

Washington Digest

Sincerity Marks Peace Parley at San Francisco

Creation of Flexible Organization Foreseen; Position of President Truman Bolsters Hand of U. S. Delegation.

By BAUKHAGE

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—There is something significant, I believe, in the fact that this world conference which hopes to plot a happier course for the future of the world is being held at the Golden Gate.

I think there is much more hope for success for this gathering than there was for the Paris conference two decades ago, although most of us who crowded into its opening session on the Quai d'Orsay in Paris on a sunny January day in 1919, were well supplied with hope, too.

I think the meeting place was well chosen and if the agenda becomes unfinished business, it might well be concluded on the same spot where the clean fog sweeps in from the Pacific whose wide waters unite the east and the west.

There still lingers on California's shores the memory of its multifold historical national contacts. It was here in "Drake's Bay" that the famous English explorer is said to have stopped to repair his ship. I say was Drake's bay for later, Cermeño, the Spaniard, on a voyage from Manila in 1595, was shipwrecked in the same body of water and gave it its present name.

Less definite are the records of the czar's explorers but the "Russian river" just north of here remains a flowing memento of their early visits.

Less distinguished Chinese and Japanese came and raised their problems; great settlements of Hindus remain in the state and colonies of Swiss and Italians toil among vineyards reproducing the products of their homelands.

Seek to Build On Firm Ground

As I write these lines two things appear as near certainties as certainties exist in this kaleidoscopic world. The United Nations are sincere in the hope of erecting some sort of structure which, if it is humanly possible to do so, can provide a place for the shelter, care and feeding of the dove of peace.

The second thing which I think even at this juncture can be predicted is that no matter how harmonious the building of this new temple of hope may be, the final edifice will be constructed on such a broad foundation and with such wide portals, that it will not confine its tenants to any very strict restraint of action.

Well, army pictorial does things right. It has some of the best Hollywood technical men in uniform. It took a long time to get just the right lighting. So an official came up and said: "You have just ten minutes more."

Up spoke the captain: "Do you want the President taken right or wrong?"

The President broke in: "Take all night if you want to." (or, as I said, words to that effect). This picture was for the G.I.s.

And so they fiddled and fooled until they had the lights right, until they had everything just right. And then the President went ahead and did his speech over again.

It is one of the best action shows taken in the White House. But you won't see it. It was just for the G.I.s.

BARBS... by Baukhage

The miners came in '48 to California and the diplomats in '45 are digging in to stay.

Max Schmeling, former heavyweight champion, who was put in a concentration camp and "treated" for defeatism by the Nazis, is now a welterweight, according to the Berlin correspondent of a Swedish paper.

One of the shortages which has not been called to general attention is the lack of garbage cans. The OPA says that only one-fifth of the number demanded is being produced. This will soon be evident to anyone who doesn't hold his nose.

Pacific War Rages on Wide Front; Retain Civilian Goods Control as OPA Sets Reconversion Prices

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

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 Japs holding up Yank advance on Okinawa from cave positions in rugged terrain, U. S. flame throwers sear enemy resistance.

PACIFIC: Fighting Rages

From the Ryukyus to the Philippines and westward to China bitter fighting raged in the Pacific theater as U. S. and Chinese forces remained on the offensive against desperate Japanese troops battling on the outer perimeter of the enemy's main defenses.

Heaviest action took place on Okinawa and Luzon, where American G.I.s drilled deeper into rugged Japanese strongpoints, but Chinese units also pressed vigorous attacks against enemy columns seeking to neutralize Allied air bases west of the sea coast upon which the Nips fear a U. S. landing.

Standing but 325 miles from Tokyo, Okinawa was bitterly defended by a fanatical Japanese garrison, which only slowly crumbled under the concentrated bombardment of U. S. warships and aircraft of the "Little Siegfried" line strung about the island capital of Naha.

On the less racy side of the picture, Allied authorities in Germany wrestled with the problem of repatriating 11,000,000 foreign workers when their removal would affect harvesting and food processing.

At the same time, Allied officials announced that German industry, trade and services first would be utilized to support occupying forces before being diverted to the populace.

EUROPE: War's Aftermath

With the war with Germany over, all the problems associated with the reconstitution of a liberated Europe began to crowd upon Allied authorities, with the more sensational like the trial of Nazi bigwigs shadowing the highly important like the repatriation of dislocated persons.

As ex-Gestapo Chief Himmler, Rudolf Hess and Hermann Goerring were placed high on the list of Nazi war criminals subject to trial, U. S. congressmen, returning from an inspection of Nazi concentration camps, denounced the Hitler regime for the existence of such centers of starvation, crematoriums and torture devices.

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With the tire production schedule for April-May-June increased from 3,200,000 to 5,200,000, the "B" and "C" card holders will receive 500,000 more cards this month than originally planned, and probably an equal additional number in June.

Previous allotments of 1,000,000 tires monthly provided for only extra 500,000 being distributed will only help to more fully meet these essential needs.

Though the increased production for civilians was attributed to a slackening of military demands as a result of the victory in Europe, the size of any future boosts that might benefit pleasure drivers will be determined by the availability of materials and manpower after meeting Pacific war needs.

Even though more civilian goods are in the office, the War Production board revealed intentions of maintaining a close grip over output to assure smooth delivery of essential supplies.

As a result, WPB will continue to allocate steel, copper and aluminum, and severely raise the ceiling on civilian production over 1944 rather than revoking it.

In fixing reconversion prices at the 1942 level, OPA administrator Chester Bowles declared it was the intention to establish adequate margins to encourage full-scale production and thus through both control and plenty check the danger of inflation.

Through prices are to be pegged at 1942 levels, increased material and labor costs would be met by volume production and lower distribution expense, Bowles said. Both large and small manufacturers will determine their own prices, with the latter entitled to a higher figure in the event material and other shortages prevent capacity output.

G.I.S PLAN FUTURE

More than three-fourths of all men now in the army worked for an employer before entering the army, and more than two-thirds definitely plan to take jobs as employees after discharge, according to a survey of postwar plans of troops made by the army.

Among former employees, only about one-half of the white and one-third of the Negro enlisted men plan to do the same type of work they performed in civilian life.

Seeking to harmonize regional defense systems with a world security organization, the Big Five powers of the United Nations hit upon a compromise at San Francisco coordinating both for the preservation of postwar stability.

Though regional systems were authorized to move for peaceful settlement of a dispute within their respective areas and join in collective defense in case of aggression against any of their members, the world security organization's power to employ economic or military means to check a prospective aggressor was retained.

As a result of the compromise, the desire of Latin American nations to maintain a voice in security problems within this hemisphere was partially satisfied, while the fears of internationalists that regional defense systems might take away all functions of a world organization were stilled.

In other action at San Francisco, the Big Five — U. S., Britain, Russia, China and France — maintained the control of the 11 member security council over the world organization by denying the consultative assembly of smaller nations a greater degree of power.

CROP PROSPECTS: Look Good

Though cold and rainy weather retarded truck, fruit and grain crops in some areas, heavy down-falls built up reserves of moisture generally throughout the country, causing U. S. department of agriculture experts to look for farm production for 1945 favorably comparable to the preceding three years.

Because planting of winter wheat got off to a good start and subsequent precipitation spurred growth, USDA anticipates a record crop of 835,186,000 bushels, which, with normal spring wheat production, would give the country another billion bushel crop.

As of May 1, condition of oats was 79 per cent of normal, tame hay, 88 per cent, and pastures, 87 per cent. Harvest of rye is expected to be about 3,000,000 bushels above last year's 25,000,000 bushels, though only 52 per cent of the seeded area will be cut for grain.

Though the cold weather and repeated frosts set back early vegetables, fruits and gardens in many areas, USDA looked for record production of spring truck crops. The output would be a fifth larger than average.

CIVILIAN GOODS: Tires—Control—Prices

Increased allotments of tires for "B" and "C" card motorists; continued tight supervision over civilian goods production, and establishment of reconversion prices headlined home front news as the nation left one war behind it and concentrated on the Pacific theater.

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ELECTRIFY FARMS

With nearly two million U. S. farms wired for electric service since the Rural Electrification administration was established on May 11, 1935, REA's latest survey shows approximately 2,700,000 farms, or nearly half of all U. S. farms, are now electrified, as compared with 750,000 in 1935.

More than half of the farms electrified in the decade of federally sponsored rural electrification are served by rural electric systems financed by REA loans.

Believed to be the largest gem ever found in an alluvial deposit, a 770 carat diamond about the size of a chicken egg has been brought to Britain from the Sierra Leone mines in West Africa.

Found by a native workman, the gem will not be cut but rather sold as the rough. The new diamond tops the 726 carat "Junker" found in South Africa in 1934 and the 530.2 carat "Star of Africa No. 1," now embedded in the British royal scepter.

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Chronic Hysteria. IT WASN'T RIGHT - WE MUST FIGHT THE CIVIL WAR ALL OVER AGAIN!! REACTIONARY SOUTH. STEADY DIET OF HATE LEGISLATION DESPITE THE WAR FOR WORLD FREEDOM. (AND) HENRY BROWN

The HOME TOWN REPORTER In Washington

By WALTER A. SHEAD WNU Staff Correspondent

Something Is Cooking

WNU Washington Bureau 621 Union Trust Building

THE momentous news of world import which is coming so fast these days pushes into the background the day-to-day happenings of the routine operation of our government here in Washington.

The fact, however, is that our governmental agencies must continue to function and it is likely that within the next week or 10 days some top flight news may be expected to start popping from the department of commerce.

Former vice president Henry A. Wallace, new secretary of commerce, has been ominously quiet since he took over from Jesse Jones. Wallace thrives on action and it's not like him to remain quiet.

Clipped of his powers over the vast Reconstruction Finance corporation, the new commerce boss has been quietly combing the multi-numbered bureaus within his department with the assistance of a committee of three outstanding experts, in an effort to find out what makes commerce tick and to draw up a program on what the department needs for revitalization.

rejuvenation along the Wallace ideas of government cooperation with business... with especial emphasis on small business.

The rump-haired secretary occupies a huge office, walnut paneled, on the fifth floor of the two-block-long and block-wide gray stone building. It is a bee-hive of activity. Musty, staid, slow-moving offices which line the maze of corridors are being given a thorough going-over and house-cleaning.

Wallace wants a department of commerce which can be a real help, offer a stable program to business, not just an information and research agency. He is attempting to streamline the department for post-war action.

One of the first needs of small business, he opines, in the post-war era is a return to what he calls character banking... that is, loans on a man's record and ability, rather than on his collateral assets. He declares that, increasingly since 1913, the small banks of the nation have been operating under bank examining rules which make it impossible for these small banks to make the type of loan...

and further believe that what he terms a equity financing... some modification of the government guaranteed loan plan of the FHA, should be provided for small business in this postwar era.

Closest to Wallace's heart, probably, is his bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

"I am going to go all-out to get the maximum of usage from whatever powers may reside in the difficult bureau of foreign and domestic commerce to foster and develop trade here and abroad," he said.

"I am going to use those powers to the maximum to get an increased foreign trade." This means that Mr. Wallace will have developed a program based on removal of tariff barriers because he believes that when this nation raised the tariff on our exports after World War I, "that is when the world tailspin really began with a vengeance."

Wallace likely will revamp completely the patent office which is slated to be a year and a half behind in its work. Civil Aeronautics administration will play a decidedly more important role under the Wallace regime. So important does Wallace believe the air age will become after the war, he himself has learned to fly. Ben Stern, blustery, but efficient public relations director of CAA, has apparently made a good impression on Wallace and may be stepped-up in the reorganization.

Then May 1, Wallace took over, lock, stock and barrel, the huge job of surplus property disposal, some hundred billion dollars worth, from treasury procurement. This will throw him in closer contact with business, and he likely will make some changes, probably setting up state offices, instead of the 11 regional branches as operated by treasury. Maritime commission is another department which looms important in post-war with our need for ship bottoms.

Do not let the adverse publicity received by Wallace as a so-called "idealist" and a "dreamer" fool you. He firmly believes in free enterprise for business. He says: "The key to making this American bill of rights a part of the American way of life is the whole-hearted recognition by all our people of the simple fact that in America the future of the American worker lies in the well-being of American private enterprise and the future of American private enterprise lies in the well-being of the American worker."

American industry, as represented by the National Association of Manufacturers, was one of the organizations invited by the State Department to send consultants to the American delegation at the San Francisco Conference on International Organization, NAM, spokesman for industries which have contributed 85 percent of the nation's miracle of war production, accepted. Ira Mosher, NAM president, named one consultant and two associates to the Conference. Chosen consultant was Robert Gaylord, NAM board chairman and its former president, head of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company, Rockford, Ill., and a machine tool maker since World War I. Mr. Gaylord's associates are W. W. Cumberland, economist and a partner in the investment banking firm of Wellington and Company, and Hugh O'Connor, NAM staff member and long-time newspaperman and foreign correspondent.

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Memorial Day by H. W. Smith

We are approaching another Memorial Day and may we pause to stop, look and listen to the sacred sermon which will be preached to-morrow, and the beautiful hymns that the choirs will sing. All this will take our thoughts back to the lovely association and brotherly love and fellowship that we enjoyed with them and it will produce cold chills over all of us and we must all take time out to perform a sacred duty and place flowers where they are resting and close our eyes as they are at peace. As we think of the battle of Bunker Hill, Gettysburg and San Juan Hill... as the Negro soldier was in the midst of all three on fumes eternal camping ground their silent tents are spread.

DOING GREAT JOB!

Hannibal G. Parsons is the popular editor of the only Negro newspaper, The Brooklyn Tribune, published in Brooklyn, N. Y. He is doing a great job at fostering inter-racial goodwill in the borough of churches.

Robert Gaylord

W. W. Cumberland Hugh O'Connor

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