

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Victorious Red Army Continues Drive As Nazi Winter Line Fails to Hold; Establishment of 48-Hour Work Week Expected to Release New Labor Supply

(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.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Picture shows (l. to r.) Maj. Gen. S. M. Chu, military attache of the Chinese embassy; Mme. T. V. Soong, wife of the Chinese foreign minister; Vice President Henry A. Wallace; Edward C. Carter, Secretary General of the Institute of Pacific Relations and Maj. Gen. Dai-Fung King, member of the Chinese military mission to the United States. This photo was taken at a Washington luncheon as the Institute of Pacific Relations met to celebrate the renunciation of extra territorial rights in China by the United States.

RUSSIA'S GAIN: And the 'Experts'

When the Germans surrendered Kursk before the Russians captured Rostov the Red army again crossed up the military experts who for weeks had been predicting the opposite. But the fact that Kursk was the major anchor point on the Nazi winter line to fall only added to the importance of this strategic victory for Russia.

It is a city of 60,000 and a railway junction of vital importance to the Nazis. It was one of three points (Rostov and Kharkov were the other two) which the German radio once said must be held at any price "of German blood." Germany had held the town since November 11, 1941, and its loss meant that the Russians had breached the Nazi winter line running from Bryansk, Orel and Kursk to Kharkov, Voroshilovgrad and Rostov.

Fall of the latter point meant the entrapment of the entire Nazi force in the Caucasus but even the Russians admitted that some of the 200,000 soldiers caught there were escaping across the Kerch peninsula and through Rostov itself.

All along the line the advancing Russians gained mile after mile and with the territory gained vast quantities of military supplies and hundreds of Nazi and Rumanian prisoners.

48-HOUR WEEK: For Industry

Approximately 1,500,000 men and women ultimately are expected to be released for more essential work as the result of President Roosevelt's order establishing a minimum wartime work week of 48 hours.

The order, which coincided with a warning by James F. Byrnes, director of economic stabilization, that the government intends to hold wages and prices at present levels, made it clear that workers will be paid for all hours over 40 at time and a half, as provided by the Fair Labor Standards act. The initial order took effect immediately in 32 designated "labor shortage" areas. The order will be extended from time to time.

The shift to the 48-hour work week by employers now working on a shorter week would result in the necessity of releasing certain numbers of workers. These workers will be used in other vital jobs.

Stern Program

In his speech, OES Director Byrnes explained the 48-hour week ruling and listed the following program which the government intends to follow:

1. No further increase in hourly wage rates beyond those allowed by the Little Steel formula, which permits a 15 per cent rise since January 1, 1941.
2. Draft of civilians for jobs where they can do the most good.
3. Effective control of food prices and other prices influencing the basic cost of living.
4. Incentive payments to farmers to increase basic food production.
5. Higher taxes to close the estimated 16 billion dollar gap between consumer income and available goods.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Peace Move: Count Ciano's appointment as Italian ambassador to the Vatican might be the harbinger of Axis peace moves. Not only has the pope been known to be in support of feasible peace formulas but the Holy See remains one of the few neutral localities of Europe with a wide representation of diplomats from the Allied as well as Axis countries.

NORTH AFRICA: New Air Blows

American air forces continued to strike telling blows at Axis North African supply and communications lines while neutral dispatches reported hectic preparations for a gigantic Allied offensive in Tunisia.

U. S. bombers, lashing at Marshal Rommel's forces, blasted the airdrome at Gabes and the docks at Sousse, starting heavy fires among buildings.

Dispatches from Algiers said the Allies were expected to strike from the west at the moment Lieut. Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery's British Eighth army resumed its pursuit in force of the Africa Corps. The Eighth army was said to be poised along the Tripolitanian-Tunisian frontier, with forward elements reaching within eight miles of the Mareth line, inside Tunisia.

It was believed the Allied pincers movement was being held for better weather or until all preparations were definitely complete.

GUADALCANAL: American Victory

When six months of bitter warfare ended with the Japanese evacuation of Guadalcanal island in the Solomons, the enemy's desperate, futile investment was estimated to have cost them 50,000 men, about 800 planes and a considerable fleet of ships.

For the first time the tenacious Japs were forced to give up an important position completely, thus paving the way—in the words of Navy Secretary Knox—for blows by the United States against "some of the most important bases of the Japanese." The enemy had relinquished hope for a stronghold there from which they could blast shipping lanes to Australia.

Knox expressed the opinion that widespread recent sea and air activity in the Solomons might have been "a demonstration to cover their withdrawal." He added that "The story of the Southwest Pacific would have been a vastly different story for the last three or four months had we not established our positions in the Solomons."

PANIC BUYING: Held Unnecessary

As shoe rationing went into effect a wave of "panic buying" of clothing swept some parts of the country and immediate efforts were extended by government officials to halt this trend. Donald Nelson, War Production board chairman, and Prentiss Brown, price administrator, issued a joint statement pointing out that no shortage of clothing exists and no plans have been made for its rationing.

Part of the statement read: "WPB has not asked OPA to undertake rationing of clothing and no machinery has been set up for such a program. . . shoe rationing appears to have stimulated scare buying in some parts of the country. . . such buying is unnecessary."

Supplies of wool were said to be larger by several hundred million pounds than they were at the outbreak of the war.

Red Tape: There has been talk that the War Labor board might decentralize its operations and vest final authority in all regional disputes in its regional units. The present practice of referring all regional decisions to the main office in Washington for approval has resulted in many delays. It is said, with subsequent dissatisfaction to employer and employee alike.

LITTLE STEEL: Formula Upheld

The War Labor board reaffirmed its determination to stabilize general wage rates at present levels when members stood by the Little Steel wage formula and denied higher pay for 180,000 employees of the "Big Four" meat packing companies.

Voting 7 to 4—the labor member dissenting—the board voted to prevent "another tragic race between prices and wages." The formula allows increases not to exceed 15 per cent since January 1, 1941. The three unions involved (CIO, AF of L and Independent) have asked increases of from 10 to 20 cents an hour, far in excess of the limit.

On the heels of the WLB decision came a warning from Patrick J. Gorman, secretary-treasurer of the AF of L meat cutters union, that sporadic strikes probably will result all over the country.

BATTLE FORECAST: Over Labor Draft

There were plenty of predictions about a rough and tumble legislative battle over the draft-labor bill designed to allow the government to assign men between 18 and 65 and women between 18 and 50 to war jobs.

Now before the military affairs committees of the house and senate, the bill was introduced by Senator Austin (Rep., Vt.) and Representative Wadsworth (Rep., N. Y.) and is backed by the same group of legislators who supported the selective service act.

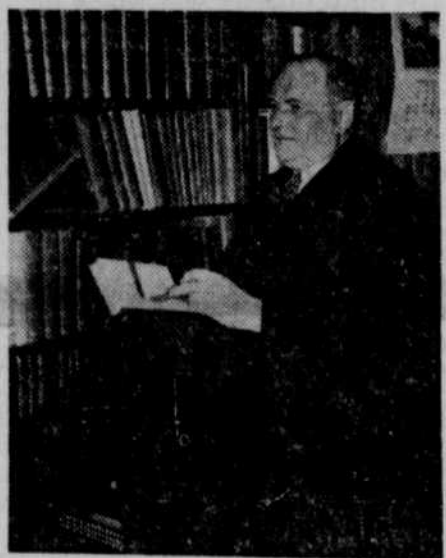
Controversy is expected to arise over problems of compulsory labor, migration of labor, expansion of the armed forces to 11,000,000 without relegating production to a very minor role and over a proposal made by some that all labor-draftees be given free choice as to whether or not they would join a union upon going into war industry.

THREE PAIRS: If We're Lucky

Although initial plans calling for a ration of three pairs of shoes per year per person caused little consternation to the buying public, later developments indicated that new restrictions are not impossible. The OPA announced that "three-pairs-a-year ration must not be taken as a definite commitment by the OPA." So far the OPA has decreed only one pair of shoes may be purchased between now and June 15. What happens then depends upon production.

PAY MARCH 15: That's for Sure

There was still plenty of confusion about what form the almost certain "pay-as-you-go" income tax would take but one fact stood crystal clear through all the conversation and controversy—income tax returns for 1942 must be filed by March 15 and at least one-quarter of the amount owed must be paid by that time. Taxpayers were warned about this by Randolph Paul, U. S.



Pictured here in his New York office is Beardsley Ruml, the man who made America "Pay-as-you-go" conscious. Mr. Ruml is treasurer of Macy's New York department store and is also chairman of the New York Federal Reserve bank. His plan calls for wiping out 1942 income taxes and paying on 1943 income in 1943.

treasury general counsel, and by Harold D. Smith, director of the federal budget, as well as by members of the house ways and means committee, now giving consideration to the new tax plans.

These range all the way from the "Ruml plan," which would "forgive" all of the 1942 tax, to "no forgiveness" plans which would put income tax on a "pay-as-you-go" basis but would also collect the 1942 tax.

There was no organized resistance to the principle of pay-as-you-go income taxes but what method was to be used for collecting last year's payments troubled most thinkers on the subject. In the meantime, taxpayers were cautioned to be sure and file their returns.

PACIFIC CONTROL:

While indications continued to increase that the U. S. victory at Guadalcanal was just the first step in the broad strategy of the war against Japan, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox declared that negotiations should begin as soon as possible for naval bases with which we might control the entire Pacific after the war.

Answering questions asked by members of the house foreign affairs committee he agreed that it would be necessary to disarm Japan,

Washington Digest
Changes Scheduled for Manpower Commission



English System Seen as Successful Model; McNutt Unable to Obtain Efficient and Experienced Force of Experts.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 622 Union Trust Bldg. Washington, D. C.

Two days before the Office of War Information announced the now famous "work-or-fight order" I wrote: Strange sounds are coming through the keyhole of the wide door of the office of the federal security administrator, Paul McNutt. They have nothing to do with federal security but they have a lot to do with that other function of the administrator, on whose broad shoulders rests heavily the chairmanship of the manpower commission.

The noises I refer to are the preliminaries to a bigger noise. "The manpower commission is just about to blow up," said a certain official to me, one who has followed its operations very closely but because of some strange premonition refused to get entangled with them. He is entirely sympathetic with the effort but like others whose duties are affected by the ramifications of the manpower situation, he is chagrined and confused by what is happening and still more by what hasn't happened.

When the manpower situation was first turned over to McNutt, who is known as a good administrator, there was a long and patient wait for something to happen. Nothing did. "No wonder," said neutral observers, "he has no authority."

Then he got the authority by presidential ukase. Earlier, it is true, he had made it plain that he felt that there should be passed by congress, a national service act which would lay upon all civilians the similar obligations placed upon the young men of military age. So many people, who thoroughly disliked the idea of a draft of labor of any kind nevertheless declared such a step was inevitable that I was positive that it was coming and so reported. Now it seems far away.

The substitute was supposed to be the setup under McNutt which would work through the United States Employment service. Selective service was even made a part of McNutt's organization and General Hershey, who had seen that institution through from its inception, with better grace than many would have shown, accepted the subordination of his functions like the good soldier that he is.

More Authority

But many a week has passed since that step was taken, various directives have been sent to the draft boards, enlarging the scope of deferment for essential farm and industrial occupations. But still the system doesn't click. It is now reported that McNutt feels that he needs still more presidential authority conferred upon him.

It was thought when the last reorganization of the manpower agency was made that the United States Employment service would work side by side with the Selective service, the one recruiting labor, the other recruiting fighters and the question would be settled between them under a single head. Then, according to one of the members of the commission, without informing anyone in advance, he did what many feel was a direct violation of the key policy—turned over the question of deferment to the department of agriculture.

This is the step which those who opposed it feel is going to force a change in the setup once more. Administration of manpower recruitment was supposed to be centered in the commission.

Naturally members of the department of labor who felt that recruitment of workers should be handled by that agency, consider that no successful solution will be reached until the entire manpower question is put under a single person of cabinet rank and administered by that head right down to the local setups. They point to what has been done in England where the system seems to be working successfully under the British labor minister. A system has been worked out there where the local administration has wide authority under a firm general policy.

The reason why a similar plan was not followed here is possibly because of the feeling against Secretary of Labor Perkins. Too many people would object if the work were turned over to her and it was believed that the President was about to cut the Gordian knot when the

plan was announced whereby Miss Perkins was to be transferred to the head of the Federal Security administration; McNutt would go to interior and Secretary of Interior Ickes would head the labor department.

Ickes' Refusal

That scheme fell through because Ickes didn't want to make the shift. The result is that McNutt has been left to struggle with a problem for which some of his most sympathetic critics say he is not fitted. He has been unable to obtain an efficient and experienced staff—some posts are still vacant—others are said to lack the technical knowledge necessary to McNutt or anyone in his position. Such expert assistance would be available in the labor department for even those who speak least respectfully of "Madame Secretary" admit that she has built up an excellent force of experts in her department.

As one veteran of the labor front said to me: "If the war lasts long enough, we may establish a workable and efficient system like the British. Look for at least one more makeshift experiment. Meanwhile, let's hope we can muddle through."

That was the state of things up until February 2, 1943. Then came the announcement of the list of "non-deferrable jobs." The cynical may still look upon it as a "make-shift experiment"—by April 1 we'll know whether McNutt has cracked the hardest nut in Washington or whether we still have to muddle through.

Nazi Communiques Indicate New Status

When Hitler failed to appear or even to speak to his unseen audience on the tenth anniversary of his accession to power, it was only natural that many people felt that this was part of the peace offensive which it was known the Reich was preparing. The "unconditional surrender conference" at Casablanca was supposed to have pretty well quashed the Nazi peace drive but apparently the Reich still has hopes.

When I learned that Goering and not Hitler was delivering the oration of the day, two pictures flashed vividly into my mind—one I witnessed personally in September, 1939, from the Press Gallery of Reichstag and the other was described to me. The latter is said to have taken place in the famous hunting lodge of Goering, outside of Berlin. A millionaire American manufacturer sat with him. It was not long before Pearl Harbor. The American had a peace drive of his own. He outlined it to Goering. It was this: Get rid of Hitler, set up a more liberal government, agree to get out of France if England will make peace.

The man to do the job, Goering. The fee, one million dollars.

Names Goering, Hess

The other scene was the occasion of Hitler's announcement that he had invaded Poland. It was then that he declared that he was going to the front and that if anything happened to him, he had decided that his successor would be his air marshal, who sat at the Reichstag president's desk, resplendent in one of his military comedy uniforms. And, said the fuhrer, if anything happened to Goering, Hess would be the second choice. The solemn and lanky Hess, dressed in the brown uniform of the party, rose and saluted as had the grinning Goering.

Hess, when things didn't go according to his wishes, painted his toenails, and took wings for England. There has been comment in Washington lately over the different tone in the official communiques issued by the German high command. Experts say they seem to indicate that the generals have taken over.

Recently it was rumored that Hitler had fired his "intuition" which he said directed his military strategy and he was letting the professionals run the army. It is just possible that Hitler will some day meet the same fate of the intuition which he so unkindly purged. Even the most thickheaded Nazi could hardly believe that the Allies would ever make peace with a government with Hitler at the head.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

For every egg laid last year we need 13 eggs this year to feed ourselves and our allies.

Many Americans in the Pacific coast states were as disappointed as the Chinese in the failure to announce an offensive in the Far East in 1943. They say they feel as if Washington was a lot further from San Francisco than Australia.

There is talk again of an overall agency having the last word on all the problems affecting the civilian population under war conditions. James Byrnes, stabilization administrator, would head it.

The war has shrunk the comics. Syndicates are studying means of compressing their humor and drama into four instead of five columns.



Farm Topics
'Scrap' Nitrogen Now Is Salvagable

Its Loss Usually Due To Lack of Management

"Scrap" nitrogen, ordinarily wasted through poor handling of manure piles, can be effectively salvaged on millions of farms to help take the place of chemical nitrogen now being extensively used for the manufacture of war explosives.

While American agriculture will receive almost as much nitrogen as usual next spring, it will go mostly to growers of vegetables, fruits, potatoes, sugar beets and other crops considered of special value to the



This sailor, a former butcher from Washington, is handling just a very small part of the meat consumed at a U. S. naval base. Despite the increased meat production by the farmers 2 1/2 pounds of meat a week restriction will be the rule.

war program, according to Paul J. Root, extension specialist, soils department, Michigan State college.

Thus the manure pile takes on a new value, for manure is rich in nitrogen. Almost two-thirds of the total plant food value of average farm manure is in the nitrogen. Most of the nitrogen value, however, is in the liquids—usually lost because of lack of care.

Surest method of saving this valuable nitrogen supply is to change the present methods of manure management on most farms. This means stopping the practice of throwing the manure out of the barn window or door to stand out in the weather, perhaps under the dripping eaves of the building until spring. It means saving the liquids which are ordinarily drained off or evaporated.

One pound of superphosphate for each animal each day, placed in the cow gutters and in the horse stalls is effective in saving nitrogen lost by passing into the air. In the pen type barn or in the cattle and sheep feeding pens and in the pens of young cattle, the same rule should be followed—one pound of superphosphate for each animal daily.

Long experience has proved it will pay to apply this superphosphate to the manure.

Agriculture in Industry
By FLORENCE C. WEED

Pine
The story of the pine forests of the South is a tragedy which Science changed into a romance of success. In an earlier day, oil, later distilled into turpentine, was sapped from southern pines by cutting great gashes in the bark which permanently injured the trees. The scientist, Charles Herty, revolutionized the industry by showing growers how to substitute shallow slashes in the bark which would effectively draw out the sap without killing the tree. As a result, turpentine forests have been saved for repeated crops, year after year.

Today, pine oil is being extracted from old stumps and being used in the textile industry and in the manufacture of perfumes. Camphor is being made from turpentine and pine oil, replacing oriental camphor at lower cost.

Manufacture of wrapping paper, corrugating board and insulation are booming industries using four million cords of pine annually. Waste sawdust and wood chips are now going into plastics.

Farm Notes

The simplest way to avoid chick losses during the first four weeks is to buy them with a guarantee that the chicks will live and grow for the first month.

Pork can be made safe for human consumption, so far as dangerous trichinae are concerned, by proper freezing. U. S. department of agriculture scientists have determined after many tests.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

Live Stock Commission
BYERS BROS & CO.
A Real Live Stock Com. Firm
At the Omaha Market

FARMS FOR SALE

GOOD IMPROVED VALLEY FARMS AT \$45 to \$75 per acre. Write for list. M. A. Larson Agency, Central City, Nebraska.



As He Took It
An old actor was playing "Othello" when he was struck on the head by a melon. "Dear me!" he said; "what strange forms applause sometimes takes!"

Definition of Golf—A game in which you place a ball an inch and a half in diameter on a ball 8,000 miles in diameter. Then you try to hit the small ball without hitting the big one.

Better Wait
Manager—Your salary will be \$15 a week to start and \$20 after six months.
Typist—Well, I'll come back in six months.

Consistent
"Did he furnish his whole house with second-hand stuff?"
"Yes, he even married a widow."

Out of Turn
"Where did you get that black eye?"
"I was talking when I should have been listening."

Skating on thin ice usually gets you into hot water.

To Fall Back On
"Then you give believe in marrying for money?"
"I wouldn't say that exactly; but when you marry a man it's just as well to know there's something about him you will always like."

NO ASPIRIN
can do more for you, so why pay more? World's largest seller at 10¢. 36 tablets 20¢. 100 for only 35¢. Get St. Joseph Aspirin.

Easy Business
Nothing is easier than fault-finding; no talent, no self-denial, no brains, no character are required to set up in the grumbling business.—Robert West.

Older folks say it's more sensible
ALL-VEGETABLE LAXATIVE
In NR (Nature's Remedy) Tablets, there are no chemicals, no minerals, no phenol derivatives. NR Tablets are different—get different. Purely vegetable—a combination of 10 vegetable ingredients of 10 coated or candy coated. Un-union is dependably, though, yet gentle, as millions of NR's have proved. Get a 25¢ box today . . . or larger economy size.

Now CANDY COATED or REGULAR!

RELIEVES A DOZEN DAILY DISCOMFORTS
SOOTHES QUICKLY
Right on the shelf, handy, you should have cooling, soothing Mentholatum to help you care for:
1. Head-cold stiffness. 2. Chapped skin. 3. Clogged nostrils. 4. Neuralgic headache. 5. Nasal irritation due to colds. 6. Cracked lips. 7. Cuts and scratches. 8. Minor burns. 9. Dry nostrils. 10. Sore muscles, due to exposure. 11. Insect bites. 12. Minor bruises. Jars 30¢.

MENTHOLATUM

Ease Attracts
Most men are more willing to indulge in easy vices than to practice laborious virtues.—Dr. S. Johnson.

MORE "DATES"
for girls who hasten healing of externally caused pimples by relieving irritation with
RESINOL