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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

President Names Production Czar And Reorganizes Defense Set-Ups To Speed Up All-Out War Effort; Report Submarines Off East Coast

(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.)

Leon Henderson, director, Division of Civilian Supply of the Office of Production Management, trys out one of the "Victory model" bicycles produced by manufacturers at request of OPM. This lightweight model is constructed of less costly material, and shorn of all gadgets. The new bikes will be built for both men and women. Photo shows Henderson pedaling, and Miss Betty Barrett of York, Neb., in the luggage basket. A sure way for the boss to get his secretary to the office on time.

NELSON:
Production Czar

As the United States moved forward into all-out war production, Donald M. Nelson had been named production chief, placed in sole command over OPM, SPAB and all other vital production organizations.

His position was compared to that of Bernard M. Baruch in 1917. Mr. Nelson had been, before his promotion to sole command, the head of SPAB, the priorities control board, and thus had been sitting with his hands on the needle valve which kept materials flowing smoothly to defense plants.

His post also was compared to that of Lord Beaverbrook in England.

He was given command by executive order, and though the order did not immediately make legally clear how far his power went, there was enough in President Roosevelt's statement to show that it would go far enough to put Nelson into sole command.

A board, including Messrs. Knudsen, Hillman and other chiefs of various vital groups, was to work under Nelson.

The President said, in part:

"Mr. Nelson will no longer serve as director of the priorities division. He will devote his entire time to directing the production program. His decisions as to procurement and production will be final."

Thus Mr. Nelson has authority over not only the industrialists and labor leaders who were in Washington to harness American production to a program for victory, but also over the army and navy themselves, in a way, because his decisions as to what they might have in the way of arms and munitions would be final.

They would still have legal contracting authority, but Mr. Nelson would have to pass upon these contracts before they could go into effect, and could, in effect, make them larger or smaller, quicker or slower.

LUZON:
Defense

When the history of World War II is written it will have become evident that the defense of Luzon by the American-Filipino forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur should be placed alongside of other famous "last stands."

Conceded only the slimmest possible hope of hanging on until help might arrive, the MacArthur forces, entrenched in the Mariveles mountains back of Manila bay, had reported not only stemming an "all-out" Japanese drive, but that they had driven the attackers back.

They had forced the Japs to remove their big guns far to the rear, out of range of the American batteries, had silenced 11 Japanese batteries, and had raised havoc with charging detachments of tanks and infantry.

Not in any way claiming that the Japanese advance had been permanently checked, General MacArthur reported to Washington that the 24-hour battle had shown definitely that the American guns and gunnery were superior to those of the enemy.

SUBMARINE:
Action

Navy planes and ships had a busy time chasing enemy submarines reported lurking off the East coast of the U. S.

Two ships were reported sunk by submarine action off Long Island, N. Y. The first was the Panamanian tanker Norness which was hit by three torpedoes about 120 miles from the coast. Next day watchers on shore claimed they saw a submarine sink another ship about 23 miles from shore.

Meanwhile U. S. underwater craft were also busy, but the location of their action was not disclosed. The navy reported that a 17,000 ton Jap ship of the type used as a plane carrier had been sunk by U. S. submarines in Far Eastern waters.

MALAYA:
Scorched Earth

The house of commons criticism of the British Malaya forces in not carrying out the scorched earth policy was met by dispatches which had been delayed tending to show that the British had applied that policy in the completest way possible.

An eyewitness description of the British evacuation of Perka, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, the latter an important rubber city and the capital of the Federated Malay States bore this out.

A Durdin dispatch to the Times from Seremban stated that in Perak and Selangor alone millions of dollars' worth of rubber stocks and rubber processing plants and millions more in tin mine dredges and tin ore processing machinery had been destroyed.

In addition the destruction of petroleum products totaled several millions of dollars.

Copra and coal docks were dynamited or burned. Dynamiters were mining the country through which the Japs were approaching closer to Singapore, and this was evident in the slowing down of the Japanese advance.

Describing the evacuation of Kuala Lumpur, Durdin wrote that the British had opened the larger stores and had removed what stocks it wanted, and then had left the stores open to allow the population to take what it wished.

The inhabitants seethed up and down the streets which were littered with refuse, carrying what they had been able to get aboard rickshas, on bicycles and on shoulders and heads.

From every corner of the city sounded the booming explosions as the Punjab sappers and dynamiters destroyed bridges, roads and other communication links as soon as the British convoys had moved through the city.

Two large department stores were completely despoiled of goods within a few hours. Coolies who had never tasted chocolate candy went about with their arms full, giving them away to others who had none.

The burning of the rubber trees was not possible, but since the plants producing rubber and the rubber stocks were burned, the British say it will be a long time before the Japs can get any.

'War Orphan No. 1'

"I am war orphan No. 1," said Mrs. Helen Nelson, wife of Donald M. Nelson, Chicago, Ill., whom President Roosevelt appointed chief of war production just recently.

AIR:
Supremacy Sought

There was every indication that the battle for air supremacy in the Far Eastern theater of war was definitely being battled for.

The news dispatches had contained increasing reports of air battles on all fronts, and though there was still no indication that General MacArthur had any sort of an air arm, both the British and Dutch defenses were being bolstered by American, Chinese and Australian planes.

The Dutch early had said that if the Allies would give them enough planes, they could defeat Japanese efforts to capture important strongholds in their islands.

The Japs, on the other hand, were continuing to capture some, including the island of Tarakan, a small islet defended by about as many men as had stood before the Japs at Wake island.

The Dutch defenders finally had to surrender, though more than half of the garrison got away and lived to fight another day. Before leaving and before the remainder were forced by the odds to lay down their arms, they reported having mined and blown up all the oil wells on the island, an important small producer of petroleum.

It still was not definite where the high command had set up headquarters, save that it was somewhere on the island of Java, but whether at Batavia, from which most of the dispatches were coming, or at Surabaya, could not be learned.

An idea of what the capture of Tarakan meant, by the way, was the Dutch figure on its oil output, 80,000 tons monthly of the finest grade of petroleum. The Dutch, in describing the destruction of the wells, said, simply:

"The Japanese have found that we were not bluffing when we announced that no oil installations would be permitted to fall into their hands."

PAN-AMERICA:
Opens Conference

Of vital importance had been considered the Pan-American conference of nations, which had opened its sessions at Rio, with Sumner Welles in charge of affairs for the American state department.

There were really only two doubtfuls on the list, but they were important, and covered the southern half of the continent—Argentina and Chile.

Yet, as the conference met, with the announced purpose of further fulfilling the general blockade against the Axis by a continental breaking of relations with all Axis nations, it was felt quite hopeful that Argentina and Chile would come in and enter the joint action wholeheartedly.

OUSTER:
Against Dye Men

Five of the principal operating executives of the General Aniline and Film corporation were summarily ousted from their position by order of the treasury department, which had been trying for several months to establish that the company actually was owned by the Nazi firm of I. G. Farbenindustrie.

The men suspended, all naturalized citizens of German birth, were Dr. Rudolph Hutz, a director; Hans Aickelen and William Vom Rath, both former directors who resigned within the past month; F. W. Von Meister, general manager of the Oxalid division, and Leopole Eckler, acting general manager of the Agfa-Ansco division.

They have been refused the right, among other things, to enter the premises of the company. December 12 the treasury department placed 17 of its operatives in the main offices of the company.

Washington Digest

Expanded War Program Will Touch Every Home

All Phases of National Life to Feel Effects of Changes Brought About 'Colossal' Economy; Tire, Car Curbs Are Mere Beginning.

By BAUKHAGE
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In less time than it takes to read this column a new airplane should be completed—that is, if the program outlined by the President in his message on the state of the Union is carried out.

That seems like a large order. It is. But this is what the President has planned for 1942: 60,000 new planes, 45,000 new tanks, 20,000 new anti-aircraft guns, 8,000,000 tons of merchant shipping. Since there are only 8,760 hours in the year, if the OPM is to meet the President's goals, planes will have to roll out of the factories at the rate of one every eight minutes, tanks at the rate of one every 11 minutes, anti-aircraft guns at the rate of one every 25 minutes, and shipping at the rate of 15 tons a minute.

America's resources may be unlimited, but human comprehension is not. Ever since that message was delivered in congress, Washington has been straining in an attempt to comprehend those colossal figures.

Already some of the effects are being translated in terms of human experience—you know if you have tried to buy a tire or an automobile. Other even more painful experiences are ahead. One of them is the unemployment which is coming while the civilian industry is being converted to defense production.

Small Plants Hit

It means that some 133,000 small plants will close their doors for good. They are too small to be converted. Their workers and supervisors, if they are competent, will be able to find employment elsewhere.

It means that thousands of salesmen who sell, not merely refrigerators, ice boxes and juke boxes, vacuum cleaners and electric toys, but other things which we once thought were necessities will stop selling. They may have to take off their white collars.

A survey of some thousand middle sized manufacturing concerns now turning out defense products has been made by the labor department. It revealed that three-fourths of the plants were working on three shifts already. Remember that was before the President tossed off his new production figures and the OPM "raised its sights" to meet them. But in these plants it was found that the second and third shifts used only half the man-power employed in the first shift. Right there is a 50 per cent increase in employment. These were plants selected as typical.

Someone will have to fill those extra shifts and a great many others. It will mean that a lot of "brain-workers" will have to work their hands. When a nation suddenly turns over 50 per cent of its income to defense production, it means that the man in search of a job has less than half a chance at getting any other kind of work.

In our homes, the effect of war measures has already made itself felt. Wool is rationed already. That is because even with all our sheep we depend on Australia and the Argentine for wool. We haven't the ships to bring it here. And we are getting ready to clothe an army of 5,000,000 men. Other restrictions will come.

In his budget message, the President hinted that we might have to carry ration cards the way the Europeans do before the war is over. That is more of a threat perhaps, than a prediction but it is worth remembering before we get too complacent.

Fertilizer 'Rationing'

Already the farmer is being rationed though he may not realize it. Take fertilizer, for instance:

First, the nitrates. All synthetic nitrates have to go into munitions. The one word nitro-glycerine reminds you of that. Natural nitrates have other things in them, so the army is after those, too. But since they come from Chile, they have to come in ships. And there are few ships for this purpose.

Second, phosphates. They come from Florida, Wyoming and Idaho. But they come in rocks. You can see a whole pile of these rocks right over in Baltimore. But it takes sulphuric acid to "digest" them. Sulphuric acid is needed for munitions.

Third, sprays. Formaldehyde is a vital part of many sprays. Also, it is needed to disinfect stored grain and to remove smut and fungus from grain before seeding. But formaldehyde is necessary in the production of plastics to dissolve the woody material. And plastics! They are needed as substitutes for many essential metals.

Fourth, copper sulphate. There is no need to comment when you consider the part copper plays in war.

When it comes to rubber, the farmer, like everybody else is affected. The difference is that some farmers are going to be making rubber the next few years.

Out in California the climate produces the best Gayule plants. And there will be acres and acres of these plants cultivated. It takes some time—but some are already growing. A two-year-old crop will produce 900 pounds of very good rubber per acre. The trouble is that you have to dig up the plant to get the latex—it comes from the roots.

Then, of course, there is synthetic rubber, but I am not allowed to reveal the figures, which are going to play a lot more important part than many of our enemies think in our victory production. There are also the big cultivated rubber plantations in Brazil and Central America run by Ford and Goodyear, there is the wild rubber from the Amazon. And most important of all, there is the contribution that the most autominded people in the world are going to have to make—the privilege of not buying tires for America's 27,000,000 pleasure cars.

The privilege of "not buying" is going to be extended. There will be no more gadgets and there will be a lot less money to buy even the necessities when we pay our share of the bill for building the greatest war machine in history. A machine so big and so destructive that perhaps it will destroy war itself.

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Weather Information And Broadcasting

The highly interesting yearbook just issued by the department of agriculture is devoted to climate and weather. It appears just when for the first time in American history it is worse than a crime to discuss the weather—that is if you talk loud enough to be overheard by enemy ears. A few weeks ago the navy department released an official communique severely blaming a commentator who mentioned the weather in Dakota. He gave out information which the navy said may have been the cause of increased submarine activity in the eastern Atlantic.

In Washington we are not permitted to mention even yesterday's weather on the air. This ruling seemed a bit far-fetched to me. In commenting on the fact to an official I told the story of what happened to me when I was broadcasting from Berlin just after the war broke out. On a beautiful moonlight evening I blandly announced over the short wave that "it was a fine night for an air raid." Nobody objected to that. There had been no air raids and the question had never been raised. But the next night it was different. No more description of the current weather, I was told by the military censor—"You can talk about last night's weather but not tonight's," he said.

I asked my Washington friend why, if Berlin let me talk about last night's weather I couldn't do the same thing here. "Weather," he answered, "moves from west to east. Berlin's weather moved off where it didn't matter in 24 hours. Washington's weather moves right into the eastern Atlantic where knowledge of it might benefit raiders."

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"Without disparaging in the least the huge metropolitan dailies, with circulations running into the hundreds of thousands and occasionally into the millions—and I say they are the best daily newspapers in the world—it is to the weekly newspapers and the small-town daily newspapers that I, myself, turn for information, guidance and inspiration, especially in the case of problems and questions affecting the public welfare."—Sen. Arthur Capper in the U. S. senate.

Open New Mine Of Manganese

South Dakota Ore Tested in Plan to Find Supply Of Vital Metal.

CHAMBERLAIN, S. D.—The first step toward development of an almost limitless supply of domestic manganese was taken recently when production was started at the federal bureau of mines experimental plant near here.

F. D. DeVaney, metallurgist in charge, estimates that an average of 500 tons of crude ore will be processed daily until freezing weather, and again in the spring. The ore will be shipped to government refining plants at Boulder, Nev., and Provo, Utah, where it will be used in experiments.

Admitting that the South Dakota ore probably is too low-grade for use in normal times, Mr. DeVaney said the government expects to develop an important emergency source in the South Dakota field.

Manganese is regarded as one of the most important strategic minerals in which the United States is deficient. About 14 pounds are used as a hardening agent in the manufacture of a ton of steel. In recent years the United States has imported 95 per cent of its requirements, chiefly from Russia. The remainder has come from small deposits in Arkansas, Montana and Virginia.

Enough for 1,300 Years.

According to the metal resources board, the nation has only a 16-month supply of manganese on hand, and imports have virtually ceased despite efforts of Cuba and Brazil to tap reserves and send the ore to the United States.

The South Dakota deposits are believed to be the largest in the country. A report of the South Dakota Geological Survey this year estimates the deposits at 10,000,000,000 tons of low-grade ore, enough to supply the present steel industry in the United States for 1,300 years.

Engineers in charge of the experimental plant near here are not optimistic about large-scale production, but explain that even the 500 tons of ore being processed daily would produce enough manganese for the manufacture of 800 tons of steel.

The 800 tons of steel, they say, are equivalent to the amount used in building 640 automobiles. A 30-day run at the experimental plant would produce enough manganese to manufacture the steel used in a 30,000-ton battleship of the South Dakota class.

To Use Pressure Method.

The new plant, using a system of screens and washers with an oil-heated drying kiln, will separate an average of 50 tons of 20 per cent manganese from each 500 tons of material handled.

Construction of a second experimental plant, designed to handle 250 tons of ore a day, has been started near here. This plant will operate on the principle of an explosive-shattering plant like those used in manufacturing or processing puffed-grain cereals. Ore will be placed in a steam cylinder under high pressure. As the pressure is released suddenly the ore nodules will be separated from the shale and clay in which they are imbedded when mined.

Both plants were authorized under funds made available by congress for acquisition of strategic minerals. About $80,000 is being spent on the two plants.

Development work in manganese also is being conducted in Arizona and Minnesota, where there are low-grade deposits of smaller extent. A large extraction plant has been proposed for Minnesota.

Trip to Moon? Yes, by 2041, Says Scientist

LOS ANGELES.—A trip to the moon may not be as fantastic as it sounds. Our great-grandchildren may make the first one, in the opinion of Dr. Dinsmore Alter, director of the Griffith Astronomical observatory.

Dr. Alter predicted that man's first visit to the moon would take place "some time within the next 100 years—if not sooner."

The first flight, he said, depends on the development of a new element, known as Uranium 235, now being studied at the University of California at Berkeley.

"It's possible to send objects to the moon right now," the scientist said. "It is almost a matter of fuel and cost. It has been estimated the cost of a rocket to span the 232,000 to 253,000 miles would be about $100,000,000."

He revealed that once on the moon there would be no trouble leaving. The takeoff would be simple because the planet's gravitational pull is only a sixth that of the earth.

Navy Opens Field To Small Industry

Many Contracts Are Given 'Depressed Areas.'

WASHINGTON.—A new system for the distribution of contracts was announced by the navy as a means of bringing help to the country's "depressed areas." A relaxing of specifications was being ordered wherever possible, it was stated, to spread the manufacture of defense materials.

The program, as described by the navy, is designed to facilitate deliveries of essential material and to widen the heretofore limited field of manufacturers who could produce according to the former specifications.

New systems also are being worked out to ease the method of issuing first contracts for small manufacturers whose efforts to obtain contracts heretofore have been reported as handicapped by red tape.

The effort to assist various areas, navy officials said, had already brought substantial results. Among communities whose manufacturers received first contracts, it was said, were Manitowoc and Sheboygan, Wis.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mansfield, Ohio, and Holyoke, Mass.

From these centers are being obtained such diverse articles as milling machines, parachutes, canned corn, cranes and steel bunks. This type of work-spreading has hardly begun, but is expected to develop into a major factor in the procurement program.

The other direct step to bring new manufacturers into the supply picture has involved a re-survey of hundreds of articles purchased by the navy in order to relax specifications which were rigidly maintained in peacetime but are not now as essential as speed in production.

Boy, Aged 14, Argues Case And Wins on Fine Point

SHERIDAN, WYO.—No, sir, when 14-year-old Calvin Davis gets into trouble he doesn't need to hire a lawyer. He just does a little arguing himself.

Calvin appeared in court charged with killing a duck from a public road. At his request he was allowed to be his own counsel.

Testimony brought out that Calvin shot the duck, which he said he thought was a wild fowl. It developed the bird was domesticated and the owners brought charges seeking damages.

In pleading young Davis said he offered to pay for the duck, but "my offer was refused."

He first argued that the state owned the water upon which the duck was swimming. After failing here Calvin proved he was on a six foot strip of state property between the road and creek when he fired.

Thus, on a technicality, he won his first case.

Sitting Bull Just Sat, Declares Indian Agent

SALT LAKE CITY.—Military history to the contrary, Sitting Bull did not win the battle of the Little Big Horn—better known as Custer's last stand.

So says Clarence M. Groshell, a Salt Lake man whose hobby for years has been Indian research.

Groshell says Sitting Bull was a mediocre fighter. Not only that—he arrived on the scene of the massacre when it was nearly over. The chief really responsible for the Little Big Horn debacle was named simply Gall, Groshell says. But he had able assistance from Red Cloud and Rain-in-the-Face.

Chief Sitting Bull's role was not unimportant, however. The old chief was a wily politician and strategist, and he kept the Indians at fighting pitch.

But when the actual bullets began to fly, Sitting Bull was doing just that—sitting.

Private Deserted by Army Stays at Post 30 Hours

BALTIMORE. — Private Victor Golas, who obeyed orders literally and became a "forgotten soldier" through 30 hours of traffic directing, got a pat on the back and a de luxe ride home.

Maj. A. H. Kratzke, commander of the military police detail with which the Camp Edwards, Mass., selectee was serving, told Private Golas "you are to be congratulated" and "in the army, an order is an order and must be obeyed."

So Golas, who stuck by his post at a railroad crossing through rain and gloom of night long after the last truck of his motor convoy had gone by, received a train ticket to Massachusetts. He also managed to catch up on his sleep—12 hours' worth—at a military police dormitory.