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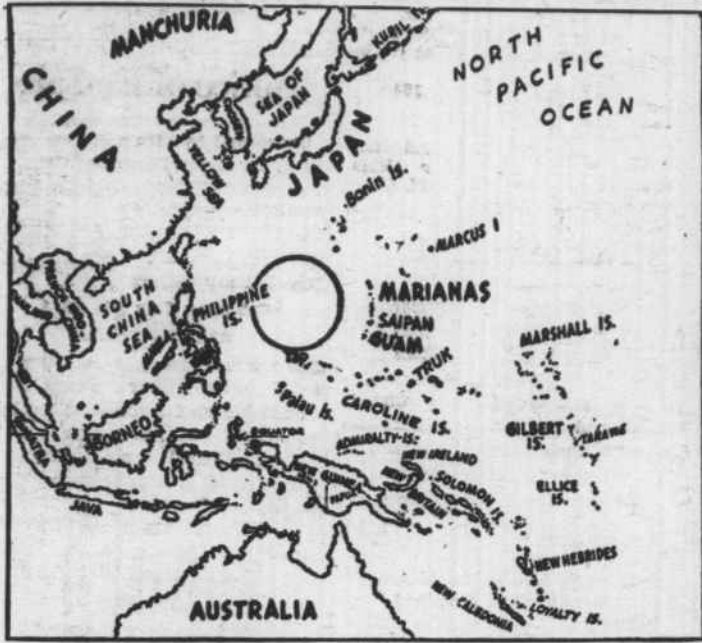
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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Navy Blasts Japan's Fleet But Enemy Refuses Showdown; Allies Push Forward in Europe

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



Pacific—Circle indicates scene of big naval battle in which U. S. fleet clashed with strong Jap forces.

EUROPE: Last Stand

As U. S. Doughboys closed on the big French port of Cherbourg at the tip of the Cotentin peninsula about 75 miles from Britain, desperate German defenders acting on Field Marshal von Rundstedt's orders to resist to the last man, put up a bloody last-ditch fight, demolishing the harbor facilities to prevent their immediate use when the town fell. As the Yanks pressed in on Cherbourg, other Allied forces along the 100-mile-wide beachhead continued to probe deeper inland, meeting up with stiff Nazi counterattacks designed to curtail their advances. Fleets of Allied bombers roared over the battle area, hitting at Nazi strong points and aiming at enemy reinforcements moving up to the front. Ramps in the Calais region from which the Germans were launching their rocket bombs for attacks against southern England and London, remained under heavy fire of Allied aircraft.

Other Fronts

On other European fronts, the Russians reportedly launched a large-scale offensive against the Germans' big bulge on the north end of the 1,200-mile eastern battle line, while Allied troops chased the Nazis up the Italian peninsula to prepared positions guarding the northern plains.

Using strong tank and infantry forces, the Reds reportedly struck at German forces massed to retain the Nazis' last great foothold on Russian territory, even while they were continuing their drive through tiny, tottering Finland from the southwest and east. Not only would the direction of the new big offensive point Red armies toward Warsaw and Berlin, but it would also serve to whittle down a potential Nazi springboard for an encirclement attack against Russian forces to the south.

In Italy, Allied forces moved ahead after eliminating pockets of stubborn German rear-guard, putting up a desperate delaying action to permit the bulk of the Nazi forces to retire behind the new defense line.

BILL OF RIGHTS:

For GIs

Estimated to cost from 3 to 6 billion dollars, congress passed and the President signed the so-called "bill of rights" for vets of World War II, designed to avoid the hardships suffered by soldiers of World War I upon their demobilization.

Under the "bill of rights," vets will be entitled to an unemployment compensation of \$20 a week for 52 weeks during the first two years after the war, if unable to find suitable work. Also available will be at least one year of schooling for vets whose education was interrupted by the war, with the government providing \$500 for tuition and \$50 monthly for subsistence, plus \$25 for dependents.

For vets seeking to buy or repair farms or homes or establish small businesses, the government will guarantee 50 per cent of the loan up to a maximum of \$2,000, with interest at 4 per cent and the amount repayable in 20 years. The veterans' administration also is authorized to spend one-half billion to provide hospital facilities for the care of returning servicemen.

PACIFIC: Japs Run Out

Venturing forth from its home waters, Japan's boasted imperial fleet sailed within proximity of the U. S.'s mighty Fifth naval force but dodged a showdown fight after U. S. planes sent one enemy aircraft carrier and three of his tankers to the bottom of the sea between the Marianas and Philippine islands.

Plowing boldly into the foe's home waters to support U. S. marine and ground troops in their assault on Saipan island in the inner ring of the Japs' defense system, the Fifth naval force under command of Adm. Raymond Spruance offered a brave challenge to the enemy fleet close to its major bases, but the Nips broke off the engagement after suffering loss of 373 planes besides the four ships in two days of continuing action.

Meanwhile, U. S. ground forces met bitter opposition on Saipan, about 1,500 miles from the Japanese homeland, as they fought to extend their hold on the central sector of the island.

OPA:

Vote Extension

By agreeing to allow revisions in ceilings of major textile items to reflect parity prices on cotton, senate and house conferences paved the way for extension of OPA to June, 1945. The nation's farm bloc scored another victory in the act's provision that the President take all lawful action to assure parity on cotton, corn, wheat, rice and tobacco.

Whittling down a maze of amendments to the act, the conferees did provide for some changes in OPA, including:

1. Filing of protests against OPA regulations;
2. Adjustment of rent ceilings where they are higher or lower than the prevailing standards, or if landlords' costs or taxes have increased substantially;
3. Permission for retailers to carry higher priced goods in certain lines than they did in the prewar period.

FOOD:

Postwar Stocks

In order to avoid the glut of 1919, the government's surplus stocks of foods will be released through normal trade channels after the war, M. Lee Marshall, War Food administration director of distribution, revealed.

Although original vendors would be given the opportunity to repurchase food stocks, WFA will only accept fair bids and sell in areas where particular types of commodities are scarce, Marshall said.

With the termination of the war in Europe and the shipments of food overseas, there will be no need for the stockpiling of commodities, Marshall said. Coupled with military reserves, present food stocks should provide a large part of the needs of liberated people, who will have to eat while being rehabilitated.

CONGRESS: Spends Less

For the first time since the war broke out, congressional appropriations will fall below the 100 billion dollar mark for the fiscal year starting July 1.

Because of the completion of capital outlays and the large stockpile of war materials, Chairman Cannon (Mo.) of the house appropriations committee estimated provision of 86 billion dollars for the impending 12 months, including approximately 5 1/2 billion dollars for such items as financing the national debt.

Following Pearl Harbor, congress appropriated 147 billion dollars, and then supplied 114 billion dollars for the next year. Declaring congressional appropriations "definitely have passed the hump," Chairman Cannon said they would continue on the down-grade, regardless of war developments.

AGRICULTURE: Release Trucks

To help in the harvest of this year's big wheat crop, surplus used army trucks will be made available to farmers and haulers through the medium of county AAA offices.

Because of the limited supply of trucks, however, only a small percentage in proportion to actual demand will be available, and the vehicles will be allotted only on the basis of the most critical need.

After certification of an application by the AAA, dealers will then purchase the trucks from the U. S. treasury's regional procurement office at an appraised price, and sell to the farmer or hauler at or below OPA ceilings.

SURPLUS GOODS: Overseas Disposal

Treated as a valuable national asset, U. S. surplus goods overseas should be disposed of in foreign countries with the aim of realizing the highest possible profit, a business advisory committee established by the government said.

Although keeping one eye cocked on postwar trade, the committee advocated the disposal of surplus industrial equipment, observing that the sooner the devastated countries can be restored to production, the sooner they will cease to be candidates for relief.

In cases of low bids for surplus materials, sales might be made on the condition that the foreign purchasers will buy other new equipment from this country, the committee counseled.

RECONVERSION: Conflicting Plans

The question of whether policy on the reconversion of industry from a war to a peacetime basis should allow certain manufacturers to resume civilian output while competitors are still engaged in war work, reportedly has divided the War Production board into two camps, with W P B Chairman Donald Nelson favoring the procedure and W P B Vice - Chairman Charles Wilson opposing it.

In recently relaxing restrictions on use of materials for civilian production in areas with labor surpluses, Nelson declared that the withholding of civilian production until all companies might return to such work would result in regimentation of industry for a prolonged period.

On the other hand, Wilson reportedly contends that manufacturers allowed to resume civilian production before others would enjoy a jump in the market on war contractors, who would virtually be penalized for their efficiency in fulfilling government orders.

Gruff old Andrew Carnegie during his lifetime saw to it that the White House had plenty of Scotch, no matter who was President . . . He'd order it in kegs from Scotland and have it sent directly to Washington and the Chief Executive with his compliments . . . President Wilson, however, refused to accept the Scotch, and Carnegie discontinued the practice.

Andrew Jackson, for sentimental reasons, turned the White House around by putting the formal entrance on the north side, facing Pennsylvania Avenue. He wanted to save his good friend, E. P. Blair, some steps. Blair had built his house on the opposite side of the avenue to be near the President, and Jackson reciprocated by putting the entrance that much closer for his boon friend.

The busiest phone in the White House is not the President's . . . The chief usher gets many more calls because of the innumerable duties and functions which fall to him . . . Petty pilferings are higher at the White House than in any other official building in the world . . . Individuals high in public life have been known to slich knives, spoons and forks for souvenirs . . . Lesser fry will grab anything for the same purpose, even to snipping off tassels from draperies or cutting out pieces of tapestry from chairs.

WHISKY: May Ban Corn

Although distillers' facilities have been released from the production of industrial alcohol for war purposes during August, the prospect arose that they would be unable to use corn in the manufacture of whisky during the month because of the War Food administration's opposition in view of the tight feed situation.

Because of this opposition, distillers may be compelled to use wheat, rye and possibly Caribbean molasses, it was reported, with restrictions even on wheat.

With farmers already having turned in close to 65,000,000 bushels of corn to the government for processing uses despite the tight feed situation existing, the WFA promised that none of the grain would be diverted to alcohol.



Things I Never Knew About the White House:

Truly a product of the melting pot is the White House . . . Charles Pierre L'Enfant, a Frenchman, chose the site . . . James Hoban, a Dublin Irishman, designed and built it . . . Whites and Negroes representing 11 different countries had a hand in its construction.

It cost the gov't just \$50, the price of a gold medal, to have the White House designed . . . Congress sponsored a national contest for the design. Hoban won it . . . The prize was either the \$50 medal or \$500 in cash. Hoban patriotically chose the medal . . . In his 42 years of subsequent work in Washington, Hoban never designed another building.

No one today can tell where the cornerstones of the White House is placed. Successive layers of white paint, from which the mansion gets its name, have effectively concealed it from sight and knowledge . . . Part of the money for building it came from lotteries.

George Washington, who helped supervise the construction of the White House until the week of his death, always referred to it as the Federal Palace or Mansion . . . With typical modesty, which should be a lesson to some of the politicians of our day, he never called the city of Washington by that name . . . To him, whether in public or private, Washington was always the Federal City.

The sit-down strike is neither new nor novel . . . It was tried way back in 1800 by the crews working on the White House. They were ordered to move out of the shacks on the White House grounds in which many lived with their families, so these unsightly structures could be razed . . . They refused because they had nowhere to move and staged the first sitdown strike in protest.

Diplomats now consider Washington the prize post . . . It wasn't so in the old days. Washington and particularly the site of the White House were considered so unhealthy the British gov't decreed its representatives should be awarded additional pay for serving there . . . It did not become the White House officially until Theodore Roosevelt moved in. He ordered that simple name engraved on his official letterheads after it had been almost completely rebuilt.

The White House staff has never been known to betray an important secret . . . Woodrow Wilson, whose life is being dramatized on the screen by Darryl F. Zanuck under the title, "Wilson," inadvertently made known his decision to declare war on Germany to at least two members of the White House staff, but not a word leaked out in advance of the official declaration . . . Some members of the staff also knew of his plans to wed Edith Bolling Galt well in advance of the event but kept the secret well.

Very seldom among these letters from the self-employed is there one from a farmer. Yet farmers have fully as much reason to seek social insurance protection as others of the self-employed. The notion that farmers are an independent and self-sustaining group is no longer true. It is a hangover from earlier times, when most farms were self-sufficient. Today farmers are much more vulnerable. They have to buy more and sell more; operating costs are higher, and falling prices often mean serious losses.

Then too, sections differ as to agricultural prosperity. North and south, west and middle-west are widely unlike, while in each there are plenty of spots that present a quite different picture from the rest. In 1939, the last year before the "war boom," nearly one-half of the farm operators in the country had a gross annual money income yield (allowing for food consumed by the farm family) of less than \$600; two-thirds had less than \$1,000, and 89 per cent had under \$2,500.

It is difficult for farm owners to save much out of these small cash incomes. Even a farmer with an average net income of \$2,000 a year finds it hard to put much aside for old age or misfortune. The constant

Benefits of Social Security Could Be Extended to Farm Owners and Their Employees, Officials Say

All Difficulties of Administration Can Be Smoothed Out

Wages today are high, and jobs plentiful, and there is a ready market for all farm produce and manufactured goods. Most people probably realize, however, that the present prosperity is a result of the war, and that a downturn is almost certain to come with peace. There may be no depression, at least not for several years, but the present very high level of activity is not likely to be maintained.

But in any case, there comes a time in everyone's life when he has to slow down. Whatever stage the business cycle is in, those who are unable to work get no income. Everyone who has to make his own living must be somewhat concerned about the future.

A very large group of wage and salary earners have found a partial answer to these troublesome questions. They are the workers in private industry and commerce, those in so-called "covered" employment, to whom the old-age and survivors insurance program of the Social Security act applies. These workers are building up rights to monthly insurance payments when they grow old and retire, and for their families, when death comes to the breadwinner.

Others, not so fortunate, look upon the group that has social insur-



Young and strong, this Maryland farmer shouldn't need retirement benefit payments for many years—unless sickness or an accident should incapacitate him. But the time will come when he will be too old to work. During his good years, he should have a chance to accumulate a retirement fund through Social Security. His family too, should be protected under the survivor's benefit provisions. Under present provisions, however, the farm family is excluded from the system.

ance protection somewhat enviously. The Social Security board receives many letters from the self-employed—professional people, small business men, gas station operators, restaurant keepers, operators of cleaning and pressing shops, of beauty parlors, and so on, wanting to know why they can't get old-age protection. They pay premiums for their employees' insurance, but themselves cannot build up rights to benefits. "Why this discrimination?" they ask. "We have no more security than our employees."

Few From Farmers. Very seldom among these letters from the self-employed is there one from a farmer. Yet farmers have fully as much reason to seek social insurance protection as others of the self-employed. The notion that farmers are an independent and self-sustaining group is no longer true. It is a hangover from earlier times, when most farms were self-sufficient. Today farmers are much more vulnerable. They have to buy more and sell more; operating costs are higher, and falling prices often mean serious losses.

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demands for maintenance of fertility, repairs, buying machinery and livestock, and so on, all require cash, and there is often little left at the year's end to build up a retirement fund. Often, when the farm operator has to quit work, his family is in difficult straits, and may have to depend on public aid or charity.

The tenant farmer and the farm laborer generally are in worse circumstances than the man who owns his land, once they have to quit working. With little or no savings, the tenant and the farm hand who cannot earn anything are soon hard up indeed. They and their families suffer humiliation and want.

War Changes Things. The war, of course, has made a great difference in the farmers' situation. The incomes of many are double, in some cases treble, what they were before. But the war—and perhaps our present prosperity—is temporary.

Farm people were left out of the social insurance program not because they were thought to be already secure. The reason for excluding them was that in 1935 the program was new and the administrative hurdles looked very high. But now the Social Security board is convinced that old-age and survivors insurance can be administered for farm people simply, at low cost, and without being unduly troublesome to them.

What would it mean to farm operators and farm hands to have this insurance? It would mean the same protection it means already to those who are under the system. A couple of examples will illustrate the protection old-age and survivors insurance offers.

Back in 1936, when Harry J. was nearly 60, he got himself a job with a construction company. After eight years, he wanted to stop working and retire to his small place in the country. He hadn't felt he could do so, however, because he wasn't sure he could earn a living from farming his few acres. Upon inquiry he found that his monthly retirement payment would be about \$27, since he had earned an average of \$100 a month. His wife, who was also past 65, would get half that much; so that would make the family income over \$40 every month, sufficient for their needs.

Widow Got \$79 a Month.

Mr. C. was a newspaper linotype machine operator and had always earned high wages. He hoped to give all five children a good education. The two elder ones were attending the university. Suddenly Mr. C. got pneumonia and died within a week.

The widow was left with three children still at school and no income save what Mary and Jean could earn by leaving school and taking jobs. She went to the Social Security field office, thinking that perhaps there would be a small lump sum going to her, probably no more than a couple of hundred dollars. She was amazed to learn that she was entitled to monthly payments for herself and the three younger children! She received



A midwestern farmer smiles with satisfaction as he reads the figures on a check received for his produce. Agricultural income is now two to three times the 1939 level, but this happy situation won't last, economists warn. Unless this middle-aged man is fortunate, however, his savings will dwindle away, and he will face old age without security.

about \$79 a month under the old-age and survivors insurance program! Mrs. C. is one of 785,000 persons—workers past 65, their aged wives, widows, and children and dependent parents—who today are receiving monthly payments on account of old-age and survivors insurance. To date the system has paid out nearly half a billion dollars.

The mechanics of old-age and survivors insurance are simple. Every pay day every worker in a covered job pays, under present rates, 1 per cent of his wages as a premium on his old-age and survivors insurance. This is deducted from his pay by his employer, who pays an equal sum. Four times a year the employer sends both contributions in



Many men are able to work even in old age, like this sturdy Florida farmer. He knows, nevertheless, that he will have to quit in a few years, or maybe much sooner. If he could anticipate a regular flow of Social Security checks he could face the future with much less concern.

to the federal government. Together with the money he sends a report of the amount of wages paid the worker, to be duly entered in his social security account in Baltimore, Md. On the basis of these wage records, the insurance benefits are figured.

Farmers Could Be Protected. Could the system be applied to farm people? Farmers are scattered over a very wide area. Could the premiums be collected without the costs of administration mounting unduly high, considering the small amounts paid in? And how would farmers figure out what their premiums ought to be, seeing that lots of them don't keep any books?

The Social Security board is confident that the extension of the old-age and survivors insurance system to farm people is now feasible. Ways have been devised to overcome the difficulties.

As a basis for determining farmers' social insurance premiums, the reports they are already making to the government for income tax and other purposes can be used. For the farmer who is not required to file income tax returns, would figure his income on the basis of the estimated "market value of his services." In doing this he could guide himself by the wages received by his highest paid farm hand. If he employs no labor, the monthly wage rate for farm labor in his locality would serve.

Farmers could pay their premiums at times most convenient for themselves. Some might find it convenient to pay a lump sum annually, and others might prefer to pay in four annual quarterly installments. Low-income farmers could pay their premiums in social insurance stamps if they chose. They would buy these currently and put them in a social security stamp book which could be turned in from time to time as payment toward their premiums.

Collections Through Stamps.

For farm help, the stamp method might be best, the board thinks. The farmer could buy social insurance stamps from any post office or rural letter carrier, and insert them in the stamp books furnished him by his workers when he paid their wages. Half the cost of the stamps would be deducted from the worker's wages as his social security premium. When the worker's book was full, or at the end of its period of validity, he would bring or mail it to any office of the board so that it could be added to his record.

With the stamp system the "small" farmer would find it unnecessary to keep books or file reports about the wages of his paid help. On the large farm the stamp method could be used for temporary or casual workers not carried on the regular pay roll. Wages paid in the form of room and board and the like might be included in the worker's total wage, and the value set on them could be based on data gathered and published from time to time by the department of agriculture.

Farm people have every claim to be included under the old-age and survivors insurance program. Their claim is all the stronger because many of them are already partly under the system. In the wintertime, or in other off-seasons for farm work, many farm people work in industry and pay premiums on social insurance. In a lifetime, their payments amount to substantial sums. And yet very few people ever get benefits because they don't work in covered employment long enough or often enough to qualify for the monthly payments. The inclusion of farm people under the program would at once both rectify the injustice to these workers and plug a big gap in the social security program.