

WASHINGTON CALLING

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

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Washington is still waiting for action to make its hair curl; considers Nelson's performance so far on the tame side; likes his plans for delegating authority and holding subordinates responsible; has his fingers crossed on his ability to get action out of War and Navy Departments, which still let contracts.

Congress discovers that Army air forces appropriation voted this week is intended only to carry on plane production of 1941 level. "So we will not fall back in production in the latter part of the present year," quote is from Gen. Arnold.

Plans are "being prepared" to meet President's 1942 production program.

NO PROSPECT, apparently, that Mrs. Roosevelt will follow Mayor La Guardia out of OCD. She won't admit responsibility for this week's sugar panic.

Put Curb on Comment

CLOSER WORKING arrangement between Congress and executive department, to avoid future Connally-Hull incidents, may be worked out. Lawmakers may be more fully informed about military strategy, plans and prospects; bound to secrecy; pledged to refrain from disastrous comments like Connally's on Argentina, Singapore.

Censorship: Congressmen complain more than newspapers.

They may release news of munitions plants, cantonments, only in town where building is to take place. Senators, in particular, want state-wide publicity.

Centralization of manpower procurement agencies is in the works; selective service may be tied in with job of finding, training and allocating workers for munitions plants. Labor priorities are not far off.

New unemployment-insurance payments for war-conversion unemployed may be conditioned on workers taking vocational training for war industries. May also be weapon to control labor migration.

Spreads War Orders

LITTLE BUSINESS: There'll be no percentage allocations of raw materials. That plan went out with Odium. But this is no death sentence. Nelson plans: To spread war orders as much as possible without impeding speed of production; to divert civilian production from converted plants to small unconvertibles.

Small plants may get record-breaking business, this way.

Coast areas won't get new war industries, except where they can furnish the only quickly available electric power.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT: War effort may gobble most if not all of this year's nylon. Rayon and silk are scarce. Save those stockings.

SEC will win its battle against increase in size from five to nine members. Installation of panel system to procedure. Investment Bankers Association has been agitating for it.

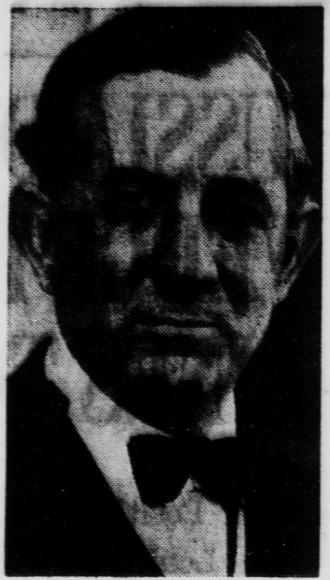
Knudsen Stands By

GOOD SOLDIER: Some of Gen. Knudsen's friends at OPM wanted him to quit when Nelson got the big job. "I'll do whatever my President wants me to do," Knudsen said. "If he told me to take a gun and walk guard in front of this building I'd do it."

Budget Bureau tried to call Nelson's executive order illegal in parts. Roosevelt backed Nelson. Still to be heard from: Comptroller General.

Wickard victory in farm-price war may be a hollow one. Roosevelt can tell him to go along, or else.

Gasoline rationing? Yes, probably. Henderson wants it as a further rubber-conservation measure. Bicycle demand increasing each week.



Senator Tom Connally

Grade Materials

BUSINESS can expect simplification of materials grades; certain will probably lead off. Not to be confused with simplification of finished products.

Summer vacations may be spent at home. Officials are discussing priorities on train travel. Treasury probably will expect vacation savings to go into bonds.

It's definite, now, that Feb. 16 draft registrants will get order numbers at bottom of present lists; will be called for service only when present pool of manpower runs out.

Redwood in Blankets

SPRING SUITS—Next winter's blankets, may be partly made of California redwood. "Fiber A" from redwood bark is being shipped east to textile mills, can be combined 40-60 with sheep's wool.

Move to recover billion-dollar rivers and harbors will strip it of pork, may get nowhere. Log-rolling is under way to save St. Lawrence project, Florida ship canal, Trinity River, Tennessee-Tombigbee, Ohio River-to-Youngstown Canal.

Farmers Complain

CONGRESSIONAL mail is full of complaints that farmers can't produce bigger crops if Army and war industries keep on draining off farm labor; some farmers say they'll sell out. You'll hear more of this. Farm bloc hasn't hit on a program yet.

Colored fumries may be a war casualty. War production board is talking about curtailing use of colored ink.

Hang on to needles, razor blades, knives. (All made of scarce steel). New stocks of shower curtains, carpets, linoleum, paints, paint brushes, won't be as good as you're used to. Postpone home redecoration, one high official advises.

It's all right about rubber nipples for the baby's bottle. War production board says they can be made, along with war goods.

REDS FORCE BIG BULGE IN NORTH

60-Mile Advance Promises To Eclipse Victory at Mozhaisk.

LONDON, Jan. 24 (U. P.)—Russian forces were reported today to be approaching the main Leningrad-Vitebsk-Kiev Railroad at a point more than 250 miles west-northwest of Moscow after a lightning advance of more than 60 miles which promised to eclipse their victory at Mozhaisk. The battle raged in a temperature of 40 below zero.

Tirelessly attacking, Red Army troops had driven into the German front between Moscow a great bulge which threatened to split the German northern and central armies.

There were unconfirmed reports that the Russians already were storming Rzhev, 135 miles west-northwest of Moscow, after the advanced forces had passed it by, and that they had left Vyazma in their wake, to be reduced similarly at leisure, in a drive for Smolensk, 210 miles west of Moscow on the Warsaw road.

Thor Applied to City

The main Russian forces advancing westward from Mozhaisk were reported to have captured Gzhatsk, 40 miles east of Vyazma, after the Germans had lost a motorized brigade left as a rear guard.

Unconfirmed Stockholm reports described a nightmare battle at Rzhev, asserting that the Germans were putting the city to the torch, preparing for a retreat, while Russian Stormovik planes rained bombs on them and Russian shock troops drove into the city with the bayonet.

According to some of these reports five German divisions, upwards of 75,000 men, were faced with disaster in the general area of Rzhev.

Heavy Booty Listed

A Russian communiqué claimed the capture of Peno, Andreapol, Kholm, Toropets, Zapadnaya Dvina, Selizharovo, Olenino and Staraya Toropa in an area extending as far as 135 miles northwest of Rzhev, said the Germans lost more than 17,000 killed and several hundred prisoners between Jan. 9 when the drive started, and Jan. 22, asserted that more than 2000 inhabited places had been captured in the entire drive and claimed the following trophies:

350 field guns, 52 tanks and armored cars, 430 machine guns and sub-machine guns, 90 mine throwers, 740 motor cars, 480 motorcycles, 846 bicycles, 20 wireless stations, 2614 mines, 71,300 shells, 805,000 cartridges, 225 miles of telephone cables a pontoon unit and 16 pontons, 32 tractors, a launch, 355 railroad cars and quantities of other arms.

On the southern front Russian troops in one day captured 33 field guns, 24 machine guns, 10 trench mortars, 53 trucks, 10 radio transmitters, 21 motorcycles and quantities of food and other supplies.

The Germans lost 1700 men here, it was asserted, and the Russians took some prisoners.

DESERT TANK FIGHT COVERS WIDE AREA

CAIRO, Jan. 24 (U. P.)—British Imperials and Axis mechanized forces are locked in battle in the Agedabia region, 90 miles south of Benghazi, Libya, with the fighting raging over a wide area. British General Headquarters for the Middle East said today.

German and Italian troops were in contact with the main British forces, some 40 miles outside Agedabia. It was understood the battle between the two main groups was joined last night and that it was raging with increasing fury today.

Gen. Erwin Rommel, commander of the German Africa Corps, had halted his retreat at El Agheila on the Cyrenaica-Tripolitania border, and turned back to attack his pursuers.

British planes, held to the ground for several days by some of the worst North African weather in 10 years, reappeared to bathe the fresh air forces thrown into battle by Axis in support of Rommel.

It's all right about rubber nipples for the baby's bottle. War production board says they can be made, along with war goods.

OSTROM TO ADDRESS PATRIOTIC ASSEMBLY

Henry E. Ostrom will speak tomorrow night at a patriotic assembly of the Building Service Employees' Union 69, in Castle Hall.

Mr. Ostrom is civilian aid for procurement of Army Air Corps cadets in the 5th Corps Area. Carl G. Berg, president of the A. F. of L. affiliate union, will preside at the meeting scheduled for 7 p. m.

The color guard of Frank T. Strayer Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will participate in a flag ceremony. Mr. Berg said Mayor Sullivan and a representative of the Board of School Commissioners had been invited.

IOZZO DENIED PAROLE; FACES ANOTHER YEAR

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Jan. 24.—A parole was denied Fred Iozzo, former Indianapolis tavern operator, by the State Prison Board last night.

Iozzo is serving a 1-to-10-year sentence for involuntary manslaughter and last night's ruling means that he cannot seek a parole again until a year has passed.

Iozzo was convicted Feb. 16, 1941, in connection with the fatal shooting of Virgil Disher, 16, in the Iozzo tavern Oct. 25, 1940.

Welles to Broadcast

Mr. Welles will broadcast at 5:45 p. m. (Indianapolis Time) to the United States today, explaining the conference results.

Argentina and Chile to the end bitterly opposed a break and efforts to bring them into the United front had delayed the conference and frayed tempers for more than a week.

Ecuador Holds Back

Ecuador considers herself the aggrieved nation in her century-old border dispute with Peru, and pre-

That Dog May Come Later



A boy's best pal is his dog, but this bed-ridden youngster must be content with a teddy bear. Dogs hardly fit into the scheme of things at James Whitcomb Riley Hospital, where this patient is fighting his battle against infantile paralysis. The President's Birthday Ball gives hope of victory and some day, when the battle is won, this boy may be walking with a dog at his heels.

U. S. LINES FALL BACK IN LUZON

BOND PAYROLL PLAN USED IN STATE HOUSE

The payroll allotment plan for purchasing defense bonds has been accepted by 90 per cent of State House officials and employees.

To make the plan more flexible, the State Board of Finance approved an application to the Federal Reserve Bank for the state to become an issuing agent for bonds through the office of State Treasurer James Givens.

Employees and officials can now purchase additional defense bonds in the treasurer's office. The payroll allotment plan and the direct purchase plan have been set up for the 5000 State House employees by Auditor Richard T. James and Mr. Givens at no expense to the taxpayers.

The size of the fighter force nestled at a secret field or fields amid Bataan's jungles and mountain peaks was not revealed. But it was said to have accounted for at least 38 Japanese war planes since the war started. There was no statement as to how many of these planes had been brought down since Gen. MacArthur dug in on Bataan for his siege stand.

The planes were said to be Curtiss P-40 fighters, more than capable of dealing with any Japanese pursuit ships being employed in the Luzon attack.

This is the same type of plane with which American volunteer pilots attached to the Chinese Air Force aided British fighter squadrons in bringing down 21 planes in the last 10 days.

The American fighters and the heavy anti-aircraft batteries of Corregidor, it was evident, have played an important role in preventing Japanese air power from delivering crushing blows against Gen. MacArthur's positions.

Corregidor's guns and the other anti-aircraft weapons protecting Gen. MacArthur's strong points are credited with the destruction of 81 Japanese planes since the start of fighting.

After a day-long hearing, investigators for the Civil Aeronautics Authority were unable to establish what caused the Trans-Continental and Western Airlines plane to fly into Double or Nothing peak west of Las Vegas, Nev. The hearing continued today. Expert witnesses agreed that flying weather was perfect.

John Collings, TWA superintendent of operations, ruled out the question of sabotage.

"There was not the slightest indication of the remotest possibility of malicious interference," he said.

TAX LOOPOLES DRAW MORGENTHAU ATTACK

TRAPPED, JAPAN CLAIMS

CLEVELAND, Jan. 24 (U. P.)—Japanese propaganda sources broadcast reports that the American troops on Bataan are "trapped" and are now making a "last effort" before "final annihilation." The Japanese were said to have occupied Moron almost halfway down the west Bataan coast and to be pushing on toward an important position, presumably Bagac which is linked with the east coast by the only east-west highway on the narrow neck of land.

There were also signs of possibly growing Japanese behind-the-line trouble.

A new and drastic decree was issued by Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Honma, commander-in-chief of Japanese forces in the Philippines, imposing the death penalty upon civilians guilty of any one of 17 categories of offenses, ranging from "rebellion" to "any other acts against the interests of the Japanese forces."

The Japanese may have been compelled to order these drastic penalties because of actual or threats of revolt and sabotage.

NAVY BOMBER SINKS WITH CREW OF EIGHT

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 24 (U. P.)

Fifth Naval District Headquarters here reported today that a Navy PB-2Y bomber had crashed and sunk near Oregon Inlet, N. C., with the loss of its crew of eight. Several bodies have been recovered.

It was evident that the plane was awaiting settlement of "aggression" within the Americas before undertaking measures against non-American aggression.

The compromise resolution drafted to overcome Argentina's—and to a lesser extent, Chile's—objection to a mandatory break, said:

"It is, therefore, recommended that according to established precedents of each nation's individual laws and regulations and to the actual circumstances of each country of the continent in the present conflict, that they break diplomatic relations with Japan, Germany and Italy, because the first of these states has committed aggression and the other two have declared war against an American country."

The original resolution introduced by Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia called for an immediate and complete break with the Axis.

Argentina and Chile to the end bitterly opposed a break and efforts to bring them into the United front had delayed the conference and frayed tempers for more than a week.

Ecuador Holds Back

Ecuador considers herself the aggrieved nation in her century-old border dispute with Peru, and pre-

BRITISH HOLD ON IN EAST MALAYA

Fight Stubbornly on West And Central Fronts; Wreck Jap Tanks.

By HAROLD GUARD

United Press Staff Correspondent

SINGAPORE, Jan. 24.—British Imperial troops, fighting stubbornly against a savage Japanese drive on the central and western fronts, have destroyed Japanese tanks and other vehicles and are holding on the eastern front, a General Headquarters communiqué said today.

British planes, backing up the hard-pressed ground forces, struck forcibly against the Japanese along the main Singapore highway north of the central front, attacking troops and transport.

They bombed roads, causing casualties and damage to transport, the communiqué said, and low-flying planes machine gunned Japanese tanks.

All planes returned to base, it was ascertained.

Pressure 60 Miles North

The Japanese were exerting powerful pressure on the Batu Pahat sector of the west coast, 60 miles above the Tebrau Strait which separates Singapore from the mainland, the communiqué disclosed.

It was in this area and in the Paloh area, on the central front 60 miles north of the strait, that the Japanese struck back at the Japanese and knocked out tanks and vehicles.

I returned from the front to find Singapore increasingly warlike, and talking more of the battle of Singapor than the battle of Malaya.

I saw also the damage that Japanese bombs had done during my absence.

Catholic Church Damaged

The great