



The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Occasional showers tonight; tomorrow mostly cloudy with not much change in temperature.

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FINAL HOME

PRICE THREE CENTS

Jugoslavs Ask Non-Aggression Pact Instead Of Axis Alliance 5 TO 8 ITALIAN WARSHIPS ARE SUNK

COX PLEDGES RULING TODAY ON GOP LAWS

Suit 'Just Politics,' Says Gause; Fund Tieup Feared By Beamer.

By VERN BOXELL
Republican attorneys, fighting a Democratic plea for an injunction blocking their State "decentralization" program, told Circuit Court Judge Earl R. Cox today that this is "just a political fight and not a justifiable controversy."

At the noon recess, Judge Cox announced he would rule on "this injunction, one way or another, by midnight tonight." He advised attorneys that if they have any motions or pleadings to file, "you'd better file them now because this case must be closed today."

He explained the law giving Republican officials the right to appoint an interim Attorney General becomes effective after midnight tonight.

Fred C. Gause, G. O. P. attorney, said no controversy could exist until the appointments to State offices were made by the G. O. P.-dominated boards created by the Legislature. An injunction order, he said, would make it impossible for the issue to be created.

No decisions can be found in which any court ever enjoined an appointment or removal of an officer," Mr. Gause said.

'Not Fooled,' Says Cox
"This action is just an attempt to give one party to a political dispute an unfair advantage over another," Arthur L. Gilliland, chief counsel for the Republican state officials named defendants in the suit, said the injunction procedure "is merely an attempt by the Governor and those under him to protect their political pie. On our side these state officials want to appoint men to these same jobs—let's call that political pie, too. But this bench is not a pie counter."

Judge Cox interrupted: "You don't think I've been fooled by it, do you?"

Claims Millions Involved
Attorney General George Beamer, who brought the injunctive action in the name of the State, said millions of dollars in Federal and State funds would be tied up unless the G. O. P.'s "decentralization" program is delayed until the three suits filed by Governor Schriker have been decided.

He contended the G. O. P. legislative program merely was an attempt by the General Assembly to remove State officials without the proper impeachment proceedings.

"This injunction," he said, "is sought to prevent a breakdown of our State Government."

Even if the State has no property rights involved, as the defendants claim, it still has the right to seek injunctive relief from the courts.

Cites Federal Tax Case
"However, we contend that the State does have property rights involved. Representatives of the Attorney General's office, which is to be abolished at midnight tonight, are in Washington today to appear before the U. S. Supreme Court in cases involving thousands of dollars in gross income tax collections. Although on the calendar for today, the cases probably will not be heard before tomorrow or later."

By that time, unless the injunction is granted, he said, they may not be legally entitled to represent the State.

A temporary restraining order was issued by Judge Cox last Thursday and today's hearing was to determine whether the order should be extended until the Supreme Court has ruled on three suits filed by Governor Schriker, now awaiting action in Circuit Court.

BRITISH SPEND 14 BILLIONS
LONDON, March 31 (U. P.).—Great Britain's spending for war and normal government purposes totaled \$3,867,245,670 (about \$14,468,982,680) in the fiscal year which ends at midnight tonight, it was announced officially.

WOMEN DRIVE TAXIS
HONOLULU, March 31 (U. P.).—Taxicab companies, faced with a shortage of men in the defense industry boom, are hiring women drivers. Four, dressed in slacks and blouses, are already at work.

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'Big Ripper' Battle Moves Into Court



Here's a part of the battery of legal talent facing Circuit Court Judge Earl R. Cox today during a hearing of Governor Schriker's suits to block the Republican "decentralization" program. In the group (left to right) are Deputy Attorney General James Northam; Attorney General George Beamer; Deputy Attorney General Warren W. Martin and Fred Gause, G. O. P. counsel.

MARTIN NAMED HEAD OF BOARD

Succeeds to Fox Vacancy in Industrial Group; Probation Unit Selected.

Warren W. Martin, deputy attorney general since 1935, today was named chairman of the State Industrial Board by Governor Schriker.

He succeeds Charles Fox, Terre Haute attorney, who was killed recently in a traffic accident. The appointment came as Mr. Martin was appearing in Circuit Court here as one of the attorneys for Governor Schriker in his suits to block the Republican "decentralization" program.

Governor Schriker also appointed a new bi-partisan State Probation Commission. The Republican members are Eugene Foster, Indianapolis, and Mrs. Elizabeth Burton, Rockville. The Democratic members are Mrs. Mabel Fogel, Brookville, and McFarland Smith, Kokomo.

Elects Chairman Soon
The commission will meet soon to elect a chairman. Retiring members of the commission are Solon C. Vail, Indianapolis; Mrs. E. B. Bender, Zionsville; William Boegs, Veedsburg, and Mrs. Sara Ritter, Hartford City.

Mr. Martin, who is 49, has been practicing law at Boonville since he was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army in 1918. His son, Warren W. Martin Jr., maintains the law office at Boonville.

Mr. Martin served two terms as prosecuting attorney of Warrick County. He was elected judge of the Warrick Circuit Court in 1934, but was deprived of the office as a result of a contest of his election. He is married and has seven children.

As head of the Industrial Board, he will receive a salary of \$4000 a year. He has been receiving \$3500 a year as deputy attorney general.

State House observers believed (Continued on Page Two)

GRIFFEY CHOSEN FOR COUNTY SCHOOL POST

Succeeds J. Malcolm Dunn As Superintendent.

Harvey F. Griffey, 3117 N. New Jersey St., was selected Marion County School Superintendent by the County Board of Education today.

Mr. Griffey has been on the faculties of Marion County schools for 40 years and for the last year has been principal of the Flackville grade school.

Previously, he was principal of the Fleming Garden School and has been a teacher in other county schools. He succeeds J. Malcolm Dunn, who resigned to enter U. S. military service under a reserve officer's commission.

Mr. Griffey was selected to fill Mr. Dunn's unexpired term, which ends next August. At that time the County Board of Education will select a superintendent for a four-year term. The salary of the office is \$3500 per year.

ABATEMENT HEARING FOR BROWN DELAYED
A plea of abatement hearing in behalf of Arthur V. Brown, Indianapolis banker, scheduled for today in Federal Court, has been postponed.

Mr. Brown, indicted on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States through diversion of WPA funds and labor, has been seriously ill for some time and his attorneys last week filed physicians' reports that Mr. Brown is too ill to appear before Federal Judge Robert B. Zell. The hearing was postponed on these grounds.

LABOR SUMMARY

LABOR developments:

1. Shutdown in Appalachian and Western mines, including Indiana's, feared at midnight as coal parity in New York continues in deadlock. (Page 6)

2. Mediation Board announces settlement in all four cases referred to it by Labor Department Thursday. (Page 3)

3. Allis-Chalmers strikers refuse request of OPM to return to work but officials claim that more than 3000 reported for work today. (Page 3)

4. Civil Liberties Committee critical of "Little Steel" industrialists. (Page 3)

3 MORE DIE IN COUNTY TRAFFIC

Deaths, Now 42, Top Last Year's by 20; Four Others Killed in Indiana.

Three more died in traffic accidents here over the week-end, sending the Marion County toll for the year to 42—20 more than last year.

At the same time, four other motorists were killed in the State.

The dead:

LEWIS V. ZANDER, 21, of 25 N. Chester St., killed yesterday morning in a two-car crash at 21st St. and Emerson Ave.

RALPH REEVES, 20, Kokomo, killed almost instantly in a two-car crash on Road 67 near the Post Road at 2:30 a. m. yesterday.

ROBERT ALLEN PEARCE, 6 weeks old, Martin, Tenn., injured fatally in the same accident.

JOHN GILLEY, 26, Washington, dead of injuries in a collision Saturday night.

CHARLES ZERKEL, killed instantly when his car was struck by a New York Central train at Waterloo.

PAUL BUCKTO, 20, Terre Haute.

MISS STELLA HUNCILMAN, 75, killed at Terre Haute as she crossed the street.

Several others were injured seriously in city and county accidents over the week-end, including John W. Hilkene, 80, former postmaster at Cumberland.

Mr. Reeves and the Pearce infant were injured fatally when cars driven by Mr. Reeves and the infant's father, Allen Pearce, collided (Continued on Page Two)

POLK MYSTERY STILL UNSOLVED

Words of Delirious Man Recorded in Probe of Fire and Death.

The delirious ravings of a critically injured man were being recorded today in an effort to explain the mysterious fire and death struggle at the Polk Sanitary Milk Co. plant yesterday.

While firemen were fighting a two-alarm blaze on the third floor of the company's garage, the body of Lockwood McCoy, 40, of 128 Wisconsin St., head of the Polk Department, was found hanging in a closet in an adjoining building.

At almost the same time, Lee Roy McDonald, 49, of 626 E. 16th St., was discovered critically injured in the paint department on the second floor of the burning building.

City detectives, admitting their theory was based on purely circumstantial evidence, said they believed McCoy might have started the fire, been surprised by McDonald when he struck, and then, fearing he had killed his fellow-worker, committed suicide.

However, members of both families and friends of McDonald and McCoy refused to accept the theory. The men were close friends; there never had been any friction between them and there was no known reason why McCoy should have set fire to the plant in which he had been employed for 11 years, the friends and relatives pointed out.

Detectives and Coroner's office investigators agreed that the key to the mystery rested with McCoy. (Continued on Page Two)

MARCH RETIRES LIKE A LION--ON A LEASH

Or Maybe Like a Lamb, With Bass Voice.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES
6 a. m. 49 10 a. m. 52
7 a. m. 49 11 a. m. 54
8 a. m. 49 12 (noon) 55
9 a. m. 50 1 p. m. 56

March padded out today like a lion on a leash. Or maybe it was like a lamb with a bass voice. It all depends on your taste for weather.

At any rate, the proverb writers—so positive about everything—didn't provide for a March 31 which could be good or bad.

The temperatures were lamb-like—four degrees above normal. The skies were overcast with cold rain predicted, all lion-like.

So, there!

ROME BARS BROADCASTER
ROME, March 31 (U. P.).—Cecil Brown, Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, was advised today by Italian press authorities that he would have to cease his broadcasts from Rome, effective tomorrow.

BERLIN MAKES NEW CHARGES OF ATROCITIES

Germany Says Bulgaria Is Mobilizing; Eden Pays Visit to Athens.

By HARRISON SALISBURY
United Press Staff Correspondent
Balkan events moved swiftly today toward a showdown between Germany and Yugoslavia.

Belgrade reported that Yugoslavia found the tri-partite pact unacceptable and would offer Germany a non-aggression agreement in its place.

But there was no hint in Berlin that anything short of a complete swing by Yugoslavia back to the pro-Axis policy of the ousted Yugoslav government would be regarded as satisfactory.

Odds against such a swing appeared to be almost astronomical.

Charge Maltreatment
German spokesmen and the German press laid all their emphasis on the maltreatment of German nationals and German property in Yugoslavia and Germans and Italians were leaving the country as quickly as possible.

It was said in Berlin that the German Minister, Viktor von Heeren, might return to the German capital shortly, while the Yugoslav minister to Germany already had gone back to Belgrade.

Events have caused Hungary and Bulgaria to take special precautionary steps, the Germans said, adding that they believed Bulgaria ordered general mobilization.

Bulgarian sources denied the mobilization report.

Rome claimed that Yugoslavia was mobilizing troops along the Albania, Greek and Hungarian frontiers.

Eden Reaches Athens
The Germans seemed to be placing great hopes in the possibility of a split between Croats and Serbs but Belgrade reported that progress toward a strong Croat-Serb coalition in the face of the emergency was being made.

The Yugoslav Government was said to be taking all steps necessary for protection of the country, whatever may develop.

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, chief of the Imperial General Staff, Gen. Sir John G. Dill, arrived in Athens for new conversations with the Greeks. It has been reported that Capt. Eden may go on to Belgrade.

Presumably the British are making last minute preparations for a possible German attack upon both Greece and Yugoslavia.

The prospect that Germany would act quickly in the Balkans in an attempt to repair the double blow to Axis prestige suffered from the (Continued on Page Two)

STUDENT PILOT DIES ON BIRTHDAY SPIN

DECATUR, Ind., March 31 (U. P.).—Otto C. Smith Jr., 23, died at the Adams County hospital yesterday, less than an hour after he had crashed his Aeronca C-3 plane in a field northwest of Berne.

Mr. Smith, who held a student pilot's permit, had celebrated his birthday by taking the plane up. He had circled the field preparing to land when suddenly the plane pulled the plane up quickly to avoid striking some wires and the machine stalled.

Mr. Smith's father died in an airplane crash at Mt. Pleasant in 1927 and his cousin, Art Smith, was fatally injured while flying mail when he crashed up at Bryan, O.

ROME BARS BROADCASTER
ROME, March 31 (U. P.).—Cecil Brown, Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, was advised today by Italian press authorities that he would have to cease his broadcasts from Rome, effective tomorrow.

If the Consumer Remains Level-Headed There Should Be No Post-War Price Rise

This is the first of a series of articles on the cost of living and its relationship to the war.

By E. A. EVANS
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The sun-shy American people, remembering what the last war did to their cost of living, are dreading, but more than half expect to see that history repeat.

Prices went out of sight then, and they're bound to do it again. That, beyond doubt, is what millions of consumers are thinking. But—

"It ain't necessarily so." For many reasons, the cost of living NEED not do another balloon act. For more reasons, it should be prevented. And, aside from anything the Government may do, there are preventive forces which the public and the

public's purchasing agents—the retail merchants—can employ.

These articles will try to tell what some of those forces are. The first essential is to stop thinking that runaway prices are ordained by fate. Though people thinking that can start a price runaway.

Enough people thinking about their power to control prices, and acting as they think, can keep most prices to reasonable levels.

Some things the public "remembers" about the last war aren't true. When the present war began, in September, 1939, there was speculative and panicky buying, especially of sugar, by people who remembered that sugar became scarce the other time—but not that the scarcity got worst only toward and after the war's end.

These people rushed to get sugar, and the rush created temporary

local shortages and higher prices. But it didn't last long. The public soon learned that the country had plenty of sugar and could easily get plenty more. There was no real reason for soaring sugar prices 19 months ago. There is none now.

Another untruth "remembered" by many is that wages also rose and produced a prosperity symbolized by the \$15 silk shirt.

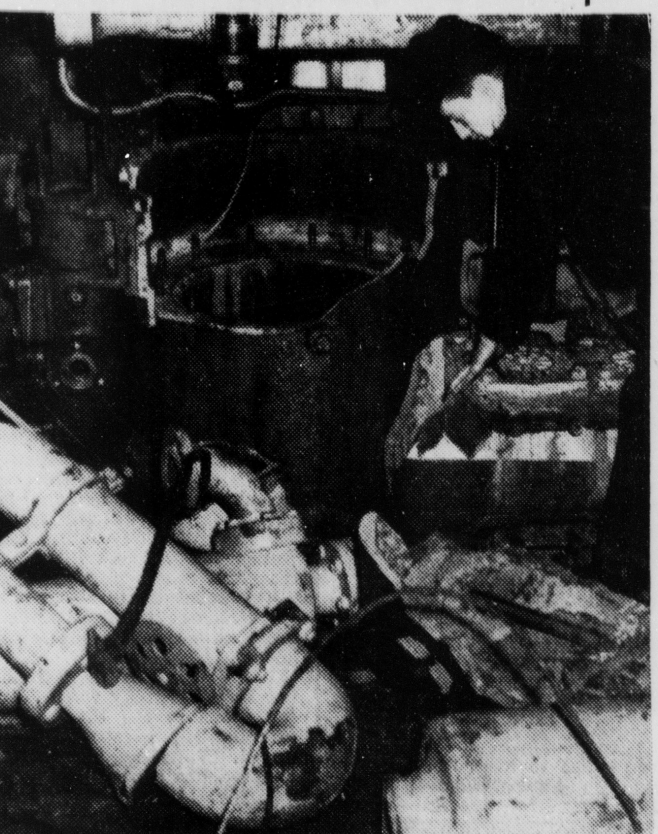
Some people did get rich in the last war. Some workers whose wages rose sooner or later to levels higher than the high cost of living could wear \$15 silk shirts for a while. But most people got poorer, and most workers, their wages trailing behind prices, suffered because such things as \$1 work shirts jumped to \$2.50.

And the war boom—the sky-

(Continued on Page Three)

HINT FASCIST VESSELS FIRED ON EACH OTHER; ROME LOSES 3000 MEN

Will U. S. Use Seized Ships? British Fleet Back in Port Unscathed; 2 Planes Lost.



A Coast Guardsman inspects some of the machinery reportedly destroyed by the Italian crew aboard the Italian ship S. S. Alberta at Port Newark.

70 Are Taken Into Custody On Personal Order of F.D.R.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—Possibility of using 70 seized Italian, German and Danish ships to relieve the shipping shortage in the Atlantic topped speculation over their eventual disposition today, as diplomatic circles wondered whether other Western Hemisphere republics would follow suit and seize European ships in their ports.

Maritime Commission and Coast Guard officials insisted that the seizures were intended to prevent sabotage and that they were not preliminary to confiscation and American use. All 70 vessels were placed under protective custody over the week-end.

A recapitulation showed a total of 28 Italian, 40 Danish and two German ships to have been placed into protective custody.

The possibility that Latin American nations would seize immobilized European ships in their harbors was advanced in diplomatic quarters. These reports were believed responsible in part for the sailing preparations of several German ships in South America.

The Italian ships, the captain of one of the Italian ships that the Italian naval attached here had ordered the sabotage of the vessel pointed to the probability of a thorough inquiry by the State Department. Officials speculated whether this might lead to the placing of greater restrictions on the movement of Italian diplomatic and consular officers in this country.

The United States already has asked the Italian Embassy to report at all times the movements of the naval, air and military attaches, and it also requested the closure of Italian consular offices at Detroit, Mich., and Newark, N. J.

The Italian Embassy, however, (Continued on Page Three)

ARMY BEGINS STATE RECORD DRAFT CALL

6900 to Go by April 19 With From 2 to 500 Daily.

Nine Marion County men were scheduled to be inducted into the Army today as the State's sixth—and largest—Selective Service call got under way.

The local men were a part of 100 from throughout the State ordered to report today at Ft. Harrison for induction. The sixth call, which will continue through April 19, will take in all 6900 men from Indiana into the military service.

The Marion County contingent for today's induction were registered with Local Board No. 7. They are Donald R. Knowles, 203 S. Arsenal Ave.; Loren LaSalle Lind, 1913 N. Meridian St.; Lawrence B. Niebrugge, 429 W. 39th St.; Kenneth J. Christensen, 2235 N. E. Riverside Drive; Robert F. Krueger, 2249 N. Illinois St.; Elmer J. Lane, 1512 N. Pennsylvania St.; Ralph Hanley Ulrich, 19 W. 24th St., and Robert W. Kemp, 1512 N. Meridian, No. 30.

By GRATIAN P. MCGROARTY
(Copyright, 1941, by United Press.)

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, March 31.—Italy's crippled fleet has been ripped to pieces by the British Navy in the biggest naval encounter since

Jutland, a weird battle fought in the darkness of the Ionian Sea, it became known today.

Only the flash of 15-inch broadsides, the flare of burning Italian warships and the play of naval searchlights illuminated the scene of the war's biggest naval encounter last Friday night.

When the battle was over three Italian cruisers, the pride of Italy's fleet, and two destroyers were known to have been sunk. A 35,000-ton battleship, identified as the new Vittorio Veneto, had been damaged and possibly another cruiser and destroyer sunk.

In the desperate confusion that followed the shattering impact of the British broadsides, some British officers believed that some of the Italian warships fired on each other.

It was estimated by British fleet officers that more than 3000 Italian officers and sailors perished in the encounter.

The Italian fleet was operating in two squadrons and it was thought that the remnants of these squadrons became confused and mistook each other for the British.

'Well Done,' Says Admiral
Like all modern naval encounters the major fighting lasted only a short time. The conflict started Friday evening. Most of the action was over by midnight, although scattered engagements, mostly between airplanes and warships, went on through the next day.

Today the commander of the British Eastern Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, radioed this message to his officers and men:

"Well done!"
The British Fleet has returned to port without a scratch and without a single casualty except for the probable loss of the crews of two missing planes.

Some here say the victory of this British fleet with which I have spent more than one month, a fleet which again and again steamed up so close to Italian fortresses that we could see them through binoculars, may prove to have been one of the most decisive naval engagements, in its ultimate implications, since Trafalgar.

The action took place in the Ionian Sea about 150 miles west of Crete, when the Italian fleet was (Continued on Page Two)

TWO DIE IN OIL BLAST

EMLENTON, Pa., March 31 (U. P.).—Damage was estimated at \$100,000 today as the result of an explosion and fire that killed two and injured a third at the Quaker State Oil Refining Corp. plant here.

SIGNS OF SPRING

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—The National Park Service announced today that the capital's famous Japanese cherry trees are expected to be in full blossom on April 12. The annual Cherry Blossom Festival has been set for the 12th and 13th.

War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON
United Press War Expert

The victory of the British Mediterranean Fleet in the greatest sea battle of the war was due not only to the continual vigilance of Britain's air and naval command but also to astonishing tactical errors of the Italians. It is apparent from the refusal of the Italian Admiral to close in for combat.

A fleet as powerful as the British description of the Italian wandering command does not normally put to sea without a prize objective in view. The purpose can be supposed to have been an attack on Alexandria.

(Continued on Page Two)



Mr. Mason