

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Congress to Probe Diplomacy of State Department; Maneuver to Modify Demands of CIO Unions

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.)



Although handicapped by an almost complete lack of tools, these German prisoners of war in PW camp at Fowey, England, still managed to turn out this varied collection of toys to help fill Santa's bag for little Britons. The amateur workmen included a former Berlin judge, a doctor from Hamburg and university students.

U. S. DIPLOMACY: Duplicity Charged

Long under fire for its implementation of American foreign policy in the wake of U. S. victories on the battlefield, the state department was scheduled for congressional investigation following ex-Amb. Patrick Hurley's charge that some of its personnel had worked counter to his efforts to promote the unification of China.

In losing his bombshell on Capitol Hill, Hurley declared that certain professional diplomats were inviting future conflict by siding with the Chinese communist party and the imperialistic bloc of nations in keeping China divided against itself and unable to resist encroachment.

While he worked for a democratic China which could act as stabilizing influence in the Orient, Hurley charged, some state department officials told the Chinese communists that his activities did not reflect the policy of the U. S. and they should not enter into a unified government unless retaining military control.

Agreement to investigate the state department followed the demand of Senator Wherry (Rep., Neb.) for an inquiry to determine whether there was any variance between U. S. foreign policy and the Potsdam declaration and whether the foreign service was interfering with domestic affairs in South America, influencing other countries toward communist government, or clashing with the army and navy over occupation policy.

Meanwhile, Gen. George C. Marshall, ex-chief of staff, prepared to embark upon his duties as special envoy to China in the midst of Chiang Kai-shek's redoubling of efforts to unify the country and open the way for vigorous postwar economic expansion. In announcing his program to modernize the country, Chiang declared the No. 1 goal would be the improvement of transportation to facilitate an exchange of materials between the various regions.

LABOR: On Defensive

Heretofore on the offensive with its demands for higher wages to maintain high wartime pay, the CIO was suddenly thrown back on the defensive with the Ford Motor company's proposal that the United Automobile workers pay a \$5 a day fine for workers involved in unauthorized strikes.

Ford asked for this protection against production losses as officials continued negotiations with the UAW, whose leaders have maintained that the industry can afford 30 per cent pay boosts without raising prices because of large reserves and promises of substantial profits from huge postwar output.

While UAW immediately challenged the effectiveness of a fine in curbing wildcat walkouts, Ford officials insisted that the union could exert sufficient pressure on its local to prevent unauthorized strikes, slowdowns and controlled production.

Meanwhile, General Motors, reversing a previous stand, agreed to consult with government officials concerning resumption of negotiations with the UAW after the union gave ground in its demands for a 30 per cent wage increase. With the company holding out for a modification of terms, the UAW declared that it would seek no wage increase.

Find Novel Uses for Radio Surplus

Laboratory technicians who are working with the Reconstruction Finance corporation in developing methods of disposing of three to five billion dollars worth of new and used radio and electronics equipment no longer needed by the armed forces have found that antenna tube sections can be cut into small sizes and converted into toy whistles for exuberant youngsters.

Toy whistles are only one of a number of adaptations that have been worked out by RFC and industry technicians in an effort to develop peacetime markets for the vast quantities of radio and electronics equipment and components that are deemed of no further use to the military services.

PEARL HARBOR: Kept Top Secret

Because of a desire to keep secret the U. S. breaking of the Japanese code, the intercepted messages revealing Jap political and military moves were known only to nine top officials, Maj. Gen. Sherman Miles, former head of army intelligence, told the congressional committee investigating Pearl Harbor.

Along with President Roosevelt, others possessing knowledge of the decoded messages included Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of State Hull, Lt. Gen. L. T. Gerow, head of the war plans division, Secretary of the Navy Knox, Admiral Stark, chief of naval operations, Col. R. S. Bratton of the army intelligence staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff, and Miles.

Though Maj. Gen. Walter Short and Rear Adm. Husband Kimmel were not apprized of the breaking of the code, Miles said, they were kept informed of the course of events. However, with officials anticipating an attack in the far east, Short and Kimmel were advised to take only such action as they deemed necessary at Pearl Harbor and guard against sabotage.

When asked what significance was attached to a decoded Jap message of Sept. 24, 1941, asking espionage agents in Hawaii to advise Tokyo of the disposition of the American fleet in Pearl Harbor, Miles replied: "Taken alone, it looks exactly like what we know now it was—a plan for bombing Pearl Harbor. But unless we look at it with hindsight, it was only one of a great number of Jap messages seeking information on our warships. It was perfectly normal for them to be doing so."

Loses Half of House

When the town of Silver Lake, Minn., decided to widen Center street, the village council attempted to induce Mrs. Clara Caspryk, 44, to move her five-room residence, extending 16 feet into the area required for the expansion.

Not only did Mrs. Caspryk refuse a proposition for the town to move the building back and pay her \$100, Mayor Frank Bandes said, but she also ignored a court order to relocate the structure, leading to the judge's permission for the village to remove that part of the property blocking the improvement.

After a crew of carpenters virtually saved the building in half, Mrs. Caspryk was left with only one bedroom intact, the living room having been completely shorn and the kitchen, dining room and upstairs bedroom bisected. Because she had no other place to live, Mrs. Caspryk, who is crippled by arthritis, returned to make her home in the one remaining bedroom after a brief stay with her brother-in-law.

GERMANY: Review Rule

With French obstruction to Allied plans for a central administration for Germany resulting in the economic breakup of the Reich and difficulties for a restoration of normalcy, the U. S. was asked to study the advisability of revising the Potsdam declaration pledging this country to its present course.

In urging a re-examination of U. S. occupation policies, Byron Price, former director of the office of censorship who undertook a special mission to Europe for President Truman, declared that the German people were nursing old and new hatreds with increasing bitterness as their sufferings increased and disposing themselves to whatever new leadership desperation may produce.

With German agriculture and industry seriously impaired during the closing stages of the war, Price said the U. S. must also decide whether to deliver foodstuffs to the country to prevent starvation and epidemics this winter and help remove some causes for unrest.

LABOR-INDUSTRY: Meet Lags

Started with high hopes, the labor-industry conference called in Washington, D. C., slowly ground toward its conclusion with indications that no important new machinery would be constructed for the speedy settlement of employee-management disputes.

In seeking orderly procedure in drawing up an original contract, the conferees recommended collective bargaining first, then conciliation, and finally voluntary arbitration. In cases of grievances under existing contracts, the delegates resolved that pacts should incorporate provisions for settlements without resort to strikes, lockouts or other interruptions to production.

As the conference faltered toward its end, with neither side apparently disposed to surrender any of its bargaining advantages, labor-industry representatives approved a proposal to meet for consultation whenever they saw fit.

SCHOOL LIGHTING: Best Pays

In a detailed report to civic leaders on lighting and seeing conditions, the Miami, Fla., Kiwanis club declared the progress of pupils in a properly lighted room in Tusculuma, Ala., showed two-thirds less failure over a test period of two years.

At Lebanon, Pa., a 28 per cent improvement was shown, and at Cambridge, Mass., the failure ratio in the fifth grade was one to three in favor of better lighting.

Washington Digest

SSB Finds Workers Want Jobs, Not Pay to Be Idle

Only One in Six Who Lose Jobs Ever Ask for Unemployment Insurance, and Even They Soon Leave Rolls.

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Two men who have been life-long friends will have occasion to remember the month of August, 1945, for a long time to come. Sgt. Peter Pugh, waiting for invasion on an aircraft carrier off the coast of Japan, heard that the war was over. Hank Haines, welder in a medium bomber plant, drew with his pay envelope a notice that his job had come to an end because medium bombers were no longer needed.

Of course the sergeant was not discharged immediately. Neither was Hank—not immediately. He had two weeks. Then he went downtown to file his unemployment compensation claim and put in an application with the United States Employment Service for a new job. Within six weeks he was back at the aircraft factory, but instead of welding parts for medium bombers he was working on the engine of a giant passenger plane.

Then Peter came home. Before he went off to the Pacific he had worked at the same plant, did the very same type of work Haines was now doing. Peter needed a job and since he was a veteran, Haines once more had to give up his position and file another claim with the unemployment compensation office.

Fiction? The names are. But the stories contain facts that have been happening thousands of times in all parts of the country since the war ended. Facts like these are telling some important things to an agency in Washington that was set up at the bottom of the depression to try to help people meet the economic crisis that comes to almost every one some time. This agency is the Social Security board, and I am thinking particularly of that division of it which administers the state unemployment compensation laws.

The sudden end of the war brought manifold problems to this agency. Like many others, it had expected reconversion and demobilization to be gradual processes and unemployment aid was ready to meet that situation. But the atomic bomb changed the picture and suddenly millions of men and women were thrown onto the labor market. There was a sudden rise in claims for unemployment insurance as the country grappled with the problem of creating jobs for the workers who were no longer needed when war contracts were terminated and for the boys who were doffing uniforms for mufti.

Facts on Jobless Pay

In this first experience of its kind since the SSB came into being some important facts are being uncovered—answers to such questions as: What is the truth about peace-induced unemployment in this country?

When on the average will the unemployment compensation periods run out and the crisis become acute if there are not enough jobs?

What kind of people are asking for jobless pay? Is it true that they are taking this money and not bothering to look for work?

Let us see what answers the Employment Bureau of the Social Security Board is finding to these questions as experts here in Washington and in the field sift through a great mass of data. First, I might say that unemployment compensation claims at this writing are a good barometer of the unemployment throughout the country brought on by the war. Later this would not be the case. When there is a long period of heavy unemployment, people who have been out of work for four months or more would not appear on the claims lists and therefore would not figure in the statistics. But the situation is different today. The rise in unemployment is fresh and the periods of payment have not yet been used up by many claimants. So the rolls reflect a true picture of the situation.

As these lines are written, the second wave of unemployment to hit the country since the war ended is mounting as the first wave recedes. At the present time workers are being discharged because they are being displaced by servicemen who are being demobilized. The first wave was made up of those persons who found themselves out of jobs

because war industries had to convert to peacetime operation.

In the first wave about six million workers found themselves out of work as a result of the ending of war contracts. Of these, three million shifted to peacetime jobs right away without any interruption, two million registered in unemployment compensation offices and about one million are unaccounted for—they may have found other jobs without registering in the unemployment office, or they might have gone on vacation or retired. About 1,100,000 former war workers of this number found it necessary to draw unemployment compensation. Right now the claims for jobless pay are dropping each week and Social Security officials say that means the full impact of the first wave of unemployment—the reconversion wave—has been felt. The bulk of the war workers have been laid off. The bulk of those who are going to file for benefits have already done so.

What's ahead, then, is the second wave—the unemployment which will come as an aftermath of demobilization.

It is estimated that from six to nine million servicemen are destined to return to industry in the next 9 to 12 months. In addition, about two million workers who have been in government service during the war will be looking for new jobs. That means that about eight million persons will be thrown on the labor market in this second wave which will come as a result of the end of the war.

Crisis Looms By 1947

As nearly as can be judged, Social Security officials see a crisis by 1947 if there are not enough jobs. That is, they expect that unemployment compensation payments will carry people over jobless periods until about 1947, by which time payments will have been used up. Since the amount of compensation and the length of time for which it is paid are based on previous length of employment and wages, it is plain that a period of spotty employment will affect a worker's future benefits.

A different type of person is applying for jobless compensation these days than when the system was set up in the days when apples were being sold on street corners and unemployment was a major threat to family security.

In the early thirties workers collected their benefits for the entire period of their eligibility and still were without jobs. As of this moment they are collecting for an average of four weeks and then getting jobs. Today more women are applying for unemployment compensation than men. Skilled workers make up more than 50 per cent of the claimants; semi-skilled rank next in number.

As unemployment comes into the national picture again and efforts are made to get more complete jobless legislation out of Congress, arguments are heard that people who are able to get unemployment compensation do not bother to look for jobs. This is answered by the Social Security Board on the basis of what they have been finding out from the postwar claims.

They point out first that little better than one in six of the persons who lost their jobs as a result of reconversion is receiving unemployment compensation payments. This shows, they say, that a worker prefers a job any day to being paid for not working. Moreover, they point to the fact that over 750,000 persons, or about 35 per cent of the workers who filed claims initially since V-J Day, have already left the rolls and taken jobs. Then there is the testimony that in two representative cities where special studies were made it was found that two-thirds of the workers who left the claim rolls took jobs before they drew any benefits at all. They say that other cases can be cited to prove the point.

Meantime, as the second wave of jobless workers hits the labor market, the unemployment compensation agencies prepare to handle growing claims for jobless pay unless—and until—peacetime industry gets its wheels turning to provide the jobs that are needed.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

When we hear all this talk about how the schools and colleges aren't educating their students I can't help thinking of two of the best educated men I know, Louis Brownlow, former commissioner of the District of Columbia and authority on civic administration, and Watson Miller, recently made head of the Federal Security administration. Neither finished grade school.

There is talk of running General Spaatz, former commander of the U. S. airforces in Europe, for governor of Pennsylvania in 1946. Well, so far nobody has defeated him.

About 18,000,000 women were working on V-J Day. And now they say if they and the teen-agers and the over-agers would go home it would settle the employment problem.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Spare that brassiere by washing it after each day or two of wear. 'Twill last longer, fit better.

Try trimming an old whiskbroom into a sharp V-point for cleaning hard-to-get-at corners and crevices in furniture and floors.

A paste made of baking soda and water will remove coffee stains from enameled kitchen ware.

Inasmuch as nuts absorb moisture, they should be placed in boiling water for a few minutes before adding them to cake or bread dough. Otherwise they will make the baked product dry.

Apply a little colorless nail polish in the area where a buttonhole is to be worked. As the polish dries, it stiffens the cloth and working the holes is thus made easier.

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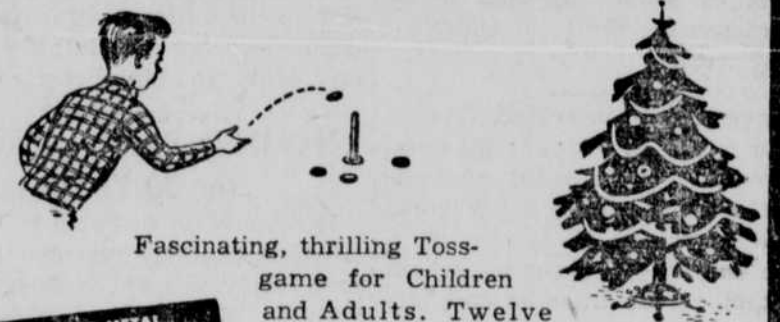
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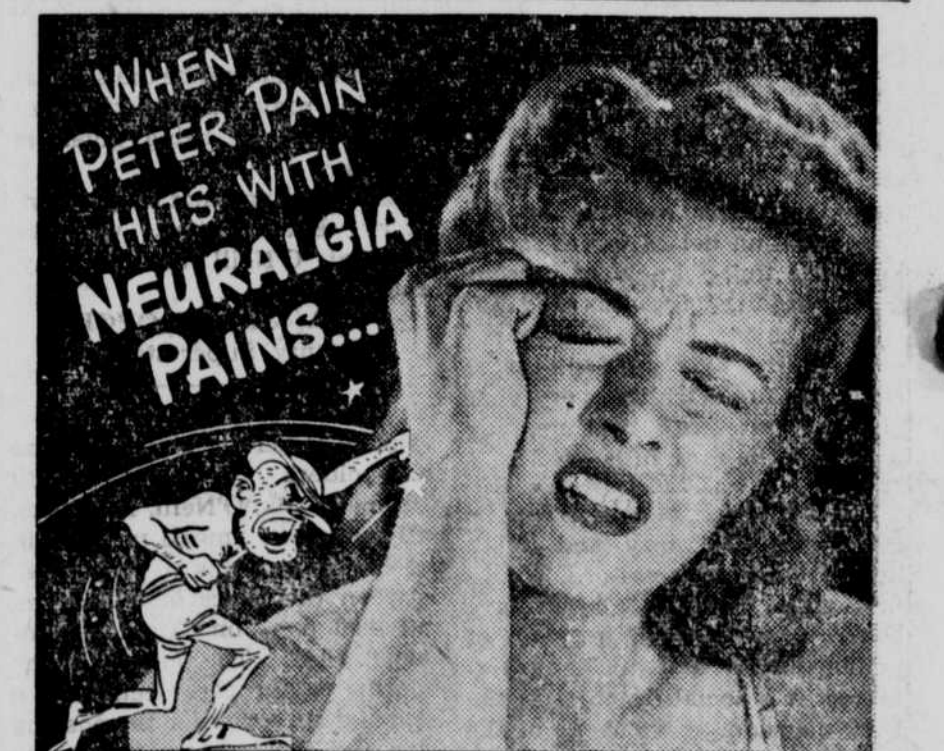
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