



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

(Continued from Page One)

dence in present American and British leadership there, believe Rommel has met his match.

#### March Sinkings Feared

SUBMARINE SINKINGS in March may be double the February figure, congressional sources fear, because of spring weather. Destroyers and destroyer-escort vessels, the two chief types of surface craft used in our anti-submarine war, are coming off the ways in numbers—but the numbers won't be good enough until fall. Conflicts with rubber, high-octane gasoline and airplane programs, over critical materials, slowed down D-E construction.

Meanwhile, conferences of high-ranking American, Canadian and British military and naval men here recently planned for best possible use of available surface and air craft to fight subs during the coming danger season.

House is likely to write a new tax bill of its own on the floor.

Now that they've taken a close look at it, Democrats aren't enthusiastic about what their ways and means committee reported. Nor are the Republicans willing to make an all-out fight for the Rum plan.

Several substitutes are being drafted. Carlson is rewriting his near-Rum plan. Forand of Rhode Island will offer a compromise between the committee bill and the Robertson proposal "forgiving" 1942 taxes up to 19 per cent. (You'd pay just the same but your payments would apply on 1943 taxes).

This is one time when house debate will really influence votes. Membership, not satisfied with what's before it now, will be looking frantically for something better. Good bets for inclusion in whatever emerges from the menses: Forgiveness of some portion of 1942 income liability; special concessions for service men; 20 per cent withholding tax after July 1.

It's even money now that de Gaulle and Giraud will reach a working agreement when they meet—as they will in a few days—in North Africa. But if you bet, don't bet too heavily. Reason: Gen. de Gaulle's entourage, if not the gallant general himself, is inclined to compromise only one way—it's own.

#### Argentine Sentiment Explored

AT LEAST 65 per cent of the people of Argentina are pro-ally, says a recently returned official. "But," he adds, "don't take that to mean 65 per cent are for breaking with the axis. Like many Americans before Pearl Harbor, they are overwhelmingly against Hitler but would like to remain neutral."

State prisons and other institutions, dissatisfied with food rationing rules, threaten to raise their own, ignore OPA. And OPA threatens to ask for injunctions.

Rumors about Washington putting a stop to cross-country transportation of food and other products probably come from program, now being worked out, to induce local governments to fill all needs from home industry, cut cross-hauling by that much.

Coal crisis embarrasses congressional plans to repeal \$25,000 salary limitation. John L. Lewis is sure to use it as a talking point of raises for miners.

Good bet is that house appropriations committee next week will eliminate \$44,000,000 Florida barge canal item from war department appropriation bill, despite argument that it would ease East coast oil shortage. Subcommittee approved it; full committee refused to approve the bill with it in.

#### OWI Faces Going-Over

OFFICE OF WAR information is in for a going-over from house appropriations subcommittee when its budget is taken up, around April 12. Ranking Republican member Taber is still pleased because OWI Director Davis called him a "Simon Legree," is demanding elimination of many OWI activities.

Also slated for the ax: National youth administration. House economists are organizing to kill it off. And farm security seems to have few friends in senate, despite its hopes for better treatment there.

Reford G. Tugwell's regime as governor of Puerto Rico will get another congressional once-over this spring. House insular affairs committee plans investigation of political situation there as well as social and economic, expects to report on whether the island's governor should be elected or appointed by the president.

Germans are cutting food rations of French, Belgians and other subject peoples lower and lower—and with every cut they put the blame on U.S. If there is hunger, they say, it's because Americans landed in North Africa and grabbed all the supplies.

Vice President Wallace wanted to go to South America incognito, just as a "common man." He was told the president and vice president cannot travel abroad like ordinary tourists, mingle with hostile forces in various delicately balanced nations. Even so, he left here unconvinced.

#### British Lift Ban Against Flowers

##### EISENHOWER COMMUNIQUE

(Issued Saturday, March 20)

The Tunisian front was quiet yesterday. From the eighth army front there was no report of any fighting.

In the Gafes and El Guettar areas where heavy rains are still falling out operations continued to consolidate their positions.

AIR: Bad weather over Tunis limited air operations and patrols which were carried out without loss and without encountering the enemy.

##### NAVY COMMUNIQUE 318

(Issued Saturday, March 20, 1943)

NORTH PACIFIC: The Kicks was attacked by army Liberators (Consolidated B-24) and Mitchell (North American B-26) bombers, with Lightnings (Lockheed P-38) as escort. Results were not observed. All U.S. planes returned.

##### SEA: U.S. PLANES

On March 20, a force of Wildcat fighters (Grunman F4F) strafed Japanese positions on Munda, New Georgia. All planes returned.

##### MURDER TRIAL NEAR END

MARTINSVILLE, March 20 (U.P.)—Final arguments were to be heard today in Morgan county circuit court in the first-degree murder trial of Paul B. Teague, charged with the axe-slaying of Estel Lee Cox. The jury was expected to receive the case late today.

The cheers which greeted this announcement in the house of commons are echoing throughout the country as the prospect of brighter weather helps dim the memories of the wintry muck and fog.

Starting next Thursday for the summer months' train passengers again can carry flowers without fear of heavy fines and commercial florists can obtain railroad space, conditions warranting, without resorting to the ingenious subterfuges which followed the ministry of war transport's order against carrying flowers.

For the summer, at least, Britain's highly developed racket of flower smuggling is at an end.

For Your Convenience



## NITTI ENDS LIFE; \$1.14 IN POCKET

Kingpin of Capone Empire Takes Easy Way Out of Extortion Charges.

CHICAGO, March 20 (U.P.)—The remnants of Scarface Al Capone's once mighty empire of crime crumbled today with the suicide of its ruler, Frank "The Enforcer" Nitti, and there were whispers that the higher-ups, the men who controlled the gangsters, would be next to fall.

Nitti committed suicide late yesterday when he learned that a federal grand jury at New York indicted him and eight others, six of them his henchmen, as a result of a \$2,500,000 labor union ex-

ecution.

U.S. District Attorney J. Albert Wolf said a grand jury would convene here within 30 days to pick up where the New York grand jury left off.

Nitti, who dealt death to underworld enemies with a shrug of indifference, was driven to a drunken suicide when he found the federal government too tough an opponent.

He was the first big-time Chicago gangster to take "the easy way out."

Federal agents said he had "pleaded guilty" by sending a bullet into his brain. Shortly before his death, they said, arrangements were made by an attorney to surrender him to the U.S. marshal's office. Government attorneys said they knew he would plead guilty, "but not that way."

Nitti killed himself in a drunken stupor. His suicide was witnessed by three trainmen on an Illinois Central switch engine. The trainmen saw him reelling down a sidetrack as their engine approached.

### Fires Two Wild Shots

Then, they said, he drew pistol and fired two wild shots. The trainmen ducked as a bullet sped in their direction. They were not sure whether he had fired intentionally at them or not.

Stumbling in a heap, Nitti sat propped against a fence, pressed the pistol to his temple and fired. The third shot ended his life.

The man who had controlled millions reaped through liquor, gambling and extortion, died with \$1.14 in his pocket. Police found the 32-caliber pistol—less powerful than those habitually used by gunmen—clutched in Nitti's stiffened hand.

A few hours before his suicide, Nitti was indicted by the New York grand jury with eight associates, six of them former Capone henchmen, on charges of mail fraud and violation of anti-racketeering laws. They were accused of mulching millions from motion picture executives through threats of strikes.

### CARIBBEAN U-BOAT THREAT IS REVIVED

WASHINGTON, March 20 (U.P.)—The Germans may be sending some of their submarines into waters far away from the north Atlantic in an effort to divert allied escort strength from the vital convoy routes to Britain, Russia and North Africa.

That possibility was suggested today by the appearance of an enemy submarine in the Caribbean area for the first time in more than three months. A small Honduran merchant vessel was sunk there during the first half of this month, the first in that area since December.

Why a submarine should be operating in the Caribbean at a time when the main hunting ground appears to be in the North Atlantic aroused speculation over the possibility that the enemy is feinting.

The Caribbean already is the graveyard for 154 merchant ships sunk by submarines since the start of the last year. Of this number, 71 were sent to the bottom during May and June.

The German submarine campaign appears to be gaining momentum. Elmer Davis, director of the office of war information, in a radio address last night said that the bombing of submarine bases and submarine factories continues, "but there are still plenty of U-boats at large and plenty more in reserve, and they are going to keep on giving us a lot of trouble."

### OHIOAN KEYNOTER OF TOWNSEND RALLY

Charles W. Wettermann, Cleveland, Ohio, will be the keynoter for the eleventh district Townsend club convention, Odd Fellows hall, at Hamilton ave. and Washington st., tomorrow. Mr. Wettermann is the Ohio Townsend plan manager.

Delegates from Marion county clubs will select a district council. George Beard, president of the eleventh district council, temporary chairman, will open the convention.

Indiana state manager, Arthur E. Baker will serve as permanent chairman. The Fountain Square Townsend club choir, directed by Mrs. W. E. Williams, will sing.

### WOMAN, 103, DEAD

FT. WAYNE, Ind., March 20 (U.P.)—Funeral services were scheduled for Monday for Mrs. Caroline Strasser of Ft. Wayne, who, last November, celebrated her 103rd birthday. She died last night.

### CONTAINS VALUABLE MEDICATION

RELIEVE EXTERNALLY CAUSED

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CUTICURA OINTMENT

## Fremont Interviews Self



Fremont Power, former Times tomato editor, interviews himself.

## Times Tomato Editor Home On Merchant Marine Leave

By FREMONT POWER

This is what happens when you try to practice a few of the social niceties around this joint. Drop in to say howdy to the boys and put you to poking the same old decrepit typewriter you wrestled with before going off to save America.

That, of course, is the way city editors are. They can't be nice more than a couple of minutes before they come forth with some screwball idea that a guy should sit down and start to work.

Having offered my frail body to the U.S. maritime service last November, I returned from Sheephead Bay, N.Y., to find the city's pigeon citizenry getting along fine at the circle. Come to think of it I met up with a fellow from Virginia and when I told him of my native grounds, he replied, enthusiastically: "Oh yes, those pigeons! They ever do anything about those?"

I'm happy to see they haven't for what the home folks tell me, the poor civilians of Indianapolis may have to start looking around for extra victuals before long.

Actually, it hurts me every time I sit down to a big steak, with three big mugs of coffee on the side. I can't help but think of you poor folks back here.

Of course, we're trying to look out for you. In the mess hall, there's a sign which goes like this: "Don't take more than you can eat. The folks back home may need it."

It was typified by the signal declaration of Dr. Joseph Goebbels in Das Reich, wherein for the first time since some years before the outbreak of the war the No. 1 Nazi propagandist conceded that Germans no longer hold first place in air power and admitted allied superiority in that vital factor of modern warfare.

Indications that the Nazis—probably at Hitler's personal bidding—now place the chief reliance for defending themselves from the allied offensive upon submarines also was implied by Goebbels, who attempted to assert that Nazi dominance in submarine warfare guaranteed allied air superiority.

And anybody who says you can't raise a whopping big tomato plant up there is probably the kind of a guy who hasn't been around the library for years because of that book he never brought back.

Cheerio, all. We know things are tough back home but we're working on it.

### Smoke Removed

By New Furnace

By Science Service

URBANA, Ill., March 20—Saving fuel and giving a more even heat, the furnace of the future developed at the University of Illinois can burn soft coal without smoke, Prof. Julian R. Fellows announced today.

Ceramic tiles replace the strategic alloy metal ordinarily used for grates and fire box linings.

Stoking is simplified by dumping coal in by the bucketful through the firing door which is placed at an angle leading down to the fire pit.

Smoke must pass through glowing coals, where it is burned, resulting in a saving of heat; only the smokeless burned gases escape up the chimney. A special vent supplies pre-heated air that improves combustion efficiency.

The improved furnace is housed in a smooth streamlined casting, easy to keep clean.

### CHURCHILL TO WARN SATELLITES OF AXIS

WASHINGTON, March 20 (U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in a forthcoming radio address, may tell the axis satellite nations that there still is time for them to get off a sinking ship and save themselves from drowning.

There never is any information available in advance on what Churchill will say and the hour of his broadcast is closely guarded for security reasons.

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## CLAIM THREAT ON HOSTAGES

Bern Reports Nazis Warn Alsations of 10-to-1 Reprisals.

LONDON, March 20 (U.P.)—The Nazis were reported today to have announced that they would shoot 10 hostages for every German soldier killed in the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, where sabotage and acts of violence against occupation forces were on the rise.

Swiss reports said a military court in Strasbourg had sentenced 13 Alsations to death and 14 to prison for maintaining "united nations connections" and plotting to overthrow the new order.

A Strasbourg newspaper reported that the Germans had German names. They were said to include a prominent district court counselor, a Nazi government counselor, a police secretary and "prominent members of other influential professions."

Say Many Youths Arrested

Radio Dakar broadcast a report that the Germans have mobilized 45,000 Frenchmen from Alsace and Lorraine and scattered them through several German regiments on the Russian front. Other Alsations were said to have been forced into war industries in the Ruhr.

Radio Morocco, reporting from Bern, said the patriots entrenched in the Savoy alps still have not acc