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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Ickes Cites Small Business Peril; Congressional Pay-as-You-Go Tax Program Gets Treasury's Approval; Fifth Russ Offensive Batters Nazis

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



Somewhere in China this soldier of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's armies stands guard before a line of American P40 planes at an inland air base. His shift is 24 hours at a stretch in guarding these precious craft that hold off Jap advances in China.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO:

Tax Gets Go-Ahead

It had been clear that official Washington from Capitol Hill to the White House had agreed that a pay-as-you-go income tax was the most effective means of raising the multi-billion revenue needed to help defray war costs.

How to apply the levy to the nation's 35,000,000 taxpayers and what yardstick to use had been the subject of numerous recommendations. The treasury department gave its support to a bill by Sen. Bennett Clark for a new 19 per cent withholding tax. Added to the prevailing 5 per cent Victory tax this would mean a total of 24 per cent withheld from payrolls.

Under the Clark program the pay-as-you-go plan would be inaugurated March 15. The taxpayer would file his income tax return on that date and pay his first quarterly 1943 taxes on the basis of his 1942 income. The withholding tax would then be effective on weekly or monthly paychecks, as well as on income from interest and dividends.

Persons not on payrolls such as farmers, independent business men, professional people and others could pay their taxes on a monthly or quarterly basis.

FOOD PRICES:

Index Up 43 Per Cent

Skyrocketing retail prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, whose cost is not controlled by the OPA, were largely responsible for an increase of 43 per cent in the food cost index since August, 1939, the month before World War II began, according to a summary released by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins.

Even since the price control law began to operate last spring, Mrs. Perkins said, retail food prices have gone up because of the increases in the cost of items still uncontrolled. The index in December was 9 per cent above last May and 17 per cent above December, 1941, the month the United States entered the war.

NORTH AFRICA:

War vs. Politics

As French forces broke the lull in North Africa's stalemated war by capturing a number of passes on the road to the Tunisian seaport of Sousse, so, too, it appeared that the French had moved effectively to end the political strife that had hampered all-out action against the Axis.

The importance of the French drive toward Sousse was that it threatened the Axis land supply routes for operations in central and southern Tunisia.

On the political front Harold MacMillan, British minister for North Africa, predicted an agreement between Gen. Henri Giraud and Gen. Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French, would remove most of the objectionable features in the present administration of North Africa.

A three-way conflict of interests had raged since the American invasion. On one side stood the Liberals and Republicans, who had welcomed the Americans. On the other stood the Vichyites and Fascists. In between were the Royalists, attempting to capitalize on the battle.

SMALL BUSINESS:

Total War Casualty?

Economists had long been aware of the war's menacing impact on American small business, but their statistical discourses attracted little public notice. It remained for vocal Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes to dramatize the little business man's plight when he declared that the country now faces "the brutal fact that the war can be the final, crushing blow to small business."

Pointing out that "the major portion of war production contracts are going to a few large corporations," Mr. Ickes told the senate small business committee that "should the small business man go, we all will go."

Mr. Ickes warned that "we must guard against the loss of our traditional freedom of enterprise, a loss that would result in creating a dictatorship by a few corporations and cartels over our jobs."

FIFTH OFFENSIVE:

Launched by Reds

To the four Russian offensives that had jarred the Nazis loose from thousands of square miles of dearly won territory was added a fifth that appeared to be the supreme Red winter effort. Voronezh—strong point on the 1,000-mile Soviet line from Moscow to the Black Sea—was the springboard of this drive and it was the German high command itself which made the first announcement to the world.

Significance of the Voronezh offensive was that it faced the already hardpressed Nazis with a double threat. Red forces from Voronezh could turn due south to join the other offensives aimed at Rostov, or could drive westward toward Kursk and Kharkov in the Upper Ukraine and menace the Nazi hold on this world-famous granary.

Significant, too, was the fact that the Russians held the initiative. It was the Germans who were on the defensive, who must conjecture where the Reds would strike next and had costly alternatives thrust on them.

In all other theaters the Russians were pressing their newly gained advantages, reoccupying areas in the Caucasus, whittling down German resistance near Stalingrad and engaging vast Nazi forces in the lower Don river reaches.

AIR TEMPO:

Allied Power Rises

Prophetic of what was yet to come Allied airplanes continued to ride the skies and shower destruction on Axis-held European and Mediterranean areas.

Hitler's army in the Ruhr valley was the target of repeated bombings. Lille, locomotive manufacturing center of northern France, experienced gutting raids. On the route, also were Abbeville and St. Omar near the British channel coast of France.

In the Mediterranean, Allied bombers were active both on the island bases serving Axis troops and on the African mainland itself. Mediterranean attacks were made on Crete, Sicily and Lampedusa. African raids were made on Homs, near Tripoli and between Sousse and Sfax.

SULLIVAN BROTHERS:

A Tale of Heroism

The five Sullivan brothers of World War II promised to become as celebrated in American annals as the five Bixby brothers of the Civil war, immortalized by Abraham Lincoln's letter to their mother.

Not yet was it known whether the Sullivan boys were dead or alive, but a navy communication to their parents in Waterloo, Iowa, ominously reported them "missing in action." The brothers joined the navy to avenge a friend slain at Pearl Harbor. They were shipmates at their own request and were believed casualties of the cruiser Juneau sunk in the November battle for the Solomons.

The Sullivan brothers are George T., 29, gunner's mate second class; Francis H., 26, coxswain; Joseph E., 23, seaman, second class; Madison A., 22, seaman second class; and Albert L., 30, seaman, second class.

ROAD TO TOKYO:

Mired by Rains

The road to Tokyo was bogged down by tropical rains that turned fighting Allied sectors in New Guinea into swampy mires, but in the air American and Australian commanders broadened their air offensive against the Japanese with raids on four main bases.

On the Allied air calling list were Madang and Finschaven on the northern New Guinea coast. Flying Fortresses supported by medium bombers and fighter planes struck likewise at Lae and Salamau. In the Lae area 160 miles up the eastern New Guinea coast from Allied-held Buna, large fires were started among barges, stores and harbor installations.

In the Solomons, the plight of the Jap garrisons had grown more serious as efforts to land extensive supplies had been balked by American air power. The navy department reported that a three-day offensive on Guadalcanal island had progressed satisfactorily, with several Jap positions isolated and awaiting destruction. Air raids were continued against Munda island.

NAZI HOME MORALE:

Signs of Strain

Volumes had been written by Allied commentators about the state of the German home front since the Russ offensives, but two brief statements by high Nazi officials revealed the enormously heartening fact that Reich morale had at least begun to creak.

The Nazi officials were Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, propaganda minister, and Gen. Kurt Dietmar, a leading German military critic.

Writing in the magazine Das Reich, Goebbels denounced civilian "sluggards" for impeding Nazi war



PAUL JOSEPH GOEBBELS
... Propaganda in reverse.

activities, called for more belt-tightening and announced that "burdens on the home front can and will be increased."

General Dietmar said that whether they like it or not, Germans would have to put up with new restrictions to provide more troops. He admitted that the Russians had broken through German lines on the southern front, and that the situation was becoming serious. "The need has come for still greater hardships at home," he said, "to increase the flow of recruits to the front."

NAVY MAIL:

To Be Speeded

Because the problem of mail deliveries to men in the navy, marine corps and coast guard has been complicated by the vast increase in personnel, the navy department announced that two rules would be placed in effect immediately to insure prompt service:

Parcel post packages must weigh not more than five pounds and measure not more than 15 inches in length and 36 inches in length and girth combined. Inappropriate second and third class matter such as advertising circulars would not be forwarded to men overseas.



WHO'S NEWS This Week

By Lemuel F. Parton

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Big shots galore are headquartered in Washington now, but of all the gathering Eric A. Johnson is probably the only one who was actually born there.

Comes Long Way To Beat Drum for U. S. Leadership

He is thumping for United States world-leadership when peace is won. He is from the other side of the continent where he heads the biggest electrical manufacturing company in the Northwest. He speaks, however, as president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and with Bryanesque eloquence.

President Johnson quit Washington when he was a nipper, because his family quit it. By the time he was six he was selling papers on Spokane's streets. By the time he had got to high school he was reporting the school news. He yielded then, however, to a crass love of money and through his four years in college he cleaned up as a long-shoreman. His notion was to study law and cash in on his oratorical gift, but the first World War shunted him off to the marines.

When the war was over he turned salesman. That led onward and upward to electrical manufacturing. Forty-five now, he is, as they used to say when Cluett and Peabody set the standard of manly beauty, handsome enough for a collar-ad. He is friendly, too. He hasn't yet been listed among the country's 12 best-dressed men, but when he gets into a modestly striped suit he doesn't need to keep to the side streets.

THE pretty matron decided that the photograph suggested Charles Boyer quite a lot. Not Valentino? Well, Yes! Around the mouth there

An Air of Romance About Our Chief of Chemical Warfare

was a definite suggestion of Valentino, his tender, sensitive . . . Whoa-a-a-a!

The photograph was an old, old one of Maj. Gen. William N. Porter, chief of chemical warfare service. But even though it wouldn't have been crickets to spread that tender and sensitive salve any thicker the pretty matron was on the beam when she perceived an aura of romance around the general's phiz. The general is a romantic man.

Commissioned as ensign at Annapolis 1909, married 1910, transferred to the army as a second lieutenant the same year, the general was no Ulysses to go rowing off while his Penelope sat alone ashore. Of course the general's wife rates an assist, a couple. She was the apple of the general's eye, but she was also a naval officer's daughter. She knew, as well as the general knew from his one year at sea, what sort of lives navy couples lived. She knows now the sort of life an army couple can live. Very pleasant!

The general hustled along the promotion files past enough more stationary officers to staff a corps and by 1941 he had his two stars. Now he has the tired face of a man who works too hard, but the benevolent face of a man who wishes others as much good in this world as he has had. The only ones who lack his good wishes are the Nazis and the Nips. Alert against the thinnest hint of gas attacks, the general says his service is primed to give back a double dose.

THE surge of women into all sorts of positions of authority in this wartime economy adds pepper to the challenge which Mrs. Alfred J. Mathebat, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, throws out to her sex. She says the women are the only ones who can put an end to hoarding; there will be none if they do not tolerate it.

Legion Aux. Head Challenges Women To Stop Hoarding

Auxiliary presidents used to be just presidents of the Legion's tag-alongs. But nowadays, when any of the tag-alongs may turn up in congress or better, their president isn't to be quieted with a box of candy or a couple of matinee tickets. Mrs. Mathebat ought to have a wide audience. Legion members have been listening to her these years with profit.

Six Million Farmers Pledge Co-operation In Nationwide Campaign for More Food

Committee Is Elected To Study Various Production Plans.

Eyes of the nation are on the American farmer this month. What's he doing to merit all this attention?

Why nothing at all, except making plans for an even better production job in '43 than he did last year—and '42 broke records right and left!

Farm Mobilization day in mid-month set in motion a coast-to-coast plan for getting the most from every acre. Demands on the farmer and his land will be heavier than ever, but shortages of labor and materials will be tighter. That means that many farms will have to produce still more to meet the goals.

When the nation-wide sign-up of men, land and livestock already under way is completed, Uncle Sam will know what he can expect from his "food and fiber army" on 6,000,000 farms.

Farm Mobilization day began the greatest campaign for food production in the long and meritorious history of United States agriculture.

Farmers assembled in groups all over the nation on that day for special meetings at which the national and local production situation was discussed. Production goals for each locality were studied, and the farmer's part in meeting goals for his own land was shown in its relation to the entire war contribution of agriculture.

Keynote of the farm mobilization program was set in a national program on January 12. Government officials and high ranking officers of the armed services were among the speakers. A Minnesota farm woman whose son is fighting in Algiers told what she is doing to meet food production goals, and a county war board chairman from Illinois represented the farming man.

Explanation of the importance of the farmer's goals to the strength of Americans at home, and the freedom of all the United Nations, is expected to bring a clearer appreciation of his problems among organizations and the people at large. Many groups will pledge co-operation and support the farmer's efforts to meet these problems.

Immediately following the Farm Mobilization day meetings, farmer committeemen elected by farmers themselves began visiting each farm to help the operator work out his individual production plan. At the same time, a survey of his labor, machinery and other needs is being made. Each plan, when completed, will represent that farm's share in national production goals.

Agriculture's "1943 Farm Plan" sets up on a single sheet the crop acreages for 1942 and the new 1943 goal for each farm on war crops such as soybeans, peanuts, toma-



Meat, and plenty of it, is the nation's farmers' job this year so that the armed forces, war workers, and lend-lease Allies can continue the struggle against the Axis.



Clarence Wink (right), whose farm is in Potter county, near Amarillo, Texas, signing up for planned production. Aiding him is John Cotten, AAA county committeeman.

atoes, peas and potatoes, and acreage on other crops such as feed crops for grain. The farmer's "intentions" for livestock, poultry and hogs for slaughter are indicated, and the same single sheet contains information regarding allotment crops (tobacco, cotton, wheat, rice, peanuts and corn) necessary to enable the Agricultural Adjustment agency to determine eligibility of farmers in all regions of the country.

Copies of these "Farm Plan" outlines are kept in the office of the county committeeman, and referred to the farmer's goals to the strength of Americans at home, and the freedom of all the United Nations, is expected to bring a clearer appreciation of his problems among organizations and the people at large. Many groups will pledge co-operation and support the farmer's efforts to meet these problems.



When springtime rolls around such scenes as these will be multiplied a thousand times. American farmers by then will be on their way toward a successful completion of their designated job.

ence will be made to them by the department of agriculture war boards in determining the individual farmer's labor, transportation, gasoline, machinery and other production requirements, and the greatest possible local assistance that can be given to him.

January and February are the months when the production pattern for the year is developed in its entirety, and to a large extent the planning and organization taking place at this time will forecast whether or not national goals will be met in '43.

The most critical food production year in history requires careful planning if there is to be enough for everyone.

Farmers will have to continue the co-operatively managed program they approved and followed last year, with harder work and longer hours ahead. Civilian consumers will have to follow a co-operative program of their own, so that fathers and brothers and daughters in the armed forces of all the United Nations may be assured the food and clothing they need while they are serving on far-flung battlefronts.

United States military needs in '43, plus cargoes for food ships crossing the seven seas to aid fighting Allies, are expected to take one-half again as much as was demanded in '42. About one-fourth of the anticipated total food production must be earmarked for this use.

One-half of all canned vegetables and one-third of the billions of eggs gathered during the year will go off to war. Over 25 per cent of total meat production will join the ranks, together with the products from other millions of acres.

It is easily apparent that farm production goals and how well they are met will play a vital part in the progress of the war.

This should give Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Citizen on the home front a keen interest in what the farmer expects to do in 1943 and how he is

going about the business of achieving his expectation.

Greater emphasis in the new production goals is on farming for war needs. It's going to be a tough year for the farmer, this 1943, because increased labor and machinery shortages will demand more of each remaining farm worker as well as a pooling of equipment for the widest possible utilization of available mechanical aids.

The remarkable 1942 production record of America's farmers took careful planning and co-operation. Most of all it took a lot of hard work on the part of these soldiers of the land.

Mobilization of all his forces is the farmer's answer to the new challenges he must meet before his 1943 goals can be realized. He won't be trying to do the impossible, because he doesn't recognize the existence of such a word as applied to agriculture in wartime.

Food is needed and the farmer will produce it. That's all there is to it, so far as he is concerned.

If he gets a little recognition and appreciation it will make his work seem easier, but—

He's producing Food for Victory. That's honor enough for him.

Nation's Farms Provide Needed War Materials

New Emphasis Is Placed on Crop Conversion.

Much deserved publicity has been given to the converting of industries such as automobile manufacture to war production. Vivid pictures have been drawn of the "change-over" of machinery to new high-speed aircraft work, for example, and of the rapidity with which these changes have been made.

Farmers have been making just as abrupt—and often considerably more sweeping—conversions to assure their best possible contribution to the war effort.

Farm products have been utilized by industry all along, but new emphasis has been placed on this aspect of agriculture since it became necessary to replace imports with things produced at home, and increase production of crops already in use.

When the farmer starts raising hemp he is entering a new type of production that requires careful study and intelligent application of efficient methods. He's growing hay and hawsers for the navy, and it's up to him to replace the millions of feet of lines that once came thousands of miles from the Philippines.

Drug plants, such as belladonna and henbane, and the trees from the bark of which comes quinine, are being raised in increasing quantities to take the place of former imports that are vital to the lives of soldiers and civilians alike.

War activities used to refer mainly to muskets, bayonets and cannon. Not so today. Now in the front line is placed farming. Food is not only a weapon in itself, but the farmers' fields are also providing needed materials of war.