



A Weekly Sizup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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between farm bloc and isolationists on one hand, and army-navy on the other, over size of armed forces.

Verbal fireworks already under way (Bankhead speech saying let Russia, China, England, furnish the fighting men) will continue; but army-navy will not yield, and in the end they'll have their way about what it takes to win the war.

Frank G. Walker finds an almost empty treasury as he takes over Democratic national chairmanship. That's why some jobs at headquarters, including the publicity one vacated by Charley Michelson, may not be filled immediately. Office staffs have already been trimmed.

Are two feminine vice presidential rooms under way? Observers think they see signs. It would be Clare Boothe Luce in the G. O. P., Oveta Culp Hobby in the Democratic party. Of course neither would have a chance of actually getting the nomination.

Army May Take Over CAP

CIVIL AIR PATROL, one of the strong props under office of civilian defense, may be pulled from under it. Report is that CAP will be taken over by the army, which already furnishes the 15 officers who direct it.

OCP points with pride to the way civil air patrol has patrolled coast waters, and got results with a small budget (\$16,000,000). It will fight the transfer. But CAP wants to be moved over.

Army and navy still hope to keep war profile down by renegotiating contracts. Neither is completely sold on this procedure, but they like alternatives still less. Demand for flat percentage ceilings on all war contracts echo again through congress, but army-navy say this won't work. If renegotiation bogs down, they say they'll tell congress so. Truman committee is studying the whole thing.

Security Fight May Be Delayed

HOUSE WAYS and means committee members are chilly toward Roosevelt-Perkins-Altmeyer plan for enlarging the Social Security program (increased benefits, extended coverage). They shudder at thought of piling a 10 per cent tax (double the present Social Security levy) on top of other new taxes, and say there's no chance congress would order federalization of state-operated unemployment insurance systems.

Best bet is that the plan—not yet proposed formally—will be allowed to simmer for a while.

Actually they haven't heard half of it. Roosevelt advisers work on far more ambitious plan, probably for presentation next year. It aims at assuring jobs for all, not just compensation in lieu of jobs.

Watch for WPB concessions to private builders in forthcoming new specifications covering war housing. Federal housing administration sides with contractors in their protests that present restrictions will permit larger floor space, greater use of soft lumber, use of substitute materials for plumbing and heating.

More John L. Lewis trouble, well before summer, impends. He has promised to fight for a wage boost for 80,000 anthracite miners, without regard for wage-stabilization policies of national war labor board. He'll have to do the same for the 500,000 bituminous miners. Present soft-coal wage contract expires March 31, anthracite April 30.

Hungary to Quit Axis?

Report that Regent Admiral Horthy, of Hungary, is sending the famous Count Bethlen to Washington to talk about his country's post-war status is premature. Subject has been broached, but not developed. There are signs that Hungary could be coaxed to drop out of the axis lineup if United Nations went about it properly.

House leaders will be wary about ordering more executive sessions of the house. They closed the doors this week, took unusual precautions for secrecy, when Rep. Nichols (D. Okla.) said he had information on aviation too confidential to discuss publicly. Information was trivial, members say; reaction bad.

Army air forces publicity men plan a drive to build up their photographic section. R. A. F. has long recognized how much a modern offensive operation depends on good maps made from high-flight photographs, has made its photographic section a prized assignment. Here requirements have been lower, glamour has been lacking.

Corollary of War: Army surgeon general's office is acquiring sites for a series of 1500-bed hospitals to be scattered through the country.

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MONTANA BOY SIGNALS DEATH

Eyewitness in Papua Tells How He Directed Mortar Fire on Japs.

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for each group and the men respond in the same manner.

Now you are overtaking groups of natives trudging ahead for labor and repair work just back of the line of battle. They are pleased to see a general and their faces light up. Now you are passing a tank that has been ditched and is almost blocking the road. Ahead are other ditched tanks.

"This is a hell of a place to use tanks," says Gen. Vasey.

By the roadside is a wrecked Japanese command car, smashed trucks and a jumble of Japanese clothing, helmets and war materials. There is no more jungle. The trees and the growth have been blasted right down to the shell-cracked ground.

"We finally ran the little devils out of here this week," the general says.

Three to a Jeep

Now you meet the first traffic from the other way—the American wounded. There usually are three boys to a topless jeep, on stretchers laid crossways—one across the hood and two across the back seat. Some of the wounded boys are unconscious, but most of them are smoking quietly. There is no moaning or complaining.

The jeep enters a long bend in the trail toward the right. Now you are in Huggins—with the American army in the field!

More will be heard about Huggins when the war is over and the 32nd division goes home to the Midwestern states. These boys went through the night in the open or in half-shelters or thatches or anything they could crawl behind or under. And here they are by the hundreds, wearing jungle green uniforms.

You stroll up the road toward the front with Frank Hewlett, United Press correspondent. Suddenly a sentry yells:

"Hey, where are you guys going? Right over to the Japs?"

"No," Hewlett says, "we're just trying to get up to the front."

You've Found It'

"Well, you've found it," the sentry says. "Now high-tail it to the rear because we're going to open up on those guys with mortars back there and you might get your ears knocked off by a short burst."

The mortars start firing and you start back. The Japanese reply to the mortars with machine gun fire and you suddenly feel real enthusiasm for following the sentry's suggestion.

An Australian Wirraway plane circles over the target, radioing the range and the results of the firing to the mortar crews.

The mortar fire continues for a half-hour and then suddenly ceases. It's the Australians' turn at bat now and they do their stuff with their artillery.

"Excellent marksmanship," radios the Wirraway pilot.

"We'll teach those monkeys to try and hold the only high, dry, sandy spot in the whole damned swamp and make us sleep in the muck," a soldier yells.

The Whole Earth Rocks

Then the boy from Montana steps out in the middle of the road in the cemetery up toward Huggins.

"All you guys who got no business on this road get the hell off of it and keep out. Gun crews, service each mortar with 20 rounds of ammunition. Guns will fire in salvos 30 seconds apart. I'll give the signal from the middle of the road by dropping my arm. I'll have my helmet in my hand so you can all see it. We want salvos, no ragged firing. Get it? All right . . ."

His arm goes down.

The noise of the first salvo is blended into one heavy concussion.

Sunnyside Meat Case Is Taken to Federal Court; County Grand Jury Begins Investigation Monday

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and delivered at prices of \$25 and \$25.50 per 100 pounds.

That since Jan. 1, the defendant contracted with the county to sell U. S. GOOD cuts at prices of \$27 per 100 pounds, and in no instance delivered U. S. GOOD, but in fact delivered only U. S. COMMERCIAL and U. S. UTILITY to the sanatorium.

Urge Thorough Probe

Here is the text of Mr. Blue's statement:

"Any person or persons who traffic with the lives of the unfortunate patients at Sunnyside Sanatorium cannot expect mercy from public officials charged with the enforcement of the law and the prosecution of law violators."

"The kind of food the patients get at Sunnyside is very important to them. It may be the difference between recovery or continued suffering. Anyone who plays with the lives of so many people for a stake of a few dollars, is not only unfair to the taxpayers, but unmindful of the health and welfare of the sick."

"Cheating the taxpayer cannot be condoned. Robbing the sick of their

most important medicine, good nourishing food, is unforgivable."

"The conditions, as uncovered by the investigations into the supplying of certain foods to this county tuberculosis hospital, warrant an immediate study of all evidence by the Marion county grand jury. As prosecuting attorney, I would be derelict in my duty if I did not present all of the facts to the grand jury at the earliest possible moment."

"The grand jury will be in session again Monday, and at that time, I shall ask the members to start a detailed probe of these charges. That should be their first order of business, as suggested to it by the court in passing on the recommendation of the past grand jury to investigate public institutions."

"The last grand jury was the first to visit Sunnyside sanatorium. That fact, and the recommendation made to continue the investigation should be sufficient notice that the grand jury investigation should be continued."

"The investigation should be most thorough and should not be confined to Sunnyside sanatorium. It should embrace a searching probe

of all county contracts and claims for services and supplies furnished the county."

"I have no doubt the grand jury will desire to investigate all of the ramifications of the alleged irregularities, including the possibilities of false claims, collusion among contract bidders and conspiracies to defraud the county by providing products inferior to those contracted."

"The prosecutor's staff and investigators will be placed at the disposal of the grand jury to assist it in making a complete investigation."

Inquiry Approved

Here is Mr. Bossom's statement:

"The board of county commissioners recently appointed substantially a new board of managers for Sunnyside with the instruction to carry out their adopted policy of keeping Sunnyside out of politics and seeing that everything possible under the law was done for the patients of the institution."

"The present investigation which

was initiated by the board of managers has gone forward with the full knowledge of the president of the board of commissioners and of the county commissioners."

"The county commissioners have made numerous efforts to obtain bids for supplies before letting the contract and when the contract was finally let, it was let to the lowest and best bidder and therefore it follows that every effort was made to comply with OPA regulations."

Must Follow State Laws

"The commissioners desire to comply in every way with the federal laws but are required also to follow the Indiana state laws with regard to letting contracts and must be able to procure food, milk and supplies for this institution."

"On behalf of the patients of Sunnyside, I want to thank the investigators for the splendid job that has been done," he declared.

"It was a matter of receiving inferior meat and paying superior prices."

RUSS NEAR KEY CITY IN DONETS

Reported Only 10 Miles

From Voroshilovgrad; Gain

On Other Fronts.

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after capturing Mikoyan Shakhar, where the Germans had made their deepest penetration in the mountains, and freeing the towering peak of Mt. Elborus, 18,471 feet high, whose scaling the Germans had so proudly announced.

Enter Kursk Region

(The Moscow radio broadcast that advanced Russian troops had entered the region of Kursk, and a drive on the city continued with tanks crushing all opposition. The Kursk administrative area extends to a point about 60 miles east of Kursk.)

The noon communiqué reported fresh gains on all three major fronts.

Several new towns and villages were claimed on the Voroshilovgrad front, including five taken by a single unit. A number of inhabited places were taken on the southern or Salsk front, the noon communiqué said, and "dozens" in the North Caucasus in addition to several of the Voronezh front where the Russians are advancing on Kursk.

Retake Several Towns

With the capture of Voroshilovgrad, one of the great objectives of their winter offensive, in sight the Russians reported that on the Voronezh (Kursk) front they captured several inhabited places during the night, including a village in which they killed 200 Germans.

The Red army reached within 10 miles of Voroshilovgrad, on the east, when it took the railroad junction town of Kondrashevskaya yesterday. They were closing in also on the northeast and north; driving for a focal point of the German defensive-offensive system in southern Russia.

NAGLEY LANDSCAPE ART TO BE SHOWN

Lester C. Nagley Sr. of Treviaco will open a three-day exhibit of his recent Brown county winter landscapes in water color at 1 p. m. Monday in room 337, Hotel English. The exhibit, open to the public, will continue Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 5 o'clock.

Local sponsors of the Brown County Art school, conducted by Mr. Nagley, will attend a reception in his studio at 8 p. m. Tuesday.

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