

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

House Launches 'Rearmament Inquiry' As Labor Disputes Continue Tie-Up Of Plants Vital to Defense Program; Balkans Hold Center of War Scene

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



When the CIO called its strike at America's largest industrial plant—the Ford Motor company's River Rouge plant—the plant was closed and 85,000 workers were on the idle list. Above photo shows mounted police trying to hold off pickets during one of the violent strike battles.

STRIKES:

Dominant News

While the question of whether or not the United States was "in the war" or not continued to be debated by editorial writers, there was no question but that the nation was in a labor war, daily growing more and more serious, with outbreaks of violence hitting the front pages with a bang. Congressional action in the situation came when the house voted 324 to 1 for an investigation of the re-armorment program with special emphasis on strikes which hamper the defense program.

The C. I. O. held the strike spotlight, the three major disturbances consisting of various types of trouble involving unions of that organization. These included the Ford strike, the Allis-Chalmers strike and the soft-coal strike.

After sailing along for 11 weeks with little happening except unsuccessful negotiations, the Allis-Chalmers dispute broke into serious violence. This followed closely on two developments, statements by Knox and Knudsen urging that the plant be reopened, and the action by the company in putting 500 rehabilitation men to work, and then throwing open the doors to "those employees who wanted to come back."

About 1,250 out of 7,800 on one shift reported, and then the government of Wisconsin stepped in to attempt to give returning workers protection through embattled picket lines. The result? The plant had to close down again, Governor Hell's car was stoned, 48 persons were injured in a police-strikers' battle, and the Governor informed President Roosevelt that the trouble was beyond all state, county and city police to keep order.

'Biggest' Plant

Hardly had this cry reached the President from Milwaukee when C. I. O. workers struck at the largest single industrial plant in the world, Henry Ford's River Rouge factory, employing 86,000 persons. Almost immediately there were reports of violence at this factory, owned and operated by the only big industrialist who never has had a union contract.

The basis of the battle in the Ford plant between strikers and management was a matter of 10 cents an hour more or less to bring the Ford wages, until recently higher than in competing auto factories, up to the General Motors-Chrysler level.

As the Ford strike brewed and broke, 400,000 workers in the soft-coal industry, John L. Lewis' personal C. I. O. union, stopped work pending negotiation of a new wage contract to take the place of one which had expired.

This newest strike brought from President Roosevelt the "hope" that this walkout would not be of long enough duration to endanger the national defense.

But the government, which had put Dr. Dykstra in charge of a labor mediation board, and which had dumped the Allis-Chalmers and other strikes in the lap of this new organization, seemed to the public to be making little progress in getting the full manpower of the U. S. to work on national defense.

It was being plainly said in Washington that unless there was some immediate amelioration of the labor problem, some form of national defense labor law would find favor with the President.

JUGOSLAVIA:

Ready for War

It was apparent that Yugoslavia was on the threshold of war, or if the nation was bluffing, it was willing to carry the bluff to the verge of actual hostilities.

Nazi reconnaissance planes flew over a key city of southern Serbia and there was a brief air raid alarm. This was considered a good intimation that the Nazis meant business and that the 75,000 soldiers amassed on the eastern frontier would be increased and would be the nucleus of an attacking force.

It was interesting that most of the press attacks on the Yugoslavian situation in Berlin were directed at British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, whose series of visits to the southern Balkans and Turkey and Greece were followed by Yugoslavia's firm decision to stand by Britain and Greece, even at the cost of bloodless revolution.

The Berlin papers referred to Eden in the most caustic terms, and it was apparent that even as Berlin blamed Eden for the Yugoslavian situation, so Eden would be getting credit for it in Britain.

The crucial point in the Yugoslavian situation, was whether the Serbs and Croats would get together and achieve a united front. Macek, the leader of the Croats, was still in the new cabinet as vice premier, but there was some doubt as to whether he would stay.

He was one of the signers of the Axis pact in Vienna, and one of the few to remain in the government after the overthrow. For some reason that was not immediately clear, Simovic, the head of the government, appeared to be anxious to keep Macek, but the latter was apparently anxious to get out and put some other Croatian in his place.

Political observers said that Macek, while permitting his followers to support Simovic, was finding it personally embarrassing to serve in Simovic's cabinet.

The Germans in their attacks on Yugoslavia in the press, were making a build-up for immediate military action on the ground that all sorts of atrocities had taken place in Yugoslavia.

U. S. SEIZURES:

Creus, Ships

Sensational was the American seizure of all German, Italian and Danish ships in U. S. ports and the jailing of 875 seamen of German and Italian nationality.

Comments from the Axis ranged all the way from Virginia Gayda's direct threat that another such act would meet with "reaction" without a declaration of war, to others from Berlin and Tokyo on somewhat a milder basis.

The general Axis reaction was that the seizing of the ships was an unjustifiable breach of international law, but Cordell Hull quoted book, chapter and verse to show that the seizure was entirely justified under a precedent established by Italy, no less, in 1897.

In that instance Italy seized neutral and belligerent ships and later either returned them or reimbursed the nations. The American plan was to put the Italian and German ships into the U. S. hemispherical service, and to turn the Danish ships over to Britain. The use of Italian and German vessels to replace American bottoms would release them for Britain also, it was pointed out.

Early Start



America's 1941 Forest Fire Prevention campaign got off to an early start when Secretary of Agriculture C. R. Wickard accepted a painting by James Montgomery Flagg to be used on 300,000 posters now being distributed by the Forest Service. "Forest Defense Is National Defense" is this year's slogan and aims to ward an aroused patriotism to cut down the huge annual fire toll.

ITALIANS:

Still Losing

On the African front, British successes continued, Cairo reporting that British Imperial forces have cornered nearly 100,000 Fascist troops in East Africa.

The major action was on two fronts, the Eritrean front, where Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, fell to British soldiers. The survivors of this battle were estimated at 40,000 who had been in the battle of Cherien, and who had escaped from there to fight again at Asmara.

They were now said to be trapped with their backs to the sea, and the British navy blocking retreat.

In Ethiopia, the British forces were striking inland toward Addis Ababa, capital of the country, on the heels of the retreating army of the duke of Aosta. The duke's original forces at Addis Ababa were estimated at 40,000 men. This army was being added to by small garrisons who were withdrawing toward the capital and other parts of Ethiopia and it was expected that when the battle of Ethiopia finally was staged the total of Fascist troops would be around 60,000.

The fall of Asmara was accomplished with little fighting, the British army being met by a delegation which was carrying a white flag.

Even while the British were claiming to have 100,000 Fascists trapped in Africa, the Italian high command, now and then, was stating that "Italian and German troops" were conducting successful engagements. One of these announcements was made at the same time that the British announced the fall of Asmara. The chief interest in these claims was the inclusion of German troops, showing that the Nazis had some forces in Africa.

That these reports had good foundation in fact came later when the British admitted that their troops had withdrawn from Bengasi, a Libyan stronghold they had formerly captured in their sustained military drive.

FRANCE:

And Refugees

Somerset Maugham, in a series of uncensored articles describing the fall of France, laid considerable stress on the mistreatment of refugees from Alsace-Lorraine as at least a partial cause of the French collapse.

Now France found itself facing growing bitterness and unrest among about 30,000 foreigners in refugee camps in the unoccupied portion of the country.

The daily bill for this camp was a million francs, and yet this small sum was cutting such a hole in the national pocketbook, that the administration was figuring ways to reduce it.

Included in the 30,000 in these camps, were statesmen, authors, journalists and artists. In addition, there were some 60,000 more, in labor camps and camps built for foreign soldiers. These included Jews, anti-Nazi Germans and Spanish Republicans. For them, 19 relief organizations, most of them American, were working to do what they could to make life more livable.

Oddly, the best internment camp in France is operated by the Mexican government for Spanish war veterans. The heaviest penalty for breach of discipline is to be thrown out. The Mexicans operate on a budget of less than seven francs per person daily.

New Lens Bares Bacterial Life

Microscope Proves 50 Times Stronger Than Any Now in Use.

PHILADELPHIA.—Liquid muscles, protective armor plate and a multitude of waving arms like those on the devil fish, or octopus, have been found in bacteria in the newly explored sub-microscopic world revealed by the new electron microscope which has achieved magnifications of 100,000 diameters. Dr. Stuart Mudd of the University of Pennsylvania medical school, Philadelphia, announced at a symposium held at the Chemists club.

Smoke from burning magnesium, the metal used in incendiary bombs, was shown to consist of beautifully formed crystals shaped in millionths of a second in pictures exhibited by Dr. R. Bowling Barnes of the American Cyanamid company's Stamford, Conn., research laboratories.

Will Aid in Defense.

So great is the magnification provided by the new electron microscope that if a baseball bat were enlarged to the same extent it would be about 50 miles long and 4 miles in diameter, said James Hillier, who with Dr. Vladimir Zworykin developed the instrument at the Camden research laboratories of the Radio Corporation of America. The new instrument, using electrons instead of light beams for "seeing," produces 50 times greater magnification than the most powerful optical instruments, he said.

The new instrument is being made available to commercial as well as educational institutions, and in the former may have important uses in the national defense program in improving processes and products, Mr. Hillier announced.

Dr. Barnes, who has been opening up a new realm of research for the medical world with the new instrument, informed the symposium on "Exploring New Worlds With the Electron Microscope" that bacteria of certain kinds are shown by the enormous magnifications of the new instrument to possess solid cell membranes surrounding the fluid protoplasm of the bodies and serving as a protective armor.

Can Detect Movements.

"Not only is the means which bacteria may use to protect themselves from harm revealed by the electron microscope, but their probable method of moving from place to place can be seen when they are magnified to 100,000 times their natural size," said Dr. Mudd.

"Outer shells have been found on streptococci, pneumococci, bacillus subtilis, coliform and typhoid bacilli. Two types of bacteria, Eberthella typhosa and coliform bacteria, are seen to be equipped with long, apparently tubular movable arms, called flagella.

"Evidence has been found that contractions of the fluid protoplasm within the cells may produce pressure changes in these tubes, thus causing the arms to wave and the micro-organism to move.

"Viruses, which cause many diseases but are so small as to be invisible with optical microscopes, have been photographed by electron beams."

Paris Blood Donors Ask

More Food for Their Aid

PARIS.—Professional blood donors of Paris hospitals have threatened to strike unless demands for increased food rations, promised by Seine Prefect Charles Magny, are immediately met.

The donors, who supply about 400 quarts of blood monthly to Paris hospitals, say that extra monthly rations, consisting of approximately four pounds of meat, one pound of sugar, a pound of fat, such as butter and the like, are necessary if they are to continue giving blood.

Officials, however, have consistently refused to honor M. Magny's promise. If hospitals are deprived of blood donors it is feared hundreds of lives would be lost.

Ancient Document Proves

Citizenship of Woman

SALT LAKE CITY.—Mrs. Matilda Steed, 74, of Salt Lake City, is an American citizen—thanks to a man born 114 years ago in England.

Mrs. Steed asked immigration officials to confirm her citizenship. She explained she was born in Switzerland, but had married a naturalized Englishman.

After careful search, officials discovered Mrs. Steed's husband, Thomas, was naturalized in 1850 at Fort Madison, Iowa.

In 1905 Steed—then 79—married the present Mrs. Steed. Five years later he died.

Navy's Biggest Ship Nearly Completed

Washington to Be Placed in Commission in May.

PHILADELPHIA.—Sped through construction six months ahead of schedule at the Philadelphia navy yard, the new 35,000-ton battleship Washington will be placed in commission here on May 15, it was announced. She was launched last June 1, just two years after the laying of her keel.

The new \$65,000,000 vessel, carrying nine 16-inch guns and a heavy secondary and anti-aircraft armament, will be commanded by Capt. Howard H. J. Benson of Baltimore, according to Undersecretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, who made the announcement at Washington.

The Washington is the largest and most powerful capital ship ever built for the navy, and will be the second to go into service since the West Virginia was commissioned in 1923. The first since that time will be the North Carolina, a sister-ship of the Washington. She is being completed at the Brooklyn navy yard and is to be commissioned in a few weeks.

Construction speed-ups on the Washington not only will permit her commissioning far ahead of the contract time of next December 1, but outpaced the builders of the North Carolina, whose keel was laid nine months earlier than that of the vessel built here.

Although from six to nine months are ordinarily devoted to "shake-down" cruises for ships of the Washington's class, this time will be reduced to permit her to join the fleet in September, it was indicated.

The Washington is 704 feet in length and has a speed of 27 knots, with a cruising range of 6,000 miles. She will carry a crew of about 1,800 men.

Business Laws Traced

Back to 2,000 B. C. Era

CHICAGO.—The origin of business administration has been traced back 4000 years, according to Waldo H. Dubberstein, research associate in the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

Dubberstein cited a six-foot pillar, bearing the administrative code of King Hammurabi of Babylon, written shortly after 2000 B. C., as evidence that business followed a definite pattern then. He said the original pillar is now "somewhere in France."

"Hammurabi's code included, among other things, fixed commodity prices, a minimum wage law providing higher wages for seasonal workers and a maximum interest rate of 20 per cent," Dubberstein said.

From 3000 B. C. until approximately the time of Hammurabi's code, Dubberstein added, real property was owned almost exclusively by the State and the church, and there was little evidence of private enterprise.

However, by Hammurabi's time, Dubberstein said, Babylonians had come to own land and houses and goods, and it became necessary for someone to codify whatever business laws were in unwritten effect.

Lost Evidence in Army

Trial of 1889 Unearthed

BOSTON.—A rusty cannon ball— which 52 years ago would have been evidence in convicting a private of the attempted murder of his captain—has been discovered at the bottom of an old cistern at historic Fort Warren in Boston harbor.

According to an old army story, a private in 1889 dropped the 65-pound cannon ball from the fort wall. He missed only because his hard-bitten captain failed to make his customary stop for a smoke in a certain corner of the fort.

The story describes how two of the private's companions hid the cannon ball under cover of night. The private was set free at a trial when the all-important evidence—the cannon ball—could not be produced.

Army records show the captain died in the Philippine islands in 1902 and the private left the army in 1910 and died in 1925.

Honored for Putting 9

Children Through College

SEATTLE.—For sending nine sons and daughters through the University of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Reid of Seattle were awarded the honorary degree of "Parentes Extraordinarii" by the university.

It was the first such award granted by the university since 1889. The only other recipients were the late Marshal Ferdinand Foch, French World war hero, and Fredric James Grant, an early Seattle newspaper editor.

Washington Digest

Government to Encourage Greater Food Production

Prepare for Increased Aid to Democracies; Newspaper Men From Small Town 'Make Good' in Washington.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 'H' Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—Before long the government will take steps to give the American farmer an incentive for raising more animals and increasing the egg and milk output for this arsenal of democracy, it can be safely predicted at this time. Furthermore, with the incentive will undoubtedly go some type of guarantee, as in the case of the manufacturer, that the farmer will be protected at least from possible loss in such undertakings. At most, he might even be guaranteed a profit.

Here is the background of the situation, details of which government officials are not ready as yet to make public:

Food is as much a munition of war as guns. The United States in pledging its aid to democracies is starting to send food supplies to them.

Important Food-Weapons.

One of these food-weapons is wheat. We have plenty of that grain. The department of agriculture estimates that at present there are more than 525,000,000 bushels in excess of domestic needs.

Another food weapon, and a vital one for fighting men, is the proteins—meat, milk, milk products, poultry and eggs. Rationing of these products is becoming severe in England. American agriculture does not have surpluses of these things. But farms are the factories where they can be produced, and we do have surpluses of one of the chief raw materials for the process, namely, corn. Present estimates indicate that the corn surplus will reach 700,000,000 bushels by October 1.

How many more cows, pigs and chickens do we need in order to be able to feed ourselves as well as the fighting democracies? That is a hard question to answer. The department of agriculture calls it an "imponderable." It also admits that if everybody in this country right now were getting a square meal we would not have enough of the protein foods to go around.

Hence, the plans-in-the-making to encourage American farms to "manufacture" proteins in the interest of national defense.

Rural Newspaper Men 'Make Good' in Washington

Two small town boys, both trained on weekly newspapers, have made good in the radio world in Washington and neither of them can get the country out of his blood and is proud of it.

One is a lanky, red-haired Hoosier, Robert M. Menough, and the other, scholarly looking D. Harold McGrath, who grew up in the Cripple Creek mining district in Colorado. They are the superintendents, respectively, of the new house and senate radio galleries.

"My favorite newspaper," says Bob, "is the oldest in Indiana and the one I used to work on. It's the Salem Democrat."

McGrath, who has owned two weekly newspapers, says: "I have made seven auto trips from coast to coast in the last seven years and I noticed that the weekly newspaper is on a much more solid basis than it was when I was a publisher 25 years ago. I still think the weekly is the best read news publication in America."

Bob is the veteran of the two in radio because it was the house of representatives which first recognized that radio men needed the same facilities that the members of the long-established press gallery have if they are properly to cover the doings of congress. So in May of 1939 the lower chamber appropriated money for a superintendent and an assistant and amended its rules so that radio newsmen had their own little corner—a pew railed off from the visitors' gallery right next to the newspaper men's seats above the speaker's rostrum.

Senate Follows Suit.

The senate, being a more ponderous body, followed suit some months later.

When the question came up to the speaker of the house as to who would be his choice for the superintendent on his side of the Capitol, there wasn't any question about Bob Menough's qualifications. He has been a well-known figure around the Capitol ever since he came to Wash-

ington with Representative Crowe from his own Indiana district.

Although his family roots go clear back to the beginning of Salem, Ind., history, there is an ancient tale which makes him a little uncertain as to who he really is. It seems that four generations ago two little boys were stolen from two different families, the Menaughs and Hinsleys, by the Indians. One was four and one was five. Later, a trapper reported that he had heard that one of the boys, he didn't know which, had died. Still later, the other boy returned to the village. But which boy? Six years has passed. The little fellow had an Indian name and he had forgotten his own. Both families claimed him and finally a public trial was held and he was awarded to the Menaughs. Bob is a great-grandson of that boy.

High School Start.

Bob started newspaper work in high school, buying an old press and setting the type himself. Later he worked on the Salem Democrat, the oldest newspaper in Indiana. He says that his greatest thrill came in speaking on the first national broadcast celebrating the opening of the radio gallery on June 26, 1939, an honor shared by your correspondent.

McGrath, head of the senate side started work in 1910 at the age of 16 as a reporter, succeeding Lowell Thomas on the Victor (Colo.) Record. The Record was a four-sheet daily and McGrath was to have other reporter training in Boise and Wallace, Idaho, before he got the urge to own a weekly.

He paid a hundred dollars down and fifty dollars a month for the Kellogg (Idaho) Record. Equipment, one job press, one Cotrell flat-bed newspaper press and lots of hand type.

"Mrs. McGrath and I," he says, "learned to peg type and with the help of one printer got out the paper until I joined the army in 1918."

After the war he secured the Jerome County (Idaho) Times which he ran until he sold out in 1932. He came to Washington with Senator Schwelben of Washington and was with him until he took over the gallery job.

Minority Party in U. S. Is Still Important

I walked along the corridor of the Capitol building, turned down a narrow hall, got into a still narrower elevator and went up to the second floor. Opposite the elevator door is the office of a small town editor.

The office was not a newspaper office and the editor was not editing at the moment—he has to do that by remote control most of the time nowadays for his newspaper is located in North Attleboro, Mass. He is Joe Martin, minority leader of the house of representatives and beginning his second term as chairman of the Republican national committee.

The subject of our conversation had to do with what a minority party does when a national emergency exists and partisan politics is supposed to be forgotten. Chairman Martin told me the Republican party has plenty to do.

"The Republican party has two big jobs ahead of it today," this Scotch-Irish Yankee said. "The first job is to keep congress from getting ahead of the people."

I asked him just what he meant. "I've been out in the country," he answered, "and I know the people don't want us here in Washington to do anything that will get the nation into war. If it weren't for continual unspectacular work on the part of the minority, especially in committees, the country would be in far worse shape than it is today."

But a still bigger task lies ahead, Joe Martin told me.

"Our second job," he said, "is to prepare for the situation when the chaos of the World war which has produced the present emergency is over. Then it will be the responsibility of the Republican party to get back the democratic processes which are being sacrificed today by the emergency grants of power to the executive."

Of course, Chairman Martin believes the country will turn to the Republicans then, as what he calls a stabilizing force. Meanwhile, he says they must continue to police the majority party policies.