

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Armies Squeeze Nazis As Big Three Map Knockout Drive; AFL, Industry Buck Labor Draft

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.)



With one member carrying cumbersome anti-tank weapon, Berlin home-guarders mobilize for action as Russ march on capital.

EUROPE: Plan Knockout

As Swedish reports played up a big shakeup in the German government in an effort to form a more respectable regime for approaching the Allies for peace, the Big Three conference continued in the Black Sea area, with Messrs. Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin announcing completion of plans for the knockout of the Nazi military machine.

Although Hitler would remain as the head of the German state under the proposed shakeup, actual power would pass into the hands of wily Fritz von Papen, ace diplomat and Reich chancellor before the Fuehrer's ascension to dominance. Although a conservative in tone, Von Papen, reports had it, would have as Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht, who devised the Reich's



Chieftains Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill in confab.

complex prewar barter system, by which the Reich attempted to do business without formal exchange.

In agreement on military plans, the Big Three also were reportedly in harmony on postwar occupation of Germany, with Britain taking over the northwest, the U. S. the southwest and Russia the east.

Twin Thrusts

While the Russians drove in from the east, the U. S. and British undertook a large-scale offensive in the west, with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's Tommies attempting to outflank the Siegfried line terminal of Kleve on the northern end of the front and move down the Ruhr valley.

Following 11 hours of intensive aerial and artillery bombardment, Montgomery's forces, paced by tanks and flame throwers, fought deep into the Reichswald forest screening Kleve, while the Germans rushed up reinforcements in an effort to curb the offensive. Not only would a British breakthrough imperil the industrial Ruhr valley, but it would place the Tommies at the rear of Nazi troops holding a line against the U. S. First and Third armies farther south.

While Montgomery's offensive mounted, the First and Third armies continued to chew deeply into the once formidable Siegfried line, with the battering Yanks encountering new earthwork defenses beyond the west wall's concrete bunkers, pill-boxes and tank-traps. Strongpoint after strongpoint in the Siegfried line fell as the Nazis appeared to be falling back into the earthwork system, stretching as far back as the Rhine in some places.

Attack in West

While a great battle raged for the battered Prussian stronghold of Berlin, another great and equally important fight flared for Silesia's interior industrial district.

In pressing their great offensives along the sprawling eastern front, the Reds threw numerous bridge-heads across the Oder river, whose ice-packs were thawed by warm winds. With artillery laying down heavy barrages, Red armored columns, backed by waves of in-

Washington Digest

Calls 'Hydromania' Threat To U. S. Water Resources



Expert Charges Disregard for Natural Values In Engineering Projects; Sees Danger To Wild-Life Especially Acute.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

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

As the prospects of fat public works budgets for the postwar area arise on the Washington scene, the planners, big and little, rush up to drop their pet blueprints into the hopper.

Recently, I witnessed the preliminaries of a counter-balancing move, something that might be called a prophylactic effort to save some of the beneficiaries of governmental projects from being killed by too much kindness. This effort is embodied in a bill presented by Rep. Karl Mundt of South Dakota, and I heard a sort of informal preview of some of the testimony that will be offered before the committee on rivers and harbors in its behalf.

The bill is H.R. 519 and it deals with protection against pollution of the country's waterways. It was in the course of the preview discussion that I heard another affliction, "hydromania," a cure for which may be harder to find. It is said to result from "overindulgence in damming." It is not mentioned in the Mundt bill but the connection is obvious.

The purpose of Mr. Mundt's measure is as follows:

"To prevent pollution of the waters of the United States and to correct existing water pollution as a vital necessity to public health, economic welfare, healthful recreation, navigation, the support of invaluable aquatic life, and as a logical and desirable postwar public works program."

As I say, Mr. Mundt doesn't mention hydromania in his bill, but one of his close friends who had much to do with writing the legislation has. He is Kenneth Reid, executive secretary of the Isaac Waiton league. Since the proposed legislation has also to do with the problem of protecting our piscatorial and aquatic life, I want to quote a few of Mr. Reid's observations on one kind of "killing with kindness" which frequently accompanies over-generous government spending.

Mr. Reid I should call a "hydrophile," for he ardently pleads the case for what he refers to as "the orphan stepchild" of our natural resources—water. Conservation of the land is pretty well understood but water, says Mr. Reid, "has been dammed and diverted, drained and polluted, stolen and wasted, with utter disregard of existing natural values, with blind unconcern for its biological functions and its public, aquatic and recreational values."

"From the early days of our nation down to the present time," he continues (and this is where hydromania comes in), "water has run the gamut of a horde of engineers (whether private or governmental, makes no difference) who see in a running stream or a sparkling lake only the material uses to which the water can be put."

Existence of Fish Menaced

Reid is an engineer himself and is not unsympathetic with the great achievements of his profession. But his colleagues sometimes outrun their zeal and he appears perturbed lest postwar public works activities threaten our lakes and rivers, their natural beauty and all that is in them.

What he is fighting is the kind of engineering activity, stimulated by grants-in-aid from the federal government, which will damage the waterways and their inhabitants, flora and fauna. On the other hand, he is all for the encouragement of constructive construction which will work in the opposite direction.

He thinks we have overdone the damming; he questions the economy of reclaiming land at a great capital cost per acre with certain irrigation projects. These, Reid opines, likewise often destroy fish by cutting them off from their spawning grounds. He mentions the dams in the Columbia river which, he says, threaten a ten million dollar annual salmon take.

That is the effect of hydromania resulting from well-intentioned and unselfish but unwise use of the engineering art. He points out that anything which kills fishes and interferes with the nation's wildlife is interfering with one of the nation's

major industries. He estimates that the total expenditure in hunting and fishing, including licenses, equipment and other incidentals, reaches a billion dollars a year and therefore constitutes a major American industry and one which should be protected.

Reid also stresses the esthetic and recreational values destroyed in the building of great dams and reservoirs as well as by the pollution of streams.

Pollution Health Peril

The security feature which has been emphasized in the present war when the bombing of dams has caused such destruction, is another argument seized upon by Mr. Reid. His specific example of this phase of the argument sent a shudder down my back when he offered as an illustration the construction of 14 major dams in the Potomac watershed which was strongly advocated recently. If this project had gone through, he told me, my home town and the seat of our government would have been made "extremely vulnerable to air attack through breaching of the big dams that would be immediately above Washington."

"The engineer's desire," says Mr. Reid solemnly, "to pour concrete in prodigious quantities, impound great areas of water behind magnificent monuments to engineering, dig ditches and canals, bore tunnels and otherwise remake the landscape of America, is quite irrepresible."

However, what he and his colleagues are now most concerned in eradicating is pollution and that, I think, will meet the approval of most people even if they won't go all the way with Mr. Reid concerning hydromania.

Protection against pollution, the proponents of the Mundt bill insist, "won't cost a thin dime" because the money saved by eliminating the need of purifying polluted water will more than make up for it.

Besides destruction of aesthetic and property values, it is pointed out that pollution is a growing menace to health. The Mundt bill would give the states every chance to clean up their own situations but, it is argued, "since streams flow by gravity without any regard for state boundaries pollution is logically and constitutionally a matter for federal control."

Provisions to take care of these various angles are included in the Mundt bill. Such measures in the past have been thought by some communities which thought it was cheaper to dump their sewage in the rivers, and by industrial plants that felt the same way.

Although machines compete with humans and with horses and mules in this war, the dog, never before used officially by American forces, has become the competitor of mechanized devices.

A dog, by his sense of smell, can detect a strange presence at 500 feet. Up to October 1 of last year the army, coast guard and marines had used over 9,000 trained dogs.

The first thing a K-9, as they are called, learns, is to be a one-man dog. They won't accept food from any but their masters nor will they allow anyone else to pet them. Then the training gets more complicated and includes even parachute jumping. But there is one thing that these otherwise clever animals cannot be taught, namely, to tell enemy troops from their own. This has one advantage, however — they don't treat a German wearing an American uniform any differently than if he weren't an enemy in disguise. Soldiers sometimes do.

Demand for farm products is likely to continue at present wartime levels throughout most of 1945. Regardless of the course of the war the demand for many farm products, at ceiling prices, may continue to exceed supplies in 1945.

Consumers' food costs in large cities in recent months have been slightly lower than they were in mid-summer. The index for November, 1944, was 136.5 as compared with 137.7 in August and the peak of 143.0 in May, 1943. Nonfood costs have been following a somewhat different trend.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Russians had a chance to get "on to Berlin" before the rest of us in more senses than one. Until they could lick 'em they were smart enough to join 'em.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and a chain-smoker's chain is no longer than the line he has to stand in to get the links to chain-smoke with.

The character of the Jap boy, says the Infantry Journal, is patterned after the carp. He is taught to fight his way everlastingly upstream. And waiting to catch him, they might add, is a Yank with a bayonet.

Now that there is a shortage of fat-back there will be a shortage of grease to turn in to get coupons to get fat-back with.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

Add Bolero to Sun-Back Dress



Sunback Dress.

THIS smart sunback frock has a gay over-shoulder ruffles to give it a jaunty air. A "cover-up" bolero is included in the pattern which adds up to an ideal mid-summer outfit. Make it in polka dots or bright checked cottons.

Pattern No. 1983 comes in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 12, with ruffles, requires 3 1/2 yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric; 7 yards rick rack to trim ruffles and skirt; plain dress, 3 1/2 yards; bolero 1 1/2 yards.

Ignorance Paid a Big Dividend to Tom Edison

When Thomas Edison first began to attain fame, his innocence in money matters often worked to his advantage.

"Will you take 30 thousand for the patent?" asked an English company, referring to one of Edison's inventions.

"Don't accept that offer," urged his friends. "It's not enough."

"Nonsense," disagreed Edison. "The thing isn't worth a third of that. They can have it."

A few weeks later Edison received a check for \$150,000 which made him sputter. For Edison had been thinking in terms of American dollars.

To Relieve Bad Cough, Mix This Recipe, at Home

Big Saving, No Cooking, So Easy. You'll be surprised how quickly and easily you can relieve coughs due to colds, when you try this splendid recipe. It gives you about four times as much good medicine for your money, and you'll find it truly wonderful.

Make a syrup by stirring 2 cups of granulated sugar and one cup of water a few moments, until dissolved. No cooking needed—it's no trouble at all. (Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, instead of sugar syrup.) Then put 2 1/2 ounces of Finex (obtained from any druggist) into a pint bottle. Add your syrup and you have a full pint of medicine that will amaze you by its quick action. It never spoils, and tastes fine.

This simple mixture takes right hold of a cough. For real results, you've never seen anything better. It loosens the phlegm, soothes the irritated membranes, and eases the soreness. Finex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, well-known for its prompt action in coughs and bronchial irritations. Money refunded if it doesn't please you in every way.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.  
539 South Wells St. Chicago  
Enclose 25 cents in coins for each pattern desired.  
Pattern No. .... Size .....

Expensive Ore

Between 1939 and 1944, the price of wolfram, or tungsten ore, increased from \$300 to \$20,000 a ton in Spain and Portugal, through the bids of Allied agents who were instructed to pay any price for this indispensable war material to keep it out of the hands of Germany.

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It's Home, Sweet Home, for Vets

The first problem which will face the returning serviceman and one which is a necessary first step before he embarks on his postwar career, is a decision on the place in which he is to live. To this question, the great majority of the men have given the answer "We're going back home," according to a report of the army service forces.

every ten white enlisted men expect to return not only to the same region, but also to the same state in which they lived before the war. Only one in ten anticipates moving to another state; the remainder are still undecided. Negro enlisted personnel tend to be somewhat more migratory. Only about two-thirds expect to go back to the same state in which they lived in civilian life.