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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Win Strengthens F.D.R.'s Hand; Germans Fear New Allied Drive; Storms Slow Pacific Warfare

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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.



With U. S. trucks waiting in mud, Chinese coolies work diligently to clear washout of section of Burma road.

DEMS GAIN: F. D. R. Strengthened

In winning a fourth term, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt carried the Democratic party along with him in both the senate and house, where he now appears to be assured of a working majority on both international and domestic issues.

Their own positions materially weakened by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's strong stand for an effective international organization to preserve world peace, staunch GOP nationalists were among the defeated, with the result that F.D.R.'s peace program should encounter easier sledding in the senate, where details will be worked out, and in the house where funds will be appropriated.

All of the so-called nationalists did not suffer defeat, but prominent among those that did were Senators Nye in North Dakota, Danaher in Connecticut and Davis in Pennsylvania, and Representatives Fish of New York and Day and Maas of Minnesota.

Although the Democrats failed to make any gains in the senate, they stand just short of a two-thirds majority necessary for ratification of foreign treaties, a margin they may make up by an alliance of such GOP internationalists as Ball of Minnesota.

In the house, however, the Democrats made big gains, increasing their membership to over 240, while the Republicans fell far below their pre-election strength of 210.

Thus, although President Roosevelt's winning margin was below that of 1940, the Democratic victory built around his leadership assumed



Victors over nationalists included Governor Moses who defeated Nye; Augustus Bennett who beat Fish; Brian McMahon who trounced Danaher.

the proportion of a landslide. The successful conduct of the war, the comparative comfort of people despite rationing and the President's intimate acquaintance with Allied affairs—all tended to offset opposition.

As usual, the President drew his greatest strength from the nation's large industrial centers, where efficient political machines like Ed Kelly's of Chicago, Tammany's of New York and Frank Hague's of Jersey City piled up tremendous pluralities which traditional Republican rural districts could not counter-balance. As it was, Governor Dewey did not run as strong in the country areas as was anticipated.

Much credit for getting the vote out in the big industrial centers went to Sidney Hillman's CIO Political Action committee, which undertook to impress union membership with the exercise of their power through the polls.

Abroad, President Roosevelt's election was well hailed in Allied circles.

Said the London Evening Standard: "The result of the election . . . leaves the tasks of winning the war and the larger tasks of advancing Anglo-American-Soviet unity to win the peace in the strong, proven hands of Roosevelt. . . ."

EUROPE: Things to Come

All along the 460 mile western front, fighting was confined to local actions, but the Germans, for one, brooked no misgivings on the comparative calm.

While the British were clearing all of southwestern Holland, and U. S. forces were improving positions near Aachen in the north, Metz in the center and the Vosges mountains in the south, the Nazis claimed that the Allies were striving to obtain springboards for a great drive on the Reich, and only using 25 per cent of their troops.

Though action in the west was local, it was bitter, with very tough fighting below Aachen, where doughboys worked through the fir and pine Hürtgen forest in Indian fashion on the road to the Rhineland.

As the Doughboys pushed through the splintered Hürtgen forest, both sides made free use of air and artillery bombardment for maintenance of open positions outside the wooded tract.

It was there, in little hamlets, that some of the bitterest fighting occurred, with tiny villages changing hands in close-quarter action.

Fierce fighting also took place in the foothills of the Vosges mountains, where mixed U. S. and French units pounded forward toward the great passes leading into southwestern Germany. As Allied troops worked forward, the Nazis pushed in reinforcements in an effort to check the advances.

Shoving off in a surprise attack about Metz after a heavy artillery bombardment, U. S. troops improved their positions along a 55 mile front, encountering mainly small arms fire from Germans caught flat-footed. In developing their attack, Yanks braved icy streams, chest-high, to get across to the opposite banks to establish bridgeheads and cover for engineering corps throwing across bridges.

PACIFIC: Stormy Weather

Raging hurricanes known throughout tropical waters swept across the Philippines, and U. S. troops driving down the northwestern half of Leyte island toward the Jap base of Ormoc were caught in the swirling whirlwind and their attack slowed.

Having cleared the enemy from virtually all of the eastern section of Leyte, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces swung around the northern tip of the mountain range blocking off the western coast, and were driving down it when the hurricane struck.

With one of Japan's top militarists, General Yamashita, put in command of the enemy's forces, the foe's determination to put up a fight for the Philippines was well reflected in their stand on Leyte, where elements of four Jap divisions entrenched themselves in the hilly and tangled terrain on the west coast to face the oncoming Yanks.

As a first-class slugging match developed on the ground, air combat also increased in tempo, with U. S. carrier-based planes attacking enemy airdromes and supply depots in an effort to weaken the enemy's air force, while Jap land-based craft conducted harassing raids on U. S. positions on Leyte.

CHEESE: New Markets

With American consumers coming to appreciate the fine quality of domestic production of such cheeses as roquefort, camembert, gorgonzola and Swiss, U. S. producers are expected to obtain an increasing volume of business in these types over importers in the postwar years.

Before the war, imports of European cheese averaged over 50,000,000 pounds annually, with roquefort and camembert coming in from France, gorgonzola from Italy and Swiss, of course, from Switzerland.

With U. S. epicureans becoming accustomed to American brands of these rarities, however, they are expected to more and more satisfy their taste for roquefort from Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin producers; for camembert from New York and Wisconsin; for gorgonzola from Wisconsin, and for Swiss from Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

In prewar years, over-all U. S. cheese production totalled around 700,000,000 pounds, with output soaring to 918,000,000 pounds in 1941.

STEEL: Expand Capacity

Greatest in the world, the U. S. steel industry made substantial expansion since 1940, adding 12½ million tons to capacity at a cost of over 2 billion dollars, half of which was put up by the government.

As of July 1, figures showed that the capacity of blast furnaces for refining raw ore was raised to over 68½ million tons, while capacity for further processing of iron and scrap into steel was boosted to over 94 million tons.

Most vivid indication of the size of the U. S. industry lies in its comparison with that of other countries, with Germany's prewar capacity rated at around 20 million tons, and Great Britain's at 15 million tons.

Zoot Shoes



Zoot suits with the long coats and baggy pants with tight ankles have come up with a new one in Los Angeles, Calif.

Their latest are shoes with steel plated soles and heels, two inches thick, which they use as weapons. Chief Jailor Robert Fisher is shown inspecting some of the 100 pair of such shoes confiscated by juvenile authorities.

DISEASE: 'Hold Line'

Although there has been no appreciable increase in the rate of venereal disease in the U. S. since the war, an increase among servicemen in recent months foretells a letdown in the vigorous campaign which has been waged against these scourges, officials said.

Source of great future danger, Surgeon Gen. Thomas Parran of the U. S. public health service said, lies in the spread of these diseases by untreated people throughout the country in the postwar period of migration and possible declination of moral standards.

While the overall venereal disease rate is at an all-time low in the navy, it was said, infection among personnel in the U. S. has increased 24 per cent above 1942. The rate also has taken a jump in the army since January, 1944, it was reported.

GRAIN MARKETS: Election Spur

With reelection of President Roosevelt presaging the farm bloc's continued control over the administration's agricultural program, prices reacted favorably on grain markets, scoring fractional gains.

Of all grains, only corn failed to respond to election happenings, with the large volume of country offerings in the middle-west tempering prices.

Revival of talk that beverage alcohol manufacturers again would be allowed a temporary holiday from war distillation for civilian production, added to election optimism, resulted in an upswing in rye.



Bigtown Characters:

The barber who asks patrons if they want their locks clipped with or without conversation. . . . Salesmen in holly-toity shops always elegantly attired. Without spats they would feel naked. . . . The creamy-voiced barker at a penny arcade—a well-known Shakespearean thespian a decade ago, until he discovered that shilling provided a steadier income. . . . Seplans at electric shine parlors conversing in jive lingo which baffles people who can understand only English.

Pretty bobby-soxers lugging lunch boxes to the Paramount—so they can survive sitting through a half-dozen shows worshipping King Sinatra. . . . Jitterbug, almond-eyed youngsters in Chinatown—completely Americanized. . . . An old artist copying masterpieces in the Museum of Art. His hands are shaky, so he steadies his brush by gripping it with both hands. The handicap, however, doesn't seem to affect his excellent canvases. . . . Crowds fascinated by pigeons nibbling at bread-crumbs. Proving again that almost anything can attract a mob in the Big Burg. . . . Germans in Yorkville saloons sipping their beer. These spots used to be Bund hangouts. Now big signs urge customers not to discuss the war or politics.

The dramatic contrast in tawdry, sidestreet joints: Entertainers consist of a mixture of has-beens and youngsters with a bright future. . . . Celeb fanatics ogling first-nighters entering the theatre—getting more of a thrill by staring at biggies than first-nighters get from the shows.

The silly brawl between two friends at a midtown bar—because each insisted on paying the check. . . . The 77-year-old gent who has the same breakfast every morning at a Madison and 50th street eatery: Doughnuts covered with mustard. Ugh. He claims that combination has added years to his life. . . . Sidewalk Napoleons who used to discuss military tactics remaining in tune with the times. Now they also debate postwar problems. . . . Swishes who congregate for some unknown reason in foreign language movie temples. . . . The lovely Schraffts' hostesses. Most of them look as if they had to pass a screen test before they were hired.

Newspaperman Stuff:

Ogden Nash was once taken to task for using the word "coyful" in one of his verses. . . . "Have you ever heard of anything being full of coy?" asked a critic. "No," nash'd Nash. "But neither did I ever hear of anyone being full of bash."

The word "controversy" serves as censors' abracadabra. . . . They mutter that something is controversial and—presto—they presume the truth will vanish. . . . Blue-pencillers have used that alibi to hinder freedom of speech and press for a long time. . . . All of which leads into an Alec Woolcott yarn that illustrates our viewpoint on the subject. . . . When Alec was broadcasting his sponsor pounced on him with the squeak that he must refrain from using controversial material. . . . Woolcott promptly demanded that the sponsor explain what he meant by "controversial material."

The sponsor's reply was a dilly: He deplored Alec's caustic references to Hitler and Mussolini—for fear it would antagonize people in the country who supported them!

From FPA's new book, "Nods and Becks": Of course, there are many who say that a daily columnist, which means a person who has six or seven full columns a week in a paper, doesn't really work, but that he would like other laborers to work six days a week for the period of the so-called — properly so-called — emergency. . . . We know not what course others may take, but we never have been able to do it under a seven-day week, and some nights. Often we dream of Jeanie with the unfilled column. We dream that we have three minutes in which to write a column, have it set, read proof and make it up. It would be pleasant to work five eight-hour days a week. To quit, in the middle of a syllable, if need be, when the whistle blew! And then some days, as if mere writing weren't enough trouble, there is a lot of clipping and pasting to do. It sounds easy, but it takes longer to find the shears and the paste for first-class stuff than it does to write third—all right, we won't argue—fourth-class stuff.

The Early Shopper Gets the Toys— There Aren't Enough for Everybody

Stock of Playthings Is Larger Than Last Year, but Still Short

Eager-eyed kiddies will have to be content with about half as many toys this year as they used to get before the war, when they come dashing in to the parlor on Christmas morning. As everybody knows, all kinds of civilian goods are scarce, including toys. It's a wonder, in fact, that there are any toys on the market, in the midst of a great war.

Both toy factories and toy makers are busy making war materials—percussion caps for torpedoes and shells, gas masks, and a thousand other things. They make toys out of scraps and leftovers, and substitutes like wood and pasteboard. But at best they couldn't make nearly enough to satisfy everybody this year.

With wartime prosperity putting money into everyone's pocket, fathers and mothers, uncles, aunts and cousins have a good deal to spend on presents for the children in their families. But they can't buy all they want to, because there just aren't enough toys in the stores to go around. Besides this, there are two million more youngsters in the country than usual—a result of the rising birth rate of the war years.

Few Metal Playthings.
Metal toys will be represented by a few articles, but in general steel and iron playthings will be missing.

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Steel-runners sleds, tricycles and bicycles, coaster wagons, construction sets, and a thousand other things will be very scarce. Some manufacturers have been able to find left-over stocks of metal, fabricated before the war restrictions went into effect, and others are using scrap material, so a small quantity of metal toys are on the market. Back in peace times, playthings made of cast iron, steel, copper, aluminum and so on, constituted nearly half of all the Christmas presents.

Toys made of rubber are very rare. So are plastic goods. Tires for doll buggies are being made of "mud" which is residue from reprocessed rubber, but these are about the only such articles on the market.

Wood is being used to make lots of things formerly made of metal and other scarce materials. There are trucks, for instance, of polished hardwood on sale. Tanks and siege guns, battleships, steam shovels and many other mechanical toys are made largely of wood, with a few metal parts. Cardboard and wood combinations are also numerous, particularly in the games division. A cardboard and wooden circus is a favorite this year.

Enough Dolls and Teddy Bears.
Girls are more fortunate than boys this year, for dolls are being turned out in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. There are both hard and soft bodied dolls in the stores, made of everything from cotton to porcelain. The fancy models have moveable eyes, curly hair, pretty dresses and all the other trimmings. Stuffed animals are on hand in sufficient numbers to take care of ordinary demands. Teddy bears are plentiful, it is said.

Carriages for dolls are offered to early Christmas shoppers, at least, since there are 100,000 buggies on sale throughout the country. These are made of wood, with metal wheels. Doll dishes, of china and scrap plastic, and cast-iron cooking utensils are being offered, and tiny furniture can be had. Hobby sets, such as chemistry out-



Wooden playthings like blocks are not so hard to get, but it's still a good idea to shop early. A record-breaking demand for toys of all sorts is anticipated, and many children are going to be disappointed, because of shortages.

fits, are in "fair supply," manufacturers say. Apparatus made of glass, porcelain, plastics, wood or pasteboard is being substituted for metal articles. For instance, a microscope included in some of the science sets has a plastic tube and base.

A survey of the toy supply situation conducted by the Toy Manufacturers of the U.S.A. reveals such shortages as these:

Less than 15 per cent of the normal supply of sleds with steel runners will be on sale. Sleds with wooden runners will be fairly plentiful, but all in all, the total number

could operate their entire plant at near capacity.

Another organization busily at work on the toy situation is the Office of Price Administration. This government agency has to set fair ceiling prices on every toy item that is to be offered for sale. More than 3,000 articles have been examined and priced and many others are pending a decision. In a big warehouse in Washington OPA officials look over samples of all sorts of things many of them new to the market, such as transparent plastic ducks and giraffes, wooden telephone sets, and pasteboard dolls.

It's a big job to put fair price tags on all these things, but the OPA hopes to complete its task before Christmas.

FOLKS GATHER 'ROUND FOR PARLOR GAMES

Games that all the family can enjoy together take the spotlight in Santa Claus' 1944 pack. Catering to the wartime necessity to "stay at home and like it," a variety of easy-to-learn, quick action parlor sports are ready to help the juvenile and grown-up contingents forget about limitations on the family car and relax from worries and responsibilities.

Revolutions of old favorites that were crazes in the horse and buggy age head the list of escape-type games that will be relatively abundant in a season when Santa Claus' Yuletide pack is short of a great number of familiar play materials. While great numbers of games are being sent to servicemen overseas, there are some left for the home market.

Among the parlor pastimes back in favor are ROOK, PIT and FLINCH. But MONOPOLY, the real estate trading game, continues to hold craze honors. FINANCE is another of the rotter baron speculation games that appeal to both families and service men as a happy escape.

SORRY, the English board game that won top favor during the Blitz, is another best seller this winter with American families.

For arm chair strategists there are game inventions inspired by the



"Monopoly," the classic real estate trading game, is still the favorite with family groups this Christmas.

exploits of America's armed forces. CAMELOT, the lively battle game, is a favorite with service men which has a large family following, too.

Some of the Christmas games will be a helpful adjunct to spelling as well as arithmetic. DIG, a streamlined word-building game that uses miniature gold miner's picks with sticky tips to grab the letters, offers opportunity for keen competition that incidentally inspires Junior to improve. CROSSWORD LEXICON, based on four-letter words built with cards, is another spelling game that provides good competition for all ages. Once the youngsters have a chance to show their mettle unselfishly, many a parent will be surprised to find himself hard-pressed to hold his share of winner's honors.

More than 200 of the largest toy manufacturing plants are turning out war materials in the main, and are making toys on the side. By maintaining some volume in their toy lines, these companies were enabled to handle their war contracts more efficiently, because they