

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Act Fast on Vets' Furlough Pay; Axis Allies Seek Soft Peace; Tighten Consumer Credit Rules

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



Will E. Sitterly (left) of village board and two young residents of Lithopolis, Ohio, richest little town in world, rejoice over gift of \$2,500,000. (See Richest Village.)

FURLOUGH PAY: Fast Action

Application forms for vets' unused furlough pay will be available at all post offices by mid-September but disbursement of the five-year bonds will not take place before the end of the month because of time required in printing.

In announcing the procedure to be followed, the war department stated:

1. Applications will be acknowledged when received to assure the vet his claim is on record.
2. Disbursing officers will accept sworn statements of applicants unless there is suspicion of fraud.
3. Army vets unable to determine how much unused furlough pay they have coming, figured on the basis of 2½ days per month, can apply for information to the adjutant general's personnel records branch at St. Louis, Mo.

PARIS: Wanted: Softer Terms

Addressing the delegates of 21 Allied nations at the peace conference in Luxembourg palace, representatives of Italy, Romania and Bulgaria pleaded for moderation of terms on the grounds that, as co-belligerents of the victors in the closing stages of the war, they had made substantial sacrifices for victory.

Speaking for Italy, Premier De Gasperi stated that his country had contributed troops, naval power and materials for three years and that the Allies should think twice before internationalizing Italian dominated Trieste and submitting 180,000 Italians in Venezia Giulia to Yugoslav rule. He also asserted that excessive reparations would weigh down the Italian economy and reduction of armaments would imperil the safety of the state.

Foreign Minister Giorgu Tatarescu of Romania followed De Gasperi to the speaker's dais and asserted that no less than 385,000 Romanians had fought on the allied side during the last six months of the war. Furthermore, he said, German and Hungarian forces had inflicted large-scale damage of Romania after she had deserted the axis cause. Tatarescu asked for a larger army and scaling down of heavy reparations.

On behalf of Bulgaria, Foreign Minister George Koulishiev claimed that his country had suffered 32,000 casualties during the eight months it fought on the allied side. He charged Greek demands for \$750,000,000 in reparations were excessive and asked that Bulgaria be permitted to disarm within reasonable limits. Regulation of traffic on the Danube should be the interest of all the countries bordering the river, including Bulgaria, Koulishiev said.

Unable to come before the peace conference like Italy, Romania and Bulgaria as 11th hour co-belligerents, Hungary pleaded that, despite its participation on Germany's side, it never really was sympathetic to the Nazi cause. After this lame assertion, the Hungarian representative called for the return of at least one-fifth of the province of Transylvania from Romania.

RICHEST VILLAGE: Spending Problem

Biggest job of the little village of Lithopolis, Ohio, population 288, is not how to raise money but how to

enjoy the millions left to it by the Wagnall family.

In all, the Wagnalls have left \$3,000,000 to the little settlement in which Adam Wagnalls of the Funk and Wagnalls publishing house, was born. Following an initial gift of \$500,000 for a 9,000-volume library, auditorium and dining hall, Mrs. Mabel Wagnall Jones then willed an additional \$2,500,000 to Lithopolis to establish a community memorial in honor of her famous father.

Discussing use of the latest endowment, Will E. Sitterly, 66-year-old farmer member of the board of trustees of Lithopolis, declared the money must be used to the advantage of both rich and poor. Although believing that it will take years to complete a program of sound expenditure, villagers looked for an immediate expansion in educational facilities.

Meanwhile economists figured that the total endowments amounted to \$10,000 for each of Lithopolis' 288 residents.

CONSUMERS: Credit Curbs

Apprehensive over an inflationary trend, the federal reserve board clamped down on consumer credit regulations to slacken the flow of easy money in the face of a continued shortage of goods.

The action came after consumer installment loans had risen to the unprecedented rate of 575 million dollars a year during the first quarter of 1946. Normally, consumers do not add to their debts during this period, when they are paying off obligations contracted during Christmas time.

With the price of many automobiles topping \$1,500, the board hiked coverage of its credit regulations up to \$2,000. Anyone purchasing a car in the \$1,500 to \$2,000 range will have to put at least one-third down and pay off the balance in 15 months.

Time for paying off credits on non-durable or semi-durable goods was cut from 18 to 15 months while the period for so-called hard goods was continued at 12 months. With many personal loans being used for purchase of such hard goods as furniture, refrigerators, autos, etc., such obligations will have to be repaid in 15 months.

DARDANELLES: Hot Spot

Another major international row appeared in the making with Soviet Russia's demand upon Turkey that she break the Montreux convention of 1936 and share control of the vital Dardanelles straits leading to the Black sea with Moscow.

Under the convention, the Turks have been entrusted with the guardianship of the strategic waterway and, while they have expressed a willingness to maintain the present arrangement, they have informed the U. S. and Britain that they cannot hold out against the Russian proposals alone. By granting Russian demands, the Turks would be forced to permit Red troops to occupy parts of their soil along the straits.

FARM CREDIT: Co-Ordinate Activity

President Truman's approval of the Farmers' Home corporation bill sponsored by Representative Cooley (Dem., N. C.) set the stage for the streamlining of the government's agricultural credit activities for low income borrowers.

As expressed by Cooley, purpose of the bill is to empower one agency under the secretary of agriculture to make direct loans to farmers who cannot get credit elsewhere for 5 per cent or less. Three-member county committees, consisting of at least two farmers, will be set up to pass on loan applications, and no short-term advance will be made without their approval.

In the reorganization, the Farm Security administration, some activities of the Farm Credit administration and all programs of the National Housing agency pertaining to the FSA will be abolished. The secretary of agriculture also will be required to liquidate all resettlement and rehabilitation projects described by Cooley as "communitic."

DRAFT: Plan Calls

Unless there are more volunteers, draft boards will be asked to call up 185,000 more men in the seven months beginning September 1 to enable the army to maintain its authorized strength through the year, the war department revealed.

Although enlistments are expected to total 279,000 by next June 30, discharge of fathers and soldiers with 18 months of service as required by law will necessitate the heavy peacetime induction, it was said.

With army strength authorized at 1,310,000 on January 1 and 1,070,000 next July, 20,000 active duty reserve officer volunteers will be recalled to duty. Another 25,000 officers will be selected to bring regular officer strength up to 50,000 as authorized by law.

POLITICS: La Follette Falls

While Circuit Judge Joseph R. McCarthy attributed his victory over Robert M. La Follette in the Republican senatorial primary in Wisconsin to the voters' reaction against centralized government, political wisecracks blamed late campaign boners as potent reasons for Young Bob's demise.

Perhaps the most serious of La Follette's blunders was his open last-minute support of Gov. Walter S. Goodland's opponent after the 83-year-old chief executive had vetoed a bill earlier this year which



Young Bob La Follette

would have prevented Young Bob from returning to the GOP fold. With many of Goodland's supporters resenting La Follette's 11th hour move, it was figured that enough may have deserted his cause to result in his narrow loss.

Young Bob's defeat temporarily ended the La Follettes' 41-year dominance in Wisconsin politics, with the old Progressive leadership built up by Fighting Bob Sr., making way for the rising star of industrialist Tom E. Coleman as the conservative boss of Badger State politics.

PALESTINE: Turn on Heat

The illegal Jewish underground organization, Irgun Zvai Leumi, called upon all Jewish resistance movements in Palestine to unite in the fight for attainment of a Jewish national home in the Holy Land even as British officials lambasted Zionists for seeking to high pressure the government into acceding to their demands.

Pointing out that it was necessary to press their drive now while the British were being hard put to maintain order in Palestine, Irgun suggested that the two other resistance groups, Haganah and the Stern gang, combine to form the nucleus of an underground government and army.

Meanwhile, the U. S. refused to formally participate in implementation of a proposal to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish zones and advance Arabs in the Near East \$300,000,000 for economic development to offset overcrowding from large-scale Jewish immigration.



Editor's Note: While Winchell is on vacation, Jack Lait is acting as guest columnist.

Unshackled in a Garden of Eden—

Best American divorce, and fastest, is the decree issued by Federal Judge Moore in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U. S. A. . . . It takes eight hours to get to St. Thomas from New York via plane, flying the new nonstop route. . . . By a new regulation, after six weeks' residence, the decree is signed, eliminating long periods of publication and other delays pertinent to Reno or Miami divorces. . . . The Virgin islands are a practically unknown paradise — few tourists, best Scotch on earth at \$2.50 a fifth, cigars 50 cents a carton, shopping for native woven products at prewar prices and your buck worth 100 cents. . . . Two American hotels — Hotel 829 and the government-run Bluebeard's Castle — total accommodations 60 people! . . . The Virgin islands divorce decree is the only one in the country signed by a federal judge, who is appointed by the President. . . . No V. I. divorce has yet been contested by any state. Lawyers feel that the federal character of the decree puts it above protest. . . . In this tropical Capri, the city-harassed American finds new world comforts along with authentic old world atmosphere like the South Sea islands once had. . . . Natives live in tiny huts, the beaches are blue and coral, the water crystal clear, with vast acres wild, awaiting settlement. . . . The government—local and national—is eager to sell at ridiculously low figures. . . . At Caneel bay, on St. John (one of the U. S. Virgin group), the most breath-taking beach on earth rests its spreading white arms in cool tropical splendor — with an average of three bathers a day! Cabanas, furnished by the U. S., are usually empty.

Atlantic City shut up tighter than ever. . . . The cops just sent the sad word around, and the wheels stopped rolling. . . . Jack Lynch, who lost his historic club on Philly's Walton hotel roof when sudden fire regulations closed it, is hunting a new street-floor spot there; meanwhile, he wants to take over the now dark Rainbow room, in Radio City—but the Rockefeller don't seem to need the money.

When George White, whose "Scandals" rivaled Ziegfeld's "Follies," ran into hit-and-run trouble in San Diego, the supposedly hard-hearted Broadway boys called a meeting and chipped in for a defense fund. . . . Buddy de Sylva was the leader. . . . The kitty went to \$50,000!

Faye (Mrs. Roosevelt) Emerson returns to the stage at Cape Cod, Mass., August 12, in "Here Today," a warmed-over Ruth Gordon starer of 1934. . . . It's official—Joan Crawford's next is "Possessed," with Van Heflin, based on a Cosmopolitan magazine novelette, "One Man's Secret," by Rita Weiman. . . .

Civil aeronautics bureau may not know this: When it approved an around-the-world route for TWA linked with Northwest Air-Line, Howard Hughes, who owns TWA, had an option on control of Northwest. . . . TWA is to fly N. Y. to Shanghai, via Europe; Northwest is to pick up there, flying to Alaska and Seattle. . . . Hughes' option was to become effective if, as and when Northwest got government permission to fly the Pacific. . . . So it appears Hughes, who broke the around-the-world air record, has in hand the around-the-world route he laid out on that famous four-day zoom. . . . And, with announcement of the globe-circling license, plus the approval of the Constellations with changes, TWA stock leaped so that Hughes' holdings have been rising at a rate of about \$1,000,000 a day — as he lies and listens to his ribs knitting.

Jack Dempsey and Jake Amron, former Hollywood restaurant boss, have made a bossy offer for Henry Lustig's Longchamps tax-tainted restaurant chain. . . . "Tobacco Road" earned a fortune largely because Harry Ohrin doesn't go wild on payday. John Barton will draw \$350 a week starring as Jeeter Lester on tour next season, which gives you a rough idea of what the lesser hillbilly performers will rate.

Anniversary of Sound Movies Recalls Early Panic of Stars

Public, Press Unenthused at 'Talkie' Advent

Sound came to motion pictures just 20 years ago yet most of the excitement over the invention that today makes movies one of America's chief industries didn't come from the press or public, but from stars who were panicked by the realization that their voices might not be pitched for recording.

Despite an unenthusiastic public, and skeptical producers of the first talkies, "The Jazz Singer" starring May McAvoy and Al Jolson, was released in 1927. From then on a star's voice was recordable or he was through.

John Barrymore and Conrad Nagel made the transition from silence to sound without a hitch. Nagel, who was under contract to MGM at the time and receiving \$2,500, was loaned to every other company in Hollywood and in the first two years of talkies, he made 31 films.

Westerns Take Lead. Recording sound for Westerns at first seemed impossible but Fox



EARLY IN CAREER . . . Douglas Fairbanks, acclaimed by millions as idol of the screen, is shown with his first camera staff while making one of his early pictures. Actress Bessie Love played opposite the star in above picture, title unknown.

made "In Old Arizona" with Warner Baxter as the star and such film greats as William Boyd, now Hopalong Cassidy, and the late Bill Hart rose to their fame. Westerns

now total more box office receipts than any other type of picture.

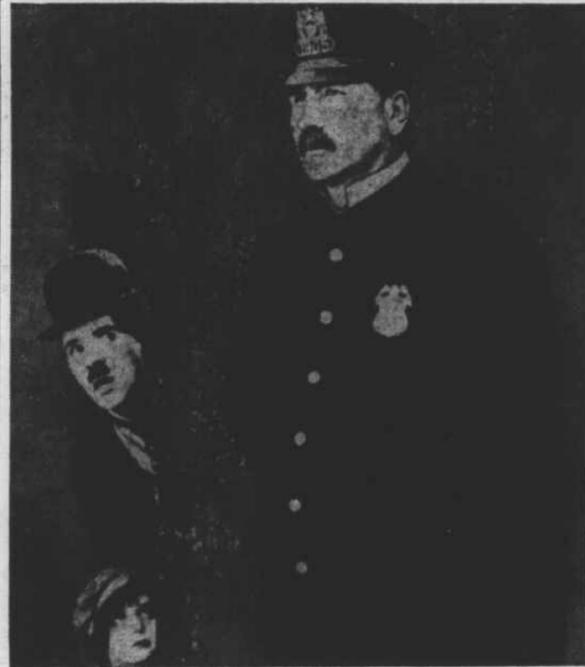
Joan Crawford and Greta Garbo both thought someone was playing a joke on them by substituting men's voices when they first heard recordings of their own voices. Wallace Beery made a talkie for Paramount — his first — promptly was fired and went to MGM. He's been there ever since.

Zazu Pitts of silent days was considered a great dramatic actress. Her voice on the sound track ruined it all and she wisely switched to comedy and made her fortune as a funny girl. Charlie Chaplin, silent and sound comedian of the early days, even now is planning a comeback after six years' absence.

Started in 1927.

Picture and sound recorded and synchronized on the same piece of film caused little excitement when it first was shown to the public in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1927. So the late Charles A. Hoxie of Schenectady, who developed it in the laboratories of General Electric, carted his Kinemagraphone, as he called it, back to the plant.

It wasn't until a year or so later that the president of the company took it with him to Europe to introduce an educational film. There it was received with such enthusiasm that company officials believed the talking movie was perhaps best suited to educational purposes. Before more educational movies had been produced, however, the movie industry put into general use the Hoxie machine. Today it is used by practically every movie company in the country.



HISTORICAL STARS . . . Among the most famous stars in early days of silent films were Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Coogan, shown here in a scene from "The Kid."

OLD WESTERN STYLE

Farmers Pack Guns to Curb Rustlers

MADISON, WIS. — Defying modern methods of criminal detection, Wood county farmers have banded together in the old-time vigilante system to curb a recent outbreak of cattle rustling here.

An SOS over a rural party telephone line prompted the first concerted manhunt, when 50 farmers, packing guns in old vigilante style, set out on a quest for rustlers. They beat a wooded sector from midnight until dawn but the rustlers had disappeared.

Bernard Kroening, who lives in nearby Rock, saw a car slip up to

a woods on his farm, two occupants emerging and entering the woods. He fired three shots, chasing the men deeper into the woods. Meanwhile, his wife got busy on the party line to round up the gang of 50 farmers.

Before their arrival, however, the mysterious car raced off down the road. Kroening gave chase in his car but lost the quarry. Kroening told the vigilantes he believed the two strangers still were in the woods and that the car had been driven by a third party, who had remained in it.

Although hampered by fog, the farmers beat through bushes and thickets for hours without finding the rustlers. Two Marshfield traffic officers and several deputies helped them.

An electric wire which charged a fence on the Kroening farm had been turned off by the thieves, and the farmers theorized that the men had made careful preparations for herding the animals through the fence when a truck arrived later.

In a previous rustling incident, mysterious strangers fired on a farmer who came upon them unexpectedly on his farm near Wisconsin Rapids.

Town Opens Secession Move

WENDOVER, UTAH-NEVADA. —Reminiscent of the Civil war controversy is the move sponsored by 2,000 residents of the Utah part of this little Bonneville salt flats town of 2,500 to secede from Utah so they can join their other 500 town-folk as residents of Nevada, where a man can do anything he wants—well, almost anything.

"Utah doesn't even seem to know we're in the state and apparently doesn't even care if we're in the Union," bewailed Lester Giffen, spokesman for the secessionists. Main complaint against Utah is the fact that the Beehive state's laws are too strict.

"A tourist, coming from the East, stops in my place and looks for the slot machines," explained a cafe owner on the Utah side. "I have to tell him we can't have them, so he says 'to heck with

you'—and drives across the border to Nevada."

While this same innkeeper can sell only 3.2 beer, his fellow barkeepers across the state line have some of the best-stocked bars in the West.

"In Nevada, if a man wants a drink, he orders one or two, then he's happy—and satisfied," Giffen said. "In Utah, he has to get a permit, go to the state-owned store and buy a quart. Then he feels he has to drink the whole quart. So he doesn't show up for work the next day."

Petitions will be presented to the Utah legislature and, if approved there, must be accepted by the Nevada legislature. Then congress will be asked to alter the Utah-Nevada boundary to include all of Westover in Nevada.

Texas High School Boy Presents Own Program on Radio

MESQUITE, TEXAS. — Although only 17 years old, Dale Berry, Mesquite high school senior, has been booked on a sustaining program over radio station WRR with his own cowboy band. Berry, who secured his own sponsor for the program, formerly played with Bill Boyd's Cowboy Ramblers and was on the Grand Ole Opry program over a Nashville station.

Berry plays the guitar and other members of the band are Robert Jenkins, Cleo Landolt, Benny Willbanks and Matt McGlothorn. Instruction in piano and a few guitar lessons represent Berry's only musical training. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Berry of Mesquite.