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NEW START MADE ON ACCORD WITH COAL PRODUCERS

PARLEY IS NOTED

Lewis And Operators Sit Down For Talk In Ickes' Rooms

NEW MEETING SLATED

Conferences To Continue; Contract Termed Essential

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—A new start was made today toward negotiation of a contract between John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers and owners of soft coal mines.

At the invitation of Secretary of Interior Ickes, now operating the mines for the government, Lewis and operators representing a majority of the soft coal tonnage sat down together in a conference room at the Interior Department. They talked for two hours in a haze of blue clear smoke and agreed to meet again tomorrow.

Other Reports Heard

At the same time, there were reports that:

Anthracite operators are ready to undertake negotiation of a contract and may meet with UMW representatives next week.

Some operators are ready to withdraw from the Appalachian wage conference, which has been the principal agency for negotiation of soft coal wage contracts, and a new agency may be established tomorrow.

Ickes has indicated that the UMW and mine owners must agree on a contract before the government will relinquish control of the mines which it seized after the general strike of November 1.

Since any contract agreement must be submitted to the War Labor Board for approval, the real negotiations may mark the first step, too, toward a new coal crisis.

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WORE HEARINGS SLATED BY OPA

Four City Market Retailers Among Those Up For Penalty

Four City Market farmer retailers and one retail establishment are scheduled to appear for hearings on OPA charges before T. Nelson Parker, hearing commissioner, here Thursday.

Frank P. Sprull, Jr., OPA attorney, said that the hearings, which mark the third day's OPA violation hearing docket—will ask the retailers to show cause why they should not be restrained from sales for OPA price-ceiling and rationing violations.

He said the following would be heard and that OPA charges against each were as follows:

T. G. Hickman, of Bolivia, City Market seller, is charged with selling fresh pork middling meat for 12 cents per pound; failing to require valid ration points on meat sales; and failure to post prices and point values on meats sold.

L. B. Phelps, of Supply, City Market seller, is charged with selling fresh pork hams at prices

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WALTER LIPPMAN SAYS: Trouble In Lebanon Shows Necessity For Action On Moscow Agreement

The trouble in Lebanon demonstrates how urgently necessary it is to begin acting at once on the promise of the Moscow agreement. It is that while the four great powers who signed the declaration provide the nucleus of force against great aggression, they cannot make settlements without drawing into their councils other states.

Syria and Lebanon were under a French mandate from the League of Nations, and when Vichy France made an armistice with Germany in 1941 the French rulers of Syria and Lebanon chose to adhere to the German side. By the spring of 1941 Vichy had German infiltration into Syria as Vichy had agreed

to the Japanese pincers movement that was to meet in the Indian Ocean, thereby isolating Russia and China and breaking apart the British Empire.

To forestall this grandiose plan an army composed of Free French, British and British Imperial troops entered Syria in June, 1941, and, after a campaign against the Vichy French, occupied the country. By this bold and successful move they closed the back door to Turkey, Egypt and the whole Middle East, and so made secure the base from which more than a year later Alexander and Montgomery attacked Rommel.

Since Syria was a French man

date the political administration was given by the British to the Free French, and General de Gaulle appointed General Georges Catroux as High Commissioner to the Middle East. In his declaration of June 8, 1941, to the people of Syria and Lebanon, Catroux announced that he had "come to put an end to the mandatory regime and to proclaim you free and independent. . . Your independent and sovereign status will be guaranteed by a treaty in which our mutual relations will be defined."

After that the history is obscure and tangled. But it has long been known that the British and French

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Lt. Colonel At 24



Lt. Col. Frank A. Hill, 24, a fighter pilot with the U. S. Army Air Forces, rides on top of the auto taking him to reception given by his home town, Hillsdale, N. J. The young hero has been on 163 missions over Europe. He enlisted as a private in 1940. (International)

BREAD COST PLAN STRIKES A SNAG

Storm Of Protest Against Subsidies Rises To New Fury

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—The broadest food price subsidy program yet—a \$9,000,000-a-month plan to hold down the cost of bread—ran head-on into specific opposition on Capitol Hill today while the storm of Congressional and dies in general rose to new fury.

Senator Reed (R-Kas.) tackled formal announcement, saying the farm protest against food subsidies was planned at about 14 cent a bushel and adding:

"I'm still opposed to it. It's just part of the subsidy program to which Congress is overwhelmingly opposed. But that doesn't seem to make any difference to those birds."

It was learned that the bread program, including a ceiling price on hard wheat, awaits only the signature of Fred M. Vinson, economic stabilization director, expected this week.

Meanwhile, opponents of payments to cut consumer prices added new force to their attack with a parade of state agriculture commissioners and farm leaders before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

E. H. Everson, South Dakota secretary of agriculture, led the drive, contending that the end result of consumer price subsidies is inflationary anti-inflationary, arguing that they are necessary to hold the line on living costs as a bar to demands for compensating wage increases.

Everson, Republican former president of the Farmers Union, recalled President Roosevelt's comparison of a little inflation and the first shot of opium.

"In asking for a continuation, and broadening of subsidies is not the president asking Congress for more aid?" he asked the committee. "Has he not already been given too many such shots?"

He contended that the \$800,000,000 subsidy program is the "principal source" of excess purchasing power and that the failure to hold the line on living costs has been in defense plants—not on farms.

Subsidy opponents built up their Senate case while Administration strategists, conceding defeat in the House, based their plans on hope of a presidential veto such as a blocked anti-subsidy legislation last summer. The anti-subsidy

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CITY IS GIVEN TWO RARE MAPS

Old Cartographs Of Wilmington Presented By J. O. Carr

J. O. Carr, United States district attorney for the Wilmington area, has presented Mayor Bruce Cameron two unusual reproductions of early maps of Wilmington to hang in the city Hall.

The cartography of the earlier map is somewhat crude, judged by present-day standards and the edges are frayed and time-worn. It shows the lay of the land of Wilmington from Corey (now called Queen) street on the south to Water street on the north, and east and west from Front to Fourth streets.

The hand inscribed legend reads: "This plan represents the town of Wilmington as laid out by the original proprietors of the same in the year 1733 at which time it was agreed upon by the said proprietors to begin the survey of their plan at a place where now lies the threshold of the north door of the house next the river now possessed by Mr. Hugh Blanning, and from thence running north half a point, west three poles which is the middle of Market street. The course of the said street is east one-half a point and north 108 poles from the river and of the breadth of six poles. The 12 streets parallel thereto are of the breadth of four poles each. Front street intersects all the aforesaid streets at right angles and is of the breadth of four poles and 368 poles in length beginning at Dyers line running from thence north half a point west to the governor's line.

"The other three streets parallel thereto are each of the same breadth and length with Front street except third street from the river which is six poles in breadth. At the place where Front street intersects Market are poles fixed exactly in the angles and lines of the said street." (A pole was 30 and one-fourth yards.)

The second map presented by Mr. Carr was surveyed and drawn in December 1769 by C. J. Sauthier. Scaled by fathoms instead of

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PARENTS WARNED ON DELINQUENTS

Negro Couple Sentenced On Old Statute Governing Children

Judge Winfield Smith in Recorder's court Wednesday issued a crisp warning to persons responsible for, or allowing children under the age of 16 to be adjudged delinquent.

Reviving an old statute, Judge Smith sentenced Daisey and Preston Washington, Negro, to 60 days each to be assigned to the county farm, for violation of the welfare law.

The Washington children first began their visits to juvenile court for delinquency back in 1934. Since that time two of the boys have been arrested nine times each, one has been picked up six times, one

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Community

War Chest Facts

Sponsored by the American Friends of Yugoslavia, Inc., this campaign is the first comprehensive American appeal in behalf of the Yugoslavs.

Thirty-five or more Axis divisions are kept away from other fronts by the brilliantly executed guerrilla warfare of the Yugoslav Patriots. For nearly two years the Yugoslav forces have stood alone as the only fighting armies of the United Nations on the European continent west of Russia.

The greater part of this fund will provide invalid food parcels, sanitary items, and specialized aid of various kinds to the 140,000 or more Yugoslav prisoners of war in Germany and Italy. The remainder will be used for medical supplies for Yugoslav children who can be reached inside Yugoslavia and outside their own country and for emergency aid to Yugoslav seamen, refugees and trainees. The work for prisoners is to be done for the most part in cooperation with the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross.

The United Yugo-Slav Relief Fund is just one of the 27 agencies included in the Community War Chest.

REDS THROWN BACK NEAR ZHITOMIR; GERMANS TAKE TINY LEROS ISLAND; ALLIED AIRMEN BOMB SOUTHERN FRANCE

ALLIED AIR IS USED

Lunatic Pounds British And Italians On Dodecanese Hold

MANY PRISONERS HELD

Foe Claims 3,200 English And 5,350 Others Are Captured

CAIRO, Nov. 17.—(AP)—The tiny but strategic island of Leros has been captured by the Germans in five days of heavy fighting despite a "most determined resistance" put up by its British and Italian defenders, the British Middle East Command announced today.

The Allied forces were unable to beat off the Nazis, who subjected the island's 28 square miles to a terrific pounding from the air, meanwhile continuing to land reinforcements by boat and by parachute. The battle, which began with a German landing Friday, ended last night.

Use Old Air Tactics

The Germans' tactics were similar to those used in their capture of Crete in a major victory in this area 2 1/2 years ago, and they won for Hitler the second Dodecanese island in three weeks. The British announced on October 26 the evacuation of neighboring Cos, 20 miles south of Leros, under similar German assault.

(Adolf Hitler used the Leros vic-

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ALLIES WARN FRENCH OF MASSIVE AERIAL ATTACKS ON COUNTRY

By The Associated Press

The OWI overseas branch and BBC joined last (Wednesday) night in a special warning to the French that the Allies were going to unleash new and massive aerial assaults on Nazi war plants in France.

Thirty-six places, including the Paris area, were listed as liable to be attacked and the fact many are deep inland suggested that whip-sawing tactics involving North African squadrons as well as those based in Britain would be used.

Among the areas listed aside from Paris were Gennevilliers, Colombes, Argenteuil, Ivry, Courbevoie, Nanterre, Lemans, Toulouse, Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Clermont, Metz and De-maine.

ATHENS IS ALSO HIT

Enemy Airdromes Smashed By North West African Forces

GROUND ACTION LOW

Allies Are Inching Along In Extremely Poor Weather Area

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Attacking on a front of more than 1,000 miles, bombers of the Northwest African Air Force struck their heaviest blow of recent weeks at the Nazi Air Force yesterday when they smashed enemy airdromes near Marseille in Southern France and in the Athens area in Greece.

Blistering onslaughts by Flying Fortresses and Marauders against fields at Istres le Tube and Salon near Marseilles were aimed primarily at the destruction of fleets of Dornier-217 and other German long-range bombers that have been harassing Allied shipping in the Mediterranean. Many ground bombers were left flaming at the two enemy bases and a tremendous explosion indicated an American bomb found an ammunition dump.

Large Fires At Eleusis

Another force of Mitchell medium bombers whipped eastward from their Italian bases to blast the second straight day in futile support of Allied ground troops defending Leros island in the Aegean sea. Ten fires were started at Eleusis in hopes of reducing the Nazis' striking force in the Aegean, but the fight for Leros already was in its last hours and

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2 Jap Merchantmen Pounded By Allied Bombers At Rabaul

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Thursday, Nov. 18.—Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney's Fifth Air Force, centering its attacks on Japan's hard-pressed merchant marine, have scored damaging blows on two more merchantmen, General MacArthur's headquarters reported today.

Catalina flying boats, whose recent night-flying activities have resulted in heavy damage to an enemy cruiser and the enforced beaching of a 9,000-ton cargo ship, both in the general area of Rabaul, went after an enemy convoy near there and left a 6,000-ton merchant ship in sinking condition.

The convoy, consisting of two destroyers, two merchantmen and two corvettes was attacked during Monday night and early Tuesday 23 miles north of Rabaul, moving northwest. A 1,000-pound bomb and a 250-pounder landed forward of the bridge. When last seen, the ship was lying low astern.

IS FIRST SETBACK

Soviet Troops Kill 2,000 Enemy Soldiers In Dnieper Bend

FOE USING TANKMEN

Large Forces Concentrated Against Reds To Force Retreat

LONDON, Thursday, Nov. 18.—(AP)—A mounting German counter-attack with a field force reported to total 15,000 men sent the Red army into reverse yesterday in the Zhitomir-Korostyshev region of the northern Ukraine—a small sector of the vast Eastern front—in the first admitted Soviet setback since the Russian offensive began four months ago.

However, in the Dnieper bend Soviet troops killed 2,000 Germans and seized several towns and in the Korosten rail junction area 60 more towns and hamlets were captured. Advances were also made in the Gomel-Rechtsa area and a new Soviet drive was reported under way near Orsha.

The unusual announcement of the Soviet retreat came in the Moscow communique, recorded from a broadcast by the Soviet Monitor, and in the later midnight supplement.

1,500 Germans Killed

The Germans concentrated large forces of tanks and infantry on a narrow sector of the front, the communique said, and after killing 1,500 Germans and destroying 80 tanks and troop carriers, the Russians "under pressure of the numerically superior enemy forces abandoned a few populated places and entrenched themselves in new positions."

The German counter-attack was seen in London as purely a defensive move and the Berlin radio itself, while talking of "growing German counter-pressure," said the Russians were forced to carry out "a certain backward movement which at the moment is not very considerable."

The Nazi push was directed at the underside of the Red army's westernmost salient at Zhitomir, an important rail junction announced captured Saturday, and Korostyshev, 15 miles seaward on the Zhitomir-Kiev highway.

One Berlin report said the highway had been reached by a German spearhead and a Reuters Moscow dispatch said Field Marshal G. Fritz von Manstein had thrown 150,000 men and hundreds of tanks into the counterblow. The thrust also appeared aimed directly at Zhitomir itself.

The German attack appeared to have a two-fold purpose. One was to keep the Russians from closing the German escape route from the Dnieper bend area in the south. The other was possibly a Nazi attempt to cover preparation of defenses behind the Bug river for the next stand. The Bug is about 50 miles southwest of Zhitomir at Khmelnik where the river, coming from Proskurov, turns to the south.

In one area of the raging battle—

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LONDON QUERIES LEROS DISASTER

LONDON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—German seizure of strategic Leros island in the Aegean sea and the threat to the now-exposed neighboring base of Samos subjected British Eastern Mediterranean tactics to sharp questioning in London tonight.

The capitulation of the island, said the German news agency, DNE, "put the cornerstone back into the Nazis' southeastern European defense system."

London observers were puzzled to understand why the British command, with virtual dominance of the Mediterranean and with thousands of idle troops at its disposal, was unable to secure their hold on the string of islands which help bar the way from British Middle East invasion bases to the Balkans. The islands were taken at small cost when Italy surrendered.

The only conclusions reached here were either that the British command had other plans for dealing with the Balkans or else island-grabbing operations are more difficult than they appear from a distance.

British commentators said the Allied command apparently found it impossible or undesirable to reinforce the British-Italian garrison on Leros, but nevertheless it was believed the Germans suffered heavy losses of picked battle-tested shock troops as well as weakened their Balkan, Russian and Italian front forces to recapture the Dodecanese.

The British attributed the German success—as on Crete—entirely to air superiority in an area too remote from Middle East bases for fighters to give protection against Stuka dive-bombers from Nazi bases on Rhodes, Crete and Cos. Allied naval forces supported the garrison with hit and run bombardments without air cover since the nearest British air bases are 400 miles away in North Africa.

The press criticism of the campaign was couched in some talk of replacing Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, British Middle East commander, but this found no support in official quarters. Military circles showed no great alarm at the turn of events.

A DNB commentator, Martin Hallensleben, said "Samos now is isolated," and presumably this Greek island near Leros is next on the list of the German cleanup forces.

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ALL PORK RATION POINT COSTS CUT

Hogs Moving To Market In Heavy Numbers; Temporary Slash

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—With hogs moving to markets in heavy numbers, the government tonight slashed ration point costs of all pork products by two points.

At the same time to keep farmers' returns on hogs from being driven too low, it extended price supports on all hog markets heretofore, such support has been in effect only at Chicago.

The reduction in ration point costs of pork, described by Price Administrator Chester Bowles as temporary, is effective at 12:01 a. m. Eastern War Time, Friday, November 19.

Bowles noted that the cut will make some pork items point free. The higher-valued cuts will be reduced at least 20 cents, or from 10 points to 2 points per pound. Over the list as a whole

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KIRKE SIMPSON SAYS: British Reverse On Leros May Bring Repercussions From London Circles

By The Associated Press

Collapse of British effort to pry open the Aegean route to the Balkans is indicated in the Nazi recapture of Leros island in the Italian Dodecanese group. Its fall leaves British forces on the Greek island of Samos, 50 miles farther north up the Turkish coast, cut off and in peril of the fate that has overtaken the garrisons on Leros and Cos and Castellorosso islands, previously retaken by German forces.

This first real setback in a year of unbroken Allied victories which began at el Alamein in Egypt probably will have repercussions in London. It could conceivably lead to a shake-up of the British

command at Cairo covering the Eastern Mediterranean-Aegean-Balkan theater of operations.

Thousands of British troops and cooperating Italian and Greek forces apparently have been lost. A Parliamentary inquiry may determine why they were exposed without prompt and adequate follow-up operations to consolidate their initial gains.

Even though the military consequences may be minor, the blow to Allied prestige in Turkey and the Balkans is too obvious to be ignored. Explanations are in order and certainly will be demanded in London.

The first British landings on lesser islands of the Aegean, by-

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WEATHER

FORECAST: NORTH CAROLINA: Fair and warmer today.

(Eastern Standard Time)

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)

Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday

Temperature
1:30 a. m., 51; 7:30 a. m., 41; 1:30 p. m., 50; 7:30 p. m., 46. Maximum 61, Minimum 40, Mean 50, Normal 55.

Humidity
1:30 a. m., 59; 7:30 a. m., 54; 1:30 p. m., 21; 7:30 p. m., 44.

Precipitation ending 7:30 p. m., 0.00 inches.

Total since the first of the month, .062 inches.

Tides For Today

	High	Low
Wilmington	2:00a 9:10p	2:24p 5:44a
Masonboro Inlet	11:58a 6:27p	6:32p 1:30a
Moore's Inlet	12:03a 5:40p	6:32p 1:30a
New Topsail Inlet	12:06a 5:54p	6:37p 1:33a

(All Times Eastern Standard)

Sunrise, 6:48 a. m., Sunset, 5:07 p. m., Moonrise, 10:58 p. m., Moonset, 12:12 p. m., Cape Fear River stage at Fayetteville on Wednesday, at 8 a. m., 9.70 feet.