

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

House Votes \$300 Discharge Bonus; U. S. Bombers Rip Nazi Supply Lines; Red Army Continues Push on Baltic; Peace Rumors Spiked by British Press

(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.)  
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DISCHARGE PAY: House Votes \$300

Arguing that higher payments would represent a soldier's bonus which should be left for later discussion, the house passed a bill providing for mustering-out pay of \$300 to discharged vets with 60 days' service and \$100 to those released before 60 days.

With 15,000,000 vets including those already discharged standing to benefit from the measure, total cost of payments was estimated at 3 1/2 billion dollars.

After passage by the house, the bill was sent for approval to the senate, which previously enacted legislation providing for maximum payments ranging from \$500 to vets overseas for 18 months or more, to \$200 to those with less than 12 months' service in the U. S. Unless the senate okayed the house bill, parliamentary procedure required the two chambers to get together to work out new legislation.

EUROPE:

Pound Supply Lines

U. S. bombers ripped rail lines supplying German troops in southern Italy as American and British forces pressed against the Nazis' winter-line centered on Cassino, key to the road to Rome.

With two of three main rail lines temporarily put out of use, the enemy was forced to route supplies over bomb-pocked highways, some of which were snarled by the wreckage of bridges.

As U. S. artillery laid down a curtain of thunderous fire over German defense emplacements before Cassino preparatory to the infantry's charge forward, British units to the west engaged Nazi troops along the Garigliano river.

Along the Adriatic coast to the east, Canadian forces were held to short gains in hard, close-in fighting.

U. S. HEMP:

Cut Production

Because of the improvement in imports from the Caribbean and Mediterranean areas, the government's hemp-growing program in the Middle West will be cut to one-third of 1943 production, and only 14 of 42 processing plants will be kept in operation.

Raised on contract to the government, farmers found hemp profitable last year, their net yield per acre being larger than from any other crop in the nation, in some cases reaching \$200, it was said.

In seeking to relieve a threatened hemp shortage after the outbreak of war, the government undertook construction of processing plants in 42 communities, and arranged for farmers to grow 4,000 acres of the fiber in each of the districts. The plants were erected at an estimated cost of \$100,000 each.

LABOR DRAFT: Pro and Con

While Secretary of War Henry Stimson told a senate committee that a labor draft would equalize soldier and civilian sacrifices, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, headed by William Green, said that the organization would never surrender the basic freedom of the country's workers.

Likening a labor draft as a shot in the arm for the nation's patriotism, Stimson said the first flush of enterprise excited by the Pearl Harbor attack has worn off, and now "the stern voice of law" is needed to "keep up the patriotic emotion."

Declaring that in freedom there is strength, the AFL council asserted that the "amazing speed with which free American workers have won the battle of war production against the enemy within two years upholds the truth of that principle."

Chance for passage of the labor draft dwindled with the house's pigeon-holing of the measure.



New Britain—Marines wade through swampland on New Britain front. (See Pacific Front.)

PACIFIC FRONT: MacArthur to Stay

U. S. medium and heavy bombers ranged widely over the Pacific, blasting Jap bases supplying hard pressed enemy troops, and hitting installations and airfields in the strategic Marshall islands.

As U. S. armies were pinning the foe back in the South Pacific area, Secretary of War Henry Stimson announced in Washington, D. C., that General MacArthur would not be retired when he reached the age of 64 on January 29. Retired at his own request in 1937, MacArthur was recalled to active duty following the outbreak of World War II.

In New Guinea, U. S. bombers smashed at the Jap base of Weiwak, above American positions at Saidor; and in New Britain, explosives were dropped on the big feeder center of Rabaul, and on barges carrying supplies along the island coasts.

RUSSIA:

Baltic Push

Preceded by a thunderous barrage of heavy artillery, Russ infantry pushed into German lines below Leningrad, and cut the enemy's rail communications farther to the south, 70 miles from the Latvian border.

The Reds were reported to have thrown 250,000 men into the battle on a 250 mile front, and units of Russia's Baltic fleet stationed near Leningrad were said to have participated in the bombardment of German positions prior to the big push.

Stiffening German resistance slowed the Reds' progress on other fronts, with the Nazis reporting continuance of Russ efforts to break through in the prewar Polish area of White Russia.

Peace Rumors

With the Allied world still wondering over Russia's semi-official publication of a rumor that two former British statesmen had discussed a separate peace with German Foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop, Stalin permitted reproduction of a London newspaper's story that Britain had received specific peace terms from Hitler under which the Nazis would withdraw to their 1939 prewar boundaries.

Although Britain remained indignant over the Reds' implication that she was double-dealing, and the U. S. continued puzzled over why Stalin should have allowed publication of the rumor, Russia's man in the street was led to suspect British intentions.

AIRPLANE PROGRAM: Bigger Types

No. 1 industry of the U. S. today, aircraft plants will set their sights on production of more than 100,000 planes of heavier weight in 1944.

More than 50 per cent of production will be of combat-type planes, with a decrease in output of trainer and obsolete craft. Facilities now being used to turn out the latter two types will be converted to manufacturing parts for other models.

The swing toward heavier planes marks a trend toward production of craft carrying bigger guns and bomb loads. Total weight of planes is expected to approximate 1 billion pounds, compared with 750 million pounds in 1943.

AGRICULTURE:

Hog Permits

With thousands of hogs remaining unsold after marketings, a permit system for shipments was imposed at the Chicago stockyards. Under the procedure, commission firms were allotted weekly quotas based on a percentage of the total volume they handled during the first 11 months of 1943, and farmers were to be advised when to sell.

Through the permit system already in operation in other centers, it is hoped to limit shipments to packers' capacities, cut feed bills, and reduce shrinkage, bruises and death losses.

Drouth

Producer of winter wheat, the great plains area of the Midwest has been suffering from an unheard of seasonal drouth.

Centered in Nebraska, the drouth has extended to the Rocky Mountain and western states, where the storage of snowfall for spring and summer irrigation is much less promising than at this time last year.

Good rains in the late winter and early spring could largely offset the effects of the drouth.

STRONG U. S. A.: After War

"... Proposing... a realistic point of view, that the tendency to war is inevitable, just as the human tendency to disease is inevitable," War Production Board Vice Chairman Charles E. Wilson called on government and industry to cooperate in promoting a strong armament program after the present conflict.

Said Wilson: "I am convinced that we must begin now to set the machinery in motion, while it is still possible for us to measure the cost of any other course."

Wilson suggested (1) the program should be the government's responsibility; (2) congress must support it; (3) industry's role should be to cooperate; (4) some government-owned plants should be held in reserve, with equipment kept to date.

Outwits Hoodlums

When four 17-year-old hoodlums attempted to rob Seaman Fred Stark of Saginaw, Mich., of his money, he talked them into handing over their gun and letting him join the gang in holding up a tavern. But after they had entered the tavern, Seaman Stark held the hoodlums at bay with the pistol and ordered the bartender to call police to arrest the gang.



When the President's message was dropped out by the reading clerk in congress and the President came to point five in his five-point legislative program, there was a sharp intake of breaths. You recall the first reaction. Hardly anything but a frigid reception for the suggestion for what was immediately called "the labor draft."

MILK SALES:

Bottles or Containers

Chicago's big battle to determine whether milk shall be sold in paper containers as well as glass bottles still has not gotten out of the courts, even though the state Supreme court ruled that paper containers could not be used under the wording of the city's disputed ordinance governing distribution of the product.

At present, Chicago dairies will continue to package the milk in paper containers pending filing of a motion for a state Supreme court rehearing of the case. Since the courts have declared no interest in the sanitary aspects of the question of bottling, but have merely confined themselves to the wording of the city ordinance, a rewriting of the law would permit legal use of paper containers.

BURMA: Allies Attack

With U. S. bombers blasting a path, American trained Chinese troops under Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell gained ground in mountainous western Burma, while farther to the south units of the British Fourteenth army fought Jap counter-attacks to stall their own offensive.

The Chinese were fighting to clear the way for engineers constructing a new supply route to China since Jap conquest had closed off the Burma road. To hamper enemy operations, U. S. bombers dropped 20 tons of explosives on a Jap troop encampment in the rear of the battlefield.

DRIED MILK

Army quartermaster corps laboratories have developed a method of drying and preserving whole milk so that it will keep for a year even under tropical conditions. Dried milk made by methods now in use will become rancid in the tropics.

In the army formula, the water content of the milk is reduced to 2.25 per cent, and an inert gas is introduced into the airtight container as a preservative. The new method could become a profitable industry, it is said.

Washington Digest

'A Season of Surprises'—And Still More to Come



Government Control of Railroads and National Service Act Complete Surprise In Many Quarters.

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

This is the season of surprises—I won't mention at this moment the big one which will cause your eyebrows to go up at an early date (if they haven't already).

I'll mention two others—on the labor front—since they represent two of the nearest problems with which congress still has to deal and which are particularly full of dynamite because of the coming elections. And elections are bound to color the acts of every public man from now until the ideas of November.

We are used to it now because it happened some time ago, and the effects were not visible to the naked eye—but one big surprise that shook Washington as the year ended was the sudden announcement on a balmy Monday evening in December which ordered the army to take over the railroads.

All over Washington the day before, that day too, as a matter of fact, you could have collected fine odds against such a thing happening. Not that people were betting on that subject itself; what they were betting on, those who ought to have been (and I still believe were) in the know, was that there would be no railroad strike.

The second big surprise is still having its sharp repercussions although it happened not so much more recently than the other event to which it was closely linked.

National Service Act

The first, I discussed in a recent column in connection with the seizure of the railroads. Then the second, the President's demand for a national service act as a part of his legislative program outlined in that annual message, came tumbling after, and we haven't gotten over either yet.

One astute and neutral observer of affairs in Washington—an old-timer, who sees parties come and go without loss of sleep over his job, said something to me after the roads had been seized that I have had occasion to ponder upon often since.

He is one of the men who was ready to give odds that there would be no strike and he knows all of the people who participated in the conferences, employers, union heads, officials, by their first names—except the President, of course, whom nobody but his mother as far as I am known, perhaps his wife when she is here, first names. One just doesn't first-name Presidents.

Anyhow, this friend of mine, aghast at the suddenness of the seizure of the roads, remarked:

"Do you realize this? Overnight, instead of being the object of all attacks for babying labor, the President suddenly is in the position now of defending the people against labor!"

That was the quick reaction of a technician man to whom politics is only an interesting sideline.

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Cynics' Reactions  
Then came the cynical observation of the anti-administration politicians. It sounded a little like the comment of my first-quoted observer except that it was flavored more heavily with party tabasco.

"Pure politics," they sneered. "He had no labor program. He knew it. So now he tosses the hottest controversial question on the boards—labor draft—into congress. He probably hopes we won't pass it. If we don't, he'll say: 'See, I give them a labor program and they turn me down!'"

Well, there are the two surprises which are scheduled to breed others in their trail, and you and everybody else will interpret them in terms of your or their prejudices, sharpened to a knife-edge of devotion or hatred in this year of the ballot.

What is really behind these two sharp and unexpected moves? It is

pretty hard to be really objective. Anyone who has watched political campaigns in the making, has a hard time not to attribute a partisan motive to any act or word spoken in Washington in an election year.

As far as taking the railroads over goes, that might have been prompted by a real and honest fear that transportation would have been interfered with at a moment when it was as vital to the war effort as a division of fighting men. What possible excuse could there be for letting such a thing happen?

Again, whether or not there was to be a strike, there was a strike threat. At the same moment, there was a strike threat in another vital industry—steel. That was called off by putting pressure on Phillip Murray, head of the C. I. O. But could that pressure have been applied unless Mr. Murray could have been told: "Remember, the chances of acceptance of your demands by the steel men will be a lot better if they are afraid the government will take their industry over too. The railroads are a warning."

And then, if you want to take one highly unofficial explanation from a nobody as far as officialdom goes, but from a man who has fought in his own little sphere for things he believes in, I'll throw it in for good measure.

The comment was applied to the President's call for a national service act, not the seizure of the roads, but it applies to both. This observer said:

"Politics? No. The guy just wants to win the war."

And come to think of it, that might have had something to do with it too.

Notes From a Broadcaster's Diary

The following two viewpoints received recently are interesting. Here is the first:

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."—from the Constitution of the United States.

The President swore to uphold the Constitution—the national service act or the labor draft is involuntary servitude or human slavery. That's what he called it in Berlin and Tokyo and he wants it here. What are we fighting for?

And now for the second viewpoint! General Eisenhower said we can win the war in 1944 but everyone must do his part.

Something must be wrong somewhere for him to say that. He knows it is not the armed forces. So it must be on the home front. For the armed forces operate on a functional alignment—from commanding officer down, orders are given and obeyed. Servicemen cannot bargain with their commanders as to wages, hours, fighting conditions or make contracts on a cost-plus basis. Their objective is to win battles.

But on the home front, the objective is to make money (see Truman Report). Ships, planes, tanks and guns are secondary.

We can have a functional operation at home by installing total conscription of men, machines, material and money.

These boys were conscripted to die. Then why not conscript the ones at home? If it's good enough for the armed forces, it's good enough for the rest of us.

Who can say he is entitled to more?

Jottings

From May through September, 1943, various government agencies placed 2,700,000 volunteer farm laborers to help harvest the nation's crops.

During 1943 Massachusetts home-makers canned fruits and vegetables which were worth an estimated 900,000,000 ration points.

Every ton of scrap iron and steel used in our blast furnaces saves two tons of our reserve of high-grade iron ore.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

Through a series of phrase books supplemented by phonograph records, American troops are learning to speak the essentials of as many as 30 different languages.

Peasants of Nazi-occupied France have been asked in a broadcast from Radio France at Algiers to save city children from famine by adopting them.

The armed forces of the United States recently received approximately 53,000,000 pounds of coffee from Brazil. This gift, freshly roasted, now is going to the American soldiers stationed in all parts of the world.

Mexico is expected to supply 75,000 workers to the United States in 1944.



Small Soybean Mills Increase in Midwest

Local Plants Save Long Freight Haul

Small soybean processing mills, big enough to handle the beans grown within a radius of five to ten miles, are being built in many parts of the Middle West. Many are owned by farmer-cooperatives.

In Iowa a recent survey showed that mills are being constructed in 16 communities with several more in the planning stage. Some will be operated in conjunction with country elevators, others as independent enterprises. Eight of these sixteen will be cooperatively owned.

A new solvent process, simple, safe and cheap, has been developed by Dr. O. R. Sweeney, Iowa State college chemist, which he says is well suited to small processing plants. The solvent method now in use is dangerously explosive, so only large factories that can employ the most skilled operators now use it. The hydraulic press method, used by most plants, requires heavy capital outlay.

Small Mills Can Succeed.

But the small local mills, extracting oil by the new process and employing the neighboring farmers during the off-season in the fall and winter, can compete with the big mills by their lower costs, and saving in haulage. Another advantage during this war period when feed is scarce is that farmers can get soybean meal easily from their local mill. As it is now, many stock raisers find it difficult to get back even the meal from their own beans because of freight congestion. It is reported that soybeans from the northern states are sent to cottonseed plants in the south, or other distant point, from which it is difficult to get any meal back.

Postwar prospects for soybean products are giving rise to much anxious debate. Such questions as "What will happen to soybean acreage, now reaching nearly 12 million acres, after the war? How will trade with Manchuria, a surplus soybean growing area, affect the price in the U. S.? How will soyoil be able to compete with cheap palm oil and coconut oil from the East Indies and the Philippines? Will there be too many little and big mills built in the U. S. to handle the reduced volume?" These questions are bothering both soybean growers and mill operators.

Different Opinions.

Edward J. Dies, president of the National Soybean Processors association, Chicago, is quoted as saying that the big processors can operate more economically, and the little fellows will be squeezed out when the going gets tough. Put down in the country, there are different opinions.

W. E. Simonson and his family have a country soybean processing mill at Quimby, Iowa, where they grind and make 30 to 40 tons of soybean oilmeal and 10,000 pounds of oil a day. Ever since 1937 the mill has made a profit. Farmers come with their beans and take back the pressed-out bean meal. The oil is shipped to the big terminal refineries.

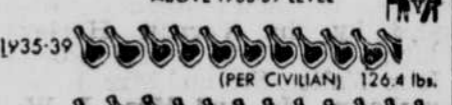
Simonson admits that too many small mills may be built—just as creameries were overbuilt a few years ago.

"But," he added, "the small mills that survive will be able to outlast the big outfits. Why? Because our advantage is in saving freight, in lower buying and selling costs, in lower taxes, in lower labor costs. As the price of oil goes down, these savings will become more important, not less."

Meat and Sugar

TELEFACT

U. S. MEAT CONSUMPTION STILL ABOVE 1935-39 LEVEL



1941 126.4 lb.  
1942 143.2 lb.  
1943 128.5 lb.

WHY WE STILL NEED SUGAR RATIONING



1940 100 million short tons  
1942 100 million short tons  
1943 100 million short tons

Each symbol represents one million short tons

Kaffir Grain Is Substitute For Corn or Barley Feed

Kaffir grain or milo is another energy feed belonging to the sorghum family which can be used to replace either corn or barley in the dairy ration. Kaffir grain contains more fat than barley and more protein than corn.

Buckwheat can be used to a limited extent. Although it is high in fiber and somewhat unpalatable to dairy cattle it could be used up to 20 per cent of the ration if necessary.

DISCOVERY OF THIS COLDS' RELIEF

(home medicated mutton suet)—which grandma used for coughing—nasal congestion, muscle aches of colds—teaches modern mothers to follow her example. So their families get relief from these colds' miseries with Penetro, the salve with modern medication in a base containing old fashioned mutton suet. 25c, double supply 35c. Demand Penetro.

NO! You can't see Inoculating Bacteria



You can't see legume bacteria without a powerful microscope. If you could, you wouldn't know whether they were good bacteria or bad. There is one sure way to get plenty of effective inoculation . . . just ask for NITRAGIN when you buy. NITRAGIN is the oldest most widely used inoculant. For 45-years farmers have used it to get bigger yields of alfalfa, clover, soybeans, and to build soil fertility. It costs only a few cents an acre; but frequently boosts yields up to 50% and more. It pays to inoculate every planting of legumes. Get NITRAGIN where you buy your seed. Look for the yellow can.

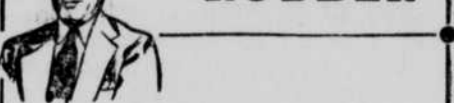


Five-Footed Dog  
A dog with a double leg, giving it five feet, is owned by John Smith, of St. Louis, Mo. It runs and plays with ease.

YOU WOMEN WHO SUFFER FROM HOT FLASHES

If you suffer from hot flashes, weak, nervous, cranky feelings, are a bit blue at times—due to the functional "middle-age" period peculiar to women—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such distress. It helps nature! Also a fine stomachic tonic. Follow label directions.  
LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER



A Wisconsin truck driver recently received a tribute from the Office of the Rubber Director because he risked his life to save the tires on the trailer of a tractor-trailer unit he was driving. The trailer jacked it up and removed the tires while it was ablaze.

The far-reaching influence of the rubber situation will be appreciated when it is known that close to 40% of the motor vehicles ever made in this country were still in service in December, 1941. More than half of them were owned by families with incomes of less than \$30 a week.

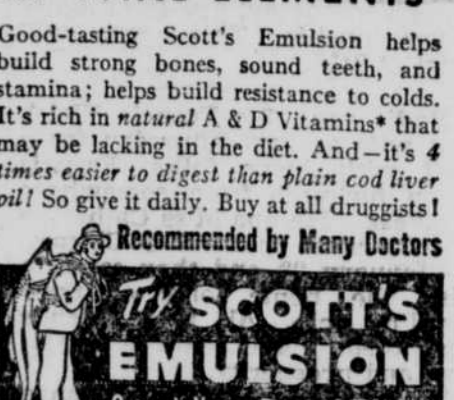
Buy War Savings Bonds



BABIES THRIVE ON SCOTT'S!

Good-tasting Scott's Emulsion helps build strong bones, sound teeth, and stamina; helps build resistance to colds. It's rich in natural A & D Vitamins\* that may be lacking in the diet. And—it's 4 times easier to digest than plain cod liver oil! So give it daily. Buy at all druggists!

SCOTT'S EMULSION



HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

SPRINGS: Now that the government has released a quantity of steel wire for springs, it is expected that furniture with coils can be coming out of the factories within two or three months.

DEBT: National debt of Great Britain amounted to 77 billion dollars on December 31, the chancellor of the exchequer has reported to the house of commons.

PLASMA: Use of blood plasma has reduced deaths among wounded men to three-tenths of 1 per cent in the Pacific area, a naval surgeon recently returned from the front said.

HOUSING: War ravaged Europe will require construction of at least 100 million homes, it is said. In the United States from 15 to 20 million new housing units will be needed in the next 10 years.