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NAZIS REPORT SINKING OF BIG LINER

Showdown Fight For Labor Vote Develops

Alignment Follows Lewis Stand

Lewis Stakes Position in CIO on Wilkie Victory; Labor Leaders Begin to Choose Sides in Presidential Struggle.

By Associated Press. The CIO has developed a presidential campaign strategy, the CIO leader, Walter Reuther, announced today. He said that the CIO would support the candidate who would bring about the first magnanimous settlement.

Reuther, who was elected to the heart of the CIO, said that Wilkie had declared his position on the CIO. He said that he would support the candidate who would bring about the first magnanimous settlement. He said that he would support the candidate who would bring about the first magnanimous settlement.

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Lewis Backs Wilkie

CIO Leader Will Re-sign if Roosevelt Is Re-Elected, He Tells Radio Audience.

Oct. 26.—(AP)—Walter Reuther, CIO leader, announced today that he would resign if Roosevelt is re-elected. He said that he would support the candidate who would bring about the first magnanimous settlement.

In the Front Line of the Battle of London



Nazi bombs were still dropping as this photo was made of a London fireman, mounted on an aerial ladder, battling a raging West End fire set by incendiary missiles. (Central Press)

Navy Day Observed

Bolters To Wilkiecrats May Expect Retaliation In Assembly, Averill Says

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL.

Raleigh, Oct. 26.—There is no doubt that the current drive for Wendell Wilkie by bolters from the Democratic party is going to bring retaliation in the 1941 General Assembly, and probably from the next Democratic state administration.

Talk of it is heard from all sections, but particularly from the west where the so-called Democrats for Wilkie campaign threatens either to unseat several Democratic legislators, or at least to scare them nearly to death or to the point of spending more money than usual.

Chief citadel of revolt against Roosevelt and the third term is pictured as being in Forsyth, where there are so many big business men whose loyalty to the dominant Democratic administration is either doubtful or what is worse, is such

as to leave no doubt whatever that they are for Wilkie. If there are, in fact, any losing Democratic legislative candidates, then Forsyth is going to feel the wrath of those who do pull through successfully.

As a matter of cold, hard fact there seems perhaps more genuine defeatism in Forsyth, Guilford, than in Forsyth, but somehow or other the Winston-Salem "crowd" is getting most of the blame.

Of course, most of the Wilkiecrats claim they are going to support the state and local Democratic tickets, but everybody above the grade of nation in intelligence knows that party desertion never stops that short, though it is often more serious with regard to one office than to others. For instance, the state ticket headed by Dan Gardner pulled through despite the South washout, but local candidates by the score went down along with the idol of New York's sidewalk.

So there are going to be reprisals, and they will likely extend even further than the legislature. The Beaufort administration isn't likely to countenance the presence on the Board of Conservation and Development, for instance, of such Wilkiecrats as Thurmond Chatham and Jim McNair.

It may be, of course, as has been suggested by the Greensboro News editorially, that tenure of office on such boards ought to be entirely disconnected from political affiliation or alignment, but the million isn't anywhere near yet—and North Carolina politics just isn't run that way, as the Green-boro paper well knows.

Bill Sharpe, Winston-Salem, editor of "Thursday" quotes a prospective legislator as making this threat: "Wait till I get to Raleigh, and wait till that Forsyth crowd sticks its neck out. The boys from my neck of the woods are going to work on that crowd."

Just how the "working on" will be accomplished hasn't yet been made

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Hosiery Union Backs Roosevelt

Philadelphia, Oct. 26.—(AP)—Coinciding with John L. Lewis' endorsement of Wendell L. Wilkie, officers of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers (C. I. O.) telegraphed last night a pledge of "continued loyalty and enthusiastic support" to President Roosevelt.

The message was signed by three Philadelphiaans—Alexander McKeown, president; William Smith, secretary; and Alfred Hoffmann, first vice president—and Edward F. Callaghan, second vice president of Chattanooga, Tenn.

New Italian Offensive Imminent

Rome Reports North African Army Ready For Attack in Egypt; Air Service to Greece Suspended Until November 4.

Rome, Oct. 25.—(AP)—The Rome radio said today that a new Italian offensive in Egypt was imminent, which would be supported by Italian air service to Greece caused foreign observers to wonder if a showdown with that little nation was in the offing.

The radio said Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's army in North Africa is now ready and fully prepared to deal a final blow to the British in Egypt.

"The blow," it added, "will fall very soon."

The newspaper Piccolo said water supplies had been laid from Libya to the Italian front in the western Egyptian desert and described other minute details of the preparations announced by the radio.

At the same time the high command reported British warships had shelled but done no damage to Italian positions near Sidi Barrani.

Numerous patrol clashes have occurred in this area in recent days and the high command told of widespread bombing.

As the Italian military machine apparently was set to move in one or

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British Watch French Fleet

London, Oct. 26.—(AP)—The spectacle of another "battle of Oran" with the British Mediterranean fleet swooping down on Toulon to trap French naval units there before they could put to sea was envisioned today by informed quarters should France agree to cooperate with the axis.

Strategists also predicted that units of the British navy would attempt to take over French island bases in the Indian and Pacific oceans, while Martinique and other French possessions in the western hemisphere would be left to Pan-American attention.

There was no doubt in British minds that Hitler's principal purpose in his conferences with Marshal Petain, the aged leader of defeated France, was to get his hands on the French fleet, which, even after the battering the British gave it July 3 at Oran, Algeria, is better than anything the axis powers have.

The government, of course, kept official silence on Britain's possible course should the French ships pass to Hitler, but experts cited a feeling which is general in informed quarters that England's powerful navy would immediately try to bottle up the French fleet at Toulon.

The men were caught, however, in the midst of the drive which North Carolina superior court judges agreed they would launch against illegal slot machines, and Judge R. Hunt Parker passed out the road sentences—twelve months for Finch and eight months for Laing. Finch is alleged to be an associate of Joe Calcutt, the Fayetteville slot tycoon who is now under heavy bond awaiting trial here in November.

Lawyers and laymen alike express more than a little interest in getting the Supreme court's ruling on the exact meaning of the 1939 Revenue Act provision regarding slots. Does it, or does it not prevent or repeal, in part at least, the Flanagan act?

There is considerable skepticism, however, over the ultimate value of

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Set for the Draft



Clarence A. Dykstra, director of selective service, examines the historic goldfish bowl brought from Philadelphia for drawing of the draft numbers in Washington. This is the same bowl used in the draft drawing of the last war.

U. S. Note Sent France

Hull Reveals Roosevelt Sent "Communication" Several Days Ago to Petain.

Washington, Oct. 25.—(AP)—Secretary Hull said today that President Roosevelt had sent a "communication" to the French government several days ago in regard to negotiations now under way between France and Germany and their effect on American interests.

The communication, the secretary of State said, was dispatched about the time that Adolf Hitler and Marshal Petain met "somewhere in occupied France" to discuss the possibility of closer collaboration.

Hull declined, however, to make communication or any details of the specific subjects involved.

The secretary, answering newspapermen's questions, said that at the Havana conference the 21 American nations had formulated a policy involving the territories in the western hemisphere owned by European governments whose status might be changed by developments in the war.

Finch's counsel also advances the argument that his client's conviction is invalid because his name does not appear in the body of the indictment against him.

The men were sentenced to prison terms on their guilty pleas—a fact which in all likelihood accounts for the appeals. They had probably expected fines and were prepared to pay them and go on their way, perhaps not rejoicing, but to go on their way just the same.

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Empress Of Britain Said Bomb Victim

British Vessel, Now Reported in Troop Transport Service, Is Left in Sinking Condition North of Ireland, Germans Claim.

(By The Associated Press.)

The tempo of Nazi aerial warfare against Britain and British shipping was speeded up today with the reported sinking of the 12,318-ton Empress of Britain as the world awaited the outcome of the German-Italian-French diplomatic negotiations to determine France's new status in axis dominated Europe.

London was under alarm seven times between daybreak and early afternoon after a nightlong hammering in which more homes and buildings were smashed and numerous casualties inflicted.

At least six persons were killed by a bomb which wrecked an apartment house and grocery. Many were buried under the debris and released only after air raid precaution workers and volunteers dug into the wreckage.

Axis planes attacked eastern Scotland, Rosyth, Liverpool, Wales and midland industrial cities as well as the capital last night.

At sea, the Germans claimed to have sunk the giant liner Empress of Britain, in which King George VI and Queen Elizabeth returned home from their visit to Canada and the United States in 1939, later reputedly in troop transport service.

Informed Nazi sources said German combat planes bombed the liner north of Ireland and left her in a sinking condition after the crew got away in boats.

The royal air force, taking advantage of the clearest weather observed in the English channel since the start of the war, attacked a Nazi convoy off the French coast. Watchers believed at least one vessel was hit. Boulogne, on the French coast, was still ablaze from British bombs.

The British claimed bomb hits on power stations at Kiel and Hamburg.

Germany, it was declared today, has adopted a new four-year plan to be directed by a committee recently completed by Reichsmarshal Goering.

In London it was learned King George VI sent a message to Premier Petain of France, expressing sympathy for the French people and confidence in an eventual British victory.

Vice Premier Pierre Laval of France returned to Vichy after conferring with Italian, German and Spanish leaders and was due to attend a cabinet meeting at which Petain was scheduled to report on his conversations with Adolf Hitler.

Boom Times Expected

"But What of the Aftermath?", Stewart Asks in Summary of Economics Report.

By CHARLES P. STEWART

Central Press Columnist. Washington, Oct. 26.—If booms could be guaranteed to go on booming indefinitely into the future, the latest forecast by the agriculture department's bureau of economics would be quite a cheerful prediction.

Between our defense program's demands for more and more industrial workers and our conscription of men for military training, it's the bureau's opinion that 1941 will see a reduction in the number of unemployed Americans by about 2,500,000.

This sounds like a very moderate estimate. It has suggested that the figure would be better than the one the bureau mentions. However, that's the one it does mention.

Anyway, it will be fine, at least, necessarily, for those who, at present jobless, get back into well-paying positions. Indeed, the bureau looks for wage boosts, though it admits that they may be partially offset by higher costs of living. As for the draftees? Well, I'd rather be seen a draftee than on no pay roll whatever.

And add the bureau, in its annual outlook report, should world conditions become still more acute.

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Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Fair to partly cloudy; tonight and Sunday slightly cooler; Sunday and in extreme north portion tonight.

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