

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Win Strengthens F.D.R.'s Hand; Germans Fear New Allied Drive; Storms Slow Pacific Warfare

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(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.)



With U. S. trucks waiting in mud, Chinese coolies work diligently to clear washout of section of Burma road.

DEMS GAIN: F.D.R. Strengthened

In winning a fourth term, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt carried the Democratic party along with him in both the senate and house, where he now appears to be assured of a working majority on both international and domestic issues. Their own positions materially weakened by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's strong stand for an effective international organization to preserve world peace, staunch GOP nationalists were among the defeated, with the result that F.D.R.'s peace program should encounter easier sledding in the senate, where details will be worked out, and in the house where funds will be appropriated.

All of the so-called nationalists did not suffer defeat, but prominent among those that did were Senators Nye in North Dakota, Danaher in Connecticut and Davis in Pennsylvania, and Representatives Fish of New York and Day and Maas of Minnesota.

Although the Democrats failed to make any gains in the senate, they stand just short of a two-thirds majority necessary for ratification of foreign treaties, a margin they may make up by an alliance of such GOP internationalists as Ball of Minnesota.

In the house, however, the Democrats made big gains, increasing their membership to over 240, while the Republicans fell far below their pre-election strength of 210.

Thus, although President Roosevelt's winning margin was below that of 1940, the Democratic victory built around his leadership assumed



Victors over nationalists included Governor Moses who defeated Nye; Augustus Bennett who beat Fish; Brian McMahon who trounced Danaher.

the proportion of a landslide. The successful conduct of the war, the comparative comfort of people despite rationing and the President's intimate acquaintance with Allied affairs—all tended to offset opposition.

As usual, the President drew his greatest strength from the nation's large industrial centers, where efficient political machines like Ed Kelly's of Chicago, Tammany's of New York and Frank Hague's of Jersey City piled up tremendous pluralities which traditional Republican rural districts could not counter-balance. As it was, Governor Dewey did not run as strong in the country areas as was anticipated.

Much credit for getting the vote out in the big industrial centers went to Sidney Hillman's CIO Political Action committee, which undertook to impress union membership with the exercise of their power through the polls.

Abroad, President Roosevelt's election was well hailed in Allied circles.

Said the London Evening Standard: "The result of the election . . . leaves the tasks of winning the war and the larger tasks of advancing Anglo-American-Soviet unity to win the peace in the strong, proven hands of Roosevelt. . ."

MISCELLANY

Film actress Ann Sheridan, losing her wager on Governor Dewey, paraded down Hollywood boulevard in ragged costume and burnt cork on her face.

About 200 farm buildings burn every day in the United States and Canada, and some 3,500 people a year perish in these fires.

CHEESE:

New Markets

With American consumers coming to appreciate the fine quality of domestic production of such cheeses as roquefort, camembert, gorgonzola and Swiss, U. S. producers are expected to obtain an increasing volume of business in these types over importers in the postwar years.

Before the war, imports of European cheese averaged over 50,000,000 pounds annually, with roquefort and camembert coming in from France, gorgonzola from Italy, and Swiss, of course, from Switzerland.

With U. S. epicureans becoming accustomed to American brands of these rarities, however, they are expected to more and more satisfy their taste for roquefort from Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin producers; for camembert from New York and Wisconsin; for gorgonzola from Wisconsin, and for swiss from Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

In prewar years, over-all U. S. cheese production totalled around 700,000,000 pounds, with output soaring to 918,000,000 pounds in 1941.

STEEL:

Expand Capacity

Greatest in the world, the U. S. steel industry made substantial expansion since 1940, adding 12½ million tons to capacity at a cost of over 2 billion dollars, half of which was put up by the government.

As of July 1, figures showed that the capacity of blast furnaces for refining raw ore was raised to over 68½ million tons, while capacity for further processing of iron and scrap into steel was boosted to over 94 million tons.

Most vivid indication of the size of the U. S. industry lies in its comparison with that of other countries, with Germany's prewar capacity rated at around 20 million tons, and Great Britain's at 15 million tons.

Zoot Shoes



Zoot suiters with the long coats and baggy pants with tight ankles have come up with a new one in Los Angeles, Calif.

Their latest are shoes with steel plated soles and heels, two inches thick, which they use as weapons. Chief Jailor Robert Fisher is shown inspecting some of the 100 pair of such shoes confiscated by juvenile authorities.

DISEASE:

'Hold Line'

Although there has been no appreciable increase in the rate of venereal disease in the U. S. since the war, an increase among servicemen in recent months foretells a letdown in the vigorous campaign which has been waged against these scourges, officials said.

Source of great future danger, Surgeon Gen. Thomas Parran of the U. S. public health service said, lies in the spread of these diseases by untreated people throughout the country in the postwar period of migration and possible declination of moral standards.

While the overall venereal disease rate is at an all-time low in the navy, it was said, infection among personnel in the U. S. has increased 24 per cent above 1942. The rate also has taken a jump in the army since January, 1944, it was reported.

GRAIN MARKETS:

Election Spur

With reelection of President Roosevelt precluding the farm bloc's continued control over the administration's agricultural program, prices reacted favorably on grain markets, scoring fractional gains.

Of all grains, only corn failed to respond to election happenings, with the large volume of country offerings in the middle-west tempering prices.

Revival of talk that beverage alcohol manufacturers again would be allowed a temporary holiday from war distillation for civilian production, added to election optimism, resulted in an upswing in rye.

ARMY SURPLUS

Surplus serviceable property varying from nontactical aircraft to snowshoes, is being reported by the war department to government agencies charged with disposal of such goods.

Examples of types of surplus property suitable for other war agencies and for civilian distribution, have included marine engines, wool shearing machines and machine tools, oil drums, automotive spare parts, pavers, graders and cranes.

Washington Digest

War Labor Board Faced With Rising Pressure

Long Buffeted, Agency May Be Swept Aside By Flood of New Cases After Collapse of Nazis.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

The lid is off! Four days before election the tleker, jammed with campaign speeches, paused long enough to announce the strike of the Mechanics Educational society in 20 Detroit plants. There hadn't been much strike news for some time and this item stuck out like a sore thumb.

The reason there had not been much strike news was not because there were not plenty of strikes—three weeks before election they were bobbing up at the rate of 400 a month; 10 a day were being reported to conciliators in the labor department and that didn't include the strikes against the decisions of the national war labor board, itself.

The reason why this bulge in the walk-out record wasn't in front of the reading public's nose was because both parties were taking particular care not to say anything that might look as if it were criticism of a kind that would alienate the labor vote.

Now, as I remarked, the lid is off. But this is only a sample of what is going to happen when Germany collapses. Washington expects when that otherwise happy day comes, it will have to face the job of damming a veritable flood of labor problems. And that flood, many of the insiders believe, will inundate the labor board and probably have the effect of sweeping it into the discard.

Two things badly threaten the board's future. One was the private walkout of the AFL members who simply announced they would not sit in on any decisions on wage raises until the board had handed down a decision on the Little Steel wage formula. That was one blow. Any decision on Little Steel, itself, will be another.

The board knows it is facing a dilemma on that subject.

Although decision in favor of Little Steel (that is, breaking the wage ceiling and giving the steel workers an increase to meet what the unions declare is a rise in the standard of living) would satisfy the steel workers it would start a whole series of demands for increases in other fields.

If, on the other hand, the board refused to adjust the Little Steel formula upward, it would have to face a strike in the great steel industry.

That dilemma is gruesome enough but not too far away is another problem which will arise when Germany collapses and the government war contracts are sharply cut back.

When this happens there are a number of companies which are called "fly-by-night" by some labor officials because their only reason for income is from war orders and their chief reason for existence is the part they play in the war effort, a part which will not have to be played when Germany quits. In any case, it is freely predicted that there will be strikes in these plants, encouraged, aided and abetted by the employers in the hope that their factories will be seized by the government. They may have no further excuse for functioning but there is a possibility that if the government takes them over they can collect something through damage suits thereafter.

This creates a very difficult problem. As you know, when the war labor board hands down a decision its function ends. There is no legal means of enforcing this decision and if it is not complied with, the only recourse of the board is to pass the buck to the White House. If an appeal from that source proves futile, the government has to take over the plant.

Now already the caution has been sounded to the board to be very circumspect hereafter in passing the buck to the White House in such cases. This is the reason: if the White House accepts all of these employer - encouraged strikes and the government takes them over it may find itself owning boards of useless businesses and facing years of litigation.

If, on the other hand, the White House refuses to act, the board

loses its prestige and since it has no legal right of enforcement, it loses its influence.

All of which caused many hard-boiled oldtimers to predict months ago, that no matter who was elected in November, the sands of the war labor board were rapidly running out.

Suggest Postwar Control of Enemy

What shall we do with Germany and Japan?

Who is "we"? I have looked over a sheaf of books and pamphlets, listened to radio broadcasts including one by Vansittart (the number one German-hater) and several apologies of the appeasementists, who think all we need to do is to kiss and make up. If I am part of that "we," I must say that part of us is pretty confused.

There have been many negative arguments offered to propositions proposed.

There have been many bold and conflicting affirmative statements. I know you have to have a negative and an affirmative argument to make a good debate and that is why I am glad to see two men sit down and produce a document, stripped of all emotion, based on hard cold facts put together scientifically, which knocks down and rebuilds up, too. One of the authors is a scholar, a man who has devoted most of his life to long, cold, analytical studies. The other is a man who has an engineering education as a foundation, and a successful industrial career as a background.

The booklet comprises only 117 pages, succinctly summarized, written in simple, straight-forward language, like the title which is "The Control of Germany and Japan." The authors are Harold G. Moulton, a trained economist, head of the Brookings institution, a non-partisan, scientific research organization, and Louis Marlio, a French businessman, who has constructed half a dozen industrial plants in Europe, served on committees of the League of Nations.

This is a book which everyone ought to read. Briefly, the plan it offers is military control (not complete or permanent occupation) with "supplemental economic devices."

This would involve disarmament of enemy countries, with maintenance of substantial allied armed forces at key points only as a last resort; otherwise withdrawal of military forces as soon as possible and the use of a system of detection, to learn of violations of conditions and punitive measures if necessary.

"The United States," say the authors, "is faced with two plain objectives: either to join with a group of nations in a collective program for preventing German and Japanese rearmament and in general developing a universal collective security system; or to rely on an independent defense system adequate to preserve its freedom."

And they conclude that "only by the first means can this country hope to maintain its national independence, or to preserve its system of free enterprise."

Since everybody, even the Vansittartists, who represent the extreme English supporters of a punitive peace against Germany, agree that the peace must be such that it will work best for the whole world, the Moulton-Marlio, which holds strongly to this tenet, is interesting.

I have had many requests concerning the return of war prisoners when Germany collapses. So has the Red Cross. This is what it says:

"The military authorities, of course, are looking forward to the protection of the men as soon as they can be reached in Germany; but the Red Cross will assist the military authorities in every way possible. For this purpose, a special representative of the American Red Cross has been assigned to work with the military authorities in Europe and with other Red Cross organizations there which are no less concerned about the welfare of their nationals.

"The stocks of standard prisoner of war packages amount to over 5,000,000."



Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

"THE hardest thing about making a movie is landing the job to make it." This disarming statement comes from Edmund Goulding, who, if he doesn't know all there is to know about directing pictures, can at least give lessons to nine out of ten of his contemporaries.

What was your favorite picture? "Dark Victory"? "Grand Hotel"? "The Old Maid"? "Rip Tide"? "The Devil's Holiday"? "Love"? "White Banners"? "The Trespasser"? "The Constant Nymph"? "Claudia"?

Goulding directed them all, and many more. Goulding is like no one else here. His technique is his and his alone. He welcomes temperament. The tougher they come the better he likes 'em.

There is so much to write about Goulding that in this article you can get only a glimpse of the man. When I say that he is fabulous I'm pulling my punches.

I'll let Eddie talk. I quote: "Most of the people who have interested me are those who are in some kind of spot. They were either beginning or desperately anxious—Bing Crosby, a natural . . . Constance Bennett, so positive . . . Alex Smith, so nervous . . . Dolores Moran, so green . . . Joyce Reynolds, so young . . . Gig Young, so anxious . . . Geraldine Fitzgerald, so Irishly indifferent . . . Louise Hayward, Noel Coward's tip and mine . . . David Niven, so refreshing . . . Fay Bainter, so scared of the movies . . . Helen Hayes (for whom he wrote "Dancing Mothers") . . . Paul Lukas, so bothered about our language . . . Richard Barthelme, so ambitious. . . Some weird fate brings me into other people's lives when they need me."

"Show me someone trembling, perspiring, fearing they're not good, hoping they will get by—someone to whom the enterprise means life or death—and I become their soldier."

Edmund Goulding

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Smartly Curtaining Your French Doors

HOW to make French door curtains harmonize with the window treatment in a room is a question that always arises. Frequently, over-draperies are omitted for the doors even though they are used for windows. The same glass curtain material is then used as for the windows but a heading and rod is used both top and bottom. However, over-draperies add dignity.

Either a wooden or a metal rod extending well beyond the sides of



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GROVE'S COLD TABLETS

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Milk and its products comprise over 25 per cent of the 1700 pounds of food consumed annually by the average American, figures show.

The British radio says that Germany is now "two million tons short of grain" and that "the imminent loss of Hungarian imports will make a further cut in the bread ration unavoidable."

The production of parts for the repair or renovation of used automatic phonographs and used amusement or gaming machines is again permitted.

Hitler has ordered the resumption of the award of a "German defensive rampart badge" to construction workers on frontier fortifications.