

WASHINGTON Calling

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

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of letting Japan emerge partially intact, capable of coming back industrially. Japan would count on continuing economic penetration of China.

Bretton Woods Meets Difficulties

BRETON WOODS agreement on-world currency stabilization and reconstruction—first major step toward post-war collaboration—is running into trouble in the house banking and currency committee. Here's the picture:

The agreement came out of last summer's Bretton Woods' meeting, it was pegged on two main sections—an international fund to stabilize currencies and an international bank to aid world reconstruction. Each would have a kitty of about 10 billion dollars, with the U.S. contributing about three billions to each.

State and treasury departments have gone to bat for the plan in Capitol Hill hearings; the American Bankers' association has sought to whittle it down.

Briefly, the bankers would accept the reconstruction bank, but would have the same agency handle currency stabilization—and with the overall capital at 10 instead of 20 billions.

Today's size-up by friends of the agreement places most committee Republicans against it as it stands, and they probably will have other votes with them; looks as if the committee might line up 13 to 12 against accepting the stabilization fund as of today.

Administration people are worried; say there's danger that the first test of U. S. co-operation with the world may go against them; urge that modification will meet rejection by other nations. Already they compare this fight to that over League of nations.

Harmony Goal

OUR DELEGATION to San Francisco is trying to assure harmony among members in both deed and word. They'll be unfettered for the next month, but delegates have agreed that after sessions open, none will make statements for the press until after these have been cleared through a central control agency.

That agency will not edit statements, but it will give all a chance to see what's being said before the words appear in the papers.

THEIR WILL be a lot of talk at San Francisco about the voting system in the United Nations organization, as agreed upon at Yalta, but it will be approved.

More ticklish, however, will be the problem of fitting regional agreements—such as that set up at the Mexico City conference for this hemisphere—into the general United Nations organization.

Hope of home leading American delegates is that the problem can be settled this way:

If there is a flare-up in the Western Hemisphere, for example, first efforts to settle it would be immediately made by the nations of this hemisphere. Only if they were unable to quiet the trouble would main organization be called on to help.

They hope that in any region, local troubles can be settled locally, and United Nations organization called upon only in rarest instances.

Wait Taft's Views

MUM to date, Senator Taft of Ohio will disclose his views on a world peace organization in a major Senate speech prior to opening of the San Francisco conference. (Taft is chairman of the Senate-G. O. P. steering committee).

While he has been vigorously anti-administration, the senator's friends expect him in the end to be on the side of whatever is agreed to at San Francisco.

He has family precedent for this. His father, William Howard Taft, fought side by side with Woodrow Wilson for the League of Nations.

IF THIS RAMBLES, BLAME THE SPRING

Mom went down to city market to buy some meat and came away with a sweet pea nosegay instead.

Sis, outfitted in pink and blue, had her picture snapped in front of the monument with her serviceman date from Oswego.

Kid brother is turning over in his mischievous mind the possibilities of getting the car for tonight.

Pop stood around in the backyard for awhile staring at what he hopes may be a victory garden, then went down into the basement and milled over some fishing tackle.

Later, he might go down to the corner tavern for a bock beer, but they won't have any. It's another war casualty.

Anyway, it all adds up to spring and even the wet weather report. Weatherman R. M. Williamson put out—today shouldn't dampen your spirits.

It said: "Showers tonight and tomorrow. Slightly warmer tonight."

REPORT SCOTCH AND BOURBON STOCKS LOW

NEW YORK, March 24 (U. P.)—Distillers warned today that the nation will face one of its worst whisky shortages in three weeks.

Allied Liquor Industries, Inc., said Scotch and bourbon will be practically unobtainable because bourbon stocks were 40 per cent less than normal and importation of Scotch is the smallest in history.

HOST CLERK DIES

Jess M. Tindall, 401 N. Arsenal ave., died of a heart attack early today in the Lorraine hotel where he was night clerk.

W. SIDE PEEPER FATALLY SHOT

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Allison Foreman, Father of Two, Dead.

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neighborhood," Syverson told police after the shooting.

"For the past three nights somebody has been peeping into our windows and last night I decided to wait for him. I heard a car pull up in front and saw a man get out about 10:30 o'clock. I saw him look into several windows, then I saw his face in our bedroom window."

"I was in the kitchen and started to shoot, firing two or three times. I saw the prowler run across the street, then fall into his automobile."

Experts say civilians still are wasting rubber by improper inflation of tires, failure to observe 35-mile maximum speed.

Meanwhile cars going into junk yards at rate of 4000 a day will put extra burdens on public transportation systems.

TOUGHEST PERIOD

ahead for car owners. Civilian tires are going to be scarcer; production of heavy duty tires must be stepped up.

Mr. Syverson said Craig told him and Ralph Sharer, Edward Barnaby and Reed Wallen, Berwick st. residents, that he been looking into the windows on the street for the past three or four nights.

Came From Anderson

Craig came here with his family two years ago from Anderson. His wife and the two children, a girl 11 and a boy 2, survive.

He had been a trusted employee at the Allison plant and had a pass to enter and leave at will, plant guards told detectives.

The body will be taken to the Baker Bros. funeral home at Anderson for services and burial.

AIRMEN CALL RHINE BATTLE 'COLOSSAL'

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which he flew "came home over the most terrific ground battle I ever hope to see."

Capt. Louis Wieser, Hammond Field (S. D.), O. P. scouts talk of Bushfield-for-President movement in Midwest.

The ex-governor's fight against confirmation of Aubrey Williams as rural electrification head, plus administration-inspired attacks on Bushfield for accepting eastern millionaires' financing in campaign, could have presidential implications.

GOVERNMENT ISN'T taking any active part in the important coal-wage negotiations going on here (deadline a week away), but all the same it is the powerful background force that is driving mine operators and John L. Lewis toward an agreement.

Neither side wants to risk another federal seizure of mines, for this time government control might be maintained until the end of both wars; operator circles fear it might even be permanent.

Great Britain talks nationalization of coal mines and first steps in that direction have been taken. Operators don't want to bring about a situation here which might precipitate it.

And as for Lewis, his experiments in dealing with government as nominal employer have not been completely to his liking.

Trade Barriers

SCORE ON removal of state barriers: Four legislatures have increased size or weight limits on motor vehicles so far this year—Arizona, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wyoming.

STATE DEPARTMENT and railroads have taken step to make transportation available for delegates to the San Francisco conference by freezing space on trains from Chicago to the Golden Gate from April 17 through April 23.

Only those with state department approval may travel—and only delegates, correspondents and others officially connected with the conference will be approved.

Only fast, direct-route trains are involved, though. Would-be travelers west from Chicago may follow a roundabout route with hindrance.

WOMAN BADLY HURT WHEN HIT BY AUTO

Mrs. Dora Gaddis, 62, of 234 N. Delaware st., was injured seriously today when she was struck by an automobile and knocked 10 feet on the pavement "at New York and Pennsylvania sts."

The driver, 16-year-old Angelo Venezia, 608 S. East st., said he was excited because he had just taken his brother to the navy recruiting station at the Federal building and started up suddenly as Mrs. Gaddis was crossing with the light.

He was charged with reckless driving and failure to give a pedestrian the right of way. Mrs. Gaddis is in Methodist hospital with a broken ankle and head injuries.

YANKS DRIVING JAPS INTO LUZON HILLS

MANILA, March 24 (U. P.)—Japanese troops were reported fleeing into the western Luzon hills today before American 33d division forces which overran Naguilian and its airfield and thrust to less than 10 miles from the enemy stronghold of Baguio.

Naguilian, which had a pre-war population of 15,000, was taken against only minor resistance. Its airfield provided another base for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's bombers which sank or damaged 11 more Japanese ships, including two destroyers and a minesweeper, in new attacks through the China sea.

Baguio, former Philippines summer capital, is headquarters for Japanese forces in the Philippines.

ONE VANISHES

Neither airplane spotters nor doughboys streaming along both sides of a dirt road from the river saw one German soldier today. The German army had just vanished.

Today the crossing place is rapidly assuming the aspects of a busy ferrying point on any American river. Boats are moving in every direction and only the smoke from a nearby town is giving evidence of war.

Our artillery stood by during the crossing, prepared to blast the Germans at the slightest provocation, but it never arose and they did little shelling.

While Patton's feet was accomplished with about no opposition, officers cautioned against over-optimalism.

G. O. P. ON TRIAL

Republicans are on trial in Indiana and are striving to give the state an exemplary administration.

Miss Fern Norris, reporter of the supreme and appellate courts, in a speech before the 16th Ward Republican club last night.

REPORTER CLERK DIES

Jess M. Tindall, 401 N. Arsenal ave., died of a heart attack early today in the Lorraine hotel where he was night clerk.

Eye-Witness: Assault Boats Chug Across, Spill Troops on 'Berlin Bank' of Rhine

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men swung down the dirt road while the jeeps and trucks turned back to the assembly point to await their priority turn for rafts and bridges.

Heard British Barrage

Our battalion was well ahead of schedule. A couple of miles down the road we halted. And through the stillness we could hear the sullen, distant and continuous rumble of the British 2d army barrage that started at midnight.

But as we crossed the Rhine it was deathly still. Only the quiet lap of the water against the sides of our boat could be heard. Later there was a burst of small arms fire all around but none seemed to be coming our way.

PICK UP PRISONERS

I accompanied an infantry battalion headquarters across the river. We rode in an assault boat.

When I paused to write this dispatch two hours later the battalion had flushed half a dozen prisoners from their holes and was advancing against what could hardly even be dignified by the term "scattered resistance."

We rushed up to what we had expected to be the first German line of resistance. All that happened was the capturing of some stunned prisoners.

From a railway embankment beyond us and from both our flanks there came the occasional chatter of machine guns. And snipers were still active in the darkness ahead of us.

But the famed German artillery and even the bristling Ruhr valley flak guns were opening up with only occasional fire in the sector where I am writing this dispatch.

Earthquake Bombardment

After the first few moments of the intensified barrage the German positions are wrapped in great flames and a dull red glow marks the German lines.

The infantry moved across the flat ground, completely devoid of cover. It was guided by white tape on the ground. The moon, nearly full, was beginning to be bloodied by the haze and smoke. The columns closed up with a distance of only five to 10 yards between the men.

Snipers were still active in the darkness ahead of us.

At 2 a. m. we started forward again. And the infantrymen had the answer to their complaints. The barrage really started into high. The roar was so continuous that you had to put your lips to a man's ear and yell to make yourself heard above the thunder.

The ground was shuddering under the shock of the explosions and the sky was lit by huge flashes that seemed to tear apart the clouds of smoke.

Front in Flames

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