

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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1945, another indication we're far from the end of the road. Navy is ready to place orders for nearly half the new tonnage, will keep the rest as a "working balance" against operational losses, expected to be much heavier in future.

POST-WAR PLANNERS, talking reconversion of industry, are being quietly warned that our military procurement agencies must be kept at top form for an indefinite period. This is why:

Germany has already indicated that the next time she is ready to make war (if we allow her to rise again as a military power) she will strike first at the United States, recognizing that defeat in the last war and the present one have come because of fresh American troops and heavy American production, ready at a crucial time.

THIS MEANS U. S. may never again have three years or even one year to mobilize for war.

Platforms of both political parties will be written before delegates hit Chicago and before resolutions committees are officially organized.

Republican platform will be largely compilation of planks prepared by Mackinac conference delegates, who were assigned specific topics.

Democratic leaders favor shortest possible platform (one proposes 500-word limit), which will say in effect: Our policies are well known, we stand on our record.

Both parties plan to curtail pre-convention platform "hearings," conducted heretofore for special pleaders whose advice rarely altered a syllable in final product.

Forget Dies?

FEED-BOX TIP is that Dies committee will be allowed to die with present congress, and retirement of committee ringmaster. Election casualties of committee men have made membership uninviting. Most congressmen feel Dies' withdrawal offers good excuse to forget the whole thing.

AT LEAST TWO anti-New Dealers will be absent from Democratic convention. Senator Wheeler has notified party leaders in Montana that he doesn't want to be a delegate, and Senator O'Daniel of Texas has announced he won't be a candidate "under any conditions."

EDDIE RICKENBACKER may be picked by Republicans to run for congress against Rep. Marcanio, aggressive American Labor party member from New York City.

Fifty-ninth st. section, where Rickenbacker lives, was transferred in New York's reapportionment to Rep. Marcanio's East Harlem district, which is otherwise largely Italian and Puerto Rican, with some Negro voters.

C. I. O. Vote Drive

C. I. O. POLITICAL action committee is organizing a thorough registration campaign for New York City to get out the labor vote for F. D. R.

Some 5000 workers will be assigned to the city's 3000 precincts, to talk to workers in factories during registration week (the first in October). They will urge workers to go after hours to register, and will have transportation facilities waiting outside buildings to take those with no other means of going.

Herculean efforts will be made to turn out a big vote in the city for Roosevelt, to offset an expected big majority upstate for Governor Dewey.

NOTE: Republicans see some solace in C. I. O. political action committee's apparent success to date. They hope it will stir A. F. of L. chiefs to activity (which would be without publicity if possible) on the G. O. P. side.

HOUSE MILITARY affairs committee starts hearings Tuesday on surplus-property-disposal bill, which members say will produce evidence of unwarranted destruction of army material.

War department officials will be called to explain it.

SERVICES MONDAY FOR MRS. L. L. TALL

Dr. Roy Ewing Vale will read the funeral service for Mrs. L. L. Tall at 11 a. m. Monday in her home, 3146 N. Illinois st. Burial will be in Crown Hill.

Mrs. Tall, who was 81, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Topp, was born on the present site of Methodist hospital. She was a member of the Tabernacle Presbyterian church.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. John H. Jefferson, and a grandson, William Tall Jefferson, both of Indianapolis.

FIRE RUINS GARAGE, CAR

Fire destroyed the garage and automobile of Harold Ferguson, 1645 S. Sherman dr. yesterday. The loss was estimated at \$1000.

TEN SHIPS ARE HIT

Ten Japanese ships totaling 35,000 tons received direct hits in the surprise dawn assault. One exploded and others possibly sank, the communiqué said. Two floating drydocks and other naval installations were badly damaged, and the Brat naval engineering works demolished.

Other carrier planes completely destroyed the Wonkromo oil refinery.

Nineteen Japanese planes were destroyed on the ground at Malang and Tanjung Perak airfields, many others were damaged, and two were shot down in the air. The allied forces lost three planes.

The Japanese navy did not challenge the American and British carriers and supporting warships, and no surface action was involved.

All Return Safely

Australian-based Liberators, making their seventh 2500-mile round trip flight to Soerabaja, followed up the carrier raid Wednesday night, causing extensive damage to railway yards. All the Liberators returned to bases safely.

The fact that 10 ships were attacked in the harbor, and that only a few enemy planes were caught on the ground or shot down, indicated that the Japanese have not concentrated naval or air strength at the pre-war Dutch "Pearl Harbor."

The co-ordinated attack by the Mountbatten, MacArthur and Nimitz forces also demonstrated that Pacific commands from Co-

COUNTY PERIL CITED IN FEUD

Council Charges Commission With Hiding Reports On Court House.

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of collapse, threatening the lives of many persons in the court house corridors.

Addison J. Parry, the council president, charged that the commissioners never once mentioned the fact that they had a letter from a city building engineer warning about the danger of the sky-light.

"No commissioner offered to appear before the council this week to explain the reasons for their request for the \$14,000 appropriation," Mr. Parry said.

County Policy Stressed

"The commissioners are well aware of the council's policy against appropriating any money unless officially requesting it are sufficiently interested to present reasons for the request."

"The commissioners were either not sufficiently interested in the appropriation or they had other reasons for not making an appearance before the council to explain reasons for their request to eliminate court house hazards," Parry continued. "The council is always ready and willing to make a study of every request if officials explain reasons for it."

Charles E. Bacon, structural engineer in the city building department, declared in his letter that if the skylight should collapse during office hours some persons would be in danger of being badly hurt or killed.

Shop Condemned

The commissioners had requested \$8900 to replace the skylight with another type structure and also asked \$5900 to remove the carpenter shop from the fourth floor to the basement. The state fire marshal's office several months ago had condemned the carpenter shop as a dangerous fire hazard.

The commissioners also revealed today they had another letter from the state fire marshal's office demanding that the county abandon within 90 days the Marion county juvenile detention home quarters at 938 W. New York st. on the ground that it is a serious health hazard and a fire trap.

Commissioners for more than six months have been making plans to remove the detention home from the West New York st. building to 25th st. and Keystone ave, where remodeling work has been under way for three months.

Split Blocks Transfer

However this project was temporarily blocked by an injunction suit brought by 21 residents living in the vicinity of 25th and Keystone, declaring that the use of buildings there as a penal institution would deprecate residential property values and interfere with community life.

The junction suit was scheduled for last Wednesday but it was postponed until June 6 at the request of County Attorney Victory Jose Jr., representing the commissioners and Frank Beckwith representing the petitioners.

Councilmen charged that commissioners agreed to a test suit on occupancy of the county-owned building and that they further agreed to delay hearing on the suit.

Mr. Jose explained that a continuance of the case was necessary in order to have time to prepare evidence sufficient to defend the county's position.

One county councilman declared that "No public official has any right to use a children's institution to play politics."

Forced to 'Switch' Line

"The enemy therefore now has been forced back upon his switch line, which runs approximately from Pico to Terracina," the communiqué said. "This switch line protects the flank of the enemy line across the Liri valley."

German prisoners taken since the start of the offensive have risen to more than 5500.

A high military spokesman said the German command had committed a blunder by failing to begin an orderly retreat to the Hitler line as soon as it realized the all-out strength of the allied attack.

Allied Traffic Heavy

James E. Roper, United Press war correspondent with the 5th army, reported traffic moving up to the front was so heavy along both the Formia-Gaeta and Formia-Itri roads that extra military police had to be called out to keep order. Jeeps, trucks, half-tracks and tanks were almost bumper to bumper on both roads.

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