

# Washington Calling

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

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amazed at the President's vigorous, blunt comment, in casual conversation, on major world matters.

## 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—long 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 suggesting atrocities. Did their representatives take the word of Nazis? Where they censored? 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, as 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. Leiserson, 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 generally recognized.

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, teamsters' 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

more 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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with a white flag of truce 1:30 p.m. Wednesday with a major and two enlisted men, who rowed his boat. He tried to arrange for the evacuation of civilians and wounded soldiers in the path of the Russian advance. When he was refused he returned to the river bank.

Accompanied by Son

Two and a half hours later, Dittmar returned to surrender, accompanied by his 16-year-old son, Bernhard.

"It occurred to me the highest command might learn I had been here and I was worried about re-prisals," he explained.

The Stockholm newspaper Tidningen said today that Hitler had been informed of mutiny in the German navy, desertions in the air force and revolt in the army.

Asked about the Bavarian re-doubt, 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.

"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.

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

"From then 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

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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.

Recent executive hearings by a Senate committee brought disclosures from Defense Plant Corp. officials that their agency has a right, under the surplus property act, to convert any plant "at whatever expenditure it may take \$5,000,000, \$30,000,000, or \$50,000,000—without reference to congress in any way, shape, manner or form."

Senator O'Mahoney (D. Wyo.) pointed out that only \$30,000,000 will be spent for congressional activities next year, that executive agencies, exclusive of war agencies, plan to spend "well over a billion dollars."

## Small War Plants

**SOME CONGRESSIONAL** apprehension also is felt at contemplated expansion of Smaller War Plants Corp. activities. Chairman Maury Maverick says his office intends to play a big part in post-war surplus property disposal.

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 ready to make a deal.

It was regarded as a reference to Russian policy on democratic reorganization of the Lublin Polish government—also a matter upon which the Yalta conference 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 in time.

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**Not Prisoners of War**

These poor creatures there seem to be ill-concealed smugness and contempt for the invaders that is apparent if not articulate. One has but to watch their expressions when they speak to each other, as American troops pass by.

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 practice of the Nazi commandant to gratify his sadistic desires—from skin torn from the living flesh of victims when the tattoo markings pleased the artistic fancy.

**Not Question of Food**

These poor creatures there seem to be ill-concealed smugness and contempt for the invaders that is apparent if not articulate. One has but to watch their expressions when they speak to each other, as American troops pass by.

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—1000 of them.

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

They were victims of an ideology. For them the road to serfdom ended in a handful of ashes at a crematory.

That is why I say that Buchenwald is but a symbol, a symbol of a concept of life outlined years ago by Adolf Hitler in "Mein Kampf."

Buchenwald is the logical, inexorable result of that philosophy of brute force, the repudiation of Isaiah, the denial of Christ.

**A Marked Generation**

I think that is why Eisenhower had us here. He knows the military war is won. It is just a question of mopping up the remnants. But he knows that this Hitlerian soul of the werewolf will live on in the minds and hearts of the people he has corrupted.

The little children were fed 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. Joes and the tenderness of American nurses.

This 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 iniquity which lurk in the human mind and which fare forth when that mind becomes distorted or diseased.

It is no 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 apothecies of opposition to every clean and worthy thing for which America has ever stood.

**SPONSORS CARD PARTY**

The Ladies auxiliary of Burns-West Strelbeck post 2999, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will sponsor a card party at 8:30 p.m. today at the post hall. Mrs. Theresa Larkin is chairman of arrangements.

**SPRING HOP SET**

Hep Cat Hall teen canteen will sponsor a spring hop from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. today at Northeast community center. "Doc" Watson's band will play for dancing.

**WINTON**

The Winton will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. today.

**AUXILIARY PLANS TEA**

The ladies auxiliary of Indiana

## 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 Dunbarton 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.

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 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**

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 domineering attitude on the part of Russia in her conduct of international affairs.

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 were down to the Austrian border at Fussen, 55 miles southwest of Munich. They were making an apparent bid to envelop the former Nazi citadel.

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