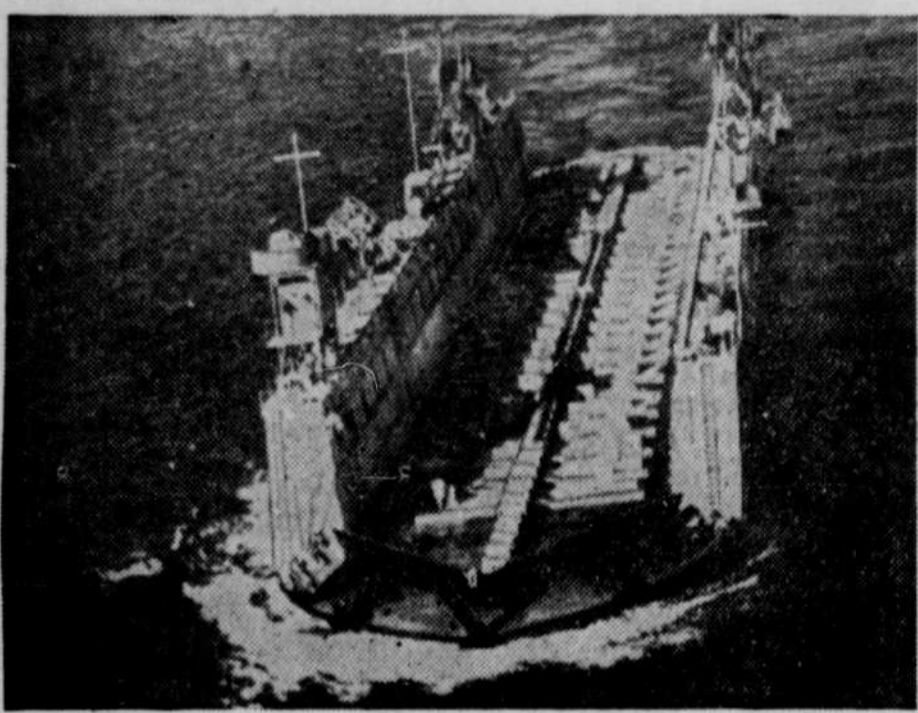


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Japs Fight to the Last on Iwo; Lend-Lease Aids Russ Assault; 9,000 Planes Pace Push on Nazis

(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.)



Floated to wherever it is needed, this huge drydock submerges to permit entry of vessel, which is then secured to keel blocks. Upon rising, the drydock lifts the ship from water and allows workers to service the vessel.

PACIFIC: To the Last Man

Entrenched in caves, well equipped with light and heavy guns and ordered to fight to the last man, Japan's 20,000 defenders of tiny Iwo Jima island put up a fanatical, though hopeless, fight for this tiny stepping-stone to Tokyo in the face of an overpowering marine assault supported by the thundering bombardment of U. S. naval vessels and aircraft.

Far to the south U. S. army troops, mopping up remnants of Japanese opposition in Manila, encountered equally fanatical resistance in bitter close-quarter fighting, typified by the wild action inside the Manila hotel, where Yanks shot it out upstairs, through corridors and in rooms to clean the enemy from the top floors.

Iwo Jima's airfields, from which the Japs threatened the advance U. S. base in the Marianas 800 miles away, were the prize objectives of the marine assault, which carried clear across the southern end of the island in the early fighting. Holed up in the rolling country, and wiped out only after intensive fire, the Japs exacted a heavy toll of the invaders, with losses far above those suffered at Tarawa.

Inside Japan

From inside Japan came reports of a lowering wartime living standard of a country noted for frugal accommodations in peace, and of a rigid civilian discipline. With 20 per cent less food than before the war, each Jap has been restricted to monthly allotments of a half pound of sugar, four pounds of vegetables and 20 pounds of rice. Matches, medicine, gasoline, fuel and clothing are rationed, and the nation's women are asked to cut off their kimono sleeves and wear overalls to ease the apparel pinch. All men between 12 and 60, and unmarried women between 12 and 40, must register for compulsory labor, and employees must report for work in war plants despite air raids.

WAGE BOOSTS: Held Up

Inter-governmental wrangling complicated recent War Labor board decisions boosting worker incomes within the framework of the stabilization program pegging general wage increases to 15 per cent of January, 1941, levels.

In the cases involving 145,000 packing-house and 50,000 textile workers, WLB grants were held up until settlement of WLB's dispute with office of Economic Stabilizer Director Vinson over necessity of OPA to determine whether any pay boosts would require a markup in distributors' costs, thus affecting the price control program.

In passing on the packing-house workers case, WLB called upon the companies to bear the cost of employees' clothing, tools and upkeep of implements, and also directed that the guaranteed work week must be extended from 32 to 36 hours. In the case of the textile workers, the WLB increased the minimum wage from 50 to 55 cents an hour and granted a flat 5 cents an hour boost to preserve present geographical and job differentials.

News Curiosities...

Army records show that young men of the present generation are about two-thirds of an inch taller than their fathers who fought in World War I. In the age group 20 to 30 years, the proportion of men 5 feet, 10 inches or over is 27.5 per cent, as against 22.4 per cent in 1917. The proportion of six-footers today is 8.8 per cent, compared with 6.5 in the last war, it was found.

LEND-LEASE: Over 35 Billion

With lend-lease reaching an all-time high in the first half of 1944 due to preparations for D-Day and the great Soviet winter offensive, such aid for the whole year reached almost 15 1/2 billion dollars and a grand total of over 35 billion dollars since going into effect.

In recounting lend-lease aid, Foreign Economic Administrator Leo Crowley pointed out that the U. S. has shipped 362,000 motor vehicles alone to Russia, and that on some parts of the eastern front American trucks are carrying more than one-half the supplies for Red troops. In addition, Crowley said, Russia has received 12,000 planes.

Compared with Russia, Britain has received 80,000 vehicles and 8,500 planes, Crowley revealed, but other shipments have made the United Kingdom the largest recipient of lend-lease, with 43 per cent of the total. With the opening of the new supply road from India to China, the U. S. expects to materially boost deliveries to the latter, with plans calling for shipment of 15,000 trucks.

Mentioning that it took only 1 1/4 per cent of cigarette production, and less than 1 per cent of the beef supply, Crowley said that lend-lease was not a determining factor in civilian shortages.

EUROPE: Air Help

Massing almost their entire strength, Allied air chieftains threw upwards of 9,000 fighters and bombers at Nazi targets on both the western and eastern fronts in support of ground troops hacking forward against stubborn opposition. Disruption of enemy communications feeding their embattled forces in the west and Italy was the objective of the 7,000 planes the U. S. and British sent out, with the heaviest cascading tons of explosives on rail yards and the fighters swooping down out of the skies to shoot up locomotives, freight cars and motor vehicles.

Fortifications as well as communications were the targets of some 2,000 Russian planes in the east, with much of the bombardment concentrated against the enemy in East Prussia, where the Nazis put up a stiff fight to hold open the Baltic port of Pillau above besieged Königsberg.

In the ground fighting in the west, the whole front was aflame as the U. S. 9th and part of the 3rd armies drove for the Rhineland with its all important industry, while the other part of the 3rd and the 7th armies clamped a tightening vise on the Saar basin with its rich coal and iron deposits. As the Yanks slugged forward in stiff fighting, British and Canadian Tommies continued to make slow, but steady, progress at the far northern end of the Siegfried line, enveloping the vital road hub of Calcar, upon which German defenses turned for preventing a sweep to the rear of their whole Rhine, land front.

In the east, German women, in furs and plain clothes, were put to work building barricades in Berlin as Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian army drew up from the south on a line with Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian force for the grand assault on the Nazi capital. Meanwhile, the Reds continued to press their attacks against German forces threatening the flanks of Konev's and Zhukov's armies.

Valuable State

Saxony, which is feeling the pressure of Soviet might, is the western neighbor of Soviet-conquered Silesia. It is one of Germany's most valuable states, ranking third in population and sixth in area. It led the Reich in the production of textiles, used its farms and forests thrifty, profitably worked mines among the oldest in Germany, made Dresden china known throughout the civilized world. Roughly triangular, Saxony is a little larger than Connecticut.

LABOR DRAFT: Weaken Bill

With compulsory work legislation bitterly opposed by labor and industry alike, a weakened labor draft bill received careful senate consideration after hasty house passage of a sterner measure.

With the senate discarding the house measure under which local draft boards could order registrants from 18 to 45 into essential war jobs at the risk of induction or fine and imprisonment in case of refusal, it took up a substitute empowering the War Manpower commission to limit employment in establishments and channel excess workers into war industry.

Though milder in form than the house measure, even the substitute bill ran into strong opposition because of the stiff fines and imprisonment provided for violation of the WMC rulings. In helping draw up the bill for whole senate consideration, Kentucky's Senator "Happy" Chandler said he favored the incorporation of stiff punishment "... so any senator would be justified in voting against any manpower bill before the committee..."

Nurses Face Call

With recent recruitments falling below needs, the house moved to draft unmarried nurses from 20 to 44 years of age, with some members seeking to provide sufficient safeguards to maintain essential hospital services at home.

Under the bill's provisions, drafted nurses would be commissioned second lieutenants in the army and given comparable rank in other services, but they would be subject to duty in whatever kind of nursing most needed.

Of the nation's 240,000 registered nurses, approximately 60,000 are now in the services. There was recent need for an additional 20,000 to help meet needs occasioned by mounting casualty lists.

Late Delivery



Three hundred and seventy-five days after conception, 25-year-old Mrs. Daylah Hunter of Los Angeles, Calif., gave birth to 6 pound, 15 ounce baby daughter in one of the most unusual cases in medical annals. The average period of gestation is 280 days.

Countering scoffers, Dr. Daniel Beltz, the attending physician, declared that careful examination had first indicated birth by last November. "I am convinced there definitely was a stoppage of growth between the third and sixth month of pregnancy," he said. Closest approach to the case in his records, Dr. Beltz said, was a pregnancy of 359 days.

CURB NIGHTERIES: Seek Revision

As War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' order closing night clubs, saloons, road houses, theaters, dance halls and other places of entertainment to conserve fuel went into effect, operators planned a counter-proposal under which they would shut down on Sundays and keep open to 2 a. m. weekdays.

In pushing the proposal, operators claimed that it would not only accomplish the purpose of saving 25 hours a week of fuel use, but also permit them to keep their doors open by appealing to the late theater crowds and the merry-makers who start spending money around midnight.

In anticipation of the shorter hours and smaller crowds, New York night clubs released 5,000 of their 50,000 employees as the order went into effect, and the famed Diamond Horseshoe proprietor, Billy Rose, wailed: "The way it stands now, this will put us all in bankruptcy."

OIL:

U. S. Reserves While taking over 1 1/2 billion barrels of oil out of the ground in 1944, the U. S. discovered reserves of 2 billion barrels during the year, the American Petroleum Institute reported, to bring the country's known surplus pools of this vital mineral to over 20 billion barrels.

In discussing the reserve situation, the institute cautioned against trying to estimate the period of time known surplus pools would last, explaining: "... Known oil can be recovered only over a period of many years and at gradually declining rates..."

Leader in 1944 production with an estimated 747,790,000 barrels, Texas also leads in reserves with 11,375,480,000, or half the total. Next in line is California, with output of 311,771,000 barrels and reserves of 3,344,552,000.

DAIRY OUTLOOK

Despite a probable slight increase in total milk production, supplies of dairy products available for civilians on a per capita basis during 1945 probably will be less than in 1944 but about the same as in 1943 on a whole milk equivalent basis. Per capita butter consumption is likely to be at a record low of about 10.5 pounds compared with 11.8 pounds in 1944 and a 16.7-pound pre-war average. However, fluid milk and cream consumption probably will be at a record level.

Washington Digest

U. S. State Dept. Seeks to Bring Diplomacy in Open

Assistant Secretary MacLeish Resolved to Inform People of United Nations Dickerings; Plans to Develop Public Interest.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

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

By the time these lines are in print the biggest publicity job for the biggest institution the world has ever planned will probably have been launched by the heretofore least publicity minded department of the government—the state department. It is a "build up" for the meeting of the United Nations to be held in San Francisco, April 25.

I am writing this a few minutes after returning from the office of the man who is planning the program, Archibald MacLeish, assistant secretary of state.

The location is journalistically familiar to me and it lies nearby. Only one block, then across Lafayette park, across Pennsylvania avenue and then along almost another block of to-me very familiar marble corridors. I have had many interviews in that ancient, impressive rococo state department building, but never one in which a member of the staid and conservative institution stuck his neck out further and with such abandon. MacLeish is the father of the plan I mentioned—by means of every available publicizing medium, what the international gathering on the Pacific coast is all about.

Assistant Secretary MacLeish has announced as his creed, "no foreign policy can succeed in these days unless it has the full understanding and support of the people."

Sets Stage for Open Covenants

To put his words into deeds he has planned a program which will set the stage at San Francisco for "open covenants openly arrived at," that theory, so noble in its conception, which Woodrow Wilson proclaimed but found himself unable to put into effect when it came to foreign affairs. MacLeish has gone all the way out on a very tenuous limb and he realizes where it will leave him if the meeting in San Francisco crawls into a cavern of secrecy and pulls the cavern in after it.

"Foreign relations" are traditionally established and carried on by diplomats who are trained to work in the dark. Like mules in mines, they probably would not be able to see the most persuasive argument if it were displayed in the light of pitiless publicity. And, it is freely admitted, it would be highly impractical to carry on all international relations in front of a news-reel camera and in earshot of press and radio. One doesn't wash one's linen, soiled or otherwise, in public and the board of directors doesn't meet in the presence of the stockholders.

But MacLeish believes there can be a compromise and he is going to risk the unpleasant reaction that might take place if it fails. He is going to insist that the dignified and discreet state department use up-to-the-minute press agent methods to prepare the people for the San Francisco meeting. And then, if the meeting goes underground on them it will just be too bad, MacLeish says.

The public is already keenly interested. Hundreds of organizations have besieged the department with questions, demands for material for debate and discussion, explanation, interpretation. Schools, churches, labor unions, business associations all want information on what really happened at Dumbarton Oaks, Teheran, Yalta—and what's next.

With a pretty good idea of what the public wants to know the state department is preparing a set of outlines on such topics as: "War: how can we prevent it?" (the main purpose of the UN) "Prosperity: how can we attain it?" (that takes in the economic plans such as the monetary program agreed upon at Bretton Woods, the function of the proposed international economic council, credit for reconstruction...)

Another topic, "Social Progress: how can we work for it?" will explain the various programs for health and education which have been discussed here and elsewhere. There are other documents including a short explanation in simple language of exactly what was agreed upon at Dumbarton Oaks and is to be discussed at the San Francisco meeting.

BARBS... by Baukhage

The supply of German wines has been reduced 37 per cent. That may be just propaganda to keep the G.I.s out of the country.

The Nazis say that Marshal Petain, now in a southern German town, displays "an undiminished agility of mind," but probably too Viehyated to leap back into French popularity again.

There will be other forms of publicity through the press and radio and a movie picture projecting the story of the United Nations some 20 years into the future, showing how it is hoped that the organization will fit into the world of tomorrow.

Communications Broaden Interest

By the time the San Francisco meeting begins its deliberations it would be fair to assume that the general public will have heard enough about its purpose to have considerable curiosity concerning what goes on at the negotiations. In other words, it will become "must" news and press and radio will hammer loudly on any doors that are closed too long. Mr. MacLeish's theories will have an excellent opportunity for a very thorough test. If the doors don't open he will be decidedly on the spot.

The reason he insists on this bold, frontal attack on the "open covenants" problem is because he believes the world is confronted with a condition and not a theory.

"Modern electrical communication," he says, "has in fact created the Parliament of Man about which Tennyson dreamed."

"It is possible to dislike the Parliament of man," he explains. "There are those who do dislike it—who would like to return to the old system of foreign relations conducted exclusively through the chancelleries in secret codes. But it is impossible to ignore that the Parliament of Man is now convened in continuous session, thanks to public channels of communications, without rules of order, limitations of debate, or privileges of the house and those who refuse to take account of its proceedings may wake and find that those proceedings have taken no account of them."

Of course, the press has been fighting to achieve just such a kind of free news sources as MacLeish is talking about. They almost had to push back bayonets to get within shouting distance of the international food conference at Hot Springs which produced UNRRA; they have fought and occasionally won, for a slackening of the censorship on war news. But I attended a luncheon not long ago when MacLeish outlined his theories and I saw more than one mouth go down in cynical doubt of his possible success.

He is aware of this feeling, aware of the pressure of tradition and of habit, but he intends to go ahead. And one thing that gives him more aid and comfort than anything else is the widespread and happy admission that the report on the Yalta conference was so much more frank and detailed than anybody had dared hope.

Perhaps MacLeish's neck is not too far, after all.

One of the greatest difficulties which any governmental institution meets in deciding on a course of action which doesn't have to be submitted to an actual vote either of the people or of congress, is an ability to judge public opinion. Frequently, the tendency is "when in doubt leave out."

The army pursued that policy in regard to the acceptance of Negro nurses for a long time. Finally, either by force of necessity or good guessing, it ruled that Negro nurses were eligible. A few weeks later along came the results of a poll taken by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver—a nonpartisan, noncommercial organization whose reputation is high among the professional poll-takers.

It confirmed the army's judgment by revealing that the majority of those white, civilian adults, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, in cities, towns and rural areas, questioned, said "yes" to the following question:

"If you were sick in a hospital, would it be all right with you if you had a negro nurse, or wouldn't you like it?"

The majority—57 per cent said "yes," 1 per cent was "undecided." Of the "yessers," 3 per cent said if they had a choice, they would take a white woman. Only 4 out of 10 southerners said "yes," which seems strange since so many of them had "mammies."

Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

RED-BLOODED girls with plenty of vim, vigor, intrigue, and mischief in their makeup are about to supplant the long cycle of admirable women who have held the foreground in motion pictures for the last two years.

And to Ernst Lubitsch, who has created many vagues in the 30 years he has been in our business, goes credit for the initial venture in 1945.

Shortly you will see Tallulah Bankhead in the red-blooded role of Catherine in Ernst Lubitsch's "A Royal Scandal." Catherine was a character both in history books and the Lubitsch film. She always got



Tallulah Bankhead

her man. Her technique was direct as the archer's arrow. Her methods fell short of murder—at least so far as her screen credit

in this one goes—although the boys who wrote the textbooks gave her wider latitude.

"Catherine might be said to represent the wish dreams of all women, especially the very repressed and quiet ones," said Lubitsch with that merry, naughty twinkle which is as much a part of his trademark as his big black cigar or his trick of making box office hits.

That Bankhead Touch

"Of course, Hedda, Bankhead makes Catherine a little more attractive than any other actress could possibly make her. Because the Bankhead influence is a highly contagious thing, either on the stage or in films, every woman comes out of the theater colored by the Bankhead influence."

Since this is a day of action for women, with more females active outside the home than at any time in American history, I can see where the Catherine type is singularly timely, and I'll agree with that. We've had a spate of saints and scientists, from Jennifer Jones in "The Song of Bernadette" to Greer Garson in "Madame Curie." We've had cozy Mrs. Miniver and noble, strong-hearted wives like Claudette Colbert in "Since You Went Away." We've had Maria Veronica in "The Keys of the Kingdom" and Irene Dunne's two characterizations of admirable women in "The White Cliffs of Dover" and "A Guy Named Joe." And as the motion picture industry seldom stands still sufficiently long to allow moss to grow on the pavement before the box office window, I can see where a radical change will be good all the way around.

Since Twentieth Century - Fox is snapping up all the best sellers—they now own a list of 20 or more—and since the trend of current literature is toward meretric heroes and heroines, Darryl Zanuck will be the first to inaugurate the new vogue on the screen.

Little, but O, My!

Gene Tierney will draw one of the outstanding examples of this new type in the role of Ellen in "Leave Her to Heaven." Ellen is a girl with a will of reinforced concrete. She has no scruples whatsoever, even when it comes to shoving a little lad out of a boat when he interferes with her share of her husband's time and attention. Make no mistake, there are such women.

If "Forever Amber" can be scripted in a way to skirt possible Hays office objections this will be a role to end all roles of the type. Practically any star you want to name in Hollywood would give her eye teeth to get a crack at it. Hung in the bawdy setting of the court of Charles II—an utterly amoral era—Amber flaunts her beauty, conspires for power, matches her wits with some of England's best brains. Saving grace for the film's chance is the fact that the book at finish points a clear moral—you don't get to enjoy what you want when you go about getting it in the wrong way.

It looks as if Greer Garson, too, will get her chance at a bad girl role. It's the star part in "Drivin' Woman"—a character that, morally irreproachable, gives the effect of a ruthless beauty without shred of scruple.

Come to think of it, most great acting roles center around red-blooded women. And bad girls certainly have something.

Alluring Lobbyist

I don't know any other Hollywood lobbyist in Washington who's had the Vice President play his or her accompaniment. Lauren Bacall did. As she walked to the piano, one higher up was heard to whisper to another, "Why, that gal's hips wink at you!" The latest independent quartet, going right ahead making plans, is Paulette Goddard, Burgess Meredith, Dudley Nichols, and Jean Renoir. Paulette has one outside picture a year from Paramount. This will no doubt be done at RKO.

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SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Inadequate traction is one of the causes of automobile smash-ups in winter traveling. Inadequate traction can be due to smooth tires that should be recapped.

Rubber had a strong influence in the spending of 17 1/2 billion dollars on street and highway construction and maintenance in the U. S. in the ten years ended 1942.

The materials used in the making of cord fabrics for synthetic motor vehicle tires are the same as used in previous natural rubber tires—cotton and rayon.



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