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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

British, French Form New Bond; GOP Chiefs Push Tax Reduction; Ford Takes Price Leadership

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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.)



Governor Ellis Arnall (at left) faces Herman Talmadge (at right) in executive office in Atlanta, Ga., as latter claims post left open by death of his father. (See GEORGIA.)

ALLIANCE: Britain-France

Traditional allies against Germany, Great Britain and France renewed their old bond in London by agreeing to a treaty of alliance to guard against a rebirth of an aggressive Reich.

Though the alliance ostensibly was directed against Germany, observers saw in the pact a strengthening of the western European powers against the expanded influence of Russia on the continent. With Britain and France serving as a core, smaller nations like Holland and Belgium might adhere to the western bloc to check the threat of communism.

In concluding their alliance, Britain and France agreed to work for the orderly development of western European economy to promote mutual prosperity and at the same time prevent establishment of a strong industrial base for war in Germany. Emphasis was placed on harmonizing the British and French economies to remove trade conflicts and harnessing essential German industry, like coal, to the needs of neighboring countries.

CONGRESS: Tax-Minded

Standing pat on their determination to scale personal income taxes and trim the 1947-'48 budget of unnecessary frills, GOP house leaders massed to push through a 20 per cent cut proposed by Representative Knutson (Rep., Minn.).



Knutson

With the Republicans cautious about paring military expenditures because of the unsettled world situation, President Truman's budget did not leave too much room for tinkering. As a result, GOP leaders planned to concentrate on the income cut estimated at 3 1/2 billion dollars and continue the current high excise levies on liquor, furs, jewelry and other items.

Representative Taber (Rep., N. Y.), chairman of the house appropriations committee, asserted the budget could be reduced at least 3 to 4 billion dollars, still assuring essential expenditures and allowing for a payment on the national debt. Such a cut would bring the budget in line with the decrease in revenue resulting from the 20 per cent tax slash.

FORD: Production Lead

Declaring that the high standard of American living was based upon mass production, Ford Motor company slashed the price of nine models from \$15 to \$50 to stimulate a cautious buyers' market.

Thus did Henry Ford II, youthful president of the famed auto company, steal a march on organized labor on the eve of negotiations for new contracts and set the pace for industry generally. As labor was to clamor for higher wages, Ford in-

ferred that they could be paid out of increasing production of goods, with workers sharing the rising profits.

With prices away up and buyers hesitant to pay for inflated values, American industry stands at the crossroads, Ford said. Bring prices within reach of the average consumer through mass production and the U. S. may well avoid a business recession, he declared. With employee efficiency on the rise, Ford revealed that his company is turning out about 4,000 units a day, exclusive of buses and tractors.

FOOD: Full Larder

Sugar, cooking and salad oils and many processed foods containing these ingredients may be in short supply in 1947 but otherwise Americans are assured of a full larder this year, the National Grocers Bulletin reported.

A roundup of the food industry resulted in these predictions:

MEAT: Per capita supplies should include 68 1/2 pounds of pork, 63 pounds of beef, 9 pounds of veal and 5 1/2 pounds of lamb and mutton.

POULTRY: The number of farm-raised poultry promises to be up 5 to 7 per cent and commercial broiler production up 15 per cent. With exports lower, there should be sufficient eggs despite an 8 per cent drop in production.

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Despite somewhat smaller milk output, supplies of dairy products should be adequate to meet demands.

FRESH VEGETABLES: Plenty at lower prices.

FRUITS: Record volume.

GRAIN FOODS: Bumper grain crops assure ample stocks of flour, hot and cold cereals, spaghetti and corn sirup.

CANNED FOODS: Production is expected to reach record figure of 600 million standard cases compared with 514 million in 1945.

Even the sugar situation will not be so bad, the Bulletin said. At 35 pounds the per capita supply of sugar will be at least 10 pounds more than in 1946, and use of substitute sweetening agents will help increase production of prepared desserts, cake mixes, chocolate and cocoa, condensed milk, jams and jellies.

GEORGIA: Chip Off Old Block

With "Old Gene" gone, "Young Herman" kept alive the fiery Talmadge tradition in Georgia politics. When his father died before he could be inaugurated, young Talmadge mustered sufficient support in the legislature to have himself named governor; then, defying incumbent Governor Arnall, who held his election illegal, he set up his own offices in the state capitol.

Meeting young Talmadge's bold challenge, Arnall carried the issue to the state supreme court, dominated by his own appointees. But again Herman struck back by threatening to ignore an adverse court decision on the grounds that the constitution empowered the legislature to elect a governor and a denial of the right represented judicial encroachment upon the legislative branch of government.

Amid the hub-bub, one sure fact emerged: Young Talmadge had demonstrated political leadership and was a power to be reckoned with in Georgia politics.

ITALY: U. S. Helps

Anxious to bolster the democratic elements in Italy against unrest rising from economic chaos following the war, the U. S. granted Italy a 100 million dollar loan to rebuild key segments of industry and also took emergency action to route 50,000 tons of wheat to the distressed country.

U. S. action climaxed Premier Alcide de Gasperi's whirlwind negotiations with Washington for speedy assistance. The lean, bespectacled Italian head of state flew to this country for help as his regime was shaken by continued unemployment and food riots.

The U. S. advanced 100 million from the Export-Import bank on the stipulation that the Italian government could maintain political stability and also provide for other imports needed to make the nation's economy work.

Heeding de Gasperi's plea that Italy was scratching the bottom of its larder and was in need of substantial help before the next harvest, the U. S. diverted to Italy six ships bearing grain destined for Germany.

CANOL: End of a Project

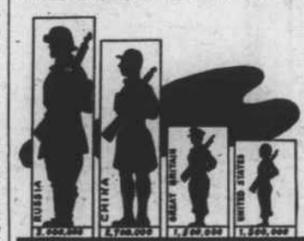
In negotiating an agreement with the Canadian government for disposal of the Canol oil project in Yukon territory, the U. S. closed the book on one of the most controversial developments rising from the needs of World War II. Condemned as a "costly blunder" by the senate war investigating committee last September 1, Canol was built by the army to furnish a convenient source of fuel for use in the Alaskan zone. Though petroleum experts reported that oil resources near Fort Norman were "very limited," the army drilled wells there and erected a 600-mile pipeline to a new refinery at Whitehorse.

By persisting in development of Canol in the face of stiff congressional opposition, the army brought the ensuing wrath upon its own head. Built at a cost of more than 55 million dollars, Canol failed as a big producer from the start, and private interests hesitated to risk its operation in peace. Hence the agreement to sell the facilities on the spot, dismantle them for piecemeal disposal, or abandon them.

World an Armed Camp

Russia has at least 3,000,000 troops massed behind the iron curtain, according to an estimate by Maj. Hal D. Stewart writing in the semi-official *Armored Cavalry Journal*.

Major Stewart's estimate of Soviet military strength was made in an article on the size of postwar armies. Drawing his figures mainly from war department intelligence reports, he pointed out that his compilations may not be wholly accurate because of the secrecy employed by some countries.



in veiling the true strength of their armed forces.

In all, some 11,000,000 men and women are under arms, Major Stewart said. Next to Russia, the Chinese Nationalist government maintains the largest army with 2,700,000 regulars, while the Chinese Communists claim a force of 1,000,000.

Britain rates third with 1,500,000 troops and the United States follows with 1,300,000. Although a small nation, Yugoslavia has 800,000 in uniform, including 80,000 women.

FEED: Good Supply

Farmers can count on ample supplies of feed grains for livestock through the current feeding year, the Feed Industry council concluded after a comprehensive study.

Total requirements of 109,465,000 tons of grains and mill feeds should leave a carryover of 16,620,000 tons at the end of the crop year, the council said. A breakdown showed estimated needs of 53,280,000 tons for swine; 24,502,000 tons for poultry; 22,323,000 tons for dairy cattle; 14,833,000 for beef cattle; 967,000 tons for sheep and lambs, and 5,250 tons for horses and mules.

In contrast to the adequate supplies of feed grains, the council estimated a deficit in stocks of high protein feeds. However, the experts averred that the price situation would tend to balance the supply and cause a more careful use of high quality protein by feeders.



Man About Town:

How Times Change Dept.: Dwindling payrolls and no jobs are sending more vets back to school than ever; 1947 will be the most educated year of all times. . . . Excerpt from Nevada: "Business here dropped terribly in all lines. Our bar fell off 100 per cent; likewise dining department. I am now sole owner and may become janitor too. Hear it's quiet all over the country. For what reason I do not know. . . . Boston clergymen protested the new dime fare there. They argue fewer people go to church on the Sabbath as a result. . . . Woolworth's on 44th and Broadway now is offering toy trains at \$21. Dime store, eh? . . . Capitol economists predict a hot summer, preceded by a receded spring. In short, hold your government bonds. You'll need them more then, praps.

Manhattan Murals: The Bowery jewel market (near Canal and Hester streets) which resells gems containing loving inscriptions. Mementoes of dead romances. . . . The weather observatory atop the Times Bldg. tower. . . . The many old-law tenements on Tenth Ave.—without bathing facilities. . . . The kerriers who haunt Union Square: A pushcart peddler who sells "magic" roots that are supposed to be love potions, and a turban'd gent who sells "prophecies" for a nickel.

The Press Box: Marshall is the fourth secretary of state within two years. Apparently peace also has its casualties. . . . Can't figure out why that handful of pressmen (who stayed away for a few days, stopping the Miami papers) didn't pause to think of this: Their stoppage didn't stop salaries of staffers or printers — only newsboys and old men and women newsstand-keepers who took the shelling. . . . Answer me this, if you can. Every police station in New York City features two green lamps outside. But those at police headquarters aren't lighted at night. . . . For the first time in 12 years, the police commissioner has the 40 reporters (at headquarters) all acting as his press agents. Rate him high. . . . Quote of the week: Bilbo's blast to news photographers: "Don't you people have any ethics?"

Beginning of the End Dept.: A Washington reporter said Taft "isn't the most photogenic aspirant for the '48 presidential nomination and that if he isn't more polite his pix may make him look sillier." Seems Taft and others were asked (by photos) to stand a little closer for a shot, and he irritably barked: "You had better take the picture as we are or don't take any!" The lads took a walk.

Memos to the Editor: Stalin, Gromyko and Novikov were invited to attend or send representatives to the Report from the World Forum at Cleveland. Not one R.S.V.P.'d. . . . Have the Ile de France and other French liners been taken off their runs to rush troops to French Indo-China? . . . Publishers are rushing to secure the U. S. rights for Hermann Hesse's books. He's the Nobel prize winner in literature. A few weeks ago few knew his name. . . . Sarah Churchill's male lead in "When in Rome" (now being filmed there) is Tullio Carminati, who quit the U. S. for "My Beloved Duce." (Remember Pearl Harbor?) . . . F. Sinatra and his ciggie sponsor will have it Renegotiated. . . . Insiders say "nothing to the Farley boom." . . . Nickel swindle case Jimmy Collins' cell was next to the nine men who escaped. . . . Sophie Gimbel's boy, Jay, and Louise Jarvis have it bad. Been going steady for two nights now.

Sallies in Our Alley: Andy Russell relays this Hollywood conversation. One gal whispered: "I hear she's happily married." "I gedit," giggled another, "Separated, eh?" . . . Item: "Ex-Sen. Wheeler and Son Open Law Office. Firm name, 'Wheeler & Wheeler.'" . . . In Songs, Dances and Monotonous Sayings.

Manhattan Murals: Ladies of the Evening (as they are laughingly called) strolling near the swankier 5th Avenue hotels—some with dogs on leash. . . . The bracelets from Palestine worn by Jewesses—the letters cleverly spell it this way: JerUSALEM.

NO 'DOG'S LIFE'

Old-timers of Canine Kingdom Boast of Interesting Careers

WNU Features.

It may be a "dog's life," but it's still a good life, it is revealed in a series of unusual animal stories compiled by Gaines Dog Research center of New York in connection with its quest for the oldest dog in America.

Pampered oldsters of the human race command no more attention than do their counterparts in the canine realm and occasionally, too, their owners sadly admit, even doddering old dogs are inclined to "go to the dogs."

The homesick dog which traveled 1,800 miles through strange territory to find his family, the talking dog, the dog credited with killing more than 600 coyotes, the dog which went to school daily and, after his mistress' graduation, accompanied her to the office every morning — all these and many other yarns of a sensational character were uncovered by the Gaines center in response to its query concerning the oldest dog.

Reports on more than 200 dogs were received from 43 states and Canada.

Ranks as Oldest.

Oldest is Laddie Boy (named after the late President Harding's dog), a 25 1/2-year-old male owned by Mrs. E. C. Baynard of Rocky



Mount, N. C. His ancestry is "dubious," Mrs. Baynard explains, his mother being a Pekinese and his father a "traveling man." Laddie Boy's age is equivalent to 135 years in a human being.

The exceptional attention and care which he has received from his mistress for more than a quarter century are credited with Laddie's longevity. Although a dog half his age is considered old, Laddie still can amble about. He prefers, however, to spend long hours in his wicker basket, barking vigorously when he wants his dinner or other attention. Laddie's eyesight is very poor but his health remains good as he has required no veterinary attention for four years. Despite an almost complete absence of teeth, Laddie has a big appetite. He is devoid of all his hair save for the head, legs and a narrow furrow on his back.

Besides Laddie, there were reports on 19 other dogs 20 years of age or older. The average dog has a span of life of 10 to 12 years.

Not all of the owners who submitted data mentioned the sex of their aged pets. Of those who did, however, 106 reported males and 78 females, indicating that the male dog's longevity is greater.

The North Central states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio reported the most aged dogs—40 in all—with the Middle Atlantic states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania trailing with 39. Among individual states,

HEFTY HAULS

Crooks Specialize in 'Big' Jobs—Even Houses

Thieves operated in a big way during the past year, the crop of crooks finding few jobs too hazardous to handle.

In the line of big jobs, the San Fernando, Calif., valley thief probably rates the year's laurels. Undoubtedly cognizant of the housing shortage, that enterprising thief stole a three-room house.

A close second was the light-fingered but strong-backed thief who stole a country schoolhouse at Quesnel, British Columbia.

There may have been a reason for stealing living accommodations—but no one can figure out what even a thief wanted with a road grader, complete with 12-foot blade. However, when one was left unguarded a few weeks near Vancouver, Wash., it disappeared.

Demonstrate Efficiency. Not only the outside jobs proved big, however. In Boston, a thief carefully rigged up a block and tackle to steal a piano from a third floor apartment. The piano probably was out of tune; police recovered it later in a pawnshop.

Efficiency is the keynote in the burglary realm, it seems. An enterprising second story man out in San Bernardino, Calif., rigged up a labor-saving electric hoist to steal a quarter-ton safe.

A couple of holiday artists in Washington, D. C., got off with

New York led with accounts of 18 dogs.

Country Dogs Healthier.

Although city dogs generally are believed to be healthier and longer-lived than their country cousins, by far the largest number of reports on old dogs came from small and medium-sized centers.

One of the most sensational reports came from Mrs. Robert E. McKinley of Federalburg, Md. In describing her 17-year-old mixed terrier, Buster, Mrs. McKinley insists, "He can actually talk, saying such words as 'I'm hungry' and 'I want to go out.'"



One of the most remarkable feats in the dog kingdom was accomplished by Jiggs, now 21 years old, owned by Mrs. Oscar Bengtson of Anaheim, Calif. In 1934 the Bengtson family moved from Truman, Minn., to Anaheim, leaving Jiggs, a large crossbreed, half shepherd, half St. Bernard, with a friend. Jiggs stayed with the friend eight weeks and then vanished.

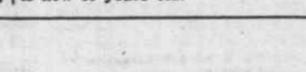
Two and a half years later Jiggs appeared at the Bengtson home in California, having traversed half the continent in covering a distance of 1,800 miles to rejoin his family. Jiggs, who was in his 10th and 11th years when this exploit was achieved, has not been separated from his family since.

Still Active Hunter.

A plutocrat is Zippy, 19-year-old male toy black and tan terrier. His owner, Mrs. William E. Griffith of Somerset, Pa., told the Gaines center that Zippy "has traveled extensively, stopping at the very best hotels in the country."

An ardent hunter is Susie, now 16, owned by Al Johnston, government trapper of Logan, Mont. Susie, who still goes hunting with her owner every day, is credited with pulling down more than 600 coyotes. Her major accomplishment, however, involved helping to capture a wolf weighing 103 pounds.

At the age of 12, Ritz Rachmani-ov, a purebred Samoyede owned by Mrs. Daniel McKnight of Vallejo, Calif., distinguished himself by siring a litter of four healthy puppies. Twelve years in a dog's life are the equivalent of 75 in a human's. Ritz is now 15 years old.



Although 16 years of age, Buddy, a shepherd of the collie type belonging to Mrs. Stoddard Porter of Grahamsville, N. Y., still works for a living. His main job is to bring the cows home from pasture every afternoon and, his owner points out, he has never come in without all of them. In addition to his herding duties, he has completely eliminated woodchucks from the Porter farm.

Follows Mistress.

Duplicating the story of Mary and her little lamb, Mrs. Martha V. Albers of Arthur, Ill., reports that her fox terrier, Rex, now 17 years old, daily accompanied her and her two brothers to grammar school and then to high school. When Mrs. Albers finished high school and went to work, Rex accompanied her to the office every morning.

A real old-timer is Foxy, a collie owned by Capt. William Penn Lodge of Long Beach Island, N. J. Now 23 years old, Foxy can credit his longevity to an active youth. Foxy was found as a young wild dog running at large in the woods of Pennsylvania. Captain Lodge captured the dog and tamed him. For years, Foxy, grown from a wild puppy into a "dignified citizen," has been a familiar sight racing along for his exercise at the side of the Lodge car.

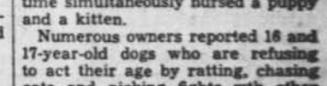
Show Motherly Traits.

Motherly instincts prevail among the queens of the canine world, the Gaines survey discloses. From Mrs. B. J. Blackburn of Roseville, Mich., came a picture of her sporty-looking purebred wire fox terrier, Acelona Wire Girl (Acie), now 12 years of age and still svelte of figure.

Acie has produced 10 litters of puppies and raised all of them. Besides nursing her own offspring, she has acted as foster mother on three different occasions for other dog mothers who were unable to care for all their puppies. This super-mother, Mrs. Blackburn reports, still has perfect teeth, hearing and eyesight.

Fred Oertel of Keokuk, Iowa, relates that his white female spitz, Midgie, had a litter of three healthy puppies in May, 1946, when she was 16 years old. On other occasions when she has had no puppies of her own, Midgie has mothered a litter of white rats, some chickens, another dog's four puppies and at still another time simultaneously nursed a puppy and a kitten.

Numerous owners reported 16 and 17-year-old dogs who are refusing to act their age by rattling, chasing cats and picking fights with other dogs. One bewildered owner remarks of her 18-year-old terrier, "She plays and rolls on her back, chases cats and chickens and behaves disgracefully in general. Perhaps she is in her second puppyhood."



Some thieves still have a sense of decency although one in Pottsville, Pa., had a warped sense of proportion. He stole an automobile, but left the owner a bicycle in its place.

Caravan To Follow Mormon Trek

SALT LAKE CITY. — Retracing the route of Brigham Young and the first band of Mormon pioneers just 100 years ago, a caravan of 43 canvas-topped motor cars will carry 143 men, 3 women and 2 children half way across the United States.

The journey, extending from Illinois to Utah, will be one of the 69 major events which Utah residents have planned as attractions for the Beehive state's centennial celebration.

Starting at Nauvoo, Ill., July 14, the automobiles will journey 1,500 miles to Salt Lake City, following

as closely as possible the route traversed by the original Mormon settlers.

Each night the 1947 "covered wagons" will draw up in a circle at the site of one of the camping spots where in 1847 the original 148 sought shelter. Plans call for the caravan to reach Salt Lake City, July 22.

Prime objectives for the trek, as well as for the entire year of centennial activities, are to bring enjoyment to those participating and to focus attention on early history of the state.