

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Steady Progress Marks Allied Drive In Italy; Repulse Nazi Counter Blows; Steel Producers Open Wage Parleys As CIO Asks 17c an Hour Pay Boost

(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.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CONGRESS: Surplus Funds

Government agencies with unspent appropriations would have to turn their surpluses over to the U. S. treasury under an amendment adopted by the U. S. senate.

Sponsored by Senator Kenneth McKellar (Tenn.) the amendment was part of a \$308,000,000 deficiency appropriations bill later sent to a joint senate-house committee for settlement of differences between the two congressional branches.

The amendment was directly aimed against the budget bureau, which recently took control over \$13,000,000,000 saved by the army out of its \$71,000,000,000 appropriation. The amendment also prohibited the army from transferring 10 per cent of appropriations to other funds.

Said Senator McKellar: "We (congress) don't want to surrender our power to appropriate and designate the purpose for which money shall be spent."

Remove Feed Duties

To encourage additional feed imports for shortage areas, the house passed a resolution removing duties on wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed and hay for a 90-day period.

Although approved by a 255 to 55 vote, the resolution was bitterly contested by many middlewestern congressmen, spearheaded by Representative Frank Carlson (Kan.)



Frank Carlson said: "It will set a dangerous precedent by removing tariffs. It places the American farmer in competition with farmers of every nation of the world that produces these crops."

Further, they contended the action would not increase present imports, already hampered by shipping difficulties.

In advocating passage of the resolution, proponents declared current feed shortages are causing a loss of millions of pounds of milk and poultry production.

LABOR: Open Steel Parley

With the United States Steel company leading the way, more than 150 steel producers agreed to enter into wage negotiations with the CIO, representing 500,000 workers in the industry.

Employing 166,000 workers, the United States Steel company is the nation's greatest producer, operating through five subsidiaries which turned out 21,064,000 tons last year.

CIO demands a 17 cents an hour pay boost to offset rises in living costs which have allegedly increased 23 per cent since January, 1941, while wage raises have been limited to 15 per cent. Present hiring rates are 78 cents an hour.

In the meantime, the independent union of the National Steel company asked a minimum wage of \$1 an hour for 20,000 employees, who three previously had been granted wage increases while CIO and other steel producers haggled over terms.

Senate Votes Boost

An eight cents an hour raise for 1,100,000 non-operating rail workers was approved by the senate by a vote of 74 to 4 and sent on to the house for consideration.

Composed of clerks, machinists, and cleaners, the unions originally asked for a 20 cent increase. A special board appointed by the President recommended an over-all eight cent raise, but Economic Stabilizer Vinson opposed it, proposing a substitute plan embracing a sliding scale ranging from four to ten cents more per hour. This latter schedule would cost the railroads 18 million dollars a year less than the flat eight cent raise.

Opposition to the raise in congress was based on the anti-inflation policy of the administration, Vinson stating that in his opinion, the eight cent increase is a violation of the "Little Steel" formula, limiting wage increases to 15 per cent over January, 1941, levels.

Sen. Clyde Reed (Kan.) said that if the senate rejected the plan the workers would set a strike date, and then the government would have to seize the railroads "within four or five weeks."

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: Pound Marshalls

With Old Glory fluttering over the Gilbert Islands, the U. S. navy went to work on the Marshalls, lying to the west along our communications lines to Australasia.

Taking off from aircraft carriers, planes roared over the Marshalls to drop explosives, while warships hovered 15 miles offshore to pump heavy shells into the islands' strongholds.

Primarily air bases, the Gilberts and Marshalls not only were a thorn in the U. S. supply lines, but they also flanked any Allied movement toward the South Pacific war theater. Their presence posed a double threat to our forces.

As U. S. airmen softened up the Marshalls, the country was saddened by the navy's announcement that one of its No. 1 aces, Lieut. Comdr. Edward O'Hare, was missing in action. During the battle of the Coral sea, O'Hare singly covered an aircraft carrier manned by a Japanese aerial squadron, shooting down five enemy planes.

MEAT SUPPLIES: More to Civilians

Civilians as well as the services will share the increased meat supply under a plan outlined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The BAE also predicted a smaller spring pig crop in 1944, with greatest reductions outside of the corn belt because of feed shortages. While western cattle inventories have not been cut sharply, BAE said, there will be fewer long range stock in the next eight months, and less animals will be fed near beet factories because of the cut in sugar beet feed production.

As a step toward increasing civilian meat supplies, the OPA recently slashed ration point values on veal and lamb, mutton and pork shoulder and loins, and War Food administration lifted restrictions on deliveries of farm slaughtered pork. The services will get a big chunk of increased beef production, partly through acceptance of utility grades.

PRODUCTION: Sees Long War

Declaring 1944 munitions output should rise to a peak of 30 per cent over this year, War Production board's executive vice chairman Charles E. Wilson said the nation would have to make full use of its economic muscle to beat Germany and Japan.

A long, hard struggle lies ahead before Germany will fall, Wilson said, adding: "If anyone still clings to the silly delusion that the Japanese will be a pushover for us . . . let him talk to some of the officers and men who have come back from the Pacific theater . . ."

In 1944, aircraft production should reach a rate of 100 per cent above 1943, Wilson said. Naval construction should hold around this year's level of 75 per cent over 1942. Merchant ship construction should rise slightly. Reductions are planned in ordnance, signal equipment and tank output.

DADS' DRAFT: Million to Go

Because the services will require 2,000,000 men to build up the armed forces to 11,300,000 by July, 1944, approximately 1,000,000 fathers face induction, Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey declared.

The other 1,000,000 men will be obtained by recruiting 100,000 17-year-olds for the navy or marines, and drafting 400,000 18-year-olds, 300,000 formerly deferred because of occupations, and 200,000 reclassified 4F's and farm-exempts.

Deferments will be more difficult to obtain and older workers will be favored, Hershey said. Once the services have attained their goal, only about 100,000 men will be drafted a month, he added.

For the home front, the War Manpower commission trimmed estimates for new workers by 900,000 to 1,100,000.

RUSSIA: See-Saw

Fighting see-sawed in Russia, with the two giants clawing at each other along 600 miles of snowy, wintry front.

To the west of the Ukraine's capital of Kiev, the Russ fell back under the heavy pressure of the Germans, while farther to the south, the Reds chewed deep into Nazi lines above the iron center of Krivoi Rog.

Russian positions along the front disrupted German use of north-south railroads. In the Kiev region, the Reds blocked the line to Leningrad and the north, while in the Krivoi Rog area they snapped a railroad running along the whole German defense system.

METAL SALVAGE

Stock piles of strategic metals are now considered sufficient for any foreseeable needs, apparently, as the Steel Recovery corporation has just been dissolved, its task fulfilled. Only a week earlier, the Copper Recovery corporation began dissolution. Similar action has been taken by the aluminum organization.

There are huge supplies in the hands of thousands of dealers, jobbers, retailers and customers, it is stated. The metal stocks were uncovered by questionnaires.

Washington Digest

'Victory Volunteers' Are Satisfactory Farm-Hands



Most of 700,000 Young People Made Good, Quickly Learning Agricultural Skills, And Working Hard and Long.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

World War II has taught the world that it is one thing to raise an army and another thing to feed it—feed its mouths and feed its guns.

It didn't take the United States long after Pearl Harbor to realize that it was easy enough to find enough sailors and soldiers if you didn't have to worry about finding the civilians to take care of them.

At present 10 men out of every 100 are deferred from military service because industry needs them; 18 out of every 100 because the farmers have to have them. Thirty-six out of every 100 men now in the armed forces were working in shops or factories in 1940. Twenty-three out of every 100 were on farms three years ago.

Industry has charged that congress has been kinder to the farmers when it came to deferring their help than it has been to them. However that may be, you won't hear any farmers complaining about having too much help. One thing, however, according to the reports that have come into the department of agriculture, the farmers are not complaining on one score that a lot of them thought they were going to have to complain about—that is, the help they get from the Victory Farm Volunteers of the U. S. Crop corps.

Many farmers who came to scoff remained to pray for more of the same. Not all of the young folks who worked on farms this summer were perfect. It is estimated that there may have been some 700,000 of these young people, half were provided through the Federal Extension service of the War Food administration, as many more probably found jobs for themselves. Under the leadership of the State Extension service and with the active support of the schools, the youth-serving agencies, civic organizations and farm leaders, these Victory Farm Volunteers were assembled. Most of them made good.

Their story makes an interesting chapter in the history of American youth.

A Huge Task
It was no little job to launch the project. Forty-three state farm labor supervisors and some 5,000 county farm labor assistants, under the guidance of the county extension agents, worked out the plans and procedure based on the local needs. They worked with state, county and often local labor committees.

Of course, training was necessary. The boys and girls were carefully selected and many specially trained and supervised, and the farmers themselves learned that they could train better if they had a little training in the art of teaching themselves. This was provided.

Most of the young workers lived at home and were transported to the farms. This was done in school buses, trucks or cars. Teachers, ministers, youth leaders, acting as supervisors, often accompanied the workers right into the fields.

In some places, boys lived in camps, but 50,000 boys and girls lived right with the families where they worked and many soon became a part of the family, joining its activities, church, grange meetings, dances, picnics. Some liked the life so well, especially those from the big cities, that they stayed right through the winter, attending the local schools.

Of course it was natural that the farmers were skeptical at first at the idea of letting these strange kids overrun their places. But the majority changed their minds when they found how well the experiment worked. The young folks couldn't rival a trained farm worker, but some were able to do much of the work as well, and in some cases, even better. Many farmers arranged to keep the same workers the next year.

I talked to one farmer who took on an utterly green city boy. It was late summer when I saw them both. They were going to part and I can tell you both were pretty blue. School time had come and the boy's parents thought he better come home. He told me that he was going to be a farmer when he grew up and I believe nothing will stop him.

The Cuna Indian tribe of Panama has been persuaded to declare war on the Axis and has gone to work gathering wild castilloa rubber to help the United Nations defeat the enemy.

Fifty million gallons of gasoline, fuel oils, lubricants and other petroleum products are now going directly to the fighting forces every day.

Better Rural Roads
The National Highway Users conference calls my attention to a bill to create within the Federal Works agency a Rural Local Roads administration, independent of the Public Roads administration, to co-operate with the states and their local subdivisions in the construction of rural local roads. It is proposed in S. 1498 by Senator Stewart of Tennessee.

The bill would authorize appropriations of \$1,125,000,000 by the federal government to be made available at the rate of \$375,000,000 a year for each of the three years immediately following the end of the war for construction of all-weather rural local roads.



Poultry Records Aid In Cost Control

Data on Expense, Income Assist Manager

Poultrymen will find that keeping records on the flock as to production and costs of feed and other supplies will give much valuable information to the grower, says C. J. Maupin, Extension poultry specialist at N. C. State college. He points out that this is particularly necessary at this time because of the high cost of feed.

Contrary to the prevailing opinion, demonstration flock records show that the highest average returns above feeding costs are secured on these flocks in the spring of the year when egg prices are often the lowest.

Many growers ask about the feed cost of producing a dozen eggs. The records show that this was lowest in March, April and May, when egg production was highest. The highest cost of producing eggs came in October, November and December when the average production was low and egg prices were high. The average feed cost was 21 cents per dozen during the winter as compared with 12 cents in the spring.

According to Maupin, the records clearly show that good breeding and proper flock management pay excellent dividends. High production per bird means low cost of production per dozen eggs. Cull hens have no place in the laying flock, especially when feed costs are high.

In managing the flock, many growers find it good practice to keep two-thirds pullets and one-third hens. Other poultrymen prefer all of the flock to consist of pullets.

Maupin suggests that every poultryman buy a note book and keep a record of the number of eggs he produces per month and the money he takes in, and compare this with the money he spends on his flock.

Graded Eggs Sell Higher.
Another smart practice to get the highest possible return from your flock is to grade your eggs. Under OPA ceilings, a poultry farmer can get about 15 cents a dozen more for graded eggs. This can easily be done on the farm.

Eggs which are well handled will almost always measure up to the Grade A standard for interior quality. You can grade and sell your own eggs as Grade A without a permit, provided you will gather them from your nests twice a day and keep them in a cool place. The eggs must be candled so that the poor quality ones can be removed.

In candling, the large ends of the eggs should be placed against the hole in the box with the small end tilted down. Twirl the egg before the light and then quickly shift it so as to bring the small end before the light. Any blood spots will usually show up plainly as the inside moves about from the quick turn.

After the eggs have been candled, they should then be divided into sizes. A pair of small egg scales will be helpful in doing this job.

England Uses Tractors



Mark Pigeons That Can Reproduce in Winter

Pigeons which produce squabs during the winter months are valuable and should be marked in some way at this season so that young stock from them can be saved in the future for breeding purposes.

The season of normal squab production is in the spring and early summer when all pairs in the loft are producing regularly, usually at the rate of a pair of squabs each month. During the season of heavy squab production when prices are low, young stock is usually saved for later breeding purposes to replace older pairs that must be removed from the pen from time to time.

Poor pairs of pigeons producing only for four or five months may not have more than eight or ten squabs in a year for market purposes, these being produced when squabs are lower in price. The better pairs will produce from 16 to 18 squabs a year, and it is from these that breeding stock should be saved.

Agricultural Notes

In spite of wartime difficulties the poultry industry must produce approximately 60 billion eggs, four billion pounds of chicken meat, and 560 million pounds of turkey meat this year.

Every fourth person working on farms today is female. A few years back less than one out of a hundred farm workers was a woman.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Try this some time in ginger ale. Put one tablespoon maraschino cherry juice and several of the cherries in each glass. The result will delight.

Look over clothes and household textiles regularly, reinforce weak places and mend small holes before they grow large, and fabrics will last longer.

When the sweetness of cream is doubtful, stir in a pinch of soda. This will prevent curdling even in hot coffee.

To protect yarn or small woolen articles from moths, put them in a tightly covered glass jar or tin can. The jar is preferable as it enables one to see immediately what it contains.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

OPPORTUNITY

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It's Fast!
It's Better than any other dry yeast we ever used, say 8 out of 10 women recently surveyed.

England Uses Tractors
TELEFACT
BRITAIN MECHANIZES HER WARTIME AGRICULTURE
TRACTORS BEFORE THE WAR 40,000
AREA PLOUGHED 12 MILLION ACRES
NOW 120,000
TRACTORS
AREA PLOUGHED 18 MILLION ACRES

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FLEISCHMANN'S DRY YEAST
No Ice-box Needed!

FLEISCHMANN'S FAST RISING DRY YEAST
ACTS FAST! STAYS FRESH!

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SUITOR: A 95-year-old war worker in St. Louis says that after the war he is going to seek another wife. He has been married five times so far.

DRUGS: The Red Cross has arranged for shipment of drugs worth \$97,000 to neutral Switzerland, whence they will be trans-shipped to Holland for distribution by Red Cross units.

CHEWING GUM: A cud of chewing gum is credited with averting a bomber crash over Italy. Flak punctured the gas tank of an A-26 medium bomber, and the crew prepared for a risky belly landing, as the precious fuel drained away. But two gunners patched the hole with chewing gum, adhesive tape, and gauze bandages, and the plane landed safely at its home port.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Doctors have been able to set up a health dispensary to serve workers in the promising rubber-producing Madre de Dios region of Peru as a result of flight service over the Andes. Cargo planes of the United States Rubber Development corporation are flying medical supplies, sanitation engineers, and doctors into the remote country east of the Andes.

The Cuna Indian tribe of Panama has been persuaded to declare war on the Axis and has gone to work gathering wild castilloa rubber to help the United Nations defeat the enemy.

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