WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Probers Charge Illegal Influence Exerted to Obtain R. F. C. Loans; Troops to Europe Fight Continues

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

The United Nations launched an offensive on a 60-mile front in Korea aimed at killing as many Communists as possible. The offensive, called "Operation Killer," moved forward behind continued artillery barrages. U.N. commanders reported Red forces retreated all along the line and set their losses at 64,000 in the period January 4 to February 28.

R.F.C.:
Illegal Influence

What may turn into one of the rowdiest battles in the administration's history began to take shape when a subcommittee of the senate banking and currency committee charged that influence emanating from the White House had been exerted on the R.F.C.'s lending policies.

At first the investigation seemed just another periodic urge to probe by investigating senators. But then President Truman stepped in where many Presidents have feared to tread and disclosed he had collected a file of letters written by congressmen to the R.F.C.

He let it be known that he had in his possession between 700 and 900 letters, most of them from congre[illegible] men, and some asking favorat[illegible] consideration of loan applicatio[illegible]

At the time it looked like P[illegible]dent Truman was turning the [illegible]estigation from the White H[illegible] back to the senators themsel[illegible] Immediately the senators scre[illegible] that they refused to be intimi[illegible]

It was at this point that the [illegible]dent issued a statement say[illegible] no reason to make t[illegible] [illegible]ce public since it [illegible] illegality either [illegible] [illegible]he executive b[illegible]

[illegible] investigation fell into something of a lull after the first flurry of publicity, but it is not likely to stay dormant for very long. It has all the ingredients for a mud-slinging battle. And the offended senators are not likely to forget Truman's tactics of turning the spotlight of publicity upon them.

Moreover, it appears that before the fight is ended a set of new, deep resentments between the President on the one hand and influential members of congress on the other will have been created—the latest in a long and bitter series.

FIXER:
Faces Huge Tax Lien

Salvatore T. Sollazzo, who allegedly spent thousands to fix big-time college basketball games, found himself the subject of an investigation by the federal government. The internal revenue bureau placed a $1,128,493 tax lien against him.

The effect of the lien was to freeze Sollazzo's assets until the government can collect whatever it may be entitled to. The lien listed allegedly unpaid taxes running into hundreds of thousands of dollars for each of the years from 1943 through 1947.

There was no indication from the government as to the source of Sollazzo's income during those years. He is a jewelry manufacturer.

Meanwhile, investigation of the bribery charges against players for three New York colleges continued. No investigation in recent years has caused so much comment in the sports world.

Basketball is the most popular high school and college sport in the nation. Repercussions of the investigation were felt even to the high school level.

BACK EUROPE:
Dewey and Stassen Plea

The split within the Republican party on the issue of sending troops to Europe came into sharp focus with testimony of Harold E. Stassen and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey before the senate foreign relations and armed services committees.

Dewey had previously backed the administration's policy of sending troops to Europe. Stassen joined Dewey in opposing Sens. Kenneth S. Wherry, Nebraska, and Robert A. Taft, Ohio, and supporting the administrations claimed authority to send American troops overseas without congressional restrictions.

In urging the [illegible] tro[illegible]

[illegible] angered some Republican senators by their testimony. That anger will possibly find expression when the Republicans begin a serious search for a presidential candidate in 1952.

As far as sending troops to Europe and backing Gen. Eisenhower's plan to defend Europe, the congress finds itself in a position where it can do nothing but back the administration. Any action to the contrary would be a serious blow to world peace.

AMENDMENT:
Two Term Limit

The 22nd amendment, baring future Presidents from serving more than two elective terms or more than 10 years in the White House, was added to the constitution when Utah and Nevada became the 35th and 36th states to ratify the amendment. A three-fourths majority, 36 states, was needed to make the amendment effective.

Minus the legal phraseology, here's what the amendment provides:

That a President may serve only two elected terms. A man who served up to two years of another President's unexpired term could still serve an additional eight years.

But a Vice-President succeeding to the Presidency and serving more than two years before the term expired would be eligible for election only once.

The proposed amendment had been kicking around in state legislatures since March, 1947, but only 24 states had voted to ratify until late in January of this year.

The amendment does not apply to President Truman. He was specifically exempted when congress submitted the proposed amendment.

The last amendment to the constitution — the 21st — repealed prohibition. It became effective December 5, 1933.

KOREA:
Operation Killer

United Nations forces under Lt. Gen. Matthew Ridgeway pushed forward in a limited offensive called "Operation Killer" with the idea of eliminating as many Chinese as possible. The offensive was operating on the Ridgeway thesis that "terrain as such is of no value."

There were also indications that the Chinese Communists were concentrating behind a maze of trenches and strong points for another counterattack against U.N. troops.

A new over-all picture of the Korean conflict was beginning to emerge from the confused fighting of the past few weeks. It seemed to be this:

The war was at a stand-off between Chinese manpower and U.S. firepower. Neither side could win a decisive victory without committing much larger forces than they seemed willing to commit. But of the two, the Chinese seemed to be getting hurt the worst.

With this thought in mind, a number of United Nations delegates were again hoping the Mao Tse-tung might be willing to reopen peace negotiations.

NAVY:
Senate Approves Bill

The Senate unanimously approved a $2,358,092,000 atom-age navy modernization program. The bill, already cleared by the house, was sent to President Truman for his signature.

It would authorize the navy to build a new 57,000-ton super-carrier capable of handling atom bombers. The navy also could buy about 140 new warships with a total weight of about 500,000 tons, and convert 292 others with a total weight of 1,000,000 tons.

Meanwhile, Gen. Omar Bradley reluctantly accepted a house armed services committee compromise bill to lower the draft induction age from 19 to 18½. The bill would increase the term for all draftees from 21 months to 26 months.

Bradley said he would accept the plan reluctantly because some form of legislation was needed to reach the goal of 3,500,000 men under arms as soon after July 1 as possible.

RENT CONTROL:
A Limited Extension

[illegible] senate banking committee ap[illegible] topgap ex[illegible]ws con[illegible] homes. [illegible]ll be [illegible]ion. [illegible]rch [illegible]ch [illegible]ni[illegible]r [illegible]es [illegible] plug[illegible]g more [illegible] of rent con[illegible] [illegible]ce the war rent control has been removed from millions of homes.

TRUMAN:
Interesting Speculation

President Truman is the subject of a bit of interesting speculation in and about Washington. It has been rumored that he may run for his old senate seat when his term expires January 20, 1953.

Although no one would say for sure and it is much too early to speculate on presidential possibilities, old friends of the President continue to say he is seriously considering a return to the senate where he passed 10 happy years.

Most observers believe Mr. Truman will not make up his mind whether to run for another term until early next year.

Stassen

Harold E. Stassen, president of the University of Pennsylvania, called for "drastic and definite" support of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower by prompt rearmament of western Europe. The former GOP presidential aspirant made his plea in testimony before the senate foreign relations and armed services committees.

RUBBER:
NPA Announces Slash

The national production authority ordered a reduction in the amount of natural rubber in approximately 40,000 products. The order went into force the first of this month.

A NPA spokesman said the order was designed to conserve natural rubber for stockpiling, armaments, and industrial items for which demand will increase as the mobilization program advances during this year.

"DON'T BLAME US"

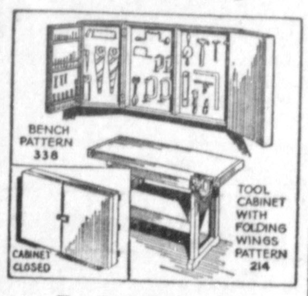
American Farmer Is on the Defensive

The American farmer is angry. He is on the defensive and he doesn't like it.

Since the government ordered price controls the farmer has been attacked with the charge that he is the "hog" in the high food price picture. And to make matters worse, there appears no way for the farmer to convince the consumer that he is not getting the big cut in higher food prices.

A number of farm editors in the midwest advise housewives to stop buying meat if they want to cut prices. They say the farmer is not getting the major share of the increase; that it is going to packers, wholesalers, processors, retailers and others. This view is widely shared through the midwest farm belt.

Wall Tool Cabinet Has Folding Wings



For Your Hand Tools

THIS WALL cabinet has double wings that fold in and lock. The beginner in woodworking may start with the center panel and add wings as more tools are acquired. Within easy reach there is a place for everything from largest saw to smallest drill. Pattern 214 shows each step in making. Price 25c.

• • •

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Bedford Hills, New York

Paint Under Side Too

When building new wooden porch steps or replacing parts of old ones, it is advisable to paint the under sides of the stringers, risers and treads. This is especially important where moisture is frequently present as it will prevent the paint on the upper surface from blistering.

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Firestone

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★ **Extra bar length** for bigger soil bite.

★ **Flared Tread Openings** for positive cleaning action.

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