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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Truman Faced With Momentous Tasks Abroad and at Home as Allied Drives Lead to Victory

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EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.



Bearing meager household possessions on heads and in arms, Jap civilians on Okinawa return to lowlands after flight inland before invasion forces.

NEW LEADER: Historic Task

Dying even as American military leaders saw an early end to the European war, with the intricate problems of peace lying ahead, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt left to successor Harry S. Truman one of the most momentous jobs ever confronting a statesman.

Oddly enough, Mr. Roosevelt himself entered the office 13 years before under highly critical circumstances, with the nation's business and agriculture in stagnation and its finances on the verge of collapse. Still comparatively new to the American people, Mr. Roosevelt won their immediate confidence during the first 100 days of his administration with measures designed to reestablish the tottering economy of the country.

Then, Mr. Roosevelt made perhaps his most famous statement of all: "The only thing we have to fear is fear."

World Problems

Greatest immediate task facing President Truman is the San Francisco peace conference, scheduled to go on despite the death of Mr. Roosevelt, who worked for its successful culmination to achieve his dream of an international cooperative organization to prevent future disastrous wars.

Though the groundwork for the San Francisco parley had been laid at the Dumbarton Oaks conferences, at Washington, D. C., new problems had arisen since to command the full resources of American statesmanship. Over and above the proposal of granting Russia three votes on the permanent security council to match Britain's six, there remained the touchy proposition of allowing representation to a Polish government not dominated by any large power and acceptable to all.

Along with the San Francisco parley for creating an international peace organization, the new President also was confronted with handling the Bretton Woods financial agreements, designed to establish postwar economic stability by supporting the monies of different countries and advancing loans for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of foreign nations to help them become profitably productive.

Rated Conservative

With President Truman considered a conservative Democrat despite his support of New Deal policies, speculation centered on the course he would adopt on domestic policy, long marked by Roosevelt liberalism. Bearing the friendship of both the CIO and AFL, President Truman was expected to maintain a sympathetic attitude toward labor.

With Roosevelt administrations having established such social security policies as unemployment insurance and old age pensions, and with the government pledged to support farm prices for two years after the war, President Truman's great-

est concern would seem to be not the establishment of emergency measures to tide the nation over the reconversion period but rather the development of a program to achieve Mr. Roosevelt's own goal of 60,000,000 jobs.

In recently explaining his political philosophy, President Truman said that, like his native state of Missouri, he was a little bit left of center, but that the cooperative effort of all elements of American life was necessary for the shaping of a prosperous economy.

Though comparatively unknown before assuming direction of the senate war investigating committee, President Truman soon earned the respect of both his colleagues and the country for his forthright and courageous leadership of the group in constructively criticizing the rearmament program with a view of increasing its over-all efficiency.

In this respect, the so-called Truman committee was quick to point out such material shortages as aluminum, rubber, zinc, lead and steel, and also revealed the nature of pressing manpower problems.

Staff Chiefs at Helm

An artillery captain himself at 33 during the last war, President Truman, like Mr. Roosevelt, is expected to leave the conduct of the war largely to the American chiefs of staff, who have already marshaled the country's great striking power for the knockout of both Germany and Japan.

Reeling under the force of U. S. and British power thrusts from the west, and Russian pressure from the east, Germany's days appeared numbered, with Allied military leaders mainly expecting guerrilla warfare after the collapse of integrated Nazi resistance.

In conformity with long-rumored Nazi plans for a last suicidal stand in the Alpine fastnesses of southern Germany, the enemy continued to put up his strongest resistance south of the river Main, where the U. S. 7th army's advance was slowed. Farther to the east, however, the Russians drove beyond Vienna to threaten the Austrian gateway to Adolf Hitler's last mountain stronghold.

PACIFIC: Tough Nuts

Tough throughout the whole Pacific campaign, the Japs are proving even tougher as the battle approaches their homeland, with their stubborn defense of Iwo Jima more than matched by their resistance on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands against U. S. marine and army forces.

Experts at making use of the rugged Pacific island terrain, the Japs have set strong gun emplacements in the rolling countryside, with subterranean tunnels allowing their troops free passage from one position to another. In addition, the enemy has surprised U. S. forces with the use of deadly new weapons, with heavy concentrations of artillery on Okinawa helping slow the Yanks' advance.

If they have made good use of the terrain on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Japs are making equally good use of it on Luzon in the Philippines, where they are holding out in the hope of tying up large bodies of U. S. troops through the approaching rainy season when operations will be necessarily slowed.

AGRICULTURE: Hog Support

Having called for greater fall pig production to help relieve the tight meat situation, the government sought to reassure farmers of future returns by announcing a 50 cents increase in the present \$12.50 floor or minimum price for all good and choice hogs up to 270 pounds. At the same time, the War Food administration said that neither support nor ceiling prices would be trimmed before September, 1946.

Though the government's action on floor prices was not expected to affect current operations because of the relatively small supply of hogs in face of the record demand, it was considered reassuring in the prospect of greatly increasing marketing in the winter, when the pressure on prices might be strong.

With private sources estimating that spring pig farrowing was up 12 per cent, the WFA called on farmers to increase the fall crop by 18 per cent. Chiefly because of lower hog production throughout the first part of 1945, total meat output is expected to drop some 10 per cent below last year.

Bumper Crop

Benefiting from excellent weather conditions, the nation's 1945 winter wheat crop is expected to approximate an all-time 862,515,000 bushels, about 37,000,000 bushels over the previous 1931 top, the U. S. department of agriculture reported.

After fall moisture was generally sufficient to get the crop off to a good start, good snowfall provided protection during the winter to hold acreage losses to the lowest level in 25 years. In most sections, the ground was in condition to absorb a large percentage of the moisture from the melted snow and rains, the USDA reported.

With the expected abandonment lowest since 1919, indicated yield of 17.4 bushels would be one bushel above last year. As of April 1, estimated stocks of wheat on farms totaled 239,083,000 bushels, third largest since 1927. Stocks approximated 22 per cent of the 1944 harvest, USDA said.

MINERS: Another Raise

Maintaining his reputation as one of organized labor's shrewdest and hardest bargainers, bushy-browed John L. Lewis won new wage concessions for his United Mine Workers averaging \$1.07 a day, but the agreement remained subject to government review in the interests of the anti-inflation program.

Expected to run into close scrutiny of the War Labor board, which has hewed to the "Little Steel" formula limiting wage in-



Samuel O'Neil of coal operators (left), Chairman Ezra Horn of negotiating committee (center), and John L. Lewis at contract parleys.

creases to 15 per cent above the January, 1941, level, the agreement calls for time and a half for inside day workers over seven hours and a rate of \$1.50 for underground travel time; boosts of from \$1.07 to \$1.20 a day for outside employees, loaders and electricians; 4 cents an hour more for workers on the second shift, and 6 cents for those on the third, and \$75 pay instead of vacations.

Having run the gamut of WLB approval, the agreement still was subject to OPA consideration, in view of estimates that the wage concessions would add about 25 cents a ton to the nation's fuel bill, or \$150,000,000 annually.

RECONVERSION: Make Preparations

With victory in Europe imminent, and with it a partial reconversion from wartime to peacetime output, War Production board took steps to permit industry to obtain new machine tools for manufacture of civilian goods.

Biggest major item on WPB's program was the grant of priorities to the automobile industry for 50 million dollars of machine tools and related equipment for civilian manufacture. To take from three to seven months for making, the orders were placed last fall without priority rating, then dumped when early hopes of victory faded and the war went into 1945.

In permitting the placement of orders for machine tools and related equipment for civilian manufacture, the WPB is developing a plan whereby such business would not interfere with the output of vital material needed for prosecution of the war.



Lint From a Blue Serge Suit

Just before the war, Jan Smeterlin, the eminent Polish pianist, was on a world concert tour and at one point visited Valdemosa on the island of Majorca, which was the place where Chopin lived. Smeterlin visited the monastery which was Chopin's home (and has since been turned into a private residence) hoping to see the piano on which Chopin played. He was told that the piano was now the property of a private family in Palma. Smeterlin located that family and as he stood in rapt awe looking at this box, which was the instrument of the great Polish immortal, the man of the house said, "Surely, Mr. Smeterlin, you're going to play on it!"

Smeterlin replied reverently, "Oh—I wouldn't think of touching it."

To which his host said, "Oh, nonsense—my children bang on it all the time!"

Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black is a fiend for lyonnaise potatoes. A new waitress at his favorite restaurant brought him french fries in error and told him she couldn't change the order. . . . A Washington reporter, seated near by, asked her if she knew the patron was a United States high court judge.

Unimpressed, she refused to change the order, explaining: "How often do they change their decisions?"

We've only used it twice before, but every time some contributor offers it we get the giggles and have to print it all over again. It's about Mr. Mefoofsky and his four-year-old son, Itzic. . . . They were strolling in the park, and the boy kept asking all sorts of questions. It was getting on Mefoof's "noyfs."

"Poppa," persisted Itzic, "wot kind flowers is doze?"

"How should I know?" exploded Mefoofsky. "Am I in the millinery bizniz?"

James Gordon Bennett, (who used to own the N. Y. Herald) had a list of "don'ts" for reporters that was as long as the memory of a radio comedian. . . . Every once in a while, though, the boys made him take one back. "Don't use 'patron' or 'guest' in referring to a paying customer at a hotel," one rule went, "because you are using the word incorrectly."

The rule was changed when the boys on the rewrite desk (searching for other words) started to refer to persons who registered at hotels as "inmates."

New Yorker's Notebook:

The English are giggling over the cook's dog at an RAF flying field. The canine dashed down the runway in pursuit of a plane taking off. . . . "Does your dog always do that?" a new officer asked. . . . The cook said yep. . . . "Why?" the officer wanted to know.

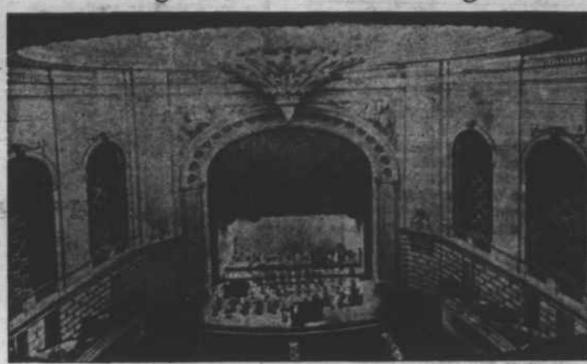
"I don't know, sir," replied the dog's owner. "But what worries me is what he's going to do with it when he catches a plane."

Ivor Newton, the London pianist, heard a Cockney give this explanation of his own courage regarding the robot bombings: "I see it like this. It must take the Germans a lot of trouble to make the bloody things, and then they have to get them into those pits and up in the air, and it is quite a long way from France to London, and if they do get to London, they still have to find Limehouse, and even then, it isn't everyone who can find 37 Bulstrode road where I live, and if they do, it's 10 to 1 that I will be down the corner in the Pub."

At the home of mutual friends, after the funeral of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Winston Churchill, who was touched by the prelate's passing, said: "Once again, the nation has lost a great churchman and a great Englishman." . . . Then, in an aside, Mr. Churchill, who credits his 70 years to having a drink now and then, added: "And once again one of my good friends has met the untimely end of a complete teetotaler!"

Story of the Week: The newest General Patton legend according to just-retained correspondents. . . . When the Germans cold-bloodedly murdered Gen. Maurice Rose, Patton was strangely silent for a long time. . . . Then he reached slowly into his jacket pocket from which he removed a German-English dictionary. . . . And crossed out the word "mercy."

Where Delegates Meet to End Scourge of War



In this magnificent chamber, the delegates from 44 nations are debating questions that may shape the future for generations. This view of the San Francisco Opera house was taken from the first balcony.

World Peace Hopes Converge On Conference in San Francisco

An Organization With Responsibility, Power Envisioned by Planners

By JOHN E. JONES

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Out of the Yalta conference of the Big Three came the electrifying news that San Francisco had been selected for the coming United Nations conference — "We have agreed," they said, "that a conference of United Nations should be called to meet at San Francisco in the United States on April 25, 1945, to prepare the charter of such an organization, along the line proposed in the informal conversations at Dumbarton Oaks."

Official announcement came to San Francisco's Mayor Lapham from Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew with the further advice that "Representatives of the department of state will get in touch with you in a day or so with regard to necessary arrangements for the conference."

And so San Francisco, most western of our American cities, founded in 1776, the same year as our Declaration of Independence, becomes the focal point of men's hopes for enduring peace. San Francisco, the Golden Gate of the '40s, becomes now the new Golden Gateway to future security for all mankind.

If you take a map of the world and draw lines from Russia to South Africa, from Egypt to China, from Central Europe to India, from the Philippines to the Scandinavias, from Greenland to Australia, and from Canada to New Zealand, all of these lines will cross or converge at San Francisco. So San Francisco becomes the world peace center.

'No World War III'

Indicative of the importance of this meeting are some of the statements made by statesmen and pressmen. Veteran newsman Mark Sullivan: "The greatest present need of the world is to see that there shall be no World War III. This is the beginning of everything and the objective of everything."

Lt. Cmdr. Harold Stassen, delegate: "I hope that San Francisco may mean for the world of tomorrow what Constitution hall at Philadelphia meant for the United States of America."

Anthony Eden, foreign secretary of the British empire: "This may be the world's last chance to create an effective peace organization combining responsibility with power."

Attendance at the meeting bears out this importance. Forty-four nations from all continents of the earth are represented. It has been estimated that delegates and their attendants, secretaries, advisers—experts on all matters of government—total some 1,500 persons. News gatherers—press and radio—number upwards of 1,000. San Francisco is host to from 2,500 to 3,000 persons.

Our state department has had representatives in San Francisco since March preparing for the big meeting, which taxes every facility of the coast city. Hotels, which have already been full to overflowing for the last two years or more, have to take care of several thousand more. The department of state has reserved 3,200 rooms in the larger hotels, taking over entirely several of the largest. The San Francisco chamber of commerce has advised people not directly connected with the conference to stay away from the city during April and May.

No one knows how long the conference will remain in session. First plans were for approximately four weeks. It may last eight weeks or longer, for a big job has to be done. East meets West, and all of the dif-

ferences between them must be ironed out in order to build an organization that will be effective and enduring.

Everything Arranged Early. Experienced protocol officers have had to work out in advance details of seating arrangements at meetings—both general and committee—as well as at banquets and dinners, and hotel room assignments. Transportation from air fields to hotels and from hotels to meeting places had to be provided.

San Francisco is a cosmopolitan city with a population made up of persons from all parts of the world. Many of its taxi drivers speak other languages in addition to English. Each taxicab carries a sign indicating the languages that its driver speaks, so that foreign delegates may pick out a driver conversant in his own language.

Headquarters for the United Nations convention are in one of the large hotels on Knob hill. Meetings are being held in several of the large public buildings in San Francisco's Civic center, such as War Memorial Opera house, Veterans' auditorium and the Civic auditorium.

Rules governing the press and the public follow in general the pattern established at the Chapultepec conference in Mexico city, where the press had admittance to all general meetings and information sources from committee meetings. Many of the general meetings are open to the public, so far as space makes that possible. It is a privilege long to be remembered to sit in on a session where a constitution of the United Nations is being created.

Details to Committees.

Much of the actual business of the convention of necessity is done in committee meetings where plans and details are formulated, discussed, changed, and worked up into a cohesive program, to be presented to the general conference. Here differences come up necessitating reference back to committee, often time and time again. It is no easy job to create an instrument to govern international relations acceptable to people from every continent of the earth.

But present day transportation and communications have erased the barriers of distance and isolation. There is no isolation, we are a part of a family of nations. Kipling wrote, "East is east and west is west — and ne'er the twain shall meet." But Kipling was probably wrong. The "twain" are meeting where the east and the west come together geographically and spiritually in San Francisco, at the Golden Gateway to future peace and security among the nations of the earth.

The peoples of the United Nations look to San Francisco—Australians, Asiatics, Europeans, Africans, Americans — north and south — all have their hearts and hopes in the convention beginning on April 25. Who knows but that in their hearts the common people of our enemy, both European and Asiatic, are putting their hopes in this world meeting for an end to the catastrophe which they started but could not finish.

Atop Mt. Davidson, 800 feet above the city of San Francisco, is a huge cross. Here annually some 80,000 of the city's diverse population have gathered on Easter Sundays to worship at the foot of this cross. Here all forget their differences of race and creed in a common reverence. Never before has this cross been lighted at any other time than Holy Week and Easter. Now, however, it is illuminated during the entire international conference—that it may be a guiding light to bring together the east and the west; and in the spirit for which it stands—make brothers of us all in the United Nations of the World.



Vets Opportunities Under 'G.I. Bill' Explained by Legion Auxiliary Workers

By MRS. CHARLES B. GILBERT
National President,
American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion Auxiliary, ever since its organization, has centered its work on aiding the war veteran and his family. The Auxiliary in past years has aided veterans of the last war. With the increasing number of veterans in the present war, the Auxiliary has stepped up its program to help the veteran in every possible way.

A million veterans returned home in 1944. More and more are coming home each month. There are bound to be questions they will want to ask and problems they will have to solve.

To ease this burden the Auxiliary under the leadership of its national president, Mrs. Charles B. Gilbert of Norwich, Conn., has prepared questions and answers on some of the problems which will affect the veterans and their families. Here are some pertinent questions: Mrs. C. B. Gilbert

Q.—Just what does "farm loan guaranty" mean?
A.—Under Title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, provision is made for the guaranteeing by the administrator of veterans affairs of a loan to be used in purchasing land, livestock, machinery to be used in farming operations conducted by the applicant.

Q.—Does this mean that the veterans administration will make the loan?
A.—No. The law provides that the administrator of veterans affairs may approve an application for the guaranty of a loan within certain limitations, but the actual loans are made by regularly established banks, lending agencies and private lenders.

Q.—What does the law specifically provide regarding the purchase of a farm and farming equipment?
A.—Any application made under this title for the guaranty of a loan to be used in purchasing any land, buildings, livestock, equipment, machinery or implements or in repairing, altering or improving any buildings or any equipment to be used in farming operations conducted by the applicant may be approved by the administrator of veterans affairs if he finds—

1. That the proceeds of such loan will be used in payment for real or personal property purchased or to be purchased by the veteran, or for repairing, altering or improving any buildings or equipment to be used in bona fide farming operations conducted by him.

2. That such property will be useful in and reasonably necessary for efficiently conducting such operations.

3. That the ability and experience of the veteran, and the nature of the proposed farming operations to be conducted by him, are such that there is a reasonable likelihood that such operations will be successful.

4. That the purchase price paid or to be paid by the veteran for such property does not exceed the reasonable normal value thereof as determined by proper appraisal.

Q.—Who is eligible to apply for this farm loan guaranty?
A.—A veteran who (1) has served in the active military or naval service of the United States on or after September 16, 1940, and before the official declared termination of World War II; (2) shall have been discharged or released from active service under conditions other than dishonorable either after active service of more than 90 days or because of injury in line of duty irrespective of length in service; (3) applies for the benefits of this title within two years after separation from the military or naval forces, or within two years after the official termination of the war. In no event may an application be filed later than five years after such termination of such war.

Q.—Who is eligible to receive readjustment allowance?
A.—A veteran described above who is residing in the United States and is completely unemployed or who is partially unemployed in that services have been performed for less than a full work week and the wages are less than the allowance under this title plus \$3.00.