

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 States 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. Blame the Republican convention and get nominated after all. Beyond that, don't do anything. He's a specialist in the unexpected, may keep the G. O. P. guessing until election day nears.

WHOLE PAY compensation benefits if 4Fs 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 pressed to taxpayers. Private employers don't want to either.

BUT 4Fs 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 committee 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 sure that cloture will be voted this time and the bill passes despite their efforts. The reason: Desire of northern Republicans, many of whom refused to vote cloture 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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disappointment in this respect. We in turn have added reasons for thinking well of the Russians as allies.

The advance of the Russian armies into Rumania, Poland and at Odessa has cost the Germans heavily in territory, men and materials and prestige.

The Ploesti oil fields which constitute 55 per cent of the natural oil supplies and 20 per cent of the total oil resources of Germany, are seriously menaced by Russian advances and allied bombardment. Allied bombers are now seriously hampering shipments of oil as well as otherwise impeding German operations in the Balkans.

On the political side the Russian government made a favorable impression by announcing through Foreign Commissar Molotov that it is not pursuing the enemy into Rumanian territory "with the aim of seizing any part of Rumanian territory."

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 the 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

LONDON, April 8 (U. P.)—Great Britain and the United States each have made concessions in exploratory talks on post-war aviation.

Lord Beaverbrook and Assistant Secretary of State Adolf O. Berle Jr. said at a joint press conference today.

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.

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 Arakabesan; 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 Babelthup.

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

Another 17 Japanese planes were shot down by American carrier-based planes and four by anti-aircraft guns during enemy attacks on the task force preceding and following the Palau assault.

The warships also sank at sea three small enemy ships.

The class of the battleship torpedoed by the American submarine was not identified.

"Although she suffered considerable damage, she was able to escape at moderate speed under protection of her destroyer escort," Nimble's communiqué said.

The task force operated under the tactical command of Adm. R. A. Spruance, while planes of the carrier force were commanded by Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher.

Australian Beaufighters were credited by MacArthur with sinking a loaded Japanese oil tanker near Timor island, northwest of Australia, while other allied bombers sank a coastal vessel and set fire to a 7,000-ton cargo ship in the Wekwa area off the northern coast of New Guinea.

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.

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 Ukrainian army is across the Prut and at the foothills 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 Lwow 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 accounts 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.)—Coal Administrator Harold L. Ickes is expected to act soon to release anthracite mines to private operators whose wage contracts with the United Mine Workers have been approved by the war labor board.

The WLB approved the agreement late yesterday, completing action on one phase of the turbulent coal wage case which was referred to the board nearly a year ago. The board still has not taken final action on the bituminous wage contract, and the anthracite decision did not necessarily foreshadow approval of the soft coal agreement.

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.

VAN SANT OFFERED POST WASHINGTON, April 8 (U. P.)—Thomas H. Van Sant of Fulton, Mo., has been offered the post of assistant secretary of agriculture and is expected to make known his acceptance of the offer here Monday, it was learned today.

Sgt. Mahlon Snover Dead; Pfc. James Farrell Prisoner

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March 4, 1943, that his plane was shot down off Texel island, Holland.

Sgt. Snover, who was 29, was the son of Mrs. Martha C. Snover and wrote his last letter home the day before his fatal flight.

Prior to his death, the airman won the air medal with the oak leaf cluster and also has been awarded posthumously the purple heart.

According to information received here, the body of the bombardier on the plane was recovered and crews on other planes in the flight reported seeing several members of the crew parachute from the falling plane.

A graduate of Spencer high school, Sgt. Snover was employed at Century Metalcraft Corp. in Los Angeles, Cal., when he entered the army air force. In September, 1942, his unit of 19 planes flew over Spencer en route to the east coast and then overseas.

Other survivors besides his mother are a sister, Mrs. Mary Elma Campbell, Superior, Mont.

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, 2309 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 force 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. PEAR, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Pear, 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 force since May, 1942, and overseas since October 20.

He was married Oct. 10, 1943, to Betty Jane Wilson of LaPorte. A graduate of Shortridge high school,

he worked at the A-1 Refrigeration Co. before enlisting.

His brother, Cpl. Arthur W. Pear Jr., has been in the Pacific theater 23 months.

FFC. JAMES C. FARRELL JR., with the 141st infantry division in Italy, is a prisoner of war in Germany following the report that he was missing in action in Italy since Jan. 22.

He is the son of James C. Farrell Sr., 2803 W. 10th st., and brother of Pvt. Paul J. Farrell, Camp Haan, Cal.

Born at Wilbur Wright field, Fairchild, O., Pfc. Farrell was graduated from St. Anthony Catholic school and Cathedral high school.

Before being inducted at Ft. Harrison Dec. 2, 1942, he was employed at the office of the Advance Beverage Co.

He took his basic training and attended clerical school at Camp Wheeler, Ga., before being sent overseas in April, 1943.

ELEVEN HOOSIER SOLDIERS are among the 427 U. S. servicemen listed today as wounded in action.

In the central Pacific theater, the wounded are Pvt. William H. Eastburn, husband of Mrs. Elmer Eastburn, Raub, and Pvt. Arthur T. Evaline, son of Mrs. Ora Evaline, DePauw.

Wounded in the Mediterranean war zone are Sgt. Benjamin B. Anderson, son of Mrs. Bertha B. Anderson, Woodburn; Pfc. 5th Gr. Franklin T. Archambault, husband of Mrs. Dorothy M. Archambault, Michigan City; 2d Lt. John W. Baum, son of Peter Baum, East Chicago; Pfc. Andrew S. Bence Jr., son of Mrs. Elizabeth Bence, Gary.

Others are Cpl. Louis H. Bickford, son of Mrs. Agnes Bickford, Marion; Pfc. Robert Culbertson, son of Mrs. Mary Culbertson, Terre Haute; Sgt. William S. Girdley, son of Mrs. Anna Morgan, Scotland; Pvt. Francis M. Harter, husband of Mrs. Francis M. Harter, Churubusco, and Pfc. Charles F. Lewis, son of Mrs. Jennie C. Lewis, Mitchell.

Russ Reach Czech Frontier; Block Nazi Escape in Odessa

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and through the marshes before the Bessarabian border.

One German column of unrelenting strength gambled on that hazardous means of escape. Malinovsky's troops bore down on it in the Belyayevka area a few miles west of Odessa and ripped it to shreds.

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 Manstein'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 defenses 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 Odessa.

SWEDEN CENTER OF DIPLOMATIC FIGHT

WASHINGTON, April 8 (U. P.)—Sweden, lone remaining Scandinavian 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 battling. 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 yet passed.

18,000 MARCH IN ARMY DAY PARADE

NEW YORK, April 8 (U. P.)—Some 18,000 uniformed men and women marched up Fifth avenue under a cloudy sky today in the annual army day parade.

Under the sponsorship of the military order of the world war, the parade this year included no active service units, except token delegations of WACS, WAVES and SPARS.

Boy and Girl Scouts, ROTC units, veterans and women's service organizations were reviewed by Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commanding New York state guard and other military and civic officials.

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.

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 3rd 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 Razdelnaya, 35 miles northwest of Odessa.

JAPS CLAIM BASE IN INDIA CAPTURED

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patch for American consumption. Kohima is only 25 miles east of the Assam-Bengal railway, main allied supply line for Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's Chinese and American forces fighting in Burma.

Another Domei dispatch said 15 B-24 bombers and six P-40 fighters had raided northern Hainan island off the South China coast Thursday, and admitted some damage was "sustained by the Japanese forces and ground installations."

The Japanese did not, as they usually do, claim to have shot down any of the American raiders.

Allied fliers in the southwest Pacific made their first raid on Wake island, 110 miles west of Hollandia on northern New Guinea.

Central Pacific bombers attacked Wake, 500 miles north of the Marshalls Wednesday; Ponape in the eastern Carolines and four enemy atolls in the Marshalls.

A Japanese broadcast said about 20 American Liberators had bombed Truk again Thursday morning and claimed that two were shot down.

1943 INDEPENDENT RETAIL SALES UP

WASHINGTON, April 8 (U. P.)—Sales by independent retailers for 1943 ran 14 per cent ahead of 1942, while inventories showed a decline of 8 per cent during the year for the first drop since 1938, the census bureau disclosed today.

In 1938, inventories of the retailers fell 9 per cent, and this was accompanied at that time with a slump of 12½ per cent in sales.

The bureau's figures were based on reports from 18,804 stores in 34 states.

BABY'S DEATH CAUSED BY LIGHTED MATCH

JERSEY CITY, N. J., April 8 (U. P.)—A six-week-old baby burned to death in his carriage yesterday in a fire believed started by a lighted match carelessly tossed from the window of a tenement building.

Neighbors upset the blazing carriage in which infant Joseph Costa lay when the fire broke out.

The child's father, Cpl. Joseph Costa Sr., home on an Easter furlough, took the baby to a hospital where he died shortly afterward.

GOEBBELS MUST RALLY BERLIN

New Job as Boss of Reich Capital Brings Him Many Problems.

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to Germany if they allowed themselves to be interviewed about conditions in Germany.

What the Nazis are attempting to hide from allied correspondents based in Stockholm may be summarized as follows:

ONE: Relief organizations are failing to provide adequate shelter and food for bombed-out citizens following heavy raids.

It is partly responsible for the signs of increased defeatism and depressive tendencies we have been able to observe from Stockholm, particularly in the last fortnight.

TWO: Berlin's fire-fighting services have proved unable to cope adequately with the huge fires which follow Anglo-American bombings. Some buildings are known to have burned as long as a week after inextinguishable fire-bombs and the R. A. F.'s new 12,000-pound bombs had landed.

THREE: Looking appears to be on the increase in Berlin, tied up with this problem are large numbers of foreign slave workers and some escaped prisoners who have disappeared underground without identity papers, or with forged papers, and present the Nazis with an eventual security threat.

FOUR: Overstrained traffic resulting from bomb damage, evacuation of Berlin's nonessential population and supply demands for troops guarding against an allied invasion.

FIVE: Inability of medical organizations to handle all casualties following R. A. F. and U. S. 8th air force raids.

It is always difficult to get accurate and trustworthy details from inside Germany, but these points seem true. Goebbels certainly has a real job on his hands.

A French war prisoner has just reached the refuge of Stockholm with further details which describe Berlin as "one vast reconstruction project."

He says that many thousands of foreign workers are busy all over Berlin trying to rebuild key centers—"like slaves unwillingly repairing a graveyard."

Saw Postoffice Burn

This Frenchman tells how he saw the huge postoffice in Altendorf burn flat on the night of Feb. 24; 1,500,000 letters and parcels intended for soldiers on the eastern front were destroyed. Bomb attacks, he says, have disrupted the entire German postal system.

His estimate is that only about 30 per cent of the houses of Berlin are still standing.

He makes a point which I hear repeatedly from everyone who is familiar with Germany: That the allies must not build up false optimism about a German crack-up; the Germans are being weakened constantly, yet their will to fight is still firm and vigorous.

Even though the past fortnight has revealed an outburst of executions for desertion, 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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LIFT WRAPPER RESTRICTIONS

WASHINGTON, March 8 (U. P.)—The war production board today announced that there would be no restricted production hereafter of tissue wrappers to insure the safe transportation of apples, pears, peaches, tomatoes and lemons, as requested by the war food administration.

Visiting Here



H. K. Walters B. H. Robinson

SEAMAN 2-C HARRY K. WALTERS is visiting his mother, Mrs. Georgia Walters, 50 N. Keystone ave., after completing boot training.

VERNON HERBERT ROBINSON, who has finished boot training at Great Lakes, is visiting his wife and sons, 1350 Reister st. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Robinson, 2331 W. Morris st.

1250 U. S. Planes Smash Brunswick Factories, Airports

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recess, Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the 15th air force in Italy dropped 5665 tons of bombs on southeast Europe in the week ending Friday, an announcement from Mediterranean headquarters revealed.

The heaviest blows were struck at Bucharest, Budapest and Ploesti in direct support of the Russian drive on the southern front, and were credited today in Moscow dispatches with accentuating the defense task of Marshal Fritz von Mannstein.

The statement from Italy credited gunners of the 15th air force with downing 270 German planes. Lighter planes of the 35th dropped 1562 tons of explosives in various operations, it reported.

At the same time, local boards were told to "go easier" for the time being on men over 30 now in deferred classes, and also that fathers should have more consideration than non-fathers.

The congressional subcommittee, explaining its strong language on 4-Fs, said that home front activities must be geared to the needs of the battlefield as the war enters its crucial stages.

The committee said there appeared to be a growing impression that it desired to establish labor conscription but that "nothing could be further from the truth."

MORE HOARDED CASH OF 'BIG BILL' FOUND

CHICAGO, April 8 (U. P.)—The hoarded estate of William (Big Bill) Thompson, former mayor, was increased by \$26,700 to a total of \$1,624,950 today when his fourth safety deposit box was opened revealing \$18,500 in cash and \$8900 in liberty bonds from the last war.

The box also contained a six-inch pile of utility and bank stocks and bonds which are yet to be tabulated. No will was found, but authorities have hoped it may be in the fifth box which also will be opened today.

Thompson's estate originally was estimated at \$150,000 until it was learned he had five safety deposit boxes. Until a will is found his sole beneficiary is his estranged wife.

SECRETARY NAMED BY INDIANA ELECTRIC

Announcement of the appointment of E. F. Hauser as secretary of the Indiana Electric association was made today by the association president, Dean Mitchell of Hammond, Ind. Mr. Hauser succeeds Roy E. Blossom, who has held the office since 1939.

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