

# Washington Digest

## Food Shipments Will Help Write the Peace in Europe

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Since Good Friday, when you heard a President and an ex-President speaking on the same radio program, one in the White House, the other across the Atlantic in Egypt, you have read and heard many other appeals in preparation for a drive which will start shortly to get food to five hundred million starving men, women and children in Europe and Asia.

The voluntary effort to cut down food consumption simply hasn't worked.

It isn't that the people are unwilling. It's that there was no immediate way to cut down on our eating which seemed practical. And so a practical means of getting food in cans is to be tried, and its success will depend on the local volunteer organization in your community. The foods needed are milk (condensed, evaporated or dried), meat, fish, peanut butter, baby foods, baked beans, juices, stews, soups, honey, vegetables.

I know that you have heard this before in detail. I hope you will hear it again, with further details, but perhaps you don't realize what you and the United States can get in return for the food we send out, and what we may lose if starvation becomes widespread.

The whole question is pointed up in a not-too-prominently displayed dispatch from Moscow to which an official called my attention last week. It was a statement made by a correspondent of the Soviet paper Izvestia, who had been touring the American zone in Germany.

"The food stuff difficulties which forced lowering of rations (in the American zone)," the correspondent wrote, "are explained, in my view, not so much by the absence of productive districts as by a lack of order and distribution of agricultural products." Then he went on to explain that the big estates had not been broken up, as they were in the Russian zone.

### Hunger Used as Political Weapon

This criticism, which I think investigation will prove to be exceedingly biased and unfair, reveals how food, or the lack of it, is serving and can serve as a weapon to stir up discontent and to bring the western countries into disrepute and disfavor.

Revolution follows hunger just as surely as hunger follows war.

As a matter of fact, one of the most efficient organizations in the American military zone of Germany is the agency which distributes food. Working closely with it is another highly efficient American agency which the British have used as a model in their zone—the health and sanitation division.

However, there is a food shortage in Germany, just as there is in the rest of Europe. The effects are the same everywhere, and Germany serves as an excellent example of the political effects of a food shortage. There, the American authorities can accurately check on what is going on since the military government is so closely tied in to every phase of the daily lives of the people.

Recently a military government official in Germany wrote to me: "No slogan was ever truer than 'Food will win the war and write the peace.'"

We are about to sit down at the peace table with Italy. Russia probably will not be present. But the food that Italy does not have may affect the validity of that peace treaty.

A revealing comment on how this works was appended to a report made shortly after the British were forced to drop to a 1,000-calorie scale and coal production dropped approximately 20 per cent. This was the comment:

"Heavy workers are dropping at their work and food riots have already taken place. If this ration is not raised soon, there will be no coal; without coal there will be no transportation; without coal and transportation, there will be no processing of food from indigenous resources. . . .

"The fact that we now have to go back on our pledged word to the German people will seriously impair our prestige and the confidence of the German people in the pledged

word of our officials. This will give to those who oppose our economic system the best weapon they have ever received. As fast as possible, we are losing all the advantages gained by the success of arms. We are losing the peace much faster than at the close of World War I. The first great blow has been the food muddle. Others will pile up like a snowball. . . .

"It appears that we will have to reduce the already inadequate ration for Berlin. This, of course, will give the Russians a strong talking point against the western powers when we cannot afford to sustain the 1,550-calorie ration for the normal consumer."

And so the path of our friend, the reporter from Izvestia, crosses that of the American official. Clearly we see the different segments of the picture which opponents of western democracy have sketched in no faint strokes across the troubled world.

Yes, indeed, food will write the peace!

### Polls Show U. S. Ready to Sacrifice

It is interesting to note that the American people are perfectly willing to make sacrifices to send food to Europe. Two surveys were made by the University of Denver National Research center, one of which showed that 68 per cent of those interviewed indicated their wish to resume rationing if necessary in order to send critical food abroad.

Another survey by the same institution showed that more than a third of the people (35 per cent) believed that we should send food to Germany as a gift if she could not pay us for it.

I believe that if a similar poll were taken in regard to feeding Japan, the results would be approximately the same.

### Gardens Grow On Skyscrapers

People have their roots in the soil even when they live 20 stories above asphalt pavements. I had that brought forcibly to mind as I leaned over the wall of a wide terrace of a penthouse garden high above Park avenue, New York.

As I looked to the right and the left, everywhere I saw fresh green edging other walls like the one against which I was leaning; and below me, I could glimpse neat gardens already sprouting cheerfully in the first warm spring sun. There was a vine spreading over one wall; higher up were tall trees bursting into leaf. Tall, I say—the tops were some 300 feet above the pavement, if only some 15 feet above their elevated roots.

I saw one old man in a battered straw hat, his trowel laid aside and the evidence of his industry in a row of little pine trees in neatly painted tubs. He was resting in a garden chair, a little fountain playing in the wall beside him, and a neat privet hedge for his skyline.

Farther away was a real achievement—a lawn at least 50 feet square with tulips blossoming along a neat walk that led to nowhere.

### Rebuild Mexican Agriculture

Through the building of modern, comfortable homes for rural workers, the improvement of farm land, and introduction of mechanized farm equipment, a general plan for the rehabilitation of Mexican agriculture has been initiated. One hundred model farms have been completed in the district of Topilejo, with means for working the land in modern and efficient manner. A model school and home for teachers also have been built.

To create in each center of population a permanent board which will consider the respective problems of farmers, livestock raisers, business men, industrialists and artisans.

To promote undertakings for the manufacture or sale of modern implements of agriculture.

To distribute by credit individually, to towns, or to areas, modern farm tools, necessary technical direction, selected seeds and fertilizer.

To promote and organize private capital for the creation of small institutions that will dedicate themselves to the maintenance of rural credit as the only logical means for agricultural development.

To build schools and homes for teachers in agricultural, industrial or livestock centers, as well as regional hospitals.

### BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Anti-long-nose sentiment interests me personally for the same reason I have always sympathized with Cyrano de Bergerac. The Tibetans, I am told, consider the Western races ugly, because, instead of a nice, modest little proboscis in the middle of their faces, they have what one Tibetan described as "the spout of a teapot turned upside down."

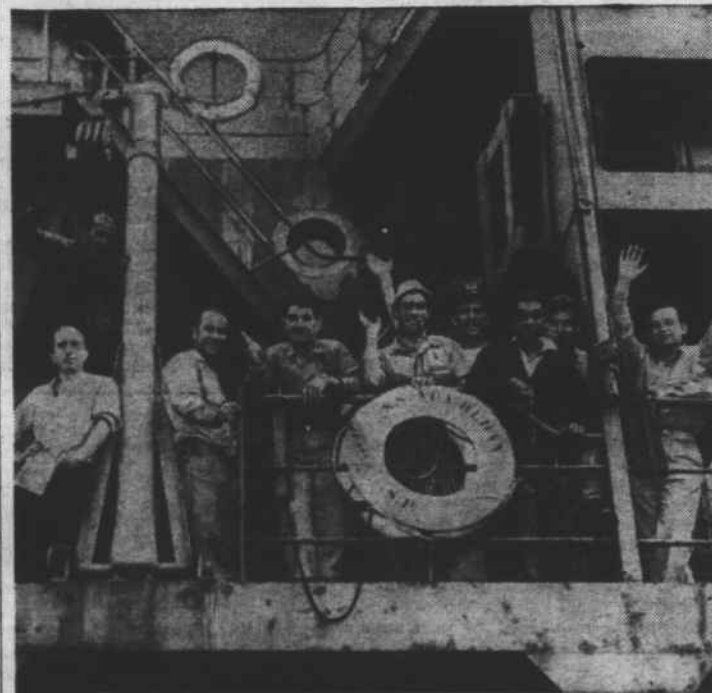
More wartime slaughtering controls will be enforced to check the meat black market. But black market slaughtering is never controlled. All it takes is a tree, a rope, a cow and a knife.

It's true we've had some inflation under OPA. But I can't see how you can stop a leak in the dam by blowing the whole dam up.

HOW THE POSTWAR WORLD HAS CHANGED . . . Miss Susan Turner, instructor in English composition, is shown lecturing to the first co-educational class in the history of Vassar college, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The vets may attend classes but cannot live on the campus, nor will they be granted degrees from Vassar, whose charter prohibits the issuance of degrees to male students.



SWISS JURA HORSE TYPIFIES NATIONAL BREED . . . A lively parade is one of the features of the annual National Horse fair and races at Saigneslegr in the Bernese Jura, Switzerland, held during August. The Swiss Jura horse typifies the national breed. It has proven its worth, having temperament, strength and resistance. The Jura horse is of exceptionally strong build, is tame and docile, and stallions can even be used for all sorts of farm work.



"SCREWBALL VOYAGE" ENDS IN SHANGHAI . . . Crew of the S. S. Ada Rehan line rail after vessel reached Shanghai. The ship left San Francisco some months ago, headed for New Orleans. The voyage lasted eight months and ended in Shanghai without the vessel having touched New Orleans. Skipper had nervous breakdown, mutiny followed, baboon attacked the skipper—were highlights in the voyage.



FARMERS RESPOND TO APPEALS FOR WHEAT . . . Following adoption of the wheat certificate plan which gives farmers delivering their mercy wheat now a year in which to cash in, members of the Farmers Union Co-op elevator at Alfred, N. D., are turning in all excess wheat. Left to right, John Henne, farmer; Floyd Johnston, manager; Milt Holton, official, and Eric Ziemann, president of the La Moure County Farmers union.



WALKS FOR FIRST TIME . . . Born without feet or ankles two years ago, blue-eyed Jimmy Fortner, is shown fighting for his first steps in his new boots with movable ankles and toes at his home in Spanish Fort, Texas.



PANAMA HOLDS FAIR . . . President Enrique Jimenez, right, and Agriculture Minister Antonio Pino, at the opening of Panama's first postwar agricultural exposition, inspect brahman cattle through the bars.



### CABINET LADIES AND MENUS

WASHINGTON. — Ladies of the cabinet are really practicing what their husbands preach regarding the saving of food for Europe. Ever since President Truman urged that the American people eat the equivalent of a European ration two days a week, cabinet wives have been studying menus.

Mrs. Clinton Anderson, whose secretary of agriculture husband is one of the hardest-working of the food conservers, has given permission to publish one of her menus. It provides 1,540 calories — the equivalent of a European ration — as compared with the normal American diet of 3,600 calories.

Here it is, with the number of calories listed after each item of food:

Breakfast—glass of orange juice (75); bowl of cereal (100); milk for cereal (85); half-pint of milk or cocoa (170)—total, 430.

Lunch—half-a-cup of thick soup or chowder (150); vegetable salad without oil in dressing (75); muffin (75); baked custard (100); half-a-pint of milk (170)—total, 570.

Dinner — poultry, fish or meat (150); potato (large serving) (150); green vegetable (peas, beans, greens or broccoli) (40); raw vegetable strips (carrots, celery, tomato, cabbage) (50); half-cup of fruit (150) or milk for children—total 540.

### TRUMAN'S GIRL FRIEND

The leading lady of the poppy presentation ceremonies to President Truman fell hard for the chief executive.

Three-year-old Betty Lou Hall of Eaton Rapids, Mich., one of five orphaned children left by a heroic infantryman killed after the Normandy invasion, was selected to put the poppy in Truman's lapel in behalf of war orphans of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Her job finished, the little girl was asked by photographers if she didn't want to kiss the President. She complied not with one kiss, but a shower of them. In fact, the young lady seemed inclined to continue this part of the proceedings indefinitely until reminded that her embraces were sufficient for picture purposes.

### ARMY MORALS OVERSEAS

One reason for strong sentiment in the senate against drafting 18-year-olds is that many senators have been abroad since V-E Day and have seen first-hand the wanton immorality to which young soldiers are exposed.

Returned senators are especially critical of U. S. army officers for setting a bad example to young G.I.s.

"When they see their superior officers living in German castles with frauleins," reported Sen. Harley Kilgore of West Virginia, "enlisted men get a very bad impression. It's no place for youngsters. After they get to be 21, they can stand on their own feet, but give them a chance to get some education first."

Other senators feel that the army has an obligation to put its house in order before it demands drafting of 18- and 19-year-olds.

"An officer is supposed to set an example to the enlisted man," commented Sen. Ed Johnson of Colorado. "An example of upright living. Some of the examples set by officers in Germany are shocking. Until they clean house they can't expect us to be enthusiastic about the draft."

### Case Bill Boomerangs.

Some of the GOP southern coalition who stamped the Case anti-strike bill through the house are singing a different tune in the cloakrooms since the Illinois primary election returns have come in.

One of the most significant battles in this primary was in the district represented by GOP Con. Robert B. Chipfield of Canton, Ill., an all-out advocate of the Case bill.

A fourth-term, Chipfield boasts that never before has he been opposed in a primary election. However, it was different this year. The Illinoisan not only had an opponent, but he was re-nominated only by the skin of his teeth — approximately 1,300 votes.

Chipfield makes no bones to close friends about the reason for his tight squeak.

"My support of the Case bill came darn close to licking me," he admitted in the GOP cloakroom. "That was the main issue of the campaign."

### DIPLOMATIC CHAFF

The Russian Trade mission to Argentina is not on a brief visit. The Russians brought their families and are prepared to negotiate a long-term trade deal, especially trying to buy the Argentine linseed oil crop. If they succeed, the American home-building program for veterans will be very short of paint. . . . The United States and Great Britain are pressing for an early election in Romania — which the Russians don't seem to want but others do.

### Gems of Thought

WHETHER to see life as it is will give us much consolation, I know not; but the consolation drawn from truth, if any there be, is solid and durable; that which may be derived from error, must be, like its original, fallacious and fugitive. —Samuel Johnson.

Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors. —Confucius.

A little thing comforts us because a little thing afflicts us. —Pascal.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds. —Bacon.

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