

NEW ALBANY USO DISPUTE IS STUDIED

Dedication Waits After Some Subscribers to Campaign
Insist Funds Go to Armed Forces Instead
Of Women Defense Workers.

A representative of the Federal Security Administration will confer this week with Indiana officials and United Service Organizations State leaders in an attempt to settle the controversy arising over the establishment of a U. S. O. center at New Albany for women defense workers.

Other developments were:

1. The scheduled dedication of the \$150 a month center did not take place today. New Albany civic leaders said it had been "cancelled." U. S. O. leaders in Southern Indiana said it had been "postponed."

2. Clarence A. Jackson, State Civilian Defense director, praised the "fearless action" of the New Albany citizens in insisting on "having their say."

3. Twenty out of 21 representatives of New Albany civic organizations voted in favor of a resolution calling for abandonment of the center.

4. The national U. S. O. headquarters in New York termed the situation a "local controversy" between two factions of citizens.

Complain to Schriener

The situation developed last week when a number of New Albany residents who had oversubscribed their quota in the recent U. S. O. fund-raising campaign complained to Governor Henry F. Schriener and national U. S. O. officials that their understanding their money would go for the use of men in the armed forces.

New Albany U. S. O. leaders countered that it had been stated plainly the funds would be for "men in the armed forces and workers in crowded defense areas."

Gov. Schriener conferred with residents last Wednesday and said he was "inclined to agree" with them. He has asked Thomas E. Dewey, national U. S. O. fund director, for a statement of policy in the matter.

Issue Taken to Taft

Glen R. Hillis of Kokomo, who headed the Indiana U. S. O. drive, supported their complaints and the matter was brought to the attention of Robert P. Taft, head of the FSA recreational division.

Mr. Taft announced today he has assigned James E. Zachary, his Midwest regional director, to confer with State and U. S. O. heads in Indiana in an effort to iron out the controversy.

"There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the use of U. S. O. centers," Mr. Taft's office said. "While it is true that defense workers do make good money, the U. S. O. plans giving them a recreation outlet which will be wholesome, just as it plans to do the same thing for soldiers and sailors away from their commands on leisure leave."

Civilian Spirit Praised

State Defense Director Jackson told the Women's Division of the Indiana State Defense Council this afternoon that the "action of New Albany citizens in putting the microscope on the U. S. O. project in that City is an example of how civilians can help win the war."

"Regardless of who is right in the matter," he said, "it is a very

NEUTRALITY ACT CALLED FARCE

'Repeal It,' Knox Urges
To Make U. S. Laws
Match Our Actions.'

DETROIT, Oct. 27 (U. P.)—Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox urged complete repeal of the "so-called" Neutrality Act today, saying it is hypocritical and inimical to the security and safety of the United States and those nations fighting Hitler.

Mr. Knox, with Rear Admiral William H. F. Blandy, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, and other naval officers, were guests at Navy Day ceremonies which included inspection tours of key defense plants.

Addressing a Navy Day luncheon here, Mr. Knox said, "we neither think nor act neutrally in this present war. It is only honest to make our laws consistent with our action."

Leading for support of President Roosevelt's policies, the Navy secretary asserted "this is pre-eminently the time when our domestic differences must be forgotten and set aside."

Mr. Knox announced that the Navy has either commissioned or has under contract 691 war ships plus an auxiliary fleet of 323 ships with the prospective addition of 205.

ITALIAN PEASANTS TO FARM IN POLAND

ROME, Oct. 27 (U. P.)—Well-informed sources said today that Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano's two-hour conversation with Adolf Hitler on the Eastern Front Saturday concerned sending Italian farmers and troops to cultivate and police Axis-occupied Russian territory.

They said Germany already is organizing large groups of farmers from South Germany to go to Russia and Hitler's conference with Ciano was to determine how many Italian peasants could be mustered. Thousands of troops and dirt farmers were expected to go.

Healthful situation when citizens through their civic organizations insist on having their say. It is hoped that this fearless action will spread like a prairie fire from coast to coast and there will be a close examination of all projects offered the public in the guise of civilian defense.

Too many uplifters are abroad in this country for the supply of folks who need their services. Too many of their programs are not building morale, but destroying it.

"I didn't hear from Mr. Churchill for about three or four weeks ago, I wrote him," she said. "I told him I was just a common, poor American housewife who liked to write songs and that if he could help me, I would donate all the proceeds to England's cause."

Mrs. Emmons does not write songs and had it recorded and sent it to Mr. Churchill in care of the British Broadcasting Corp. last July.

"I didn't hear from Mr. Churchill for about three or four weeks ago, I wrote him," she said. "I told him I was just a common, poor American housewife who liked to write songs and that if he could help me, I would donate all the proceeds to England's cause."

Mrs. Emmons said she had been writing songs ever since she was 14 years of age. They are of all types—love songs, folk songs, even hymns. She has sent her songs to several publishing houses

and to Hollywood but never has been able to sell them.

Mrs. Emmons and her 48-year-old husband, Franklin Everett Emmons, are the parents of four boys and three girls, ranging in age from six to 25 years. They have been tenant farmers on the John Brevoort farm south of here for more than 20 years.

"I want to sell my songs so I can get out of this rut," said Mrs. Emmons.

Mrs. Emmons has a flashing smile. Her proudest possession is an old upright piano which she plays after a fashion.

"I only had 13 music lessons," she said.

Hoosier's War Song Tickles Churchill



Mrs. Eliza Combs Emmons, composer of "Gonna Help Our Momma to Win the War," poses with her husband, Franklin Emmons, a tenant farmer, and two of their seven children.

You'll Go Crazy Over It, Wrote Farm Wife—He Did

By PAUL MANNING
Times Special Writer

LONDON, Oct. 27.—The State of Indiana may now take a bow. One of her daughters has brought pleasure and sunlight into the home of Winston Churchill, Britain's Prime Minister.

It all began way back six months ago when an unsung heroine sat down one day to pen a song that would sweep the world and help Britain to win the war.

She is Eliza Combs Emmons, 44-year-old wife of a tenant farmer on the famous "banks of the Wabash."

From her little, dingy home outside historic Vincennes, Indiana, she wrote a neat little number called "Gonna Help Our Momma to Win the War."

The tune made the rounds of Tin Pan Alley in America but nothing ever happened to it. That's where Winston Churchill now enters the picture.

Mrs. Emmons made a recording of her song, her Indiana twang the only accompaniment and mailed the record to Britain's Prime Minister at Downing Street. To it she added a note saying that Winston Churchill was "sure to go crazy over 'Gonna Help Our Momma to Win the War.'

"Of course if you could take an afternoon off some day from the war and learn the words, that'll help us both. A recording for America, I mean. 'Gonna Help Our Momma to Win the War.' Vocal by Winston Churchill! Why, it would make the Hit Parade easy!"

Mr. Churchill is not singing it himself yet, but you can never tell about Britain's tireless Prime Minister.

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Home on Banks of Wabash Linked to No. 10 Downing St.

By ROSS H. GARRIGUS
Editor, Vincennes Sun-Commercial

VINCENNES, Ind., Oct. 27.—Mrs. Eliza Combs Emmons, 44-year-old wife of a tenant farmer in the Wabash River bottoms near here, was canning fruit in her weather-beaten home when notified that her song, "Gonna Help Our Momma to Win the War," had caught the fancy of Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England.

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and to Hollywood but never has been able to sell them.

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Roosevelt Letter to Lewis Contains Faux Pas or Poison

(Continued from Page One)

"Lewis' man." The President now Taylor. During such conferences has offered them the opportunity of showing which is the stronger alliance.

Mr. Roosevelt's letter adds to his personal appeal the other one—"the preservation of . . . those freedoms upon which the very existence of the United Mine Workers of America depends."

Reports from coal-mining districts are that if Mr. Roosevelt should appeal directly to the union rank-and-file he would get an overwhelming response, based not only on his personal popularity but on the miners' feeling of patriotic duty.

Mr. Roosevelt, according to his letter, is not yet ready to make this general appeal in specific words, but it will lay the foundation for

The President's letter was delivered at 8:13 o'clock last night to Mr. Lewis at his old colonial home in Alexandria, Va. The messenger was William Hassett, assistant press secretary of the White House.

Later Mr. Lewis personally answered numerous telephone calls and personal visitors with the reply "no comment" on the President's letter.

Asks Reconsideration

Half an hour later Mr. Hassett gave out copies of the letter from the executive offices. It read:

"Dear Mr. Lewis:

I acknowledge your letter of yesterday. You say that you do not feel warranted in recommending an additional extension of the temporary agreement. I would like to have you reconsider this decision.

In this crisis of our national life there must be uninterrupted production of coal for making steel, that basic material of our national defense. That is essential to the preservation of our freedoms, yours and mine; those freedoms upon which the very existence of the United Mine Workers of America depends."

Mr. Myron Taylor is prepared to meet you on Wednesday to see if you and he in private and personal conference can work out a peaceful solution of the problem. You have agreed to confer with Mr.

"Conditions are such that it is reasonable to assume that the incidence will be high this winter due to large numbers of people around indoors and military attack."

Already, the incidence of "flu" is higher than it was at the same time last year.

The fall festival tonight

The Harmony Hall Kindergarten will stage a fall festival at the Southern Mansion at 7:30 o'clock tonight. A tabloid depicting nursery rhymes will be given by 64 children under the direction of Miss Willifred Burrows.

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