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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Establishment of Price Control Plan Emphasizes Need for All-Out Effort; War Office Spokesmen Propose Plan To Eliminate Class '3' Draft Group

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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Planning their battle strategy, members of the Allied War council sit in a conference at Canberra, the capital of Australia. Left to right: Maj. Gen. Richard Sutherland, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, J. A. Curtin, prime minister of Australia, and A. W. Fadden, former prime minister and present member of the war council.

CEILINGS:

Cover Nation

The setting of price ceilings on practically every conceivable commodity in the country had been expected by the business world, hence it was received with little shock.

The impact on the public had been terrific, however, and it is certain that business men were surprised at the drastic rules to be adopted by Leon Henderson to put "teeth" into the price control plan.

Henderson had made it "life or death" for business by a very simple procedure. He proposed licensing all retailers and wholesalers, and if found violating a single one of the price ceilings, they would face an instant loss of their license to do business.

This was a form of control which was not familiar to anyone living in this country, in fact without parallel in history, and it fell on the business ear with a sickening thud, and the merchant could now say "I know what it is to be at war."

German and Italian commentators picked this up gleefully, and called it a terrific blow "to the American way of life" as indeed it was, and the President promptly and frankly had admitted it.

The American answer was, however, that the American way of life was but being placed in abeyance for the time being, pending the winning of the war, when it would be back again in full flower once more.

The sugar commercial users had turned out in force to register, and the nation was on the threshold of the rationing of this commodity.

Restaurants were planning to meet the shortage by changing their cookery and bills of fare; ice cream makers were going to have to shorten their output, the candy makers were in for a tough time.

But in general the spirit was excellent, and while there was some talk of a growing "black market" in tires, and the nation was going to have to cope with that sort of thing, Henderson's penalties were expected to be sufficient to meet the need, and the future "was being faced" with a good heart by the rank and file of the country, whether consumer or producer, whether buyer or seller.

WAGES:

Hold Still

With the President giving the green light to the program to set ceilings on prices and incomes, setting \$25,000 a year net as the latter, the question of ceilings on wages came in for much comment but no action.

The President had taken a strong public stand for the 40-hour week continuance, revealed that labor in war industry was constantly working at least 48 hours, and pointing out that as price ceilings were not retroactive, but were fixed at March's highest levels, he did not favor a program which would reduce the weekly paycheck.

While there had been much talk about the work-week, and some proposed legislation, nobody had so far had the temerity to come forward with a program to cut everybody's wages in war industry.

Labor itself had voluntarily foregone the double time for Sundays and holidays, while holding out for the time and a half for the sixth day of work, and the same for a seventh if necessary.

FACTORY:

America Winning

Battle of Production

Men of industry told the nation that as far as they were concerned, regardless of what might be the news from the fighting or training fronts, the battle of production was being won.

The top industries in the United States, with representatives meeting in Chicago, had reported:

Airplanes—on schedule.
Ships—Ahead of schedule.
Coal—Adequate.

Even on petroleum the reports were that production was more than adequate, and that the distribution problems were being solved. Power and construction projects were reported working on schedule. The machine tools were said to be adequate in supply.

As to our steel output, it was called 50 per cent greater than the capacity of Germany, Japan, Italy and all the nations controlled by the Axis put together.

AXIS:

Unrest Evident

Turning to the three Axis governments, each of them was showing serious signs of unrest.

The Japanese had been jittery since the bombings of their cities by American planes, and the certainty that it would happen again and again in the future.

The Germans had found Hitler suddenly calling the Reichstag in session, not for democratic purposes, but simply to vote him, in typical rubber-stamp fashion, practical life and death power over everyone, and really placing the Gestapo in such a position in the Reich as even it had never enjoyed before.

Mussolini publicly was admitting serious disorders in Italy. He cited lack of discipline being reported from many prefectures, and that widespread fraud and "chiseling" was rearing its ugly head.

London was advising caution in accepting reports that there had been an open break between Mussolini and King Victor Emmanuel.

But Mussolini, according to neutral press centers and to Italian broadcasts picked up had spoken bitterly of the Italian food shortage, and had called it Italy's most serious problem.

It was from Switzerland that the report had come that King Victor Emmanuel had decided to ask both



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL
Break with Mussolini?

Mussolini and Ciano to resign, and to take over the reins of government himself.

Other neutral circles, however, had viewed the Mussolini talk as a simple prelude to a purge of high Fascist officials.

The Hitler talk had been seen in the same way, and neutral reports had been that one of the first acts under Hitler's new powers had been the cashiering of the general charged with the Leningrad area of the Russian front where things had been going very badly with the spring offensive of Germany.

In fact Russia had claimed that on this front German-Finnish losses had averaged 500 deaths a day.

RUSSIA:

And RAF

The Royal Air force and Russia had begun to work like a team on Germany, and the evidence was piling up that Hitler was faced with a spring offensive that might at any moment kick back in his face.

Moscow told of her troops making an "important advance" of 45 miles in four days on the Leningrad front, with terrific Nazi resistance overcome in crossing a vital river.

At the same time the Berlin and Vichy radios were admitting that big battles were in progress in the Kurk and Orel sectors, and that a large-scale Russian attack, well supplied with tanks and armored cars, had succeeded in breaking through the German lines northeast of Orel.

Washington Digest

Success of Dairy Union Effected by Price Parity

Farm Authority Believes That 'John L. Lewis Will Frighten Every Farmer Into Solid Attacking Front.'



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers of America, is well on the road to uniting the farmers of America, but not all in the way he planned to when he started to organize his United Dairy Workers under the famous "district 50" of his powerful UMW.

That is the verdict of a friend of mine in Washington, an official who has spent his days with farmers and farm organization heads and his nights sleeping with the "farm problem" throughout most of his adult years. He believes that John Lewis, by trying to unionize agriculture, has conjured up a devil that will frighten every farmer into a solid attacking front.

Lately the return of gentle parity to the land had begun to have its disintegrating effect on the farmers. Their long-sought goal reached, they began to turn back to their separate interests.

"The farmer won't lay down his hoe and pick up a pen and sign membership in something unless things are going pretty bad. When he can manage to make both ends meet he keeps his eye on the furrow, takes care of his own acres and follows the old New England motto that 'good fences make good neighbors.' In other words, he is the original rugged individualist."

That is the way my friend put it to me. I was complaining that I couldn't get any definite information as to their plans out of the farm group representatives on this move on the part of Lewis to try to organize the dairy industry. The series of the meetings the group representatives were holding in Washington was pretty much behind closed doors.

"They won't talk about their plans," my friend explained, "because they don't know what to do. It's an absolutely new thing in the American history of the men whose business it is to make a living out of the soil and domestic animals—the idea of making a union out of capitalists. They don't know how to meet it. Personally, I don't think Lewis will have any success. What interests me is that his efforts are likely to bring the farmers together again, the way they were brought together in the thirties, when America lost its export market for farm products, or for that matter the way they were brought together by the old Granger movement clear back in the seventies. It takes despair to unite the farmers. When America started to change from a purely agricultural country to a semi-industrial country the farmer had to unite to get his rights. Ever since then there have been farm organizations but it takes a real crisis like the one in the thirties to really bring them together."

I asked him why he thought Lewis would fail.

"It's been the history of every effort to make a union between city workers and farmers that after the farmers sign up they find the workers are running them," he said. "They are suspicious."

I have no doubt that a number of dairymen have signed up. I have no idea how many and I can't find out. But they are the men who just can't make ends meet. They are the ones who haven't been able to run their farms productively or else they are located so that their transportation costs cut their profits to losses. In other words, they haven't been able to keep their costs down. Lewis will have to offer them something. He can't very well promise to boost consumer prices at a time when price ceilings are in the offing. If he organizes farm help and farm transportation that will put the costs up, not profits—and," he added, "you can't put a cow on a 40-hour week."

Coddling—

Two Versions

I have received a number of letters protesting against the President's suggestion that this war be called the "Survival War." The writers do not issue with the argument that this is a struggle for the survival of one of two cultures, two types of thinking, but because the phrase "survival of the fittest" which means the fittest physically.

That may be a sound criticism. I do not contest it. But one thing is certain: We have to be more than physically fit to survive this war. I think we are turning out well-trained soldiers, equal to cope with any enemy in strength, endurance and alertness. But there is no doubt that the nation has been coddling itself during the last few years. The letters I get from many well-meaning people with suggestions of what to do for the soldiers make me think that this idea of coddling is pretty deep. What the soldiers need most of all is not sweetmeats and goodies, but the assurances that the folks back home have faith that the cause is worth fighting for; and that the fighters are worthy of the cause—that it is a duty to protect your country and not simply an unpleasant sacrifice.

I think that kind of an expression is the one that does the soldier's heart the most good. I know that the only letters which I received in the last war that annoyed me were the ones which told me what deep sympathy the writer had for my many hardships, how I must be brave and bear it all, that my loved ones were so impressed with all that I was going through.

I was reading over some of my war letters the other day. I recall the two things in them which helped me most. One was my mother's remarks that my "new life" as she called it, might help me spiritually. She never characterized what I was doing as better or worse; she never discussed it in military terms, or the painfully inadequate terms in which a civilian tries to describe what he or she thinks military experience is. My mother suggested that perhaps "my new career would give me a deeper meaning of life."

That gave me something to think about. The other kind of letter I liked to get was from my father with things like this in it: "If you have to sleep on the ground hollow out a place for your hips. Then you won't be stiff in the morning." Or "remember this, obey your officers but try to make friends with the sergeant."

Cakes and cookies are nice but they get pretty well bashed up and you have to open them in the presence of some hundred other guys so nobody gets enough. Coddling the stomach doesn't help one's intestinal stamina.

Here in Washington I find that this coddling goes for the girls, too.

Thousands of girls have come here to work. They didn't have to come. They are getting so well paid that girls in private offices quit and go with the government. But the papers are full of long, tearful articles about how the poor things are so homesick they can't stand it. They haven't enough boy friends to amuse them. All in all they have a terrible lot.

A series of highly thoughtful meetings were held recently by some anxious people in this vicinity where 80 per cent of the civilians employed by the army in the last five months have been women. When the army and navy auxiliaries are founded a lot more men will be replaced by women. So it makes Washington society slightly bogged down on the distaff side.

"We can't create men," said one employee's service officer, tersely. The answer to that of course is, "well, not immediately."

"The men exist," another official interested in the happiness of government employees delicately suggested, "but the problem is to present them to the girls in as normal a way as possible and without patronizing anybody."

Back in Colonial days it was different. Women were so scarce that when a boatload arrived there was heavy bidding and many a bale of tobacco had to be offered for a good wife. Since then, however, in most communities I think the supply has at least equalled the demand. And yet somehow the ladies used to get by without pining away and dying. But now it's problem—a national problem in the national capital—and maidens are languishing for dates because nobody can figure out how to "present the boys to the girls without being patronizing."

Does that make it a "survival" war, too?

—Bay Defense Bonds—

Army Initiates Savings Drive

Voluntary Pay-Roll Deductions to Raise Bond, Stamp Sales.

An army-wide campaign designed to stimulate and encourage voluntary purchase of defense savings bonds and stamps has been announced by the war department. All military and civilian personnel under the department, including those at overseas stations, will be given the opportunity to authorize payroll deductions for the purchase of bonds.

As an initial step, the war department has directed an educational program throughout the entire army to acquaint both military and civilian personnel with the objectives to be achieved and the benefits to be derived from the purchase of stamps and bonds, and the procedure to be followed in purchasing them.

Educational Material.

Army authorities will be responsible for direction of the campaign, both as to the educational phase and the actual sales. Educational material will be made available to designated authorities. Regulations have been issued describing the manner in which voluntary deductions from pay may be authorized.

Although the campaign is not designed to be one of competition, the educational program will be so thorough that all army personnel and civilian employees will be fully informed as to the desirability and methods of purchasing stamps and bonds.

Air Raid Training for Deaf Given at Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA.—They will not be able to hear the wail of the air raid sirens or even the thunderous crash of bombs—if such events do transpire in the Southland city of Atlanta. But should such a time ever come, scores of deaf mutes will be standing by, ready to meet the crisis.

Currently, classes in first aid applicable in case of an air raid, are being held twice weekly in Atlanta for a group of 40 of these handicapped citizens.

In this unique class, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, these people who cannot hear tell the story of their work with their hands. The class-instruction is being offered by the Red Cross, in cooperation with the Atlanta division of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf.

The original class of 40, after the standard 20-week course, will continue into an additional 10-week advanced first aid course, and many of them will then go out among other deaf persons in the vicinity as instructors.

Former Mayor at Last

Takes Citizenship Oath

YOUNGSTOWN.—Lionel Evans, who served four years as a mayor of Youngstown, has finally become an American citizen.

He was granted citizenship rights under a federal law which permits such action in cases where persons have lived for many years in the belief that they were citizens.

Evans a Welshman, was brought here as a baby and thought his citizenship was established years ago.

During his term as mayor his citizenship was questioned but it was not proven that he was not an American citizen.

"I took this step to clear up any possible doubt about my citizenship," Evans declared after he was granted his papers.

Air-Raid Lookout Post

Started as Tree House

SEATTLE.—Quinn Anderson and Franklin Couch meant it for just a tree house.

But with news of aerial bombardment of Hawaii, their shelter underwent hasty remodeling.

They now man Seattle's first schoolboy air-raid lookout post, complete with field glasses and wall silhouettes of enemy planes.

Travels 150 Miles Each

Night to Play Badminton

ATLANTA.—W. J. Graham makes a nightly trip of about 150 miles to compete in the Atlanta Athletic club's annual badminton tournament.

Operator of an air school at Americus, Ga., he comes and goes each night in his plane. Graham was badminton champion in Pittsburgh in 1938.

Uncovers Secret Of Wool Elasticity

Research Points Way to New Synthetic Textile.

CHICAGO.—The secret of the molecular structure which gives wool its elasticity and warmth has been discovered by the laboratory and the way is now clear for producers of synthetic textiles to tackle the problem of making an artificial wool. Dr. Milton Harris of Washington said.

Dr. Harris said that another result of the research of more immediate importance because of the war-time scarcity of wool was the development of a method of stabilizing wool's peculiar chemical and physical structure so that it would resist damage from laundering. Application of the process, he said, promised to double, triple or quadruple the durability of wool, depending on the use and method of cleaning.

"We have processed small pieces of wool and the results look extremely promising, almost too good to be true," Dr. Harris said.

After three or four years of research, he said, the foundation discovered that wool molecules are flexible and derive their elasticity and strength from the way some of the molecules form ties or bridges across others. The elasticity accounts for wool's warmth, creating air spaces which hold heat and reforming the air spaces when wool is stretched or compressed. Other textiles lack the ability to reform the air spaces, the research showed.

"We have put the finishing touches on the work of finding out what makes wool 'tick,'" Dr. Harris said. "While we have not made any attempt to produce a synthetic wool, that being outside our field, our discoveries are the first basic step toward that objective. The manufacture of synthetic wool is now entirely feasible."

British Wren Surrenders To Old Dan Cupid in U. S.

PHILADELPHIA.—An English lass and one of His Majesty's sailors, who never met until they came to the United States in the war service of their government, were married after a two-month courtship.

Kathleen Mary Benbow, 22, of Bromley, Kent, was led to the altar under an arch of swords in the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany by 23-year-old Lieut. Philip H. May, R.N., of Walsah, Hampshire.

And in faraway England, friends who had been notified of the wedding, had arranged to drink a toast at the appointed hour.

The bride is a third officer in the Women's Royal Naval Service—the "Wrens"—and a daughter of John N. Benbow, a commander in the British navy. Lieutenant May is the son of Percy R. May, rubber plantation owner in Ceylon.

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. S. Nason, British naval chaplain.

United Nations Now Hold Most of Wheat Surplus

WASHINGTON.—The United Nations hold about 1,271,000,000 bushels of the world's known wheat surplus of 1,524,000,000 bushels, the agriculture department reported.

The remaining 253,000,000 bushels are held by a Western hemisphere neutral, Argentina.

The United Nations' surplus is about 210,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago.

The surpluses, representing expected holdings when the 1942 crop starts moving to market, were divided as follows: United States, 640,000,000 bushels; Canada, 486,000,000; and Australia, 145,000,000.

Assemblyman Has Case

For a Good Mapmaker

PENNINGTON GAP, VA.—When Guy A. Kauffman, member of the Virginia house of delegates from Lee county, is home from the general assembly he's nearer to eight other state capitals than to the state house at Richmond. Pennington Gap, 390 miles by auto from Richmond, is closer to the following state capitals: Atlanta, Ga.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Frankfort, Ky.; Raleigh, N. C.; Columbus, Ohio; Columbia, S. C.; Nashville, Tenn., and Charleston, W. Va.

Virginia Legislators

Are 67 Years Apart

RICHMOND, VA.—Members of the Virginia general assembly have an age range of 67 years between the oldest and youngest member.

State Sen. Henry T. Wickham of Hanover county, president pro tem of the senate, is the oldest at 92. William Shaffer, member of the house of delegates from Shenandoah county, is the youngest at 25.