

Congressmen Call for Probe Of Hospitals

House Subcommittee Raps U. S. Program As 'Foolish, Stupid'

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8 (UP)—Members of a House Appropriations Subcommittee proposed today that the Budget Bureau straighten out what they described as a "foolish and stupid" government hospital program.

They said the closing of some hospitals by the military establishment and the building of new ones by the Veterans Administration doesn't seem to make much sense. They suggested that it is time to make an overall study.

The subcommittee members strongly criticized the hospital program during recent closed-door sessions with military and Veterans Administration officials. A transcript of what took place was made public today.

Seek Explanation

Rep. Harry R. Sheppard (D. Cal.) told the officials:

"It is high time that this committee began calling together the Bureau of the Budget and a few other people that have something to do with the expenditure of these funds and find out what it is all about."

He said there has been a "foolish and stupid expenditure of funds throughout this entire operation."

Subcommittee Chairman George H. Mahon (D. Tex.) agreed. He said the "juvenile way the government is handling this situation is perfectly disgusting."

Veterans Administration spokesmen, including Administrator Carl R. Gray Jr., defended their new building program on the grounds that the hospitals to be abandoned are inadequate to meet the needs.

Estimate Reduced

The military previously estimated that its hospital cutback program would save \$25 million. Later this figure was reduced to \$8 million. The subcommittee wanted to know why.

Assistant Secretary of Defense W. J. McNeill and other officials insisted that there had been a misunderstanding. They said the \$25 million estimate included many things not reflected in cash savings such as pay for personnel and costs of maintenance.

A House Armed Services subcommittee is investigating the cutback in military hospitals. Subcommittee Chairman L. Minde River (D. S. C.) said his subcommittee plans to take "affirmative action" to stop the cutback, but he declined to say what the action would be.

Mr. Sheppard asked Dr. R. L. Meiling, Defense Department Director of Medical Services, whether he believed the time has come for closer co-ordination of the government's hospital program.

"I think it is past time," Dr. Meiling replied.

Eastern Stainless Steel Shows \$406,705 Loss

BALTIMORE, Md., Apr. 8 (UP)—Eastern Stainless Steel Corp. today reported a net loss of \$406,705 for 1949, compared with a net profit of \$950,510, or \$1.69 a share, earned the year before.

Net sales for the year declined to \$12,057,799 from \$14,766,843 in 1948, according to the company's annual report.

The report noted, however, that shipments of stainless steel from the company's Baltimore plant in the first quarter of 1950 increased nearly 80 per cent over the preceding three months.

John M. Curley, president, said that improved operating procedures and the increased shipments have resulted in profits which are "quite satisfactory." He added that the current backlog of orders is such as to insure a well-rounded production schedule for several months.

DEWEY VETOES FLAG OATH

ALBANY, Apr. 8 (UP)—A bill requiring a daily pledge of allegiance to the flag from all students in New York state public schools was vetoed today by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. Patriotism cannot be compelled, he said.

The Bridegroom Dropped the Ring



George Wolfe, 82-year-old veteran of the Spanish-American War and 80-year-old Mrs. Lillian Hopper were married last night in South Bend by the Rev. Claude Studebaker (right), pastor of First Brethren Church.

South Bend Veteran, 82, Weds 80-Year-Old Widow

'He Swept Me Off My Feet,' Says Bride; 2 Grandchildren, 6 Children Attend Rites

SOUTH BEND, Apr. 8 (UP)—Only one jarring note marred the wedding of George Wolfe, 82, to the former Mrs. Lillian Hopper, 80, tonight—the bridegroom dropped the ring.

When the simple ceremony before only some 20 relatives, reporters and photographers was completed, the Rev. Claude Studebaker turned to Mr. Wolfe and said:

"Now, George, kiss your wife."

"I'm afraid to," he replied with a shy grin, then turned to his bride and whispered, "Let's get out of here."

None of their great-grandchildren was present for the ceremony, but two grandchildren and six of their eight children attended. Mrs. Wolfe, a widow, had two sons and Mr. Wolfe has six children.

Drops Ring

When Rev. Studebaker asked for the ring, Mr. Wolfe hung his head over one arm and fished it out of a pocket. But he dropped the tiny gold band, stooped to retrieve it, then placed it on the finger of his blue-eyed bride with a smile of renewed assurance.

Mr. Wolfe, spry for his years, dressed in a new grey suit and sported a white carnation in the buttonhole for the occasion. The bride wore a gray silk dress with a corsage of pink carnations to match the flowers on her gray hat. The new outfit, her whirlwind courtship and excitement all combined to make observers say she "didn't look a day over 60."

The romance began Feb. 18 when Mr. Wolfe asked her for a date "on a friend's recommendation." The new Mrs. Wolfe said he swept her off her feet from their first meeting.

On his first call at her apartment, Mr. Wolfe handed her a box of candy and demanded a reward of "a little kiss." She obliged. That same apartment will serve for their honeymoon.

Mr. Wolfe, a Spanish-American War veteran, was born at Grandville, O. His bride is a native of Pontiac, Ill., but worked at a department store here for 17 years.

Horizon Club Slates Carnival Saturday

All-City Horizon Club will sponsor a carnival at the Christamore House, 502 N. Tremont St., at 7:30 p. m. Saturday.

Candidates for queen include Betty Jo Hinant, Shirley Howard, Diane DeArmond, Thelma Thompson, Alice King, Donna Prodge, Mary Lou Eisner and Delores Busenbark.

STRIKE THREATENS BRITAIN

LONDON, Apr. 8 (UP)—The threat of a crippling strike by workers in heavy industry arose today as the Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers' Union—whose members play a key part in Britain's vital export drive—ordered a strike vote for wage increase.

Senate to Probe Gaming Industry

To See If Problem Needs U. S. Action

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8 (UP)—A Senate subcommittee takes a look at the multi-billion dollar gambling industry next week to see if it is too big for the country's local officials to handle.

The subcommittee—headed by Sen. Ernest W. McFarland (D. Ariz.)—is part of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee. It will consider bills sent to Congress by Attorney General J. Howard McGrath to clamp down on gambling.

Bill Would Ban Slots

One of these measures would prohibit the interstate transmission of "certain gambling information." Committee officials said this is designed to shut down services that feed racing results to bookie shops all over the country.

Another bill would bar the shipment of slot machines—"one-arm bandits"—across state lines.

Both measures grew out of the crime conference called by Mr. McGrath last month. At that conference, numerous city officials said the gambling industry sprawled over so many state lines that they could not control it.

Sen. McFarland said in a statement today that the subcommittee will hold a closed session Tuesday. He said it will be attended by Justice Department officials and the FBI.

Nurse Institute Set

A mental hygiene institute for nurses will be held Saturday from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. in the World War Memorial auditorium. The institute is sponsored by the Indiana Mental Hygiene Society and the Central District, Indiana State Nurses' Association.

Beech Grove 'Charmers' to Parade



These Beech Grove businessmen "charm" will parade in a style show at 7:30 p. m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Beech Grove High School auditorium. Proceeds from the Beech Grove Lions Club-sponsored show have been earmarked for civic improvements. Blushing beauties (left to right) are Harold Carr, Byron Saunders, Ewell Ewing and Lynne Hull.

Find Rich Oil Site in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia, Apr. 8—The company will spend over \$2 million in sinking the bore to a depth of 10,000 feet. If it strikes oil in payable quantities, the company plans to build a 25-mile long pipeline to the port of Gladstone.

The location is near Rome, in western Queensland, where the search for oil has been going on more than a year.

Playing it safe, Shell is not committing itself to anything but cautious statements. However, General Manager E. N. Avery says his company is now sinking a

Magnetic Mine Threat Remains

Sweepers Face Long, And Dangerous Job

BERLIN, Apr. 8—Four or five years will be required still to rid the waters around Germany from the danger of wartime magnetic mines, according to the monthly report of the British Control Commission for Germany.

A fleet of 18 minesweepers or "R" boats, with crews totaling more than 600 men, is engaged regularly on the long and dangerous job, says the report.

The sweepers are concentrating now on three projects: widening of a channel off the East Frisian Islands between the Ems and Jade Rivers, clearing a new channel to the Ems River, and extending an existing channel northward along the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein, toward Denmark.

At one time the minesweepers' detachments included 200 vessels and 12,000 men.

Moored mines already have been cleared completely. Of the other varieties which were sown in the sea or dropped from aircraft, those which could be detonated by sound or by pressure have ceased, "for technical reasons," to be dangerous, according to the report.

Magnetic mines which may be set off by the magnetic field surrounding a passing ship continue to be a hazard, however. Two vessels including one of 10,000 tons, were damaged during the first two months of 1950.

Magnetic mines are swept by towing an electrically charged cable behind the demagnetized and wooden-hulled "R" boats. But the inventors of these fiendish apparatuses built them so the mines may pass up one or two or as many as 12 impulses before exploding.

Bunny Flight Set



Col. Roscoe Turner, noted Indianapolis flier, will bring the Easter Bunny to Weir Cook Airport at 2:30 p. m. today as the annual Easter Egg Hunt there gets under way. Many prizes, including free flights over Indianapolis for kiddies, donated by merchants, await participants in the hunt.

Bell Operator Ends 30 Years

Mrs. Leoma Cropp, long distance operator for the Indiana Bell Telephone Co., will retire from active duty today after 30 years with the utility.

A native of Indianapolis, Mrs. Cropp has spent her entire career in this city. She started work here as a student in 1919 for the former Central Union Telephone Co.

Mrs. Cropp resides at 55 N. Tremont St. She is a life member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Higher American Rubber Yield Near

New-Type Tree Under Development

By THOMAS S. HANEY

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8—The day is nearing when top grade natural rubber can be produced in the Americas.

A new-type rubber tree has been developed. The Department of Agriculture says its yield is high and its ability to resist disease marked.

But production isn't efficient enough and 50 department scientists are continuing their work in 14 South and Central American countries and in southern Florida.

Tree 'Machine Tooled'

The rubber tree is "machine tooled" just as was the wartime synthetic rubber industry, according to those who are directing the research program.

Root, trunk and top have to be grafted during various stages of development. After five years of normal growth it will be producing rubber latex.

"Our aim is a single tree without the grafting," explains Dr. R. D. Rands of the department's plant industry station at nearby Beltsville, Md.

Meanwhile, they are concentrating on increasing the present tree's resistance to the rubber-killing leaf disease and to boosting the latex yield.

Rubber Goes to 'Bank'

Dr. Rands says about 250,000 trees have been grown on 30,000 acres. Another 500,000 trees are ready to have tops grafted onto them.

He has no exact figures on rubber production, which is going entirely into the Banco Biorachor rubber bank—in Brazil. Much of the rubber is being grown on the old Ford estates in Brazil where Henry Ford carried on experiments before the war.

The department has rubber stations presently in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Haiti. The work at Coconut Grove, Fla., is concerned primarily with development of new rubber strains. The department never expects to see Florida a major natural rubber producer.

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DELINQUENT TAX SALE

KOKOMO, Apr. 8—Monday's 1950 delinquent tax sale will not include as many properties as listed four weeks ago. William F. Condon, Howard County treasurer, said today.

Owners have redeemed a considerable amount of the delinquent tax property, Mr. Condon said, but about 40 pieces will go on the auction block tomorrow.

ONE KILLED NEAR ALBANY

ALBANY, Ind., Apr. 8 (UP)—One man was killed and another injured critically today when their car went out of control on Ind. 67 about a mile and a half west of here, rolled over twice and plunged into a ditch.

Ronald Quire, 25, Muncie, died in the mishap and William F. Herbert, 21, also of Muncie, was seriously hurt.

State Trooper Bob Adams, who investigated, said one man was thrown through the soft top of the 1936 Ford and the other was thrown out of the car when a door came off.

The free door careened down the highway and hit a westbound car driven by Wayne C. McConnell, Albany, causing about \$50 damage. Both Quire and Herbert were found some 35 feet from where their demolished car finally stopped.

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