

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Italy's Unconditional Surrender Marks Real 'Beginning of the End' for Axis; GOP Outlines Foreign Relations Plan; Reds Recapture Ukraine Farm Lands

(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.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.

ITALY SURRENDERS: One Down, Two to Go

Five days after British and Canadian troops stormed across the Messina straits to land on the Italian mainland, Italy surrendered unconditionally to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

When Marshal Pietro Badoglio's government gave up, it marked the first split in the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. First indications of the Italian collapse came with the ouster of Benito Mussolini.

Left to hold Hitler's vaunted European fortress were German troops, themselves engaged in a major retreat in Russia, and the Nazis' smaller Balkan allies. While capitulation of Italy exposed central Europe to heavy bomber attack, the Alpine district presented a formidable obstacle to an Allied ground advance into southern Germany.

Hundreds of thousands of her troops killed or captured in North Africa; her elaborate railroad system torn to shreds; her fair cities smoldering in ruin, and lacking the natural resources to carry on war, Italy sought the easiest way out of the conflict.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: Isolate Japs

Australian troops were hacking their way through jungle brush to the northwest of Lae, New Guinea, when a cloud of American planes appeared overhead. The next moment the sky was filled with tiny white puffs marking out Allied paratroopers floating to earth to assist in the encirclement of 20,000 Jap soldiers.



Gen. George Blamey

Previously, Australian units under Gen. George Blamey surprised the Japs by landing in force to the east of Lae. Moving quickly, they advanced on the big enemy base even while the Aussies and U. S. paratroopers were sealing off Lae to the northwest.

General MacArthur's trigger action not only cut off the Lae garrison from reinforcement from the north, but it also was designed to choke off stubborn Jap troops resisting an Allied advance before Salamaua, farther to the southeast.

HEALTH: Holding Up Well

Civilians are maintaining a better level of health than federal authorities expected, despite food rationing, longer work hours, and fewer doctors and nurses available, the Office of War Information reports. While mortality and sickness rates are slightly higher, the statement comments that the rise is not more than could be anticipated, considering wartime strain.

The only serious epidemic condition is the increase in infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) and spinal meningitis. More than 4,500 cases of infantile paralysis have been reported throughout the nation this year, the largest number since 1934. Spinal meningitis cases total 13,368, the greatest number since 1914, when records began.

2,000,000 OVERSEAS: Marshall Reports

Of 7,000,000 men in the army July 1, 2,000,000 were overseas, Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. chief of staff, revealed in his biennial report to the nation.

Of the 7,000,000 men, General Marshall said, 521,000 are officers, with 1,065 generals. More than 2,000,000 men are serving in the air force.

Experience shows that six tons of shipping are necessary to transport a soldier and his accessories overseas, and his supply requires one ton a month, General Marshall said.

At the time the Japs attacked the Philippines, General Marshall stated, six troop ships and nine cargo vessels were en route to the islands.

WACS

Most of the officers of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACS) have taken the oath in the new Women's Army Corps (WACS) the war department announces. Of 5,977 WAAC officers, 5,656 have transferred to the new organization without change of rank. Of the 319 women who have not been given the oath, 41 may yet join, but their cases are pending. The others have dropped out for failure to meet physical requirements or other reasons it was said.

MANPOWER: Control Coast Labor

With 160,000 more persons required for shipyards and 100,000 for aircraft factories on the West coast, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes announced that the WMC received control of the supervision of labor in that area.



James F. Byrnes

A copy of a program already developed in the Buffalo, N. Y., area, the WMC's West coast plan involves: 1. Determination of necessary production schedules in various factories; 2. Shift of labor to essential employment from less essential work or services; 3. Allotment of manpower to the more important industries in the area; 4. Distribution of farm help wherever most needed throughout the West coast.

Time to Switch

Along with adoption of the West coast plan, the WMC's selective service bureau sought to co-ordinate its draft program with industrial needs.

First, the bureau ordered that all non-deferrable workers seeking to switch to essential production be given 30 days, or till October 15, in which to find such employment through registration with the U. S. Employment service. The WMC previously ruled that essential occupation, and not dependency, be the basis for draft deferment.

Second, the bureau instructed local boards that before they induct any workers skilled in 149 critical occupations, they must submit the names of such men to the U. S. Employment service. The service will then determine whether these men are more urgently needed by another employer.

GOP: Keep Sovereignty

Co-operation in the preservation of peace without the loss of U. S. sovereignty constitutes the basis of the Republican party's post-war advisory committee's recommendation for future American foreign policy.

Meeting on historic Mackinac Island, Mich., under National Chairman Harrison Spangler, the GOP committee struck the theme for its 1944 plank on foreign affairs.

While declaring that "we must do our full share in a program for permanent peace among nations," the GOP committee members said, "we must preserve and protect all our own national interests." If any proposed international co-operation should conflict with our best interests, the committee said, "then the United States should adhere to the policy which will preserve its constitutionalism as expressed in the Declaration of Independence."

For conquered countries, the committee recommended disarmament and destruction of war industries.

RUSSIA: Regaining Wealth

Under the weight of massed Red attacks, German troops slowly fell back to the broad banks of the Dnieper river in southern Russia.

With many of the rich coal and iron deposits of the Donetz basin in Russian hands again, advancing Red armies also reclaimed much of the fertile farm land of the Ukraine, famed for its black earth and wheat and cotton fields. Slicing into the heart of this province, the Reds severed the Nazis' main rail connections to the north.

With the natural resources, Russian troops also recovered many former industrial cities, like Kharkov. But having been wracked by warfare and their manufacturing facilities demolished by the Germans, reconstruction will be necessary to restore them to production. In the north-central sector, Red troops pounded at the gateway into White Russia, adjacent to the former state of Poland.

MISCELLANY:

OCTANE GAS: High octane gasoline that will give motorists 50 to 70 miles to the gallon is predicted as a post-war development of the oil industries by William Carney, a research chemist for a large refining company. The new automobiles using this 90 to 95 octane gasoline will have smaller motors and lighter bodies, made of alloys or plastics, it is believed.

U. S. TREASURY: Seeks Billions

High finance has come to the forefront with the treasury's efforts to raise 100 billion dollars for war expenditures during the present fiscal year ending June 30.

Approximately 50 million bonds valued at 15 billion dollars are expected to be sold during the treasury's present bond selling campaign. All of the money will be sought from individuals and businesses, with banks offered a limited number of securities after the close of the public drive. However, the treasury has been obtaining 100 million dollars weekly through short term bill sales to banks.

With congress reconvened, Representative Robert Doughton's house ways and means committee was looking forward to consideration of new tax legislation to raise an additional 12 billion dollars requested by President Roosevelt. Present levies will yield 38 billion dollars.



Rep. Robert Doughton

RAIL WRECKS: High Toll

Crowded with passengers returning to New York, the Pennsylvania railroad's mighty Congressional Limited streaked through the North Philadelphia station. On it whizzed to Frankfort Junction, Pa. Then, a burned journal on the seventh car of the 16-car train gave, throwing the coach high into the air.

Hurling against a steel girder of a signal tower, the upper section of the coach was sheared right off. Careening wildly, the car behind smashed into the wrecked coach, and the rest of the train left the rails and plowed along the right of way. Fire broke out in some of the cars. More than 50 dead and 125 injured were removed from the wreckage.

Several hours later, the New York Central's Century Limited was roaring along near Canastota, N. Y., when its locomotive exploded, derailling nine of the 15 passenger cars. The first four cars lunged down an embankment; the others were strewn all over the tracks. Heavy steel rails were plowed up and twisted into fantastic shapes. Three crewmen were killed; approximately seven passengers injured.

U. S. - BRITAIN: Tongue Common Bond

Speaking at Harvard university, Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared the United States and Great Britain must march together "in those realms of thought which are consecrated to the rights and dignity of man."

"It would be a most foolish and improvident act on the part of our two governments . . . to break up this smooth running and immensely powerful machinery the moment the war is over," Churchill added.

Commenting on studies being made by a special commission to construct a basic English language for use by all people, Churchill said such a common tongue offers far better opportunity for understanding between people than "taking away provinces and land or grinding them down in exploitation."

Stating that a common speech had drawn the United States and Great Britain close together in war, Churchill said that it may well prove the foundation for a common citizenship.

ECONOMIC DIRECTOR: Appointed for Italy

Former assistant to Vice President Henry Wallace when he was secretary of agriculture, and more recently head of the Farm Security administration, 41-year-old Calvin B. Baldwin was named area director of economic operations in occupied Italy.

As area director, Baldwin will have the task of co-ordinating the various programs of supply and production instituted by the Allies' civil commissions in governing the captured territories. With Italy essentially an agricultural country, particularly in wheat and fruits, Baldwin's experience in farm administration undoubtedly determined his appointment.

Joining attacks on Baldwin's political philosophy, Senator Harry F. Byrd charged him with admitting to a joint committee on nonessential expenditure that FSA representative had formulated a long-range plan of using the government's power of eminent domain for breaking up large land properties into smaller holdings.

William M. Jeffers, director of the wartime rubber program, has resigned his office, stating that he believes that his main task is accomplished, and that he wishes to return to the railroad of which he is president.

About 30,000 tons of synthetic rubber will be turned out this month. In contrast to the 67,000 tons which is the goal of the program, Jeffers stated, explaining that difficulties have been encountered in expanding factory capacity.

Washington Digest

Canadian, U. S. Colleges Offer Plan for Prosperity



Two Schools Offer Prescription for Post-War Depression in Pamphlet Entitled 'The Midcontinent and the Peace.'

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Out of the part of the world farthest from the fighting, literally and figuratively, has come an interesting international prescription for the cure of the world's post-war headache—the spell of depression that we have to be ready for.

The formula is summarized in a 43-page pamphlet that I wish everyone could read. The title is "The Midcontinent and the Peace." The cover is an earthy brown embellished with alternating rows of golden grain sheaves, fat porkers and trucks.

It is a report made jointly by the Universities of Minnesota and Manitoba. It has nothing to do with departments of state, it has no official status beyond the fact that the American and Canadian governors asked their respective state universities to do the job. It is a splendid down-to-brass-tacks example of the recognition of the common interests of two important areas lying on opposite sides of an international boundary line.

The gist of the report is this: I. Western Europe must arrange greatly to increase its imports of wheat, lard and pork after the war.

II. Canada and the United States must reorganize their automobile-producing industries so that a maximum employment in Canadian factories can be maintained; cost of autos be reduced to Canadian buyers and American car output increased.

III. Agriculture in the prairie provinces of Canada and the central northwest United States must continue along the lines of agricultural specialization developed out of necessity during the war.

The Connection

Now, at first glance, the connection between these steps may not be evident, but the report makes the whole effort clear and also shows how the program can be carried out. There is nothing new or revolutionary in the methods discussed, nor in the reasoning concerning their results, but a striking assemblage of data gathered and arranged in such a manner that it offers what appears to be a logical program of action.

In the first place, the report shows how domestic economic policies (the ones I briefly summarized in the three points above) are, in fact, international policies. It demonstrates with figures and explanation that "sound and strong internal economies in Canada and the United States" must have "resoundingly important effects on the external world."

Examples offered to prove this include the figures which show how the rise and fall of demand in Canada and the United States affected other parts of the world up to and after the depression hit us in 1929.

In less than three decades, imports in the United States of ten different commodities increased from 300 to 1,700 million dollars worth. Take silk; the yearly average importation of silk bought by the United States from 1901-05 amounted to 45 million dollars. In 1929, it had jumped to 432 million dollars. But when the depression struck, it fell to 114 million dollars in 1932.

The total imports of the ten commodities dropped from 1,718 million to 534 million dollars—and you can imagine what happened in the producing countries when these markets disappeared.

One interesting point brought out is that in this period of expanding trade (both import and export) in which Canada and the United States shared, the MUTUAL interests of the two countries greatly INCREASED and their competitive interests declined.

Industry Predominant

The report shows how agriculture has ceased to be our greatest source of wealth, how industry has become pre-eminent and to maintain our agriculture, a healthy condition of industry must be maintained. The old statement is quoted: "Tell me the amount of factory payrolls and I will tell you the price of meat and butter."

The plans for our own agriculture are fairly simple—maintenance of the same type of specialization now going on. The plan for Europe is more complicated but since the question of whether the people of western Europe eat at all for the next few years, depends largely on what Russia, the United States and the other grain producing countries do, these countries may be able to get western European countries to do what we want.

According to the Midcontinent planners, an arrangement should be made whereby western Europe for a period—perhaps 15 years—would absorb our surplus wheat, pork, lard and other farm products. Production of these products would be stopped in western Europe and resources saved would be put to efficient use. The producing countries would assist in reorganizing European agriculture to this changeover. The producing countries would also agree to reduce certain tariffs so that the Europeans can pay for the agricultural products they absorb with goods they can make. (Of course, there is the tough spot.)

As for changeovers in agriculture, it is pointed out that they are not new. Minnesota was once the greatest wheat producing state in the country. That is no longer true. "Mixed farming" has greatly increased. Diversified farming rose in Denmark and improved the standard of her people—these changes come about automatically because the new type introduced pays better. Similar changes, it is implied, could be brought about by us, too.

Unfortunately, space does not permit a detailed review of this report but quite as important as its actual content are the forces which initiated it—in the first place, it brings to our consciousness the mutual interests of this country and our northern neighbor which are plain to any American familiar with Canada and her people but which many in both countries ignore. Again, it shows how groups in two separate countries can get together and work out steps mutually beneficial and likewise advantageous to the whole world. The most important thing of all, however, is the emphasis on the fact that domestic problems are frequently international problems.

Diary of a Broadcaster

Let me tell you of another crazy rumor story that I heard today. It is so old that it has whiskers but people up and down this land are listening and believing it.

A reliable, otherwise hardheaded man told me that an acquaintance of his wife had a friend or relative who had a letter from her boy, a prisoner in Japan. The boy said that he was being well treated and then made a reference to his stamp collection.

He had none, so the remark got the people to thinking—they repeated it "then the FBI or somebody" took the letter, steamed off the stamp, and under it was written—

Well, before the man finished telling it, I said: "I know what was under it—They've cut my tongue out."

How did I guess? Well, I heard that story a dozen times in the last World War.

But to make sure, I made a few inquiries, simply to check the procedure. In the first place, prisoners of war don't use stamps. They can't write direct to their next of kin. The messages all are relayed through the International Red Cross anyhow.

Remember this before you repeat these charming fantasies. Enlistment in the WACS, as fine a corps of American women as ever were gathered together, has been slowed down by a cheap and dirty story made out of whole cloth and passed from one drooling lascivious mouth to another.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Bombers that will dwarf in size our present Flying Fortresses, armed with heavy caliber cannon of an entirely new principle of operation and capable of carrying half a carload of bombs across the Atlantic and returning non-stop, are some of the revolutionary aircraft developments predicted for the near future by Gen. H. H. Arnold of the U. S. army air forces.

"By the hundreds of thousands, boys and girls who in other times would have completed high school, are now leaving the school before graduation to go to work," says the Educational Policies commission of the National Education association.

Entries of aliens during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1943, were the lowest in 80 years.

Star Dust STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WHILE making "Sahara" for Columbia, Bruce Bennett met a marine who'll have to be referred to merely as Joe, the marine. Joe was on leave after some tough Guadalcanal fighting, and due soon to return to the South Pacific. The actor told Joe about a Guatemalan machete he'd collected when he was making a Tarzan serial about ten years ago. "That's a little something I'd like to have," said Joe, so Bennett sent it to him. Last week a V-Mail note from Joe said: "My machete is the pride of the outfit. I spent two solid weeks sharpening it. And brother, I ain't out to cut hay!" Bennett wishes he'd had dozens of them to hand over.

Nobody could be more surprised than the originators of the air's WLS Barn Dance Show are at the way it has developed. It was started as a program that would appeal principally to listeners in rural areas, but



HAL O'HALLORAN

come October 2 it celebrates its 10th anniversary on the network as a show that many city people love. It's one of the few that has a paying studio audience. The genial Hal O'Halloran will be on hand as usual as m. c.

Metro is certainly rounding up the popular band leaders; they recently signed Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians for a musical, and already have Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Xavier Cugat, Bob Crosby, Vaughn Monroe and Spike Jones.

Watch for a radio quiz master to name three of Hollywood's loveliest who have not played opposite Cary Grant. It would be hard to name one. Laraine Day shares honors with him in "Mr. Lucky," and is the latest of a list of 28 of his heroines. Irene Dunne, Katharine Hepburn and Sylvia Sydney have appeared three times apiece in Grant pictures, and he's probably our only ranking star who has both Joan and Constance Bennett on his roster of "Celebrities I Have Made Love to on the Screen."

The cast of "Mr. District Attorney" made money when they won a wager from the "Eilery Queen" performers. Jay Jostyn of the former show was a guest star on the latter, and his colleagues bet the proposition that he'd solve the mystery.

Just a natural—The soldiers stationed at Camp Ellis, near Lewiston, Ill., were trying to find just the right girl to name "Miss Camp Ellis," and wound up by selecting Anita Ellis, songstress of the Jack Carson show on CBS.

Every now and then Hi Brown, producer and director of "The Adventures of Nero Wolfe," runs into an old-timer in radio who reminds him of his first program on the air. It was called "High-Brow Readings by Hi Brown," and he'd rather forget it.

Three years ago an aspiring young actor named Curtis Rudolf failed to obtain a bit part in a little theater production in Cleveland, and was advised to try some other line of work. Recently Metro staged a first showing on "Salute to the Marines" in Cleveland, and an actor named Donald Curtis, christened Curtis Rudolf, had a leading role in the Wallace Beery starrer.

A prop man on "The Fallen Sparrow" set laboriously made "snow" by flaking ice into a freezing bin—and returned from lunch to find that John Garfield and Walter Slezak had returned from their lunch and used it all up throwing snowballs at Maureen O'Hara and Director Richard Wallace. When they learned how much labor had been involved, they pitched in and made more.

ODDS AND ENDS—The small black microphone into which folks on the Bing Crosby program sing has been named "Skinny Ennis" . . . Bob Hawk, of "Thanks to the Yanks," has an idea for a movie quiz in which several studios are interested . . . Fred Astaire's signed a long-term contract with Metro, where he made his first picture—"Dancing Lady," which starred Joan Crawford and Clark Gable, in a cast including Franchot Tone, and made little of Astaire's talents . . . Dickie Jones, the boy's new "Henry Aldrich," went to Hollywood several years ago as a protégé of Hoot Gibson—he was the voice of "Pinochio" in the picture of that name

Farm Topics

Rope and Twine Must Be Made to Last

Supply Is Short, Says Dept. of Agriculture

Farmers must preserve their rope and twine on hand carefully, because very little new can be obtained, the department of agriculture warns. Fibers for rope and twine that used to be imported from the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies are now unobtainable because of the war. Small quantities of henequen and sisal fibers are coming in from Mexico, Cuba and Haiti, but this supply will not aid the situation much.

Rope for agricultural uses will be made largely of jute, cotton and other substitute materials. To take the best care possible of your rope, the department gives the following advice:

1. Store it properly in a dry unheated building or room. It should be clean and dry before storing. Hang it in loose coils on a peg—not on the floor.
2. Avoid kinks. Kinks pulled through a restricted space will shear the fibers and weaken the rope.
3. Don't leave rope where battery acid, drying oils, etc., can damage it, or where animals can chew it.
4. Splices are stronger, and easier, on rope than knots.
5. Don't overload rope. Use the right size for the job.
6. Reverse rope, end for end, that runs through pulleys and tackle to equalize the wear.
7. Save wear on rope by reducing wear and abrasion that occurs when one rope chafes another, when it drags over sharp surfaces, or picks up sand, grit, etc., when it is dragged over the ground.

Binder twine will be very scarce this year, according to officials of



Ropes running through pulleys should be reversed end for end to equalize wear. (Picture from U. S. Soil Conservation service.)

the department. To make what you have go farther, they give the following precautions:

1. Use twine only on mechanical binding equipment.
2. Keep all points on binding machines through which the twine passes in the best possible operating condition. This means touching up or repairing worn needles and other eyes, adjusting or replacing badly worn parts and weak or ineffective springs, keeping the cutter knife sharp, or replacing it if necessary. Such precautions are particularly pertinent when using twine made of substitute materials.
3. Tie larger bundles to use less twine.
4. Take care of your present supply—don't leave it out in the weather, or where rats can gnaw it.

New Chemical Kills Lice on Cattle

A new chemical combination made up of two parts sodium fluosilicate, one part phenothiazine, and one part white flour, has been used successfully to destroy both chewing and sucking lice that infest cattle. In the experiments conducted at the N. Dakota agricultural experiment station, phenothiazine alone, merely diluted with equal parts of flour, in trials on 12 infested animals located in various parts of the state, resulted in a 100 per cent kill of both short-nosed and long-nosed sucking lice in every trial. However, it failed to kill chewing lice. When the sodium fluosilicate was added to the diluted phenothiazine, the mixture killed both chewing and sucking lice.

Pullet Losses Reduced By Selective Breeding

Under ordinary conditions many poultrymen lose about 25 per cent of their pullets during the first year. In a test conducted by Dr. C. H. Bostian of N. C. State college, where matings were made from stock not bred for improved livability, the loss was 23 per cent. With another group of birds, kept under exactly the same conditions but from matings selected for improved livability, the loss was only 11%.