

## WACS Now May 'Date' Officers

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Africa, Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Enlisted men today faced the competition of commissioned officers in dating WACS.

"WACS is all we've got," lamented Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth C. Gerdes of (rural route 1) Dixon, Ill., after the army newspaper, Stars and Stripes, announced that Capt. Martha E. Rogers, New WAC company commander and a former government worker in Jackson, Miss., had rescinded the order prohibiting enlisted WACS having dates with officers.

"It shouldn't be allowed," said Pvt. 1st Class Edward R. Smith of Tazewell, Tenn. "Privates should have a few privileges."

## HEADS TRUSTES AT SCHOOL FOR BLIND

Edward O. Smetten of Indianapolis has been elected president of the board of trustees for the Indiana School for the Blind for 1943-44.

Other officers are W. Howard Patern, vice president; F. B. Ransom, secretary; and J. O. Meredith, treasurer.

The same board will operate the board of industrial aid for the blind.

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ARTHUR MURRAY

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## SOLDIER VOTE TEMPTS A. F. L.

Endorsement of War Benefits Plan Seen as Indicating an Alliance

By FRED W. PERKINS  
Times Special Writer

CHICAGO, Aug. 16.—The American Federation of Labor, through its executive council in session here, is making passes toward an alliance with the big "soldier vote" which will come out of this war as probably the most powerful force in national politics.

The signs of this are in the council's complete endorsement of President Roosevelt's recent declaration in favor of a comprehensive scheme of federal benefits for the armed forces when they are mustered out, plus a declaration that the A. F. of L. "assures our men in uniform it is determined to do everything in its power to protect their seniority rights, to facilitate their return to their jobs, and to give them every opportunity to make up for lost time in seeking economic and social advancement."

How this pledge will mesh with the A. F. of L.'s closed-shop policies, under which it has built up an all-time membership peak of more than six million by gathering in war emergency workers, is for the future to show. Some predictions are that "when the boys come home" there will be a terrific conflict if those who never belonged to a union find closed-shop contracts barring their way to jobs.

### Other Evidence

Another evidence of flirtation with the veteran vote is in a program submitted to the executive council by a number of American Legion posts said to be made up of A. F. of L. members exclusively, calling for a campaign to unify organized labor and the soldiers of world war II. One aim of the campaign would be to combat the idea that union members at home have been living in ease on high pay while the soldiers on many fronts around the world have been suffering and dying.

This program will be submitted to the A. F. of L. convention at Boston in October, and with executive council backing is sure of adoption. The Boston convention, according to indications here, will be a reaffirmation of the policies under which the A. F. of L. was operating when it was dismembered in 1935 by John L. Lewis, through the withdrawal of the United Mine Workers and the founding of the C. I. O.

### C. I. O. Won't Dictate

The A. F. of L. council has just turned down the application of the mine workers for immediate reaffiliation, and the main question here seems to be why Mr. Lewis doesn't withdraw his application, in view of the certainty of a convention debate that would produce much unwelcome publicity for both sides.

They also have made it clear that the C. I. O. cannot expect to write the terms of any reunion. In other words, the A. F. of L. is riding high, wide and fairly handsome.

One result of this is that no changes are to be expected in the officers to be elected in the Boston convention. There have been rumors that William Green might be retired as president. But the executive board members are said to take the view that a change in the presidency at this time would encourage A. F. of L. critics.

## HARNESS 'SHOCKED' BY GAS RATION CUT

KOKOMO, Ind., Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Rep. Forest A. Harness, Kokomo Republican, said today the decision of Harold L. Ickes in imposing a 25 per cent cut in gasoline rations, had "shocked and disappointed" him.

Harness asserted that Ickes had led congressmen to believe he was working with them to prevent the cut. He said a factual report had not been made and the reduction was ordered "purely on the basis of sharing the misery which the famine-stricken eastern seaboard area has been suffering."

"We believe that our potential production, plus the normal new production which could and should be developed, would be sufficient for all our real civilian and military needs, enormous as those needs are," Harness said.

## Soviets Smash at Nazi Strongholds



As Russian troops swarmed into Kharkov to wrest that city once again from the Germans, new Soviet forces encircled Kharkov and thrust toward the Bryansk and Smolensk sectors. Map shows how Soviet army offensives were gaining momentum in Poland.

## POSTAL DEFICIT AT LOWEST IN 24 YEARS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Postmaster General Frank C. Walker yesterday reported an operating deficiency of \$3,543,122 for the postoffice department during the fiscal year 1943, the smallest deficit since 1919.

Revenues for the year, he said, totalled \$981,059,690, or an increase of \$101,242,199 over 1942, with expenditures rising \$92,960,135 to total \$984,002,812. The overall deficit for last year was \$11,825,185.

Factors preventing the department from showing a surplus, he said, were the heavy volume of penalty, postage-free mail used by government departments and agencies, some 2,000,000,000 pieces of mail handled postage-free for members of the armed forces and salary increases authorized by congress.

## AUTHOR W. D. FRANK WED. TO SECRETARY

RENO, Nev., Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Waldo D. Frank, 53, author and lecturer, married his secretary, Jean Klempler, 26, Saturday soon after he was granted a divorce from Alma M. Frank, New York.

Frank was beaten in his hotel room in Argentina last year during a lecture tour by alleged pro-Nazi.

## WELFARE HEAD TO BE NAMED

Board to Meet Wednesday To Select Successor To Neal

The Marion County Welfare board will meet Wednesday to select a director of the county welfare department to succeed Thomas L. Neal was resigned last Jan. 1.

The first four candidates for the post on the state's merit system eligibility list are Evan L. Parker, 5006 Rockwood ave., at present district representative on the staff of the state welfare department; Miss Helen Guynn, 101 N. Traub ave., who has been acting welfare director since Jan. 1; William Ross Copeland, former NYA personnel officer and Dally E. McCoy, superintendent of Julietta infirmary.

## MAJ. SEVAREID GETS STATE DRAFT POST

Maj. Paul A. Severeid, formerly of the Minnesota state selective service headquarters, has been assigned to the classification division of the Indiana state draft headquarters, Col. Robinson Hitchcock, state selective service director, announced today.

Maj. Severeid is replacing Maj. William H. Krieg, recently transferred from Indiana to the national selective service headquarters.

## U. S. Not Beaten, Japs 'Concede'

By UNITED PRESS

A Tokyo radio speaker abruptly admitted to the Japanese people last night that America is not "defeated."

Capt. Eisuo Kurihara, new Japanese navy propaganda chief, was making his first speech since taking over the job and he was recorded by the U. S. foreign broadcast intelligence service.

"The counter-offensive of the American forces at the present time in the Solomons and New Guinea is extremely furious and the fighting spirit of the men and officers of the American forces is also excellent," he said.

"They do not give our forces even a moment of rest. However, the counter-offensive of the enemy is what we had anticipated."

## CITES SHORTAGE OF BRITISH SCIENTISTS

LONDON, Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Britain's aeronautical industry is suffering an acute shortage of scientific and technical men and the industry is to be maintained at the proper level, "special measures" must be taken, a white paper released by the select committee of national expenditure, said today.

The committee recommended that men of high academic, scientific and technical attainments should not be taken into the armed forces and suggested formation of a committee to study the problem of training technicians to fill the gaps.

## PROSPECT GLUM FOR GAS IN EAST

Bowles Indicates Extra Half-Gallon Is Most to Be Expected

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (U. P.).—Eastern motorists, even though they abide strictly by the pleasure driving ban the rest of this month, today could hope for only another half gallon of gasoline a week—possibly sometime early in September.

The prospect of the limited increase in the value of "A" ration cards—only one-third of the hoped-for boost back to the former A-card value of three gallons per week—was advanced last night in a radio address by Acting Price Administrator Chester Bowles.

Bowles said the one-gallon decrease in the gasoline rations of Mid-Western motorists—in effect today—should save about 50,000 barrels a week which it is hoped can be moved East to end the pleasure driving ban Sept. 1.

Bowles' half-promise of half-a-gallon more a week for Eastern motorists came as a disappointment to those who expected that Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes' promise of "equalization" between the East and West would lead to raising of Eastern "A" card values to three gallons a week.

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