

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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still hopes to inspire anti-Dewey movement among Republicans in Congress which would percolate back home and win over uninstructed and wavering delegates.

Hint Manpower Waste Disclosures

EYE-OPENING disclosures of manpower waste are promised by investigators for house civil service committee, now mapping inquiry into employment of 50,000 to 60,000 civilians at army air force headquarters at Dayton.

DEMOCRATIC national committee plans V-mail campaign to get out the vote at home. It works this way: Precinct committeemen will be asked to round up addresses of servicemen, each of whom will then be sent a letter saying that if he did not get a ballot, and cannot vote himself, he should at least write home and say how he would have voted. This is expected to bring out the home folks for F. D. R.

MORE DEMOCRATIC strategy: To frighten voters into keeping Congress Democratic by pointing to Republicans who would take over foreign relations and foreign affairs committee if a change were made. Senate group would be headed by Hiriam W. Johnson, leader in fight that defeated League of Nations and foey of any sort of international co-operation. On both committees "isolationists" dominate among Republican members.

BATTLE RAGES in house appropriations committee over medical program for servicemen's wives. Medical profession doesn't like present set-up, fears "socialized medicine," wants fixed cash amount given each prospective mother for her confinement. American Legion argues fixed amount wouldn't cover special cases, like Caesarians, would leave servicemen uncertain, worried about adequacy of wife's care. Legion seems to be winning the argument.

Whither Rationing?

MEAT RATIONING, almost certain to be back by first of year, will be more severe than at any time so far if drought, or other adverse weather, cuts the feed crops.

Farmers' planting intentions show prospective 2 per cent increase in feed over 1943. Assuming yields based on averages for last seven years, production could be from 3 per cent less to 3 per cent more than last year. But carryovers at the end of this year will be considerably smaller.

Other food prospects: Wheat crop, even if yield is equal to post-drought yields, won't be big enough if called on for above-normal feeding, heavy diversion to alcohol making, heavy export demands.

Milk production probably will be less in last quarter than in 1944 because of smaller pork output. And there'll be fewer lambs this year.

Milk production may be up two billion pounds.

Egg production will be down.

Orange crop will break all records; grapefruit too, probably; but lemon crop is off a little.

Peach crop should be bigger, strawberry crop smaller.

Potato production should be up 5 1/2 per cent; early spring onions 165 per cent.

Note: There'll be a coffee shortage when in Europe ends and Europe starts buying again, according to present indications.

SENATORS may learn something about Vice President Wallace's projected trip to China when they lunch with him and Chinese ambassador next week.

HEAVIES BOMB BALTIC AREA

Yanks Blast Reich Factory Cities in North; Coast Pounded.

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bombers of the British tactical air force were out in strength during the morning, attacking communications and other targets in northern France.

Pound Belgian Rails

More than 500 British heavy bombers carried the pre-invasion bombardment of western Europe into its 27th day with a powerful assault of which the main weight was concentrated on the key Belgian rail junctions of Louvain and Hasselt.

Although Louvain lies 80 miles inland and nearly 150 miles from England, coastal residents felt the ground quake under the impact of the bombs rained on it.

The R. A. F. attack carried the campaign against German transport lines supplying the coastal fortifications through an unbroken week during which bombers blasted nearly every hour of the day and night at rail lines, forward airfields, and mysterious "military objectives" along the coast.

Spifires Sweep Coast

The daylight offensive got in motion somewhat later than usual. The hours immediately after dawn were broken only by R. A. F. Spitfires which swept the enemy coast. But by 11 a. m. large forces had swept out toward Calais, flying exceptionally high.

U. S. headquarters announced that pictures taken yesterday showed severe damage to all the synthetic oil plants attacked by the heavy bombers. Large fires raged out of control at Brux. Fires were visible in the Boleben oil refinery. Big explosions were seen at the Leuna plant, and facilities were ablaze at Mersburg and Lutzen dorf.

The German high command said that "continued strong attacks by Anglo-American bombers against occupied western territories can be considered as preparation for invasion."

Hit West Wall Defenses

Carrying the mightiest aerial offensive in history into its 27th straight day, other R. A. F. night raiders attacked Germany's west wall defenses and other objectives in France and northwest Germany.

Inhabitants of the English southeast coast said some of the formations made another "earthquake raid" on an objective some distance behind the French invasion coast. The attack was so violent that it shook the English shore.

Fourteen bombers were lost in the night's raids and in mine-laying operations.

HEAVY DEMAND on steel mills for steel shell disrupts other steel schedules. Same thing happens in Canada. Impression is shells are for Pacific offensive coming up soon.

5000 Planes Participate

Nearly 5000 American and British planes participated in yesterday's phase of the aerial softening of western and central Europe for an allied landing, dropping 6000 or more tons of explosives all the way from the Atlantic coast to western Czechoslovakia.

Some 2000 American Flying Fortresses, Liberators and escorting fighters fought their way through 1000 intercepting German aircraft to hit four synthetic oil plants, a fighter aircraft repair plant and railway yards in the Leipzig area and near the Czechoslovak border.

A total of 150 enemy planes was shot down, the largest bag in more than two weeks, in air battles described by returning pilots as among the fiercest of the war. Forty-two heavy bombers and 10 fighters were lost.

The national Mother's day services, held for the past 18 years in Indiana State Teachers' Association.

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