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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Congress Backs Pearl Harbor Probe, But Stiff Fight Looms Over Truman's Domestic Policies

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Home as well as factory industrial facilities felt the lash of U. S. air raids, with only the machinery standing in the ashes of this burned-out residential shop in Tokyo.

CONGRESS: Fight Looms

Highlighted by an 18,000 word message from President Truman, congress went back to work after a brief recess to tussle over legislation extending the draft, tiding the nation over reconversion, holding the price line until volume production develops, readjusting the farm economy to peacetime, and providing credit for foreign countries.

The first congressional move, however, concerned none of these weighty problems but rather the Pearl Harbor debacle of December 7, 1941. Stealing the ball from the Republican opposition, Senator Barkley (Dem., Ky.) called for a joint senate-house inquiry into the disaster, with an amendment by Senators Vandenberg (Rep., Mich.) and Ferguson (Rep., Mich.) broadening the probe to include the Philippine, Wake and Midway islands setbacks as well. Matching speedy passage in the senate, House Speaker Rayburn (Dem., Texas) assured prompt action in his chamber.

Barkley's resolution for an investigation followed on the heels of congressional clamor for an inquiry as a result of general feeling that the army and navy board reports constituted a whitewash of political



Speaker Rayburn (left), President Truman (center) and Majority Leader Barkley.

Higher-ups. Barkley himself took recognition of this sentiment, declaring that the probe should bring out all facts relating to civil as well as military responsibility, with no effort to shield any individual.

Though support for a joint congressional investigation of Pearl Harbor was high, unanimous, the administration faced rougher sledding on other important legislation, with the Republicans threatening a bitter fight against so-called paternalistic aspects of Mr. Truman's domestic program and liberal foreign lending provisions.

Particularly acrimonious debate was expected to develop over such administration-supported measures as increasing unemployment compensation to a maximum of \$25 a week for 26 weeks; entrusting the government with providing for full employment; banning racial or religious discrimination in hiring, and extensive federal public works building. Opponents also girded to fight the administration's reconversion pricing policies, which seek to hold charges to 1942 levels until mass production permits volume.

In military matters, a lively fight loomed over extension of the draft for 18 to 25 year oldsters, with the issue somewhat tempered by efforts to boost voluntary recruiting by pay inducements.

JAPAN: Details Defeat

Because of the disruption of communication lines and the blasting of heavy industries in the wake of the U. S.'s relentless forward advance, Japan was finished last June, Premier Higashi-Kuni told the 88th session of the imperial diet.

The premier's analysis of Japan's defeat followed Emperor Hirohito's

appeal to the Japanese people to fulfill the obligations of the unconditional surrender and work to regain the confidence of the world.

In detailing the Nipponese downfall, Higashi-Kuni revealed that combined U. S. sea and air might had sharply reduced Nipponese shipping and rail communications and cut down the flow of materials to war industries. In turn, these plants suffered heavily from air bombardment.

Declaring that the ruins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were too ghastly to even look upon, Higashi-Kuni admitted that the use of the atomic bomb proved the real turning point of the war, with Russia's entrance capping the disastrous turn of events.

Even as Higashi-Kuni spoke, U. S. forces continued to pour into Japan for occupation duties, with an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 men eventually needed to complete the operation.

With U. S. troops fanning out over the Japanese home islands, efforts were made to speed up the release of American war prisoners, many of whom charged mistreatment during their captivity. Aviators especially were singled out for abuse, first being pummeled by any civilians upon parachuting to safety, before being turned over to military guards.

REDEPLOYMENT: Revise Plans

Considered its answer to widespread criticism on the part of servicemen as well as the public, the army revised its redeployment plans to free an estimated 665,000 vets from Pacific duty.

Under the new plan, G.I.s exempt from overseas service will include those with 45 or more discharge points; those between 34 and 37 years of age with a year of service, or those 37 or over. Previously, the army had required 75 points for such exemption.

Meanwhile, 200,000 army officers looked forward to early release following the announcement of discharge plans based upon the point system. With points computed on the basis of one for each month in service, one for each month of overseas service, five for each combat award and 12 for each dependent under 18, colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors need 100 points for discharge; captains, first and second lieutenants, 85, and warrant and flight officers, 80.

EMPLOYMENT: Set Goal

Speedy rehiring of many discharged war workers by reconverting industries will be necessary if the War Manpower commission's goal of an immediate postwar factory employment of 14 million is to be achieved.

The necessity of speeding up reconversion to absorb the postwar labor glut was pointed up by the WMC's own estimate that four million persons would lose wartime jobs within the next six months. Aircraft plants alone will discharge one million, with ordnance releasing 800,000, shipbuilding 600,000 and government over 100,000.

Manufacturing industries cannot sop up all of the available labor supply, WMC said, declaring that increasing numbers of men and women will have to enter mining, building, trade and farming. Because the war restricted much activity in these enterprises, and anticipated postwar markets will lead to business expansion, WMC predicted wider employment in these fields.

QUISLING: Defends Self

With death staring him in the face, pale and grim Vidkun Quisling was pictured as a constructive European statesman and passionate foe of Bolshevism by his counsel Henrik Bergh during the closing stages of the celebrated treason trial in Oslo, Norway.

Though no political disciple of the notorious collaborator, lawyer Bergh depicted Quisling as an idealistic eccentric, who, while contacting Hitler in 1939, also communicated with Chamberlain in an effort to bring about peace between Germany, Britain and France. Bergh attributed the collaborator's sympathy with the Nazi occupation of 1940 to a desire to prevent Norway becoming a battleground like Poland through a British landing and subsequent German counterattack.

First sympathetic to communism while doing relief work in Russia in 1923, Quisling changed his attitude in 1930 upon seeing mass imprisonments, starvation and plagues in the soviet, Bergh said.

RECONVERSION: Strikes Interfere

In the first serious work stoppage in the reconversion period, production was cut sharply at the Ford and Hudson automobile plants following a variety of labor disputes. In Washington, D. C., the government remained in close touch with the situation, in keeping with President Truman's avowed determination to prevent a reconversion slowdown through labor differences.

At Ford's, over 26,000 workers were laid off as a result of strikes at parts suppliers' plants, with the walkout of 4,500 employees of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel company over the discharge of union stewards chiefly interfering with production. The stewards had been fired for instigating a brawl with a foreman.

Curtailed production at Hudson's followed the walkout of 6,000 workers in sympathy with 500 foremen striking in protest over a reduction of wartime wage rates.

SECT RITES FATAL

"I may be bitten and I may die," 32-year-old Louis Francis Ford, lay preacher of the Dolly Pond Church of God near Birchwood, Tenn., told a newspaper reporter before conducting his sect's snake handling rites. "But if I do," Ford continued, "it will be because the Lord wants to show unbelievers the snakes are poisonous."

Shortly afterward, Ford was bitten on the right hand as he was removing a three-foot rattlesnake from a wooden box, and was taken to a near-by home where several of the followers of his faith prayed for him. When his condition worsened, however, he was rushed to a Chattanooga hospital, where he died.

Ford's death followed that of Mrs. Harvey O. Kirk of Wise, Va., who succumbed from a rattlesnake bite on the wrist during a religious rite. Before dying Mrs. Kirk gave birth to a child, which failed to survive.

JAP RESETTLEMENT: Lift Coast Ban

Of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, who were removed from the Pacific coast following Pearl Harbor, only 45,000 will return with the lifting of the ban against their resettlement there. U. S. relocation authorities predicted.

Out of the 110,000 removed, about 50,000 have found new homes in other sections of the country, where they have entered a variety of industries ranging from watch-making to mechanical dentistry and proven their efficiency and trustworthiness. Another 50,000 have remained in relocation camps.

With feeling running high against Japanese-Americans in some Pacific coast communities, Maj. Gen. H. C. Pratt, commander of the western defense zone, called upon residents there to accord resettlers the same privileges of other law-abiding citizens.

SURPLUS GOODS: Sales Policy

Hoping to speed the turnover of material and permit wider distribution among dealers during the immediate period of scarcity, the department of commerce reported that most surplus war goods would now be sold on a fixed price basis rather than sealed bids.

The department revealed its policy change at the same time that it announced 300 million dollars worth of material is being made available to wholesalers and retailers, with items including chicken wire, trucks and other vehicles, hardware, shotguns and shells.

Under the new selling plan, material will be disposed of to wholesalers and retailers under OPA ceilings, with allowances for profit margins. Thirty days credit will be extended. An estimated 80 per cent of dollar volume of all surplus sales will fall under the new pricing policy.



By JACK LAIT (Pinch Hitting this week for Walter Winchell)

Memo from Manhattan—

With my son, paratrooper-war correspondent George Lait, I saw a private projection of "The Story of GI Joe," which then had not yet opened in New York. This is a film centered around some of the famous activities of Ernie Pyle. We both have a sentimental interest in Ernie. I knew him when he was an inconspicuous desk drudge on a Washington newspaper, a nice little guy who gave no indication of the immortality he was to attain in our profession. But George knew him more intimately than he knows his brother. They crossed together in a tiny tub to Lisbon, flew from there to London, shared a little flat during the murderous blitz. They went together to Africa and shared tents, jeeps and foxholes during the adventures of the British defeat and retreat and through the triumphs of the allies from El Alamein to conquest of the desert and the Mediterranean.

They were side by side in Sicily and in Italy. George had caught malaria in the desert and came back here for a spell of rest. After that he went through campaigns in New Guinea, Salpan, through the bitter fighting on Leyte. He made battle jumps with the Eleventh Airborne Division and was about to go on to Luzon when the malaria caught up with him again. Gen. MacArthur ordered him flown back on sick leave. Meanwhile, Ernie Pyle had come home to rest and recuperate at his house in Albuquerque, N. M.

I met George at my Beverly Hills retreat, the day after he landed in San Francisco, and while we were there Ernie visited us. He was now on his way to cover the fighting in the Pacific. By this time, he was the most widely syndicated reporter in the world, the only man in my knowledge who ever had both the top best-sellers on the book market at once, and he could have commanded princely prices to lecture, write for magazines or take any of a score of broadcasting offers. . . . George, who had been through plenty with him, told him he was bound for stuff much worse and more dangerous than he had ever known. George pointed out to him his situation, on top of the world, and literally begged him not to go. But Ernie said the very fact that he had built up so large a following was a mandate and an obligation; he couldn't quit in the middle; he had a hunch he would never come back, but he insisted he should go on.

"The Story of GI Joe" takes him only as far as his turning to the road to Rome. . . . Burgess Meredith, who gives an uncanny personification, studied under George and others who know Ernie well and acquired his little intimate mannerisms; makes even those who knew Pyle think he looks like him. . . . But, though he is a star and playing a greater one, GI Joe is the hero—collectively—of this brave film. I call it brave because Lester Cowan put two and a half million dollars into it, though he had pledged Ernie not to glorify him, gave his principal character no suggestion of any sort of romance, and contracted to let Ernie throw out any scenes he didn't like. He did discard several, which were quite costly, because they made too much of him and too little of the men he loved and who loved him. . . .

Perhaps it was this spirit and faculty that lifted Ernie Pyle above any other reporter of his generation. He was a self-effacing little fellow, not physically brave, who sweated and shuddered during action, but who not only never ducked it, but went, weary and woe-begone, to seek it. . . . George tells me that during the nightly Nazi raids on London, Pyle would be panic-stricken—yet he was the first one at his typewriter when it stopped. . . . He had a lot of resistance, as many wiry little men have. . . . With the kind of stuff he wrote, he could have almost as well worked miles back of the front. But the reporter in him drove him right to where things were thickest.

His widow, Gerry, has pleased all his friends by stepping hard on a professional memorial project to establish a gaudy memorial park in his memory. . . . That's exactly what would have made him wince. . . . Perhaps modesty was his predominant characteristic, and it shows in this film, over a natural temptation for a producer, director and actor to create a hero. . . . To himself, Ernie was no hero. . . . He was bewildered by the praise and prosperity which poured down on efforts which he intended to be simple and humble, as he was to the last, and which I am sure he would want his memory to be.

Continuation of Nurses Training to Provide for Thousands of Qualified Hospital Assistants

By Walter A. Shead, WNU Staff Correspondent

A total of 112,000 girls and young women, of which number 59 percent or approximately 66,100 come from small towns of 5,000 and under population, are enrolled in the nurses training courses sponsored by the United States Public Health Service of the Federal Security Agency.

These girls are entrained in what is more commonly called the cadet nurses training corps and the erroneous impression has been largely fostered that they must enter the army and navy service upon graduation. This is untrue, however, since the law providing for the training of these nurses says they are trained for the armed forces, governmental and civilian hospital, health agencies, war industries and for other purposes, and where the nurses decide to practice is entirely voluntary on their part.

They may decide to stay in civilian practice, or to go into the army or navy, but emphasis is placed upon the voluntary nature of their service.

As is the case in most war projects, particularly where money for operation comes from some other source, there is considerable confusion in the Public Health Service as this is written as to whether the governmental training of nurses under the act will continue.

The law setting up the program provides that the act shall cease upon the date of the termination of hostilities in the present war as determined by the President or upon such earlier date as the congress, by concurrent resolution or the President may designate.

The student nurses already enrolled in the program will be able to finish their courses because the law provides that all student nurses who were receiving training or course ninety days prior to end of hostilities or declaration by congress or the President may be graduated.

No further enrollments are being accepted in the cadet nurses corps. Those with more than ninety days' training, as of V-J day, will be retained in their present hospital assignments, until they have completed the 80 to 86 months of training provided. A movement has been started in congress to have the life of the cadet nurses corps continued during peace time.

Thousands to Graduate.

Thirty thousand young women will become graduate nurses this fall as the new class prepares to enter the course and while the armed forces likely will urge these graduates to enter upon hospital duty within the services, it may be that the need elsewhere will be more urgent. At any rate, it will be optional with the graduate as to where they go.

Cost of sending these nurses through a 24-month course is approximately \$1250 to the government, so the cost of the training so far has been about \$180,000,000. In addition, the government, with Lanham Act funds from the Federal Works Agency, has constructed some 230 new projects, including buildings, laboratories and other equipment at a cost to the government of \$17,897,202 and to the private hospitals of \$8,280,783. The new construction has provided facilities for 12,144 students.

What will come of these new buildings when the emergency ends has not definitely been decided. Likely they will be declared surplus war properties and be disposed of through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation with preference or priority being given to the institution where they are constructed.

Under the provisions of the law, the government pays hospitals which have inaugurated a nurses' training course under the provisions of the act, for maintenance, meals, laundry and rooms and for indoor and outdoor uniforms, text books and other fees. In addition, the government pays the hospitals, which, in turn, pay the girls, \$15 per month for the first nine months and \$20 per month for the next fifteen months, or until their training is completed. Where the course runs more than two years, girls get \$30 per month for the last six months.

Cost of maintenance averages approximately \$35 to \$40 per month for each girl. At the present time the public health service has approved 1110 nurses' training schools out of a possible 1250 schools in 6500 hospitals in the United States. And according to records of the public health service, about 80 per cent of the nursing service in hospitals where such training schools are in progress comes from the cadet nurse students.

The course also makes provision for post-graduate courses for graduate nurses to become supervisors or teachers and approximately 20,000 have been enrolled in these courses, which are short, lasting up to approximately six months.

According to information here, the department of nurses for these courses

emergency, particularly from the girls themselves. Most complaint, Mrs. Mulcahy remarked, comes from parents who believe the girls should have the same pay as privates in the army, \$50 per month; that the girls are not subject to veterans' benefits and that they are not entitled to free mail.

To offset these, however, it is pointed out that the girls are receiving training for a life work at the expense of their government and that despite need for nurses in the armed forces, they are still free agents to practice when and where they will, or to not practice at all if they should so desire, if they marry, or for any other reason.

Farm Indebtedness Is Cut 25 Per Cent In Past Five Years

Farmers are using their larger incomes wisely in reducing their indebtedness. Many have paid off all their mortgages and others have reduced their obligations far more rapidly than their schedule of payments required. The total mortgage indebtedness on farms has declined at least 25 per cent during the last five years. Farmers are much better prepared financially to meet readjustments that may be necessary.

In another way, farmers are acting wisely in order to avoid heavy losses later. They are trying to keep prices of farms from sky-rocketing as land did in 1919 and 1920, only to be followed by a collapse which was a heavy burden for many years. The danger is not yet past for farms are being sold in many cases over 50 per cent higher than in prewar times. The situation is becoming a little better now and the prospects are more promising.

Merchants and business men in rural communities and smaller towns are preparing to meet changed conditions for their property is so closely tied up with that of the farmers. Conditions for them are very good, as indicated by the rise of bank deposits in agricultural regions, by higher retail sales, and increased consumer demand for both goods and services. Merchants are trying hard to get the goods for which the demand is so large.

The good judgment and wise management which has already successfully accomplished so much will help not only the farmers, but also the entire country during the postwar period. We are ready to face whatever comes. Much has been done and even more is going to be accomplished to make the future as prosperous as possible. There has been some unemployment due to closing down of plants engaged in the manufacture of war material.

Good Start Made In Major Job Of Reconversion

Reconversion—and all that it entails between now and this time next year presents a black picture if one listens to the predictions of some government and labor leaders.

The reconversion picture from the viewpoint of business and industry is not so darkly shaded and a spirit of optimism prevails within the ranks of industry in most localities throughout the nation.

Insofar as government is concerned we are, almost still unprepared for peace. Although the full-time employment bill was introduced last January with urgent recommendations from the late President Roosevelt that it be enacted into law and later urging by President Truman . . . the bill still rests in a senate pigeonhole. And, although there are many ramifications to the question of reconversion from war to a peace-time economy, the problem of unemployment, of lower wages, if only for a short temporary period is predicted will slash the national income from approximately 162 billions as of now to around 112 billions annually as of January 1, 1946. And it is unemployment, the human side of reconversion, which will cause the most suffering.

But looking at the picture as pessimistically as one can, it is a far cry from a national income of 112 billions to around fifty billions which was the nation's income during the depression years in the mid-thirties. It is a harsh paradox to witness a nation which has won the greatest military victory in history and accomplished the most prodigious production miracle in the annals of man, throw up its hands and predict an army of eight million unemployed by next Spring with the government doing nothing about it.

Large Urban Class.

In recruitment of the cadet nurses, according to public health service records, 40 per cent come from towns and rural communities of less than 2500 population. An additional 19 per cent come from towns of less than 5000 and only 9 per cent come from the large metropolitan cities.

Mrs. Mulcahy explained this unusual proportion of trainees from the small towns in the fact that parents felt that their daughters would be sheltered in proper environments, that many of them had not been away from their home town communities and that they felt safer and more secure in permitting their entrance in the cadet nurse corps, both as a patriotic move and as a security for their future.

There has been little complaint incident to this important training course to provide additional nurses during the