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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Radars Opens Way for Scientific Exploration of Stratosphere; Filibuster Fair Employment Bill

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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.

RADAR: Reach Moon

With U. S. army radar contact with the moon, vast possibilities confronted a rapidly developing scientific world, which had recorded the explosive use of atomic energy only a short six months ago.

Having sent radio waves 238,857 miles up to the moon at the rate of 186,000 miles a second and registered echoes 2 1/2 seconds later, army physicists working on the project at the Evans Signal Laboratory in Belmar, N. J., saw these possible revolutionary wartime and peacetime uses of the new technique:

- Radio control of long-range jet or rocket-propelled missiles, circling the earth above the atmosphere.
- Study of effects of upper layers of atmosphere on radio waves.
- Drawing of detailed topographical maps of distant planets and determine the composition of other celestial bodies.
- Radio control of strato-ships sent aloft to record astronomical data computed aboard such craft by electronic devices.

CONGRESS: Seek Labor Curb

Despite the general congressional tendency to give the administration wide latitude in handling the strike situation, especially in an election year, southern solons led by Representatives Smith (Dem., Va.) and Cox (Dem., Ga.) have prodded cautious legislators toward consideration of anti-strike measures.

Hitting congressional timidity for taking the teeth out of the President's proposed fact-finding legislation, Smith declared his intentions to restore the right of federal officials to look into disputants' books in studying issues and establish a 30-day anti-strike period.

In addition, Smith joined with other congressmen in calling for legislation which would make unions as well as companies equally responsible for observing contracts, and went even further in demanding the prohibition of sympathy strikes and the organization of supervisory and management employees.

Crippling Strike

As the far-flung steel strike involving upwards of 800,000 workers took effect, government officials looked to a widespread closing of many plants dependent upon the vital material for peacetime products.

Ordinarily, the big auto manufacturers hold only a 10-day inventory of sheet steel, while producers of washing machines, vacuum cleaners and similar items build up 30 to 40 day stocks. Anticipating a walkout, however, many companies ordered heavily in preceding weeks, though the government restricted permissible inventories of sheet steel to 45 days and other steel to 60 days.

In evaluating the situation, government officials declared that the volume of production would be partly influenced by the amount of material manufacturers may decide to draw on from stocks. Though many of the bigger companies in the auto and appliance industries have been struck, smaller plants and parts suppliers have been free to work.

Rescinding all priorities after the CIO-United Steel Workers left their jobs, the government directed warehouses to channel stocks to utility, fire, police, hospital, railroad, food processing and other outlets serving the public needs.

Plant Seizures

In taking over struck packing plants, the government declared that meat was a vital product, necessary for the maintenance of American strength in securing the peace during the continuing postwar emergency, differentiating it from goods of a civilian nature.

Though AFL members agreed to return to their jobs, the CIO packinghouse workers rebelled at going back in U. S. controlled plants under old pay rates. By taking over the plants and re-establishing old conditions, they said, the government had robbed them of their one weapon for enforcing higher wage demands.

While the government took over the plants of Swift, Armour, Cudahy, Wilson, Morrel and others, with company officials conducting the business under U. S. supervision, federal conciliators maintained efforts to bring the disputants together on the wage issue. Increased price ceilings were proposed to offset higher pay advances.

PEARL HARBOR: Short's Turn

In telling the Pearl Harbor investigating committee that the war department's withholding of intercepted Japanese messages prior to the fatal attack on the naval base had not permitted him to make adequate preparations against assault, Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short took the same position as Admiral Kimmel.

Lashing the war department for having made him the "scapegoat" for the disaster, Short declared that had he been furnished the gist of intercepted Japanese messages pointing toward imminent war, he would have girded his Hawaiian command for an all-out alert. As it was, he said, he only ordered a watch against sabotage and presumed it was satisfactory since Chief of Staff Marshall had not countermanded the step.

Discussing the intercepted enemy message of December 6, indicating a break in diplomatic relations, and the concluding part of the dispatch December 7, specifying the exact time for the rupture, Short asserted that had the war department sent him the information promptly, he would have had four hours in which to prepare for an attack. A telephone call to Hawaii would have taken a few minutes, Short stated.

TALK: And More Talk

Resisting northern efforts to push through the fair employment practices bill, which prohibits discrimination in hiring workers, southern senators led by Mississippi's Theodore G. Bilbo carried on a lengthy filibuster against the measure in their drive to talk it to death.

With all of the southern senators save Pepper (Dem., Fla.) lined up against the FEPC, one outdid the other in holding forth against the measure. Whereas Bilbo announced his readiness to deliver a 30-day speech, Eastland (Dem., Miss.) threatened to outshine his colleague by filibustering for two years.

In forming ranks to talk the FEPC to death, the southern senators, referring to chamber members as "my delightful and revered friend," etc., concentrated on discussion of



As leader of Southern filibuster, Sen. Bilbo grids for 30-day talk.

the contents of the formal senate journal, which carries a detailed account of proceedings. For hours Dixie's stalwarts talked about the advisability of including a chaplain's prayer in the report before Taft (Rep., Ohio) got them off on something else by succeeding in having the matter tabled.

GRAIN: Big Demand

With the government planning to export between 200 and 225 million bushels of wheat during the first half of 1946, and with livestock producers and distillers scrambling for grain to meet heavy feed and processing needs, farmers were assured strong and steady markets through the year.

Because of the government's export program and feed and processing needs, the nation's supply of wheat was expected to dip to around 200 million bushels by July 1, with some sources predicting even less. With one to two months supply on hand, many mills already are beginning to feel the pinch, and distillers have been forced to use hulled oats for alcohol despite smaller gallonage per 100 bushels.

Though the department of agriculture considered limiting the use of wheat for feed, it reportedly was reluctant to act because of a shortage of feed in the poultry producing New England states.

VETS: Surplus Goods

Disposal of surplus goods to vets promised to be speeded up through the formation of a special division in the War Assets corporation to handle the program and meet numerous objections posed by past practices.

Though the volume of surplus goods for disposal will depend upon the final determination of service needs after demobilization, the Chicago regional office of WAC was quick to set up model procedure to facilitate the movement of government material to G.I. applicants.

Under the new system, any vet desiring surplus goods will be given a certificate to purchase whatever material he wants, and a WAC representative then will conduct him to the department handling the item. If the product is not available, the vet will then be notified when it has been received, and he will be permitted to make a purchase under ceilings established by OPA.

Formerly, vets had complained that ceiling prices were too high, and that they had not been notified of public sales to dealers on a bid basis for unclaimed surplus material.

Doctors Aid 'Blue Baby'



Doctor Taussig (left) bids Judy Hackman and father goodbye.

Snug in a scarlet and ivory suit, with a red cap tucked over golden curls, 2-year-old Judy Hackman of Buckley, Wash., kicked impulsively as she was wheeled out of famed Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore, Md., to be taken home after a delicate operation had repaired a malformed heart that menaced her life.

When first brought into the hospital, Judy faced early death as a "blue baby," but Doctors Blacklock and Taussig skillfully sewed a good artery to a defective one, increasing the supply of oxygenated blood in her system. As the youngster recovered, the blue line in her lips gradually was supplanted by a rosy hue.

GERMANY: Rural Elections

First free voting in Germany since the Nazi rise to power in 1933, elections held in the rural sections of the American zone of occupation resulted in a decided victory for the liberal Social Democratic party, which polled 41.4 per cent of the ballots.

In swinging to the Social Democrats, the Germans passed up the conservative Christian Democratic Union of Catholics and Protestants, which drew 28 per cent of the vote, and the radical communists, who polled about 3 per cent.

Lending credence to the American authorities warning that the elections were largely determined by personalities rather than basic party principles was the defeat of the Christian Union. Seeking to swing over the small land-owners' vote, organization candidates asserted that a radical victory would lead to subdivision of existing acreage to accommodate refugees.

INSURANCE: Policy Loans Up

Reflecting increased emergency needs resulting from the economic dislocations following V-J Day, life insurance policy loans have risen since the end of the war, almost doubling in the case of some companies over the record low point of 1945. Advances averaged between \$100 and \$200.

Despite the rise in new loans, however, the debt position of policy-holders was far more favorable than in 1939, the amount outstanding at the end of 1945 having been pared almost 200 million dollars to about 1 billion from the prewar years. Whereas the ratio of loans to reserves stood at 13 per cent in 1939, it now is only 5 per cent.

While cash surrender value payments also rose moderately following V-J Day, the total of 240 million dollars in 1945 compared with 732 million in 1939.



Things You Know All Along: (But which dopey me just found out.)

President Truman is not ill, but the Army has completed plans for a Presidential suite at Walter Reed Hospital. FDR and other gov't officials invariably used the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Md. Since Mr. Truman served in the Army (in World War I), the Army has no intention of turning over its prize alumnus to Naval medics, should he need a doctor. (Mr. Truman discovered that trying to be a middle-of-the-roader means you get slugged from both sides.)

In Berlin the Nazis (civilians, too) gather in front of U. S. PXs and beg the Yanks "for chawklott, chengum" and other goodies, even ciggies. The Americans often share with them. When the Nazis are a safe distance away they make "cracks," thumb to nose, etc. Nurses just back also report the Nazis practically dare the Yanks to hit them with their vehicles or bikes as they cross streets. But when they see the Russians coming in cars, they flee. Because the Russkys run over them! (They respect THEM!)

"Fala at Hyde Park" is the title of an unusual short released on FDR's birthday, Jan. 30th.

Six thousand of the 82nd Airborne Division (who marched up Fifth Ave. the other day) will re-enlist.

During the war ammunition was manufactured in the House of Lords, London.

Believe it or not, but there is even a lobby in Washington to prevent the gov't from establishing national cemeteries in each State. (Cemetery associations are behind the lobby.)

Telephones Immaculate (The Hygienic Phone Service of N. Y., Inc.) is a service which disinfects your phones twice weekly. A New Yorker borrowed the idea from London, which is supposed to be decades behind New York.

Denver has a law which prohibits anyone from photographing a woman in her bathing suit without her consent. (How about without her bathing suit?)

It's against the law in England to marry your mother-in-law.

The howl of wolves at night is really a love call.

A Marine never wears pants or carries a gun. Marines wear trousers and they never call a rifle a gun. (Such airs!)

Pawnshops use three brass balls as a sign because they were part of the coat of arms of the Medici family, the first famous pawnbrokers. (My hockshop told me.)

The moon is gradually applying brakes to the earth's spin. As a result, the day is now lengthening at the rate of one-thousandth of a second a century. (Fevvensakes!)

Napoleon invented the income tax to pay for wars.

Midtown Novellette: A noted attorney revealed this in the Blue Angel. A mother and a daughter were threatened with eviction from a 72nd St. apartment. . . . Because the neighbors complained of the girl's vocalizing. "She's always practicing!" said the landlord. . . . Their lawyer argued the owner into withdrawing the dispossession notice and warned him: "Some day you'll pay to hear her sing!" . . . They moved, anyway, because the neighbors were so mean. . . . That was 3 years ago. . . . If those neighbors do not know what became of that girl—they can pay to find out—at the Met Opera House. . . . Patrice Munsell

The Late Watch: Clark Gable's steadiest companion is Virginia Grey. The reports linking him with this and that gal are strictly "fillers." . . . Big furtre in Washington over Gen. Ike's shakeup at the Pentagon. They're the lads "who flew a deak" largely because socially ambitious wives "couldn't live anywhere else." . . . Hotels will be jammed until next December without a let-up. Conventions, buyers, etc. . . . The Burke-Van Heusen score in "Nellie Bly" is rated a goody. . . . Groucho Marx's dgtr, Miriam, has switched from a newsmag (as copy gal) to an a. m. paper as cub reporter, already.

Lincoln Established Department Of Agriculture 84 Years Ago

Great President Always Remained A Farmer at Heart

Abraham Lincoln sat at his desk studying a document a clerk had laid before him. Now and then he would raise his eyes to glance out the window at a blue-clad sentry pacing the White House lawn.

Soon he finished reading, took off his steel-bowed spectacles, reached for a pen and signed his name to the last page.

The paper he signed that May day in 1862 was not an army-shifting order that would change the tide of battles, but nevertheless its effects have been felt in war and peace in the three-quarters of a century that have followed. The document was an "Act to Establish the United States department of agriculture." Thus in the agony of the Civil war was born an organization which today serves six million of the nation's farms.

Americans remember Lincoln best as the Great Emancipator whose principles have stirred men the world over. Few citizens, perhaps, realize the profound effect Lincoln and his administration had on the agriculture of the United States. For not only did he foster the act establishing the U. S. department of agriculture, but he promoted other legislation that gave farming an impetus that has speeded its development to this day.

Lincoln was farm bred. He never lost the feel of the earth. All his life he was a close student of agriculture. He knew its needs and the possibilities of its advancement as few presidents have before or since. The story of Lincoln's boyhood on the farm is an American classic. His early days were spent on a 30-acre tract near Knob creek about 10 miles from his birthplace at Hodgenville, Ky.

Moved to Indiana. When Abe was seven years old, the family moved across the Ohio river into southern Indiana. Tragedy was to come early into the young boy's life for it was here that his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died. The Lincolns had established themselves on a knoll surrounded by low-lying, marshy fields. Abe had to walk a mile to haul drinking water.

Thomas Lincoln had taken an option on 160 acres of land at two dollars an acre. He completed payments on about half of that total, varying his farming activities with hunting and occasional jobs of carpentry. Seven years after the family had arrived in Indiana, the farm's cultivated area totaled only 17 acres.

The Lincoln family moved to Illinois in 1830, taking up land along the Sangamon river in Macon county. Soon after arriving, Abe reached his 21st birthday. That meant freedom from his father's yoke. So he bade farewell to his family and moved on to New Salem.

Student of Agriculture. As a successful lawyer riding the Illinois circuit and visiting neighboring states occasionally to try cases, Lincoln was a close student of agriculture. He was often invited to speak before farmers' meetings. One of the most notable instances historians record of his appearances before farm groups came in 1859—a year before he was elected President—when he was invited to address the agricultural fair held by the Wisconsin State Agricultural society at Milwaukee.

On that occasion he said: "No other human occupation

opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture. Every blade of grass is a study; and to produce two where there once was but one is both a profit and a pleasure. And not grass alone, but soils, seeds and seasons, saving crops, diseases of crops, what will prevent and cure them; hogs, horses and cattle; trees, shrubs, fruits, plants and flowers—each is a world of study within itself."

His words were prophetic of the research conducted today by plant breeders, animal husbandmen and soil scientists at state agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

There was great room for progress in agriculture when Lincoln entered the White House. Farming was still being done with horse power although an impressive start had been made in mechanization. But it still took about as long to plow a

"I have caused the department of agriculture of the United States to be organized to carry out the act of congress of May 15th last. The commissioner informs me that within the period of a few months this department has established an extensive system of correspondence and exchanges, both at home and abroad, which promise to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a current knowledge of recent improvements of agriculture, in the introduction of new products and in the collection of the agricultural statistics of the different states. Also it will be prepared to distribute largely seeds, cereals, plants and cuttings, and has already published and liberally diffused much valuable information."

The department of agriculture thus played its part in the Civil war. Its services to the nation's farmers have continued to grow. Every farm home today feels its



ILLINOIS HOMESTEAD . . . This is the last farm home built by Thomas Lincoln, father of the president. Abe Lincoln, then a grown man, helped his father build the house and visited it often. It is in Coles county, near Charleston.

field, plant a crop and cultivate it as it had in George Washington's time. This was particularly true in the pioneer areas of settlement in the West.

Reaper Coming into Use. The early 1830s had witnessed the introduction of the reaper but its use was not universal when the Civil war broke out. Farmers had been using the steel plow for about 25 years. The modern fertilizer industry was not established until 1850, after scientific experiments in Europe had demonstrated the value of plant feeding. By 1860 production had reached only 20,000 tons. Last years farmers used more than 12,000,000 tons.

Food production was just as important in the Civil war as in World Wars I and II. Lincoln and his advisers sought measures both near and long range that would strengthen the position of agriculture. The administration threw its weight behind three major bills and within a year they had become the law of the land. They were: the act establishing the U. S. department of agriculture; the land grant college act to which the nation's farmers today owe the existence of the far-flung system of agricultural colleges in every state of the union, and the homestead act.

Lincoln had advocated the establishment of a department of agriculture in his first message to congress, in December, 1861. Then he had said:

"Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only. While it is important that this great interest is so independent in its nature as not to have demanded or extorted more from the government, I respectfully ask congress to consider whether something more cannot voluntarily be given with general advantage."

By the time he delivered his second annual message, the department had been created and Lincoln was able to report:

By its provisions, 160 acres of land was given free to every settler who would live on it for five years. Landseekers rushed to take advantage of the offer. Before the war ended 2.5 million acres were allocated—or an average of 15 thousand farms of 160 acres each.

Railroad lines were extended to link the western farm lands with the markets of the east. The food these new farms produced helped supply the union armies, and combined with the agricultural output of the east, built up a surplus that found a profitable market in Europe.

Following the Civil war the homestead act was instrumental in building up the farming empire west of the Mississippi which became the land of opportunity for the veterans of that war.

As America hails the 175th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, agriculture acknowledges its debt to him. The progress farming had made in the past 80 years would never have been possible without his help.

LINCOLN VIRGINIA HOMESTEAD . . . The ancestral home of Abraham Lincoln in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. John Lincoln, great-grandfather of the martyred president, built the original house. Thomas Lincoln, father of Abe, was born here before the family moved to Kentucky.