



The DAY IS COMING by ERIC HASS

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Speaking of "full employment" and "sixty million jobs", down in Memphis, Tennessee, the International Harvester Company is rushing to completion a big new plant for the production of mechanical cotton pickers.

I can almost hear the economic myth-peddler saying: "See! Technology doesn't cause unemployment. Technology MAKES jobs!"

There is no gainsaying that the mechanical picker WILL make jobs for a few thousands. But what it is going to do to the jobs in the cotton fields is what the atom bomb did to the population of Hiroshima.

The mechanical picker will conquer the last great stand of hand labor for the reason that it can pick a bale of cotton for a fraction of the cost of hand picking.

Do people who casually assure us of "full employment" under capitalism consider developments like this? They do not! Even men like Henry Wallace repeat the nonsense that increased productivity per worker is the way to more jobs and higher wages.

Virtually all the workers to be blitized by the mechanical picker are Negroes, and the remainder (in the Southwest) are mostly Americans of Mexican descent.

The tendency is marked even among the advocates of "full employment" to put these dire events to- come out of mind. Indeed, in the speeches and articles and books of those who claim unemployment can be solved within the present system, there is scarcely a word on the future effects of technology on employment.

In his great work, "Capital", Karl Marx quotes John Stuart Mill as saying: "It is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being."

Surely, it is plain that society cannot go on forever with this kind of "progress". It is "progressive ness" which, like that implicit in the atom bomb, "progresses" from catastrophe to catastrophe.

If this is not plain now, I think it safe to say that for millions of workers the mechanical picker will make it so.

Washington Digest

Nation Can Head Off Postwar Crime Wave

Quick Reconversion Can Prevent Era of Lawlessness, FBI Chief Says; Expects Vets to Demand Order.



WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street NW, Washington, D. C.

Will there be a postwar crime wave in the United States? That question was put to the man who will have to deal with it if there is one—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Whether we have a postwar crime wave in the United States depends on how well we do as a nation can recon-vert. If we do have a period of lawlessness, it will in all probability be led by teen-agers.

That's not beating around the bush. Let's look at the facts, disturbing though they may be, as the FBI director laid them before me.

After the last war, he said, there grew up a lawlessness from which the United States has never been entirely free since.

With our entry into the war, crimes increased, the emphasis on type changing from crimes against property to crimes against the person—murder, assault, rape and the like.

Director Hoover explained why this has come about. These teen-agers have been maturing in a period of great political, economic and social upheaval.

Frequently, families pulled up roots and moved to teeming industrial centers in other parts of the country where jobs could be had in war plants.

Then teen-age boys and girls found that because of the manpower shortage they could stop school and take jobs where they would make more money than some of their elders did before the war.

There is another condition that has been a breeding ground for lawlessness during the war, according to Hoover, and which may spread if crime detection and law enforcement do not keep ahead of it.

"Gangsterism has been showing signs of revival during the war," he said. "There have been gang wars in places where they used to thrive. Hijacking, shakedown rackets, black markets and bootleg have been on the increase."

Therefore, the groundwork has been laid for a new era of Dillingers. Then there are the "turning veterans." Because of their peculiar training, will they present a new band of criminals efficiently trained

in taking life and appropriating property that does not belong to them?

Vets Desire Orderly Community

On this subject, Director Hoover issued an emphatic "No!" Here is his reasoning: "Of course, soldiers are trained to kill—but so are we of the FBI and so are police officers.

"I expect the returning veteran to be a big help to us in combatting crime," Hoover went on. "The boys who are returning from the battlefields have seen so much of destruction, horror, disease, the dangers of dictatorship that they are anxious to see their communities get back to normal, peaceful ways.

The FBI expects the veterans to be a major influence on the criminal tendencies of the teen-agers. "If the big brothers and fathers coming back settle down into jobs or go back to school, they can show the younger boys and girls how to be good citizens.

But the responsibility for leading the teen-agers aright does not rest solely on the veterans—not alone on the agencies of law enforcement. "The question of crime among our youth cannot be pawed off on a few juvenile courts, overburdened juvenile bureaus, and the local police," Director Hoover declared.

But no matter what is done to try to meet a crime situation that now has a potentiality for great evil in this country, there is one thing which Hoover believes will determine in the long run whether it will be law or lawlessness from here on.

Whether or not we have a post-war crime wave will depend in the last analysis on how we as a nation convert to a peacetime basis," Director Hoover announced emphatically. "You can't divorce economics from crime. Although it is true that having money does not necessarily prevent a person from committing a crime, not having money is a definite cause of it.

"If the Republicans don't look out, this guy Truman is going to pick up some votes right out from under their noses, he's so darned human," a political wisecracker whispered to me at the Press Club party for Byron Price.

We were watching the President mingle with the guests, obviously enjoying himself. Just then a colleague of mine on the weekly press came up. His face was wreathed in smiles.

"Guess what," he exclaimed. "I just said to the President 'I'm from Kansas City' and what do you think he said? 'That's a suburb of a certain city, isn't it?'"

And my friend, who has been a Republican since he can remember and especially so in the last 12 years, is beginning to think that "this guy Truman" is all right.

When the party was breaking up the President was heard to observe with a broad Missouri grin that he was having as good a time as he did when he was at the Press Club last. That time he was still vice president and his picture was taken playing the piano with movie star Lauren Bacall perched atop it.

BARBS... by Baukhage

Christmas is coming—yes it is. It will be here before your package to your soldier is there unless you mail now. Wrap securely—address properly.

In 1940 this country had less than 13 1/2 million men in what is considered the productive age group of 45 to 64. It is estimated that in 1970 there will be over 18 1/2 million.

When the German armies left Holland each soldier was permitted to carry 75 pounds only. Any more was confiscated by the Hollanders. But they wouldn't have had much chance to loot anything because the German civilians left the Netherlands ahead of them and left very little behind that wasn't nailed down.

The latest is canned sandwiches.

Industry Takes Kindlier View of Oldsters

Because of their generally fine performance while "pinch-hitting" during the wartime labor shortage, older workers will find employment opportunities much broader in the postwar era than in prewar years.

war and will stay broken in many fields, although most large concerns will conduct their most intensive recruiting in the 20 to 30 age group.



Doctors' Lobby Fights Socialized Medicine

WHAT happens, or what does not happen next in Washington oftentimes gives cause for wonderment. If congress, in leaders in the fields of economics, of agriculture, industry, labor, social relations, etc., actually know what the people are thinking, what the people of the nation want or need. It is easy for persons down here in the nation's capital where events happen so fast and with such far-reaching effect, to lose the "common touch."

And the cause for most of the blindness and the out-of-focus perspective is self-interest and the selfish activities of various pressure groups.

At the present time, there is a tremendous lobby functioning against the extension of the social security act to include medical care and hospital insurance and other protective features for low income groups.

Every effort is being made by this opposition to defeat the provisions of the new social security amendments, all in the face of the wants, needs and desires of those for whom the benefits are intended.

Hospital Insurance

The survey shows that more than four-fifths of the nation's farmers favor more public medical clinics in rural areas, and more than three-fourths want to subscribe to some flat-rate prepayment plan to cover possible hospital bills and the cost of doctors and nurses for themselves and their families.

The answers to the department survey indicate that farmers generally are anxious and concerned about the need for better medical and health facilities. They are aware that farm youth, 18 and 19 years old, showed the highest rejection rate in the selective service for physical, mental and educational defects of any occupational group.

Many factors, the survey shows, contribute to bad rural health. . . the shortage of medical and sanitation facilities and the lack of physicians, dentists and hospital services.

In all instances, CIO demands for substantial wage boosts were predicated on the claim that the big companies had made sizable wartime profits and could use the money to defray part of the increases until peacetime production could be re-established on a volume basis.

While oil workers already had walked out of midwest refineries in a strike that threatened to spread and imperil the national fuel supply, principal interest continued to center in the troubled automobile situation, where the United Automobile Workers headed by R. J. Thomas laid plans for enforcing their demands for a 30 per cent wage increase by walking out on individual companies and leaving their competitors free to invade their markets.

Medical Care Wanted

Animal husbandry, consolidated schools, roads and bridges, soil conservation and crop insurance, agricultural experiment stations, vast agricultural laboratories and many other material objectives are fostered through governmental help for the benefit of the rural areas.

The statistics show that although the death rate from all causes for the last several decades has been lower among rural people than urban folks, deaths from some preventable diseases such as typhoid, diphtheria, malaria and pellagra tend to be more numerous among rural people.

Moreover, the death rate has been going down rapidly in the cities, but relatively slowly in the rural areas. The records show that folks in the rural areas are ill oftener and for longer periods than city people.

Under the social security law there are now 36,000,000 insured workers against unemployment. There is no insurance for farmers either for unemployment, old age or survivors' insurance. The new act would extend these latter two provisions to include farmers, professional people, domestics and others not now covered by the law.

U. S. INCOME: 1944 Peak

Figures compiled by the department of commerce show that total income payments to individuals in the United States in 1944 rose to a new high record of \$148,090,000,000. The largest percentage of this total, or \$19,345,000,000 went to individuals in New York state while the smallest percentage, or \$196,000,000 went to people in Nevada.

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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

CIO Strives to Maintain High Pay Level in Postwar Industry; Act to Spur Building Activity

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.



Facing tough winter in war-torn Austria, Viennese scratch for future provisions. At left, woman is shown picking up stray grain in harvested field, while at right another woman is pictured carrying home wood found in shelled forest.

LABOR: Seek Peace

Armed with emergency powers, Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwel- lenbach moved into the troubled industrial front, where CIO demands program appreciable wage boosts threatened to retard the reconversion program and jeopardize stabilization policy.

Schwellenbach faced no easy task, what with the strategic oil, automobile, farm equipment and steel unions striving for wage readjustments to bring 40-hour-a-week pay up to wartime overtime levels, and major producers bucking the demands in the face of rigid price control.

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In assuming command of a labor department strengthened by the inclusion of the War Labor board, war manpower commission and United States employment service, Secretary Schwel lenbach planned to proceed slowly before exercising emergency powers, first exhausting ordinary procedure.

PACIFIC: MacArthur Disputed

Taking sharp difference with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's declaration in Tokyo that only 200,000 American troops may be needed for the Japanese occupation, Pres. Harry S. Truman feared for its effect on army demobilization plans and Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson said that at this time it was difficult to forecast the eventual size of the force.

Basing his estimate upon the Japs' wholehearted effort at co-operation with his command, MacArthur's latest figure of 200,000 was a sharp reduction from the 400,000 recently projected and the 900,000 at first thought necessary. In making his statement, MacArthur said that the Japs' execution of his dictates through their governmental framework relieved the U. S. of establishing an elaborate military authority to perform the same tasks.

In seeking to offset expectations that MacArthur's announcement might lead to speedier demobilization, President Truman declared the program was not dependent upon occupation needs.

Speaking for the state department, Acting Secretary Acheson asserted that the ultimate size of the occupation force will depend upon the scope of the job of eradicating the whole Jap war-making economy.

DEMOBILIZATION: Point Cut

Asserting that no man would be kept just to maintain a big army, Gen. George C. Marshall revealed a stepped-up demobilization program providing for a further decrease of discharge points to 60 on November 1 following the October 1 slash to 70. At the same time, the total necessary for officers was to be cut to 75.

Marshall reviewed demobilization plans at a meeting with 300 congressmen at which he also affirmed receipt of General MacArthur's estimate of an occupation force of only 200,000 for Japan by next summer. Though MacArthur had reduced his estimate, Marshall said, General Eisenhower's figure of 400,000 for Germany remains the same.

Declaring that the present rate of releases has been determined solely by the availability of discharge facilities, Marshall said that all G.I.s without useful army work would be freed within three to four weeks. With the exhaustion of high point men by late winter, the army may further alter its demobilization program by releasing all men with two years of service.

POSTWAR BUILDING: Lid Off

With removal of all building controls, government agencies bent themselves to the task of speeding up construction and at the same time keeping costs within bounds to head off an inflationary boom during the reconversion period.

As experts looked for the erection of 500,000 private dwellings next year and a peak of 800,000 in 1948, officials sought to increase the supply of scarce building materials, permitting wage and price boosts and priorities to break bottlenecks, if necessary. Inventory controls also were to be strengthened to prevent hoarding and creation of artificial shortages.

At the same time, OPA announced that it would tighten price control over building materials to counteract heavy demand, while federal credit agencies prepared to discourage loose financing in a market booming with home needs and prospects for high postwar employment.

RETAIL PRICING: Absorb Increases

Declaring that up to now retailers have not been squeezed by price control, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles reiterated government policy that dealers would have to absorb any increases in manufacturing costs in the reconversion period.

Rejecting a plea of a retailer group that such absorption would be uneconomic and unfair, Bowles said that dealers' markups were not reduced during the war, and records show that profits soared under increased volume and lower operating costs. Whereas the profit margin of department stores stood at 1 1/2 percent in 1936-39 period, it reached 12 percent in 1944, he said.

Under OPA's pricing policy for manufacturers for the reconversion period, some increases will be permitted to allow for higher labor and material costs. Profit margins will be held to half the industry-wide average for larger businesses or prewar levels for smaller firms, however.

NAVY: Two-Ocean Dimension

A two-ocean fleet almost five times the size of the pre-Pearl Harbor force was proposed by naval chiefs at a hearing of the house naval committee.

Under the proposal advanced by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and Fleet Admiral King, 300 ships would remain in active duty and another 100 would be kept in ready reserve. The remaining 600 vessels would be laid up but maintained in sea-going condition. A total of 500,000 enlisted men and 58,000 officers would be needed for the 300 active ships and planes and \$15,000 to man the entire fleet.

For implementation of U. S. defenses, the navy recommended establishment or retention of major naval bases for the Pacific in the Aleutians, Hawaii, Canal Zone, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, the Bonin-Volcano island group, the Admiralties and Philippines. Atlantic posts would include Argentina in Newfoundland, Bermuda and Trinidad.

ATOMIC TEST: On Battleship

Even while plans were being mapped in Washington, D. C., for the postwar fleet, naval officials prepared to carry out a test of the atomic bomb's effect on surface vessels 500 miles off conquered Japanese shores.

Target for the experiment, which might eventually lead to a redesign of surface vessels as followed by Billy Mitchell's test bombardment of the Virginia in 1923, will be the Jap battleship Nagato, with its 14-inch steel armor plate.

Although the restyling of warships after Mitchell's successful experiments led to their strengthening against air attack, they have remained vulnerable to underwater attack. So far, reports on atomic bombings have indicated the main force of the explosion is up and out, but naval chiefs also would like to determine any underwater effect.

16th Child Her Biggest



The mother of 15 children, Mrs. Francis Strohl's 16th child was an 18 lb. baby girl. The infant was one of the heaviest delivered, with a 25 pounder born in 1916 topping the record. 35 years old, Mrs. Strohl is a resident of Lorton, Pa.

LONG FLIGHT: Across Great Circle

Approximately 25 hours and 43 minutes after taking off from northern Japan, the first of three giant B-29 bombers glided onto the sprawling Chicago airport, to be shortly followed by the remaining two after a 5,995 mile experimental run.

With three top U. S. air force commanders in the planes, the original plans were called for a non-stop run in Washington, D. C., to test the great circle route and attendant weather in the far north. Because of strong headwinds during the early stages of the flight necessitating increased use of fuel, the B-29s decided to land in the Windy City for refueling.

Though traveling 5,995 miles in a long journey which took them over Kamchatka, Alaska and Canada before reaching the U. S., the American airmen led by Maj. Gen. Curtis E. Le May fell 1,100 miles short of the record non-stop flight set by two Britons flying from Egypt to Australia in 1938.

WAR CRIMES: Try Nazis

Charged with systematic starvation and neglect of internees at the notorious Belsen concentration camp, 45 Nazi men and women tried to fight back at their war crimes trial conducted at a British military court in Luneburg, Germany.

In seeking to defend themselves, the accused followed the line that most of the 40,000 prisoners in the camp were all habitual criminals, felons and homo-sexuals. Britons taking over the camp upon the Nazi collapse claimed that their experience showed it was not necessary to use force to govern the internees. In first seizing the camp, the British counted 13,000 dead, an another 13,000 died later because their condition was beyond treatment, medical supplies were exhausted. Though supplies were obtainable in the immediate vicinity of the camp, no effort was made to procure provisions.

GIVE We Still Have a Job to Do! VICTORY FUND AND COMMUNITY CHEST