

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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compares with approximately 26 billion this year, plus contract authorizations of 32 billion.

All this in spite of the fact that our navy believes the Japs have lost from one-third to one-half the ships it had at Pearl Harbor today.

JAPS ARE suffering, also, from losses of cargo ships, targets for our submarines, surface craft and airplanes. They're having great difficulty keeping in contact with what remains of their conquered "empire."

This might mean our blockade of Jap home islands will pay off sooner than expected, especially after our planes begin to use strips at Two Jima—and we take other islands such as the Ryukyu, which navy planes have started bombing.

Lesson Learned on Heavy Production

CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES don't put much stock in reports that material used in Europe will not be suitable for the Pacific war. They think it will, with slight changes in some cases.

Therefore they expect large quantities to be moved from Europe to the Pacific as soon as V-E day comes, and ships are available.

But this doesn't mean slowing down of production here. European war taught the need of having more than any original estimate called for.

GERMAN SURRENDER will bring repercussions on the labor front, despite all that can be done to convince union leaders and industrialists that there's another man-size war yet to be won.

Feeling here is that management and labor will be disposed to retrieve the ball bats they've been more or less hiding behind the door since Pearl Harbor, and to start swinging at each other.

Unions, already talking about rescinding the no-strike pledge, may decide all such restraints are off. Displeasure of both A. F. of L. and C. I. O. with war labor board is likely to boil over into a real effort to make it ease wartime wage controls.

JOHN L. LEWIS, up to now unusually peaceful in coal wage negotiations, may risk public displeasure and possible prosecution by causing strikes, if it ends quickly in Europe.

And despite senate filibuster on war manpower—slow motion in hopes V-E day would end necessity for compulsory controls—administration pressure for tough action will increase after V-E day.

Contradictory?

REPUBLICANS OPPOSING use of lend-lease as post-war mechanism will stress French agreement calling for \$1,675,000,000 in raw materials; food, oil and freight charges and \$900,000,000 for locomotives, ships and machinery.

G. O. P. spokesmen, who want lend-lease authority continued only until next July, say French attitude on rail holding companies last November that lend-lease "should end with the war."

FORTHCOMING INTERSTATE commerce commission decision on control of Chesapeake and Ohio railroad family will define ICC attitude on rail holding companies.

ICC examiner has recommended that Allegheny Corp., a top holding company of the fabulous Van Sweringen pyramid, be forced to divest itself of control of C. & O. Nickel Plate and Pere Marquette.

Allegheny got control of the roads in 1930 and control of Allegheny successively passed from the Van Sweringen brothers to George Ball, Indiana fruit jar maker, and to syndicate headed by Robert R. Young, New York broker.

If ICC orders divestment, it probably will provide for trustee-ship operation for fixed period to protect Allegheny investors from losses of a forced sale.

Plenty of Coverage

STATE DEPARTMENT estimates that at least 500 news writers will go to San Francisco to cover United Nations conference, by far the largest group assigned to any U. S. international conference so far. And there's accommodations available for only 425.

AN ARMY commission for Joe Louis, heavyweight champion, is being sought by Rep. Powell. Negro minister from New York. In a letter to President Roosevelt, Rep. Powell pointed out that two

Senate Prober Says He Saw 200 Men Idle in One Plant

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are women, and that it considers this "too high a percentage."

He said army representatives agree with company employment experts that "too many women retard efficiency." He said the objections were that "because women are not interested in careers, their absenteeism is too high, and there are too many jobs they are physically unable to perform."

Walter Reuther, U. A. W.-C. I. O. vice president, was scheduled to testify this afternoon.

Yesterday management ripped into the unions, the unions rippled it back right, and both collaborated with enthusiasm in attacking the bungling and ineptitude of Washington officials running the war program.

The investigation is being made against a background of a new outbreak of work stoppages. Some 35,000 workers were estimated to be away from their machines in the latest series of rows.

Management contends the unions are trying to muscle in on its "functions, authority and responsibility" and says the result is decreased efficiency. But the unions claw back with claims of labor hoarding by management, prejudices and general "arrogant hostility to unionism."

Mr. Thomas gave the senators the

15 SQUARE MI. OF TOKYO BURNS

Crewmen Jubilant Following

Record Raid by
300 B-29's.

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engulfed another five square miles before the raid was over.

Crewmen said the mile and a half stretch from the moated Imperial palace to the Sumida river and another huge area on the opposite bank of the river literally were a "sea of flame."

It was possible that the fire damage extended to such vital railway centers on the edge of the target area as Japans Ueno and Central Tokyo stations from which radiate the main lines serving Honshu island.

The Marunouchi telephone exchange with thousands of lines and automatic equipment may have been damaged.

Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of war workers' homes lay within the area. Apart from those killed, the evacuation of the survivors was expected to have a serious effect on employment in the war factories.

Like Night Football Game?

"There will be a lot of cold, shelterless people in Tokyo tonight," said Maj. Robert Irwin of Estherville, Ia., a unit commander.

The city was burning to beat hell."

Irwin flew over Tokyo about midday in the raid and found the area assigned his unit burning so furiously that he moved to another area.

"Tokyo was lit up like a football field at night game," he said. "Smoke was pouring up to 2000 to 7000 feet. Fires were spreading fast."

Brig. Gen. Thomas Power, commander of the Guam-based raiders, spent two hours shuttling over the capital. He said the flames were burning so furiously he doubted that fire equipment could be brought in.

The target area was laced with fire breaks—wide, straight boulevards designed to prevent the spread of fires—but the area was so thoroughly saturated that nearly every building within the 15-square-mile area hit probably was destroyed or damaged.

Photographs Awaited

"It was the greatest show on earth, and the damndest thing I ever saw," Power said. "We did 50 times more damage than on Feb. 25, when we burned out 240 city blocks."

"However, we must await photographs for final determination," he said. "Flight reports indicated excellent results."

The Superfortress took off for the first announced time from Guam, as well as the other American-held islands in the Marianas, Tinian and Saipan.

LEGALITIES SLOW WIEDENHOFT TRIAL

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ously testified that Ora was his wife. The case in which Charles DeGraffenreid is on trial for the slaying of Gus L. Wiedenhoft, South side florist, last June 30, became entangled at this point with legalities.

Court in Recess

Judge William D. Bain refused to allow the introduction of a marriage certificate in evidence.

Haskins previously had testified that the day following the murder he and his wife, Ora, were told by the defendant that he had participated in the Wiedenhoft murder and had injured his leg in the getaway.

The court recessed the trial until 9:30 a. m. Monday.

Judge Bain upheld the state's objection that a statutory provision requiring that notice of an alibi defense be filed 10 days in advance.

The court, however, allowed defense attorneys to comply by filing a belated notice today. He expressed the belief that when a defendant faces the death penalty he should have every opportunity to make his defense.

The first defense witness called yesterday testified that DeGraffenreid had spent the evening of the murder at a private home at 305 W. 28th st. Raymond Harris, 2128 W. 25th st., said he was there with the defendants and several others until about midnight.

Mr. Thomas said he wondered why the army had no system which would turn up such facts. The senators wondered, too.

The family lived in Jamaica four years.

Before the train pulled out, Mama Ascoli called the roll, "Rosemary," she warned quietly. "So lange—this way." Then, "Rene, Marguerite, Marie-Gladys, Marie-Therese, Gabrielle, Julma, Marc-Edward, Blanche, Lawrence, Lillian, Elizabeth, Jacques and Francois."

Several other of his books have been screened, including "Penrod" and "Seventeen."

Ascoli, railway and civic officials who greeted the family here were confused when 15 children appeared. Only 14 had been expected.

Mrs. Ascoli explained that Rene, 25, was discharged from the British army just in time to make the trip.

So he was squeezed into the plane, the hotel suite and the train.

LOS ANGELES, March 10 (U. P.)—The U. S. customs office will be the most crowded place in Los Angeles next Thursday.

Some 230 cartons of cigarettes, seized by officers or unclaimed, will be put on the auction block then.

U. S. WILL AUCTION CIGARETS (NOT HERE)

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had handled a family migration without the help of Papa Ascoli, former member of the British consular service in Belgium. A poultry expert, he is now assistant manager of the Federated Co-operatives of Quebec province.

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PROGRAM POSTPONED

The Indianapolis Catholic Forum

which was to be held tomorrow has been postponed to March 18.

Frank J. Sheed and Maisie Ward

will speak at the forum

which will be held at 3 p. m. in the

World War Memorial auditorium.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Among Tarkington's Treasures



RESERVES HOLD FATE OF REICH

Allies Racing to Build Firm Bridgehead on Rhine's

East Bank.

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which has been sustained, but thus far with little effect.

The bridge, taken Wednesday afternoon, was a small air target to begin with. It is now protected by anti-aircraft and fighter cover as impregnable as we can make them.

Its location in a region where the heavily forested eastern bank of the river rises sharply to 1200-foot heights, the nearest of which were swiftly captured by the hard-driving U. S. 9th armored infantrymen, gives the bridge considerable immunity to direct observed artillery fire.

Moreover, its rugged construction makes it unlikely that a lucky hit or two by the heaviest caliber shell would do more than close it to traffic temporarily.

The Germans, in addition to stepping up their attacks, may try to employ gadgets such as mines and human torpedoes, as they did against the Nijmegen bridge, but those have only the most forlorn hopes of succeeding.

Nazis Need Reserves

The only real hope the enemy has of sealing off what looks like a greater threat to his ability to continue waging war than all the rest of our race to the Rhine is to rush great quantities of his own armor and infantry to the scene immediately.

If he has not these forces available, then it is just too bad because we have. And we are pouring them across. It is the old, old war-time story of getting there "fustest with the most."

Right now it's D-day on the Normandy beaches all over again. It's the race for the buildup.

If the enemy lets us build up and gain elbow room to a point where we are in a position to drive straight on east in the Reich's heart—the north and south along the splendid patterns of highways which lace the Rhine's far shore—his doom is imminently inevitable.

1st Running Wild

The 1st army is running wild up and down the magnificent "auto-bahn" that skirts the Rhine's east bank, paving the way for Gen.

Henry D. G. Crerer's Canadian 1st army, Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's U. S. 9th army and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. 3d army to come across from their sectors.

He believes that the possibility that Field Marshal Karl Gerd von Rundstedt must be contemplating today with emotions at least as strong as melancholia.

How swiftly have the fortunes of war changed! In December it was the bridgehead opposite Remagen last night covered an area of more than 50 square miles and was being built up steadily against sporadic and still disorganized German resistance.

He is, lashing them on in the darkness with their headlights blazing—something the German never does if he can help it in view of our air raid. Bad flying weather has enabled him to get away with it so far.

Big Battle Brewing

There will be a battle, somewhere on the east side of Remagen bridge. It will be a big battle, if Von Rundstedt has enough left to make it a big battle. It may be the decisive battle.

Parts of a panzer division have already appeared in the bridgehead perimeter. Other divisions are undoubtedly en route.

A certain panzer army, if it has been destroyed in the Ardennes melee, may be following on behind.

But then what will the Germans do? They have left to restrain Patton and Simpson and Crerer from jumping over to the east bank?

All this because we captured quite unexpectedly intact, one of the last of the Rhine's great bridges.

In summer and fall, Mr. Tarkington resides in Kennebunkport, Me.

He remembers, "Because it was

then, right here in Indiana, that I suddenly decided I preferred to die sober. Got so I craved a drink before breakfast and that's not good. But as it turned out, it required surprisingly little will power to climb aboard the wagon. Couple of days later I was in the University club and a fellow asked me to have a drink. I took one whiff and it smelled like kerosene. That was that."