WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Jap Reinforcements Smashed; Yanks Weaken Nazi Strength; Iron Out Huge Highway Program

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When epinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Supported by tanks in the rear, U. S. infantrymen advance near Geilenkirchen inside Germany on western front.

PACIFIC:

Smash Reinforcements

Despite the fact that ground fighting on Levte island stalled in bad weather, with November rainfall totaling 231/2 inches, there was no lull in action in the Philippines.

As Jap General Yamashita tried to take advantage of the inclement weather to reinforce his beleaguered troops on Leyte, U. S. airmen rose to combat enemy transports ploughing through western Philippine waters to Ormoc. In one long assault on a convoy, U. S. aviators sank 10 enemy transports, sending 4,000 troops to the bottom, and bringing total Jap losses in reinforcement attempts to 26 ships with a tonnage of 92,750 and 21,000 men.

Meanwhile, B-29s continued their raids over the Tokyo industrial area, encountering moderate opposition. Infuriated by the bombings, chat-



Gen. MacArthur on Leyte airdrome with Ace Bong (at left) and Lt. Gen. George Kenney (right).

tering Japanese news commentators threatened that "albino apes" parachuting onto Japanese soil from distressed Superfortresses would be "killed on the spot by angry peo-

Japs Gain

Pushed to the wall in the Philippines, the Japs had better luck in China, where Chiang Kai-shek's armies were hard put to it in an attempt to blunt an enemy drive aimed at cutting the Burma road to Chungking.

Thrusting westward from their north-south juncture at Liuchow, where they joined to seal off the whole eastern Chinese coast, Jap columns stood about 100 miles from the Burma road, key communications line linking much of the southern part of the country.

As the Japs pressed forward, they claimed 50,000 Chinese troops were falling back on the big highway bastion of Kweiyang, where a strong stand was expected to block any drive further northward toward Chungking, Kai-shek's headquaretrs.

HIGHWAYS:

Postwar Project

Following separate action by both houses, senators and representatives got together in the nation's capital to settle on a definite postwar federal highway program, the first major public works project planned for peacetime.

After the senate had approved of the expenditure of \$450,000,000 annually for three years after the war for construction of rural, secondary and urban highways, the house passed a bill providing for \$500,000,-000 annually for three years.

Under both versions, states would have to contribute an equal amount of money for road projects, and sums would be distributed throughout the country on the basis of regional importance. Under the house bill, for instance, \$775,000,000 would be allotted for rural highways, \$450,-000,000 for secondary roads and case promised to last about a year \$375,000,000 for urban arteries.

WESTERN FRONT:

Battle of Attrition To the Nazis being pressed back to the Rhine, the great battles raging along the western front were

"the most ferocious in all history." To doughboys of the U.S. Ninth First, Third and Seventh armies, slogging forward in heavy gush, they were the hardest of the war, with desperate resistance encountered at every step.

With airplane activity limited by somber skies and rainfalls, the battle was being fought along the ground, with heavy U. S. field artillery and big, rumbling tanks pouring their deadly fire into enemy entrenchments to clear the way for the doughboys of the infantry.

Although General Patton's Third army about the Saar, and General Patch's Seventh army east of the Vosges, maintained heavy pressure on Nazi lines, the focal point of action centered on the Ninth and First army fronts between Julich and Duren.

East of the small, but strategic, Roer river, both of these towns are vital communications centers, with elaborate highways running in from the Rhineland to feed other roadways running to the north and south. As the great battle of attrition-

wearing down-rose in tempo, this highway network was vital to the Germans in rushing troops and materials to the endangered front, and then transferring them to the north and south.

Indicative of the great pressure General Eisenhower was exerting in this sector was the report that his opponent, foxy Field Marshal von Rundstedt, had transferred troops from the Dutch front to the Julich-Duren sector to cope with the Allied powerhouse.

No sooner had the report come through than it was announced that Canadian troops had taken the field on the Dutch front, increasing Allied pressure back in this sector, and giving the German high command no rest.

Slowed in their frontal assault on Budapest, Russian armies crossed the Danube to the south of the Hungarian capital to thrust one spearhead northward toward the embattled city and another westward toward the Austrian frontier, less than 100 miles away.

SEDITION TRIAL:

Death Ends It

With the death of 65-year-old Justice Edward C. Eicher of Iowa, the seven-month-long, and at times farcical, sedition trial of 26 defendants in Washington, D. C., came to an abrupt end, with small chance of resumption.

Although government counsel said the trial could go on if both the U.S. and defendants agreed to the selection of another judge, it was recalled that a federal court previously had ruled that justice required completion of a case by the same judge and jury and no substitutions could be made, even with consent. Thus, the government was faced with the alternative of starting new proceed-

Even though the trial of the 26 defendants, accused of trying to undermine the morale of the U.S. armed forces and establish a Nazi form of government in this country. had already taken up seven months. government counsel revealed that at least six more months would be necessary to complete presentation of its evidence. With defendants' attorneys expected to consume an additional three to six months, the

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

duced in October.

Meat: The largest production of | Fat Calf: Seven hundred and sevbeef and veal on record for any enty-five thousand dollars in war November was made at federally bonds was the sale value of a pure inspected meat packing plants last | bred Holstein bull calf at Omaha remonth, according to a review of the | cently. A life insurance company in livestock and meat situation today Omaha "bought" the calf for \$380,000 by the American Meat institute. in bonds and then they offered it for Total production of all meat last sale again with the Douglas County month was 1,539,000,000 pounds. This Dairy Breeders association paying was 6 per cent more than that pro- \$375,000 for the animal, which they will put in service.

CANADA:

Worst Crisis

Although pudgy Prime Minister MacKenzie King looked to a vote conscripting the home army for overseas service, it was expected to come only after one of the most severe crises of the country.

Principal hostility to King's compromise proposal to send over 16,-000 of the home guard to the European front to bolster the volunteer force came from the province of Quebec, where the French, long allowed to keep their own speech and customs and religion, stood firmly on their traditional opposition to conscription.

Where the rub came in was that King long has depended upon Quebec for political support, and the province, almost to the last, pressed the prime minister to abide by his government's earlier pledge against spite his obvious effort to compro- ever something goes wrong and nomise by restricting the number of body else is handy to blame, no draftees to 16,000.

Despite Quebec's violent opposition, King relied upon his com- plain grouch. promise to draw some support from

Yanks in Battle

fied in the mass as members of the various army units driving on-

Included in General Simpson's 9th army battling along the Roer river were the 2nd armored division, the 29th, 30th and 102nd infantry divisions, organized in the 19th corps.

With General Hodges' 1st army fighting east of Aachen were the 3rd and 5th armored divisions, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 28th, 38th, and 104th infantry divisions, organized in 5th, 7th, and 8th corps,

General Patton's 3rd army driving into the Saar included the 4th, 6th and 10th armored divisions, and 5th, 26th, 35th, 80th, 90th and 95th infantry divisions, organized in the 12th and 20th corps.

Fighting alongside the French in General Patch's 7th army east of the Vosges were the 3rd, 36th, 44th, 45th, 79th, 100th and 103rd U. S. infancry divisions, organized in 6th and 15th corps.

Among other units reported on the western front were the 82nd and 101st U. S. airborne divisions and the 7th U.S. armored and 94th U. S. infantry divisions.

NEW FACE:

Smiling Diplomat

As elder statesman Cordell Hull, 73, passed from the presidential as secretary of state

was assumed by

personable Edward

big business men

good recently in

governmental ranks.

Son of a Morgan



talked out of joining the ministry. started his own business career in as chairman of the U. S. Steel corporation. Smiling, hearty and blunt. Stettinius has been chiefly noted for

his ability in handling people. Secretary of State for 12 years, forced out by ill health. In the position, he worked for a freer world ments, and from the first advocated (Aye, aye!) use of force for the suppression of liberal administration.

FARM INCOME:

Up Again

With income from crops 10 per cent greater than last year, and receipts from livestock and livestock products 4 per cent more, farm income for the first 10 months of 1944 totalled \$18,430,000,000, 6 per cent above the same period in 1943, the U. S. department of agriculture re-

At the same time, the USDA said that farm prices, which have only changed about 2 per cent within the last year, would probably remain exceptionally stable for several more months.

With the 1944-'45 domestic supply of the four principal feed grains put at 132,500,000 tons, the USDA declared that not only would all requirements be met, but additions would be made to reserves, cut substantially in the 1941-'43 feed years.

WAR BONDS

With government outgo in the first nine months of the present fiscal year ending in July totalling \$82,-000,000,000, and receipts equalling \$35,000,000,000, Uncle Sam will be forced to borrow \$47,000,000,000. War Finance Director Ted Gamble said.

Of the \$82,000,000,000. Gambel revealed, \$72,000,000,000 will be spent on the war and other government uses, while \$10,000,000 000 will represent money needed to redeem securities maturing within the nine months.

Washington Digest

of confidence from Canada's parliament over the question of partially conscripting the home army for Is Slated for Overhauling

Bulk of Complaints Against the Legislative Branch Are Inconsistent, but Committee Setup Needs Revision.

By BAUKHAGE

tionist," which adds up to a con-

Because of the fact that the

growth of the country has de-

manded an increase in the

body of administrative and

executive law, congress is

forced to delegate more power

and more functions to the ad-

ministrative branch. To over-

come this trend in so far as

possible will be one of the ef-

forts of the reorganization, of

which I will speak in a mo-

ment. Meanwhile, it is interest-

ing to note that Senator LaFol-

lette himself called attention to

the accomplishment of the Tru-

man investigating committee in

exposing executive errors al-

ready committed and in pre-

venting others by the mere

threat of "ever present exposure

Congress at present is not

and censure."

their methods.

report says:

special group."

experts.

Expert Knowledge

Needed on Many Bills

be all things to all men.

hire the best legal or technical

case? How can a member of a con-

the particular subject involved?

Fortunately, the situation is

curable. One answer is-greater

specialization on the part of the

members of congress. This can

be accomplished by cutting

down the number of committees

upon which a member is allowed

to serve. In the house (with its

larger membership) a member

can concentrate on a single com-

mittee's work. In the senate,

I know of one case where a

senator found that all six com-

mittees on which he served were

scheduled to meet at the same

Another solution for the problem

would be provision for employment

of non-political experts, both tem-

porary and permanent, to advise

committees on purely technical mat-

ters. This arrangement now exists

The French air ministry has tem-

rolled and instructed."

silhouette to match.

time on the same day.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building | tive branch of the government in Washington, D. C. It is an old American custom to conscription for overseas service de- take a pot-shot at congress when-

matter whether the trouble is duststorms, sun-spots, jaundice or just

You may recall that this feeling its representatives to ride out the reached an unhappy high in the famous "bundles - for - congressmen" campaign of 1942. Some practical jokers in Seattle seized on the civil service retirement bill which made all government employees, includ-With the greater number unknown ing members of congress, eligible heroes, U. S. soldiers, slogging for pensions, as an excuse to start through the mush on the western the horseplay. By the time the silly front into Germany, are only identi- season arrived, everyone with an overdose of prickly heat was taking it out in one way or another on the poor legislators.

> That was very funny to everybody except the recipients of the bundles - and a few thoughtful people who know that the greatest danger to a democratic government is lack of confidence in the parliamentary body. They knew, too, that most of the sins of congress are due to the fact that some of the congressional methods established by the founding fathers have grown out of date.

As one congressman put it to me the other day: "We can't be expected to handle billion-dollar budgets with a penny-ante setup."

In July, 1943, Senator Lafollette (Progressive) of Wisconsin introduced a plan for the reorganization of the committee structure of the senate. This year the senate approved the appointment of a joint committee on organization of both houses. The Smith committee in the house. Senator Maloney and Representative Monroney and others carbright for consideration by the 79th congress of a plan to streamline the machinery of the government's legislative branch.

In addition, a committee of lawyers has just completed a fouryear study on the reorganization of congress, the results of which have cabinet, his place found favor in congressional circles. I think it apropos at this point to offer two quotations, one from the works of the historian Charles Stettinius, 44, an- Beard, mentioned by Senator LaFolother of the nation's lette in an article he wrote on the subject, and another from the arti-

who have made cle itself. This is what historian Beard said: "As a more than casual student of the Congressional Record, I venture partner, Stettinius, this opinion: It is possible to pick out of the Record for the past 10 years addresses (not orations) which for the breadth of knowledge. the stock room of a roller-bearing technical skill, analytical acumen, works, then rose rapidly as vice pres- close reasoning and dignified president of General Motors and, at 37, entation, compare favorably with similar utterances made in the preceding century by the so-called

great orators." LaFollette, subscribing to this opinion, adds frankly, "There is, to Hull held the post longer than any be sure, more trash - bad poetry, other American in history before demagogic claptrap, and clotted nonsense-in the Record of the past 10 years than there was on the antrade through his reciprocal agree- nals of congress from 1789 to 1799."

The senator reminds us, however, aggression. An old line southerner of the extremely complex quality in a new deal government, Hull was of the problems which congress has considered a tempering factor in a to face today and the distractions to which the members are subjected, and then, comparing the congress about which he is writing (the 76th) with the first congresses, he says he is convinced "that for disinterestedness, absence of corruption, and concern with the public good, the present body is of a higher order." And that is a sentiment which.

in the humble opinion of this writer, is substantiated by the majority of objective students of the two bodies.

All Democratic Institutions Suffer During Wartime

The present legislators, if they wished to be as tritely exasperating as many civilian slackers in this cur time of national stress, could answer some of their critics with a shrug and a reminder that "there is a war on." When a war is on the toughest fibered of democratic institutions suffer.

the complaints against the legisla- is hardly effective.

Washington is 84th on a list of 92,

Under the Hull reciprocal agree-

ments, tariffs to 36 per cent are

only 1 per cent lower than they

were before 1913 and 8 per cent

higher than under the Underwood

act of that year.

By VIRGINIA VALE

ALFRED HITCHCOCK, A who's just signed to produce and direct one picture a year for five years for Selznick-International, came up the hard way. The master of suspense began his career in England by sweeping the cutting room floors. In the years following he filled almost every job connected with the making of movies. When he finally picked up a the last two years can be seen when it is realized that the two most popumegaphone and began directing, he lar charges offered were either turned out such immediate sucthat congress was a "rubber cesses as "The Lodger," "The 39 stamp" or that it was "obstruc-Steps," "The Lady Vanishes," etc.

Now in England producing govern-

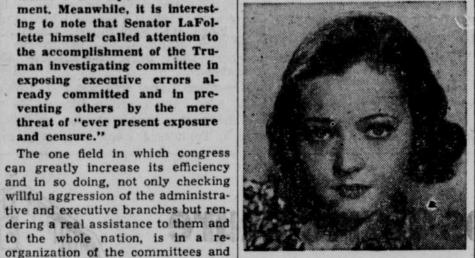
ment shorts, he's due back soon to

begin work on the Selznick-Interna-

tional "Notorious," which will star

Ingrid Bergman. She also has

"Spellbound" coming along. Remember back three or four years when Sylvia Sidney was making pictures that always seemed to put her into drab costumes, in drab stories? Well, just wait till you see her in "Blood on the Sun," the Wil-



SYLVIA SIDNEY

equipped to offer sufficient con- liam Cagney production. Her wardstructive help in the writing of robe used to consist of a black dress, legislation and therefore, frequent- a gray dress, and a flannel nightly, the last word goes, by default, gown, as a rule. Now she'll wear to the interested government six daring evening gowns and an agency, or that particular pressure eye-opening negligee.

group armed with the technical information necessary to bolster its From now on we're going to be hearing about movie stars who were Representative Smith of Virginia, discovered when working in televiried on, until today the chances seem | in the report of his committee to in- | sion. Shirley Hunter's one. She'd vestigate executive agencies, brings | always wanted to get into pictures. out this point, as others have. The | She and her mother moved to Hollywood in 1936, and Shirley studied "Today a large percentage of the singing, dramatics, everything that most important legislation is . . . could help toward attaining her goal painstakingly drafted by the very -and landed in television. A scout executive officials who are intended for a major studio saw a telecast. to be the recipients of the powers she was sent for, given a screen which the legislation delegates. test, and there she was in the mov-Furthermore, the same officials ies! You'll see her in an outstandare generally the only expert and ing rele in "Delightfully Dangerfully informed witnesses to testify ous."

before the legislative committees of the congress having jurisdiction It was no hard luck for Marc over the proposed bills. If there are Platt when he sprained his ankle opposing witnesses they do not, as and couldn't do his spectacular a rule, represent congress or the dance routine for Columbia's "Topeople generally but rather some night and Every Night." The director used the time thus gained by ringing in an extra kiss scene for Marc and Janet Blair.

That does not mean that there are Sergt. Robert Foster, a tank crewnot men in congress who know as man on the French-German battle much and more than many of the line, went to a movie provided by persons appearing before them in the Army Pictorial Service. Too favor of, or in opposition to, a par- tired to notice the name of the picticular bill. But even a senator can't ture, he fell asleep. He was awakened when the GI's began whistling Then there are the well-heeled at a gorgeous girl shown in Technilobby groups with their technical color on the screen. He nearly fell out of the hayloft where he'd been What can a committee with a lim- napping-she was Jean Colleran, in ited appropriation do in competition "Cover Girl"-also Mrs. Robert with a private group with funds to Foster!

Umbriago, Jimmy Durante's "little brains in the country to present its man who wasn't there," will be the gressional committee be expected to little man who's everywhere this know as much about a subject as a Christmas. A Des Moines woman member of a government depart- started it by sending several packment who spends his whole time on ages to her son, in camp, for soldiers who don't get holiday presents. Inside each package is a card saying "To Umbriago." Other mothers heard of the idea-as a result Umbriages all over the country will receive unexpected gifts.

The unhappy voice of the Postman on "George Burns and Gracie Allen" show is Mel Blanc's. The gruff voice of "Hubert Peabody," father of "Phoebe" on the "Jack Carson Show" is Mel Blanc's. And the stuttering squeal of Porky Pig in the movie cartoon is-Mel Blanc's.

Mary Mason, who's gay little 'Penny" on the Blue Network's 'My Best Girls," says she couldn't have avoided being an actress. Her mother played in early Western movies, and Mary was so entranced by her mother's work that she The inconsistency of the bulk of but in such a limited degree that it couldn't imagine any other career.

ODDS AND ENDS-Another 'teen. age lyric soprano is being launched in the movies; she's Donna Lee, who makes her screen debut in RKO's "The Body Snatcher," Warners have Body Snatcher." . . . Warners have changed the title of Joan Crawford's picture back to the original "Mildred cities in lung afflictions. Still porarily suspended voluntary enlist-Pierce"-no matter what it's changed sound of wind, anyhow, I hear you ments in the French air force beto in future, we'll say no more about cause "the number of applicants exnew titles for it. . . . Errol Flynn will have eight leading ladies in "The Adceeds the number who can be enventures of Don Juan." . . . Lilian Fon-taine, mother of Joan and Olivia de Congress is going to streamline itself. I wonder if the congressmen will have to diet down to a svelt will have to match.

Havilland, makes her screen debut in "The Lost Weekend." . . . 40% of the profits of "Hollywood Canteen" will go to the Hollywood Canteen

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DO YOU know a young housekeeper who would love to make a home for a family of dolls in this charming Colonial house? It is easy to make from scraps



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NOTE-Pattern 273 gives illustrated dfrections and dimensions for making the combination doll house and shelves shown nere: also actual-size outline drawings for the doors, windows, shutters, fireplace and views into up-to-date kitchen and bath. Directions for coloring these features and gluing them in place, making flower boxes and other details are included. To get this pattern, address:

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WNU-U

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DENETRATES to upper bronchial STIMULATES

chest and back

ONLY VAPORUS Gives You this special double action. It's time-tested, home-proved ... the best known home remedy for reliev-

Relieve Miseries of Your



throat, loosen phlegm, ease coughing. Then, as baby sleeps, VapoRub... to upper bronchial tubes with its special medicinal vapors.

surfaces like a warming poultice. Often by morning most of the misery of the cold is gone. Remember, Mother...

ing miseries of children's colds.