

MEXICO BELIEVED READY TO WAR AGAINST AXIS

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The press declared in big headlines: "Zero Hour About To Strike In Mexican History."

Although diplomatic, legislative, labor and official quarters expected a declaration of war, business circles and some legislators said that Mexico should not and would not take such a step, and it was understood there was a difference of opinion within the cabinet on the issue.

Sources in touch with the foreign office reported that the German reply failed to meet Mexico's demand for "complete satisfaction" for the sinking of the tanker, in which 14 lives were lost, Mexico had set midnight tonight as the deadline for the reply.

Whether or not Mexico declares war, there appeared little doubt that stiff reprisals would be taken against Axis interests and Axis Nationals and sympathizers in Mexico.

Men In Vital Work To Remain On Jobs

Manpower Commission To Make Sure Irreplaceable Ones Are Deferred

By FRANCIS M. LE MAY

WASHINGTON, May 21.—(AP)—The War Manpower Commission took steps today to make certain that men irreplaceable in war production are deferred from the draft and remain at their work benches.

Paul V. McNutt, manpower chief announced an eight-point program to promote "the fullest utilization of the manpower of this nation." This included a directive to the Selective Service system that local draft boards consult with Federal Employment Service offices before calling to the army individuals "skilled in a critical war occupation."

A spokesman said this meant "we will keep skilled men in industry where they belong."

The Selective Service system already had provided for deferment of men in critical occupations, but McNutt said there were some local draft boards "which defer too easily" and others which "seem to regard it as a breach of patriotism to defer anybody for occupational reasons."

The directive means that local draft boards will consult with employment service officials in determining whether a worker should be deferred because of his occupation.

Today's action also provided for a classification of war plants according to their urgency, and for a system of manpower priorities to assure that the most important plants set ample supplies of skilled men.

McNutt said the eight-point program, to become effective June 1, would direct that:

1. The United States Employment Service prepare and maintain a list of those skilled occupations essential to war production in which a national shortage exists. Such occupations will be designated as critical war occupations.
2. The War Production Board classify war plants and war products in the order of their urgency in the war program.
3. The Employment Service make preferential referrals of workers to employers engaged in war production in the order of their priority before making referrals to other employers.
4. Employment Service proceed immediately to analyze and classify the occupational questionnaires distributed by the Selective Service

ive system, to interview those individuals with skills in critical war occupations and to refer them to job openings in war production work.

5. Selective Service instruct all its local boards located in a community served by the Employment Service to secure the advice of the local public employment office before classifying or reclassifying an individual skilled in a critical war occupation.

6. Employment Service increase its activities and facilities necessary to provide additional agricultural workers.

7. The Farm Security Administration to increase the number of mobile labor camps in order to make available workers in agriculture to achieve the "food for Victory" objective.

8. The Office of Defense Transportation and Farm Security Administration to assure adequate transportation facilities to move migrant agricultural workers.

JAPANESE TROOPS LAND AT FOCHOW

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The third vital front in Yunnan province adjoining Burma, the Chinese reported they had recaptured Lungkiangchiao, key point on the Lungkiangchiao - Tengyue highway and seized large quantities of Japanese war supplies.

There was no change in positions along the Burma road west of the Salween river, the Chinese reported, and the Yunnan front, under monsoon rains, was becoming stabilized.

Between Yunnan's tangled battlelines and the complex fronts developing in eastern China along the east China sea and Formosa strait, Japanese aviation was engaged in a might contributory effort aimed at reduction of airfields and centers of communication giving coherence to the Chinese war effort.

DOSS, SIBLEY GET PROMOTIONS AT ACL

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Line in 1921, holding successively the positions of Superintendent, Superintendent Transportation and General Superintendent. On April 1, 1930, he was elected Assistant General Manager of the Coast Line.

HIRSCHL DENIES KILLING REFUGEE

Madeline Webb Refutes Statement That She, Cullen Registered As Man, Wife

By AMY PORTER

NEW YORK, May 21.—(AP)—Madeline Webb, on trial for her life in first degree murder charges, protested angrily today when a hotel manager testified that on March 5 she and John D. Cullen, a co-defendant, registered for a room as man and wife under the names "Mr. and Mrs. John R. Clark."

"I did not," she gasped, and sought to rise from her chair at the defense table. Elil Shonbrun, the man whom the state and other witnesses have called her lover, restrained her, pushing her back, while Cullen smiled in apparent amusement at the scene.

The three are charged with the robbery-slaying of Mrs. Susan Flora Reich, 52-year-old Polish refugee, in a hotel suite on March 4.

The state's case appeared near completion, as the hotel manager Frank Van Houten—and other minor witnesses testified briefly.

The state's major witness—Murray Hirschl, Shonbrun's uncle, also under indictment for Mrs. Reich's murder—left the stand today without having budged an inch on his story of the killing during almost four days of testimony and cross examination.

Hirschl's testimony put all the blame for the murder on Miss Webb, Shonbrun and Cullen, asserting that they planned Mrs. Reich's robbery in conversations at the Hotel Sutton the day preceding the murder.

Chief Defense Counsel Jacques Buitenkant sought to pin the murder on Hirschl himself, demanding, "Isn't it a fact that you were the one who attacked that woman?"

Hirschl hotly denied it, insisting, "I tell you I never said that woman in my life!"

Hirschl, by his own admission a "thief" and a "liar," admitted further today that he had given at least three different versions of events leading up to and following the murder, one to the police, another to the district attorney, and one in court.

"You admit that those earlier statements are full of lies?" Buitenkant asked him.

"Yes, I told a lot of lies at first trying to protect them," said Hirschl, indicating the three defendants.

"But now you're telling the truth?"

"The absolute truth," said the witness.

"Are you sure, Mr. Hirschl," defense counsel pursued, "that you know where the truth ends and a lie begins?"

CITY TODAY JOINS U. S. IN LAUNCHING PARADE OF SHIPS

(Continued from Page One)

Lewis, George Stearns, T. D. Love and E. C. Snead.

TO LAUNCH 27 SHIPS

WASHINGTON, May 21.—(AP)—Twenty-seven merchant ships will be launched tomorrow as the nation observes national Maritime Day.

Described as America's greatest mass launching in 25 years, the ships will start sliding into the water shortly after midnight with the last launching scheduled some 23 hours later. The hour, in most cases, is determined by tide conditions.

Launchings will be held in 19 yards on all coasts and the Great Lakes. Because of the Maritime Commission's policy of not announcing launchings in advance, no schedule was made public. It was announced, however, that one yard would launch three ships, six yards two each, and 12 yards one each.

Keel layings will immediately follow the launchings in some yards.

Four completed ships will go into service on Maritime Day, the Commission announced.

The original schedule called for the launching of 30 merchantmen tomorrow, but three were put into the water earlier in the week to make the ways available for new keels.

Maritime Day, the Commission said, will mark the inauguration of a two-ships-a-day rate of construction. Production of three a day is scheduled to be reached in the fall.

The merchant ship construction program, largest in world history, calls for completion of 2,300 vessels of approximately 23,000,000 deadweight tons by the end of 1943. Of these, 8,000,000 deadweight tons are scheduled for delivery this year, and the remaining 15,000,000 next year. There have been reports, however, that next year's program would be increased substantially, possibly to 20,000,000 tons.

Maritime Day also will be observed in nearly 100 industrial plants contributing to the ship-building program. Dinner meetings sponsored by branches of the Propeller Club of the United States, Chambers of Commerce, the American Legion and other civic and service organizations will be held in 40 or more cities tomorrow night.

USO Will Attain Goal, Says Visitor

Six cooperating agencies of the USO are beginning to fulfill the purpose of the organization, Miss Bertha McCall, of New York, general director of the National Travelers' Aid society, one of the agencies, declared here Thursday despite apparent weaknesses in the set-up.

"Since nothing like the idea of six different cooperating agencies operating together to serve the men in uniform has ever been conceived before, the USO is definitely an experiment," Miss McCall said.

"But I believe, knowing the people back of the USO, that it will succeed in successfully reaching the goal that has been set for it. 'As I've gone over the country, I've found a very fine spirit of cooperation in the communities and I have every reason to believe that we have a real experiment and some real results are going to come out.'"

Miss McCall arrived here Tuesday from Charlotte where she attended the annual meeting of the Charlotte Travelers' Aid association and, after inspecting the USO clubs and centers here Wednesday, lunched with the members of the board of the Travelers' Aid association here.

She will tour Camp Davis and the Jacksonville area Thursday.

"It's pretty difficult to separate the work being done here by Travelers' Aid alone and by Travelers' Aid as a USO agency," Miss McCall commented.

"Travelers' Aid is faced with one of the biggest demands for the service it renders in its history, especially in towns like this."

She said that as yet, Travelers' Aid, as one of the USO agencies, had not had an opportunity to provide services for American men in service sent to other countries such as Ireland and Australia.

"I think that on the whole, the USO agencies are doing very well here and there are indications that they are doing a big job well."

It was first opened over a year ago. A combined experience of over fifty years in the restaurant business is enjoyed by the Messrs. Cotroukis. They feature grain-fed meats, seafood, salads, pastries and short orders, regular meals and a la carte.

John Kaneios is the new chef for Southern Kitchen. He has just arrived from Miami, Fla., where he was connected with the Seven Seas restaurant.

WEATHER

(Continued from Page One)

WASHINGTON, May 21.—(AP)—Weather Bureau report of temperature and rainfall for the 24 hours ending 8 p. m., in the principal cotton growing areas and elsewhere:

Station	High	Low	Precip.
Atlantic City	70	60	0.00
Birmingham	86	60	0.00
Buffalo	58	50	0.00
Charlotte	73	64	0.00
Cincinnati	70	48	0.00
Denver	70	39	0.00
Fort Worth	73	55	0.00
Jacksonville	88	46	0.00
Key West	84	76	0.00
Louisville	70	46	0.00
Memphis	75	53	0.00
Mobile	85	78	0.00
Miami	76	64	0.00
Norfolk	83	65	0.00
Portland, Me.	63	50	0.00
Richmond	85	66	0.00
Savannah	82	60	0.00
Washington	81	66	0.56
Wilmington	80	68	0.00

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MAN AND WOMAN FALL TO DEATHS

(Continued from Page One)

lander, one of the employees, told detectives, "I had just come into the office and remarked to him that he was down rather late. He agreed and said he had some work to do."

No notes were found on the person or in the office effects of Litzrod, who was unmarried and lived with his parents in upper Manhattan.

Litzrod's body was seen hurtling downward by a woman standing at a window in a 20th floor office. She ran screaming into the hallway and notified a special patrolman in the building.

There was nothing to indicate any connection between the two deaths, the first fatalities of their kind at the building in many months.

It was believed at first that Mrs. Haskell had fallen from the rooftop observatory, visited annually by thousands of tourists for its view of the city's skyline.

Mrs. Haskell entered the cocktail lounge, police said, walked out on the terrace, laid her purse on the three-foot-high parapet and leaped over the parapet.

In the purse was a note addressed to William A. Haskell, 1 Church Street, Bronxville, Haskell, a New York City broker, identified the body as that of his wife at the West 54th Street Police Station.

STRICT NATION-WIDE GAS RATIONING ASKED

(Continued from Page One)

will drop below the minimum requirement (20,000,000 automobiles) before the middle of 1943."

In addition to gasoline rationing, the report urged that no single family be permitted to have more than one car in operation. This could be accomplished, it said, by forbidding any family to own more and would result in the immobilization of some 2,000,000 automobiles.

But even with such strict controls, the report said, it probably would prove necessary for the government to requisition several million automobiles during 1943, if essential automobile transportation were to continue.

"The necessity of taking this undesired step," it continued, "will be determined primarily by the developments in the synthetic rubber program. It can be averted only if, through some industrial miracle, the projected synthetic plant capacity can be made to produce far in excess of the combined rubber requirements of the United Nations for military purposes."

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