he Florence Times

Dedicated To The Interest Of The People Of The Muscle Shoals District

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na Rejects U. N. Cease-Fire

OR WILSON—President Truman sits at a finger and speaks seriously to Charles ational Defense Mobilization. The conv ty in which Wilson was sworn into office day. (AP Wirephoto).

Chinese Spurn United Nations Plea For Truce

Six-Point Statement Is Broadcast Today Over Peiping Radio

TOKYO, (AP)— Red China today spurned a United Nations cease-fire committee's efforts to stop the shooting in Korea.

Chou En-Lai, premier and foreign minister, broadcast a six-point statement over the Peiping radio rejecting the three-man committee's proposal as "unlawful" because the Red Chinese did not participate in its formation at the U. N.

The committee at Lake Success has sent the Peiping government three direct requests to negotiate for a cease-fire.

Red China had a delegation on hand during the U. N. debate on Korea but it left for home earlier this week.

The Reds were not permitted to participate in U. N. decisions because they are not members of the U. N.

China's big power seat in the U. N. is retained by Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist delegation which the Reds have repeatedly tried to unseat.

SAN FRANCISCO, (AP)— The Red China government radio said today "people throughout China are protesting against the so-called 'cease-fire in Korea' proposal adopted by the United Nations General Assembly."

The Reds have ignored direct U. N. appeals to negotiate for a cease-fire.

The Peiping broadcast, head here by the Associated Press, said the cease-fire proposal "is against the interests of the Chinese and Korean people, who demand immediate withdrawal of all foreign invading troops from Korea and a peaceful settlement of the Korean question."

"Workers, peasants, youth, women, industrialists and merchants of Antung have made angry protests," said the Red radio.

"They point out that, having sustained heavy losses in Korea, American imperialists directed its satellite countries in the United Nations to adopt the so-called 'cease-fire'

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YANKS BRING THEIR DEAD OUT OF KOREAN HILLS—Grim-faced U.S. troops follow a truck carrying dead GI's out of the Korean hills on the fighting retreat from Changjin Reservoir to Hungnam. The dead were buried in a cemetery made hastily near Hungnam port. This picture was made by Life Magazine's Photographer David Douglas Duncan. (AP Wirephoto from Life Magazine).

War To Bitter End Is Feared For Korea Now

General MacArthur Warns Of Big New Chinese Offensive

BY OLEN CLEMENTS

TOKYO, (AP)—Red China rejected today the United Nations' repeated appeals to negotiate for a cease-fire in Korea.

It could mean war to the bitter end unless other means for peace can be found.

The Peiping radio broadcast the statement of rejection by Premier Chou En-Lai.

It spurned the proposal of a special U. N. Assembly committee as rising Red attacks in Western Korea prompted a warning by General MacArthur that a big new Chinese military offensive may be on the way.

In Northeast Korea, evacuation of nearly 25,000 frightened civilians from the Red-besieged beachhead port of Hungnam was reported by AP correspondent Tom Lambert.

Close-range rocket ships, big naval guns and artillery still shielded the small beachhead—the United Nations' last foothold in North Korea.

China's rejection of any talk toward a cease-fire was made in a six-point statement broadcast in Peiping and heard here.

The Red Premier-Foreign Minister said the three-man U. N. committee's appeal was "unlawful" because Chinese Communists did not participate in formation of the committee at the U. N. Assembly.

The committee had sent the Peiping regime three requests to negotiate for a cease-fire—the last one Thursday night, New York time.

The United Nations General Assembly at Lake Success set up the committee during a consideration of the Korean crisis.

A Red Chinese delegation's chief spokesman blasted the U. N. in a lengthy speech but it was not permitted to participate in the decisions because Red China is not a member. The Chinese left New York for home earlier this week.

The Red attacks in Western Korea started shortly before Chou's rejection of cease-fire dickering. The attacks indicate an all-out offensive against U. N. forces could be expected almost any hour.

Observers were guessing that Christmas Eve might be the signal for the New Red drive because of the Oriental practice of striking on Occidental holidays.

General MacArthur's late Friday war summary said from 10 to 12 divisions have been identified along Parallel 38, arbitrary boundary between North and South Korea.

The initial Red assaults in regimental strength rolled nearly two miles against Republic of Korea (ROK) forces Northeast of Chunchon. That's a highway junction 45 miles Northeast of Seoul.

A large buildup of Reds—Chinese or North Koreans or both—was reported North of Chunchon. West of this area along Parallel 38, a sizable Chinese force was spotted in Yonchon, 38 miles due North of Seoul and six miles North of the Parallel.

Yonchon is on one of two main rail lines leading to the South Korean capital. The other runs Northwest of Seoul to Pyongyang, Korean Red capital.

Noting unmistakably heavy traffic behind enemy lines and continued probing thrusts, MacArthur

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Guardsmen Feel Over Their Call

There was much laughter and joking at the meeting, but beneath the surface was an attitude of seriousness. The men seem to realize the danger they soon may be facing, yet their morale is high. The officers are working to keep things this way.

In Tuscumbia, the situation is much the same. Morale is good. I've talked with many of the boys on the streets, and the general reaction seems to be the same as in Florence—the men feel relieved.

Men who voiced this feeling explained that the waiting has been getting on their nerves. They say they have been "sweating it out" ever since they returned from summer camp last July.

Some complained that they have been unable to obtain jobs or credit. A few mentioned being afraid to buy a new car or other items because of the expected call.

One man said he wanted to get married but had been putting it off

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Intensive Red Work In Atomic Field Disclosed

Congress Stepping Up Multi-Billion Defense Program

By EDWIN B. HAAKINSON

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Congressional action on the multi-billion dollar defense program was spurred today by a grim warning that Russia is making "an intensive effort" in the field of atomic energy.

Expert testimony on the Russian atomic program came from Chairman Gordon Dean of the Atomic Energy Commission. Originally given behind closed-doors it was made public today by the Senate appropriations committee.

Dean told of Russia's activity, and failed in some details of this nation's expanding atomic production, in testifying on the $20,000,000,000 emergency defense money bill. This measure steamed through the Senate yesterday at a wartime clip. And it carried some $2,000,000,000 more than the House voted.

Other fast-moving developments in the nation's rearmament program:

1. Secretary of the Air Force Finletter told Senators that the nation lacks "an absolute air defense" against possible atomic attacks. The best defense would be to attack the bases of the enemy, he said, adding quickly that he was not "recommending a preventative war."

2. Secretary of Defense Marshall said that this country must tool up at once for another World War, even though we hope it will not come.

3. Navy officials disclosed that this country plans to turn over half a dozen or more cruisers to some South American countries, probably Brazil and Chile and possibly Argentina.

4. Gen. Clifton B. Cates, commandant of the Marine Corps, suggested that Marine strength be boosted to twice the 18 squadrons and two full-war strength divisions, currently planned.

5. Navy spokesmen expressed confidence that "we have sufficient strength" to handle any Russian submarine action which might be

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Swap Of German Troops For Near-Independence Nearing

BY GEORGE BOILTWOOD

BONN, Germany, (AP)—Two-thirds of Germany and her Western foes made ready today for lengthy negotiations over a swap of German troops for near-independence for the Allied-occupied area.

Many months of talking between the West German government and the Big Three loomed before German troops would fight alongside their former enemies against Soviet Communism, or West Germany would become almost a free nation.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer announced last night after a five-hour parley with the high commissioners of France, the United States and Britain, that "there has been a big step forward" in plans to include West German troops in the West's projected 1,000,000 man defense force against Soviet aggression.

A communique on the conference disclosed that the three Western powers, offering their first big concession in return for German participation "to an increasing degree on a contractual basis." This was taken to indicate a removal of virtually all occupation controls.

The offer was in line with plans for the formation of the International Army in Western Europe made earlier this week by the 12 Atlantic Pact foreign ministers in Brussels. For five and one-half years Germany has been an occupied land. After Christmas, negotiations begin to remove numerous occupation controls and replace them with a treaty between the Bonn regime and the Big Three.

This would be the nearest thing

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Court Martialing Of Negro Troops In Korea Issue

NEW YORK, (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has renewed its request to General MacArthur for permission to investigate the court martialing of Negro troops in the Korean campaign.

Walter White, the organization's executive secretary, said 23 convicted officers and men of the 24th Infantry had asked the NAACP to defend them.

In a cable to MacArthur made public here yesterday, White urged "reconsideration of refusal to permit entry" into Japan of Thurgood Marshall, NAACP lawyer.

White cabled the U. N. commander that "the entire Negro population and millions of others are deeply disturbed by reports of mass convictions of Negro infantrymen in Korea. Examination of courts martial records indicates many were convicted under circumstances making impartial justice impossible."

The NAACP official said he had received word this week that MacArthur had refused entry to Marshall.

In Washington last night, the Department of Defense declined comment.

Allies Willing Join In Four-Power Parleys

Discussion Wide Range East-West Problems Is Aim

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, (AP)— The United States, Britain and France are expected to tell Russia today that they are willing to join in four-power talks on a wide range of East-West problems.

It is understood that as a result of agreement reached earlier this week among Secretary of State Acheson and Foreign Ministers Bevin and Schumann, the notes of the Western powers suggest informal and exploratory talks among Big Four representatives at the United Nations before any new session of the Council of Foreign Ministers is held.

Russia proposed Nov. 3 that a meeting be held to discuss German unification. This was regarded here mainly as a move to disrupt Western plans for rearmament in Western Germany.

Nevertheless, officials of the three governments decided they could not

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Sheffield Young Men Host To 1,200

Approximately 1,200 Sheffield kids swarmed into the Colbert theatre in Sheffield this morning for the annual Young Men's club Christmas party.

After several comedies were shown, Frank Coyle, chairman of the party, took charge of distributing the fruit and Christmas stockings filled with candy to the kids.

The party was held this year at the Colbert, through the courtesy of Muscle Shoals theatres, in order to accomodate more children.

Saturday Is Deadline In Decoration Contest

Saturday noon is the deadline for entering the Outdoor Christmas Decorations contest sponsored by the Florence Junior Chamber of Commerce. Three valuable prizes—a set of silverware, a set of china, and a sterling console and crystal bonbon pair—will be awarded the decorations judged first, second, and third best.

Any person living in Florence who would like to compete for these awards should mail a postal card bearing his name and address to Jaycee Christmas contest, Box 733, Florence.

Judging of the decorations will take place sometime early Saturday night, Dec. 23, and entrants are requested to leave the Christmas lights on until 10 o'clock. The displays of all persons who have entered the contest will be considered by a panel of impartial judges.

The winners will be announced in the Sunday, Dec. 24, edition of this newspaper.

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clared. The Wage Stabilization Board said last night it has agreed on the matter of wage controls in the auto industry. It didn't elaborate.

As for general wage-controls, Wilson said in reply to a question that he has not had time to study that matter thoroughly.

"All I can say," he added, "is that if we are going to have price controls, inevitably wage controls will follow. At what stage or what scope, I don't know now."

The expenditures committee deferred action earlier this week on the bill which would give Mr. Truman authority to reshuffle federal agencies. Some members said the President was asking for blank check authority without giving Congress any idea how he would use it.

The government called Wilson for information on that point. He told reporters he urged approval of the bill "on the ground that I have been counseled that it is needed to enable us to function properly."

He said the committee excused him from being specific about reorganization planned "because I have not been on the job long enough."

As for his own power as Director of Defense Mobilization, Wilson said it is entirely adequate and "I contemplate no difficulties."

The holiday jam of absenteeism caused House leaders to sidetrack action on bills to (1) Give the President wider powers to speed the mobilization effort and (2) To authorize union shop agreements by railway labor.

And unless Senate-House conferees can reach agreements by nightfall Friday, congressional action may be delayed on the $3,200,000,000 excess profits tax and the $20,000,000,000 arms bill.

Both bills have been passed by House and Senate, but a compromise of differences remains to be

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Buying Attention In Stock Market Centers On Autos

NEW YORK, (AP) — Automobiles gathered in the lion's share of buying attention today in the stock market.

Prices in that division were up a few cents to more than a dollar a share. Elsewhere in the market there was a sprinkling of small gains and losses with the emphasis on the upside.

Some of the rails were up moderately including M-K-T, Western Maryland, and Consolidated Railroad of Cuba Preferred. Others however, were mostly unchanged to a little lower.

Utilities, whose activity and rising prices saved yesterday's market from a setback, were slow in coming to life today. They appeared timidly on the tape unchanged or with small fractional advances.

Higher were General Motors, Chrysler, Studebaker, Bethlehem Steel, Sears Roebuck, Distillers Corp.-Seagrams, American Smelting, American Cyanamid, du Pont, Eastman Kodak, American Woolen, Texas Co., Consilidated Edison, and Southern California Edison.

Railroad loans were moderately active and somewhat higher in the bond market which otherwise was quiet.

New Hold-The-Line Pricing Plan Has U.S. Retail Merchants Confused For Present

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK, (AP) — The nights are long this time of year and the retail merchant can while away the evening hours trying to figure out the new hold-the-line pricing plan.

Some of the confusion over the Economic Stabilization Agency's ukase — hold factory prices to Dec. 1 level, hold store mark-ups to the June level — is going to take a good deal of whiling away.

Many merchants' first reaction, however, is one of relief that the freeze in on their profit margins rather than rigid price ceilings, although many doubt if any voluntary plan will work. They fear the price ceiling may follow, along about March.

The retailer is being squeezed more every day between the demand of his customers for lower prices—a demand which probably will become louder now — and the steadily higher prices the merchant's suppliers have been asking, usually with the explanation that climbing manufacturing costs make them necessary.

The ESA asks merchants not to raise their mark-ups above those they used in June before the Korean war—that is, not to put the retail price above the wholesale price by any greater percentage than they did before Korea.

Profits come out of these margins, but so do the costs of doing business, paying clerks, the rent, the utility bills, the insurance.

ESA also stipulates: "Distributors may not increase their prices on the basis of increases in replacement costs or market costs. Margins may be added only to inventory cost actually paid."

Rowland Jones, Jr., president of the American Retail Federation, says some retailers have been following both of these rules right along — holding to customary markups and placing them on actual cost rather than replacement costs.

He cites Bureau of Labor Statistics figures to show that from June to October wholesale prices rose seven per cent, but retail prices only three and a half. He says that even though some of this reflects the usual time lag between rises in wholesale and retail prices, it also shows that retailers have been holding the line.

The retail fraternity generally advocated margin rather than price control. For one thing, they say, a mark-up freeze will require much less paper work, and take fewer clerks to keep the necessary records than it did during OPA days.

But parts of the ESA request have merchants puzzled. For example, the National Retail Dry Goods Association asks for a definition of the ESA term "gross margin." Does it mean more store-wide gross margin, for instance, or the spread between cost and selling price of individual items?

ESA's answer appears to be that the individual store should follow its customary procedure in figuring margins.

ESA says gross margins must not go above the June, 1950, level "if net dollar profits before taxes of the distributor are equal to or in excess of average net dollar profits

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SANTA SAYS:

The tortoise beat the rabbit—but only because Bunny took time out for a nap. Don't let Christmas catch you napping.

The Weather

Alabama — Partly cloudy to cloudy this afternoon, tonight and Saturday. Occasional light rain in South portion this afternoon. No important temperature changes. Moderate East to Northeast winds on the Coast.

Mississippi—Mostly cloudy this afternoon, tonight and Saturday. No important temperature changes. Moderate East to Northeast winds on the Coast.

Extended forecast for the period Dec. 22-27:

Alabama, Mississippi, Northwest Florida: Temperatures will average normal to 5 degrees above in Arkansas, Eastern Louisiana and Western Mississippi and 2-5 degrees below normal remainder area. Normal minimum 25-35 degrees North 35-50 South. Normal maximum 50-65 degrees. Slowly rising trend till colder Tuesday and Wednesday. Precipitation light Arkansas, moderate elsewhere except locally heavy Southeastern Alabama and Northwest Florida occuring chiefly Monday night and Tuesday.

Tennessee — Some rain likely about Tuesday, totaling one-fourth to one-half inch. Temperatures will average near normal in East portions and three to five degrees above normal in West portions. Colder late Sunday or Monday, and warmer Tuesday or Wednesday.

Maximum temperature for the 24-hour period ending 6:30 o'clock this morning, 48; minimum, 25; no precipitation. Sunrise this morning 6:53 o'clock; sunset tonight 4:41 o'clock. Pickwick lake stage this morning 8.59 compared with Thursday's 8.59 no change.