

## WASHINGTON

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

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## Petain Is French Problem

PETAIN'S RETURN to France is embarrassing De Gaulle; some believe Germans facilitated his return to stimulate political division in France.

Plan had been to try Petain in absentia, pronounce a death sentence. It will be harder to do with the old marshal—a respected figure in France—sitting in the court. The trial may be postponed. When it is held, chances are the death verdict will be pronounced, then commuted to life imprisonment by De Gaulle.

CONGRESS, GRIM and shocked at horror stories from Germany, may try to find out why atrocities were not known earlier.

Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. reports had been reassuring, never suggested atrocities. They took the word of Nazis? Where they censured? Didn't army intelligence know about it? Were the few men who escaped via the underground forbidden by someone to tell the truth about conditions? Inquiry probably will try to develop answers.

## On Miss Perkins

THE CABINET: A prominent out-of-town visitor, after calling on Henry Wallace, told friends he was certain the former vice president had no intention of being a presidential candidate in 1948. This followed closely upon the statement by Senator Guffey (pro-Wallace at Chicago) that Pennsylvania Democrats would be for Truman in '48.

Major Washington guessing contest continues to revolve around secretary of labor. President Truman hasn't confirmed that there's to be a change and Secretary Perkins continues her calm course, with particular attention to reorganization of federal labor agencies, which she has twice recommended, and to international labor affairs, in which her ability has been generally recognized.

But talk persists about others for the post-Edward F. McGrady, former dynamic assistant secretary and now war department adviser on labor and a vice president of RCA; Dr. William L. Leferson, former member of the NLRB and former chairman of the national mediation board; John R. Steelman, former director of conciliation and now a private consultant on labor problems; and Senator Kilgore, whose congressional record has been pleasing to organized labor.

Friends of all four think they are available in varying degrees, that none would refuse if Mr. Truman put it on the basis of essential service.

Others being discussed include Dan Tracy, assistant secretary of labor, and Dan Tobin, teachers' president. Past or present union connections of McGrady, Tracy and Tobin have been with the A. F. of L., but C. I. O. probably wouldn't oppose them. No only likely possibility is Clinton S. Golden, labor vice chairman of WPB and WMC, and an official of United Steel workers.

## Veterans

HERE'S THE OUTLOOK for more veterans' legislation:

G. I. bill of rights will be amended to correct inequities in educational provisions. Age limit for those entitled to free schooling probably will be raised, subsistence allowance for students (\$50 a month for single, \$75 for those with dependents) may be increased.

Pressure for direct loans for homes, farms and business will increase unless present system of partial government guarantee produces more results.

## Hitler and Goebbels Shot, High Diplomat Tells Swiss

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of state, Meissner's whereabouts were not known, it was said.

(Exchange Telegraph also reported eight generals and several high officers had been executed by S. S. squads in connection with the "resignation" of Reichsmarschall Goering. They were accused of treason.)

Dittmar insisted to his captors that Hitler and Goebbels were in Berlin and will die there.

"The war will end in a few days," Dittmar said. "Hitler will either be killed or he will commit suicide."

The elegantly uniformed Gen. Dittmar outlined the war situation for correspondents, just as he used to do for radio Berlin listeners when the Nazi army was overrunning Europe.

Asked about the Bavarian rebellion, he said, "There's talk about it, and the map will show you that two pockets are being formed, one in the north including Norway and Denmark and one in the south in the Alps and Italy. But that is probably less by intention than by force of circumstances."

Didn't Learn From Past

At any rate, he thought, the war could not last after the fall of Berlin, which he said was a matter of hours or at the most days.

"I saw the war was lost on July 20," said Dittmar, referring to the frustrated attempt on Hitler's life.

"From them on the highest quarters had learned nothing from the past. Militarily and politically, the situation could still have been changed for the better—July 20 was a warning—but things were not changed. If the attempt had succeeded I certainly think the Wehrmacht would have taken over control."

Dittmar first crossed the Elbe

## BIG FOUR GIVEN TOP COMMAND

Sessions Speeded After Two Days of Stalemate.

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Soviet republics have been here under cover since the arrival of the first Russian group.

Creation of the super Big Four council caused some surprise. It had been assumed that the Big Four would meet informally. But the plenary conference has voted them legal and official powers to convene at any time as an official body under the chairmanship of Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.

The conference is now over the hump of routine organization disputes.

Three-Vote Minimum

Conference acceptance of Russia's demand that White Russia and the Ukrainian republic be invited to the conference turned speculation today to the fact that the Soviet Union regards this request for three votes as merely a "minimum."

Molotov himself said that three votes was the "minimum" when he held his first press conference here. It is not unlikely, therefore, that as the United Nations world organization expands, the Russians will ask for additional votes in the international organization assembly.

## Poland Rejected

Russia's request that the Lublin Polish government be invited to join the conference was rejected by the steering committee without a vote.

Stettinius, backed by a big majority of the 46 delegations, opposed Molotov.

The American secretary of state subsequently informed a press conference that unless the Yalta agreement for Democratic reorganization of the Lublin government was carried out, Poland would not come to this conference.

Those were President Truman's orders and the Russians today are reported to consider Mr. Truman a very firm negotiator.

Great Britain's Anthony Eden stood firmly with Stettinius in repudiating the present Polish government, which neither Washington nor London recognizes.

But Molotov had the open support of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia—both nations which might be considered well within the orbit of European Russian influence.

## Supported Molotov

The British, Americans and Chinese, along with practically all other delegations, however, went along with Molotov on White Russia and the Ukraine.

Stettinius made public here a letter from Mr. Truman instructing him to cast the United States vote in favor of admitting both of those Soviet republics.

Whether for the record or by coincidence, Mr. Truman emphatically placed responsibility for his position on Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

His letter to Stettinius also contained a blunt reminder to the Russians that the United States was not a party to the Yalta agreement.

It was regarded as a reference to Russian policy on democratic reorganization of the Lublin Polish government—also a matter upon which the Yalta conferees had reached agreement.

## Argentina Considered

The United States, all the other American republics and a substantial bloc of other delegations desire also to bring Argentina into this conference and the admission of the two Soviet states is expected to be the opening wedge.

When the executive committee considers the Ukraine and White Russia, the American bloc is expected to propose Argentina as a member of the United Nations.

The executive committee, originally to number 11, has been expanded to 14 with four American representatives—Chile, Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

It is likely that the council of the proposed permanent organization also will number 14 instead of 11.

The Big Four super-council of foreign ministers was born of the compromise by which Molotov was persuaded to permit Stettinius to conduct the business of the conference as chairman of the steering and executive committees.

## Co-Presidents Elected

The Russians stymied progress here yesterday by demanding that those chairmanships and the plenary conference presidency be rotated among the chiefs of the Big Four delegations.

Molotov agreed yesterday to a plan under which he, Stettinius, Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden were elected co-presidents of the plenary conference. They will preside in rotation.

The agreement provided that the Big Four would delegate to Stettinius the permanent chairmanships of the steering and executive committees.

In presenting that plan to the plenary conference for adoption yesterday, it was further amplified to read:

"The four (the Big Four) may meet from time to time with Mr. Stettinius presiding over these meetings. Therein was created the Big Four super council."

Soong was to preside at the plenary session today at noon. Molotov will preside at the afternoon meeting. Eden will preside Monday.

## AUXILIARY PLANS TALK

The ladies auxiliary of Indianapolis post 144, Jewish War Veterans, will hold a membership tea at 3 p. m. tomorrow in the J. E. A. building, 3456 Central ave. Election and installation of officers is scheduled following a dinner in the Marotti hotel.

## French Delegate, Old League Vet, Wants New One Armed

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was fully convinced that peace was impossible without a permanent "big stick" which the "Big Five" must be ready to use at the first sign of aggression.

## Saw Hitler Rise

He felt that the Dumbarton Oaks plan did not go far enough in proposing merely that national units of armed forces be held "immediately available" for use by the new world organization. What is needed, he said, is a permanent international force as suggested in one of the proposed French amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks plan.

Paul-Boncour, who was premier of France when Hitler came to power as German chancellor, said Germany's rearmament and Japan's fortification of mandated Pacific islands could have been avoided if the old league had been endowed with strong measures of force.

"Fundamentally, there was but one fault with the old league of nations," he said. "It was perfect in spirit and moral purpose, but in every emergency it lacked a punch. Unless the league is given power with which to back its orders, the new world association would be just as helpless as the old. There is no doubt however that civilization goes backwards if it abandoned the idea of a federation of all the nations in the world, just

because the old league failed.

"The big powers must take things in hand, this time, with a firm determination, to let all the nations of the world, big and small, talk things out; then enforce with military might if necessary any decision of that concert of nations."

## Formula Presented

Paul Boncour's formula for a successful world organization follows:

1. Arm the league with a standing army, navy and air force actually waiting to enter action immediately, not merely earmarked for delivery weeks hence.
2. The big powers holding permanent seats on the security council must be able to enforce seriously, by immediate force if necessary, every league ruling.
3. Hold oratory to a minimum; do the real work in committees.
4. Make every nation in the world play some part, commensurate with its political and military strength and importance; let no state, big or little, play neutral.
5. Forbid any member nation from walking out and slamming the door as Germany, Italy, Japan and others did at critical hours.
6. By a campaign of education of nations, create a certain community of political practices and ideals between nations; give every nation a new notion of responsibility and solidarity.

## Evil Nazi Mind Lives On—A Generation Is Corrupted

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a time when the people have been so fed up with falsehoods they cease to believe anything. It is to offset this that Eisenhower acts. He wants the American people to be assured that as far as these prison camps are concerned, they are getting the plain unvarnished truth.

I now write not as a member of the reporting committee but give my own personal opinion.

If everybody in America could see what we have seen, there would sweep over the United States a complete understanding of what nazism means as a threat to the peace of the world and the hopes of mankind.

## The Power of an Idea

That threat will not end when the Nazi armies are crushed. The threat is not that of mere physical force.

It is the power of an idea conceived in hell and gestated with fiendish genius.

I will not dwell long on the sights we saw at Buchenwald. They have been accurately reported.

I saw hundreds of creatures that were once human beings now reduced to mere skeletons covered with skin. The only happy ones were piled like cordwood in the yard waiting their turn at the vast crematorium.

I saw the long row of gallows at which many were hanged to die of slow strangulation.

I saw the clubs with which they were beaten.

I saw the lamp shades made out of human skin by the poisonous gas of the Nazi commandant to gratify his sadistic desire to drink from the living flesh of victims when the tattoo markings pleased the artistic fancy.

## Not Prisoners of War

I saw more than 5000 children, babies of 1 and 5 up to 18. Some of these in the last 12 years have grown to adulthood in this camp. These people were not prisoners of war.

They were thrown into this hell on earth for just one reason: They refused to accept the political philosophy of the Nazi party.

They were slave labor. First Jews and anti-Nazi Germans, then other brave souls who refused to conform, they came from all the conquered peoples of Europe—100% of them.

You have but to look at the camp to understand why there is no underground in Germany. When the Nazi party became supreme in Germany, all opposition was killed, starved or imprisoned.

## Slaves When 8 Years Old

These men worked in the war factories near Weimar and in the quarries. They were fed only as long as they could work. Then they were allowed to die.

The little children were fed and allowed to live because, as they grew older, they could add to the manpower. They were forced to labor as soon as they were strong enough, some at the age of 8.

Through interpreters we talked to dozens of the dying, to the tough survivors and to the strangely animal-minded children—puzzled, even frightened, by the kindness of G. I. Jones and the tenderness of American nurses.

It is not really an assignment for senators and congressmen, newspapermen or ministers of God.

Need Scientists of Mind

This task should be assigned to accredited scientists of the mind, psychiatrists trained to dispassionate, impersonal study of the cesspool of insanity which lurks in the human mind and which flares forth when that mind becomes distorted or diseased.

It is not time for emotionalism. It is not a study of any one individual human being or group of human beings.

It is a national neurosis, the mass production of a world insanity generated by the power of an evil idea—the elimination of all individual rights, the rejection of the human soul, the denial of God himself, the apotheosis of opposition to every clean and worthy thing for which America has ever stood.

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## REVOLT FLAMES SWEEP MUNICH

Rebel Radio Calls for Help To Americans.

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Nazis had regained control of the situation.

He admitted that some of the rebels still were at large, although he contended the uprising was staged by a "handful" of traitors led by an obscure German army captain.

Without naming von Epp, the Nazi spokesman charged the rebels with the false use of high Nazi names as a "front" for their movement.

Meanwhile Regensburg and Augsburg, twin outer citadels of Munich 60 and 30 miles to the north and northwest, were in American hands.

German troops were surrendering by the thousands all around the city's approaches.

At the same time, American 7th army troops raced down to the Austrian border at Pussen, 55 miles southwest of Munich. They were making an apparent bid to envelop the former Nazi citadel. They were attempting to choke off any possible reinforcement through the Brenner pass from Italy.

## 38 Miles From Pass

At Pussen the Yanks were only 38 miles from Innsbruck, northern gate to the Brenner pass.

Gen. George S. Patton's American 3d army was closing on Munich from the north after capturing Regensburg.

His armored task forces also were plunging into Austria 60-odd miles farther east in a drive that threatened to envelop Hitler's Alpine hide-out at Berchtesgaden.

Patton's troops were in direct radio contact with Russian forces in Austria. Field dispatches said the two armies were on the verge of linking up for a joint assault on Berchtesgaden.

Coming on the heels of the American-Russian juncture in the north that cut Germany in two and split the enemy's surviving divisions into isolated islands of resistance, the American hammer blows in the south plainly were beating Hitler's Reich to its knees.

On the northern and western roads to Munich, the American 3d and 7th armies were running roughshod over the wreckage of what had been the mightiest military machine in human history.

An estimated 55,000 crack Nazi troops surrendered to the Americans in the area yesterday, 32,000 taken by Patton's troops and 23,000 by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th army.

## BERLIN BATTLE IS NEAR ITS CLIMAX

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garden, the state opera house and other buildings in the center of Berlin.

A Moscow dispatch said Soviet Cosack divisions swept nearly 20 miles west of Berlin. They reached the Elbe river opposite the American 9th army. The Russians were awaiting an "imminent, junction" with the 9th army, Moscow said.

South of Berlin, the Russian army organ Red Star said, two more Soviet divisions had linked up with the Americans following the original junction at Torgau, 60 miles below the capital.

Red Star said only that the two divisions met the Americans elsewhere than Torgau and added:

"The link-up of our armies on a broad front became a fact."

At least nine-tenths of Berlin already was under Russian control following a new junction of the 1st White Russian and 1st Ukrainian armies in the Charlottenburg district just west of the Tiergarten.

Intensifying their assault, the Russians smashed into Schoenberg and Wilmersdorf, the last two districts south of the Tiergarten and Unter Den Linden, today.

Daredevil Spear Attack

Soviet "daredevil units" swept into the Tiergarten itself, Berlin's heavily-fortified central park, against "unrelaxingly bitter resistance," Moscow said.

These shock forces presumably by-passed the German war ministry on Bendlestrasse, beneath which neutral sources have reported Adolf Hitler was directing the defense of Berlin from an underground fortress.

Bendlestrasse is just south of the Tiergarten.

Complete occupation of the burning, rubble-heaped capital may come this week-end.

Gen. Kurt Dittmar, spokesman for the German high command, surrendered to the American 9th army at Magdeburg and said Berlin would fall in a matter of hours, or at most in a few days.

## RITES AT NASHVILLE FOR R. M. HOUSTON

Rites will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow in the Bond funeral parlor at Nashville for Richard M. Houston, driver for the Hancock Trucking Co., who died yesterday at a hospital in Lima, O.

Mr. Houston, who was 31, resided in Nashville, and was a member of the Masonic lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons, James Richard and David; a daughter, Patricia, all at home, and his mother, Mrs. David Houston, Nashville.

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## Fear Viewed as Only Bar To Speed in Parley's Work

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friendly to Russia, but their emphasis on the dangers of socialism are quite obvious in implication and their bold display of the differences between Russia on one side and Britain and the United States on the other, add to the barriers that should be removed.

Within the closely guarded meetings of conference leaders, another stream of fear has appeared, stemming from the present war in Europe.

Russia's enormous armies have swept over middle Europe and are now putting the final touches on the capital of Germany. An accomplishment of this magnitude would entitle any nation to pride.

But what the other powers and most of the little nations dread is the conversion of victory in Europe into a dominating attitude on the part of Russia in her conduct of international affairs.

Nothing that Molotov has said since his arrival in the United

States has been anything but cordial and friendly both to the United States and to the nations attending the security conference. His first speech before the conference was exemplary in its observation of the amenities and the needs of formal intercourse between nations.

There are, however, little disturbances that are unimportant in themselves but added together have developed whatever exists of secretiveness among other delegations. They are most closely guarded. And more than anything else, the language barrier is always presenting its aggravations.

The net result of the accumulated fear has been a tightening of the security surrounding all of the delegations including the Americans. Individual members of the American delegation have been placed under such rigorous pledges of secrecy that they cannot discuss any of the world security problems.

Too Many Rumors

The result of the secrecy is a daily crop of rumors. And when a complicated problem arises such as that surrounding the government of Poland and its recognition, the acceptance of rumor as fact becomes a source of violent irritation.

Conferences of this nature here in San Francisco cannot be conducted in secrecy. That has been proved in the past few days. Therefore, it would be the part of wisdom for the leaders to use intelligent candor in dealing with the press. Since the beginning of the war, public officials have pressed so far with secrecy that many have forgotten how to approach a public meeting.

Public inquisitiveness can be allayed in time of war by the often repeated orders for silence and the repression of all but essential facts. The policy of withholding information from the enemy cannot be applied to a conference on world security.

Public Wants Facts

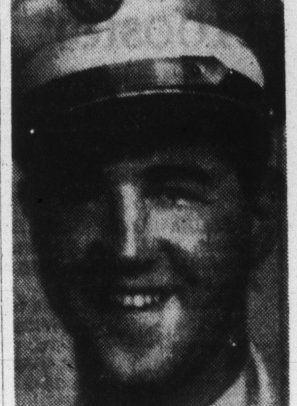
Reviewing the events of the past fortnight anyone can see where a candid revelation of facts by fear-ridden officials would have prevented the misinterpretations, the distortion of minor differences into major disagreements.

Growing out of this situation, may come a suspicion on the part of the public that they have not been given the facts; that they must get the real low-down from the press of other countries or from the gossip mongers.

So far as can be ascertained by continual probing among the delegations here, there are no problems that cannot be solved in this conference and no real reason why, within a month, the charter of the United Nations should not be in acceptable form. The bogey of sinister conflicts between the powers, of Russian bullying or the tortuous methods of oriental diplomacy can be laid to rest by removing the barriers of fear.

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## Gave Blood at Two



Lt. David N. McKinstry

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McKinstry, son of Dr. and Mrs. H. R. McKinstry, 923 E. 34th st. The other also is a Hoosier, 1st Sgt. Roger L. Sprunger, Berne. Their blood probably saved others.

LT. MCKINSTRY still is on the island and in a recent letter home said that it rapidly is being changed into a livable isle.

But not all the Japs are gone. Marines still are digging out some who managed to hide away during the main battle and have been sniping at American occupation forces.

Lt. McKinstry, whose father is a bone surgeon, entered the service in the summer of 1942. He is in command of a field hospital medical unit. Having seen service at Saipan, the officer was sent to Honolulu to rest before going to Iwo Jima. He has been overseas almost two years.

A brother, Cpl. James, is stationed at the Valley Forge general hospital at Philadelphia.

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