

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXXI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1945

No. 35

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

CIO Strives to Maintain High Pay Level in Postwar Industry; Act to Spur Building Activity

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



Facing tough winter in war-torn Austria, Viennese scratch for future provisions. At left, woman is shown picking up stray grain in harvested field, while at right another woman is pictured carrying home wood found in shelled forest.

LABOR: Seek Peace

Armed with emergency powers, Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach moved into the troubled industrial front, where CIO demands for appreciable wage boosts threatened to retard the reconversion program and jeopardize stabilization policy.

Schwellenbach faced no easy task, what with the strategic oil, automobile, farm equipment and steel unions striving for wage readjustments to bring 40-hour-a-week pay up to wartime overtime levels, and major producers bucking the demands in the face of rigid price control.

In all instances, CIO demands for substantial wage boosts were predicated on the claim that the big companies had made sizable wartime profits and could use the money to defray part of the increases until peacetime production could be reestablished on a volume basis.

While oil workers already had walked out of midwest refineries in a strike that threatened to spread and imperil the national fuel supply, principal interest continued to center in the troubled automobile situation, where the United Automobile Workers headed by R. J. Thomas laid plans for enforcing their demands for a 30 per cent wage increase by walking out on individual companies and leaving their competitors free to invade their markets.

In assuming command of a labor department strengthened by the inclusion of the War Labor Board, war manpower commission and United States employment service, Secretary Schwellenbach planned to proceed slowly before exerting emergency powers, first exhausting ordinary procedure.

PACIFIC: MacArthur Disputed
Taking sharp difference with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's declaration in Tokyo that only 200,000 American troops may be needed for the Japanese occupation, Pres. Harry S. Truman feared for its effect on army demobilization plans and Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson said that at this time it was difficult to forecast the eventual size of the force.

Raising his estimate upon the Japs' wholehearted effort at co-operation with his command, MacArthur's latest figure of 200,000 was a sharp reduction from the 400,000 recently projected and the 900,000 at first thought necessary. In making his statement, MacArthur said that the Japs' execution of his dictates through their governmental framework relieved the U. S. of establishing an elaborate military authority to perform the same tasks.

In speaking to offset expectations that MacArthur's announcement might lead to speedier demobilization, President Truman declared the program was not dependent upon occupation needs.

Speaking for the state department, Acting Secretary Acheson asserted that the ultimate size of the occupation force will depend upon the scope of the job of eradicating the whole Jap war-making economy.

NAVY: Two-Ocean Dimension

A two-ocean fleet almost five times the size of the pre-Pearl Harbor force was proposed by naval chiefs at a hearing of the house naval committee.

Under the proposal advanced by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and Fleet Admiral King, 300 ships would remain in active duty and another 100 would be kept in ready reserve. The remaining 600 vessels would be laid up but maintained in sea-going condition. A total of 500,000 enlisted men and 58,000 officers would be needed for the 300 active ships and planes and 815,000 to man the entire fleet.

For implementation of U. S. defenses, the navy recommended establishment or retention of major naval bases for the Pacific in the Aleutians, Hawaii, Canal Zone, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, the Bonin-Volcano island group, the Admiralties and Philippines. Atlantic posts would include Argentina in Newfoundland, Bermuda and Trinidad.

ATOMIC TEST: On Battleship

Even while plans were being mapped in Washington, D. C., for the postwar fleet, naval officials prepared to carry out a test of the atomic bomb's effect on surface vessels 500 miles off conquered Japanese shores.

Target for the experiment, which might eventually lead to a redesign of surface vessels as followed Billy Mitchell's test bombardment of the Virginia in 1923, will be the Jap battleship Nagato, with its 14-inch steel armor plate.

Although the restyling of warships after Mitchell's successful experiments led to their strengthening against air attack, they have remained vulnerable to underwater attack. So far, reports on atomic bombings have indicated the main force of the explosion is up and out, but naval chiefs also would like to determine any underwater effect.

16th Child Her Biggest



The mother of 15 children, Mrs. Francis Strohl's 16th child was an 18 lb. baby girl. The infant was one of the heaviest delivered, with a 25 pounder born in 1916 topping the record. 38 years old, Mrs. Strohl is a resident of Lenoir, Pa.

LONG FLIGHT: Across Great Circle

Approximately 25 hours and 43 minutes after taking off from northern Japan, the first of three giant B-29 bombers glided onto the sprawling Chicago airport, to be shortly followed by the remaining two after a 5,995 mile experimental run.

With three top U. S. air force commanders in the planes, the original plans called for a non-stop run to Washington, D. C., to test the great circle route and attendant weather in the far north. Because of strong headwinds during the early stages of the flight necessitating increased use of gas, however, the B-29s decided to land in the Windy City for refueling.

Though traveling 5,995 miles in a long journey which took them over Kamchatka, Alaska and Canada before reaching the U. S., the American airmen led by Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay fell 1,100 miles short of the record non-stop flight set by two Britons flying from Egypt to Australia in 1938.

WAR CRIMES: Try Nazis

Charged with systematic starvation and neglect of internees at the notorious Belsen concentration camp, 45 Nazi men and women tried to fight back at their war crimes trial conducted at a British military court in Lüneburg, Germany.

In seeking to defend themselves, the accused followed the line that most of the 40,000 prisoners in the camp were all habitual criminals, felons and homo-sexuals. Britons taking over the camp upon the Nazi collapse claimed that their experience showed it was not necessary to use force to govern the internees.

In first seizing the camp, the British counted 13,000 dead, and another 13,000 died later because their condition was beyond treatment, medical officers charged. Though supplies were obtainable in the immediate vicinity of the camp, no effort was made to procure provisions.



Portrait of a Man:

The namby-pamby treatment accorded Japan has become a bone in the throat of peace. Hirohito has become the fair-haired rat; Jap propagandists drool he is solely responsible for making peace, while the American conquerors sit around twiddling their bayonets. That is just another form of discredited appeasement which incited the war! . . . The impression is being created that the Mikado was just an innocent bystander. Hell, you would think Killer Hirohito was Lord Fauntleroy. Such horse-radish! . . . On Dec. 7, 1943 (the anniversary of Pearl Harbor), the Jap Emperor sent this cable to Hitler: "I express joy to see our goal realized step by step."

Not only is Hirohito being coddled, but the whole Imperial Jap family has been absolved of any war crimes. However, the blood on their filthy paws shows through the white-wash. . . . One of the most bestial crimes in history was the rape of Nanking. Prince Asaka was in command at Nanking when that unspeakable atrocity took place. . . . Asaka is the Mikado's brother!

It is a crazy world. The Greeks who were supposed to be liberated got tougher treatment than the Japs who are supposed to be conquered.

Japs are being treated as chums. Indicted seditionists continue their pro-Nazi spree. Nazi war prisoners are coddled. Nothing is being done about the Argentinians and Spanish fascists who aided our enemies. Our diplomats are leery about punishing all war criminals. . . . At the same time, isolationists are sling slime at FDR. Our Russian ally is being rapped. Some politicians oppose plans to make certain Americans will have jobs.

WHOONELL WON the war?
Berlin newsboy Gladwin Hill relayed this striking contrast between the Soviet's stern realism in Nazi-land and America's hemming and hawing. . . . While the Americans were working out the fine points of a long range program to provide Germans with non-Nazi movies, the Russians blandly authorized German movie houses to reopen with the implicit warning to every German exhibitor that if he peddled any Nazism he might turn up missing.

Using their own ugly hatred instead of facts, some jack-ass-tricks are attempting to pin the blame for Pearl Harbor on FDR. . . . However, none of them raise their voices about the fact that Gen. MacArthur was caught napping at Manila. Almost our entire airforce in the Philippines was destroyed on the ground TEN HOURS AFTER the PH attack.

Some of us wondered why Colepaugh and Gimpel, who were deposited on the Eastern shore by a Nazi submarine, had their death sentences commuted to life in prison. . . . The col'm-learns that Colepaugh (the American) "was of considerable help to the U. S." (with information), which is why his sentence was commuted. . . . Put Gimpel gave no help whatever and he was spared, too.

You've gotta hand it to those terrible Russians. When they capture spies they fix it so they never again have toothaches.

When Admiral Halsey visited the U. S. it was said he came for a rest, which isn't the fact. . . . Halsey was beached for sassing a Big Boy from the Navy Dep't. . . . This exec had flown to Halsey's ship to probe something that had to do with losing a ship. It turned out to be shortage of shells, which was not the Admiral's fault. The blame rested with the supply men in SF and San Diego. . . . At any rate, this biggie arrived on Halsey's birthday and as the ship's officers gave Halsey a surprise birthday cake with candles, the Man from Washington put a damper on the party by saying: "A birthday cake? With people starving? You all ought to be ashamed!" . . . To which Halsey, whose men love him for his courage and war record, said: "I'm very sorry, sir, you are unhappy about us all having a little cake. Tell me, how's the food been lately at the Stork Club?" . . . When Mr. Big got back to Washington Halsey was beached.

President Truman's warm humility has been his most striking characteristic. Perhaps it is best illustrated by his favorite motto: "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

American Farmers to Continue High Production Goals in Satisfying Demands of the Entire World

Peacetime Need for Products Assures Farmers of Good Market and Price.

What will the impact of war's end mean to American agriculture?

That question has been raised with increasing frequency ever since Hirohito accepted President Truman's unconditional surrender terms and the Jap hordes have laid down their arms. It has brought in its train other questions: Will a farm slump occur? Will continued vast production smash prices? Will transition to peacetime schedules upset farm economy?

Three fairly definite answers have emerged and each is hearteningly reassuring to everyone who lives on or near a farm:

1. Demand for foods, fibers and oils will continue to require a high rate of farm production. The world must eat and American farmers must feed it.

2. Farm prices will not be deflated. The government has already guaranteed the farmer support prices for many of his products for one or two years after the war.

3. The farmer, unlike industry, is not faced with reconversion problems. His job is growing crops and he needs no different set of tools to accomplish his objectives.

All of these factors eliminate the possibility of a sudden crash in farm income.

Farm economists are agreed there will be no immediate cutback in production despite the end of the war. In the months to come, domestic and military needs of the United States plus the relief demands from liberated areas in Europe and the Pacific will take all the food this nation can produce.

With vast areas of Europe and Asia laid waste, American farmers will be called on to produce and keep on producing. It may be years before the ravaged countries can come back anywhere near to normal. In the meantime American farmers have a big job ahead to help keep whole continents alive and healthy. During this same time the United States itself must be fed.

As demobilization of our armed forces proceeds, there will be less need for the various services to have great stocks of food in reserve. That will tend to increase civilian supplies as well as permit better distribution.

No Major Farm Surplus.

With industrial reconversion getting the green light, the dislocation of workers caused by war contract cutbacks may be of much shorter duration than has been anticipated. That means more peacetime civilian jobs. One thing the war demonstrated was that if the entire nation is at work, there is no major farm surplus problem.

The greatest crops in history have been produced during the war. The record year was 1942. Next was 1944 and indications are that this year will exceed 1943, so that 1945 may be the third best.

Credit for this epic achievement must go to the nation's farmers, but the contribution of the fertilizer industry should not be overlooked. Agricultural authorities estimate that more than 20 per cent of the crop production in the war years has been due to the use of fertilizers. The use of plant foods has been of essential importance to the food production program because it has enabled farmers to produce bigger crops on existing acres instead of having to plow up millions of acres of additional farm land. The saving in labor, equipment and man hours has been enormous.

Farm income during recent years has passed the peaks reached during and immediately after World War I. Prices are now near or



The war production of garden crops reached a new high. The demand will continue for some time. New varieties, improved soil fertilization and new equipment will aid the farmer in repeating his record production of these crops.

above parity. Even if prices should come down to government-support levels—a drop of perhaps 15 per cent below present peaks—farm purchasing power will be enormous. The farmer has a higher amount to spend out of his income than other wage earners, for the reason that less of his income is required for rent, food and fuel than is the case with city dwellers. Six million farm families comprising approximately 30 million people having a gross income in excess of 20 billion dollars a year will be a factor of tremendous importance to America's peacetime economy.

Farmer in Strong Position.
Just as significant as agriculture's high income rate in recent years is the fact that the farmer has been laying aside a good portion of his savings in war bonds to spend for essentials in years to come. Clearly the farmer has emerged from the war in a stronger position than he was at its start.

To maintain that position the farmer should do some straight thinking and planning. Two things are especially important: 1—He should avoid overexpansion through the purchase of additional land in the peace years ahead; 2—He should make immediate plans to repair the damage to his soil's fertility level which the vast war crop production quotas have caused.

The experience of the last war with its farm land boom and subsequent collapse should be a reminder that the American farmer should not go in for more land than he can successfully handle. Farm land prices have already risen dangerously toward inflation levels. Farsighted agricultural authorities are urging farmers to "keep their shirts on" and steer clear of the pitfalls of land speculation.

Better soil management methods on a well-equipped and economically operated farm will prove safer in the long run than vast fields without efficient management.

The key to successful farming operations in postwar years will lie in increasing the per acre yield on existing crop land rather than in bringing additional acreage under cultivation, a recent statement by the Middle West Soil Improvement committee pointed out.

"In months to come the emphasis will be on reducing the cost of crop production per unit," the statement sets forth. "That means making every acre do a better crop producing job."

"In every community there are farmers who increased their wartime crop output as high as 50 per cent, without increasing the cultivated area by one single acre. In every case the larger yield was the result of adopting good soil fertility practices. The experience of these farmers can be profitably followed by their neighbors in their peacetime operations. Their soil-conserving methods not only prevented waste of fertility, but actually have helped restore it."

Such methods include growing legumes to enrich the soil's nitrogen and organic matter supply, the use of adequate quantities of mixed fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potash, liming, contour plowing and a limiting, so far as possible, of soil-depleting crops."

Soil Fertility Replenishment.
The matter of soil fertility replenishment will have an important bearing on the peacetime continuation of farm prosperity. If the nation's farms are to be kept productive, a vast soil-rebuilding job lies immediately ahead.

How important this is may be understood from a recent report issued by the Soil Conservation service of the department of agriculture which estimated that nearly one billion acres—more than 90 per cent of the nation's farmlands—need soil conservation treatment to protect them from erosion and to maintain their fertility.

Wartime crop goals used up the soil's resources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash faster than they could be replaced in spite of the fact that the fertilizer industry broke all previous production records. Farmers have realized that this wartime drain on their soil's fertility level was a necessary contribution to victory. But the fact remains that wealth borrowed from the soil to help hasten peace must be repaid.

While every encouragement will be given to soil rebuilding projects by the federal government and by state agricultural agencies, the major responsibility for getting the job done will rest on the shoulders of individual farmers.

The effectiveness of the individual farmer's soil rebuilding program can be enhanced by the co-operation of agronomists at state agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Through research and experimentation over a long span of years, these experts have developed information concerning fertilizer needs for various crops and soils that is helpful to the farmer who is undertaking a replenishment program. The co-operation of the fertilizer industry will be an effective aid, also. The present plant capacity of manufacturers is sufficient to meet all peacetime needs of agriculture.

Farmers are more fortunately situated for accomplishing their soil-restoring job than at any time in the past generation. Dollars invested in war bonds, during the period when farm cash income has been at a high level and farm debt at a low point, can provide the ready cash to pay for the nitrogen, phosphorus and potash needed to build up the fertility level of America's soil.



Increased production of dairy and poultry products has been little short of a miracle. Better breeding, feeding and management has been the answer. Even greater results can be expected in the next few years.