

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Heavy Bombers Blast Balkans, Hammer German Industries in France; Jap Forces Advance in India Theater; Congress Studies New Draft Problems

(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.

EUROPE:

Aid Russ

With Allied troops in Great Britain poised for the jump into western Europe, U. S. bombers took to the air to blast the Balkans in conjunction with the Russian armies' advance into Rumania.

In the English Isles, an electrical tenseness was reported as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's high command was said to have set the zero hour, and Allied planes continued to roar over the channel to blast Nazi defenses and industries in France and Germany.

As the Russians edged toward the vital Rumanian oil fields of Ploesti, U. S. bombers thundered over the city from the south to blast railway tank cars filled for the long haul to western Europe. U. S. bombers also dropped explosives on aircraft factories and railroad yards of the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

In Italy, heavy artillery bombardments punctuated bitter ground sparring below Rome at Anzio and Cassino.

Psychological War

Leaving no stone unturned, the Allies have been showering Axis Europe with propaganda leaflets as well as bombs in an effort to undermine German morale and encourage underground resistance in occupied countries.

Flashy leaflets have told the Germans that their surrender during the last war left most of their industries intact, while continued resistance in this war will only result in the complete demolition of their factories. Other leaflets have condemned Nazi officials for failing to provide for evacuation of the civilian population from bombed areas.

Small newspapers dropped in France have informed the people of guerrilla activity, and of the Allied objectives in bombing Nazi targets in the country, while similar publications dumped over Holland have pointed up America's war effort and the heavy assaults on Berlin.

AGRICULTURE:

Egg Supports

To bolster sagging egg markets, War Food Administrator Marvin Jones told a group of mid-western senators led by Senator Wherry (Neb.), that WFA planned to support prices by purchases of from 27 to 32 cents per dozen in distressed areas where handlers paid producers a minimum of 26 cents a dozen.

Declaring that the A's biggest problem was disposal of the eggs, Jones called upon the growers to support legislation for a pool of perishable commodities of parity levels. At present, per-egg price is not so high as it was until evidence detriated with the result that rot often in, Jones said. If the civilian ration would eat one more egg week per person, the surplus problem would be largely solved, Jones added.

Although adequate storage space has been found for frozen eggs, Jones said, production has been influenced by manpower problems. Wherever possible, the government has increased its contracts for the egg, he said.

Canadian Oats

Seeking to relieve the tight feed situation, the War Food administrator arranged for the importation of 2,000,000 bushels of Canadian oats May 15 via rail and the decks. The plan, U. S. railroads first immediately send 75 cars daily of Canadian interior for the 25 more to be sent later, needs for the cars are being handled by the rails which carry them to Duluth, whence they are routed to Chicago and Toledo. From 15 to 20 days' advance would be required for the rail officials estimated.

Competitive bidding between the two cities would bring a grain above the U. S. price, the Commodity Credit corporation might purchase the oats from Canada for resale at prices in the U. S.

PARALYSIS: A vaccine to prevent infantile paralysis may be in process of development at the Mayo foundation in Minnesota. Dr. Carl Rosenow states that he has identified the organism, which he says is a streptococcus in one stage of its growth. He is working on a serum prepared from streptococci and has had some success in making clinical tests.

SOUTH AMERICA:

'Money to Burn'

South America's huge accumulation of gold and foreign exchange, of which dollars form the greatest part, looms as another factor in the promotion of economic activity in the postwar world.

Because South American countries have been sending the U. S. and other nations more goods than they have been able to buy back, the U. S. department of commerce reported they have built up a cash balance of over 2 billion dollars, which will be available for foreign trade when warring powers return to civilian production.

In 1943, the department reported, the U. S. bought \$1,300,000,000 worth of goods in South America, while selling only approximately \$800,000,000, thus leaving the Latin countries with a cash balance of nearly \$500,000,000.

PENICILLIN:

New Plants

Costing \$20,000,000, 21 new penicillin plants in the U. S. and Canada soon will go into the production of sufficient quantities of the magic drug to meet the needs of 250,000 severe cases and 2,500,000 milder ones of the armed forces.

Despite the increase in production, penicillin only will be available to civilians who cannot be treated with the sulfa drugs.

New methods have been developed for making penicillin and costs have dropped 84 per cent within a year, but because the drug is derived from a mold which still must be grown and only small quantities can be refined at a time, demands continue to surpass supplies.

GREAT BRITAIN:

Act Against Strikes

Plagued by strikes which resulted in a loss of 1,000,000 working days in March, the British government drafted an order under which incitement of labor unrest would be a criminal offense.

Even as the government considered drastic action, 70,000 miners in Yorkshire remained idle over deductions from their wages for coal for their homes, and over 20,000 shipyard workers were on strike in Belfast in protest of the jailing of aircraft shop stewards for participating in unauthorized walkouts.

While the government moved to check the strike wave, the Trades Union Congress warned British labor that continuance of work stoppages would imperil an Allied victory.

Before me, I have a document from which I want to quote five lines: "Said one newspaperman to another: 'I'd fall dead if I found a businessman who wasn't in favor of free enterprise.'"

"Replied the other: 'I'd fall dead if I found a businessman who really wanted it.'"

The document quoted from is not a communist pronouncement—it is "The Economic Sentinel" printed by the United States Chamber of Commerce, and it is just part of an educational effort on the part of this body of businessmen, whose objective is (I'm quoting from another pamphlet published by the Chamber of Commerce):

"To develop in every community a group of leaders who really understand, and who can explain and who can convincingly advocate the economic system of free, private, competitive enterprise, or to put it another way, American enterprise."

ITALY: Liberated Italy's six anti-Fascist parties were prepared to participate in a new government when King Victor Emmanuel abided by his reported decision of retiring as actual ruler and designating his son, Prince Humbert, as his lieutenant to represent his interests.

In settling this knotty problem of at least temporarily preserving the institution of the monarchy while still satisfying the demands of the anti-Fascists that the king get out, the king's advisors fell back on an old precedent in Italian history.

Although the Communists who are reportedly vying for control of the defense and police ministries in any new Italian government, recently declared their intention of cooperating with the king, other anti-Fascist elements held fast to their contention that his removal was requisite to the establishment of a strong democratic administration in the state.

U. S. TREASURY:

Record Receipts

Boosted by receipts of \$5,161,000,000 for quarterly income tax payments, the treasury collected \$6,573,000,000 in March, but expenditures also were at a record level of \$8,525,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$1,952,000,000.

Of the heavy expenditures in March, \$7,726,000,000 went directly for war activities, topping the November, 1943, peak of \$7,541,000,000. During March, \$268,000,000 in war bonds was redeemed, representing 38 per cent of the month's sale of \$708,000,000. Plans for the Fifth War Loan drive to get under way June 12 call for a goal of \$16,000,000,000, about \$730,000,000 less than was actually raised during the Fourth campaign. Of the total, individuals will be asked to purchase \$6,000,000,000 worth of bonds, more than they bought during the last drive.

TRAIN BANDITS

In shades of Mexico's more turbulent days of three decades ago, Mexican highwaymen have gone back into business, concentrating on trains bringing back native laborers enriched with hard earned wages from six months of agricultural work in the U. S.

Armed with machine guns and pistols, 60 bandits reportedly held up a train in Sinaloa province, hoisting \$100,000 from 600 homebound agricultural workers and making a clean getaway.

Washington Digest

U. S. Businessmen Try To Define Free Enterprise

Chamber of Commerce Officials Inaugurate Education Campaign Designed to Teach Specific Phase of Democracy.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

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

In the last few weeks in Washington—and in London, too, for that matter—there has been a crescendo demand for an explanation of our foreign policy, and it is reported that a similar cry is going up from the soldiers at the front—What are we fighting for?

Secretary Hull attempted an answer not too satisfactory to his critics. There will be further official efforts at elucidation. But at least one brass-tacks institution whose headquarters is in Washington has come to the conclusion that before we can understand what we are fighting for, we must have a better understanding of what we think we want to fight for. Everybody on the allied side claims that democracy is the common ground upon which all stand but there is considerable difference as to how each one defines democracy.

Leaving the broader international aspects for a moment, I want to report a unique campaign of education whose purpose is to find out just what is meant by one specific phase of democracy about which we hear a great deal, namely, "free enterprise." This organized effort is being promulgated by the one group whose members use that term most frequently.

And, as their leaders admit, frequently don't know its meaning and often do not even subscribe to it—the United States Chamber of Commerce.

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An Important Discovery

The campaign of education among the Chamber's own members has been going on for some time but the general public didn't realize what was happening until they heard Eric Johnston, the president of the chamber, make a speech early in March, copies of which, I am told, are still in great demand.

Mr. Johnston criticized labor but for every one of the "seven deadly sins" which he said labor had committed, he confessed a parallel sin committed by business.

Johnston, in making this speech and in his subsequent writings and utterances, is practicing what his organization has been preaching in the campaign they are now carrying on through the chamber's department of governmental affairs in Washington.

They provide a program which their local chapters can follow, telling how to organize discussion groups, which they point out, should include public officials, ministers, professional men and women and—believe it or not—they strongly recommend the (paid) assistance of a college professor. The purpose is the understanding of that democratic principle—free enterprise.

It was from the document compiled by one of these doctors of philosophy, Dr. V. O. Watts, economic counsel of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, for such group guidance from which I was quoting.

For and Against

If confession is good for the soul, the soul of business in Olympia, Washington (where the quoted lecture was given), must be hale and hearty after hearing Dr. Watts declare:

"A city chamber of commerce opposes restrictions which neighboring towns sometimes place on deliveries of merchandise by city merchants and truckers. Yet the same organization is likely to help erect similar barriers against out-of-state or out-of-town enterprise which might compete with its own industries or merchants."

"Businessmen dislike restrictive policies of farmers and labor unions. Yet many of them say that free competition among themselves would be ruinous. So they lobby for measures to restrict business competition and to legalize price-fixing by government or by their own organizations."

"Chambers of commerce frequently join the clamor for un-economic local projects of the state or federal government on the ground that 'other places are getting theirs; why shouldn't we get ours?' Such chamber of commerce socialism leads to increased tax burdens which correspondingly restrict markets and jobs in free enterprise."

This is the kind of strong medicine which the United States Chamber of Commerce recommends the average American to absorb so that "free enterprise" may be understood. Here is another sample of straight-from-the-shoulder talk:

"Recent corruptions of economic liberty in the United States are not due to the efforts of a few communists or fascists. Instead they chiefly come from the fact that so many of us care only about our own liberties and are indifferent or even hostile to possession of similar liberties by others of our fellow citizens."

In fact, for a momentary gain in higher prices, higher wage rates or government favors, many of us are willing even to sell our own freedom."

I wish I might quote further but space does not permit it for it goes without saying that real "free enterprise," its virtues and its benefits, are expounded in great detail. But this is enough to show you a surprising degree of frankness, a remarkable willingness to think. It is something when the very people who often are loudest in their accusation that "free enterprise" is being destroyed by Tom, Dick, Harry, John (Lewis) et alia, are willing to admit that they, themselves, may be enemies of free, competitive enterprise.

Hitting the Trail

When Eric Johnston arose and declared that labor and management must "hit the sawdust trail together," he started something. But actually he was only carrying on something which his organization—I don't know whether he was the chicken or the egg—had already started. It is a process by which businessmen (and in businessmen, the farmer is included for he is a mighty important part of the American free enterprise system) can get an understanding of what the American system of economic democracy really is and then see whether they are really supporting this American system or not.

I have no idea how successful Mr. Johnston and his colleagues will be but I know some of them are enthusiastic enough to believe that he has rendered a service which makes him eligible as a contender for the job of keynote at the Republican National convention in June and some are even optimistic enough to provide themselves with curry combs just in case they might be called upon to groom a dark horse for the presidential race.

But politics aside, there is cause for rejoicing when anybody sets out to try to define at least one phase of the thing we are supposed to be fighting for and to do some thinking about it. As Leonard Read, general manager of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, said just a few weeks ago:

"We have come to the conclusion that the best contribution we can make to the thinking in our country is to improve our own thinking." Amen to that.

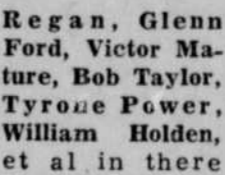
Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

LOVE begins at 40 in the movies these days, which is mighty lucky for our male stars. Collegiate romance went out when war came in. So the majority of men on the screen today with box office names, who get the glamour girls for the final clinch, are all over draft age. Some even get the bobby sox set drooling.

Ever since Uncle Sam's initial call for help in the various United States armed forces, Hollywood's younger actors have been exchanging civies for uniforms. With Jimmy Stewart, Ronald



James Stewart



Regan, Glenn Ford, Victor Mature, Bob Taylor, Tyrone Power, William Holden, et al in there



Janet Blair

pitching for the destruction of Hitler and Tojo, the studios were yowling for male names to woo such lovelies as Janet Blair and Susan Peters on the screen.

Replacement of sturdy heroes was a problem. When producers looked around for new lovers they found the most eligible and best known in the ranks of older players, undisturbed by the selective service act. There was a definite question mark for a while as to how the high school and college gals would react to older men in romantic roles.

A Quick Switch

After a try or two, and a look at the grosses, fear fled. From them on men who had played character roles for years started to pitch woo. Others who hadn't held a heroine in their arms before a camera in years were suddenly given the opportunity to enfold 'em in long and passionate embraces.

There was plenty of love light in the old boys yet.

It was all right with everybody, including the ladies. It seems a man's a man so far as screen love-making goes.

Getting On

There's Ronald Colman, William Powell, Spencer Tracy and Humphrey Bogart left to play love scenes with young cuties. Well, they do, and very well, too. Gosh, haven't they had practice? But no mention has been made about our mature leading ladies and how hard it is to find young men to play opposite them. Suppose we take a gander. Our top screen stars today are Greer Garson, Claudette Colbert, Bette Davis, Irene Dunne, and you must admit they've been around quite a while. To me that's healthy and a sure sign that movies are growing up, because in the old days if a girl was over—say 18—they talked about her life as being over—or at least unable to attract attention.

Returning From Mexico

Millie Korjus of "The Great Waltz" fame begins her American concert tour October 4. She's been living in Mexico City. When she arrives here she'll be an American citizen. Many think "The Great Waltz" was Metro's most beautiful musical. I'm not sure they aren't right... Lewis Milestone done up in unpeeped sweaters running up and down Beverly Hills to take off that poundage, streamlining for action. I can remember the day when he hired a man to wake him and actually pull him out of bed. Joe Cotten plays the lead opposite Ginger Rogers in "Double Furlough," so Dore Schary's search is ended. Cotten goes into Alfred Hitchcock's next but that isn't ready yet.

Waits and Gets Hedy

Ray Bolger waited for the deal he wanted and has signed a term contract with Metro. His first will be "Holiday in Mexico," opposite Hedy Lamarr, with Arthur Freed producing... Sam Goldwyn borrowed Walter Slezak from Twentieth for "Sylvester the Great" with Bob Hope. He'll play a corrupt governor of a Caribbean island. Sam had a Gallup poll taken about the title for that picture. One that came in first was "Princess and the Pirate." That's the one I'd go for, too... Metro's thinking of doing the life of Robert Louis Stevenson. I've wondered why that wasn't done before. What a great man! I hope they'll let Stevenson's grandson, Austin Strong, author of "Seventh Heaven," do the screenplay. He's at Santa Barbara visiting his mother.

Fame At Last for Hedda

The Bed Pan. Fort Bragg's sheet, wants my puss to hang in their rogue's gallery. G. I. Joes asked for it... "Goldwyn's Golden Touch," running in a current magazine, is one of the better stories about Sam, but the real yarn about Sam Goldwyn hasn't yet been written. His golden touch started when he married Frances Howard in 1925. I knew him before—and after... Metro finally has a good script from "Without Love" for Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn.

3-Inch Cannon Is Largest

Gun on Our Warplanes
The largest gun to be mounted successfully in a warplane is a new 75-mm. (3-inch) cannon whose caliber is nearly double that of the 40-mm. aircraft gun which was the biggest before it, says Collier's.

Now being installed in the B-25 Mitchells, this cannon is 9½ feet long, has a recoil of 21 inches and fires a 20-pound shell, a single one of which recently destroyed an anti-aircraft battery and killed all its men.

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'Praying Trees'

In some parts of Asia there are strange trees that "pray," bending toward the ground once every 24 hours.

Olivia de HAVILLAND
star of the Warner Bros. picture, " Strawberry Blonde," recommends Calox Tooth Powder for teeth that shine.

CALOX TOOTH POWDER

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DOANS PILLS

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

BUTANE FOR AUTOS: A Los Angeles man charged with installing equipment in automobiles to permit them to use unrationed butane gas instead of gasoline, has been indicted by the grand jury. Butane is a material in the production of synthetic rubber. Some equipment was sold for as high as \$1,000. At least 40 persons have bought the outfit, it is alleged.

PARALYSIS: A vaccine to prevent infantile paralysis may be in process of development at the Mayo foundation in Minnesota. Dr. Carl Rosenow states that he has identified the organism, which he says is a streptococcus in one stage of its growth. He is working on a serum prepared from streptococci and has had some success in making clinical tests.