Some members of Congress, to say nothing of other candidates for high political office, have approached it exactly as the Communists have — as if it were nothing but a handy campaign issue which guarantees headlines.

"Communists are banking on the hope that the Senate can be stampeded into passing the bill.

"ADA urges the Senate to avoid their trap."

Huge Budget For Armed Services Is Passed

Navy Money Bill Due Tomorrow

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A record peacetime Army-Air Force appropriation bill was whisked through the House today and sent to the Senate. The measure provides $6,509,939,000 for the two services for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

The House scheduled for debate tomorrow another record peacetime defense money bill—a $3,686,733,250 measure financing the Navy for the next fiscal year.

Funds included for the Army, Navy and Air Force total $10,196,672,250.

The appropriations committee also called a meeting for tomorrow morning to draft a multi-billion dollar measure financing the foreign aid program.

LITTLE DEBATE

There were less than two hours debate on the Army-Air Force bill and fewer than 50 members on the floor during the discussion, which was confined to explanations of the bill's provisions.

The Appropriations Committee at the same time released testimony warning of the "alarming menace" of Soviet military might and disclosing that the United States Fleet now in the Mediterranean is there for two reasons:

First, to serve as a warning to Soviet Union not to try to overrun any of the free countries of Europe.

Second, to be ready to remove American forces if worst came to worst.

Adm. Louis E. Denfeld, chief of naval operations, told the committee just two weeks ago that the Mediterranean Fleet ot one carrier, three cruisers rnd ten destroyers could be augmented quickly.

(A twelve-ship task force headed by the carrier Kearsage left Norfolk, Va., late yesterday to relieve the vessels now on duty in the Mediterranean).

Discussing the use of U. S. ships in foreign waters, Denfeld declared:

"Not only is the presence of our ships in certain troubled spots of the world today a clear indication to would-be troublemakers of our determination to maintain peace; it is also the means, and the only means we possess, whereby we may act swiftly to prevent the overrunning of critical areas by an enemy. . . .

"All the ships we have in the forward areas are manned with sufficient men to act in any emergency . . . the reason we have this task force in the Mediterranean is to be available in the event that our occupation forces have to be evacuated.

"We have in Europe, occupation forces in Germany, in Trieste; we have missions in Greece and in Turkey; and these ships are there to be able not only to evacuate these personnel in case of emergency but also as a show of force to prevent any nation from taking any action which they might take if our ships were not there."

Two separate appropriation bills—given top priority for immediate action—provide $6,509,939,000 for the Army and the Air Forces and $3,686,733,250 for the Navy for the year starting July 1.

The total would be $505,000,000 greater than the services are spending this year and more than three times as much as the regular 1941 budgets for the armed forces.

The committee recommended 90.4 per cent, or $3,331,005,450, for the Navy, and 9 per cent, or $647,903,000, for

See HUGE DEFENSE on page 7-A

Happy Ending

Cupid Wears Glasses And Carries $500

NEW YORK—(AP)—Cupid in heavy-rimmed glasses, carrying $500, made life happy today for a French bride-to-be and her GI finace.

The blonde French girl, Georgette Bertaud, 21, arrived on the liner Queen Elizabeth last Thursday.

Her fiance, Pfc. Graydon Morfitt, of Houston, Tex., and stationed at Fort Jackson, S. C., did not arrive in time to meet her, and she was sent to Ellis Island.

Morfitt arived Sunday, but didn't have the $500 bond for Georgette's release.

Then James Mont, interior decorator, read about the case and did four things:

Put up the $500 to release the bride-to-be today.

Arranged to buy the wedding ring.

Vacated his Manhattan apartment so the couple can honeymoon there.

And issued this brief instruction:

"Just be happy."

Fighting Goes On

Palestine Truce Conditions Argued

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arab nations accepted with "explanations" today the United Nations' proposal for a four-week armistice in Palestine. The reply made plain the Arab belief there is no chance of lasting peace while the Jewish state of Israel exists.

Israel previously had accepted with "assumptions." One of these was that unlimited immigration, including men of fighting age, should continue during the armistice. The no chance of success. That is the very point over which both sides have been skirmishing since late in November and warring in the open since May 15, when the British mandate ended. The Arabs also stressed Jewish immigration as a peril and asked to be allowed to co-operate with the U.N. to supervise compliance with the cease-fire.

LONG DEBATE SEEN

Prolonged debate, during which fighting will continue, appeared to be in prospect.

The Jews said Egyptian troops attacked Negba, south of Tel Aviv, and bombed Hulda, in the same general area. Marksmen of the Trans-Jordan Arab Legion killed 20 Jews attacking the Zion, Jaffa and new gates of old Jerusalem after midnight in an effort to win back a foothold.

Artillery, mortar and automatic weapons exploded through Jerusalem while both sides awaited a cease fire order to become effective.

The Jews said they ordered their forces to cease fire at 3 A. M. Palestine Time (9 P. M. Tuesday, EST), but would resume fire if the Arabs kept shooting. The hour was that which the U. N. had set as the deadline for replies to its proposal for a four-week truce.

An Israeli spokesman said the Jewish acceptance of the truce was unconditional. The Jews, however, couched their reply with five "assumptions," one being that free immigration to Palestine should continue, regardless of whether the immigrants were men of fighting age. Egyptian Premier Mahmoud Fahmy Nokrashy Pasha said he did not think its acceptable.

The Jews also "assumed" food

See JEWS, ARABS on page 7-A

Arabs Claim Jewish Attack Force Routed

AMMAN, Trans-Jordan — (AP) The Arab Legion said today Arab auxiliaries had scattered an Israeli attacking force in Romena and Givat Shaul and killed 100 Jews.

Eighty other Jews were declared killed in Jerusalem.

The time of the Romena-Givat Shaul action was not stated in the communique, nor was the field of action located more precisely. (Romena apparently is the Legion spelling for Rummana, a village seven miles northwest of the Arab stronghold of Jenin).

Arabs specified that continued Jewish immigration would constitute a grave threat to the Arab countries.

Scattered combat was reported in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Palestine pending a cease-fine time, which the U.N. had not yet set. The Arab reply did not make clear whether the Arab acceptance of the armistice is conditional on the United Nations' agreeing to their "explanations." The Arabs left the time of the cease-fire to be decided. The Jews had set 6 P. M., EST, yesterday, conditional upon a similar Arab order.

The "explanations" specified that any solution partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab states has

Coal Strike Threat Hit

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough told John L. Lewis' attorney today it will be a "national tragedy" if there is a coal strike next month.

Goldsborough tossed out this remark as Welly K. Hopkins, attorney for Lewis, and Government attorneys argued over the Government's request for a court order requiring Lewis to bargain with the Southern Coal Producers Association on a new soft coal mining contract.

In what seemed an indication of sympathy with the Government's request, the balding judge rocked in his chair in U. S. District Court and remarked conversationally:

"Now I'm aware that you can carry a horse to water but you can't make him drink."

"But, people sit down around a table and fuss in good faith, something usually comes out of it."

Lewis contends the Southern Coal Producers Association (SCPA) is a "propaganda" organization, formed to fight his United Mine Workers. He gives that as one reason for refusing to talk contract with it.

The Government is asking an order requiring him to bargain with it on grounds that such bargaining is required by the Taft-Hartley Law. The Government fears a mine work stoppage when the present contract runs out June 30 if a new working agreement is not reached before then.

Lewis himself was not in the court room as the case was argued.

Goldsborough, in another tossed-in remark during the argument, said he believed he had authority to issue such an order. That meant he was rejecting informally the union's argument that the Taft-Hartley Law's provision for such orders is unconstitutional.

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON— (AP)—Justice T. Alan Goldsborough today put off until Friday a decision on whether to order John L. Lewis to bargain with the southern Coal Producers Association.

Executive Explains 'Voice' Mixup

NBC Offers Government Use Of World Radio Facilities

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The National Broadcasting Co. today offered to step out of the "Voice of America" programs and lease its international radio stations to the Government for $1 a year.

Charles R. Denny, NBC vice-president, made the offer to a Senate investigating group that is trying to learn why a Government-financed propaganda program contained what Congress regards as slurs on state and sectional pride.

He made the offer after explaining just what happened to bring Congressional fire on the program. The protested programs were in Spanish and beamed to South and Central America.

Denny, youthful former Federal Communications Commission chairman, blamed the difficulty on "divided responsibility" between the State Department and NBC.

Sen. Bricker (R-Ohio) commented that "if we'd had a little common sense, either in the Government or your company (NBC), this never would have happened."

Denny told Bricker what is needed is "strong centralized control."

Sen. Hatch (D-N.M.) asked if this might involve Government censorship.

"We're not afraid of censorship," Denny replied. "The State Department has got to have a large measure of control."

Still under consideration by the investigating group is whether to ask Alberto Gandero, former program supervisor, to return here to testify. Gandero, now in his native Cuba, was in charge of the Latin America programs which NBC put on for the State Department.

Denny said a proper "Voice of America" program should be unified and reach every corner of the earth.

"Truly adequate facilities might cost another 50 or even 100 million dollars," he said. "The cost of this powerful weapon is insignificant when compared with the cost of battleship or air fleets. The task of the 'Voice of America' is to combat lies with truth in the international struggle for men's minds."

He recalled that in 1943, David Sarnoff, president of Radio Corporation of America, suggest ed that "all international broadcasting operations be unified in a government controlled foundation."

"If this were done, the National Broadcasting Co. is prepared to lease its three 50-kilowatt shortwave stations to the Government or to a Government-controlled foundation for $1 a year and to withdraw from the field of international broadcast programming," Denny said.

He also promised NBC cooperation if Congress continues the present system of Government broadcasts through private companies.

Denny said Gandero and Irene Borgia, $100-a-week script writer who produced the controversial broadcasts, have left NBC. Borgia was dismissed last March 11, he said, and Gandero resigned May 10 after having been demoted March 18.

CLEARED FOR WORK

He said the Federal Bureau of Investigation and police had cleared Borgia for the work, Denny added.

"I've seen no evidence of disloyalty."

Denny said NBC officials told Borgia to make his programs "interesting—do it in a light vein."

He denied Borgia's testimony yesterday that he acted strictly under orders in injecting certain material.

Denny said NBC handled thousands of programs for the "Voice" and only "six have been found objectionable."

"The criticism which has lastly been made of parts of the fragment should not obscure the acope and value of the overall job," he said.

NOT TRANSLATED

Denny said Borgia's scripts were written in Spanish with no English translation made, "since no funds were available for that purpose."

He said Gandero supervised them and "reported to Mr. Stanley Richardson who was assistant to Mr. William F. Brooks, the vice-president, responsible for this activity."

Denny said Richardson used a language expert, Stanley Spiegelberg, to make spot checks on foreign language programs but that none was made on Borgia.

Denny said NBC thought the State Department "was making an independent review of these broadcasts."

Rail Wage Talks Labeled Failure

WASHINGTON — (AP) — White House efforts to settle the railroad labor dispute "have failed completely," union leaders said today.

David B. Robertson, representing one of three disputing unions, made the statement after union officials had held a lengthy conference at the White House with Presidential Assistant John R. Steelman.

Robertson, chief of the Brotherhood of Firemen & Enginemen, told reporters that Steelman is ending his long attempt to settle differences in the dispute.

"In other words," Robertson said, "Mr. Steelman's efforts have failed completely."