

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Menace Early Jap Conquests; Ask Overhauling of Vet Bureau; Smoothen Big Three Relations

Released by Western Newspaper Union. (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.)



For the first time since Nazis came to power, the Roman Catholic feast day of Corpus Christi was observed in Munich, with procession winding way through bomb-battered city. Outspoken foe of Hitler's regime, Michael Cardinal Faulhaber officiated at ceremony.

PACIFIC: New Campaign

Under heavy attack in the northern portion of their empire, the Japs face equally heavy pressure in the south, with Allied forces under command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur moving into northern Borneo in a drive to conquer the island that easily could be the prelude to a campaign against the Indies and Malaya.

Rich in oil and rubber and possessing good ports and airfields for a thrust to the west, Borneo was overrun by the Japs early in 1942 while the Allied cause in the Pacific still remained paralyzed after Pearl Harbor. With Jap shipping coming under increasing U. S. air and sea pressure, Borneo's value to the enemy has been sharply reduced, and Allied invasion forces met only meager opposition as they moved inland in the mountainous country.

Though only lightly defending the comparatively uncommunicable coastal regions, the Japs did fire the extensive oil installations located there in an effort to prevent their use by the Allies for future operations. Flames from the storage tanks and wells could be seen for 40 miles.

VETS CARE: Legion, V. F. W. Critical

Stung by the American Legion and V. F. W.'s ringing denunciation of the veterans administration bureau, congress moved to look into the whole question and give ear to the comprehensive program outlined by both service organizations for efficient functioning of the department.

With a spokesman declaring that the bureau may eventually have to handle the cases of 18,000,000 G. I.'s, the American Legion suggested the creation of a deputy administrator under Gen. Omar Bradley and a realignment of authority under six assistants to handle medical care, insurance, finance, loan guarantees, readjustment allowances, vocational training, rehabilitation and education, adjustment of compensation, pension and retirement claims, construction supplies and contracts.

Though criticizing the overall operations of the bureau, the American Legion and V. F. W. particularly rapped vet hospital care, charging that 47 per cent of the institutions now give inadequate treatment and citing instances of abuse in some centers. To relieve conditions, the organizations proposed increasing bed capacity; boosting wages; allowing authorities more leeway in securing help and supplies; more intelligent segregation of patients to speed recovery, and replacing army with civilian personnel.

BIG THREE: Smoothen Relations

Troubled relations over Poland having been seemingly smoothed, the Big Three looked forward to their forthcoming meeting for planning the peace conference to reestablish the broken continent of Europe.

News of the approaching Big Three confab followed announcement that officials of the U. S., Britain and Russia would meet in Moscow with the Red-sponsored Warsaw government and democratic leaders from within and outside of Poland to discuss the composition of a more representative regime for the country.

Instrumental in smoothing Big

Three relations were Harry Hopkins and Joseph E. Davies, President Truman's special emissaries to Moscow and London. Following receipt of reports from them upon their return to the U. S., the chief executive expressed confidence in a settlement of the Polish question, declaring the Russians were as anxious to get along with us as we are with them.

The late President Roosevelt's No. 1 confidante, Hopkins appeared to have played an especially key part in the discussions abroad, with Mr. Truman revealing that he not only conferred on the irksome Polish situation but also persuaded the Russians to surrender their demands for vetoing the right of aggrieved nations to air their complaints before the postwar peace organization.

While the step toward bringing together the dissident Polish elements was considered an encouraging move for the development of a



With his Chief of Staff Adm. William H. Leahy standing by, President Truman receives report of overseas missions of Joseph Davies (left) and Harry Hopkins (right).

representative rule, the Polish government in exile in London denied the authority of the Big Three to supervise formation of a regime for the liberated country. Not directly included in the Moscow parley and long at loggerheads with the Reds because of alleged political interference in Poland, the exiles branded the plan as a concession to the Russians.

BIG HARVEST: Mounting Problems

Even as the department of agriculture predicted a bumper wheat yield of 1,084,652,000 bushels for 1945, along with another banner general crop year, Kansas undertook the harvest of 215,000,000 bushels of its winter wheat with a heavy shortage of both men, machinery, storage and transport.

Premier winter wheat producing state of the U. S., Kansas needs an additional 20,000 hands; 2,000 combines; 2,000 trucks; and many ration points for feeding extra workers. Because of the local elevator glut resulting from the freight car shortage, farmers expect to dump sizable quantities of wheat on the ground after filling up vacant houses, store buildings, filling stations, etc.

Typical of the problem confronting other southwestern states, Kansas' transport situation devolves from the inability of the railroads to divert sufficient cars for the grain trade in the face of heavy war production traffic and the redeployment of U. S. forces to the Pacific through this country.

In the face of impending harvest and transport difficulties, the USDA looked forward to not only a bumper wheat harvest but heavy oats, hay and rye production, and another banner truck and fruit crop. Despite wet weather, two-thirds of the corn crop has been planted, USDA said.

POLIO: Cases Increase

On the eve of infantile paralysis summer outbreaks, figures show that the number of poliomyelitis cases in the country is running about 50 per cent ahead of a year ago, it was announced by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. As of mid-May, the number of new cases this year were 642 as compared with 424 cases for the same period in 1944, the foundation reported.

OPA: Farm Prices

Passed by the senate as part of a bill extending OPA for one year, a provision requiring that farm producers be granted cost plus profit headed for rough treatment in the house, with Pres. Harry S. Truman joining to oppose the amendment.

Drawn by Senators Wherry (Neb.) and Shipstead (Neb.) and adopted by a 37 to 30 vote, the cost-plus provision stipulates that "it shall be unlawful to establish or maintain against the producers of any livestock, grain or other agricultural commodity a maximum price . . . which does not equal all costs and expenses (including all overhead expenses, a return on capital and an allowance for the labor of the producer and family) . . . plus a reasonable profit thereon.

While President Truman described the provision as bad and hoped the house would knock it out, other critics declared that it would create confusion by replacing the present parity formula, scaling farm prices according to general costs. Countering this argument, Senator Wherry said the provision would apply if parity prices failed to meet expenses.

SUGAR: Set Quotas

Though distribution of sugar through the first five months of 1945 exceeded that for the same period in last year, the War Food Administration fixed rigid quotas for government and civilian users for July-August-September, with the home front obtaining 10,000 less tons than at present.

From January through May, distribution of sugar totalled 2,955,906 short tons compared with 2,747,543 last year, it was revealed.

Reflecting criticism that the impending sugar pinch has resulted from loose allocations of the commodity in the face of over-optimism over supplies, figures showed that as of June 2 raw sugar stocks amounted to 275,746 short tons compared with 442,234 last year, the best inventories totalled 374,052 short tons as against 465,222.

Bombs Take Heavy Toll

A commander in the famed U. S. 21st bomber force in the Marianas, Col. Alfred F. Klaberer, estimated that 500,000 Japanese had been killed in B-29 raids on Tokyo, with the possibility the figure might even be 1,500,000. "Look at Yokohama," he said. "One minute it is there and the next it has disappeared, I believe we killed 250,000 there."

Because burns caused by B-29 fire bombs require the care of two or three people and the Japanese lack the personnel to attend to the injuries, one 21st force medic opined the death rate must be enormous, Klaberer said.

SAN FRANCISCO: Peace Force

With French delegate Joseph Paul-Boncour declaring that the conference was erecting "the keystone of the peace structure," the United Nations meeting in San Francisco moved to approve plans for the first international army, navy and air force in history.

Directed by a military staff committee, with regional sub-committees throughout the world, the world peace force may draw on one-third of the U. S.'s present army and navy. American authorities recently estimated. All members of the United Nations will have to grant the international force free right of passage through their territory in the event of hostilities.

Use of the peace force will be subjected to the unanimous approval of the Big Five—the U. S., Britain, Russia, China and France—and a majority of the security council of 11.

SHIPYARDS: Workers Needed

The rush of workers to peacetime jobs is seriously impeding the construction as well as repair of war vessels, the navy revealed, with the situation equally serious in both west and east coast shipyards.

With damaged vessels receiving first call on facilities for repair, the building of new ships necessarily must await their fixing. With the Brooklyn navy yard in need of 5,000 additional workers at once, the new 27,000-ton aircraft carrier Reprisal is five months behind schedule and the Oriskany is about half completed. Approximately 3,000,000 man days of work will be required on the super 45,000-ton flattop Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Both east and west coast shipyards have been losing about 600 employees a month in the shift to peacetime jobs, with the tight manpower situation in the west reflected by the necessity to tow the famed flattop Franklin to Brooklyn for repair.

PETS FOR G.I.S

Veteran war dogs no longer suitable for combat because of over age and not adaptable to scout duty are being assigned to army convalescent hospitals as pets and mascots for recuperating patients. If a hospitalized veteran soldier becomes attached to an individual dog, he may assume full ownership and take the dog home with him when he recovers and is released from the service.

Washington Digest

Reconversion No Great Obstacle to Industry

Many Factories Making Consumers Goods For Services; Numerous Others to Require Only Minor Changes.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Reconversion has begun and it looks as if one prediction, made back when conversion had been accomplished with many an ache and groan, would come true. Then the experts predicted that reconversion would be easier than conversion.

Eighty per cent of the factories, we are now told by officials of the department of commerce, will not have to do a major reconversion job. This is largely because many industries now furnishing supplies to the military will continue to manufacture the same supplies for civilians—clothing, food, printing, electrical appliances—you can think of a whole lot of others yourself. It will be no great problem for the makers of such products to shift from one market to another—from Uncle Sam to John Q. Consumer.

Some industries whose present final product differs considerably from the civilian goods they make won't have such major difficulties either. It will please the ladies to learn that even the folks who have been making parachutes will have little or no trouble changing back to stockings. The nylon people simply have to change spools.

There are a number of other predictions concerning the future of businesses, big and little, and one of them is that 40 per cent of the industries, although they won't do the business they are doing today with Uncle Sam as a customer, will have a bigger demand to meet than they had in the boom year of 1929.

And this condition will continue, say the prophets of profits, for two or three years on the impetus of the present pent-up buying power of the nation. If we keep our heads meanwhile, there is no reason why the period of prosperity cannot be extended.

But what about the other types of business which were expanded by war demands for products which won't have any civilian market? Well, our American business ingenuity and our native mechanical inventive genius, they tell us, are going to step into the picture again. Then there will be the natural evolution which will eliminate the below-average business man and establish a survival of the fittest.

Yankee Ingenuity To the Fore

What started me off on this topic was a typical example of how this inventive genius, stimulated by war demands, has laid the foundation for turning what started as a little two-room factory into a big, small-town business. The man with the inventive genius is a frequent Washington visitor these days. His name is Burl E. Sherrill. The name of the town is Peru, Ind., a population 13,000. Sherrill is a modest Hoosier genius in his forties who managed to make a living from tinkering and selling the patents on the gadgets he invented. Then one day he made something he liked so well he didn't want to part with the idea behind it, so he decided to manufacture it himself. It was a popular-priced magnetic compass for use in steel-bodied automobiles and trucks.

Sherrill rented three offices right on the public square of Peru, turned them into his factory and started out. Soon he began to expand, pushing lawyers, doctors, real estate men out of the way. But I am getting ahead of my story.

Sherrill was a born inventor, although he didn't realize it and started off to study law. After two years at the University of Chicago he found that his hunger for the law was appeased, his hunger for three meals a day was not. He went to work managing a little neighborhood shoe store in Chicago. This gave him a chance to tinker in the kitchen-laboratory in his flat. Then he got a chance at a job back in Indiana—repairing radios in Peru. This gave him lots of opportunity to tinker and he patented inventions and sold them, which bolstered his income considerably. Finally he evolved the compass which he wouldn't part with. He was able to hire a small staff of workers—then came the war and no more civilian autos.

But there were lots of military vehicles and after our blind tanks had lost themselves in the African des-

erts, Washington found out about Sherrill and gave him the challenge of making a compass for use in motorized equipment of various kinds. Sherrill went to work and produced his models. The Carnegie Institute, the army engineers and the war college looked them over and put their okeh on them. The inventor moved downstairs and took the whole first floor of the building on Peru's public square. The 20 men who had assembled the auto compasses were increased to 125 working at a regular assembly line.

Next came a call from the Maritime commission. A compass for steel lifeboats was needed. Like the tanks, too many had been left to wander on the high seas blind. Further inventive genius was required for this job for a steel lifeboat passes much of its life on the steel deck of a ship. A few months ago the new compass was approved and production is now under way.

Some day, of course, the last war order will arrive at the factory in Peru, but because of the war-stimulated ingenuity of one man, a product has been created, the demand for which will continue for such war machines as are still needed plus a demand for civilian use which will return the moment restrictions on motor travel and transportation are over. In addition, I understand from Sherrill, a new hearing-aid is in the making.

Gay and Practical Sun Suit for a Tot



Need for Legume and Grass Seed Increases

Good Profit Seen For Seed Growers

Harvesting legume and grass seed will bring a three-fold return to farmers: additional income, assurance of feed for livestock and protection for their soil, says the U.S.D.A.

An increase of 67 per cent over last year's harvested acreage of alsiike clover seed is sought in 1945, a total of 179,000 acres. One reason for the larger acreage is the urgent call for this seed from liberated areas of Europe, in addition to increasing home requirements for hay and soil protection.

Half again as much alfalfa seed is needed as was harvested in 1944, about 100,000,000 pounds.

About 120,000,000 pounds of red clover seed are needed, some 15 per cent more than was produced last year.

Hay and pasture account for more than three-quarters of the feed consumed by dairy cows and furnish a major share of the feed for other livestock.

In addition, farmers depend on legumes and grasses to check soil erosion and maintain fertility. For example, legumes used as green manure add nitrogen to the soil and when grown in mixtures, they furnish this essential element to the grasses in the mixture. When used in crop rotations, legumes maintain and increase the acre yield of



Gathering Cash Seed Crop.

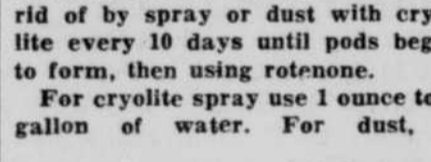
other crops. Both grasses and legumes are valuable as permanent cover for the land, holding the soil against erosion by wind and water.

Good prices and a ready market are indicated for legume and grass seed in 1945-46, pointing to additional income for farmers from properly managed fields. The first crop of many of these plants may be cut for hay or used as pasture, and the second harvested for seed.

Killing Bean Beetles

Mexican bean beetle, left, and bean leaf beetle, right, can be gotten rid of by spray or dust with cryolite every 10 days until pods begin to form, in using rotenone.

For cryolite spray use 1 ounce to 1 gallon of water. For dust, 2



pounds to 1 pound of talc. For rotenone spray, use Derris or cube root powder, 5 per cent rotenone content, 1/2 ounce to 1 gallon water. For dust, use ready prepared dust mixture containing at least 1 per cent of rotenone.

Save the Tractor and Conserve Time and Life

Time, money, injuries and deaths resulting from tractor accidents may be largely prevented by proper operation. Avoid holes or ditches that may cause tractors to overturn. Drive slowly, reduce speed on turn or when applying brakes. Never ride on draw bar. Don't permit tractor to idle. Stop power take-off before dismounting. Be sure that all power line shielding is in place.

Do not operate tractor in a closed building. Refuel only when motor is cool and dead. Be sure the gear shift lever is in neutral before cranking the engine.

Effect of Pregnancy

The severe price discriminations practiced by market buyers against pregnant yearling heifers are not justified when such heifers are marketed by the end of the fifth month of gestation, according to the Illinois agricultural experiment station.

Slaughtered tests and carcass show that pregnant heifers take on a higher degree of finish and that at this stage of pregnancy neither the dressing percentage nor the market grade is lowered.

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