

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Big Three Draw Closer Together; British Break Ruhr Monopoly; New Work Stoppages Looming

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THE BIG THREE: Meeting of Minds

With the declaration that "progress and great progress, has been made," the foreign ministers of U. S., Britain and Russia concluded their quarterly conference in Moscow, and observers looked to a smoother relation between the major powers for re-establishment of order out of the dislocations in Europe and Asia.

Though the agreement between Messrs. Byrnes, Bevin and Molotov to work for control of atomic energy and eliminate it as a war weapon commanded the most popular attention, political understandings reached were equally important in their assurance of settling populations, permitting organization of comprehensive governments and securing the resumption of trade.

One of the principal items of accord involved agreement on procedure for drafting the European peace treaties with Axis satellites, the Big Three deciding to let France in on discussions over Italy and consulting all of the United Nations on pacts covering Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary and Finland.

KUHR: British Take Mines

An integral part of Germany's economy, 130 Ruhr coal mines owned by 46 companies were taken over by the British occupation authorities in a move to break up the country's war potential and also contribute to the decentralization of the Reich's industry.

In announcing the expropriation of the properties without compensation to the owners, the British declared that the coal mines were controlled by the same monopolistic interests which dominated the iron, steel and chemical industries and exercised a decisive influence on the character of prewar German economy.

In taking over the mines, the British announced that the financial interests of France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg in the properties would be safeguarded.

Fix Reparations

Though U. S. reparations from western Germany were set at 23 per cent of the total to be shared by 21 countries, this country's actual amount may fall short of the agreed figure since it waived rights to enemy ships and industrial equipment because of small losses in these categories.

In addition to such capital goods as plants, machinery, etc., German foreign assets, current stocks and items from production have been declared available for payments, and the U. S. is expected to draw primarily from these sources.

Besides the U. S., Britain will also receive 23 per cent of reparations, with France allotted 16 per cent. Other recipients include Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Greece, India, Norway, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Denmark, Luxembourg, Egypt and Albania.

Under the Potsdam agreement, Rumania was to obtain its principal reparations from eastern Germany, and German assets in Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Rumania and eastern Austria.

FRANCE: Trade Move

In a move designed to bring the purchasing power of the franc in line with foreign currencies, France devalued its monetary unit to 119 to the American dollar and 480 to the British pound.

As a result of the new arrangement, French foreign trade is expected to pick up, since the rise in prices due to decreased production will be offset by giving up more francs to the dollar or pound. In certain of its colonies where there has been no inflationary spiral, the French maintained the old value of the local franc.

Because of the dislocation of industry and commerce, France's foreign trade since liberation has been mostly of the token variety to keep channels open. Some perfume, cognac and champagne has

been shipped to countries abroad. With the devaluation of the franc, the French general assembly moved on to ratification of the Bretton Woods monetary agreement, under which foreign exchange would be made available to subscribers at par rather than appreciated rates.

OVERSEAS MUSIC: Petrillo Ban

Stocky little James Caesar Petrillo, czar of the American Federation of Musicians, who got his start playing trumpet for Jane Addams' Hull House band on Chicago's west side, again reasserted his power by issuing an order prohibiting the broadcast on U. S. radio stations of all music originating in foreign countries except Canada.

Having just won a major battle with recording companies by compelling them to pay a percentage of



James Caesar Petrillo.

their returns to the AFM to compensate for the reduction in regular employment of musicians through use of transcriptions, Petrillo declared he drew up his latest ultimatum to preserve the jobs of Americans. Said he:

"... The government—everybody—protects themselves against cheap labor. Why the—should musicians be suckers? The watchmakers' union muscled the state department into telling the Swiss to stop sending (watches) into the country. We're trying to keep out foreign musicians in person or on the air."

LABOR: New Strikes Loom

With 175,000 workers already idle by the General Motors strike in the automobile industry and the United Steel workers also threatening to walk out, the troubled labor situation took another serious turn with the CIO electrical union pondering a work stoppage in General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors plants.

As in the case of the auto and steel disputes, the strife in the electrical industry centered around the union's move for maintenance of high wartime take-home pay, its demands equaling the steel workers' bid for a \$2 a day wage increase and comparing with the auto workers' goal of a 30 per cent boost.

Active in the automobile dispute in an effort to bring the contesting parties together, government officials also took an aggressive hand in the electrical strife, with Edgar L. Warren, U. S. conciliation service director, conferring with both company and union bigwigs in an attempt to iron out differences.

NATIONAL INCOME: Triples

From the depression low of \$368 in 1933, per capita income in the U. S. jumped to \$1,117 in 1944, reflecting the increased wartime economic activity.

Even before the onset of the war boom, per capita income showed a decided increase from the 1933 low, reaching \$575 in 1940, still considerably under the 1944 top. Whereas such income ranged from \$202 in Mississippi to \$396 in Delaware in 1940, it ran from \$328 in Mississippi to \$1,519 in New York in 1944.

In 1940, 18 states topping the national average of \$575 included California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington and Wyoming. In 1944, all of these states except Wyoming exceeded the national figure, Indiana taking its place.

CHINA: Propose Truce

Even while 50,000 communist troops reportedly sought to cut the Yangtze river between Nanking and Shanghai, Red political leaders attempted to bring about a truce with Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist forces by suggesting the cessation of hostilities with troops of the two factions permitted to remain at present positions.

Advanced shortly after Gen. George C. Marshall's arrival in China to help untangle the complicated political situation there and promote unification of the country, the communist proposal was a modification of an earlier demand that nationalist troops withdraw to positions previously occupied before V-J Day.

Meanwhile, as communist and nationalist leaders of the political consultative council sat down to lay preparations for later discussions of unity, Red strategists sought to exert pressure on the U. S. to withdraw more support from Chiang's faction and enhance their own bargaining position in conferences. Held throughout China, leftist student rallies called upon Uncle Sam to let the Chinese settle their own differences without interference.

CANDY: Short Supply

Because of both ingredient and labor shortages, candy production will fall short of expected demands during the first nine months of 1946, the trade predicted, with the deficit amounting to 700 million pounds.

While nuts, peanuts, many fruits, coconuts, cocoa oil and other oil, and sugar apparently will remain in short supply through most of the year, the anticipated return of workers to confectionery plants from higher paying war industries has not materialized, though leveling off of other employment and increased wages should lead to solution of the manpower problem.

In addition to prospective higher labor costs, the trade said, material costs are also expected to remain at upward levels because of the shortage of supplies and the declared program of the government to eliminate subsidies on items entering into manufacture of candy. Straightening of difficulties will be the signal for extensive plant modernization and expansion, experts said, with installation of equipment heading the program.

Journey's End

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek Thee"—Chaplain Edwin Royal Carter Jr. of Richmond, Va., intoned as soldiers lifted the flag that covered the casket of Gen. George S. Patton and held it a few inches above the silver top.

Rain pattered upon the canvas canopy covering the burial site at the end of a long row of little white crosses in the American military cemetery in Luxembourg, Luxembourg, where 6,000 of the former C.L. Patton had led in the historic Battle of the Bulge the year before rested in peace. Beside Patton lay the body of Pvt. John Przyrowski of Detroit, Mich.

"But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone that sweareth by Him shall glory; but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped," the chaplain concluded in reading the fallen warrior's favorite 63rd Psalm. With the recitation of the Lord's prayer, the military men bowed their heads, then three rifle volleys echoed through the hills. As taps sounded softly, all stood at attention, and distinguished generals from Russia, Britain and France held themselves stiffly in salute until Mrs. Patton turned to leave.

Most distinctive of the floral pieces honoring "Old Blood and Guts" was an evergreen wreath from the man he had led to victory. It bore the simple and touching inscription: "To our leader."

PIG CROP: Above Average

Though falling below the department of agriculture's goal, the 1945 pig crop of 86,714,000 slightly surpassed 1944 production and topped the 10 year 1934-43 average by over 7,000,000.

While the 1945 spring pig crop fell below 1944, fall production rose to offset the early year drop, USDA reported. While large increases in the fall crop over 1944 were noted in the western corn belt, small decreases were recorded in the Atlantic states.

With 5,503,000 sows farrowed during the fall season, the number of pigs saved per litter totaled 6.38, compared with 6.34 in 1944 and 6.23 for the 10-year period.

In view of farmers' intentions to breed 8,542,000 sows next spring, the USDA's goal of 92,000,000 pigs should be achieved if the number saved in each litter equals the 10-year average. With heavy 1945 fall production and the retention of a large percentage of 1945 spring hogs on farms for extra feeding, pork supplies should be good through the ensuing months.



Man About Town:

Lady Astor is trying to arrange a "visit to the U. S." mainly to avoid being summoned as a witness by the war criminals at Nuremberg, who still fondly recall the Clijveden Set. . . . The State Dept. is anxious to learn just how Doris (World's Richest Gal) Duke could enter Italy without a visa, which the State Dept. didn't give her. . . . The reason Herbert Hoover's marriage to a wealthy widow is being retarded, they say, is "family static." . . . Biggest story that ever happened in the Washington Press Club didn't make any of the papers. A U. S. Marine, fed up with a columnist's poison about FDR, etc., picked him up bodily and tossed him from the bar into the lobby.

After the San Francisco Conference, a Russian attache visited Hollywood as the guest of Gregory Ratoff, the director. . . . Ratoff pointed out numerous movie queens. . . . On one set Ratoff sighed: "They are all so beautiful, but unfortunately, they don't stay happily married very long!" . . . "In Russia," explained the visitor, "one reason marriages last longer is that a wife looks the same after washing her face!"

At the 406 (which features named bands) a Broadway song plugger had too much to drink and started being a bore. "Oh," oh'd Lenore Lemmon, "climb back into your flask!"

Errol Flynn's forthcoming book, "The Showdown," is said to be better than his first book. . . . As Flynn strolled with his friend, artist John Decker, John remarked: "I wonder if Hollywood will believe you wrote it?" "Yes," said Errol, "if they think it's not good."

In Ciro's the other midnight Jack Haley was seated near an actor who had just lost a chance for a choice role in a film. He was popping off about "all the inefficient directors, blind producers, two-timing agents, etc." . . . Jack turned to his wife Flo and nifted: "Pardon me, honey, but I think I smell somebody burning."

Lee Sullivan, the singer, relays the yarn about the two shipwrecked drama critics. They drifted for weeks on a raft. . . . The more frightened of the two started seeking forgiveness for his sins. "I've been a louse—all my life," he said. "I've been cruel to actors. Too often I went out of my way to hurt them. If I'm spared, I promise. . . ."

"Just a moment," shouted the other one, "don't go too far. I think I see smoke from a ship!"

An executive of the Scientific Research Development Board had an appointment with Prof. Oppenheimer, the scientist who had so much to do with completing the atomic bomb. . . . Oppenheimer was to have registered at the Statler Hotel in Washington. . . . But the caller was told that he was not registered, and he wasn't. . . . This is why. . . . While the phone operator kept getting important calls for Oppenheimer—he was seated in a far corner of the foyer—patiently waiting for a room! . . . In any other country he would have been given a hotel or a palace. What does!

Sportsman R. S. Evans brought this back from California. . . . A street corner prejudist screamed: "There ain't enough room in this country for furriners and us Amuricans." . . . To which a lumbering giant among the listeners interrupted: "Yessiree, especially pale-face foreigners!"

The squelcher was Jim Thorpe, American Indian Olympics star.

Nothing New Under the Sun Dept: Bob Berryman of the WOR news room has traced the origin of "wolf" as applied to current usage. . . . In the Decameron of Boccaccio, a king with a roving eye was accused of being a "wolf." The Decameron stories were published in the 16th century. . . . This king wanted a man's two daughters as his wives—and the father intoned: "I firmly believeth you to be a king and not a ravishing wolf!"

John W. Raper, a Cleveland paragrapher for decades, has put some of his peppigrams between covers. The title is: "What This World Needs." . . . We liked these especially. . . . The theater box office counts the cash, not the applause. . . . Justice is what we get when the decision is in our favor.

Duck Shoots Man, and Other Curious Mishaps of 1945



By PAUL JONES

(Director of Public Information, National Safety Council.)

BIG things happened in 1945.

The war ended. The atom bomb busted. Taxes began to come down. And Mr. Bonner was shot by a duck.

Mr. Bonner is, of course, Mr. Stanley J. Bonner of Houston, Texas, as every duck now knows. On a fine October day he grabbed his trusty automatic pistol and ventured into the back yard to shoot a couple of domestic ducks. Duck No. 1 fell at the first shot. But Duck No. 2, a more aggressive type, leaped at Mr. Bonner, jarred his arm and caused the gun to go off. The bullet hit Mr. Bonner in the knee. The duck? Still alive and sassy.

Wacky? Sure. But no wackier than a lot of other freak accidents that happened in 1945. For a roundup by the National Safety Council reveals that come war, come peace, people go right on having the darnedest things happen to them. To wit:

Mrs. Edward Comfort, of Brooklyn, was driving through Virginia, her 15-month-old baby riding happily beside her in a basket strapped to the seat of the car. So far as Mrs. Comfort knew, there were no hard feelings between her and the baby.



But the child suddenly stopped contentedly drinking milk out of a nursing bottle, swung the bottle lustily and conked Mrs. Comfort neatly on the head. Dazed, she let go the wheel and the car overturned in a ditch. Neither mother nor baby was hurt.

Hard-Headed Fellow.

Not so allergic to a thump on the head is Charles Anderson, a hardy resident of Los Angeles. Mr. Anderson, in fact, has reason to regard himself as practically indestructible. He was repairing a wall one day when a concrete block fell from a fourth-story scaffold and hit him smack on the head. He reeled into the street, just in time to be struck down by Policeman Jess Haenel's motorcycle. He recovered satisfactorily from both accidents.

And Mrs. Dorothy Jensenius was walking in Chicago's loop one day when, lo and behold, a bucket came hurtling down and hit her kerplunk.



It had been dropped by a dismayed window washer seven stories up. A shoulder injury to Mrs. Jensenius and a dent in the bucket comprised the damage.

In Toledo, Mrs. Margaret Cook's car blew a tire at a railroad crossing and careened down the tracks toward an approaching freight train. The auto struck a signal switch and threw a red block against the train, automatically stopping it.

'Stick of Wood' Goes Boom!

When a pin in her washing machine broke off, Mrs. Axel Soder of Makinen, Minn., looked around the house for a substitute pin and finally found something she thought was just the thing. She sawed off the end of it and started to hammer it into the machine. She might have done it, too, if the substitute pin hadn't exploded and blown her clear



Hits Right Post.

Taxi-driver Ethel Sheffield's cab skidded into a lamp post in Regina, Saskatchewan, one 16-below-zero night last January. She was knocked unconscious and might have frozen to death if a fire alarm box on the lamp post hadn't been set off by the crash, bringing firemen to the rescue.

Every returning G.I. is mighty glad to see the family again, but few are so vociferous in their greetings as was Soldier Frank Chan of Baltimore. He gave his mom a hug so big it snapped several of her ribs.



It's odd enough, perhaps, when a fire starts itself and then puts itself out. When it happens twice the same way, you begin to wonder.

But once in Utica, N. Y., and again in Dark Harbor, Maine, the sun's rays, passing through a bottle of water in a truck, set fire to the floor of each truck, only to have the heat of the fire break the bottle and the water put out the flames.

Fire in Fire Station.

Probably the most embarrassed firemen in the country were the members of the volunteer department of Columbus Manor, Ill., the night an exploding gasoline tank in a pumper wagon set fire to the fire station. Unable to get their own equipment out of the station to fight the flames, the Columbus Manor laddies had to look on glumly while firemen from nearby towns did the job.



A lot of people stick their necks out in various ways, but not so spectacularly as did Virginia Triplett, an elevator operator in St. Paul. Miss Triplett was leaning her head outside the elevator on the first floor when the automatic doors closed. Passerby tugged at the doors but hand until they could be opened by mechanics.

Doorframes Too Low

Out in Hollywood, where anything can happen, "Sunset" Carson, six-foot-five cowboy movie actor, went to the studio hospital for an aspirin to help his headache. Coming out, he struck his head against the door frame, keeled over unconscious and had to have four stitches taken in his scalp.



Whether it was a suicide pact or just an accident, no one will ever know. But when Miss Bette Boren of Marinette, Wis., returned home one day last March, she found the family's two dogs on the floor, overcome by gas. They had, in some manner, turned on the stove. They were revived and haven't tried it again.

Every year someone lets a train pass over him without serious results. In 1945 it was Jesse Spitzer of Denver. Mr. Spitzer did it the hard way by first having himself an auto accident. This threw him through the roof of his car and landed him on his back in the middle of the track just as the train came along. Mr. Spitzer lay quietly and securely until the engine and long string of freight cars had roared over him, then found he had broken a leg—in the auto-accident.

No year would be complete, of course, without someone falling safe-

ly out of a third-story window onto a cement sidewalk. The 1945 fall-out girl was Beverly Kay Schwartz, 20 months old, of Maywood, Ill., who escaped with a slight head injury.

Just to be different, a Chicago baby took his mother along with him when he went for a two-story plunge to the street. The year-old child slipped from a porch railing. His mother, Mrs. Audrey Hudson, grabbed for him, got him, lost her balance, and mother and son fell together. Neither was seriously hurt.

Most farsighted plunger of the year was James Hearn of Seattle,



who fell three floors down an air shaft to land cozily in an easy chair.

Ambulance Throws Her Out.

As Mrs. Clara Wagner accompanied a sick friend to a Chicago hospital, the ambulance in which they were riding turned a corner so sharply that the rear door flew open and Mrs. Wagner was catapulted into the street. She was returned to the ambulance, and continued the journey—as a patient.



Just to prove that America hasn't a corner on freak accidents, a wind storm in North Adelaide, Australia, scared a deliveryman's horse into running away, but also blew the deliveryman ahead of the horse in time to stop it!

Bobcats don't frighten Mrs. Donaldson of Breen, Colo. When she came suddenly upon a big one in her turkey yard, she fearlessly seized a club and attacked it. The bobcat's hide now hangs in the kitchen. Mrs. Donaldson did not suffer a single scratch.



An ordinary field mouse ran up the steering wheel of an automobile driven by Hollis Lee Randolph of Topanga, Calif. Mr. Randolph, who couldn't have been more startled had it been an elephant, lost control of his car, ran it into a ditch and turned it over. Neither he nor the mouse was hurt.

A Liberty ship crashed into a bridge in Boston harbor, knocking a 90-foot section of the bridge into the water. Although the structure carries elevated lines, automobile traffic and foot ways, there were no trains, no autos and no pedestrians on it at the time of the accident. Yet it was midday, when traffic is usually heavy. No one was hurt on the ship, either.



One of life's little mysteries to doctors and economists came when 17-month-old Larry Lingle of Harrisburg, Pa., swallowed a nickel and coughed up a penny.

Henry Hale slipped on the ice in Chicago. A policeman asked him if he was hurt. "I broke my leg," replied Henry, calmly. "Take me home."

The police did so, then asked solicitously, "What doctor do you want?" "Doctor!" Hale snorted. "What I want is a carpenter."

Yes, it was a wooden leg.

And just as a reminder of how tough things really were during the war, Michael Babich walked up to a fellow worker in Newark, N. J., during the height of the tobacco shortage, facetiously asked for a cigarette, got one, and fainted!