

WASHINGTON CALLING

A Weekly Size-up by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Nelson's appointment makes this war-tense capital feel better. Some of those who have watched him work think he's better than Beaverbrook.

Unlike many others here, he believes Roosevelt production figures for this year and next can be achieved; in spite of two-week handicap is determined to make good on them.

Look for ruthless action from him; it may hit you before you have time to look. His slogan: "Greased-lightning fast." That's several degrees, at least, faster than blitz.

Changes ahead for us all will be revolutionary—and that's no figure of speech. Workers, owners of machinery, plant managers, fellow officials in the Government are all going to know the greased-lightning hit them.

Executive order leaves no doubt he has the power. He has more than Baruch ever had. He'll boss Cabinet members, have the last word on financing. New War Production Board will only "advise and consent."

Still to be answered: Will he be as good at brushing off brass hats, tycoons, politicians, as Baruch was?

Will Roosevelt back him up, as Wilson backed Baruch?

BARUCH DIDN'T pick Nelson or help him write his ticket. But he's hopeful of results.

OPM IS THROUGH: Knudsen-Hillman team dissolved, at last.

OPM's last unfortunate performance—planless, stalemated, auto-industry conversion conference—was last straw that caused the President to act, though Wilkie criticism, Truman report may have speeded him up.

ARMY'S NEW three-star man, Lieut. Gen. Knudsen, will spend little time in swivel chairs (he never liked them anyway), more trouble-shooting on the assembly line. Uniform won't fool the men in the shops; he talks their language, could replace any of them.

Another unanswered question: Is Undersecretary of War Patterson, in charge of production, side-tracked? Guessing is that he's not; that he'll continue to direct Washington show and Knudsen will be boss in the field.

What About Hillman?

WHAT BECOMES of Hillman? He'll stay in the picture somewhere. No bets that he'll be a general or admiral. Probably will supervise labor supply, other labor problems, under Nelson.

IT'LL BE THREE to six months before you know about your tax on 1942 income. Better start saving more—much more—each month than the present law requires.

Doubled income taxes are possible but not probable; Congress is shying away. Idea of changing Treasury's withholding tax to an enforced saving plan is gaining ground. Congressmen have told Morgenthau the bitter pill will be easier to swallow if taxpayers are given bonds for money withheld from their salaries.

Tentative plan is to issue 20 year, low interest, bonds. Sales tax is still a good bet. Truman committee report on high profits makes higher excess profits tax certain.

LATEST NUMBERS for collectors' catalog or rare and valuable items: Electric light globes. Their manufacture will be limited to save materials.

Anti-freeze compounds. Save what you've got when you drain it out.

Gin and rum. We need industrial alcohol more than we need martinis and daiquiris.

ANY OLD STRETCARS you want to sell? But more cities are trying to buy, refurbish old cars, getting ready for rush when autos fold.

Under consideration: Seatless buses to hold more passengers; conversion of hotel buses—the kind with one long seat up each

Are you prepared for A BETTER JOB

Your education is your best defense

Business, government agencies, defense industries, and our armed forces are recruiting college trained men and women for the important jobs. Will you be prepared when your opportunity comes? Decide NOW to turn your leisure-time into profitable study-time. Enroll TODAY in one of these practical courses.

Accounting—Commercial Correspondence—Marketing—Personnel Management—Salesmanship—Business Law—Advertising—Real Estate Brokerage and Management—Chemistry—Metallurgy—Economics—Engineering—Drawing—Public Speaking—Radio Broadcasting—Government—Mathematics.

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AUSSIES STRIKE BACK IN MALAYA

Abandon Delaying Action Against Japs 90 Miles From Singapore.

By HAROLD GUARD

United Press Staff Correspondent

WITH ADVANCED IMPERIAL FORCES IN WESTERN MALAYA, Jan. 17.—British Imperials paced by bronzed Australians broke the first waves of Japan's big offensive in the Muar River zone and fought furiously today to wipe out an enemy bridgehead 90 to 100 miles north of Singapore.

This dangerous threat to the lower Malaya defenses arose as a result of the Japanese crossing of the Muar River defense line, but the most important development appeared to be a change in the tactics of the Australians under Gen. Henry Gordon Bennett.

They have abandoned delaying action and now are fighting to throw back the enemy and to "hold and destroy him."

Claim Jap Losses Heavy

Big losses were reported inflicted on the Japanese as British airplanes blasted at their long columns of reinforcements and Australian jungle fighters used bayonet, rifle and grenade in an effort to destroy the enemy bridgehead south of the Muar.

Reconnaissance planes reported that the Japanese were massing thousands of men for a new attack and that about 1000 infantry trucks were lining the roads for 32 miles behind the eastern flank.

British bombing and low-diving fighter planes destroyed many Japanese trucks.

Seventy Japanese planes, 20 in the first group and 50 in the second, raided Singapore this morning, the headquarters of British command, and caused about 150 civilian casualties.

One Japanese plane was shot down, two were damaged, and two probably crashed on their way to base.

Aussies Give No Quarter

The Australians are fighting without quarter, their advanced units blowing up bridges after the last man had crossed and their artillery tirelessly hurling shells on roads, trails and concentration points reported by the planes.

Always faced by superior numbers, the bronzed troops from down under, timbermen, miners, clerks and professional and businessmen, were fighting hundreds of battles, man to man, and in groups, through the mazelike, camouflaged jungle and the rubber plantations along the north end of the Johore sultanate.

During the night the Australians blew up one bridge, just after their last man had crossed, and blew to bits 30 Japanese troops who happened to be on it at the moment.

They counted 152 Japanese bodies after a brief, hot bombardment by their field mortars on a Japanese force advancing in mass.

I heard the story at the advanced brigade headquarters which I managed to reach between dives into the ditches to escape Japanese plane fire.

"The First Shot Got 'Em"

Over the din of the firing ahead, a youthful looking major at the rubber plantation headquarters said that an advanced patrol sighted the Japanese concentration. He telephoned to the rear and contacted the mortar battery.

"The first shot got 'em" the advanced patrol reported to the battery, and added: "up 50 (yards) to get the rest."

There was another blast and the advanced men told the battery they could stop firing.

The 152 Japanese who were not dead were fleeing through the jungle like rabbits.

Australian anti-tank guns got four Japanese tanks in one group.

UNION ASKS POLL AT ALLISON PLANT

An election has been requested at the Allison Division of General Motors by the United Automobile Workers Local 933 (C. I. O.) in a petition filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

The U. A. W. based its petition for the election on a claim that it had bargaining rights for all production and maintenance employees of the Allison Division in Speedway City.

RAW MATERIAL for only half of the synthetic rubber program is in sight. OPM has its eye on the 100-octane gasoline plants now being constructed; hopes to get the necessary butadiene for rubber as a by-product.

Henderson Relents

YOUR MOTOR won't start knocking right away, at least. Last week's ceiling on lead prices caused ethyl corporation to start rationing tetraethyl lead—the stuff used for good, anti-knock gas. Ceiling was so low that marginal mines—low-grade ore and high production costs—shut down.

But Leon Henderson relented, raised the ceiling. So mines reopened, rationing was off.

NOTE TO tire-rationing board members and supervisors: You're mistaken if you think your job entitles you to tire preference. OPA says you have no more rights than the average citizen.

MORE DATA from pained state and city budget makers: In 1938, highway-users turned in 22.2 percent of all state revenues. In most states, local governments got a cut.

Two-thirds of it came from gas taxes.

CLEAR SAILING ahead for Douglas Dam.

MISSING IN ACTION—St. Lawrence Waterway.

Personal Loans

May be arranged through our Personal Loan Department

The Peoples State Bank

130 E. Market

Member Federal Deposit Ins. Corp.

Succeeds Gandhi

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"The War Department could never have arranged for these tremendous orders for items requiring such skill and high precision in industry had it not been for the co-operation of the Office of Production Management and the fact that during the last 20 years the War Department, in consultation with the automotive industry, has been preparing for this emergency."

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"In addition to this sum (\$3,500,000,000), large additional orders have been placed with sub-contractors and with automotive accessory manufacturers," he said.

NEW MANUAL HIGH WILL BE DISCUSSED

A meeting of South Side citizens interested in the construction of a new Manual High School will be held next Friday night in the Prospect St. Library Auditorium, 1125 Spruce St.

The meeting is sponsored by the South Side Parent-Teacher Association and will begin at 7:30 o'clock. Judge Henry O. Goett will speak and Mrs. W. C. Milhouse, acting president, will preside.

South Side leaders have deplored the fact that Manual High is located in a busy industrial section where heavy traffic endangered the lives of the pupils.

TAXI DRIVER'S TIP LEADS TO ARRESTS

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Police said the taxicab driver drove the men to the coal yard and was told to wait as "he would be well taken care of." The driver, police said, called police and four squads of police captured a 46-year-old man in the building.

The second man was arrested later in a nearby house, police reported. Both men are held on vagrancy charges.

PLAN STONE BELT SURVEY

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MARRIAGE LICENSES

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LAXITY DENIED BY PATTERSON

Cites 20-Year Co-operation With Industry; Knudsen Named General.

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Indiana Politics

By Vern Boxell

It looks like a legal field day in the Supreme Court next Monday when that high tribunal begins its important task of deciding when Indiana cities will elect their mayors. Apparently all the legal minds who have expressed different opinions on the case since the 1941 Legislature's error first was discovered will get up before the five judges and explain their views.

First up will be Charles Studevant and L. Russell Newgent, who won an opinion from Circuit Judge Earl R. Cox that the skip-election law is invalid and that therefore all Indiana