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House To Vote On Suspending 40-Hour Week

Arbitrary Labor Leaders' Raked By Smith, Author Of Proposal

McMICK RAPS PLAN

Would Undo Gains Of Many Years He Tells Members Of House

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—(AP)—A bitter debate, the House postponed until tomorrow a vote on a proposal to suspend the duration of the Federal laws calling for a 40-hour week and extra pay for overtime.

The author of the plan, Rep. (D-Va.), raked "arbitrary labor leaders" who, he said, were "for silly reasons" opposing the measure.

McMick, Democratic leader of the House, said that the measure would undo gains of many years. He said that the measure would undo gains of many years. He said that the measure would undo gains of many years.

Need More Time

He declared the 40-hour week law was enacted when the war was not at war, and conditions since Pearl Harbor had provided the necessary production program could not be carried out with limited working hours.

Marion Ray Warren, Clinton Is Killed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Marion Ray Warren, 2-year-old son of Marion Warren, was killed in a collision with a truck owned by Lottie Warren and driven by Hudson's Warren over him while he was working on his father's garage.

Follows Farmer; Sends Him To Hospital

WOODWARD, Okla., Feb. 26.—(AP)—A 22-year-old man, Allen, was sent to a hospital here. His condition is critical.

Soviets Close Trap On 96,000 Germans South of Leningrad

Encircled Army Pounded Relentlessly In Furious Battle

ADVANCES CONTINUE

Nazi Forces Reported To Be Disintegrating Under Onslaught

MOSCOW, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Soviet forces in the strategic Staraya Russa area 150 miles south of Leningrad have closed a giant trap on 96,000 men of the second German army corps under General Broedford, triumphantly worded dispatches from the bitter cold front said tonight.

The trapped forces were being pounded relentlessly in a furious battle, now two weeks old, for control of a vital area at the heart of a triangle formed by Moscow, Leningrad and the Latvian border.

CANADIANS CAN FIGHT FOR U. S.

Prime Minister Says They Can Battle In Alaska Or U. S. To Oppose Invasion

OTTAWA, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Prime Minister MacKenzie King told the House of Commons tonight that Canadians trained under compulsory service could be sent to Alaska or the United States to help repel any invasion attempt.

The prime minister pointed out that the government's pledges not to conscript Canadians for overseas service would not be a technical barrier to sending troops to the continental United States or the Alaska territory adjoining Canada itself.

Siamese Twins Born To Couple In Jersey

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Face to face and joined together, two baby girls rested tonight in a single crib at St. Vincent's hospital, Staten Island, while in another room their mother kept asking:

"Where are my babies? Are my babies all right? They won't let me see them."

Finally, hospital attendants advised Carmine Picciotto, the 29-year-old father, to tell his wife that she had given birth to Siamese twins. When he informed her, nurses said, she expressed astonishment but quickly became reconciled.

Dutch Claim Japanese Have Already Lost One Third Of Cruisers

BATAVIA, Friday, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The Japanese already have lost one-third of their cruisers, along with other drastic naval and air losses, the newspaper Soerabaja Handelsblad said today.

(Jane's fighting ships lists 35 Japanese cruisers of all types, and there are others of unknown number presumed to have been completed secretly. An Associated Press tabulation Thursday showed 8 Japanese cruisers sunk by Dutch and American forces, 4 probably sunk and 20 damaged.)

BIDS FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS OPENED

Committee Will Meet Friday At Noon To Consider Acceptance

Low bids for the second half of the New Hanover county school board's \$868,023 building program, submitted Thursday, totaled \$417,754, or \$108,000 in excess of estimates.

Contracts are to be let by the board for construction of two new schools and an addition to another. The new schools will be Lake Forest on South Thirteenth street and Sunset Park. A second story and cafeteria are to be added to the Forest Hills school.

Gasoline Curfew Proposed To Avoid Rationing Board

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Closing of all retail gasoline stations between 7 p. m. and 7 a. m. daily and all day on Sunday to avoid the necessity for national rationing of gasoline was advocated today by the Eastern States Executive committee of the gasoline dealers conference.

Sol A. Herzog, committee spokesman, declared that "we urge the promulgation by the Federal government of mandatory nation-wide 7 p. m. to 7 a. m. and Sunday closing of all stations. We think that Secretary of the Interior Ickes's request for a 15 per cent reduction in gasoline consumption can be met in this way."

WEATHER

FORECASTS: NORTH CAROLINA—Continued cold, somewhat lower temperatures east and central portion Friday; scattered light snow, mostly in west portion.

(EASTERN STANDARD TIME) (Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday) (By U. S. Weather Bureau)

Temperature: 1:30 a. m. 36; 7:30 a. m. 32; 1:30 p. m. 47; 7:30 p. m. 44; maximum 48; minimum 31; mean 40; normal 49.

Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 72; 7:30 a. m. 79; 1:30 p. m. 47; 7:30 p. m. 69.

TWO MORE JAP SHIPS TORPEDOED BY ALLIED FORCES OFF BATAVIA

Thousands Of Allied Troops Stand Ready To Fight For Java

One Enemy Cruiser Also Believed Hit In Close Action

STIMSON IS GRATIFIED

BANDOENG, Java, Friday, Feb. 27.—(AP)—American, British and Australian troops now in Java prepared to defend this Allied outpost against the expected Japanese direct onslaught now number "many thousands," Lieut-Gen. Hein Ter Poorten, commander-in-chief of The Netherlands East Indies Army, declared in a broadcast last night.

The Dutch commander, welcoming the Allied forces, urged them in English—"to fight like wildcats and fight like hell."

Presence of the Allied troops in Java had been announced to the outside world a few days ago, but tonight's remarks by the Dutch commander contained the first official reference to figures.

U. S. Will Evacuate All San Diego Japs

Will Be Moved 'Somewhere East Of The Sierras,' Says Order

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Feb. 26.—(AP)—Norman Neukom, assistant U. S. Attorney, said tonight orders to move all San Diego county Japanese, including those of second generation, "somewhere east of the Sierras" would be issued, possibly within the next 48 hours.

Neukom also reported that the entire San Diego waterfront area probably soon would be prohibited to enemy aliens. A major portion of the waterfront now is barred to them. The attorney said his advice came from an authoritative source.

ORDER TO RESUME WORK IS GIVEN

Government Officials Cite Labor's Recent 'No Strike' Pledge

Government officials, pointing to labor's recent "no strike" pledge, yesterday demanded immediate resumption of work in a Pittsburgh steel plant, a Hoboken, N. J., shipyard, and Phoenix, Ariz., wood-working mills where production has been affected by labor disputes.

Litvinoff Expects End Of Hitler By Summer

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Maxim Litvinoff, Russian ambassador to the United States, declared tonight that he believed Hitler could "be destroyed by the summer."

In his first public address since taking over his post in Washington, prepared for delivery before the overseas press club and broadcast by the Mutual Broadcasting System, the Soviet ambassador warned that the opportunity for a summer victory over Hitler might be missed and said:

"Only by simultaneous offensive operations on two or more fronts separated by long distances could Hitler's armed forces be disposed of and that is why Hitler would dislike such operations."

One Enemy Cruiser Also Believed Hit In Close Action

STIMSON IS GRATIFIED

By WITT HANCOCK BATAVIA, Netherlands East Indies, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Two more enemy troop ships, a naval auxiliary and a freighter, have been torpedoed by United States submarines in the great Allied counter-offensive against Japanese invasion trains massing in these waters, the Dutch command announced tonight.

It added that aside from these successes, American submarines had closed also with a Japanese squadron of cruisers and destroyers and though forced to dive before the results could be observed, were believed to have hit one of the enemy.

While the invader's already tremendous sea losses were thus being extended—and U. S. Secretary of War Stimson was declaring in Washington that the Allied defense had been "magnificent"—the Dutch command reported that for the seventh successive day Japanese bombers had been generally ineffective in their intense efforts to knock out this island's airbases as a probable prelude to an attempt at mass invasion.

Delaying Action

Afield, in the outlying islands of the archipelago, Dutch troops were continuing their persistent delaying actions—fighting on Celebes with unabated fierceness; falling back in west Borneo but struggling on and ignoring a Japanese ultimatum to surrender or die, and quite possibly maintaining a rear-guard action, even on Amboina, which long since had been claimed by the enemy.

WAR ARTHUR'S ARMY TAKES OFFENSIVE

Numerous Japanese Advance Positions On Bataan Captured

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur's men on Bataan peninsula have suddenly taken the offensive, capturing numerous Japanese advance positions, and in one sector forcing the invaders to retreat several kilometers, the War department reported today.

Far from beaten, the defenders of the Philippines "attacked sharply all along the line." The surprise thrust was apparently successful generally, but particularly so on the right where the deepest enemy withdrawal took place. Main enemy positions were not penetrated, the communique said, but at last reports the fighting was still in progress and local successes continued.

At a press conference, Secretary of War Stimson disclosed that the leader of 20,000 bolo-swinging Moro tribesmen on the island of Mindanao had pledged a "fight to the last" against the Japanese and declared their readiness to die "for America and their country," if need be.

Laurinburg Farmer Is Fatally Injured

LAURINBURG, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Eugene C. McCall, 64, farmer and manager of the Elmore Fertilizer company, was killed at 9:30 this morning when the engine of an East-bound train collided at Laurel Hill.

Walter Blue Will Die On Friday, The 13th

RALEIGH, Feb. 26.—(AP)—Unless Governor Broughton intervenes, Walter Blue, 37, of Asheville, will be the second man in two successive months to be executed in Central prison gas chamber on Friday the 13th.

Survivors Of Torpedoed Ship Landed In Guiana

GEORGETOWN, British Guiana, Feb. 26.—(AP Cable)—A number of survivors from a torpedoed ship were landed here today and more were expected to arrive later.