

PRUNE MONOPOLY CHARGED IN N. W.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—(AP)—The Federal Trade Commission yesterday charged the Northwest Dried Fruit Association, of Portland, with engaging in a conspiracy to restrain trade and create a monopoly in the sale of dried prunes.

The association is composed of trade associations and their members and other parties variously engaged in growing, packing and selling fruit, including prunes, and comprises practically the whole of the industry in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California.

The complaint names the following association members as respondents: Oregon Prune Exchange, Portland, selling agent for a number of fruit growers' associations; Washington Growers' Packing Corporation, Vancouver, Wash., packing and sales agent for prune producers in Washington; and Rosenberg Bros & Co., San Francisco and Portland, engaged in buying, packing and selling dried prunes.

Officers and directors of these groups are named specifically in the complaint, although they do not comprise the entire membership of the association.

It is charged that the respondents enter into future contracts for the sale of dried prunes before the crop is ready for market, with the contract providing for the contingency of a crop failure, and make uniform percentage arrangements for settlement of damages.

The complaint held that the agreements and understandings relating to cross losses had the direct effect of unlawfully restraining trade; of substantially enhancing prices to direct purchasers and consumers, and of tending to eliminate competition and to create a monopoly in the sale of dried prunes.

A 60-day period was granted to answer the complaint.

Dried Fruit Association To Fight Monopoly Case

PORTLAND, Or., May 4.—(AP)—A director said today that the Northwest Dried Fruit Association would contest the federal government's accusation of creating a monopoly in dried prunes.

L. M. Jones, who is also head of the Washington Growers' Packing Company, said the association's directors would meet soon and predicted they would vote to fight the charge.

Frank White, treasurer of the association, said he was confident the accusation would be found false.

SYNTHETIC - TIRE QUALITY POORER

WASHINGTON, May 4.—(AP)—The Senate war-investigating committee was told today that a shortage of carbon black has forced a reduction in the quality of synthetic-rubber tires.

Earl Babcock, former official of the Office of Rubber Director and now with the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., of Akron, Ohio, told the committee that tread wear of tires turned out this spring had been reduced as much as 30 per cent. The committee opened hearings on the carbon-black shortage today.

Civilian Tires Hit Hardest

The reduction ranged from a negligible amount in heavy-duty military tires to about 20 per cent on Army jeep tires and 20 to 30 per cent on tires for civilian automobiles, Babcock said.

The reduction was ordered by the War Production Board February 1, and modified April 20 so that jeep and other military tires are being turned out to give about 90 per cent or more of the tread wear of those manufactured prior to February 1, the witness said.

Babcock said the office of rubber director had supplied the W. P. B. long ago with figures showing the amounts of carbon black that would be needed in the synthetic-rubber program.

Doubted by W. P. B.

Last June, Babcock said, the W. P. B. was asked to provide for a 100,000,000-pound increase in the output of carbon black.

Babcock said that members of the W. P. B.'s chemical division seemed to find it "difficult to believe" that so much carbon black would be needed. He added that the rubber director's office was without authority to enforce its recommendations and could only "needle" the W. P. B.

Construction Begins On New Army School

Construction of a new Petroleum Distribution School at Fort Lewis was begun this week on a contract negotiated with Sam Bergesen, Tacoma, for \$79,756.50, it was announced today by Col. Conrad P. Tardy, Seattle District Engineer.

Construction of the first section of the school—to teach Engineer troops to lay, install and maintain booster pumping stations to carry gasoline, Diesel oil and other vital fuel to the fighting front—will be completed by July 1. Included in the project are seven classrooms, an administration building, a warehouse; two shops, wash and grease racks, exterior utilities and other facilities. The school is being relocated at Fort Lewis from Camp Caiborne, La.

Allied soldiers in New Guinea and parts of Asia have discovered that salt is often more valuable in dealing with natives than money or trinkets.

Gen. M'Arthur's Pilot Finishes B-29 Study Here

Lieut. Col. Henry C. Godman, personal pilot for Gen. Douglas MacArthur for more than two years, has embarked on a new career here with the B-29 Superfortress School here, it was announced today.

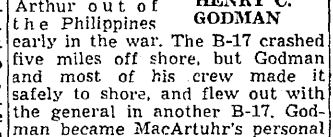
Godman's association with General MacArthur began when he and his B-17 crew were sent to Mindanao to fly MacArthur out of the Philippines early in the war. The B-17 crashed five miles off shore, but Godman and most of his crew made it safely to shore, and flew out with the general in another B-17. Godman became MacArthur's personal pilot after that. He held the post until last November, when MacArthur granted his request to fly combat in the Pacific. He put in 100 hours in heavy bombers backing up invasions.

Godman declared General MacArthur is the idol of everyone in the Pacific.

"G. I.'s would hike through ten miles of jungle when they heard the general had arrived, just to catch a sight of him," Godman said.

"General MacArthur was fond of his Flying Fortress. He'd sit in the lounge and talk with his staff officers, or pace up and down making battle plans while in flight."

Godman wears the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak-Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal and the Order of the Southern Cross. He received the latter medal for taking part in a good-will flight to Brazil in 1938, using the early B-17's, blazing the way for thousands of Boeing Fortresses to come.



HENRY C. GODMAN

17,000 Fighting for U. S.

Pointing to the fact that more than 17,000 Nisei have fought for this country, many of them giving their lives, she asserted that fair-minded Americans "who know the meaning of true democracy believe they should be allowed to return here to their homes."

"On the other hand," she said, "some men are collecting \$10 from individuals who are willing to pay membership fees to hate Japs. In return the organizers are promising to educate the whole country so the Constitution can be amended to permit deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry."

Only 300 Return Here

She predicted that it "will be rather hard for these individuals to gain the backing of other sections of the nation in legalizing of racial hatreds."

She pointed out that out of 110,000 Japanese who were evacuated from the Pacific Coast, 40,000 have settled elsewhere. Of 10,100 evacuated from King County, only about 300 have returned. This, she said, would not seem to constitute a "peril," as the loyalty of each has been proved to the Army.

Tuberculosis in cattle has been reduced to a small fraction of 1 per cent as a result of the federal-state campaign against the disease.

W. R. A. OFFICIAL HITS NISEI FOES

Groups fighting return of Nisei to their homes here were criticized sharply yesterday by Florence West, area reports officer of the War Relocation Authority, who spoke amid frequent applause at a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club.

She aimed her censure primarily at the Japanese Exclusion League, which recently held a mass meeting in the Bellevue area, and asserted the W. R. A. here "will do everything in its power" to protect the constitutional rights of the Nisei, "regardless of what some of these individuals might have to say."

De Lacy Asks Czar Over Light Metals

WASHINGTON, May 4.—(AP)—If the government is to salvage its investment in the light-metals industry, its interest must be controlled by a single agency, Representative De Lacy, Democrat, Washington, said today.

In introducing his bill to create such an agency, De Lacy described the government's present light-metals control as a "crazy quilt." He said that five agencies now handle aluminum production alone. The administrator would be empowered to cancel the Shippers contract and contracts with the Aluminum Company of America and would be required to keep government-owned plants in operation until they were disposed of under the Surplus Properties Act.

Austria's New Regime May Get Catholic O. K.

LONDON, May 4.—(AP)—The Catholic Herald said today that "informed Austrian Catholics can find little to criticize" in the new Austrian administration of Dr. Karl Renner set up in Russian-occupied Vienna.

The publication, one of Britain's largest Catholic weeklies, said Austrian Catholics here "suggest that Austria, being like Finland, a non-Slavic country, is to fall outside the Russian sphere and become a show-piece of Soviet broadmindedness."

The Herald suggested the Soviets had a three-fold object in Austria—to keep it outside the Pan-Slavic bloc so as not to weaken the latter, to win Austrian support, and to make the Renner government a "test case" for the Western Allies.

Richard Law, minister of state, told Commons yesterday that Britain and the United States had agreed on the policy to take toward the Renner group, which they have announced they do not recognize.

Nazis Swim to Give Up

Was Gallagher, Associated Press war correspondent, reported from the Ninth Army front on the Elbe River that the Germans were swarming across the stream, paddling in makeshift rafts or even swimming, in order to surrender.

The Daily Express said that more than 3,000,000 Germans had been taken prisoner since D-Day and that under the original agreement Britain must look after half of them, regardless of whether they were captured by British or American troops.

The paper said the British government had asked the United States to take a larger proportion of the captured Germans because all British prison camps are full and the food problem is acute.

Guiltily Conscienceless

Gallagher reported from the Elbe that the American Ninth Army did not want any German prisoners, but that fear-crazed Nazis surrender anyway.

"Military men," Gallagher said, "are afraid the Russians may feel the Western Allies are giving shelter to the enemy."

German fear of the Russians, Gallagher said, is such as "only a guilty conscience can give."

BAG OF PRISONERS SWAMPS ALLIES

By ROMNEY WHEELER Associated Press Foreign Staff

LONDON, May 4.—German soldiers, surrendering to American and British forces by the thousand in a panicky effort to avoid falling into the hands of the Russians, have created a serious problem for Allied authorities charged with keeping them caged and fed.

Front dispatches said German officers and men were "virtually racing each other to what they evidently consider the safety of American lines. London papers declared that the British and American armies already had taken so many German prisoners that Britain's facilities for feeding and housing them had become inadequate.

Missionaries Honeymoon On Church Cruiser

On a combination missionary-honeymoon trip, the Rev. Byron C. Personeus, 26 years old, and his bride are in Seattle aboard their 43-foot motor cruiser, the Fair Tide 2nd, before leaving for a cruise among isolated Alaskan ports.

Mr. Personeus, a graduate of Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Mo., is a minister of the Assemblies of God Church. Mrs. Personeus attended the Northwest Bible Institute in Seattle, preparing for missionary work.

There are 6,500 local United States draft boards.

THESE WOMEN



"Can you keep her supplied with the brand of cigarettes to which she is accustomed, young man?"

Missionaries Honeymoon On Church Cruiser

"It should be wonderful," he said. "We'll drop anchor wherever there are fishermen or miners or anyone to listen to the Word. Our craft is sturdy—just the thing for Alaskan travel, and I've had quite a bit of small-boat experience."

Piloted across the Columbia River bar by an experienced fisherman, the couple made the first leg of their voyage from Portland, Or., without incident, they said. Since Mrs. Personeus isn't an experienced mariner yet they plan to take their 1,000-mile journey in easy stages. They will be in Seattle, docked in Lake Union, for three weeks.

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CITY PENSIONS PAID TO 1,031

The majority of retired city employees draw monthly pensions of \$50 or less, it was disclosed today in the 16th annual report on the City Employees' Retirement Fund. The report, covering 1944, showed that at the year's end there were 1,031 persons receiving benefits, as against 985 on December 31, 1943. Assets of the fund, managed by a board comprising both elective city officials and representatives of employees, gained more than \$1,000,000 during the year. As of last December, net cash and value of securities total \$11,259,261.82, as compared with \$10,184,999.01 at the end of 1943.

Levine Is Chairman

Chairman of the retirement fund board is City Councilman David Levine, with City Comptroller W. C. Thomas as secretary. Other members are City Treasurer H. L. Collier; Assistant Water Supt. G. B. Schunke, and James Robertson, senior supervising engineer in the City Engineer's Department. Charles T. Oliver has served as executive secretary of the board since 1929.

The average rate of return on the fund's investments approximated 5 per cent. Total interest, and premiums and discounts on securities was \$548,120.63.

Oldest Pensioner 90

Ages of persons receiving service retirement benefits ranged from 52 to 90 years, with the largest single group being persons of 69 years.

Payments for service retirements last year aggregated \$472,824.77 as against \$442,822.23 for 1943.

Seventy-six city employees retired from service last year, while 28 persons withdrew for permanent and total disabilities suffered while in city employment. The average monthly payment to persons drawing disability payments during 1944 was about \$40.

Argentina forbids the export of any of its chrome-bearing minerals.

4,100 Yank Flyers Freed In Bavaria

WITH THE U. S. THIRD ARMY IN GERMANY, May 4.—(AP)—The Third Army found 21,000 Allied prisoners, including 4,100 American airmen, today in a woods five miles south of Braunau, where they had been abandoned by the Germans after being marched into the Bavarian redoubt.

All were ravenously hungry and suffering the effects of several days in the woods without shelter.

The Americans appeared, for the most part, in fair physical condition.

The starved and diseased Russians, Poles and Czechs were in a pitiful state. A number of bodies of their comrades who died after the Germans fled were scattered through the woods.

The prisoners, reached by the Black Cat (13th Armored and 80th Infantry Divisions, had been marched out of a number of camps all over Germany as the Russian and Western Allies approached each other.

"Some of us have been in six or eight different camps in recent weeks," said Sergt. Louis Enloe, Belle, Mo.

"Most of the time we have been on the march with little or nothing to eat," added Sergt. Clarence C. Asher, Washougal (Clark County), Washington.

House Group Will Not Hear Sister Kenny

WASHINGTON, May 4.—(AP)—Chairman Sabath, Democrat, Illinois, of the House rules committee, said today the group had decided against hearing testimony by Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Australian nurse who has developed a method of infantile-paralysis treatment.

Sabath said committee members took no vote on the question, but "agreed in an off-hand manner" not to hear her.

"We did not want to break our precedent of hearing only Congressmen, since we are not a legislative committee," Sabath told newsmen.

Representative O'Toole, Democrat, New York, had asked the committee to allow Sister Kenny to testify in support of his resolution seeking a congressional investigation of the Kenny treatment and her complaints that the medical profession has hindered her efforts to get it established.

Earlier Sabath had expressed the opinion that Congress lacks jurisdiction to investigate the Kenny controversy.

Schwellenbach Saw Truman Only to Talk

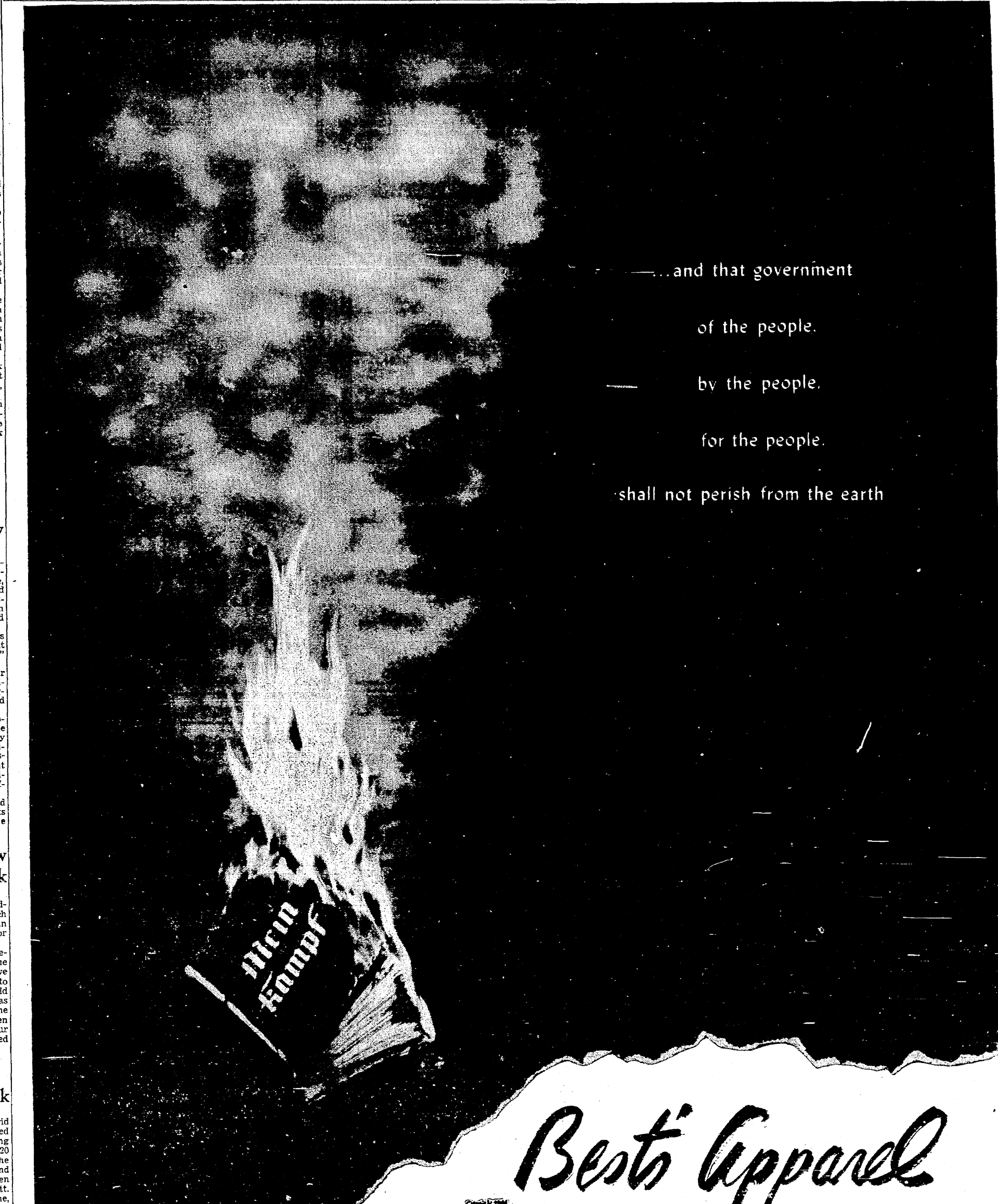
SPOKANE, May 4.—(AP)—Federal Judge Lewis B. Schwellenbach said today that "President Truman did not call me to Washington for any specific purpose."

The judge, who had been reported in Washington to be in line for a cabinet post, added: "I have never known anyone who wants to talk over his problems with his old friends as does the President. I was there as one of those friends. The President was very busy, but when he had 15 minutes or a half hour to spare we sat down and talked about a great many things."

Boy Killed as He Runs Against Truck

EVERETT, May 4.—(AP)—David D. Bagley, 11 years old, was killed last evening when, while playing on the school grounds at Oso, 20 miles northeast of Arlington, he dashed onto the highway and against the side of a truck driven by William B. Patterson of Everett.

State Patrol Officer Webb Stone, who investigated the accident, exonerated the driver.



and that government of the people, by the people, for the people. shall not perish from the earth

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