

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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600,000; Czechoslovakia, 125,000. This totals 68,825,000. (Italy produced 46,000 barrels in 1941, 80,000 in 1942, 60,000 in 1943.)

U. S. crude oil production in 1943 was 1,503,176,000 barrels.

Figures point up statement of Foreign Economic Administrator Crowley that "the mobilized economic strength of the United Nations is now overwhelmingly greater than that of the Nazis."

Willkie Is Specialist in Surprises

WILLKIE'S FUTURE: Whatever else happens you can be sure he won't do any of these things:

Run on a ticket with F. D. R.

Start a third party.

Blitz the Republican convention and get nominated after all.

Beyond that, don't do any betting. He's a specialist in the unexpected, may keep the G. O. P. guessing until election day nears.

WHOLLY PAY compensation benefits if 4-Fs are drafted into work battalions, permanently injured by work beyond their strength? Army doesn't want to, and Congress begins to grasp size of the bill that might ultimately be presented to taxpayers. Private employers don't want to either.

BUT 4-Fs show no signs of rushing into vital jobs, figure some physical standards will have to be set to separate those with minor defects from ones whom might be injured by heavy work.

HOUSE VETERANS' COMMITTEE is likely to scale down proposed \$25 a week unemployment compensation carried in "G. I. bill of rights." Some members feel \$25, with payments limited to 52 weeks during two-year period, would dissuade some veterans from diligently hunting work.

Otherwise committed will approve bill substantially as it passed Senate 50-0 vote. Committee begins consideration of amendments April 17.

Proposed \$500,000,000 program of veterans' hospital construction, carried in "G. I. bill," won't reach that figure. Veterans' administration plans to convert cantonments into hospitals, limit construction of new buildings.

Other Unions to Emulate U. A. W.

OTHER UNIONS, particularly in the C. I. O., will follow lead of United Automobile Workers and call meetings, probably in Washington, of their members who are veterans of World War I or the present conflict. Aim is to improve relationships with men now in uniform. The U. A. W. claims 250,000 of its members are in the armed forces—about one in five. The same proportion is said to hold throughout organized labor meaning that the service forces have about 2,500,000 union members. These men are being urged to join veterans' organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, in order to influence their policies which, in some instances, have been antagonistic to organized labor.

REPORT FROM A. F. of L. leaders on chances of John L. Lewis' affiliation situation: 50-50.

THOUGH SOUTHERN senators are busy preparing amendments to carry on their filibuster against the anti-poll tax bill (it comes up right after the Easter recess) some feel that closure will be voted this time and the bill passes despite their efforts. The reason: Desire of northern Republicans, many of whom refused to vote closure last year, to lure Negro voters back into the G. O. P. Republican ambition in this respect wasn't helped by recent dissent of Justice Owen J. Roberts in Texas voting case.

Post-War Aviation to Bring Battle

STRUGGLE over administration of foreign and domestic aviation promises to become one of Congress' liveliest battles. Senator McCarran, author of bill for unified "All American flag line" for foreign service, foresees inland cities becoming great centers of world air commerce. Manufacturing and economic factors will outweigh proximity to oceans in location of air centers, he predicts.

Odds are against any upset of past CAB rulings barring steamship lines from controlling air carriers when hearings start, probably in late June, on applications pending before CAB for new Caribbean and South American air service.

Announcement of Canadian government, taking surface lines out of airline business, may strengthen CAB's hand in this matter.

PIANO MANUFACTURERS whose war goods orders have been cut back will be allowed to make a limited number of pianos, but not for public buying. Output will go to army, navy, USO, Red Cross, churches, institutions.

AMONG LEADING critics of the Supreme Court are other judges in the federal judiciary. Some who are acquainted with members of the highest tribunal have come here to tell them that net result of constant bickering has been to lower respect for the judiciary everywhere. So far the advice has been unheeded.

AS MUCH as a billion and a half dollars may be cut from the navy's 1945 budget estimate by the house appropriations committee when, after the congressional recess, it considers the pending supply bill.

OFFICE OF DEFENSE transportation is reviewing restrictions governing pleasure craft operation, may make some concessions to excursion boat operators who argue their business raises war morale. Oil and manpower are ODT's chief considerations.

Stettinius' Visit to London May Presage 'Big 3' Parley

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could point to easily discernible military successes whereas the geographical position of the American and British armies is not conspicuously different from what it was during the Tehran conference.

It may be pointed out to those holding such views that at this stage of the war the maps do not accurately reflect national contributions to the common war effort.

The Russian armies would not be where they are today if the United States and Great Britain had not provided them with huge quantities of military equipment. American and British aircrews had not drastically curtailed German military strength by effectively placed bombs and American and British military operations had not diverted considerable German forces from the Russian front.

The allied bombing of Bucharest, Budapest, Sofia, Ploesti and other strategic Balkan targets materially assists the Russian advance in the south.

At Moscow and Tehran the Russians were fully acquainted with the difficulties inherent in an amphibious invasion of Western Europe and given an approximate idea of the earliest possible date such operations could be launched. The Russians have no grounds for

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JAP FLEET HIDES FROM U. S. NAVY

Yanks Smash 46 Ships in Attacks on Palau, Two Other Bases.

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destroyed or damaged in combat, 20 probably destroyed or damaged on ground or in the water.

Ground installations destroyed—40 buildings at Arakabesh; 4 hangars and small buildings at seaplane base; more than 20 warehouses at Malakal; warehouses, dumps and hangars at Koror.

Ground installations damaged—phosphate plant at Anguar; dock in Babelthau.

At Ulithi, several small vessels were sunk and the dock, radio station and other buildings were damaged, while at Yap, airfield facilities and buildings in the settlement were damaged.

Seven Planes Destroyed

Seven planes were destroyed and five probably destroyed at Woleai. Small craft, stores, dumps and buildings were damaged.

LT. FRED HECKMAN JR., a navigator on a B-17 bomber, has been missing over Germany since March 8.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Heckman, 1203 W. 29th st., and husband of Mrs. Fred B. Heckman Jr., who lives in Rapid City, S. D.

Overseas since January, Lt. Heckman entered the army air forces April 22, 1942, and was commissioned at the army air base, Monroe, La.

A graduate of Technical high school, he attended Butler university one year and was employed at the Allison division of General Motors before enlisting.

SECOND LT. RICHARD J. PEARL

son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Pearl, 1745 Lafayette rd., is missing following combat over Germany March 18.

The 26-year-old co-pilot on a B-24 bomber has been in the army air forces since May, 1942, and overseas since October 20.

He was married Oct. 19, 1943, to Betty Jane Wilcox of LaPorte. A graduate of Shorthridge high school.

New Guinea Action

Twelve barges were sunk and eight others damaged in a series of air attacks along the northern coast of New Guinea and in the northern Solomons.

MacArthur's airmen also made their first raid of the war on Wake Island, 110 miles west of the northern New Guinea base of Hollandia. Twenty-nine tons of bombs were dropped and fires visible for 50 miles were kindled. Night patrols bombed Hollandia, starting fires and probably blowing up an ammunition dump.

The 7th air force, based in the Central Pacific, also was active, blasting Japanese-held Wake, 500 miles north of the Marshalls and Carolines, with 44 tons of bombs Wednesday. Large explosions and fires were observed during the attack, the 18th since the Japanese seized the island.

Ponape, in the eastern Carolines, and the last four enemy-held atolls in the Marshalls also were raided by the 7th air force.

Yank Air Raids Help

Except for the tiny Odessa pocket and isolated sectors, the southern Ukraine now was fully cleared of the German invaders. The campaign in neighboring Bessarabia was reported proceeding steadily.

The German task of defending Rumania was made more difficult by American air attacks on Balkan transport centers. Observers said such attacks as those on Bucharest and Ploesti were accentuating Von Mannstein's major problem of moving in sufficient reserves to stabilize his lines.

This development, the first example of close co-ordination in an American-Russian attack, was regarded as foreshadowing even closer collaboration in a mighty effort to wrest the south Balkans from the German grasp.

(The London Star carried a banner headline reporting that the Germans were "quitting Odessa." The newspaper quoted radio Vichy as saying that German rear guards in the port were fighting delaying actions to cover the withdrawal of their main forces.)

The siege of Odessa was about to begin. Its main outer defense had been smashed and the stage was set for a thrust into the city itself and the destruction of its virtually trapped garrison, once estimated at 100,000 troops.

Front dispatches said big siege guns were being rolled into em-

placements and trained on pillboxes and other strong points blocking the last few miles of the main roads and railways into the big Black sea port.

Russ air force bombers swept ceaselessly over Odessa, dropping their cargoes of explosives in a thunderous prelude to the liberation of the city and patrolling the sea approaches to prevent any attempt at a Dunkirk evacuation.

Other elements of the 3d Ukrainian army, completing the third Soviet encirclement of a sizable German force in less than two weeks, began to grind up the remnants of five to six German divisions trapped in a 150-square-mile pocket near Razdelnya, 35 miles northwest of Odessa.

Even though the past fortnight has revealed an outburst of executions for defeatism, Germans on the whole are still holding together in a degree that makes them dangerous enemies worthy of the most careful planning against the period of hard and bloody fighting ahead.

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3 RUSS ARMIES THREATEN NAZIS

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break through into central Poland and southern Rumania.

The Russians are heading in the south toward the Rumanian oil fields and in the north toward the Galician fields, which are vital to the German war machine. In the center the 2d Ukraine army is across the Prut and at the foot hills of the Carpathians, capable of starting a drive through the passes into Hungary or of swinging south to skirt the Transylvanian Alps toward Ploesti, Bucharest and the mouth of the Danube.

The peril to the Germans is great, for a Russian sweep past Tarnopol and Brody to Lvow would be as equally disastrous as a breakthrough into southern Rumania. The three armies of the Ukraine present a triple threat which is extremely hard for the Germans to meet simultaneously.

Nevertheless, it has to be met or disaster is inevitable. That attitude for the refusal to withdraw from such exposed positions as Tarnopol and Odessa, and points to increasingly sanguinary fighting as the Russians press forward.

U. S. PLANS FREEING MINES BOOSTING PAY

WASHINGTON, April 8 (U. P.)—Sweden, long remaining Scandanavian neutral, was the center of urgent diplomatic pressures today as Germany sought to have her step up vital shipments of ball bearings for the Nazi war machine, while Britain and the United States sought to reduce them.

Ball bearing shipments, as well as exports of high grade steel for which Germany has no other source, have been a subject of continuing diplomatic bickering. But recent air raids on Schweinfurt and Steyr are believed to make Germany's need more pressing than ever.

Officials in Stockholm have warned that the danger of Sweden being drawn into the war is not passed.

In an hour-long conference at the conclusion of their discussions, Beaverbrook, cabinet member in charge of post-war civil aviation planning, said Great Britain had made concessions.

Berle immediately countered that concessions needed to be made by both sides and that the United States also had made some.

The anthracite agreement, raising the daily wage 70 cents over the 1941-43 scale, gives the 80,000 anthracite miners the same basic daily pay they have been earning under the government contract negotiated last November by Ickes and U. M. W. President John L. Lewis.

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