

The Indianapolis Times

FINAL
HOME

FORECAST: Continued warm this afternoon and evening, followed by considerably cooler with thundershowers late tonight and tomorrow forenoon.

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Signs Grow That Nazis Fear Mediterranean Blitz

By HARRISON SALISBURY
United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, March 31.—There are multiplying indications that the Nazis are urgently improvising and shoring up their defenses from the Black sea to the French Mediterranean coast, obviously fearing that an allied Mediterranean blitz will be the opening phase of the battle of Europe.

The allies naturally are not tipping off their hand but the Germans are reacting as though they expect a general attack at such points as Crete, the Aegean coast, Greek islands, Sicily and even Yugoslavia.

Informed sources here believe that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel is acting under specific orders to hang on and inflict as many casualties as he can in order to delay an attack on Europe's "soft underside."

IF THIS THEORY is correct, Rommel probably will not attempt a Mediterranean Dunkirk but will fight as long as he can hold any ground in Tunisia.

Additionally, Rommel well knows he would be able to evacuate only a small fraction of his forces in any attempted Dunkirk which would occur under the massed attack of allied air and sea power. It would be possible for Rommel to call on the Italian fleet to protect the evacuation but it is doubted that he has much faith in that kind of protection in view of the Italian record.

Lacking fleet protection, he would have to depend largely upon Nazi fighter planes from Sicily.

However, it is regarded as certain that allied strategic plans for an offensive against Mediterranean Europe have been drawn up with full consideration of Rommel's probable bitter-end tactics.

THE ALLIES have large forces available in the Mediterranean theater in addition to those fighting Rommel. There is Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark's growing American fifth army as well as the ninth and 10th British armies based in Egypt, Iran and Iraq.

Axis radios have reported the arrival of many thousands of American troops in this area but these reports have not been confirmed in allied quarters.

With the ouster of Rommel from Tunisia, the allies are partially reopening the Mediterranean to traffic, cutting thousands of miles from shipping routes and enabling shore-based fighters to cover the passage of shipping through the Pantellaria gantlet.

This will make possible the speedy regrouping and transfer of forces along the whole North African coast.

THE SAVING IN shipping will be tremendous. It is estimated that ships going through the Mediterranean will be able to make twice their present number of trips to India, three times the number to Alexandria and Haifa and 50 per cent more to Australia.

Nazi concern with these possibilities is illustrated by the stream of reports from axis radio reports showing they realize the allies will soon be in position to strike almost anywhere in the Mediterranean and possibly at several points simultaneously.

The reports include one by the Transocean (German) News Agency about a new type of 400-man landing barge and about inspections of coastal defenses of Bulgaria and Greece.

German spokesman acknowledged that the crescent (Continued on Page Four)

MOST 18 TO 38 NON-FATHERS CLASSIFIED 1-A

Hitchcock to Seek Guidance
On Dads at Parley in
Capital.

By EARL RICHERT

Indiana draft boards are fast getting to the point where all men below 38 in their respective areas, except fathers, have been classified for military service.

Col. Robinson Hitchcock, state draft head, reports that an average of one draft board a day is now notifying state headquarters that it has completed classification in all dependency categories down to fathers.

Two Marion county boards have reported that they are nearly through.

This completion of classification does not mean that the fathers will be called next week or next month, it was pointed out.

June Calls Possible
It means simply that these draft boards now have in the 1-A pool all available men, except fathers.

It means that the boards will have to tap the fathers' group next. This tapping, judging from the present heavy rate of calls and barring any changes in draft regulations, will begin at least by June, Col. Hitchcock anticipates.

The state draft head, however, is not ordering any draft boards to begin classification of fathers for military service, pending orders from Washington.

And no orders are expected to be received until after the national conference of state draft directors in Washington on April 5 and 6, which Col. Hitchcock will attend.

Seek Definite Procedure
It is expected that some very definite procedure for drafting fathers will be worked out at the Washington conference.

It is possible that it may be decided to call fathers in age groups or on the basis of the number of their children.

Under the present regulations, the fathers engaged in non-essential industries will be called before those engaged in essential industries. The fathers in non-essential industries would be called, under present regulations, on the basis of their order numbers.

Col. Hitchcock said that state draft headquarters would attempt to balance the calls during the next two months so that all draft boards would, insofar as it is possible, begin calling fathers at once.

He said there was no truth to rumors that children conceived after Pearl Harbor are being regarded by selective service as dependents.

The original rule that children born after Sept. 8, 1942, are not to be regarded as dependents for draft purposes still stands, he said.

Land Army Opposed Here



"This tractor cost me \$1100," said C. W. Schaefer. "I can't get another while the war's going on. A careless hand almost ruined one of my \$100 tires on it. And I can't take the chance of letting any inexperienced city-bred youngster help on it."

City-Bred Youths Reported As 'Nuisance' on Farms

By ROSEMARY REDDING

Central Indiana farmers are almost unanimously opposed to any land army of city youths and women for general farm work.

A survey by The Indianapolis Times of farm operators in this area today brought forth only one man willing to consider such assistance—but even he qualified his voice with "ifs" and "buts."

The general tenor of the farmers is that where general farm work is concerned, city-bred boys, girls and women would be more of a "nuisance" than an aid.

They indicated they would consider such assistance only for perishable crops, like picking tomatoes or peas, a practice they have followed many years.

There are dozens of farmers in Marion county alone who are unalterably opposed to using any recruits from the city. A similar condition prevails in adjoining counties, spot checks with grain dealer operators indicated.

The farmer's viewpoint can be summed up as follows:

1. One experienced farm hand is worth five or six untrained youngsters.

2. Recruits from the city cannot be trusted with farm equipment and livestock.

3. The average farm operator cannot possibly meet the average wage for even messenger service in the city.

One of the most outspoken critics of the land army proposal is C. W. Schaefer, R. R. 9. He farms 300 acres, raises 75 head of hogs and beef and some dairy cattle.

"They (the city-bred students and (Continued on Page Four)

FLEEING ROMMEL MAULED IN WAR'S GREATEST AIR BLITZ

U. S. WILL PUSH OVER-AGE MEN INTO WAR JOBS

Boards Begin Tomorrow
Classifying Non-Essential 18-37 Workers.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—The government tomorrow begins to drive men into activities essential to the war effort coincident with a new six-point program to channel thousands of men classified by selective service as over-age and physically disabled into important work, especially farming.

Although compulsion presently is limited to men in the draft age, 18 through 37, there were hints that the maximum age would be boosted to 45 in order to force men over 38 to return to the farm or take a job in an essential industry if they now are employed in the activities and occupations designated Feb. 2 by war manpower chief Paul McNutt as "non-deferrable."

Draft boards will start tomorrow to classify for induction men aged 18 through 37 who are still in non-essential jobs. Simultaneously, they will begin to reclassify men aged 38 through 45 who have been in class 4-B, the overage group.

Dairies Need Men

Meantime, McNutt and War Food Administrator Chester C. Davis, who has charge of the farm labor problem, were preparing to carry out the new program announced late yesterday by President Roosevelt.

The first concern is dairy farming which now has an estimated manpower shortage of 50,000 men. Short of being a national service program, the steps announced in a memorandum by Mr. Roosevelt, who had been in conference with Davis and other farm leaders, are these:

1. Discharge of men in the army who are 38 or older ends today and beginning tomorrow such individuals will be transferred to inactive status in the enlisted reserve provided they ask such a transfer for the purpose of entering an essential industry or agriculture and (Continued on Page Four)

2. In the two years she has been superintendent, she has made extensive changes in the institutional procedures and her work has been praised by observers as noteworthy.

Gave Them Privileges

Among the improvements in the training of the girls, she eliminated the uniforms which the girls formerly wore at all times—long black stockings, blue denim dresses, with the same haircomb—and gave the girls inmates freedom to make their own dresses, short skirts, privileges of makeup, and the right to arrange their hair as they pleased.

Mrs. Lehman also instituted a visiting program at the school and last Christmas invited all the parents and guardians of the girls to the school for a day-long visit and inspection.

A staunch advocate of honor and parole systems, she has done much work in attempting to modernize the institution's personnel standards as they relate to the inmates.

During her administration, she also began the remodeling of cottages at the school, installing model kitchens, showers and attractive rooms.

Her successor has not been chosen.

WAGING 'BITTER' WAR

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.).—Prime Minister Winston Churchill told college undergraduates today that Britain is waging a "bitter and inexorable war to insure that the spirit of liberty and human dignity shall triumph over the satanic forces that have set at naught all the laws of God and man."

Back Where They Started

By THOMAS L. STOKES
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Congress is back where it started two months ago on tax legislation—which is nowhere.

But one thing stood out from the mad melee in the house yesterday—when that body first defeated, by a narrow margin, the Carlson bill with its Ruml pay-as-you-go plan, and then sent the administration measure, with no pay-as-you-go, back to the ways and means committee which conceived it, in complete repudiation.

What stood out was that the house must, in the end, adopt a pay-as-you-go system.

It was the lack of pay-as-you-go that defeated the administration bill. It was the pay-as-you-go feature which accounted for the strength of the Carlson bill, in spite of terrific pressure by administration leaders and the gristliest bath of demagoguery by Democrats witnessed in the house in many a day.

HOOSIERS' 8 TO 3
FOR RUMI TAX BILL

La Follette Joins Two
Democrats in Opposition.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—Indiana's delegation in the house voted eight to three in favor of the Carlson-Ruml bill in yesterday's losing vote for adoption of a pay-as-you-go tax plan.

Rep. Charles Marion La Follette was the only Republican from Indiana to oppose the measure, casting a negative vote along with Reps. Louis Ludlow and Ray J. Madden, Democrats.

Voting for the Ruml plan were Reps. Charles A. Halleck, Robert A. Grant, George W. Gillie, Forest A. Harless, Noble J. Johnson, Gerald W. Landis, Earl Wilson and Raymond S. Springer.

"I believe that a better pay-as-you-go plan now can be worked out in the ways and means committee," Rep. La Follette said today.

"Instead of cancelling the 1942 taxes, as the Ruml plan proposes, they should be amortized over a five-to-10-year period. It was the complete abatement feature and not pay-as-you-go to which I was opposed. That is true of the other Republicans voting against the Carlson amendment and I believe many of the Democrats."

"I look for a better bill next time. The committee bill was nothing at all and the Carlson amendment forgiving the 1942 taxes I could not support."

LOCAL TEMPERATURES

6 a. m. 55 10 a. m. 63
7 a. m. 55 11 a. m. 71
8 a. m. 57 12 (noon) 73
9 a. m. 64 1 p. m. 74

TAX ON SALES FEARED AFTER RUMI DEFEAT

Republicans Promise New
Fight for Plan With
Forgiveness.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—Republican leaders, promising a new drive for adoption of the modified Ruml tax plan, today said today that the principal cause of the failure of the house to act on pay-as-you-go legislation enhances the possibility of a general sales tax.

Rep. Frank Carlson (R. Kas.) author of the Carlson-Ruml bill to forgive a year's income taxes, which was approved then rejected by the house yesterday, indicated that the drive would come when the house begins consideration of the general tax bill to raise the \$16,000,000,000 in new revenue requested by President Roosevelt.

"The ways and means committee will be unable to bring out another tax bill without the whole question of pay-as-you-go being considered again," Carlson said. "I have just begun to fight."

Need Money Quick
"Without forgiveness and a withholding at the source feature, the treasury will be unable to collect sufficient funds to carry on the war unless a national sales tax is levied. They've got to get more money and get it quick."

Democratic leaders insisted that the house's 215 to 198 vote against the Carlson-Ruml plan reflected a demand for a suitable compromise between the total forgiveness proposal and the non-abatement plan for a 20 per cent withholding at the source recommended by the ways and means committee.

Action Now Delayed
But there was considerable sentiment among the Democrats, and some Republicans, to leave the whole question of collection methods rest. This came from members of the ways and means committee who are anxious to begin work on bills to extend the Guffey bituminous coal commission act, which expires April 30, and the president's authority over reciprocal trade agreements, expiring June 12.

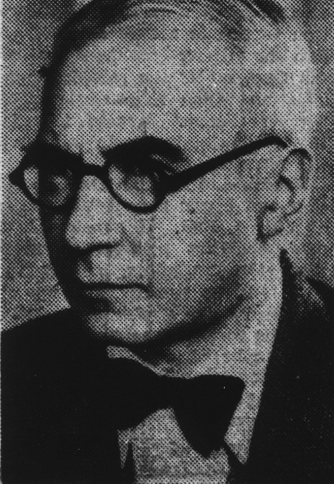
The urgency on these measures, they said, might delay the pay-as-you-go issue indefinitely.

LOPEZ, FBI HEAD,
IS TRANSFERRED

J. M. Lopez, special agent in charge of the FBI in Indiana, has been transferred to San Juan, P. R., as agent in charge, it was announced in Washington today.

Mr. Lopez said here that he probably will leave for the new post Saturday. He came here from Washington in April, 1942. His successor has not yet been announced.

'Our Fault'



Elmer Davis

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—Elmer Davis, director of the office of war information, said today that the principal cause of the meat shortage on Monday was the buying "run" of last week-end when he said, so many of us, "went out whole hog for the last steak."

Davis added that the general impression that we are running out of meat is "definitely not true."

COMPLAINT FILED
AGAINST OFFICERS

Two Men Charge They
Were Beaten.

Charges that three Indianapolis policemen were guilty of misconduct in their treatment of occupants of a tavern at 25th st. and Martindale ave., were lodged with the safety board yesterday.

Two negroes who were in the tavern Saturday afternoon when police entered the place, alleged the officers "struck occupants and emptied their liquor in a sink" without provocation.

The protests were filed by Ted Hood, 1130 Cornell ave., who was custodian of the house during the recent session of the legislature, and Dave Jackson, 812 W. Michigan st., a plasterer.

Hood charged that police first asked for draft registration cards of those present, and then singled out several occupants for further questioning. As he was being led from the tavern, he alleged one of the officers hit him on the side of the head with his fist.

A hearing on the incident was scheduled by the board for April 7.

U. S. AND RUSSIAN
TALKS ARE HINTED

President Declares He's
Still Hopeful.

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, March 31.—Comprehensive plans for a series of united nations conferences on post-war economics problems were spiced today by intimations that the United States and the Soviet Union may also undertake discussions in the very near future.

President Roosevelt told his press conference yesterday that he hoped and expected that the United States would be continuing shortly with the Soviet Union the type of discussions which have just been concluded with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

There is no concrete evidence that Premier Josef Stalin is interested (Continued on Page Four)

FIRST ARMY IN NORTH CLOSING IN ON BIZERTE

Allied Force Only 28 Miles
From Big Base; Yank
Columns Gain.

By UNITED PRESS

Allied armies tightened the Tunisian trap around Marshal Rommel's weakened forces today by driving the Afrika Korps back through the Gafes bottleneck and seizing the town of Sedjenane only 28 miles from the Bizerte naval base in the north.

The harassed Afrika Korps is being strafed constantly from the air and, according to advices from allied headquarters in North Africa, subjected to devastating "pattern bombing."

In London press reports from North Africa, the air action was called "the greatest air blitz in the whole history of the war, surpassing anything the British had to contend with at Dunkirk, Crete, Greece and Tobruk."

Advance in North
Throughout the day light bombers carried out the pattern bombing in which the planes fly in strict formation, covering a given area in such a manner that virtually every yard of ground gets a share of bombs.

As the triumphant British eighth army rolled northward on the heels of the Afrika Korps, Lieut. Gen. Kenneth A. N. Anderson's first army struck a telling blow at the axis lines before the big Bizerte naval base in North Tunisia.

(Map of Tunisia, war analysis, Russian fighting and other war news, Page nine.)

A sudden thrust by Anderson's forces in the northern coastal sector recaptured Sedjenane, 28 miles southwest of Bizerte. The drive from the Djebel Abiod area reclaimed territory held by Col. Gen. Jürgen Van Arnim for nearly a month.

North African dispatches significantly said Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's eighth army was encountering little opposition from Rommel's rear guard as it swept northward beyond the 12-mile corridor between the sea and the salt lake.

Metouli and Oudry, in the bottleneck just north of Gafes, fell to the advancing first army.

Yanks Push Forward
At the same time American troops were pushing eastward through south-central Tunisia and were within about 50 miles of a junction with Montgomery's advanced elements.

Radio Algiers reported that the Americans yesterday reached the junction of the Gafes and Kebili roads southeast of El Guettar in the Gafes sector. The junction is 15 miles beyond El Guettar and 45 miles from the coast.

Rommel apparently had succeeded in withdrawing his southern army through the Gafes bottleneck and eluding the potential trap set up by the allies. But he still faced a threat of being cut off unless he could pull back speedily all the way beyond Sfax, 70 miles northeast of Gafes.

United Press Correspondent Phil Ault, with the Americans in south-central Tunisia, reported that British warships shelled the coastal road yesterday.

Military Police Will Help Halt Downtown Jay-Walking

Traffic dodgers here—and according to police there are too many of them—will henceforth be asked to forego their daily maneuverings between swerving automobiles.

Police today launched an "educational" program to make citizens

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