

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, with 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 guns 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 130,000 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."

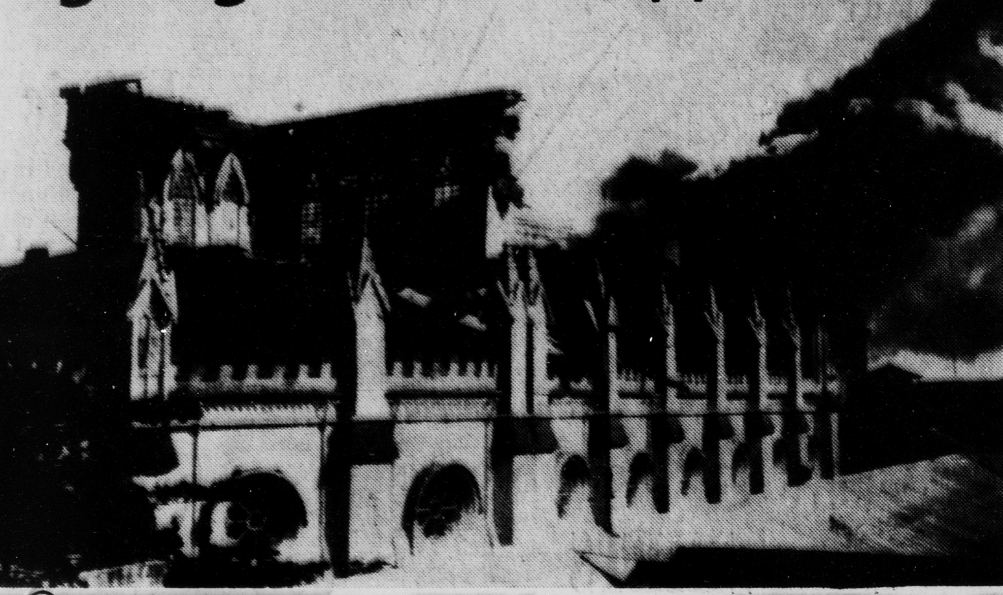
Plan Offered Government

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 an industry-wide basis."

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

Construction of the remaining 500 will be deferred until sites are selected, but they also are expected to be built by fall. All will be permanent units rather than of demountable type.

Rep. Louis Ludlow, Indianapolis congressman, was told that the 750 houses are estimated at \$3,000,000. According to housing officials, 350 will be rented to workers drawing between \$1800 and \$2500 and 375 to those getting from \$2501 to \$3200.

Twenty to 25 per cent of the entire total will be one bedroom housing units, 50 to 60 per cent two bedrooms and 20 to 25 per cent three bedrooms.

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 an industry-wide basis."

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 an industry-wide basis."



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 a longer one preceding the general election in the event he is nominated.

"I have reached this decision as a result of the suggestion of counting less 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 money."

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

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.



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.

Debate Alternative Plan

No flat rejection was made, however, because the committee continued to debate on whether to advise Sir Stafford Cripps that the plan was unacceptable or to present to him an alternative suggestion.

It was understood that if an alternative suggestion was presented it would include the working committee's rejection.

The working committee debate apparently did not mean collapse of Cripps' efforts to bring about an agreement among the Indian factions.

(Continued on Page Ten)

SUSPEND 'GALILEAN' PELLEY'S MAGAZINE

NOBLESVILLE, Ind., March 31 (U. P.).—The Fellowship Press, Inc., owned and operated by William Dudley Pelley, former leader of the Silver Shirts of America, announced here today that publication of "The Galilean" has been suspended.

Postmaster Gordon Olvey said one copy of the magazine was barred from the mails early this month "because it was not mailable."

(Continued on Page Ten)

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 Ordnance 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.

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.

STANDARD OIL CHIEF DENIES U.S. CHARGES

Claims Firm Didn't Retard Synthetic Rubber.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—W. S. Farish, 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. Farish 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 field.

"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 is unwarranted and untrue," he said.

Appearing before the senate committee investigating the war program, Mr. Farish 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 field.

"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 is unwarranted and untrue," he said.

Appearing before the senate committee investigating the war program, Mr. Farish 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 field.

"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 is unwarranted and untrue," he said.

(Continued on Page Ten)

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 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 strengthens 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 known 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 snowstorm despite Berlin propaganda claims of four to eight ships sunk.

AUSTRALIA: Allied planes bomb Koepong and Lae bases of Japanese, 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 Tougoo for main battle.

FROM HIS POCKET he took a prepared statement which he had intended to release when he reached the camp at Cascade Locks, Ore. The statement—one of the most surprising ever issued by a movie star—said:

"Now let us consider war. Is it not strange that no one really wants war, yet few think that

(Continued on Page Ten)

(Continued on Page Ten)

(Continued on Page Ten)

TIMES FEATURES ON INSIDE PAGES

- Eddie Ash ... 18
- Books ... 14
- Business ... 15
- Clapper ... 13
- Comics ... 21
- Crossword ... 20
- Editorials ... 14
- Financial ... 15
- Forum ... 14
- Funny Bus ... 7
- Harold Guard ... 2
- Hold Everything ... 13
- Homemaking ... 17
- In Indpls. ... 3
- Inside Indpls. ... 13
- In Services ... 4, 5
- Jane Jordan ... 17
- Johnson ... 14
- Movies ... 8, 9
- Obituaries ... 9
- Pattern ... 17
- Pegler ... 14
- Pyle ... 13
- Questions ... 14
- Radio ... 11
- Recordings ... 8
- Roosevelt ... 13
- Serial Story ... 21
- Side Glances ... 14
- Society ... 16, 17
- Sports ... 18, 19
- State Deaths ... 9
- War Quis ... 13