WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

British Aerial War Against Germany Relieves Pressure on Russian Front; President Moves to Halt Inflation; Gas Rationing Marked by Conflicts

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

Sir Claude Auchinleck, British commander in chief in the Middle East, (left) is shown with Maj. Gen. Napier Clavering, head of the British military mission to the Egyptian army, and Nahas Pasha, (right) prime minister of Egypt. The gathering, in Cairo, was in celebration of King Farouk's birthday.

BRITISH:
Increase Tempo

The tempo of bombings by the Royal Air force planes on objectives in Europe had been vastly stepped up, and there had been indications that more and more deliberately the British were attempting in these raids to aid Russia.

Ever eastward had moved the objectives, first Luebeck, then Stettin, and then Rostock.

On this latter town, in two raids, the Royal Air force fliers had dumped a total of 900,000 pounds of bombs. The destruction was said to be most complete. Particular emphasis had been placed on the Heinkel aircraft factory.

But these were not the only objectives. On one day six giant raids had been carried out, with more than 600 planes zooming over the channel, bound on their lethal task.

British losses were not increasing, showing that with more constant practice, the British fliers were stepping up their technique and managing to get home in increasing numbers all the time.

Daylight hours had lengthened, weather had been favorable, and all of this was working to the liking of the British who were giving Germany, they believed, a worse and more continuous strafing than anything the Nazis had meted out to them earlier in the war.

Germany had begun to increase their retaliatory raids, and the British, ducking again into their shelters, hoped that these planes had been withdrawn from the Russian and Libyan fronts, thus giving the Red and the British troops more respite from attack.

Of the six raids in one day, three were on Baltic ports and the other three on channel coast points, the air ministry had said.

Heaviest hit town of England had been Exeter, home of a famous boys' school, where hundreds were said to have been made homeless and 12 deaths had resulted. But only 25 planes had taken part in this attack and this small number the British counted as a moral victory.

GASOLINE:
Rationing

The order that all gasoline in the eastern seaboard states would go under severe rationing on May 15 had remained much in the air with Ickes' office and that of Henderson sending out daily statements which now and then were reconciled, but for the most part were marked by strong conflict.

One moment it would be announced that rationing would be 2½ to 5 gallons weekly for nonessential cars, and the next moment it would be, from the opposite source, announced that the ration would be 30 to 50 gallons a month.

At the same time it had been announced in Washington that new car rationing would be relaxed in order to put them in owners' hands and thus gain valuable storage space.

Henderson's office issued regulations which included that men having essential need of automobiles could get them if the present cars were declared inadequate. This seemed to boil down to a car being a 1939 or earlier model, or having been driven more than 40,000 miles.

Under some circumstances owners could apply for the purchase of an additional car to the one already owned, Henderson said.

Fourteen classes of persons had been previously authorized to purchase cars, but hardly anybody was buying them, and the auto dealers had been loudly complaining that they were being strangled by government restrictions.

DRAFT:
Reclassifications

Shortly after the older men, those 45 to 64 had gone out and registered, the selective service headquarters had announced that it was going to begin to call to the colors younger men who had dependents, provided they were not in war-essential occupations.

It had not been made plain how wide this classification would be, but it was stated that those in class 3-A would be called, and the continued deferment would continue to apply only to those in 3-B.

A reclassification of these two classes was to be made, and the selective service heads said when this was finished, a start would be made in calling up those in 3-A.

As to "war marriages," the board said:

"In cases where the dependency was acquired after December 8, 1941, or acquired when induction was imminent, or for the primary purpose of providing a basis for dependency deferment, pregnancy, birth or acquiring a child shall not be cause for classification in class 3-A."

It also was planned to move back into 1-A those whose dependent wives had voluntarily quit their jobs which had been adequate for their self-support.

ANTI-INFLATION:
Presidential 'Musts'

A seven-point program "to keep the cost of living from spiraling upward" was presented to congress by President Roosevelt. Living costs have increased approximately 15 per cent since the outbreak of war in 1939. The presidential program proposes the following steps:

1. "We must tax heavily, and in that process keep personal and corporate profits at a reasonable rate. (The President called for a $25,000 net limit on individual income.)

2. "We must fix ceilings on the prices which consumers, retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers pay for the things they buy; and ceilings on rents for dwellings in all areas affected by war industries.

3. "We must stabilize the remuneration received by individuals for their work.

4. "We must stabilize the prices received by growers for the products of their lands.

5. "We must encourage all citizens to contribute to the cost of winning this war by purchasing war bonds with their earnings instead of using those earnings to buy articles which are not essential.

6. "We must ration all essential commodities of which there is a scarcity, so that they may be distributed fairly among consumers and not merely in accordance with financial ability to pay higher prices for them.

7. "We must discourage credit and installment buying and encourage the paying off of debts, mortgages and other obligations."

NEW CALEDONIA . . . *Reaction to Laval*

The first positive and active aftermath of the Laval situation in Vichy was shown when the United States troops landed in force on the strategic Free French island of New Caledonia in the Southwest Pacific.

There had been a small garrison of Free French on the island, and it was announced that the considerable American force landed there.

The DeGaullists had only recently seized the island, and still more recently American state department officials had issued recognition.

There had been bitter protests from Vichy. The island, part of the New Hebrides group, lies in the direct line of supply between the United States and Australia.

There had been a French naval base at Noumea, capital of the island, and the New Caledonia metal resources were described as considerable.

BEAVERBROOK:
Leads With Chin In Call for Invasion

Lord Beaverbrook, in his masterful speech in which he praised Churchill to the skies, but called for a desperate and sudden invasion of the continent in order to create a second front and thus win the war swiftly while Russia is at her peak, caused a storm of controversy to arise in Britain.

It appeared the famous publisher had led with his oddly shaped chin. And his opposition press was not long in taking a shot at it.

One influential newspaper in Britain after another criticized Beaverbrook's speech, most of them taking the attitude that while Britain had been keyed up more and more for an invasion attempt, there was no spirit in the country to attempt it until the "last bullet necessary for success was ready and in the hands of the troops."

Britain, these papers said, "will not be hustled" into a decision to attack on the continent.

This had put somewhat of a damper on the previous reports, which had emanated in the form of hints at the time of General Marshall's visit to London, that an invasion on a large scale of some part of the continent was definitely in the immediate offing.

It made it look as though high quarters were chastising Beaverbrook, and that his speech indeed had been ill-advised.

That the British were definitely on the offensive in the air could not be denied. But that a land offensive would come soon seemed wishful thinking.

ARGENTINE:
Swinging Over

Favorable news to the Allied nations had finally come from Buenos Aires.

It had been learned that the new Argentine chamber of deputies, following an election, had swung over to the United Nations side.

Thus the opposition coalition had gained control. Radical Deputy Jose Luis Cantilo had been elected president of the chamber.

It had been a dramatic scene, with supporters of Acting President Castillo, the "neutrality toward all" leader, leaving the room in an effort to prevent a quorum. But 81 deputies, one more than a quorum, remained on the floor, thus giving the coalition its victory.

DEPUTY JOSE LUIS CANTILO
Argentina's man of the hour.

Argentina and Chile had remained the only two South American republics to fail to break off relations with the Axis powers. A resolution to break off relations immediately had been offered in the new Argentine chamber, and it was expected to pass.

Cantilo was viewed as the man of the hour.

JAPAN:

The Japanese fleet, heavily concentrated in two general sectors, the Southwest Pacific (including the Indian ocean) and in home waters near Japan, was rumored to be on the move toward the northeast, the Japs having decided that the bombers of Tokyo had been based on the Aleutian islands.

Observers had been quoted that if this should be the case, then there was a chance of a major sea battle in these waters, with at least an even chance that the United States navy would win.

True, the Japs had 13 aircraft carriers against about four for the Americans, but it had been said that the Japs could only marshal, on these carriers, 800 planes as against about 700 for the American fleet.

As close a margin as this would give the United States, on the basis of past performances, a definite edge, sufficient to win the battle in all probability.

BURMA:

British and Chinese defenders of Burma, the former mostly Indian territorial troops, of which the British army had in it more divisions than those from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa combined (believe it or not), were still on the retreat under terrific Japanese pressure.

MISCELLANY:

Rio de Janeiro: A Spanish ship was carrying Axis diplomats back to Europe from various South American republics which had severed relations. It had been held up for more than two weeks trying to buy oil fuel for the journey.

New York: A Norwegian ship managed to make port under its own power after trading shots at sea with a German submarine.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

IMPORTING COTTON?

For years the United States has had a huge surplus of cotton. The idea of importing cotton seemed fantastic. Yet that is exactly what is about to be done, as the latest development in the Good Neighbor policy.

Oscar Johnson, leading Mississippi cotton planter and former official of the AAA, will go to South America to buy surplus cotton from Peru and Brazil. He carries a checkbook of the Commodity Credit corporation, whose funds for domestic and foreign crop purchases amount to $4,000,000,000.

Both Peru and Brazil are suffering severely from loss of foreign markets. Brazil's cotton was sold in Europe, Peru's to Japan. Both Latin American countries wholeheartedly backed the United States at the Rio conference and now Uncle Sam is returning the favor.

For some time, department of agriculture officials, fearful of outcries from the cotton belt, were timid about buying foreign cotton. They thought they might get away with purchases for storage in South America—but not for imports into the U. S.

But two agriculture officials—John B. Hudson, president of Commodity Credit, and Sam Bledsoe, aide to Secretary Claude Wickard — conceived the smart idea of putting the plan squarely up to southern congressmen, with Oscar Johnson as the choice for buyer.

This worked like a charm. Cotton congressmen have full confidence in Johnson, and they even approved importing some cotton, especially the long staple variety from Peru, which does not directly compete with U. S. cotton.

Meantime, plans are being made to purchase other Latin American agricultural surpluses, including beef and vegetable oils. But Argentina, which is suffering more than any other country, will get no U. S. help while President Castillo remains on the neutrality fence.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

President Roosevelt has indicated to Democratic chiefs who urged him to tour the country, that he may take a transcontinental trip this summer—if the war permits. Democratic candidates facing tough election battles are eager to have him visit their states. Also the President long has wanted to inspect several army camps and war production centers.

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HOPKINS LOOKS AT WAR

Following his trip to England, Harry Hopkins is giving close friends a very optimistic picture about the war situation.

He is convinced that Hitler is really alarmed at the tough resistance of the Russians, the growing war strength of the United States, and the fear of an invasion on the European continent.

One of Hitler's greatest weaknesses, Hopkins believes, is manpower. German industry has done a great job hitherto. But now with an increasing drain on both industry and the German army, the tremendous losses at the Russian front are having a definite effect.

To his close friends, Harry Hopkins is known as one of the most optimistic men in the administration. But even discounting this natural optimism, other war chiefs in a position to know seem to have a fairly bright look in their eyes recently.

It will be a long time before we can begin to do any real crowing, for the situation in the Near East is almost as sour as the very, very sour situation in India. It does look, however, as if the spring had definitely brightened the war picture.

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MUSSOLINI'S DOTAGE

Inside word brought back from Italy by those in the know gives a desolate picture of Benito Mussolini. He has been pretty well isolated from the war command and from direction of the government, both of which are dictated, directly or indirectly, by Nazis.

Mussolini has gone in for reminiscing on his younger days when he was a militant young socialist, part of the time exiled in Switzerland.

He has even sent for his old socialist friends, including some previously exiled to France. And they have sat around talking about the good old days when they were young.

Maybe this is insanity. Maybe it is just getting back to sanity after 20 long years of delusions of grandeur.

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POWER PROBE

A powerful lobby is again back on the Washington scene.

Driven out of the capital a few years ago by the blasting investigation of Justice Hugo Black, then U. S. senator from Alabama, the utility forces have quietly resumed their undercover pressure operations.

Inquiries at this office elicited the explanation that the purpose of the power interests was to "facilitate co-operation with the government in the war effort."

Walter Winchell

(WNU Service)

Bombers 'Speak';

The American airmen finally delivered a message which Tokyo understands. Not from an inkwell, but from a bomb rack.

The American fliers reminded Japan that the open city of Manila was not a closed grave—but an open wound.

London, Warsaw, Shanghai and Nanking are avenged because the burning sea of Pearl Harbor is still burning in American hearts.

Japan is entitled to receive what she gave. Japn gave no warning at Hawaii and she gave no mercy at Bataan. These are cruel words, but these are cruel times. The blazing cities of the Axis nations are the only lighthouses to civilization. The way to bring peace to our cities is to bring war to theirs. The foundation for international justice must be dug with 2,000-pound bombs.

This is the lesson they have asked for and we must drive it home with bayonets: Where our planes can fly, our armies will march. And where our armies can march, their dictators will kneel.

Who are the legislators holding up passage of the bill that would raise the pay of soldiers and sailors? . . . Ha, Ha Dep't: The Japs can now join the other saps who thought the oceans could protect them.

This Is New York:

The old-fashioned private houses on West 52nd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues—where the veteran New Yorkers pull down the blinds every eventide to shut out "Swing Street" . . . The J. P. Morgan mansion covering an entire block of Madison Avenue real estate. Boasting one of the most sordid facades this side of a "Dead End" movie . . . The emergency case internes at Bellevue Hospital, who read detective stories between life-and-death assignments . . . Times Square—the "glamorous street"—where the corners are occupied by a drug store, a brauhaus, a cigar shop and a hot dog stand.

The pure-white Squibb Bldg. on Fifth Avenue, a well-manicured finger-tip pointing at a star . . . The Riverside Drive jitterwhacky set that dance on the grass to the rhythm from nearby Claremont Inn . . . The hundreds of heads that pop out of as many windows in the Wall Street sector whenever two cars bump noisily . . . The noonday hoss players making their wagers—willing to put more across a nag's nose than on their wives' backs . . . The wailing of the zoo tenants in the dead of night—a nuisance to the midtown (near the park) dwellers . . . E. Cantor's $2.98 hat.

The Floy Apartments in mid-Harlem. Birthplace of the Flat-Foot Floogie (with the F-F) . . . Alf Lunt, the star, washing dishes at the Stage Door Canteen . . . The Woolworth edifice, which no longer has a 5-and-Dimery on the site . . . Hotel America, where most of the circus performers tepee . . . The famed showman supping with two midgets—several of whom helped him keep the wolf from the door with their talent . . . The two live penguins, that serve as ass't headwaiters at the Penguin on E. 51 St. . . . New Street, one of the oldest.

Park Avenue's sore spot at 59th Street, where the swanky sector suddenly goes Brooklyn—with a large garage, a pet shop, a butcher store and a cigar store . . . Mrs. Katzenberg, the affable first-nighter, who rarely misses a premiere. They'd hold the curtain if she were tardy . . . George S. Kaufman, one of the town's wittiest, who wears a melancholy look . . . The big bows on Moss Hart's neckties . . . Lucy Monroe, the Star-Spangled Sopranotable, who is also ready to sing the Chinese National Anthem or the Jewish anthem, Katikvah . . . Popular Danny Kay's giggle.

Scrambled Eggs:

Vox poppers have to be good to get their letters printed. Too many professionals are crashing the dailies, discussing the country's welfare. The smallies reporting the first robin didn't have a look-in . . . The public has overruled the reviewers on "The Moon Is Down." It is buying it big . . . Wonder how harsh and tin-panny your voice has to be before you can get a job as a commentator in the newsreels. Some of the femmes could saw their way out of a jail with those pipes . . . It's a snide trick to quote part of a guy's remarks to make him look silly, take it from one who's done it.

Sounds in the Night: At Bill Bertolotti's: "He's on the road to success—just another of Broadway's clicking heels" . . . At Roseland: "Broadway is where celebrities meet each other—but never half way" . . . In the Century Room: "Can you keep a secret—because I can't!" . . . At the Bowman Room: "Did you read what our bombers did to Yokoha-ha-ha-ha!" . . . At Spivy's: "Some times he gets a little irksome with a japital J" . . . In the Hickory House: "Original? The crook walks around with a bit of carbon paper in each ear!"

Improved Uniform International SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for May 10

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MONDAY: THE DAY OF AUTHORITY

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 21:12-22.
GOLDEN TEXT—My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.—Isaiah 56:7.

Modern presentations of Christ in picture and sermon often give the impression that He was an effeminate man who went about doing gentle little deeds of kindness. One almost feels that He spoke in a half whisper and that He fearfully avoided the difficulties and dangers of life.

Such a picture of Christ, whether in words or on canvas, was never obtained from the Bible. Yes, He was gentle and kind; He did go about doing good; He was altogether humble—but why give the false impression that gentleness means weakness, kindness means a sentimental softness, etc. These are the virtues of a strong man and such was our Christ. He was a manly man who so excited the admiration of the boys in the temple that they shouted a holy "Hurrah" (Hosanna—in Hebrew).

On Monday as our Lord came into the city He saw and dealt with the fruitless fig tree and later in the day He cleansed the temple. This seems to be the order of the events (see Mark 11) and we will so consider them.

I. Jesus Stimulates Faith by an Act of Judgment (vv. 18-22).

In the morning as Jesus returned to Jerusalem, He was hungry. He had probably spent the night in prayer after His time of fellowship with the disciples (Mark 11:11). It was early spring, and normally not the time for figs to be ready to eat, but He saw a tree which already had foliage on it. Since the leaves form after the fruit, He properly looked for figs—green, perhaps, but even so useable for food—and there were none.

In a swift miracle of judgment, He condemned the tree, which soon withered. Some have assumed that He acted in anger, but that is evidently not so. His act was a sign to Israel and to us. The fig tree was a figure of Israel (see Hosea 9:10, Joel 1:7, Luke 13:6-9). They as a nation had the outward signs of fruit, that is, the "leaves" of temple worship, teaching of the law, etc., but there was no fruit of repentance and faith, of real love for God (see Rom. 2:17-23). Judgment was certain, and our Lord cursed a useless, fruitless tree to try to awaken the people to their need.

So our Lord comes to us—to look below the foliage of Christian profession, of our charities and benevolences, of our correct doctrinal views—to see if there is any fruit of real Christian living. How often He must turn away in sadness because there is none.

This miracle was not only a sign of judgment; it was used by our Lord to stimulate the disciples' faith. What they had seen was only an indication of what faith (and note it was their faith) could do. The promise of God to those who, abiding in Christ and with His Word abiding in their heart, ask according to His will, in faith nothing doubting, is without limit.

II. Jesus Stimulates Praise by an Act of Authority (vv. 12-17).

For a second time He drove out from His Father's house those who had made it a place of merchandise, of commercialized thievery. This is a majestic picture. The Son of God and Son of Man steps into the center of this unholy traffic and with mighty, holy indignation (not anger) drives it out. The people who had suffered long because of this religious racket, which paid a nice "cut" to the priests themselves (probably as a "gift" even as such things are managed in our day), were jubilant.

The boys who were in the temple (for such is doubtless the meaning of "children" in v. 15) were so delighted at this magnificent exercise of His divine authority that they broke out into "Hosannas," which, as we have suggested, were really a holy "Hurrah." Well, why not? Hurrah for our Lord! He will not tolerate iniquity even though it hides under the cloak of religion. He is not afraid to speak out and to act against sin and corruption. Possibly the church would reach a good many more men and boys in our day if it would step out in faith to fight the wrong and support the right. Then maybe the young men would shout, "Hurrah for the church," instead of some of the things they are saying.

The chief priests and scribes were "sore displeased" (v. 15) both by the acts of Jesus and the praise of the boys. They **would** be! And they have a host of descendants who hold places of authority today—yes, even in the church—who would be much displeased if such things were to happen now. But why fear them? Is it not high time that the people of God honored their Lord both by faith and good works, regardless of what men may say? Ought we not to please God rather than men (see Acts 5:29 and Ps. 56:4)?

ASK ME ANOTHER

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. To what timepiece does this motto apply: "I count no hours but unclouded ones"?
2. What was the painter Rembrandt's last name?
3. What state changed its capital from one city to another in 1911?
4. When a ship passes from salt to fresh water, is the draught of the ship increased or decreased?
5. What does a telegrapher mean by the number 95?
6. In what river in the United States are the fish totally blind?
7. What is a howdah?

The Answers

1. A sun dial.
2. Van Rijn.
3. Oklahoma. Its former capital was Guthrie.
4. Increased. Salt water is heavier.
5. Rush.
6. Echo river in Mammoth cave, Kentucky.
7. A seat erected on an elephant's back, usually covered overhead.

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Nature's Defects

No one finds fault with defects which are the result of nature.—Aristotle.

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