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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

FDR Plans Nationwide Gas Rationing With 35-Mile Speed Limit for U. S.; Double-Time Pay Banned for Duration; British Renew Madagascar Occupation

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



When the U. S. marines accomplished their history-making offensive in the Solomon Islands, amphibian tractors churned South Seas water to carry them to their first attack to win back Jap-held territory since the start of the war. The tractor is in the background as these marines dug in at the beach soon after the battle's opening. The area was soon cleared of the enemy.

GAS RATIONING: President Acts

For weeks silver-haired Bernard M. Baruch and co-members of the President's special rubber committee had labored over the problem of what to do about the nation's steadily diminishing rubber supply.

When the committee handed Mr. Roosevelt its report, the President was ready for action.

First, he announced that "as rapidly as arrangements can be made" he would put into effect a set of recommendations submitted by the committee, including nationwide gasoline rationing and drastic restrictions on civilian motoring.

Made public in the President's announcement were additional steps recommended by the committee which included:

A 35-mile speed limit for passenger cars and trucks; an average annual mileage of 5,000 miles per car, permitted only for "necessary driving"; release of more rubber to the public for recapping old tires to maintain necessary civilian driving; imposition of gasoline rationing nationally on the basis of 5,000 miles per year per car; compulsory periodic tire inspections; voluntary tire conservation pending establishment of gas rationing.

Submitted with the committee's recommendations was the blunt declaration that rubber conservation was now a matter of "discomfort or defeat."

MADAGASCAR: 'Full Occupation'

Even as communiques revealed that the British had opened a general offensive against the west coast of Vichy-held Madagascar, the state department in Washington announced that Great Britain with the full approval of the United States had decided to undertake "further military operations" in the Madagascar area.

British action was taken to eliminate reported refueling of Jap submarines in secret harbors and Nazi espionage in connivance with Vichy agents.

Significant of the close military collaboration between Britain and the United States and their indifference to Vichy France opposition, the state department announcement declared:

"The full military occupation of Madagascar by British forces will not only contribute to the successful conduct of the war against the Axis forces, but will be in the interest of the United Nations."

DOUBLE-TIME PAY: Curbed by FDR

"Penalty double time" pay for millions of industrial workers was abolished for the duration of the war when President Roosevelt signed an executive order banning the practice for Sundays, Saturdays and holidays.

The President's action thus invalidated contracts in which employers were required to pay workers double time for work on Saturdays or holidays, even though these days fell within the regular five-day work week.

LUXEMBOURG: Defies the Nazis

Plucky Luxembourgers gave the lie to Nazi propaganda that they were voluntarily acquiring German citizenship and entering the enemy armed forces, by staging a general strike—the first in a German-occupied country.

The pint-sized duchy, which has a population of but 269,913, is nevertheless one of the world's most important steel producing regions. The exiled Luxembourg ministry in London reported that German authorities had declared a state of emergency and threatened striking workers with death.

Repressive measures were imposed throughout Luxembourg when the strike which started at Schifflingen, spread to other towns. Sabotage against railroads in the tiny country was reported widespread, with workers putting equipment out of order.

TRUCKS AND TAXIS: Face U. S. Control

The operation of 5,000,000 commercial motor trucks, 150,000 busses and 50,000 taxi cabs will be placed under government control by November 15 as a measure to conserve transportation facilities for war purposes, it was announced by Joseph B. Eastman, director of the Office of Defense Transportation. Passenger cars and motorcycles were exempted from the new regulations.

The ODT's order directed operators of commercial vehicles to obtain a "certificate of war necessity" to obtain fuel, tires, tubes and accessories.

Mr. Eastman said the certificates for commercial vehicles would require a tire check every 5,000 miles, or every 60 days, whichever occurs first, to assure proper inflation and repairs. Certificates, he indicated, will be issued to all types of trucks, vehicles built primarily for transporting property and passengers and others available for public rental, such as ambulances and hearses.

The objective, he said, is to limit their use to operations necessary to the war effort, or to the essential domestic economy.

FRANCE: Petain Is Warned

Edouard Herriot is one Frenchman not afraid to raise his voice in blunt opposition to Vichy. Jules Jeanneney is another. Both command respect in Unoccupied France, for Herriot is mayor of Lyons and a former premier and Jeanneney a former cabinet member. Both were leaders of the last parliament of the Third Republic.

Thus Frenchmen everywhere listened when these two delivered a solemn warning to Marshal Petain and Pierre Laval that France may suffer "convulsions" if the Vichy



EDOUARD HERRIOT
... Convulsions will follow.

government attempts to draw the nation "into war against our Allies."

In an unprecedented letter indicting the present regime, Herriot and Jeanneney implied that despite the French defeat in June, 1940, and the armistice with Germany and despite the rise of Petain and Laval, they still consider France bound by the treaties of alliance with which she entered the war.

TANKS VS. PLANES: U. S. Passes Axis

Robert P. Patterson, undersecretary of war, had good news for the nation when he announced in Cleveland that American tank production had reached "an impressive figure" and that Uncle Sam was now turning out more planes than Germany, Japan and Italy combined.

Answering criticism of American war material, Patterson said that in speed, range, toughness of armor and hitting power, the U. S. medium tank, either the M-3 or the M-4, "is superior to the best German tank," as "proved in combat in Egypt."

Combat records, he declared, also had proved the Curtiss P-40 better than the Jap Zero planes.

Washington Digest

Nazi Break With Russia Foiled Sabotage in U. S.

Hitler Held Responsible for Wrecking Germany's Elaborate Plans to Blow Up Vital Points in U. S.



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A mystery that has perplexed many laymen and some officials in Washington with respect to the manner in which the government has forestalled a mammoth Nazi plan for sabotaging American industry can now be explained. There will be no official confirmation of the explanation but it comes to me from what are frequently described as "informed sources"—which really means "a man who has never lied to me so far."

In a sentence: The man who wrecked elaborate Nazi plans for blowing up munitions plants, railway terminals, bridges, electric light and power plants in the United States was none other than Adolf Schickelgruber, Hitler himself.

He did it when he tossed the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact out of the window just after Nazi armies had launched their surprise drive on Russia.

To understand what a job the fuhrer did for himself we must remember that for years, with the methodical care of the German mind, a detailed plan had been worked out for the sabotage of American industry. Even during the last war there were some terrible and effective pieces of sabotage accomplished by a comparatively untrained and unregimented crowd of German spies. The famous Black Tom explosion which wrecked the huge New Jersey plant not far from New York city, was an example. An international mixed claims commission finally awarded huge damages to the United States for that act.

But the Nazis began where the kaiser left off. They had schools for the training of saboteurs especially selected from Germans who had lived in the United States and were lured back to Germany and either bribed or intimidated into undertaking the work of destruction in territory with which they had become familiar.

Details of this training came out in the secret testimony in the recent trial of the Nazi saboteurs in Washington. But much of it was ancient history to the department of justice. And the way the advance information came into the hands of our intelligence officers was this:

While the Germans had their pact of friendship with Russia, Nazi agents were busy making friends with Communists all over the world in the hope that they could use them for subversive activities. The Communists naturally did not turn a deaf ear and Hitler's agents told all.

Then came the double cross, Germany attacked Russia, and Communist and Nazi who had always hated each other thoroughly gave vent to their real feelings. The plans which the Nazis had confided to the Communists were turned over to the governments of the United Nations.

The United States also had been picking up a little information about the German sabotage methods in other ways—such as by planting a man or two in the German Gestapo.

These men learned, from one source or another, that the Germans had hired safe crackers in this country to steal the blue prints of factories from insurance companies, which always demand a detailed description and plan of all buildings they insure. The plans were stolen, photographed and returned. That is one example. Many other little devious tricks and enterprises were revealed by dint of our own investigators, and with the help of the Communists who had complete and exhaustive data, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was able to take the necessary steps to break up the complicated plots and counter-plots to wreck American industry. So far there have been very few, if any, major cases which have been branded as sabotage in this country, thanks to Mr. Hitler.

Not all of these belated amendments were accepted by the Nazi officials—gallant for once. The consequence is that the rigors of the Nazi internment camps are now being suffered by women who, if they had been less coquettish about their years, would now be free.

—Buy War Bonds—

On Pronunciation

You may not know it, but nobody thinks broadcasters know how to pronounce the names of foreign places. Some write in and tell us about it and even the news services

try to help us. When an item comes over the news ticker about Rzehev or Chumby they obligingly put the pronunciation in brackets.

The other day the news services had something to say about disturbances in Lyons, France. Now I've been hearing about Lyons all my life and I know perfectly well that Lyons is pronounced like two lions in the zoo. I also know that the same city is spelled by the French without the "s."—Lyons—and I've visited that ancient and attractive city and I know how the French pronounce it.

So when the ticker said "Lyons (pronounced Lee-on)" I got the same feeling as when I once heard two Frenchmen disputing whether Washington was called "Vashington" or "Vassington."

Lyons, if you want to be pedantic, is not pronounced "Lee-on" or anything like it. If you want to pronounce it the French way, you'll have to study French. As for me, I'll go on saying Lyons, and I'll continue to say Paris—not "Pah-ree," and Rome, and Vienna and The Hague and Cologne and Athens, although I know that the natives don't call any of those cities by those names.

Notes From a Broadcaster's Diary

Is the government farm-conscious? It is. I am going to risk a gentle indiscretion and quote a suggestion from a high government source to broadcasters. It is part of an appeal to encourage enlistment in our merchant marine that must have one hundred thousand skilled workers for the shippards in 1942; must have 120,000 experienced seamen. Here is the suggestion:

"Take care to specify that the Merchant Marine does not want men engaged in farming or war production work. They do their share now. Any change would bring more harm than good. It does, however, want the young, the strong, the adventurous for seagoing jobs, and the skilled capable workers for the shippards."

And the government wants the skilled farmer to stay on the farm where he is: Food will win the war and write the peace.

The Whole Truth

The Nazi regime is not usually credited with doing much to encourage truth. Hitler himself spends many paragraphs in "Mein Kampf" telling about the importance of being a good liar. But, strange as it may seem, according to a tale that is whispered behind the closed doors of state department offices, the Nazis have struck a blow for verity. Here is the tale which may never appear in the official communiques of our ministry of foreign relations.

When Germany declared war on the United States last December, after Pearl Harbor, there were still several hundred Americans, men and women, living in Paris. Many of them had lived there for 20 years, getting their American passports renewed periodically. Some of the ladies, it seems, took advantage of these periodical renewals to lop a couple of years off their age now and again.

And who would grudge the ladies a few years stolen from the calendar, especially in Paris? But the gentle prevarication bounced back with a vengeance. For when the Nazis announced that women under 60 would be interned in concentration camps, while older women would be allowed to remain at liberty, a certain number of American women suddenly discovered that the age shown on their passport was erroneous. They hurried to the Swiss consulate, which had charge of American interests, and swore out affidavits to the effect that they were not, say, 45, but 62.

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Air Conditioner Help to Miners

Controls Temperature and Humidity; Has Other Advantages.

PITTSBURGH.—Men who dig for coal hundreds of feet beneath the surface of the ground are benefiting from the same air-cleansing principle that keeps the office of their president cool and dry.

Conditioned air for the miner was inaugurated recently at the Beech Bottom coal mine of the Windsor Power House Coal company on the Ohio river above Wheeling, W. Va., and the 500 men there who turn out a million tons of coal a year to provide power for war production plants in West Virginia and Ohio, already profess to "feel better."

Installed primarily as a safety measure to reduce roof falls by maintaining a constant temperature and humidity, the air-conditioning also has provided a sorely needed improvement in the working conditions of miners.

Solve Water Supply. Air conditioning in mines is not new, according to the United States bureau of mines, which is keeping close check on the efficacy of the project, and encouraging experiments have been made in Illinois and Indiana mines in recent years.

However, a novel twist, which means the solution of the water supply problem encountered by many mines, has appeared in connection with the new air-cooling program.

Engineers say that rock falls, which trouble all mines, are caused by expansion and contraction of the rock, due to fluctuation in the temperatures and humidity, and variations between the inside and outside temperatures, creating beads of condensed moisture on the rock in the summer and leaving the rock dry in the winter. Rock falls—from a pound to a ton—inevitably accompany summer drippings.

Other mines have used chilled water to bring the intake air down to the desired temperature and give it the proper moisture content.

Has Many Advantages. Before releasing the exhaust air from the mine, however, the Windsor plant, which has a limited supply of spring water, passes the cold air through the water that has been warmed in the original process, thereby cooling it for another air-chilling job.

The installation of air-conditioning provides control of a constant temperature and humidity, and since it has been in use, the inner surfaces of the mine have been dry.

Officials have pointed out that control of roof-falls results in several beneficial factors; the elimination of the mental hazard that slows up the miner, the maintenance of production at an even pace without interruption caused by injuries to miners, and through improved atmospheric conditions, the company is enabled to make a larger recovery of coal from its property, thus conserving an important natural resource.

Toll of Cancer in U. S. Is Steadily Increasing

WASHINGTON.—Ravages of cancer in the United States have almost doubled over the past 40 years, the census bureau reports.

Cancer is one of the few diseases the mortality record of which has grown steadily worse in that period, the bureau records disclosed.

In the 40 years of the bureau's records of death registrations, cancer deaths have totaled 3,115,932—almost equal to the population of Chicago. Since the registration area did not include the entire country until 1933, the number of deaths from cancer in the period was even greater than shown by the records.

The bureau estimated that if cancer fatalities were localized each year, a city the size of Des Moines, New Haven or Fort Worth would be wiped out.

The death rate per 100,000 population in 1900 was 64, while in 1940, it was 120.3—almost double. The death rate per 100,000 increases with age from 4.8 under 4 years old to 66.2 for the 65-74 group and 1,183.4 for the group 75 years and over.

War Booms Market for Angora Bunny in Montana

MALTA, MONT.—The Angora rabbit is one animal that has at last realized the much-quoted expression of being "worth its weight in gold." War-time demand for angora wool to line mittens, helmets and socks for high-altitude fliers and for other war needs has sent the price of the rabbit wool skyrocketing to \$5.35 a pound for the No. 1 grade.

A female angora rabbit, breeders say, will produce about \$5 worth of wool and will give birth to an average of 21 youngsters a year who will do likewise.

California Coast Guarded by Navy

Tars Keep Constant Vigil On Lonely Isles.

LOS ANGELES.—Lonely, windswept islands off the southern California coast, once the paradise of fishermen and hunters, today have become the watchdogs of invasion.

Perched on high points of unobstructed view are United States navy patrols—modern Robinson Crusoes armed with spy-glasses and radios who constantly scan sea and sky for enemy submarines or aircraft.

Only volunteers are accepted for this lonesome but important job, and men must be familiar with silhouettes of enemy ships and planes and know the elements of weather observation to qualify.

Stationed on islands scattered along 200 miles of coastline, the invasion guards receive mail and provisions every two weeks. Often they serve for more than two months without seeing the mainland on a fortnight's leave.

On some islands the navy men live with ranchers who raise sheep, cattle and horses. On others they live in specially constructed navy quarters. Roads have been built in some places, and the navy version of the jeep is used for transportation.

Off duty, the men enjoy unspoiled beaches and fishing, which are the envy of their mainland comrades.

Every storm leaves new surprises on the beaches, including glass balls, used as floats by Japanese fishermen, which have drifted 5,000 miles across the Pacific.

The floats are harmless curiosities—but if their owners ever come after them, the boys of the island patrols are ready and waiting to touch off a reception the invaders will never forget.

More Safety Devices Are Demanded for Sailors

LONDON.—The safety of seamen must become a matter of even greater concern to all government, it was stressed by the joint Maritime commission of the international labor office at a meeting here.

No expense consideration should be allowed to stand in the way of the most effective means for protecting the crews of merchantmen, it was stated, and officials of the United Nations will be so informed at the soonest possible moment.

Among the improvements the commission recommended were mechanically operated davits, suitable compasses, signal pistols, waterproof charts and the appointment of special government inspectors of safety conditions.

Representatives of the owners were told by a spokesman for the seamen that all idea of charity ought to be eliminated in the treatment of seamen in port where, he said, they were entitled to the same respect as that accorded other members of the community.

Yugoslavs Claim Nazis Slew All in 16 Villages

LONDON.—The Yugoslav government in exile here reported that 16 villages in German-occupied Slovenia had been obliterated and all their inhabitants shot for violation of occupation rules.

Vice Premier J. Krek said the government was unable to obtain an estimate of the number slain, but he declared: "The Germans recently have deported 100,000 Slovenes, including the most prominent scientists, teachers and physicians, to Poland, Serbia and Croatia after shooting 1,064 hostages in Maribor and Bled."

In the part of Slovenia occupied by the Italians, 130,000 men have been put into concentration camps, 410 hostages slain and 42 villages burned recently, he added.

The Moscow radio broadcast a report that Yugoslav guerrillas had killed 500 Italian officers and men and wounded 200 in the last two weeks.

Is It Any Wonder Marion Did Forget That Name?

LONDON, ONT.—Perhaps there was a good reason why a woman who was booked as "Marion Dale" in city court here told Magistrate Menzies that she couldn't remember her real name.

Appearing on a charge of drunkenness and a later charge of failing to have a registration certificate, she was given a one-day remand, in the hope she would brush up on her memory-work.

The following morning the name came out. With considerable difficulty the court stenographer got it down as Mary Dygdalewic. Nobody tried to pronounce it. But Mary D. offered no defense to the charge and pleaded guilty to both.