

# WASHINGTON Calling

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

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do we expect to see United States foreign policy emerge any more sharply and clearly—More improvisation as the occasion arises is our guess.

## Chances Good for World League

IF A UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION is formed this year—and we believe the chances are good—we predict senate ratification. We do not expect congress to vote for ratification of future treaties by a majority of both houses. It will stand by the old constitutional rule, ratification by two-thirds of the senate.

Chances are good that something close to the oil industry's version of Anglo-American petroleum treaty will be submitted to the senate. In lieu of one new pending, which industry vigorously opposes. If industry approves final draft of new pact, chances are the senate will also.

But senators, government, and the industry all want to know more about Russian oil plans, especially in Romania and Iran. Some effort will be made to get Russia to join international agreement soon. We look for preliminary conversations on carrels to start this year between the United States and other nations.

DOMESTIC OIL SITUATION will continue tight, probably through the year. Increased commitments in Europe and the Pacific make this inevitable.

## Tighter Belts for Civilians

CIVILIANS WILL have to tighten their belts, more than in any of the war years. There will be enough to eat, but not so much of Americans' favorite foods.

There'll be less meat, poultry, butter, evaporated milk, fresh vegetables, and perhaps lard, during the first quarter. But there'll be more fluid-milk, American cheese, fruit other than citrus. There'll be enough eggs and fish.

Food supplies (except perhaps potatoes and butter) will be up to 1935-36 levels, but demand now is greater.

As for rationing it will get worse before it gets better. Don't expect relaxation of any important controls this year. We had our fling before election; now we'll pay.

MANPOWER CONTROLS will be tightened. By-passing of Paul V. McNutt, and resignation of John Lord O'Brien as general JWH counsel are straw in the wind. (New WFB policy will be to crack down on non-essential users of essential manpower.) But baseball probably will be played as usual in 1945; also football.

## Harder to Travel

LOOK FOR steady deterioration in the transportation situation—civilian automobiles, railroads, trucks.

There'll be no change in taxes—and this will be the first Roosevelt year without a new tax law. We're skeptical about the outlook for a unification of labor agencies in the labor department.

But we look for increased agitation on the question of an annual wage for labor; increased interest from employers—now that Eric Johnson has taken the lead.

Chances are the social security extension program will be split and there's a good possibility old-age and survivors' insurance will be extended.

## New Labor Secretary?

PREDICTION by a man who knows them well: Only the Sewell Avery means of locomotion will take Secretaries Ickes and Jones out of their respective cabinet offices.

Perkins' resignation hinges on the fact that no one is particularly anxious to succeed her.

Latest possibilities for that post: Rep. Ramspeck (D. Ga.) and William M. Leiserson. Don't lay any heavy bets on either.

DON'T LOOK for any great amount of harmony in either political party. It's not in the cards, despite such efforts as Republican "harmony" meeting, called for next month.

Dewey and Bricker both will be active getting ready for 1946 races, with an eye on 1948. Stassen and

## REPORT GREEK KING TO ACCEPT REGENCY

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conference in Athens was expected later today.

King George conferred last night with Churchill a few hours after the prime minister returned from Athens and immediately after a British cabinet meeting.

Abdication Hinted

Some observers suggested the possibility that King George might abdicate rather than accept a regency. That appeared to be ruled out, however, by the report that he had agreed to the British demand.

What concessions, if any, he obtained in his conference with Churchill were not known. The king was understood to have sought a regency council instead of a single regent.

In Athens, meanwhile, the E. L. A. S. command sent Churchill a message through Lt. Gen. Ronald Scobie. Some reports said the message suggested a truce.

Small Boy Carries Note

The E. L. A. S. note to Churchill was delivered to Scobie by a small boy. He carried it in an unsealed envelope to a barbed-wire barricade, where a British courier took it.

Scobie sent back an acknowledgment of its receipt in the same manner.

United Press Correspondent

RED, ROUGH HANDS

CUTICURA OINTMENT

## I DIDN'T WORRY AT BASTOGNE...

'We Were Just Too Busy to Feel Sorry for Ourselves,'

G. I. Says.

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with clouds down around your finger tips.

There wasn't a hell of a lot of the enemy in the town, but they were waiting for us on high ground outside with tanks and artillery.

I didn't get a good look at the Krauts. We had to squat there taking plenty of artillery. It got under our skin, I tell you. Those damned Germans can sure use those 88's. We just squirmed and swore.

## Shells Bounce

That night we crouched in our holes and listened while the Germans came out in a fog and moved about in a circle trying to locate us. Every now and then, a shell bounced our way and some Joe muttered:

"This might be worse than Carantan or Eindhoven."

We didn't worry because we were too busy to worry.

On Dec. 20 we fell back inside Novelle and those Krauts came after us with their tanks hammering first one way and then the other.

It was plenty tough, I tell you. We looked in the skies for planes but we knew the weather was too bad for them to come.

That night when we went to bed we said:

"Tomorrow we will get some planes and then things will change."

Then the Germans cut in behind our battalion and we became a pocket within a pocket. And it looked like the jig might be up.

But I tell you we didn't worry on account of we were too busy to worry.

## Pocket Within a Pocket

On Dec. 21 we figured the first thing we better do is quit being a pocket within a pocket—anyhow I guess that's what our officers figured. Me, I didn't have much to do with it.

We got behind some halftracks and butted our way a mile and a half south into Poy. For some reason those Krauts didn't fight too hard but let us get past.

I guess they figured they would get us later.

On Dec. 22 we really got clicking. The weather still was too bad to get any air support.

We said to hell with it and went ahead.

I got my light machine guns set up firing on Krauts in the woods just outside Poy.

I tell you it was slaughter. I never saw such a thing in my life before.

I guess they weren't the best type of German soldiers because they seemed not to know what they were doing and we just sat there and pumped bullets into them.

It made us feel good to see them hit the ground and bounce or collapse holding their sides.

Every Dead Jerry?

We ain't too bloodthirsty but we knew we were encircled and every Jerry dead was one less for us to fight later.

Dec. 23 we got our first air support and boy were they beautiful things. We laid there and watched those heavies gliding in the sun and we said:

"We knew you would come."

After that we really felt good despite the fact that Jerry still pounded us with artillery fire. Like I said before, mister, we didn't worry, see, because we were too busy to worry.

On Dec. 24 they really made our noses bleed.

They didn't bother us too much in the daytime but they came over that night and let go with everything they had.

Most of it fell away from the building where I was under cover but you could hear those planes ranging upstairs like they were not planning to go anywhere else all night.

We were not too upset though because we were getting air help, too, and we figured we would pay them back when daylight came.

Serious Threat

On Christmas day the Jerries made their last serious threat. They smashed through west of Bastogne and we didn't have a chance of getting out.

We came at them with all we had, sending out patrols and halftracks. Our artillery bagged four tanks and we felt a little more secure than before, I guess. It looked like we might be cooked.

But we just kept popping away and, hell we had air on our side. You should have seen those planes. Boy they were wonderful.

## 'Fearless' SS Troops Quake Under American Artillery

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and he wound up a prisoner in the hands of S. S. infantrymen, who drove in behind the armor to hold Manhay for the Jerries.

Within 24 hours, however, remnants of the battalion of which Allen's company was a part, had rallied and retaken high ground 2000 yards north of the town. From this point they began directing concentrated artillery barrages on the Krauts.

Allen's captors had put him under guard in a cellar in the center of the village. Soon the cellar was jammed full of S. S. men taking refuge from the shelling.

## Terrified Krauts

They were the most terrified lot of Krauts you ever saw," said Allen. "I had never heard prisoners say they were terrified before."

It was interesting to watch these statements verified under laboratory conditions.

"They literally shook with fear. Every once in a while a handful of men would muster courage enough to go up into the street during a lull."

"But then the shooting would start again and back they would come, quaking."

"I was so fascinated I forgot my own predicament and just sat back and enjoyed the spectacle."

At length, during a rather prolonged lull in the shelling the Germans decided to evacuate the village.

They ordered Allen to carry a wounded German on his back. But the shelling started again as the withdrawal began.

"The Krauts took off to the south," Allen said, "running for their lives. I pitched the wounded kraut into a ditch and started in the opposite direction."

## U. S. Awaits Nazi Reply on Crime

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Involving other infractions of the prisoners of war convention.

None of the German violations against Americans, however, compare in magnitude or brutality to atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese.

Execution of the Doolittle fliers and the "March of Bataan" after the fall of the Philippine Islands drew from this country probably the strongest protest of the war.

Official sources said Patton was attacking with at least eight divisions. Included were three crack armored outposts and the famed 101st airborne division that helped liberate Bastogne by its week-long stand in Bastogne.

Today's headquarters communications gave no new details on the progress of the battle at the western end of the salient, except that hard fighting still was in progress Friday morning on the outskirts of Rocheft.

The remnants of a Nazi panzer division were under attack in that area after being driven back about 10 miles from their deepest penetration at Celles, four miles from the Meuse.

United Press correspondents in the field reported, however, that there were increasing signs that the Germans were trying to pull back their western spearheads.

The Nazis are trying to break through by Patton's men at Bastogne and, if possible, to regroup for another westward drive.

## Draw Armor Back

At most points on the northern and northwestern wall of the salient the Germans were reported replacing their tank units with elite guards infantrymen, drawing their armor back into the center of the pocket.

Only along the southern flank and in the Rocheft area were the Nazis believed still using tanks in any strength. In both sectors they were being battered heavily.

United Press correspondent Ronald Clark said a bitter fight was raging on the western edge of Rocheft.

The Germans were trying desperately to prevent an American crossing of the Homme river that would open up the entire center of the Ardennes front to a last army counter-blow.

## Patrols Clash

Along the northern and northwestern shoulder of the German salient, observers believed Nazi Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt had concentrated his strongest forces for a possible new drive on Liege. Only limited patrol and artillery clashes were reported on this sector.

American dive-bombers, virtually grounded by bad weather on other sectors of the Ardennes front, flew 450 sorties in support of Patton's forces yesterday.

They knocked out 63 tanks and armored units along with 121 motor vehicles.

The biggest single bag was destroyed on a road near Bastogne, where a formation of Thunderbolts flushed a Nazi convoy moving up to the front.

The dive-bombers dropped scores of 500-pound bombs squarely across the convoy, wiping out 25 tanks and 25 other armored units and 50 motor transports.

City-Wide BRANCHES

Fletcher Trust Co.

## MARK TIME ON WARD DISPUTE

Definite Action Expected Tuesday on Order to Turn Over Books.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 (U. P.).—U. S. seizure of Montgomery Ward facilities in seven cities remained at an impasse today.

Both sides marked time until Tuesday when definite action is expected on a government request for the firm to turn over its books to the army officers operating the plants.

H. L. Pearson, vice president and treasurer of the mail order firm, said he would not turn over the books to the army until he had conferred with Sewell Avery, militant head of the company's board of directors. Avery was not expected to return to his office until the day after the New Year holiday.

Seizure of the Ward plants was effected Thursday by Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Byron. He was named by the war department to operate the company's facilities in Chicago, Detroit, St. Paul, Minn.; Denver, Jamaica, N. Y.; Portland, Ore., and San Rafael, Cal.

The plants were taken over because of the firm's failure to comply with war labor board directives on wages and maintenance of membership.

Meanwhile, Federal Judge Philip Sullivan set Jan. 8 for a hearing on the government's petition for an injunction restraining the company from interference with war department operation of the seized plants.

Sullivan said, however, that if it was warranted, the government could request an earlier hearing.

Becomes Personal Battle

The fight over the seizure was turned into a personal battle between President Roosevelt and Avery yesterday. The 70-year-old head of the mail order firm accused the President of seizing the property of "some but not others," who defy the WLB.

"If the President can, as he pleases, choose among those who reject the mere advice of the government and seize the property of some, but not others, the nation no longer has a government of law," Avery said.

His statement was aimed at Mr. Roosevelt's failure to act against James C. Petrillo's American Federation of Musicians, which defied the WLB and against the unions which recently called a strike against two Chicago suburban railroads.

Yesterday's developments revealed that the army has orders to handle Avery with "kid gloves." A repetition of last spring's ouster of the firm's chief isn't desired.

Avery was given the right to carry on his work at his office as usual, directing the business in the firm's outlets not taken over by the government.

'Who Will Win the Peace Next Year?'

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ed home-front morale, are not fully accepted here.

Ominous sounds of dissension among Nazi leaders and rumors of Hitler's illness continue to seep out of beleaguered Fortress Germania.

The flower of German youth has perished by the hundreds of thousands.

What the Germans want is not speeches, but an end to it all.

Goebbels' final message of 1944 made no mention of the "crusades of the German nation towards Europe," stressed in his 1943 tirade. He devoted himself exclusively to pepping up the flagging confidence of the German people in the elusive fuhrer.

"It would be foolish to think that five years of war have left no mark on Der Fuhrer, that he has not aged because of the war," admitted the propaganda master.

But he added that the fuhrer was working day and night for his people and enjoying that sixth sense which allows him to see what ordinary mortals cannot.

No New Year's eve pep talks have been announced by Nazi leaders.

Nobody knows whether that "sixth sense" will show Adolf Hitler that the time is propitious for his long-awaited reappearance.

But a last minute surprise, under the present circumstances, is viewed here as quite within the realm of possibility.

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## RIBS BROKEN IN FALL

Dorothy VanArsdall, 4220 Fall Creek Blvd., is in City hospital today with broken ribs received after a fall on the ice in front of her home.

## Japs Claim 17 U. S. Ships Sunk

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zon at the narrow Verde island straits.

MacArthur remained silent on the Japanese claims, but reported that his medium bombers had heavily damaged a 7000-ton freighter-transport in a raid on enemy shipping in Lingayen gulf, a little more than 100 miles north of Manila on the West coast of Luzon.

## 8 Raiders Downed

It was in Lingayen gulf that the Japanese launched their invasion of the Philippines in December, 1941.

Twenty-three Japanese planes attacked American airfields and shipping at Mindoro Wednesday night, causing some damage, MacArthur said, but eight of the raiders were shot down. No enemy ground activity was reported on Mindoro.

Mopping up operations continued on Leyte, with an additional 268 abandoned enemy dead being counted. Japanese planes ineffectively raided the northwest coast port of Palompon.

West of Leyte, American bombers dropped 72 tons of bombs on San Jose airfield on Panay, destroying six parked planes. Liberators attacked Malina airfield on Mindanao, south of Leyte, and touched off fires and explosions.

MacArthur's bombers also left six small freighters sinking off the north coast of Borneo and damaged another small freighter off Celebes in attacks in the Dutch East Indies.

## RUSSIAN ARMOR HEADS FOR VIENNA

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of Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's army yesterday 77 miles southeast of Bratislava and little more than 100 miles from Vienna.

German spokesmen said another Red army bridgehead was established 29 miles to the north around Kalnic, 97 miles east of Vienna.

Malinovsky's armored units were believed striking rapidly westward for Komarno on the Nitra river, 25 miles beyond the Horn. Vanguard 3d Ukrainian army below the Danube already were within 10 miles of Komarno.

Inside Budapest, meanwhile, one of the war's bloodiest street battles raged on. Sparked by a fanatical core of Nazi elite guards, the axis garrison was fighting until death for a partially ruined city already written off by the German high command.

Massed Tanks Clash

Both sides were using massed tanks and artillery at point-blank range. The streets and houses were littered with dead.

Asking and giving no quarter, the Nazis blew up the Danube bridges behind them, sealing themselves in the downtown section of Buda for a last-ditch stand.

The Germans dynamited and burned entire sections of the capital, including the city hall and the area around the royal palace.

Russian riflemen were stalking the Nazis from house to house, chasing them across rooftops and bayoneting them out of attic and cellar pillboxes.

In one part of the city, an entire German battalion of perhaps 1000 men was trapped in a market square. The Nazis fought on until only 90 were left alive.

MRS. EMMA HALL, 58, OF NAPOLEON, IS DEAD

Mrs. Emma Hall, formerly of Indianapolis, died yesterday at St. Maurice Rectory, Napoleon, Ind.

Mrs. Hall, who was 58, is survived by three sons, Rev. Cornelius M. Hall, formerly of Indianapolis and now of Napoleon, and James and Howard Hall, Indianapolis, and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Hawker, Indianapolis.

Services will be held at 9 a. m. Tuesday in Napoleon and burial will be at Holy Cross cemetery here at 1 p. m. Tuesday.

## JEWISH AGENCY FORMED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (U. P.).—President Israel Goldstein of the Zionist organization of America announced yesterday that a Palestine economic bureau had been established within the organization as an agency for American Jewry to participate in the economic development of Jewish Palestine.

Dr. David Tannenbaum of New York is director of the bureau.

## \$24,257 SPENT FOR CAPEHART

Congressional Campaign Costs Include \$4684 Listed by Schriker.

Times Special

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Campaign costs of Indiana congressional nominees totaled \$69,437.68 in the recent election, their statement to congress disclosed today.

The statement listed \$24,257.40 paid out in behalf of Senator-Elect Homer Capehart, whose expenses have been under investigation of the senate campaign expenditures committee for possible violation of the \$25,000 ceiling set by the federal corrupt practice act.

Capehart's opponent in the senatorial race, Governor Henry F. Schriker, totaled his expenses as \$4684 in the Democratic party's report.

Contributions Listed

The Republican senator listed contributions at \$19,878.17, while Governor Schriker reported receipt of \$6315 included \$1000 from the Democratic senatorial committee.

The Republican short-term senator, William E. Jenner, reported total contributions of \$1320 and expenditures of \$1260. His Democratic opponent, Cornelius O'Brien, Lawrenceburg, reported \$1525 spent with no contributions.

A breakdown of Capehart's contributions listed major donors as the Republican senatorial committee, \$5000; Eben E. Lesh, Huntington, \$750; E. A. Nichols, Ft. Wayne, \$500; W. A. Kennedy, Indianapolis, \$500; Ray Ballou, Owensboro, Ky., \$500.

Senator Capehart's own contribution totaled \$9278.17, minus a \$777.45 refund, the report stated.

Itemized expenditures of Capehart during the campaign included payment of \$2342.30 to Horace M. Coats for salary as publicity agent; \$1087.35 to James E. Armstrong, his assistant manager; \$1309.35 to the Claypool hotel for headquarters; \$2140.77 to Campbell Circular Advertising Co. for circulars and advertising; \$594.35 to Glen L. Campbell for printing, and \$1167 to various persons for distribution of literature.

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5TH ARMY ALERTED FOR NAZI OFFENSIVE

ROME, Dec. 30 (U. P.).—The whole 5th army front was alerted today against the possibility the enemy may attempt to follow up the western offensive with a drive aimed at unbalancing the allied armies in Italy.

Meanwhile, the Germans renewed their attacks along the Serchio river near the Ligurian coast.

The new attacks were on a smaller scale yesterday and headquarters described the situation in the area as "fluid."

American troops, which were forced to withdraw in the first two days of the offensive, held commanding positions on high ground south of Galliano and were maintaining active