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House Probe Calls Arms Buying 'Chamber Of Horrors'



RESCUED—Mrs. Robert Glover and her two children, Linda (left), 18 months, and Bobbie, 4 years old, emerge from the "snowcat" which crawled up the slopes of Mt. Rose (Nev.) and rescued them when they became trapped by heavy snows. Mrs. Glover, who is expecting, lives on the slopes of the mountain.

Arms Buying Branded 'Chamber of Horrors'

By ANDREW TULLY
Times-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Fifty million dollars have been wasted because the three armed services are "willfully unwilling" to call a nail a nail, investigators for a House Armed Services Subcommittee charged today.

Subcommittee Chairman F. Edward Hebert (D. La.) ordered public hearings on "the whole mess" as soon as his committee finishes assembling its "chamber of horrors."

Subcommittee investigators say the taxpayers' money has been wasted apparently solely because the Army, Navy and Air Force refuse to break up their "supply empires."

In addition, millions have been wasted through purchases by one service or given items at prices far above those paid for identical items by the other services, the investigators say.

The \$50 million was money spent in the last four years by the Munitions Board on a program designed to revise the services' stock numbering system so that identical items would have identical stock numbers.

Different Numbers

For instance, under the program, ten penny nails would have the same stock number in all three services, instead of three different numbers. A certain drill might be given the identical number, say 123, by all the three services.

Then, if one of the services ran short of ten penny nails or drills it could borrow some from another service, merely by furnishing the stock number.

But after four years, "practically none" of this revamping has been done, according to the subcommittee.

"It's just as bad as it ever was," a spokesman for the subcommittee said today. "There are still thousands of cases where identical items have different stock numbers in the three services."

It was pointed out that if the Munitions Board program were to be completed, it then would be carried to its logical conclusion—the largest users of a given item would be empowered to do the purchasing of that item for all three services.

15 Catalogs

"The services apparently don't want that," said a subcommittee spokesman. "It would cut down their importance too much."

The services now use 15 separate catalogs, the subcommittee has discovered. All the catalogs embody a number of fat volumes which in some cases would fill a five-foot book shelf. Together they list several million items which the military uses and buys.

GOP House leaders say a single catalog by all government buyers would save an estimated \$5 billion a year.

Under the present system, the subcommittee has uncovered evidence that in some instances one service is paying twice as much for the same item as another service.

Take barracks bags, for instance. The Navy is paying \$1.14 each for them. The Air Force and the Army are paying \$3.50 and the Marines—an arm of the Navy—is paying \$1.95.

Same Kind of Shoes

Take "shoe packs," the laced rubber boots worn by the troops in Korea. For identical models, the Marines are paying \$16.80 and the Army \$24.65.

Take extension lights. For virtually identical models, the Signal Corps is paying three different prices—\$1.22, \$2.50 and \$3.08. The Corps of Engineers is paying two different prices—\$4.60 and \$5.50.

Then there are carpenter's squares—all made by the same manufacturer. For the No. 100 model, the Army is paying two different prices—\$1.48 and \$2.10. For the No. 3 model, the Marine Corps is paying 65 cents and the Navy \$2.

The Navy is paying \$6.08 for black shoes. The Air Force is paying \$7.19 for a shoe which is identical except for one extra piece of stitching.

On a table in the subcommittee's room are four soup bowls, identical except that one has a Medical Corps insignia and two red stripes around the edge. The Medical Corps bowl costs 46 cents. The Army bowl costs 23 cents, the Navy bowl 22 cents, and the Air Force bowl 18 cents.

Socialite Tells Of Giving Wife 'Bum's Rush'

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (UP)—Socialite Stanley Barbee, head of a California soft drink firm, said yesterday after his first night in jail that he "pushed" his wife out of a swank east side restaurant for making a "scene" but did not beat her as she charged.

While a piano and violin duet played Chopin's Etude No. 3, her favorite, said Barbee, he gave her the "bum's rush," for which she had him arrested on a charge of simple assault.

Magistrate Charles F. Murphy paroled the 49-year-old president of the Coca Cola Co. of California for a hearing Wednesday.

HIS WIFE, 39, the former Yvonne Marchais La Grange of Paris, did not appear in court, but her lawyer presented a doctor's certificate to show she was confined to bed as a result of what he described as "a beating."

"She came to my table and sat down," Barbee testified. "She started to talk in a loud voice, disturbing the musicians and other diners. Everybody in the place asked her to shut up. She refused and kicked me in the shins."

"I got up and took my wife by the arm. I led her to the door and pushed her out."

Vogeler Aids Russian To Enter U. S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (UP)—American businessman Robert Vogeler said yesterday he has arranged for the entry into the United States of a former Russian officer who sought at the risk of his life to help him escape while he was a prisoner of Communist Hungary.

Mr. Vogeler identified the Russian as Nikita Kobiakov, one-time major in the Soviet Intelligence Service. He said Mr. Kobiakov, who had to flee with his family to the American zone of Vienna after the escape plot was discovered, obtained his U. S. visa in Vienna, and is now en route to this country with his wife and two children.

Named to UP Post

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (UP)—Hugh Baillie, president of the United Press, today announced the appointment of Frank Tremaine as assistant general manager of United Press Newspictures, with headquarters in New York.



CLASSMATES ON BATTLEFIELD—Pfc. Ralph Hutton (left) and Sfc. Clarence B. Perdue, 1946 graduates of Washington High School, serve together in the Buffalo regiment with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea.

Half a World Away

It's an Occasion When Hoosiers Meet in Korea

By ED KENNEDY
Times Staff Writer

WITH THE SEVENTH INFANTRY DIV., KOREA—(Delayed)

The wild, snow-covered battle

terrain here recently was the

scene of a reunion—a happy one,

too, despite the circumstances.

In these desolate, bullet-pock-

eted wastes it is quite a treat to

see even a casual acquaintance

from home.

So it was three months ago

when Pfc. Ralph Hutton, 23, of

832 Hiatt St., Indianapolis, joined

the famous Buffalo Regiment of

the Seventh Division.

There he met an old classmate

from Washington High School,

from which he was graduated in

1946. The classmate was Sfc. Clar-

ence B. Perdue, also 23, whose

parents now live on R. R. 1,

Bridgeport.

Although their division has

borne the brunt of the roughest

front-line fighting since those

pesky cease-fire talks started, the

two classmates have had a lot of

fun comparing notes on their post-

high school experiences and talk-

ing-about home.

Sfc. Purdue was cook and as-

sistant manager of a restaurant

at 1444 W. Morris St., Indianap-

olis, before being drafted.

He's now one of the most-appro-

preciated men in his regiment—

the man who has received official

commendation for running his

field kitchen under fire and serv-

ing two hot meals a day despite

enemy action.

The kitchen is no rear-area op-

eration here and getting those

two hot meals a day is quite an

achievement. Just ask any of

the frosted GIs here.

Pfc. Hutton is a 577 mm. gun-

ner in the regiment. He worked

as a printer for the Shelbyville

News between his high school

days and entry into service.

Needless to say he envies Sfc.

Perdue, who's slated for rotation

home soon.

But that's nothing unusual in

these frigid wastes. All the boys

would like to go home too. They

merely hope and pray that even-

ually they will get there all in one

piece.

Senate Bid Of DiSalle Due Today

CHICAGO, Jan. 22 (UP)—Michael V. DiSalle said yesterday he will decide today whether he will quit as federal price stabilizer to run for the Democratic Senatorial nomination in Ohio.

But he gave indications that he has made up his mind to re-sign.

Mr. DiSalle told a news conference he came here prepared to announce his plans but changed his mind because "I have to work out a few things and there are a couple of people I have to see."

Then Mr. DiSalle went before a meeting of the Newspaper Advertising Executives Association and gave a speech that sounded to observers like the swan song of a man about to leave his job.

Says OPS a Success

He devoted most of his address to a report on his tenure as price chief, voicing the belief that the Office of Price Stabilization has succeeded in preventing runaway inflation.

Earlier Gov. Frank J. Lausche of Ohio said at Columbus that he has urged Mr. DiSalle, former mayor of Toledo, to run for Senator in that state. The post he would seek is now held by Sen. John W. Bricker, Republican who will try for re-election.

Mr. DiSalle said that he is "definitely considering" entering the Senatorial race. He added that he has been trying to resign for six months, but that the ultimate decision has been up to President Truman "and each time he asked me to stay on."

Wholesale Prices Soar

In his speech Mr. DiSalle said that wholesale prices soared 14 per cent between the time of the Korean war outbreak and the imposition of price controls a year ago. Since the freeze, he said, prices have been pushed back three percent.

Defending his tenure, he said that "in retrospect, the record of OPS will show that we made more right decisions than wrong ones—and this is true of the government as a whole."

YOU BET THEY'RE POWER-

FUL, those little Times low-cost Classified ads. Their fame is city-wide for solving everyday problems. PHONE PLAZA 5551.



FAST GIRL—Born last Oct. 2, Linda Dianne Dal Ponte of Chicago this week surprised her parents by standing alone and walking. Shown here with her mother, Linda Dianne demonstrates her accomplishment for the photographer.

3 Democrats Mentioned For State FHA Post

Three Hoosier Democrats were mentioned today as possible successors to R. Earl Peters, who has relieved as state director of the Federal Housing Administration several days ago.

They are Leonard Rauscher, Evansville, former Vanderburgh County Democratic chairman; Henry O'Neil, Gary, former Lake County deputy sheriff, and Walter L. Larson, former mayor of Elkhart.

State Democratic Chairman Ira L. Haymaker refuted rumors he was in line for the job. "I am not seeking the position and as far as I know, nobody is considering me for it," Mr. Haymaker said.



Women fall into three classes: those trying to lose weight, those trying to gain weight, and those trying to rearrange it.

(NEA)

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