

The Week In Washington

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, May 13.—The new Rooseveltian economic policy, as outlined in the President's speeches to congress and to the people last month, is meeting strong opposition from certain groups in congress. As the President said, only two parts of his seven-point program require legislation, but all seven points are so closely related that ineffective action on those two would endanger the whole plan.

The two points which are causing such widespread debate are the President's demand for preventing farm prices from going higher than the parity figure and his request for taxes heavy enough to drain off war-inflated incomes.

The strong farm bloc in congress, which succeeded last year in preventing ceilings on farm prices below 110 per cent of parity (a price which would give the farmer, in terms of purchasing power of non-farm commodities, an income of 10 per cent above the average for the base period of 1909-1914) has no intention of approving the parity ceiling now, and the farm bloc has enough influence in congress to control the situation.

Senators and congressmen from the farm areas argue that the farmer would be doing more than his share of the sacrificing if this move went through, particularly when no definite action to freeze wages of labor has been taken. The farmers are very conscious of the high wages being paid to labor and their representatives do not intend to let the farmers take the brunt of the war burden.

If the President had made a definite proposal to freeze labor's wages the farm group would be more amenable, but, believing that the President already has shown partiality to labor, they are not taking too much stock in the statement in his speech in which he said, "If you work for wages you will have to forego higher wages for your particular job for the duration of the war."

Knowing that labor groups in congress and in the administration are strongly opposing any legislation which would put a ceiling on wages, the farm group doesn't intend to be the first to give in.

The conservative element in congress, which might ordinarily favor both curbs on wages and on farm prices, is not treating either too warmly because it is disturbed over the President's failure to mention economies within the non-war activities of the government itself. Feeling that many economies could be made which would not hurt the war program, this group is relating its demands for such economies to legislation for wage control, profit control and taxation.

There is a growing conviction in congress that the President's proposals will face heavy opposition until he takes some definite step to force labor to share in the sacrifices which he is asking of other groups. It is pointed out that the great part of the big increase in national income this year is due to the higher wages paid to labor. It is estimated that at least \$10,000,000,000 of the extra war spending now going on comes from labor's fatter pay envelopes. Farm income has increased, but not in proportion to that of labor.

The failure of labor to take seriously the President's suggestion for curbing higher wages was made clear when, a week after the President's talk, Philip Murray, president of the CIO, at a meeting of the steel workers organizing committee, emphasized his continued loyalty to the President and in the same breath said that he would see a new \$1 a day pay increase for 180,000 workers in four steel companies.

"The position of labor in America," said Mr. Murray, "is one of unalterable opposition to any system of wage-freezing. This is true of both the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organization."

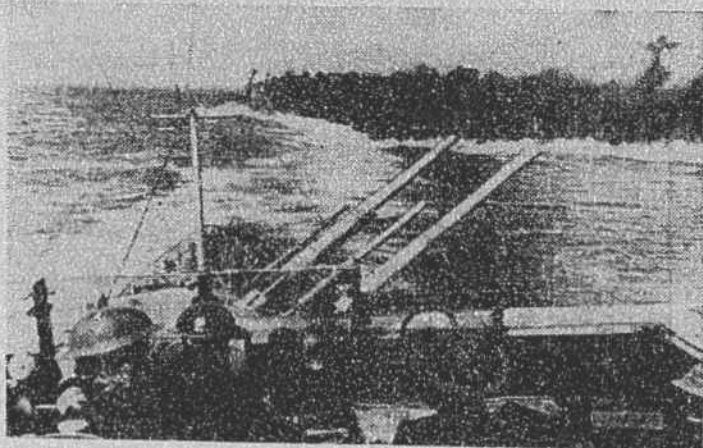
What congress will do about this many-sided problem in an election year is difficult to determine—but present indications are that it will take very little action of any kind which it can possibly avoid.

The subject of supplying oil to eastern states has been a major topic of discussion here. There is little doubt that there may be a real fuel problem, for both industry and homes using oil in the east next winter and Secretary of Interior Ickes has urged industries, apartment houses, hotels, etc., using heavy fuel oils to turn to coal.

Much interest has been shown in Senator Shipstad's proposal for an expenditure of \$20,000,000 for building wooden barges to ship oil up the Mississippi and down the Ohio river to Pittsburgh and then pipe it to coastline cities, but even if this went through it would be many months before the east could be adequately supplied by this plan.

Shipping at British home ports in normal years runs between sixty and seventy million tons.

Keeping Mediterranean Lifeline Open



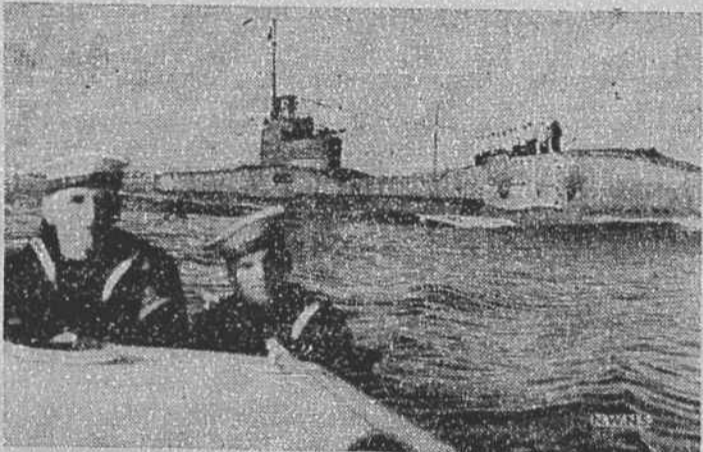
This photo was made somewhere in the Mediterranean sea when units of the Italian fleet engaged a British convoy escort on their way from Alexandria to the besieged island of Malta. It shows a British light cruiser throwing out a smoke screen to shield the convoy as another British cruiser elevates her forward 3.25 guns ready to shell the Italian fleet.

Good Fishin' in Watertown



Uncle Sam is making an urgent plea for all kinds of scrap to be used in our war effort. As the salvage program gets under way, these three pals of Watertown, Mass., have formed a junk-collecting club and find that the Charles River has a bottom covered with stuff needed to put a dent in the Axis. The boys fished up everything except fish.

Britain's Parallel to Our Squalus



This British submarine, H.M.S. Thunderbolt, is shown returning to her base after a successful foray against Axis shipping in the Mediterranean. The Thunderbolt was formerly the Thetis, which sank during her trials at about the same time the U. S. submarine Squalus met disaster in a test dive. Like the Squalus the Thetis was salvaged, and again like the Squalus it has been taking a heavy toll of the enemies of democracy.

Arrive on 'Diplomat Swap' Steamer



The Swedish liner Drottningholm, which has been chartered by the United States for use in exchange of American and Axis diplomats, has arrived at Jersey City from Goteborg, Sweden. The vessel will take aboard German and Italian diplomats to Lisbon for swap for American diplomats. A group of children who made the voyage from Sweden are pictured aboard the vessel.

Young MacArthur Gets Aussie Haircut



While his Chinese "Amah" keeps careful watch, Arthur MacArthur, four-year-old son of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, is shorn of his locks in a Melbourne barber shop. This is his first Aussie haircut. Mrs. MacArthur, fondly watching the operation, is shown at the right.

FIFTY-FIVE TO GRADUATE AT LEES-McRAE COLLEGE

Summer Elk, May 12.—Fifty-five young men and women are candidates for graduation at the commencement exercises to be held at Lees-McRae College on June 1. D. Elden Ramsey of Asheville, will deliver the commencement address.

The commencement program will include class day exercises on Saturday night, May 30, in the college auditorium; the baccalaureate sermon by Rev. Charles E. Raynall, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Statesville, which will be preached in the local Presbyterian church on Sunday morning, May 31. Senior vespers will be held in the church on Sunday evening, May 31, and the final commencement exercises will take place in the college auditorium on the morning of June 1, at 10 o'clock. Diplomas will be presented and various medals and awards made to outstanding members of the student body.

TEA

The government has ordered tea supplies to wholesalers limited to 50 per cent of the amounts handled in the same period in 1941 because of difficulties of getting this product from tea-producing countries.

The last link in the 4,161-mile trans-Canada highway is scheduled for completion in July.

DON WINSLOW OF THE NAVY by FRANK MARTINEK

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN, RED. EACH DEFENSE BOND WE BUY MEANS MORE SHIPS AND PLANES FOR OUR NAVY!



DON WINSLOW OF THE NAVY SAYS—SHIPMATES, LET'S GO ALL OUT FOR OUR EXPANDING NAVY—

BUY DEFENSE BONDS!

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Come to our Big Bargain Basement for the best merchandise at the lowest prices to be found in this section. Our stocks are large and now is the time to take advantage of the savings that can be effected here.

Sandals

Ladies' sandals, cool and comfortable for summer wear

\$1.19

Slippers

Children's dress slippers, shoes and sandals

98c and \$1.25

Curtain Goods

One table of curtain material, yard only

6c

Ladies' Shoes

Ladies' dress shoes, wide range of sizes

\$1.98, \$2.48

Sheets

One table of 81x99 sheets, very special at only

\$1.00

Window Shades

Plenty of them, wide price range starts at

25c

Oxfords

Ladies' oxfords, browns, blacks, two-tone

\$1.48, \$1.98

Upholstery

One table short length upholstery material, yard

29c

We have a brand new machine to cut shades any length you want

WE ARE NOW CARRYING A COMPLETE LINE OF TOILET AND LAUNDRY SOAPS

One table of Short Length 81-inch Percale Sheeting—
Special Price

Overalls

Men's 8-oz. sanforized overalls, elastic suspenders

\$1.39

Prints

Many different patterns to choose from, yard

15c and 19c

Towels

Turkish towels; buy a good supply, priced as low as

8c

Straw Hats

Men's dress straw hats, wide range sizes, only

59c

Work Pants

Men's good heavy work pants; prices start at

98c

Work Shoes

Men's and boys' heavy work shoes, low as

\$1.29

Bed Spreads

Beautiful patterns, splendid material

79c and 98c

Work Shirts

Men's heavy work shirts, priced as low as

68c

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"Belk's 200 Stores Sell It For Less"

Boone, N. C.