



The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Not much change in temperature this afternoon, tonight or tomorrow forenoon; occasional light snow or rain this afternoon.

VOLUME 54—NUMBER 17

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1942

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind. Issued daily except Sunday.

FINAL
HOME
PRICE THREE CENTS

Jap Bases Bombed; Gandhi Balks On Indian War Aid

NAZIS ROUTED IN ARCTIC SEA FIGHT

REUTHER PLAN DEBATED WITH GM PRESIDENT

UAW Leader Argues It Will Meet Plane Goal, but Wilson Raps It.

DETROIT, March 31 (U. P.)—A champion of labor and a general of industry—Director Walter P. Reuther of the United Automobile Workers and President C. E. Wilson of General Motors Corp. today submitted the issue of all-out war production to a debate unique in the annals of American industrial relations.

In an unprecedented joint press conference between representatives of labor and management, they debated before an audience of newspaper men, army and navy representatives and groups of their own partisans the merits of the so-called Reuther plan for the automobile industry to produce 500 airplanes a day.

The press conference was arranged on Mr. Wilson's invitation after the U. A. W.-C. I. O. rejected his proposal that current contract negotiations be opened to the press, as representatives of the public, in view of the fact that the company is engaged solely in war work for the government.

Plan Called Impractical

Mr. Reuther said he would be agreeable to admitting the press when the dispute reaches the labor board at Washington, as both sides agree that it will.

Mr. Wilson said the Reuther plan was impractical because of the diverse types of planes needed—bombers, fighters, interceptors and troop carriers.

He said such mass production would call for the utmost in standardization.

Mr. Reuther countered: "Before this war is over there is going to have to be much more standardization of airplane design than we have today. Only by reducing the types of planes can we produce them in the quantities we need. That's the way Germany did it."

The so-called Reuther plan was read. The U. A. W.-C. I. O. submitted it to President Roosevelt in December, 1941, in a claim that it would enable the automobile industry to build 500 airplanes a day while still producing 4,000,000 automobiles a year.

Challenges Results

Mr. Wilson challenged the program as "a gun and butter plan to produce something our military authorities did not require and still do not require even in this war emergency."

He pointed out that the Reuther plan called for a number of planes of a single type that surpasses the quota set by President Roosevelt for between 35 and 40 types of planes.

"As I understand it," Mr. Wilson said, "the president's quota for total airplane production of 120,000 planes in 1943 includes all these types of planes—a grand total that is less than the Reuther plan proposed to manufacture of just one type."

Plan Offered Government

Mr. Reuther countered that Mr. Wilson "failed completely to understand the plan." He said it contemplated not only production of 500 planes a day but also was designed "to obtain maximum utilization of the automobile industry's machine and man power."

"We put forth the plan because President Roosevelt said we needed 50,000 planes," he said. "We knew that the automobile industry was the only hope for such a program."

Mr. Reuther said the plan was offered to the government rather than industry because "only the government had the authority to move in and set up machinery to get this thing done on a industry-wide basis."

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Fighting In The Philippines



1. The centuries old Santo Domingo cathedral, in the heart of Manila's walled city, burns as the Japs bombed the defenseless area following the withdrawal of native and United States troops during Christmas week.

2. Little Arthur MacArthur, 4-year-old son of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, stands near a tunnel on the island fortress of Corregidor before the spectacular dash with his parents to Australia.

3. Gen. MacArthur's wife stayed by his side on Corregidor. In this picture they are shown leaving officers' mess.

PLAN 4250 CITY DEFENSE HOMES

Workers at Naval Ordnance Plant to Get First 750 Under FDR Order.

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, March 31.—A total of 4250 houses for Indianapolis war workers, to be erected at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000, are provided in the order signed by President Roosevelt and turned over to the national housing agency today.

Of the total, 1250 will be erected by the government and 3000 by private builders for whom priorities will be provided.

Naval ordnance plant employees will get the first 750 houses to be built by the government near the Irvington plant, officials said.

Defer Work on 500

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Today's Rumor

This Times series is designed to help you. If you hear a rumor don't pass it on. Call us or write us and we'll check it for you. If it's true, we'll tell you so. If not, we'll give you the facts.

The Gossip Is . . .

... That the day before Pearl Harbor, the Japanese embassy there established credit at Honolulu bars, requesting them to serve American service men free. Thus, on Dec. 7, the American can navy had a hangover paid for by the Japs.

The Facts Are . . .

... That the Roberts board of inquiry reported: "Except for a negligible number, the use of intoxicating liquor on the preceding evening (Saturday) did not affect their efficiency."

... Read The Times of Jan. 26, Page 2, column 4.



Harry Geisel, Veteran Ump, Is Candidate for Sheriff

Harry Geisel, veteran American league baseball umpire, today announced his candidacy for county sheriff in the Republican primary election May 5.

Because he will report soon to begin his 18th year of big league service, Mr. Geisel said he would be limited to a brief personal campaign preceding the primary and longer one preceding the general election in the event he is nominated.

"I have reached this decision as a result of the suggestion of countless friends that I have the qualifications to serve as sheriff," Mr. Geisel said in his announcement.

"It is the first time in my life that I ever seriously entertained the idea of seeking public office. With a nation at war, the importance of efficient administration of local law-enforcement agencies becomes increasingly greater."

The tremendous expense of the war, which no good American can begrudge, means simply that local officials must operate with a maximum of economy. As an individual I have never been wasteful with my

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STATE GETS PLANT FOR SHELL LOADING

Cass-Miami to Be Site of \$750,000 Project.

LOGANSPORT, Ind., March 31 (U. P.)—Plans for the construction of a naval ordnance shell-loading plant, to cost an estimated \$750,000 with employment for about 600, were revealed today.

The disclosure came with the filing of a lease for 650 acres of Cass and Miami county farmland by the Victory Ordinance Co. of Indiana.

The latest addition to be announced in Indiana's vital chain of defense plants, the new factory reportedly will be constructed with funds granted by the federal government, but will be operated by the corporation.

Construction is expected to begin in three weeks, with full operations scheduled for about Aug. 1, it was reported.

Approximately 80 per cent of the employees will be women, according to preliminary plans.

The plant site, comprising 350 acres in Cass county and 300 in Miami county, will be leased from its five owners at a yearly rental of \$15 an acre for five years, with the corporation granted an option to buy the land outright for \$150 per acre.

(Continued on Page Ten)

ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT

Next Monday at 8:00 p. m. is the deadline for entries in the TIMES Want Ad Result Story Contest. Better get busy now and write that short letter about your experience with Times Want Ads. You may win one of the 14 prizes ranging from \$3 to \$100 in Defense Stamps and Bonds. For full details turn now to the Want Ad pages.



GANDHI PERILS BRITISH OFFER

Reports Say He Has Swung

All-India Congress Group Against Cripps.

NEW DELHI, India, March 31 (U. P.)—Mohandas K. Gandhi was reported today to have swung the All-India congress working committee against acceptance of Great Britain's plan for enlisting an independent India in the war against Japan.

The consensus of the working committee of the majority party, after hearing Gandhi and President Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, was for rejection of the British plan, which called for immediate Indian participation in home and empire councils and post-war dominion status.

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Vacuum Cleaner Output to Stop

Further Details, Page Three

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—The war production board today banned production of vacuum cleaners after April 30.

Vacuum cleaner makers may continue turning out cleaners during April, but at the same curtailed production rate on which they operated during the first three months of this year.

Approximately one-fourth of the industry already has been converted to 100 per cent war work, and all companies are engaged in some phases of turning out war materials.

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STANDARD OIL CHIEF DENIES U.S. CHARGES

Claims Firm Didn't Retard

Debate Alternative Plan

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—W. S. Parish, president of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, today described as "without a shadow of foundation" charges

that his company retarded synthetic rubber production in this country.

Appearing before the senate committee investigating the war program, Mr. Parish said that present

prospects for development of synthetic rubber in the United States would be meager had it not been for Standard Oil's pioneering in that

"I place my discussion by saying that any charges that the Standard Oil Co. or any of its officers

has been in the slightest respect disloyal to the United States are unwarranted and untrue," he said. "I repeat all such insinuations as I have made at my command. I do so with indignation and resentment."

In previous testimony, Assistant Attorney General Thurman W. Arnold charged that Mr. Parish's firm

and I. G. Farbenindustrie, German chemical trust, had entered into a

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BRITISH CLAIM 5 AXIS NAVAL CRAFT BLASTED

London Admits Two English Warships Damaged; Berlin Radio Says 8 Allied Ships Smashed in Three-Day Fight.

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.)—British and Soviet naval forces protecting a convoy of British-United States war supplies to Russia sank or damaged five Nazi warships and U-boats in the Arctic ocean in a three-day running battle, the admiralty announced today.

Two British warships escorting the convoy, the 8000-ton cruiser Trinidad and the 1375-ton destroyer Eclipse, were damaged in the battle but made port safely, the communiqué said.

The Germans, who admitted loss of one destroyer in the battle, claimed a few hours earlier in a broadcast communiqué that four more ships of the allied convoy en route to Russia's ice-free port of Murmansk had been sunk—a possible total of eight purportedly sunk or damaged.

The British admiralty said however, that the attack was "beaten off" and the remaining German ships and submarines put to flight after the Anglo-Soviet naval forces had sunk one German destroyer, damaged and halted another and "severely damaged if not sunk" three U-boats.

The convoy was first attacked Sunday morning, the admiralty said in its communiqué, whose reference to "American and British supplies for Russia" indicated that American ships may have been among those attacked.

The Germans yesterday claimed that one of the convoy ships sunk was a 10,000-ton vessel carrying arms and materials from the United States to Murmansk.

Arctic Struggle Widens

The rapidly widening sea and air struggle for control of the northern supply route to Russia, followed reports of German naval forces gathering in the area.

It had been reported that the German warships Tirpitz, Prinz Eugen, and other vessels were ready to go into action against the Russia-bound allied convoys there, but the battle reported today apparently involved destroyers and submarines rather than heavy craft.

Military observers said that the battle strengthened indications that the Germans will make a desperate effort to hamstring the vital supply line, which began functioning on a major scale last year about the time that the Arctic winter made naval operations difficult.

Fought in Heavy Snowstorm

The running battle between the British-Russian and German naval forces was fought in a heavy snowstorm, according to both British and German communiques.

The Germans attacked the convoy first with surface vessels and then with U-boats, it was stated.

The Berlin radio heard here, describing a naval battle that began Saturday, told of a heavy air bombing of Murmansk and a "further successful attack" on an allied convoy off the Russian coast by Nazi submarines, planes and destroyers.

On the War Fronts

(March 31, 1942)

LONDON—British and Russian naval forces sink or damage five German warships, including destroyer sunk and a destroyer and three U-boats sunk or damaged, in protecting a British-American convoy of war materials which presumably reached Murmansk; admiralty reports attackers beaten off in Arctic snowstorms despite Berlin propaganda claims of four to eight ships sunk.

AUSTRALIA: Allied planes bomb Koepang and Lae bases of Japan, destroying six planes and doing much damage.

INDIA: All-India congress leaders reported split on acceptance of British independence plan.

RUSSIA: Red army gains on central front, closing trap around Vyazma; new advances near Leningrad reported.

BURMA: Japanese advance 20 miles to within 10 miles of Prome; Chinese fight through Japanese lines and mass north of Toungoo for main battle.