

# WASHINGTON *Calling*

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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hard-hitting statement. Also advised sub-marginal cotton producers in the South to diversify crops, not to be victimized by constant boom and bust of the cotton market.

**SENATE NAVAL** affairs committee members will fly to the South Pacific shortly on an inspection tour, like the one now being made by house naval affairs committee.

**SMALL BUSINESS** gets chance to talk next week about policies of treasury procurement in disposing of surplus government property. Chairman Stewart (D. Tenn.) of a senate subcommittee has set Tuesday for hearings, will try to find out whether small buyers are being discriminated against.

**WESTERNERS** SAY manpower shortage in West coast ship yards, airplane plants, could be lessened if administration would guarantee West coast reconversion to peace industry on same basis as East, and sufficient heavy industry after the war to guarantee workers a future there. As it is, they've started scrambling to get back East, nail down permanent jobs.

## FEA Is Doomed

**CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS** have been assured by President Roosevelt that foreign economic administration will be scrapped after the war, with state department restored to full authority over affairs abroad.

Promise is expected to ease passage of bill increasing pay and liberalizing promotions in foreign service.

Infidential congressmen had balked at approving measure without pledge that FEA and state department wouldn't become permanent competitors.

**QUESTIONNAIRE BOYS** are busy again. There'll be a super-census next year as part of reconversion program, although regular census doesn't come until 1946. There'll be a sample census of population (about 4 per cent) and eight others, including regular five-year agriculture survey and studies of manufacturing, business, wages, employment, consumer income and outgo.

## Railroads Expect Defeat

**RAILROADS** EXPECT turn-down by interstate commerce commission in plea for restoration of 4.7 per cent general freight rate increase granted in 1942 and suspended in May, 1943. Stabilization officials have registered strong objection. ICC probably will continue suspension, reopen case when carriers are more in need of relief. Their net incomes for 1944 are more than 20 per cent below 1942.

**VETERANS' APPLICATIONS** for government guaranty of home loans have been far below expectations; only 30 have been

approved, about 800 are being processed. Until land prices fall, veterans' administration expects to approve few loans for farm purchase. G. I. bill permits federal participation only on deals at "reasonable normal value" and farm experts say this will bar purchases throughout Midwest farm belt, where values all are inflated.

## Better Job for Marchisio?

**PROMOTION** MAY be in the offing for Judge Juvenal Marchisio of New York. F. D. R. is said to be pleased with his work as head of American relief for Italy.

**ADD UNFINISHED** business being held over for the new congress.

Revision of radio law on which extensive hearings were held in present congress; liberalization of railroad retirement and unemployment insurance acts; modification of civil aeronautics act to permit steamship companies to operate supplemental air service; all under authority legislation.

**Notes:** Senator Bennett Clark (D. Mo.), who headed commerce committee group on aviation, won't be back in.

Chairman Josiah Bailey (D. N. C.) is expected to take over the chore himself.

**LARGEST NLRB** elections ever held take place Jan. 2-10. In them, A. F. of L. and C. I. O. battle for right to represent 65,000 Western Union employees. Both national organizations have contributed funds, sent organizers, attach much importance to success.

**THERELL** BE fewer illiterates after the war. Out of 150,000 drafted in the last year, 133,000 received basic education in special training units, learned enough to make them competent soldiers and better citizens later.

**LOOK FOR** a new censorship code to appear before long. It's in the works now.

## Times Cloth-A-Child Donors

CLOTHED DIRECTLY BY DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Troutman	1
<b>CASH CONTRIBUTORS</b>	
Grapho Products, Inc., Employees	\$ 100.00
Allison Gage Design No. 5	27.00
Service Construction Co.	25.00
Bostitch Products	15.00
H. L. Goodman	10.00
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Baker Brothers	10.00
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Paul S. Welch and Family	5.00
Jackie Rogers	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. William Tedrick	2.00
Phil and Linda Hoop, Shelbyville	2.00
Mrs. Harry Hart	1.00
In Memory of Blanche	1.00
Mrs. Eldora Robbins, Westfield	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 216.00</b>
Previously reported	1961.99
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>\$ 2077.99</b>

## 'They're Super,' Girl Says; 317 Get Warm Garments

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terday were 11 orphans, five children whose father is confined to his bed with tuberculosis and two children of a widow whose son is in the navy. One child was clothed by a direct donor.

So far, 317 children have been clothed. Heading the donors' list today is the Grapho Products, Inc., employees with \$100; Allison Gage Design No. 5 with \$27 and the Service Construction Co., \$25.

**THERE ARE** two ways you can help Cloth-A-Child: You can send cash contributions to The Indianapolis Times, 214 W. Maryland st. Experienced shoppers will take the children to the stores and provide them

with the warm clothing they need. Or, if you prefer, you may shop for the children yourself. All you have to do is call RI 5-851 and ask for Cloth-A-Child. Specify the day and hour you wish to shop and The Times will have the child (or children) if you wish to clothe more than one) at the Cloth-A-Child office, corner W. Washington and Senate at the appointed time. The child's parents will remain at the office while you go to the store—any one you prefer—and make the purchases.

Office or factory groups, clubs, sororities and other organizations may take children in groups, as many as they wish.

**HEADQUARTERS** FOR Cloth-A-Child are at 301 W. Washington st., the southwest corner of West Washington and Senate ave. The office space has been furnished through the courtesy of the Metal Auto Parts Co., Inc., and is now occupied jointly by Cloth-A-Child and the downtown employment office of Metal Auto Parts.

**NELSON SEES CURTIN** MELBOURNE, Dec. 9 (U. P.)—Donald M. Nelson, personal representative of President Roosevelt, conferred today with Prime Minister John Curtin following his arrival by plane from Canberra.

## 2 DIE IN POWDER COMPANY BLAST

At Least 25 Injured in Earth-Shaking Explosion On West Coast.

**HERCULES**, Cal., Dec. 9 (U. P.)—An earth-shaking explosion in the main nitro powder plant of the Hercules Powder Co. today killed at least two persons.

At least 25 were injured. Windows were shattered in nearby towns.

The blast was felt as far as 12 miles away.

Flying glass showered the air here and at the nearby towns of Pinole and Rodeo on the northwestern shore of San Francisco bay, causing casualties among plant employees.

**Car Is Jolted** Red Cross units set up a first aid station in the town's playground and made a house-to-house canvass to treat wounded persons.

Claude Christensen, a United Press reporter, was driving through Pinole, one mile from the plant, when the explosion occurred at 10:30 a. m. (Indianapolis time).

"It jolted my car so heavily I thought a tire had blown out," he said.

Forty minutes after the blast the sheriff's office broadcast to all stations that "conditions at Hercules are under control."

**Bar Entrance to Plant** Christensen reported police barred entrance to the plant gates immediately after the explosion. He said he saw a blinding flash which was followed by a great roar.

The Hercules plant is a major producer of war explosives and armament materials. It lies approximately 15 miles west of Pinole, on Suisun bay, scene of one of the war's worst home-front disasters. Last July two ammunition-laden merchant vessels blew up there, killing 323 persons.

## CLUB MEMBERS HEAR MRS. HOBSON

Discussion of local taxicab operation and a proposal to establish a 48-hour week for firemen highlighted last night's meeting of the Indianapolis Federation of Community Clubs.

Mrs. Maude G. Hobson, supervisor of the city bureau of weights and measures, and Albert L. Grimes of Red Cab, Inc., spoke on the taxi problems.

The proposed legislation for a 48-hour week for firemen was discussed by George Gaughan, representative of Local No. 416 of the International Fire Fighters' association (A. F. of L.).

A report on the proposals will be given at a meeting Jan. 26.

## FOUNDRYMAN UNIT PLANS STAG PARTY

The Central Indiana chapter of the American Foundrymen association will hold its annual Christmas stag party at 6:30 p. m. today at the Athenaeum.

Emil Schmidt Jr., foundry superintendent of the International Harvester Co., is chairman of the party. He will be assisted by A. E. Murphy of Hickman Williams & Co.

About 300 persons are expected to attend.

## Politics BY EARL RICHERT

ONE OF the most novel ideas in a long time is now being bandied around Republican circles.

It is a proposal that the law be amended to provide for use of voting machines at the nominating conventions of the two major parties.

Proponents are those who do not like the direct primary system of nominating state officers and who think that the present convention system is not ideal either because it gives the party bosses too much control.

Voting machines would give the convention delegates a chance to vote their individual wishes without fear of retaliation from county or district chairmen.

State police would guard the machines and certified public accountants would tally the vote. A delegate in entering the booth would vote for his choice in all races and when all delegates had voted the convention would be over.

More will be heard of this proposal later.

**G. O. P. LEADERS** agree that the hottest fight of the legislature likely will be over a bill to reinstate the direct primary.

A number of influential Republican legislators are openly for it, including such men as Rep. Jess Andrew and State Senator Clyde Black of Logansport.

Administration leaders naturally will be against, and should be strong enough to block it. But, as one of them admitted, "if a direct primary bill ever reaches the floor, it is likely to pass."

## Clock Marks Bond Progress



A CLOCK has been erected over the main entrance of American National bank to keep the public informed on the bank's progress in obtaining subscriptions for bonds in the sixth war loan campaign. James S. Ragan, president, said that the bank's quota is \$10,000,000.

## 'There Isn't Handbag That Can't Be Picked or Stolen'

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cordial invitation to a thief—either professional or amateur.

Some women mistakenly believe they are safeguarding their bag by covering it with merchandise, a hat, a coat or a newspaper. This is a help to the thief, rather than a hindrance.

When handbag snatchers spot a bag on a counter they often promptly cover it by casually dropping some merchandise upon it.

It then becomes a simple operation for the thief to pick up the merchandise and the handbag.

**WOMEN** should be careful in their selection of a handbag. The type and the manner in which it is worn can either aid the thief or greatly complicate his "work."

Strap handbags are especially inviting to thieves. The over-the-shoulder bag and the single strap arm bag are the bag-openers' favorites.

If you are partial to the over-the-shoulder type, don't let the bag hang behind you or at your side. Shift it around to the front where you can watch it.

In the case of the arm bag, wrap the strap around your wrist and clasp the top of the bag in your hand. Whenever you are in a crowd, hold it as an under-the-arm bag.

OF ALL the types, the under-the-arm bag is the safest, but only if carried correctly. It should be placed between the body and the upper arm and grasped by the hand for added security.

Ironically as it may seem, wearers of the latter type of bag comprise the largest number of shoppers victimized. They tend to lay down their handbags more than any other group.

Chief McMurtry urges shoppers to use common horse-sense in guarding against bag thefts.

**"YOU CAN** outwit even the smartest manipulator if you will follow three simple rules," the chief declared.

"ONE. Be careful in crowds."

"TWO. Don't let your bag dangle."

"THREE. Don't put your bag down."

"Do that and you never will be a 'pushover.'"

## PROGRAM FOR STATE IS MAPPED BY GOP

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public health services in every city and county in the state.

**FIVE.** The first general recreation program for children ever attempted by this state government as a part of new legislation designed to curb juvenile crime.

**SIX.** Possible creation of a state commission to handle the affairs of returning war veterans under special laws setting up aid for the servicemen in Indiana.

**SEVEN.** Authority for the state government to purchase surplus war properties from the federal government.

**SURPLUS WAR PROPERTY** EIGHT. Extension of the research in state universities to include new uses for farm products.

**NINE.** Enlargement of the legislative bureau in order to speed up the processing of legislation and to eliminate errors.

**TEN.** A complete program to guide the state's aviation development after the war.

The policy committee, headed by Richard James, lieutenant governor-elect, will convene again next Thursday noon to hear reports of committees and to begin work on the original draft of bills.

**YANKS BOMB STUTTGART** LONDON, Dec. 9 (U. P.)—More than 400 Flying Fortress, escorted by about 275 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, attacked rail yards and an airfield in the Stuttgart area of Germany today.

## Reduce Your Taxes BY ACTING NOW

to secure title to your property. Your home purchase contract may be refinanced through a loan with Fletcher Trust Company with these advantages:

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## BIG SUCCESSES WON IN PACIFIC

Jap Navy Seen as Target in New B-29 Raid; Ormoc Totters.

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described the earthquake as of catastrophic proportions.

**13 Jap Admirals Killed** The Japanese also reported the deaths in action of 13 more admirals.

Presumably they died in the series of air-sea battles that began off Formosa in mid-October and ended with the rout of the imperial fleet in Philippine waters.

First word of the new Superfortress strike on Japan came from the enemy radio.

Tokyo said a few lone B-29's dropped incendiaries on Tokyo twice this morning.

Another force of undisclosed size flew over the inland sea area, covering southern Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu islands, the Japs said.

**Fleet May Be Target** The latter mission aroused speculation that a new aerial thrust might be in progress for the elusive Japanese imperial fleet.

The B-29's ranged over the Kure naval base, where crippled enemy warships might have taken refuge after the Philippines sea disaster.

On Leyte island in the Central Philippines, the newly-landed U. S. 7th division drove into the outskirts of Ormoc.

Ormoc is the last major port of supply and reinforcement still held by the 40,000 to 50,000 Japanese troops trapped on the island.

(A Berlin broadcast, quoting Japanese reports, said Japanese paratroopers simultaneously landed on all American-held airfields on Leyte and added that fierce fighting was in progress.)

The 77th hammered out a three-mile advance northward from its beachhead on Ormoc gulf. Six other divisions pushed in from the north, northeast, east and southeast on the pocketed but savagely resisting enemy.

**Japs in Death Trap** Five miles south of the 77th, the American 7th division moved toward a junction with the new reinforcements.

Substantial Japanese forces were squeezed into a death trap between the two units.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, meanwhile, disclosed that 22 more Japanese ships were sunk or damaged since Tuesday night in a series of previously announced naval and air attacks in Philippine waters.

MacArthur also raised from 62 to 81 the number of enemy planes destroyed in attacks on the 77th division's invasion convoy Wednesday and Thursday.

**Chinese Rout Nips** On the China front, counter-attacking Chinese forces routed two Japanese columns, 9000 strong, that had driven up through Kwichow province within 65 miles of the big American air base at Kweiyang.

The Japanese retreated in disorder to the Kweichow-Kwangsi border. They abandoned Tushan and Pachai.

Chinese Minister of War Gen. Chen Cheng said one of China's gravest military crises has been weathered successfully, although perhaps temporarily.

## THREE YOUTHS HURT IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Three youths were injured, one seriously early today when the car in which they were riding careened into a parked car and a utility pole. The car had been sideswiped by another auto which allegedly failed to stop.

The injured: Jack Dolby, 18, of 2817 N. New Jersey st., possible skull fracture, condition serious.

Marjorie Carmichael, 17, of 536 Trowbridge st., broken jaw, facial cuts.

Harry Keller, 20, the driver, of 4437 Crittenden ave., facial cuts and cracked knee cap.

The accident occurred at Noble and Lloyd sts.

## YANKS BOMB STUTTGART

LONDON, Dec. 9 (U. P.)—More than 400 Flying Fortresses, escorted by about 275 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, attacked rail yards and an airfield in the Stuttgart area of Germany today.

## State to Honor 300,000 Hoosier G.I.'s Tomorrow

HOOSIER SONS AND DAUGHTERS day will be observed in Indiana tomorrow in tribute to the 300,000 Indiana men and women in the armed forces.

Proclamations setting the day aside for the display of the flag and the holding of appropriate ceremonies were issued by Governor Schricker and Mayor Tindall.

Suggestion for the day was made by the First Indianapolis chapter No. 6, American War Dads.

On Monday Christmas cards supplied by the Indianapolis unit will be sent to wounded veterans in nearby army hospitals.

## GREEK LEFTISTS ARE REINFORCED

British Report Opposition Gaining More Strength in Athens Area.

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however, by strong rebel positions in buildings and on high ground, which required low level machine-gun support from planes.

E. L. A. S. forces established road blocks on the highway between Athens and the nearby port of Piraeus last night. The barricades were cleared today.

Authorities estimated that the anti-government forces in Athens numbered about 10,000. Another 10,000 are in the region around the capital. The position and strength of the latter group, however, were obscure.

**Artillery Being Used** At scattered points the E. L. A. S. forces had brought their own field artillery into play as the battle of Athens raged on a full week.

Authorities reported that a situation strikingly parallel to the early phases of the Athens crisis was building up at Salonika, big port in northern Greece. There a general strike was called and tension mounted.

Helmstedt E. L. A. S. patrols entered Salonika unimpeded, officials said. One spokesman bluntly described the situation there as "a powder keg."

British Beaumonts swooped over the main street of Athens and sped over Kolono hill in northern Athens where they shot up an anti-government stronghold.

## 'HANGING OF GREENS' FETE IN 50TH YEAR

For the 50th consecutive year, the Hanging of the Greens program will be held at the Central Y. W. C. A. Sunday from 3 to 6 p. m.

Lighting of the Yule log will open the program, followed by an invitation to those present to help trim the tree and decorate the building with Christmas greens.

A pageant, "The Nativity in Song," will be presented at 4:30 p. m. in Hollenbeck hall.

Y. W. C. A. committee members who will serve as hostesses include the Mesdames Turpin Davis, A. B. Hafer, Ernest Henry, Walter Lars, B. W. Lodwick and John Moffat, and the Mesdames Marjorie Ford, Mary Frances Lars and Ruth Zimmerman.

Participants in the entertainment will include Miss Ruth Hoover, Mrs. Howard Lytle, Miss Nellie Blumler, Mrs. Dorothy Lookabill and the Mesdames Jean Sherman, Arline Smith, Mary Adams, Louise Clager, Patricia Craig and Marjorie Mullikan.

Ninth army forces still were battling to crush the last few German pockets west of the Roer in the Julich area. Elsewhere their sector was quiet.

Canadian troops in Holland wiped out an enemy patrol base on the south bank of the Meuse river above 's Hertogenbosch.

## BIDDLE GIVES HIS REPLY TO LITTELL

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ericed jurisdiction over Elk Hills, to the President and was transmitted to Biddle, who in turn sent it to Littell as head of the lands division.

"Before I wrote the opinion," Biddle said, "the newspapers began to carry oil stories. Shortly after that, Mr. Littell testified before the lands committee of the house and termed the contract 'another Teapot Dome.'"

**Asks for Evidence** "I sent for Littell and said to him, 'I think this is a grossly unfair statement. It points corruption to the secretary of the navy (the late Frank Knox) and his associates. Have you any evidence?'"

"Mr. Littell said he had none, but the legal aspect seemed to him similar to Teapot Dome."

at told him it was most unfair. The navy was wild about it, and Frank Knox was deeply hurt, and I told him so. The President then cancelled the contract. That was the beginning and end of any influence I exerted on Mr. Littell in the Elk Hills case."

"Why was the contract cancelled?" Ferguson demanded. "Because of your legal opinions, or because of Littell's testimony?"

"Littell testified before I had an opportunity to give my opinion," Biddle said. "He took my notes, the basis for my opinion, and testified before the committee."

**Explains Hotel Deal** Turning to the Breakers hotel, huge Palm Beach establishment which was taken by the army in 1943 for a hospital and then returned to its owners after only a few months use, Biddle said that Littell wrote a memorandum to the secretary of war objecting to the army's procedure.

Biddle said Littell sent a copy of the memorandum to the war investigating committee. After consulting with Solicitor General Charles Fahy, Biddle said, he decided that it was improper for the committee to have the memorandum.

"I sent down and got it back," Biddle said. "I