

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S. Moves to Take Over Japan; See Early End to Rationing As Reconversion Pace Quickens

Released by Western Newspaper Union. (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.)

JAPAN: Work Out Occupation

Its huge guns belching smoke and fire and bombarding the Nipponese coastline just a few weeks ago, the huge 45,000 ton U. S. battleship Missouri to become the peace ship of World War II, with the Japanese formally signing surrender papers aboard the vessel in Tokyo bay.

Taking place several days after U. S. airborne troops were to descend on the Atsugi airbase southwest of Tokyo to spearhead the Japanese occupation along with marines landing simultaneously at the Yokosuka naval base 20 miles below the Nipponese capital, the formal surrender ceremony was to see General MacArthur signing for the Allies as a whole, with Admiral Nimitz countersigning for the U. S. and Admiral Fraser for the British.

In working out the initial occupation plans, General MacArthur and his staff left no stone unturned to assure the safe conduct of the U. S. forces. At the same time, the new Nipponese government headed by Prince Higashi-Kuni strove to prepare the population to accept the American landings peacefully and refrain from riotous outbreaks, imperiling the whole surrender.

Under General MacArthur's plans, the Japanese were ordered to ground all planes and disarm all ships at sea several days before the first U. S. landings. Then, while sprawling Allied fleets moved in close to Nipponese shores, the Japanese were to immobilize all vessels in Tokyo bay and strip coastal guns and anti-aircraft batteries.

As a final precaution, the Japanese were ordered to evacuate all armed forces out of the immediate landing area, to forestall possible attack by fanatical troops. Guides and interpreters were to be furnished to facilitate General MacArthur's control of the occupation territory.

Jap Casualties

In the first full admission of the intensity of Allied air attacks, the Japanese news agency Domei reported that 44 of the nation's 200 or more cities were almost completely wiped out by bombings, with a toll of 280,000 killed, 412,000 wounded and 9,200,000 left homeless.

Of the total, the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki accounted for 90,000 killed and 180,000 wounded, Domei said. Declaring the toll may be even greater, the Japs revealed that many of the burned are not expected to survive because of the nature of the wounds, while persons only slightly touched by the fires later weaken and often die.

Reporting that 2,210,000 homes were completely demolished, or burnt down, and 90,000 partly damaged, Domei said that in addition to the 44 cities almost completely wiped out, 37 others, including Tokyo, suffered loss of over 30 per cent of their built-up area. Of 47 provinces, only 9 escaped with relatively minor damage, Domei revealed.

CHINA:

Key Position

Relieved from Japanese encroachment, and pivotal point of the Orient, China has assumed a renewed importance in the far east, with Chiang Kai-shek and his Premier T. V. Soong playing their cards well in the complicated game of international politics.



Chiang and T. V. Soong

Backed by the U. S., Chiang's government holds the upper hand in the vast, sprawling nation with its 400,000,000 people, with its position greatly strengthened in dealings with the Chinese communists, Russia and even Britain.

Though the Reds have openly defied Chiang, U. S. financial and material support of his regime, plus efforts of Ambassador Hurley to bring the two dissident factions together, have enhanced his standing. In his dealings with Russia, U. S. and British pressure has resulted in recognition of China's sovereignty over Inner Mongolia and Manchuria, though the

Marines Tell Pacific's No. 1 Fish Story

Fish stories are generally tall stories, but two marines who landed on Iheya island in the Ryukyus recently have an unusual fish story to tell—and it's true!

Shortly after the unopposed landing on this mile-long island, dwindling food supplies prompted marine officials to permit the island's fishermen to make a fishing jaunt inside the reef which parallels the shoreline. Staff Sgt. Bob Hilburn reports.

Once fairly out in the water, the group divided into two parties. Each pair of craft rigged up a net between them and then the swimmers, stripped to loin cloths, went over the sides.

Them—and this is the fish story part—the swimmers, by their antics actually drove the fish into the nets.

Chieftains Meet



Here to discuss increased financial assistance for rehabilitating France, internationalization of the Rhineland and re-establishment of his country as a world power, Gen. Charles de Gaulle (left) arrived in Washington, D. C., to be greeted by President Truman.

Reds have obtained a 50 per cent interest in vital railways in the latter province, secured Port Arthur as a naval base and been allowed use of the ice-free port of Dairan.

By marching his armies into the crown colony of Hong Kong, which the British wish to retrieve, Chiang even struck up a bargaining position with London.

RECONVERSION: Pace Quickens

Breathless trying to keep up with relaxation of unending wartime controls, the nation contemplated early removal of meat, tire and shoe rationing, even as the government removed restrictions on industry to permit full-steam ahead on reconversion.

Following a previous announcement that the government had abolished packer set-asides on beef, veal and ham supplies for the army and other federal agencies, an early end of rationing was expected with OPA's revelation that it would reduce meat point values in view of military cutbacks in orders and a prospective heavy fall run of cattle.

With the announcement that tire production would be doubled to 4,000,000 monthly during October,



With industry given the go-ahead signal for civilian production, manufacturers strove for speedy output for the pent-up postwar market. Here, body is being slung on chassis of one of the first cars to roll off of postwar production line.

November and December, unofficial predictions that rationing of cords would be terminated within 90 days were strengthened.

Forecasts that shoe rationing also may be ended shortly were supported by an announcement of the Tanners Council of America that production of civilian footwear may exceed 30,000,000 pair a month for the rest of the year, the highest level ever reached by the industry.

By lopping off most controls and only retaining authority to assure military and other emergency production, and break bottlenecks in scarce materials for civilian output, the government gave manufacturers the go-ahead signal on such a wide variety of items as refrigerators, radios, distilled spirits, trucks, oil furnaces, construction machinery, metal furniture, motorcycles, photographic films, storage batteries, waxed paper, sanitary napkins, machine tools, shipping containers, pulpwood and commercial chemicals.

Removal of all lumber controls except those necessary to fill priority orders assured a speedy resumption of both industrial and home building construction.

U. S. CREDIT: Supplants Lend-Lease

Following termination of the 41-billion-dollar lend-lease program, Foreign Economic Administrator Leo Crowley revealed that the U. S. was prepared to advance six billion dollars in credits to other nations for procurement of material in this country to bolster sagging postwar economies.

At the same time, Crowley said that negotiations might begin within the next year for settlement of lend-lease accounts, which find U. S. contributions of 41 billions offset by only 5 1/2 billions in mutual assistance.

Under plans outlined by the FEA chieftain, the U. S. would furnish 3 1/2 billion dollars in long-term credit to nations wishing to purchase goods already contracted for to fill cancelled lend-lease orders. An additional 2 billion 800 million dollars would be advanced for procuring industrial and other goods.

Washington Digest

Stricken Europe Needs Large Imports of Food

Never Able to Raise Enough Fare for Its Teeming Masses, Old World's Demands Aggravated by Ravages of War.

By BAUKHAGE

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I've just come up from the barnyard of a Maryland farm. In the barn was a comfortable crop of hay and wheat, outside a herd of fat Guernseys of all ages from a two weeks' old calf up. Most of the chickens were already cooling themselves in a locker. There was only one thing for the farmer to complain about and the hogs got a break out of that—the oats.

"Just too wet this year," he said. For fear it would set the barn afire, if he stored it in that condition, the farmer explained that he "had to dump it" and a batch of shoats were leaping around in the spoiled grain like jack-rabbits. Most of the farmers hereabouts lost their oats, too.

All week in Washington, I'd been reading, talking and thinking about farm products along with our other reconversion problems. We, in the United States, are going to get only about three-quarters of what we raise this year, according to unofficial estimates. Europe is going to need about 25 per cent more food and textiles than she normally needs.

I hear the questions asked: Why should we be expected to send all this food to Europe? Why can't she produce her own? Are the people too lazy, or inefficient or what?

I put those two questions to a member of the department of agriculture who is just back from an inspection tour of Europe.

"Europe has always imported food, in peace and in war, in fat years and lean," he answered. "To send food to Europe is the natural thing. Not to send it would be unnatural."

Food Production To Dip Further

"In 1945, Europe's production was 10 per cent under her normal production. Next year, production will be 15 per cent under this year. That means the people of Europe will need 25 per cent more than in normal times. It does not necessarily mean that the United States will furnish a total of 25 per cent more of everything. For instance, Canada will furnish more wheat than before so we won't have to increase our quota, but we shall probably be called upon for more of the protein foods, especially the milk products."

Before answering my second question, my friend explained the paradox that peace has cut down Europe's producing power. While the European nations were overrun with a conquering army, he elucidated, while part of the fields of the continent were being riddled with shells and later gutted with tanks, production fell off only some 10 per cent from normal. This is the reason:

The Germans had to maintain a working economy in the nations they occupied and also they did not wish to destroy the resources of territory which they hoped to exploit. When they knew they were beaten, they stole what they could eat or carry and tried to destroy what they couldn't move; much breeding stock had already been slaughtered.

Of course, we must not be led astray by this figure of 10 per cent—the decrease in the total production in Europe in wartime. There was a sharp cut in certain products and an increase in others. The entire pattern of the agriculture was altered. For example, the livestock raisers always imported feed. When it was cut off there had to be a shift from livestock to root crops. Potatoes and beets make for a very monotonous diet, but they were filling while they lasted.

The Germans organized and regimented farm labor in all countries including their own. They maintained transportation fairly well until just before the invasion. Now transportation is utterly disrupted, there are millions of displaced persons, farm machinery is broken down.

But this doesn't answer question number two: Why can't Europe feed herself in normal times? Are the people so much lazier or behind-the-times that they can't make things grow as we do?

Before answering that question, my friend reminded me that it was

true that nobody always works at maximum efficiency, that most people can do more when they have to than when they don't, especially when there is some extraordinary urge such as war. Take our own case: with thousands of farm boys in the munitions factories and with the armed forces, what did America do?

American farm production in 1944 was increased, despite its handicap. 35 per cent beyond the 1935 to 1939 level.

Britain's Farm Output High

But what about England where the boys were in the army and the munitions factories, too; where farmers had to farm in the blackout and around the shell-craters in their fields? The British increased their production 65 per cent—they were nearer to the front than we were. They had a greater incentive.

For the same reason, the distribution was far better than in America. Regimentation was more stringent. The government in England bought all the food and distributed it itself. It cracked down hard on the black markets. In this country, popular opinion prevented such interference with private enterprise. And so in America we permitted the processing and distribution industries to operate at a profit. In Britain, it was a non-profit, government operation. Rationing was stricter, too.

So much for Britain's wartime effort. Now, what about the efficiency of her production in normal times?

My informant gave me some impressive figures. He pointed to America's two typical farm states which taken together are just about equal to Britain in area: Iowa and Indiana. Believe it or not in normal times Britain produces more wheat, barley and oats than those two states combined.

Britain also produces more cattle than Texas which is six times as large—more potatoes than all our chief potato states including Maine and Idaho, more dairy products than Wisconsin.

"Then why on earth," I interrupted, "can't they feed themselves over there?" Back came the answer: "For the same reason that New York state with its skilled farmers, its splendid soil, its up-to-date methods, can't feed itself any more than the District of Columbia can. In Europe as in these more heavily populated areas in the United States, there are just too many people."

If we want these Europeans to live and prosper and earn the money to buy our automobiles and typewriters and other gadgets which keep our factories running, we'll have to keep on sending food to Europe as we always have.

Recently I was asked to make a recording which was to be deposited in the archives of George Washington university, as part of a series made for the use of the class of the year 2007. It is a somewhat fantastic idea to be sure, but it is seriously undertaken and I responded in as serious a vein as I could muster. I can't repeat what I said as that is supposed to be held as a big surprise for the class of 2007. However, the whole idea intrigues me so much that I have been thinking about it ever since.

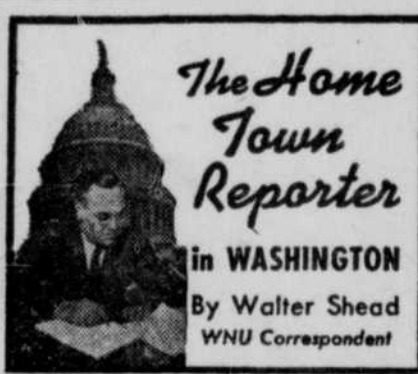
The fact that this year begins what some people call the "atomic age" makes the speculation all the more interesting. In 1939 when the first successful experiment in "splitting the atom," and releasing the vast power which literally holds the world together was reported chiefly in scientific publications, as of great academic importance. One writer said the experiment might have no results of interests beyond the laboratory. Six years later continuation of those experiments ended the Japanese war.

The forces released, however, were largely uncontrolled and purely destructive.

Will the class of 2007 have to look up the word "coal" because it has been forgotten? Will all our modern means of generating power be displaced by the atom's forces, carefully controlled and directed to the uses of peace and progress?

Reconversion query: Will redeployment mean re-employment, or how soon will the redeployed become the re-employed?

Don't say American business can't come back fast—the day after surrender day a silk hose salesman called at my office. And I expect the re-tired auto salesman will be next.



The Home Town Reporter in WASHINGTON By Walter Shead WNU Correspondent

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Congress Veering to Left

WITH congress back in session and unusual activity evident about the headquarters of both national political committees, political leaders here are looking toward the 1946 elections, just about a year off, and scanning the political horizons for the signs of the times.

With these elections in the offing, congressional legislation on reconversion will be tempered by political expediency, and it is likely the Truman administration will take a gradual shift more to the "left."

While the results of the British elections served to bring into clearer focus the trend of mass thinking of the "common man," we have only to recapitulate the results of the last national election in this country to note the power and growth of labor as a political force, and note the leftward trend.

Despite this trend, however, there is little or no indication that labor in America will ever go so far to the left as to advocate state socialism, at least if the government of the United States remains a liberal government.

But whether politicians of either party will admit it or not, the fact remains that the Political Action committee of the CIO, John L. Lewis and his united mine workers, and various factions of the AFL did play an important role in the last election. These labor organizations are now laying plans for the active part they are to play in the elections next year, both congressional and local.

Some weeks ago, your Home Town Reporter wrote that a new line-up of contending forces would see the mass thinking of the large areas of population pitted against the individual thought of the small towns and rural sections. That is exactly what happened in England. In some few agricultural sections, however, the farmers voted with the Labor party in the British left-wing toward a Socialist government.

England Won't Go 'Red'

According to the political dopsters here, the Socialist leanings of the Labor party in England do not mean that England will abandon the capitalist system. Rather, as Sir Stafford Cripps put it, the Labor party seeks a greater degree of economic liberty for the common people "by a wise combination of state ownership and private enterprise with effective control and planning of our natural resources."

And then he cites our TVA system in America as an example. He might well have cited our Federal Reserve system, the Reconstruction Finance corporation, the Federal Housing administration, social security, the Commodity Credit corporation, the Agricultural Adjustment act, the Federal Deposit Insurance act, the Federal Land banks—for all these reflect the "wise combination of state ownership and private enterprise with effective control, etc." These activities are now integral parts of our governmental system, and are here to stay.

So, despite any left swing in this country, political leaders believe that so long as this wise combination exists, that is, a partnership arrangement between government and people, there is little danger of either a Labor party, as such, or other than our traditional form of government in this country. As a matter of fact, neither England or Russia, both classed as democracies, have any sovereign power or rights vested in the people.

How Powerful Is Labor?

Political leaders here are watching the power of the Labor lobby here as reflected in two bills before the congress. One the Murray full-employment bill, also sought by the administration, and the other the Hatch-Burton bill which provides a new approach to settlement of management-labor controversies. Labor wants the Murray bill, but is against the Hatch measure. The action of President Truman in calling a labor-management conference under the general supervision of Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach has also drawn some political comment. Some leaders profess to see a move to block participation of Secretary of Commerce Wallace, since labor had asked that the conference be under the joint supervision of Wallace and Schwelmbach.

Speaking before the senate committee, Sen. Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) said: "The British election shows a determination of the common man and woman to obtain economic security. American democracy rests on capitalism, and capitalism rests on democracy; both must work in order for the system to last." Senator Murray (D., Mont.) said: "I see nothing but conflict and recrimination for capitalism in America unless we provide a program which will insure employment opportunities for all Americans who are able and willing to work."

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DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS... by Baukhage

If the boys have to sell apples this time they may get them mixed with hand grenades.

The surrender day vigil at the White House spawned many epigrams. The secretary of state disappeared at one time. The officials would tell us nothing, so: "The state department fiddles while Byrnes roams."

SKIN TREATMENT:

Establishment of eight centers specializing in the treatment of tropical skin disease was announced by Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, surgeon general of the army.

At the same time the army said that there is no basis for fear of tropical skin infections spreading in this country because practically none of these diseases are contagious and no patient with a transmissible skin disease would be allowed out of an army hospital until he was noninfectious.