

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Farm Equipment Output to Hit Peak Late in Year; Push Fight Against Postwar Price Control

Released by Western Newspaper Union. (EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

FARM MACHINERY: Output Off

Hampered by material shortages, inexperienced help, inability of suppliers to deliver parts and strikes, farm machinery manufacturers do not look for attainment of peak production until later this year or early 1947.

When full-scale operations are resumed, it was said, companies will first concentrate on the output of parts for worn equipment since many farmers will be compelled to make their machinery do until new units begin to appear in satisfactory volume.

UNO: Avoid Strife

Invoking article 33 of the United Nations charter calling upon quarreling governments to attempt conciliation of their difficulties first before appealing to UNO, Russia moved to settle her differences with little Iran privately and take the matter out of the hands of the security council.

By so acting, the Reds succeeded in avoiding a ticklish situation within UNO itself, with possibilities that the U. S., Britain, France and China might have placed Moscow in a compromising position in investigating the row.

Give and Take

Continuing to give and take in their relations, the Big Three agreed to the election of stocky, 50-year-old Trygve Lie (pronounced Trygg-va Lee) of Norway as secretary-general of UNO.

The U. S. played a key role in balancing the powers through the elections. After the Russians had charged Secretary of State Byrnes and company of having double-crossed them in not pushing Lie's candidacy for president as against Spaak's, Chief Delegate Edward R. Stettinius later arranged for the Norwegian's selection as secretary-general in a five-power pow-wow in his Claridge hotel suite.

FARM STRIKE: Cool Reception

While farmers in southeastern Nebraska, incensed by the machinery shortage, talked up an agricultural strike in protest of industrial walkouts, farm organization leaders discouraged the idea because stoppage of shipments of fresh products would result in costly waste.

CONGRESS: Labor Curb

Despite the brightening industrial picture, a strong coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats in congress moved for adoption of restrictive labor legislation against the vehement protests of liberal members.

SEED:

Over 50,000 tons of seeds being dispatched now for the spring planting season to nine European countries and China by the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration include cereal and vegetable seeds, seed potatoes to step up food production for human consumption, forage crops, grass and root crop seed to increase the supply of animal feed and industrial seeds for oil and fiber.

denounced the restrictive measure as one of the "most vicious anti-labor bills ever brought before the house," conservative proponents declared that representative action could be taken in amending or revising the bill during floor discussion.

PRICE CONTROL: Under Fire

First to break the wage deadlock in industry with a 15.1 per cent, or 18 cents an hour, increase to his employees, Henry Ford II came out for abolition of government price control except on food and rent as a means of breaking the bottleneck in civilian production and permitting a rapid flow of goods to consumers.

Declaring that existing price ceilings had the effect of squeezing smaller parts makers between rising operating costs and fixed re-



Henry Ford II

turns, Ford said that the productivity of the big manufacturers depended upon suppliers' activities. If price control were abolished, he declared, the heat of competition for markets would bring down the cost level.

In keeping with his announced position for firm price control, President Truman rejected Ford's suggestion in a news conference, asserting that the removal of OPA regulation would result in wild inflation with its disastrous effect upon purchasing power.

Henry II's attack against price control came even as clothing and shirt manufacturers blamed OPA for the insufficiency of stocks on dealers' shelves in the face of tremendous demand from consumers.

Charged with withholding at least 400,000 suits from the markets, clothing makers were particularly resentful of OPA regulations, claiming that with their recent grant of a 2 1/2 per cent increase in wages to workers price readjustments were necessary to permit them an adequate profit.

Shirt manufacturers rapped the OPA's so-called "maximum average" price regulation for failure to produce adequate stocks, claiming that they were unable to turn out more of the better grade items in the face of a shortage of cheaper fabrics because OPA required balanced output of all types.

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INDUSTRY: Profit Margins

First part of a study by the Securities and Exchange commission on profits and operations of American industries in 1943-'44, a SEC survey showed that while 13 meat packers grossed \$4,732,038,000 in 1944 they netted \$45,348,000 or 1 per cent of sales.

Next to the meat packing, the cigarette industry ranked highest in gross income for 1944, with \$1,601,732,000. With a net income of 3.9 per cent of sales, however, the cigarette manufacturers outstripped meat packers in profit margins.

With total sales of \$1,452,351,000, the dairy products industry ranked third, but like meat packing, enjoyed a relatively smaller profit position, earning 2.1 per cent on its gross. With \$1,226,298,000 of sales, distillers showed net returns of 3.8 per cent.

Of all industries surveyed, grocery specialties had the highest profit margins, with 4.1 per cent on sales of \$954,984,000.

VET FAMILIES: May Go Overseas

In what were interpreted as moves to forestall further complaints of G.I.s overseas against occupation doldrums, the war department authorized the families of commissioned and non-commissioned officers above buck sergeants to join them abroad, and lowered the training period for replacements from 13 to 8 weeks.

With the number of reunions depending upon the theater commanders' decisions as to the amount of housing, subsistence and medical care available, travel to Europe will commence after April 1, with movements to the Philippines, Japan, Korea and the Ryukyus scheduled after May 1.

In setting up priorities under the system, preference will be given to families of officers with the longest service overseas if they indicate a willingness to remain abroad for two years or from one to two years.

In cutting down the training period from 13 to 8 weeks for replacements, the army announced that recruits' conditioning would be finished abroad after inculcation of fundamentals here. Prior to embarkation, recruits will be given a seven-day leave.

Chinese End Strife

Reflecting efforts of the U. S. to unify strife-ridden China, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek brought his 18 years of authoritarian rule in the country to an end with the announcement that henceforth political parties can openly organize and conduct their campaigns in accordance with legal rights and procedures.

Chiang made his historic pronouncement at the closing of political consultative conference in Chungking, where nationalists, communists and other parties had gathered for the adjustment of differences and creation of a unified state to open the way for broad economic development in hitherto backward China.

Before adjourning, the consultative conference had arranged for a meeting of a national assembly in May to draw up a new constitution. Over 2,500 delegates are to attend, with Chiang's Kuomintang party possessing over 50 per cent of the representation and the communists the second largest. Reflecting the views of the delegation as a whole, a 35-man all-party committee will draw up the document.

UNRRA: New Exodus

Even while British Gen. Frederick Morgan was in New York conferring with Director Herbert Lehman over his reinstatement as United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation chief in Germany, a U. S. 3rd army report confirmed his charge that Zionist-aided Jews were leaving Poland for Germany in the hope of eventually reaching Palestine.

In helping the migrants, it was said, Zionist groups prepared them for communal life abroad and supplied directions for infiltrating into Germany. Where necessary, money and clothing are furnished. Though the Jews hope for eventual admission to Palestine, they look for the establishment of a Jewish state in Bavaria if denied access.

Target of bitter Jewish criticism after his charge that Zionist groups were supporting a Jewish exodus from Poland for Palestine, Morgan vigorously denied anti-Semitic sentiments in being restored to the UNRRA fold. Declaring his sympathies were with all displaced persons, he said he did not question the motives of any individuals or groups on resettlement problems.

CARIBBEAN:

Quietly studying the problems of the dependent areas for almost four years, the Anglo-American Caribbean commission will meet at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this month in furtherance of plans to develop in the West Indies a colonial-administration laboratory for economic and social improvements.

Washington Digest

Truman Labors Under New Deal 'Inheritance'



Congress Seen Taking Advantage of President's Rightist Leanings; Lacks Influence of FDR to Put Policies Over.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

It was a cool, crisp winter day. A week before the erratic Washington weather had seduced a whole circle of credulous pansies which pushed their startled faces up from the garden on the White House lawn. Poor bemused flora! They were soon frozen as solid in their beds as the President's labor legislation in congress.

We hurried along Pennsylvania avenue, our coat collars turned up, arguing heatedly as newsmen do when they are released from the inhibitions which seize them the moment they sit down and meet the solemn stare of their typewriter keyboards with that threatening noose, the deadline, tightening about the medulla oblongata.

"The most astounding thing," said one of us, "is the way Truman, with all his experience in congress, can't get along with it. If he would only buttonhole some of the thinkers in the opposition, say Vandenberg in the senate and men like Wolcott in the house, and appeal to their sense of patriotism, he wouldn't have all this trouble."

"It isn't as simple as that," interrupted another, as we paused to show our photographic passes to the guard at the gate (who has known us all by our first names for a decade but who always solemnly studies our cards as if they were all-ases). "It isn't as simple as that. After all, congress has to be realistic in an election year. They are facing real issues. And the President's program isn't realistic."

"Whether or not it is realistic," the third member of the group put in, "after all it isn't his program. He inherited it. It's New Deal and the New Deal is Old Hat now. It doesn't represent Harry Truman's ideas at all but he has to go through with it."

All I felt I could add to those sage observations, without agreeing that the New Deal was Old Hat or the latest Downing Street model, whether it was realistic or modernistic or neo-marxian, was that it certainly is probable that if the President were able to shatter his inheritance to bits and then remould it to something nearer his heart's desire, he could probably put a lot more pep into his selling talk to congress.

By this time we were adding our coats to the huge pile of garments on the great Aquinaldo mahogany table in the lobby of the executive offices and taking our place in the line outside the conference room.

Resentment Shades Chief's Feelings

On this particular day the President started off with the note on which the whole conference was carried. I don't quite know how to describe it. He kept smiling. He didn't lose his temper. But there was just a shade of resentment in his voice and his words. It all sounded more like the later, somewhat disillusioned days of his predecessor, than the merry moments when a Roosevelt interview was always a good show as well as a newsworthy event—I mean the early days before the weight of war descended upon FDR's wearying brow. There is a weight on Truman today quite as heavy, for peace has its miseries as well as war. Just as it was freely predicted that "the United States will never stand for an occupying army for any length of time" (which proved to be so painfully correct), so everyone took for granted that any President in office when the war ended would have an impossible job.

But let's get back to the crowded office of the President on the winter day I am describing. He sat there smiling, exchanging wisecracks with the men in the first row. On the table behind him were the photographs of his family, crowned with a great bunch of jonquills from the White House greenhouse. He looked cheerful enough. The usual signal "all in" was sounded. He stood up and began to talk about what he called a "tempest in a teacup"—the controversy over building an addition to the White House. Personally I think it is the height of folly to continue the ef-

fort (begun by Theodore Roosevelt) to try to house the office work of the President under the roof of "the President's House," but I mention this controversy simply because it reflects the seamy side of White House-congress relations. Many of the President's friends feel that trying to make a modern office out of a beautiful old American colonial residence is folly, but they also felt that much of the furor raised in congress was due to a desire to embarrass Mr. Truman.

Why can't Truman get on with congress? Perhaps because he is a little too much like them. This is merely a hunch but I am not the only one who has toyed with the idea: both congress and the President (I realize that "congress" is a loose term because the legislators are a collection of many men of many minds) inclines farther to the right than the inherited Roosevelt program is targeted. Congress, the part of it that knows Harry Truman well, undoubtedly feels that his heart leans just about as far in the same direction. Therefore, he just can't get these more leftish ideas across. Harry Truman has a tremendous respect for the office of the presidency, a deep feeling of duty to carry out the program which death placed in his hands—a duty and a function he never sought. He cannot toss this heritage into the discard. And he probably reasons that if he feels that responsibility, the members of the party should do likewise. But it must be remembered that it was the powerful influence of a personality which could win an election four times, a task no American had dared to attempt even for the third, which kept congress obedient and even then, toward the end, only faltering.

Truman Reveals His True Self

On this particular day of which I am speaking, I think we heard Truman revealing his true self. He believes that the White House should be enlarged. He resented the opposition which he suspected was at least in part personal and political rather than the product of sincere conviction. I thought I heard that in his voice.

But I also think I heard in his words, a similar expression of his own philosophy, when he said that he thought the present industrial strife was a struggle for power between labor and management. In other words that basically it was not the demands of the men who work for more pay nor was it an objection on the part of industry to pay higher wages, as much as it was a pitch battle between labor leaders and the top men in management to see which could beat the other down.

To one who brags about being middle-class, without even a drop of blood of an Irish king in his veins, it sounded like good, sound (call it stuffy if you want) middle-class resentment. Then the President added that he thought that both labor and management had too much power and it was time for the government to step in and assert the power of the people which government is supposed to represent.

But when we asked the President if and how the government was going to assert itself to exert the "power of the people" to settle the mess, all he said was that he had done all that he possibly could do.

He could have called out the army and the navy, the national guard, the FBI and the United Marching and Social Clubs, and taken over the steel industry the next day. But a step like that, which was no more than the wave of a tapering cigarette holder yesterday, was one which no cautious middle-class, middle-western, middle-of-the-road American would like to take except under duress. (I say that as one such.)

And so congress, part of it responding to the pressure of management and part of it under the pressure of labor, fiddles and flibusters while industry contentedly lives off its fat, labor on union funds or relief and the "people" with all their alleged "power" wonder how long, oh Lord, how long!

BARBS... by Baukhage

"Woodman, spare that tree!... In youth it sheltered me." Remember the poem. Now it's USE that tree, forests produce jobs as well as timber.

Are you a hypochondriac? Perhaps the government can help you. The Maritime commission will sell you a fine life-saving suit for \$15. One piece, from boot to hood.

Farm prices are going up, the Alexander Hamilton institute thinks. They did after the last war and similar trends are evident.

What's a slogan worth? The National Safety Council's "safety first" plus a lot of hard plugging has cut down death from accidents at a rate of 85.5 per 100,000 in 1913 to 71.7 in 1944.



Proper Handling of Insecticides Urged

Best Safety Methods Suggested to Farmers

Simple rules for handling of insecticides include: Take extra precautions in handling and using the more poisonous insecticides, such as the arsenicals and fluorine compounds.

Do not keep insecticides where foods are stored, and see that they are properly marked. When mixing or applying, take extreme care to keep ingredients out of the mouth and eyes. Keep the body well covered. Do

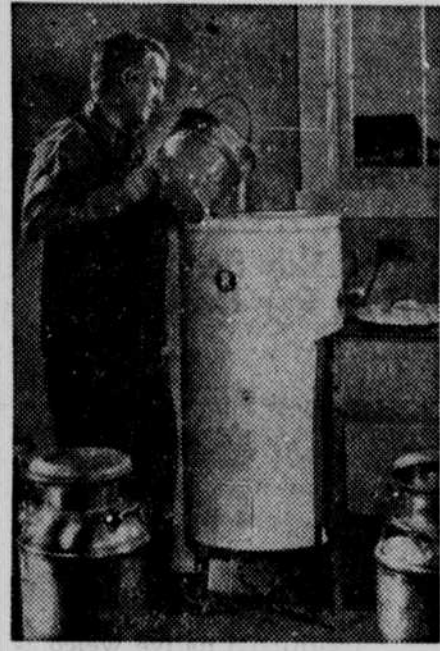


Heavy gloves and goggles are part of safety spraying program. Do not spray or dust with legs or arms and shoulders bared.

Burn empty cans which contained insecticide materials. Guard against leaving residues of insecticides on harvested product.

Most of the insect controls are not good for humans or for farm animals, and some are dangerous. Precautions must be taken in using them, in order to get the best results with maximum safety.

Improved Equipment Water Heater



A portable water heater will be a welcome addition to the farm.

A new portable electric water heater, which needs no water pipe to feed it, has just been announced by Rheem Manufacturing company, San Francisco. It is designed for farms where there is limited or no plumbing.

The new unit can be moved around at will. All it needs is an electric outlet near by. It holds 17 gallons and has automatic control. It can be connected to a water pipe and thereby converted into an automatic heater if plumbing is installed.

Ultraviolet Rays Bacteria Killer

Invisible bactericidal rays sprayed by a new U-shape ultra-violet lamp can reduce the bacteria count in washed milk cans 96 per cent in one minute, according to a recent Westinghouse research report.

The tests were conducted under conditions of contamination more extreme than ever would be encountered in normal service. The unit consumes less electricity than a 25-watt electric light bulb, and should prove of real value in the milk house and dairy plants. Milk cans, although thoroughly cleaned, often pick up infectious organisms from rinse water and air.

This bactericidal rays lamp can be used in many ways about the dairy. Its main purpose is to kill the bacteria in the milk cans. By proper use of the lamp the quality of the milk can be raised and maintained. The cost of operation is very little and its effectiveness great.

Ragweed Injures Peas

Ragweed fragments in contact with peas in lug boxes after vining, has been proven to have an unfavorable effect on the flavor of the peas. They also have an unpleasant odor effect on the peas.

Mayweed, or dog fennel, has also been found to affect the flavor of the peas. However, this weed does not appear to be common to pea fields, being found largely near barnyards. Thus the anathema to hayfever sufferers has another sin.

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