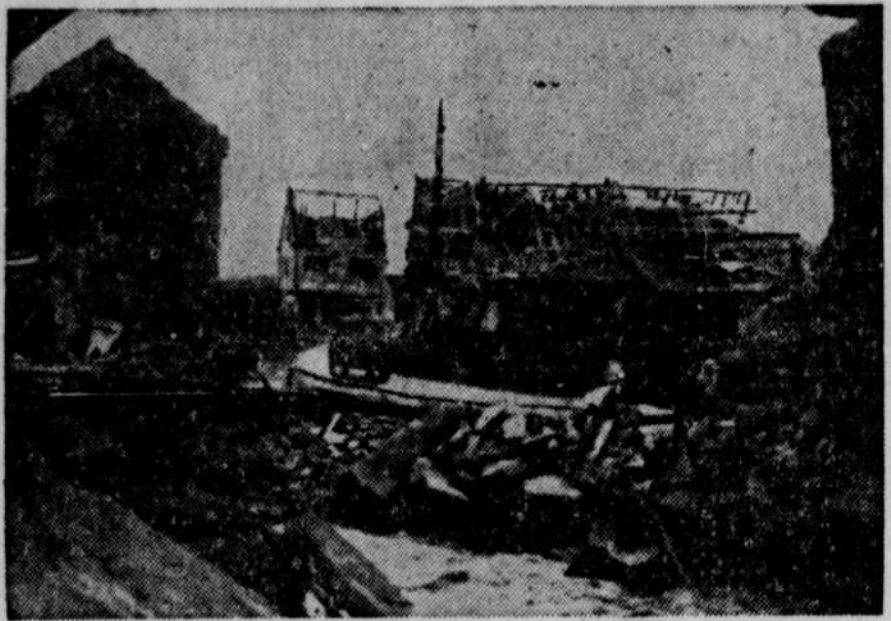


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazis Gird for Counter-Blow; B-29s Rip Japs' Home Industry; Approve Huge Waterway Bill

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.)



Converted into fortress by Germans, the town of Langerwehe was reduced to rubble by Allies in advance into Reich.

EUROPE: Nazi Hopes

Fighting now with its back to the wall, a desperate Germany is drawing up its dwindling strength for one great counter-blow next year in the hope of yet winning the war, according to advices from London.

The reports came through even as the enemy struggled to retard U. S. armies' steady advances on the Ruhr, Rhineland and Saar, and the Russian march on the Austrian gateway.

In Hungary, the Nazis retreated to mountainous terrain both in the north and south, in an effort to slow up the Russians' steady advance upon Austria, 100 miles distant.

In reputedly preparing for a counter-offensive, the badly mauled but fanatical enemy apparently was placing his hopes in a still strong army, whose forces have been carefully husbanded; in new weapons, and in short supply lines.

With 4,000,000 Germans in the field in both the east and west, the Nazis have been fighting a defensive war from strongly fortified positions in recent months in the hope of inflicting maximum losses on the Allies and keeping their own casualties to a minimum. Because of the employment of many foreign workers inside the Reich, they have been able to draw heavily on their own manpower.

Now being used against Allied troops in the west, the V-1 buzz bomb and V-2 rocket are two of the new weapons the Nazis intend



Rep. Clare Booth Luce (left) confers with Gen. Patton on Third Army front.

to utilize in any counter-assault. They have hinted at the production of two other destructive weapons, but the only other one that Allied authorities have knowledge of is a submarine with new devices for underwater breathing, which they intend to unleash against shipping.

Finally, the enemy hopes that his short supply lines in contrast to our longer ones will enable him to feed his armies with much greater rapidity, but here concerted Allied bombings can be expected to play havoc with his land routes.

Whatever the German plans, Allied armies were giving the enemy no chance to dream, as they maintained their terrific pressure both in the west and east.

New Political Crisis

To the complicated European political scene was added another disturbing incident in the Russian sponsored Polish National Council's announcement that the new year would see the formation of a provisional Polish government independent of the U. S. - British backed Polish exile regime in London.

Declaring that it would be the new provisional government's concern to break up large estates for the distribution of land to 8,000,000 propertyless tenants, a National Council spokesman assailed the present exiled regime as being representative of the powerful nobility backing Soviet influence in Poland because of a fear of reform in ownership.

In Greece, the British moved to patch up differences between radical and rightist elements and restore order in that country fronting Britain's Mediterranean lifeline.

V-Girl's Day Belongs to Uncle Sam

Three jobs, 101 hours a week, seven days and nights a week—and 85 per cent of her earnings going into war bonds!

That leaves comely Genevieve Delcioppo of Syracuse, N. Y., 27-year-old wife of a tank driver in Italy, 6½ hours a day for sleeping—and time to do her own housework, which includes washing, ironing and cooking. In addition, this V-girl finds time to donate blood.

PACIFIC: Fear B-29s

Aimed at knocking out the great industrial centers of the Japanese homeland, supplying enemy forces on far-flung Asiatic fronts, superfortress air raids were stepped up, with one force of over 100 B-29s setting fire to the Mitsubishi twin-engine bomber and fighter plant at Nagoya below Tokyo.

As a result of the growing B-29 attacks, Japanese officials, who once described the assaults as attempts to lower enemy morale, took a more serious attitude toward the bombings, claiming that their steady extension presaged wide damage, necessitating the evacuation of civilians from danger areas.

As the giant superfortresses winged their way over the heart of Japan's loosely knit Asiatic empire, U. S. forces in the Philippines moved steadily ahead in reducing that great stronghold protecting the enemy's supply lines to the Indies. On Leyte, the Japs were faced with slow strangulation as General MacArthur's forces continued to compress them in the northwestern corner of the island, with their lines under attack from the north, east and south.

WATERWAYS: Huge Program

Large-scale development of U. S. waterway resources was authorized by congress in a \$1,000,000,000 flood control bill, while conferees from both houses met to iron out differences for approval of expenditures of an additional \$500,000,000 in projects.

Part of the country's job creating program when peace comes, the two bills provide for flood control, navigation, reclamation and hydro-electric power, with the \$1,000,000,000 measure calling for an initial appropriation of \$400,000,000 for the development of the Missouri river valley by army engineers and the bureau of reclamation.

In acting on the bills, the senate rejected the effort of Senator Aiken (Vt.) to push through the \$421,000,000 St. Lawrence seaway and power project as an executive agreement requiring a majority vote rather than as a treaty calling for a two-thirds margin.

EGGS: WFA Program

With demands of the services and the Allies expected to account for approximately 26,500,000 cases, there will be little surplus of eggs in 1945, Lieut. Col. R. W. Olmstead, deputy director of supply for the War Food administration, told a trade meeting in Chicago.

Colonel Olmstead spoke after the WFA announced that beginning January 1 it would support prices at 27 cents a dozen for producers of candled eggs and 24 cents a dozen for current receipts to represent 90 per cent of parity as required by law.

About 25,000,000 cases will be needed for the processing of 365,000,000 pounds of dried eggs for the services, Russia, Britain, Belgium, Holland and France, Colonel Olmstead said, and, in addition, Britain is expected to take approximately 1,500,000 cases of shell eggs. What surplus remains may be disposed of through school lunch programs, institutions or for tankage.

In revealing that WFA has reduced its 1944 holdings to 150,000 cases of shell eggs, Colonel Olmstead said that no stocks would be dumped on the market in 1945, with prices tending to reflect production costs which are expected to remain high through the year.

WORK ORDER: New Draft Rule

With 300,000 workers needed for critical war industries, the nation's draft boards checked through their files to offer those in the 26 to 37 age group not presently engaged in essential production the alternative of "working or fighting."

Reversing a previous Selective Service policy of granting liberal deferments for the group over 30, local boards are expected to adopt a more stringent attitude toward considering the essentiality of a registrant's employment, it was thought. Registrants who left deferrable positions for a return to their old or similar position or induction.

While the latest crackdown principally was prompted by the move to provide manpower for essential industry, Selective Service Director Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey declared that increased military activity called for a greater amount of replacements, with the result that a 10 to 20 per cent increase in inductions could be expected in the next few months.

Output Lags

Although production of critical war material rose 6 per cent in October over the previous month, a greater increase for the remainder of the year is necessary to assure required deliveries to the services, the War Production board reported.

In reviewing October production, the WPB said the following programs were below schedule: aircraft, 3 per cent; ships, 1 per cent; guns and fire control, 4 per cent; ammunition, 2 per cent; combat and motor vehicles, 5 per cent; communications, 6 per cent; and other equipment and supplies, 1 per cent.

Particularly critical, it was reported, are the tire and cotton duck production programs, what with 500,000 vehicles in operation on the western front alone, and the Nazi destruction of shelter in the bitter scorched earth fighting necessitating much tenting.

Rehabilitate Vets



Adjustment to new conditions through practice, known as occupational therapy, is one of the means being used to rehabilitate disabled U. S. war vets.

At the Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C., Pfc. William L. Harris develops dexterity in the movement of artificial right arm by playing checkers with counters of different sizes, with Occupational Therapist Susan Pohland.

SMOKES: Plan Allocations

As long as manpower shortages will persist and wartime conditions will make extension of facilities difficult, manufacturers will not be able to increase their already record production of cigarettes, the trade told a congressional committee.

Meanwhile, tobacco distributors announced plans for the adoption of nationwide rationing of supplies among retailers to assure equitable stocks for all smokers, with efforts made to readjust deliveries to shifting populations.

Speaking at the congressional hearing, Col. Fred C. Foy said that the army will have procured 68,000,000 cigarettes by the end of 1944, but movements of the smokes to the front line areas were impeded by limited facilities for unloading and the need for rushing more vital materials like food and gasoline to the combat zones.

AGRICULTURE: Boost Ceilings

In a move designed to reflect parity to producers, the OPA hiked ceilings on cash wheat 4 cents, and at the same time raised the top on all hogs except sows, stags and boars to \$14.75.

In announcing the ceiling boost on wheat, OPA revealed that the increase affects all levels of distribution, but could not disturb the cost of bread. The present subsidy of 19 cents a bushel to flour producers will stick until the first of the year, OPA said, when new rates will be established.

With official admission that the boost in the hog ceiling to \$14.75 was effected to increase feeding of corn, the market for that grain spurred, although heavy country offerings tempered activity at Chicago, hog prices were especially strong, partly because inclement weather kept large supplies on farms.

MISCELLANY

A recent survey shows that 18½ million Victory gardens were grown this year.

The figures show that more than half of the U. S. farm people live in the 13 Southern states; cultivate less than one-third of the nation's crop land; and receive one-fourth of the nation's farm income.

Washington Digest

Practical Planners Plot Nation's Economic Future

Map Expansion of Foreign Trade as Help in Meeting Goal of 60,000,000 Jobs In Postwar Period.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

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

"Sixty million jobs!" That phrase has been batted about hopefully, contemptuously, with the raised eyebrow of cynical doubt, with the set jaw of desperate determination.

People may believe it is an ideal dream or feel that it is quite practicable but the majority of experts will tell you unless it is achieved we face the old cycle: inflation, depression, war and pestilence.

But the phrase "60 million jobs" has acquired a new meaning in the last few weeks. Why? Because of a plan that has been presented to achieve this goal. The men who have worked it out, and the things that have brought them together and welded their ideas into an effective implement, have caused some of the hard-headed experts, who are accustomed to weigh such ideas on the scales of experience and either toss them into the scrap heap or hold them up as worthy of use, to call this plan good.

The "plan" is contained in a little red-bound booklet issued as Pamphlets Nos. 37-38 of the National Planning association and called "America's New Opportunities in World Trade." And let me hasten to say right here that this organization is not to be confused with another New Deal group of a similar name which congress in its wisdom, or otherwise, has weighed in the balance and found wanting.

The National Planning association about which I am writing is a non-governmental, non-partisan association of businessmen and scholars, labor leaders, farmers, bankers and manufacturers,—all, insofar as this task is concerned, at once selfless workers in the vineyard of the public good, and husbandmen who realize their neighbor's prosperity is likewise their own.

There are three reasons why the plan for creating jobs, worked out by this organization, has made an impression on Washington and elsewhere:

First, it has been examined and praised by certain media of public thought which can hardly be described as champions of the impractical, the utopian or the unAmerican—the New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, and Business Week, to mention only three.

Second, because of the men who authored or sponsored it—all leaders in their respective fields of American enterprise.

Third, because of the way the organization which brought these men together came into being.

Now let me give you the gist of the plan.

Must Boost Imports, Foreign Investments

A 10 billion dollar trade budget calling for increased imports and increased foreign investments. That sounds pretty unorthodox to start with. There would be tariff reductions to increase the imports on the theory that only thus will foreign countries be able to get the money to buy our goods.

There would be steps taken to make foreign capital investments secure in order to build them up.

There would be an international bank for reconstruction and development; there would be long-time foreign trade agreements coordinated with long-time investment programs.

Now, in order to understand why such an unorthodox program finds such ready acceptance in a hard-biten world fed up with utopian planning, let me take you back to the genesis of the organization from which this plan emerged.

We find ourselves in the comfortable but somewhat gloomy quarters of the old City Club in New York where met a group of men, most of them engineers, some economists, others interested as members of that club, who had become tired of the type of "research" which was largely a collection of ancient history and which looked backward instead of forward.

These men saw the weakness in the kind of "report" frequently asked for and submitted to great corporations and other institutions by high-paid and well-informed experts, but written entirely by men

who had no responsibility for the actual carrying out of the programs, men who had no power whatever to make the decisions necessary to meet the actual conditions with which they were faced.

At about the same time, a similar group was meeting in England. It had moved a little farther ahead, perhaps because its members had come to the point where they felt that efficient planning, such as successful business institutions carried through, might be applied to public affairs as well. They called themselves the "P E P" (political and economic planning). This group was made up of British government officials, people from the "City" (London's Wall street), members of industry, finance, the Bank of England (which, you recall, is a private institution) and others.

By virtue of a fortunate international marriage the ideas of the American and British groups mingled. And so, the American group came to the conclusion: first, that planning must be done by forward-looking, rather than historically-minded groups, including persons who actually had to make the decisions to carry out the plans. Second, that since (as the previous years had shown) even the well-planned industrial and governmental efforts fall when the "unplanned" efforts go down as they did in the depression, it might be wise to carry the planning into the national field.

By 1934 the National Planning association had been organized, had received the backing of a number of foundations, individual contributions and memberships and was able to issue its first report in December of that year setting forth its principles. Other reports followed.

Birth of a Big Idea

Just when the "60 million jobs" idea was born, I do not know. Certainly it was before anyone had hit upon that particular figure which, indeed, must be considered rather as a symbol than an exact estimate of tomorrow's needs. But there was one statement made at a meeting in 1940 which seems to me to have been the inspiration for the present report.

It was Donald Nelson who spoke and the gist of what he said was this:

"In order to get full production for the war effort we must conquer certain future fears. Labor must be cured of the fear that this tremendous production effort will bring a reaction and that war workers will be working themselves out of a job later. Capital must be cured of the fear that it will bring inflation and depression which mean that they are working themselves out of their investments and profit."

Whether this caused the board of trustees of the NPA to call upon its committee on international policy to set their heads to writing a prescription for full employment, I do not know. But it might seem to have caused constructive thinking in that direction.

These are some of the men involved:

William Batt, one of America's leading industrialists and a member of the War Production board, heads the NPA's board of trustees. The chairman of the committee of the NPA which prepared the report is Stacy May, economic advisor to the McGraw-Hill publishing company.

There are 21 others who compose the committee which drew up the report. They are representative members of industry, labor, agriculture, finance, public affairs, professional life.

(Copies of the plan—"America's New Opportunities in World Trade," Pamphlets Nos. 37-38, can be obtained for 50 cents by writing the National Planning association, 800 21st street, Washington, D. C.)

RATS! They say that rodents desert a sinking ship.

If that is the case Washington is assured a safe voyage for we have in the capital more than our share. And the White House has its quota, too, although the situation there has been ameliorated since the days when Theodore Roosevelt hired a special rat charmer to run out the vermin with trained ferrets.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

"Merry Christmas," said the boy. "Well, I might," said the wistful lady. "If he asked me."

I don't know who Bobby is, but at least he deserves a sock.

It is a dangerous thing when cigarettes, biting your nails, oversleeping or being inaugurated gets to be a habit.

What about the rugged individualists who can't roll their own?

It is easier to let the cat out of the bag before you want to than to let it out of the back door when it wants to.

Turning in a victory bond is like killing the goose for one gold-plated egg.

Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

CECIL B. DE MILLE has been called a combination of Napoleon, Belasco and Beau Brummel, but P. T. Barnum would be much better, because De Mille, like Barnum, is a great showman.

His record is unbelievable. His films have earned a shocking amount of money—more than \$200,000,000. This doesn't include returns from his latest, "The Story of Dr. Wassell," which stars Gary Cooper and which Paramount claims will make more money than any other Paramount picture with one exception, perhaps—"Reap the Wild Wind," in which I got my puss for a smart quarter of an hour.

Ever since C. B. founded Hollywood as the movie capital of the world (in 1913 with "The Squaw Man") his astute showmanship has been apparent. "The Sign of the Cross," "King of Kings" (which still is the most played film in history), and "The Ten Commandments" still are milestones in this picture business of ours.

King for a Day

De Mille is a wise and gay man rich with wisdom and experience. At 63 years he's become spokesman for the film capital. He reaches 40,000,000 people weekly on his radio show. When he recently went to Washington, D. C., to participate in the premiere of "The Story of Dr. Wassell," he was given the No. 1 treatment reserved invariably for visiting potentates. He got pomp and circumstance from the President down the line to foreign ambassadors. In other words, for one day the most discussed man back there was C. B. De Mille. He set the stage and they gave him the works.

Many entertaining stories have grown up about him—many of them true, too. There was, for instance, the time De Mille was making "Cleopatra," and the sequence called for Claudette Colbert to grasp an asp (that's a snake, dearie) to her breast and let it do her in. De Mille knew Claudette loathed snakes. He knew if he asked her to hold one she'd walk off the set—or faint. Well, two weeks before the scene De Mille rented a huge boa constrictor from a local zoo, had it brought on the set in a box. Claudette fainted when she saw it. De Mille told her to be brave, to try to get used to its presence. Then one day before the scene was scheduled De Mille had a tiny asp brought in. "What's that?" asked Claudette. "This little thing is just an asp," De Mille replied, looking at Claudette. "Why, that itty-bitty thing couldn't hurt anybody," said Claudette, picking up the asp and looking sideways at the huge reptile in the box. "Who could be afraid of a little thing like you?" Claudette said as she did the scene; and De Mille smiled wisely.

Time or the day means nothing to C. B. when he's making pictures. Sundays, nights, they're all the same.

Well, What Else?

During "North West Mounted Police" De Mille was doing a scene of a group of supposedly badly wounded Mounties returning to their barracks, which were aflame. For hours his assistant rehearsed the men. After many rehearsals, what with being bound up with bandages, splints, crutches, carrying litters, etc., the men were tired. De Mille called for a final rehearsal. The Mounties dragged themselves out of camera range, then, summoning their waning strength, began to march across the lot. De Mille watched their weary progress. Suddenly he shouted: "Stop! Stop! What in heaven's name do you men think you are? A bunch of cripples?" Hollywood's pet story about De Mille is the one about the great Los Angeles earthquake of years back. As the earth shook and rumbled and the players were tossed from their beds they awoke shouting, "Yes, yes, Mr. De Mille!"

But his wife tells this one. It's her favorite story. Some years ago he was in the back country around New Orleans, and some natives, hearing his name and voice, said, "O, Mr. De Mille, you sure are our favorite!" C. B. beamed and asked, "Which of my pictures did you like best?" "O, is you in pictures, too? We meant you is our favorite on the radio." And that, my buddies, is his favorite, too. He's just a ham at heart—and aren't we all?

Ready for Anything

William Demarest received a pistol from Winfield Sheehan. So on location Gary Cooper's teaching him to shoot. That came in handy when Demarest woke up at the crack of dawn and heard voices outside. He looked out, and there was a great big guy trying to get through his gate. He grabbed his pistol, ran downstairs, opened the door, and said, "Stick 'em up!" The fellow turned out to be a merchant seaman, a bit fuzzy and lost. Demarest ended up cooking breakfast for him.

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Seas Named During War

The list of the world's 50-odd seas has been increased by three new names, born of war necessity: The Solomon sea, the Philippine sea and the Bismarck sea.

How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly always the cough, or you are to have your money back. CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

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