SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS
of Main Street and the World

Hoover Revives the 'Great Debate'; Association Reports on Farm Labor

GREAT DEBATE— Ex-President Herbert Hoover, in a major radio and television address, revived the "great debate" and possibly an important issue in the 1952 presidential campaign.

The 77-year-old former chief executive expressed alarm at the "dangerous overstraining of our economy by our gigantic expenditures" and urged reduction in our armies as a way to cut down on spending. Instead of armies, he would have the country concentrate on highly mobile air and sea forces for defense.

In explaining his viewpoint, he said: "The first purpose of this republic must be the defense of this final Gibraltar of freedom—that is, the Western hemisphere." Western Europe, he added, must be told that it must provide its own ground armies and that the United States will provide air and sea shields and munitions, all that the country can afford.

For the home towners, who have been gravely concerned about the possibilities of war, the former president had a reassuring comment. There is a lack of alarm in Europe because of a number of reasons. These included the fact the Russians could have conquered Europe before this if they wanted; that the Russians do not want to absorb any more nations now; that the Russians would be hard hurt in an atomic war, and that Stalin's first interests are in Asia at the moment.

Hoover's last major speech was December 20, 1950. In it he criticized the administration's foreign policy and the handling of the Far East conflict. In his latest address he again attacked the Korean situation by saying "we denied ourselves victory" by not bombing Red China and using Chaing Kai-shek's armies.

The "great debate" has been revived and it will become a growing issue as this presidential year progresses. And congress, now considering one of the greatest peacetime budgets in the nation's history, will watch closely for reaction to the former president's speech in the home towns of the nation.

EGYPT—King Farouk of Egypt, who is one of the most unpredictable rulers in the world, dismissed the nationalist government that had brought his country and Britain to the verge of war. The action came after Cairo was made the scene of rioting, looting, and destruction of property by anti-British mobs.

The new Premier, Maher Pasha, held the same position early in World War II and is believed to be a little less anti-British than the ousted Premier Mustapha Nahas Pasha. But it was evident that Britain still faced a serious situation in Egypt and the Suez canal zone. The new Premier announced he would continue to press for the evacuation of British troops from Egypt and the unification of Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan under Egyptian rule.

Meanwhile, Cairo was put under strict military rule and martial law declared for all of Egypt. At least 35 buildings were destroyed by fire during the rioting and 100 persons killed. Martial law will remain in effect for at least two months, the government announced.

FARM WASTE—The National Planning Association, a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization of leaders in industry, agriculture, labor and the professions, reports the productive effort of 2,000,000 farm families in the nation is being wasted.

The association said these families are not producing for a number of reasons, including insufficient land, lack of capital, unsuitable methods, low educational standards, isolation from market[illegible] nity standards.

As for underemployment, the ass[illegible] nounced in the cotton South—excluding h[illegible] rn Appalachian and Ozark mountain[illegible] sconsin and Minnesota, the mout[illegible] Arizona, and the southern cou[illegible]

S AHEAD— In a report [illegible] and wages in line, gove[illegible] arn of a crisis ahead. Ch[illegible] ficial who warned that [illegible] tion.

[illegible] V. DiSalle, director [illegible] ing to realize that after a[illegible] a very moderate increase."

And Nathan P. Feinsinger, chairman of the wa[illegible] said: "I believe it can fairly be said that the control of the movement of wage rates since the establishment of our program is as good if not better than hoped for by experienced and objective observers."

The latest consumer's price index by the Bureau of Labor was 189.1—or 89.1 per cent higher than the average for the 1935-1939 years. That is an increase of 2.9 per cent since February, 1951, when the wage-price freeze was first reflected.

UMT FIGHT—One of the great fights shaping up in the present congress is universal military training. Congress has approved UMT in principle, but has not authorized machinery to get it into operation.

One round of that fight took place at a house armed services committee hearing. Chairman Carl Vinson, striking back at critics of the program, denied charges that the program is un-American, anti-Christian, immoral and would lead us to financial chaos.

Said Vinson: "If it is un-American and anti-Christian to defend the greatest Christian nation in the world through a fair, effective and less costly system of military training, then I plead guilty."

He said congress must approve UMT or defeat it and explain to the taxpayers that they must maintain an armed force of millions of men for the next 20 years through operation of the draft.

Many observers believe that Congress may enact a temporary measure this session, delaying action on a permanent measure until the 83rd congress meets.

ASIA— There seemed to be a general feeling in Washington and Korea that truce talks between the Communists and United Nations' delegates is on the verge of collapse. It was because of this feeling military leaders have been meeting to consider what steps should be taken in such an event.

Meanwhile, the United States, Britain and France served plain notice they would call for United Nations action to meet any new Communist attack in southeast Asia.

Russia recently charged that the West has been building up strength along the Burmese and Indochinese frontiers for an attack on Communist China. This, the three powers say, is to cover up for a possible Communist military move in that part of the world.

If nothing else, these charges and countercharges are an indication that trouble is building up in other parts of Asia.

A new experimental lightweight caliber .30 rifle has been developed by Army ordnance. Weighing about eight pounds, the new rifle is capable of selective semi or full automatic fire from its 20-round magazine. It embodies all of the M1 rifle's combat proved punch, accuracy and reliability plus the fully automatic feature, but weighs 1¾ pounds less.

U. S. NEWSPAPERS

Use 60 Per Cent of World's Newsprint

According to the United Nations' 1951 yearbook, the United States used 60 per cent of the world's newsprint in 1950, but was only seventh in circulation.

The highest daily circulation in 1950, in proportion to the population, was recorded in the United Kingdom with 599 copies for each 1,000 inhabitants. Australia had 455 copies a thousand; Luxembourg, 441; Denmark, 414; United States 357, and Switzerland 354.

Those countries which have suffered serious curtailment in newsprint supplies, especially England, have maintained circulations by a drastic reduction in size.

In Burma, India and Iraq there was only a circulation of six copies of daily newspapers per thousand population, the book reported.

THE WASHINGTON Merry-Go-Round
BY... DREW PEARSON

Military Training

IT'S a safe bet that congress will not legislate a universal military training program for 18-year-olds during the present session. Probably a "standby" law for future emergencies will be enacted—but that's all.

The proposed UMT bill now before congress would provide for 18 months of service, including six months of basic training, for all 18½-year-old youths in peacetime after the present selective service law has expired.

Thus, the UMT program could not be initiated in the foreseeable future, since the present selective service or draft law will not be allowed to expire during the Korean War or during any threatening crisis thereafter.

At a closed-door session of the house armed services committee recently, Chairman Carl Vinson of Georgia tried to put over a Pentagon-approved compromise whereby UMT would be launched on a trial basis with an initial force of 60,000 volunteers.

However, the Georgia congressman pulled in his ears and abandoned the scheme when he couldn't get a single solid backer among his Democratic and Republican colleagues.

Congressmen James Patterson (Conn.), Arthur Winstead (Miss.), Walter Norblad (Ore.), Clyde Doyle of California, and others pointed out that it would be impractical and costly to have a token UMT and the draft program operating simultaneously. They also argued there wouldn't be enough seasoned officers to train UMT volunteers unless they were recalled from combat.

Eisenhower Smears

The smears which President Truman predicted for his friend Dwight Eisenhower have already started—in [illegible] latter [illegible] greeted [illegible] great men,' who were: Joseph Stalin, Marshal Tito and Dwight Eisenhower."

"The Soviet gangsters decorated Eisenhower with the Order of Suvorov which is given to those who serve the Soviet cause. What service did Eisenhower perform to warrant this great (?) honor? We remember that Roosevelt selected Eisenhower over 335 senior officers. Roosevelt knew that other generals would refuse to perform the pro-Soviet role which Eisenhower so obediently played."

"In the last stages of his career as president of Columbia University, Eisenhower again revealed his peculiar pro-Soviet bias. The case in point is the acceptance of $30,000 subsidy from the Communist government of Poland by Columbia university. This subsidy was donated to further Communism."

Later Maine's Sen. Owen Brewster, a member of the Taft inner circle, got hold of the above smear sheet and helped to have it circulated in Maine.

Grain Disappears

Next scandal to explode into headlines will result from a team of government investigators now trying to trace $3,800,000 worth of government grain that has mysteriously vanished from southwestern storage bins.

So far the investigators report:

1. Warehousemen have been peddling the taxpayers' grain for their own private profit.

2. Other warehousemen have negligently allowed grain to spoil.

3. At least 43 instances of missing grain still haven't been accounted for.

These findings have been reported to congress by Lindsay Warren's general accounting office, which checked the books of the Dallas Commodity office covering the states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. A copy of this confidential report has been obtained by this column.

"From our examination to date," the report declares, "it appears obvious that even a conservative estimate of shortages, in grain alone, would exceed $3,800,000."

Forced Action

Though "shortages were known to have existed in early 1951," the report complains that "action in regard to the known irregularities has had to be literally forced on the commodity office. Even after the situation had deteriorated to the extent where prominent grain operators in this area were demanding corrective action to protect the trade, the responsible administrative officials contended action on their past was unnecessary.

Entebbe Airfield Cuts Travel Time Across Vast Africa

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The new British airfield recently opened at Entebbe, Uganda, is Africa's largest, with runways two miles long capable of handling the latest jet planes.

Built 250 miles south of the southern border of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the field occupies a strategically important position between the Middle East and South Africa. It has the advantage of year-around good weather. Entebbe, capital of the British Uganda Protectorate, nestles on the north shore of Lake Victoria, where seaplanes also can land.

Reports from the Capital say Uganda's nearly five million tribesmen have taken the arrival of the jet age in stride. Early missionaries considered these Africans the most advanced of the entire central section of the continent. They quickly learned to cultivate cotton — now Uganda's most valuable cash crop. Tea, rubber and coffee plantations are profitable.

Modern methods and transportation have altered customs for many native families. They now live in rectangular stone and wood homes, rather than in rude beehive thatch dwellings. City men wear European clothing instead of bark cloth and animal skins. The women are inclined to cling to brilliantly colored native dress, and in the far interior, to old style brief covering.

Along with the jet age, inflation and price control have penetrated even the remote jungles. The local government was forced to do something when the prices of brides rose sky high. The price is now "frozen" at five head of cattle, five goats, and the equivalent of $2.80 in cash, per bride.

Soldier Needing Blood Gets Some He Donated

SAN FRANCISCO—The merits of being a blood donor were highlighted by the story of the soldier who needed blood and got it—blood that he had given two weeks before.

Pvt. Richard A. Norman, 23, Wapota, Wash., was injured when a lamp exploded in a kitchen while he was on mess duty. Severely burned about the legs, he needed a quick transfusion.

Two weeks before, Norman had donated a pint of blood to the [illegible] services. A doctor just happened to pick up Norman's [illegible] when he started to give [illegible] transfusion.

Army Unit Goes All Out To Set New Blood Mark

Members of the 136th "Bearcat" Regiment, 47th Infantry ("Viking") Division, fall in at the blood collection center with a "pay line" enthusiasm—everyone is there.

As a result, the former National Guard regiment recently became the Army's first major unit to post a 100 per cent donation record.

The unique response over-subscribed the blood collection quota for the division's station at Camp Rucker, Ala., and drew the praise from both the Chief of Army Field Forces, General Mark W. Clark, and the 47th Division commander, Major General Norman E. Hendrickson.

Sparking the campaign's success was a former member of the 136th Regiment, Private Richard C. Gilley, Warren, Mass., who was wounded in Korea. A national magazine's picture (Life, Oct. 22) of Private Gilley became a symbol of his one-time troop-mates in Company I and 10 other "Bearcat" units.

Major General Hendrickson personally congratulated the last man to contribute to the regiment's "all-out" collection campaign, Private First Class Dale Dunn, Brigham City, Utah.

And General Clark's congratulations were delivered in a letter to the regiment's commanding officer.

Run-Away Romeo Wanted Just a Goodbye Kiss

DETROIT — Just one more kiss was all he wanted, a 27-year-old man said when recaptured after escaping from guards while under a sentence for burglary.

Police had found him at his girl's home.

The run-away Romeo was Donald Mace, Akron, Ohio. When captured, Mace complained that a jail guard wouldn't allow him to kiss his girl friend goodbye when she came to visit him.

He said that he had to talk to her through a wire screen and "since I was going away for a long time, I wanted to kiss her good-bye.

Man Proves He's 'Irish' By Pole Climbing Feat

EAST NEWARK, N.J.—"I'm Irish and I just wanted to prove it," police quoted a man who teetered atop a 365-foot chimney for an hour.

Clarence Gillen, 31, Harrison, N.J., almost overcome by smoke, climbed down from his lofty perch and was led away to jail for investigation.

Police said that he used scaffolding around the brick chimney of a mill plant to aid his climb.

When police arrived, Sgt. Joseph Duffy called to the sitter "Are you going to jump?"

Gillen peered down and replied, "Do you think I'm that crazy?"

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Biscuit:
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2½ teaspoons Clabber Girl Baking Powder
½ teaspoon salt
1½ teaspoons caraway seed
6 tablespoons shortening
¾ cup milk

Ham Filling:
2 cups cooked, ground ham
½ cup pickle relish
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
½ cup gravy or brown cream sauce

BISCUIT: Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Mix in caraway seed. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse corn meal. Add milk; stir to make a soft dough that can be handled and formed into a ball. Transfer ball of dough onto a lightly floured board; knead until smooth. Roll out into a 9x12-inch rectangle. Spread with ham filling. Starting with the narrow end, roll like a jelly roll. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush lightly with milk. Slash roll into six pieces cutting almost through roll. Turn each piece cut-side up. Bake in a hot oven (450°F.) approximately 25 minutes or until well browned. Serve with mushroom sauce.

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