

Henderson Daily Dispatch

ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THIS SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENDERSON, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 28, 1940

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

Nazis Will Not Aid Italy Now

Aluminum Rationing Proposed

Airplane Production Being Handicapped By Need for Aluminum Products; Rationing Considered With Priorities Rule.

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Rationing of aluminum products was under consideration in government circles today as a means of avoiding possible delays in warplane production schedules.

A tentative source reported that the device was being studied as a means of more frequently meeting one of production priorities. Under a rationing system defense contracts would determine what quantities of completed aluminum products should be delivered to various plane manufacturers.

Theoretically, orders for aluminum products for a manufacturer who had a sufficient supply might be directed to another who had no such accumulation.

If priorities were imposed these would determine the order in which aluminum products should be produced to fill defense contracts as well as commercial contracts for other uses.

The immediate supply of aluminum products for the swiftly expanding aircraft industry is scheduled for study by the reorganized defense priorities board.

The aluminum question came to the front through a recent announcement by the Northrop Aircraft Corporation, which holds \$10,000,000 worth of defense contracts. Company officials said their production had been curtailed because of lack of aluminum products.

Defense To Be Speeded

Office for Production Management to Spur Lagging Industry, Public Apathy.

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Central Press Columnist

Washington, Dec. 28.—Now will we get action? Our new alphabetically set up, the OPM, created to put maximum pep into us, hasn't had time to administer much ginger yet, but it's a strenuous looking quartet—William S. Knudsen, director; Sidney Hillman, vice director and labor secretary; Henry L. Stimson and Frank Knox, representing our armed services.

OPM—meaning Office for Production Management—Production, of course means production of war supplies, for our own defense, in case we're picked on presently, and for Britain's immediate use. We'd better commit those initials to memory, we're going to see them plenty from now on.

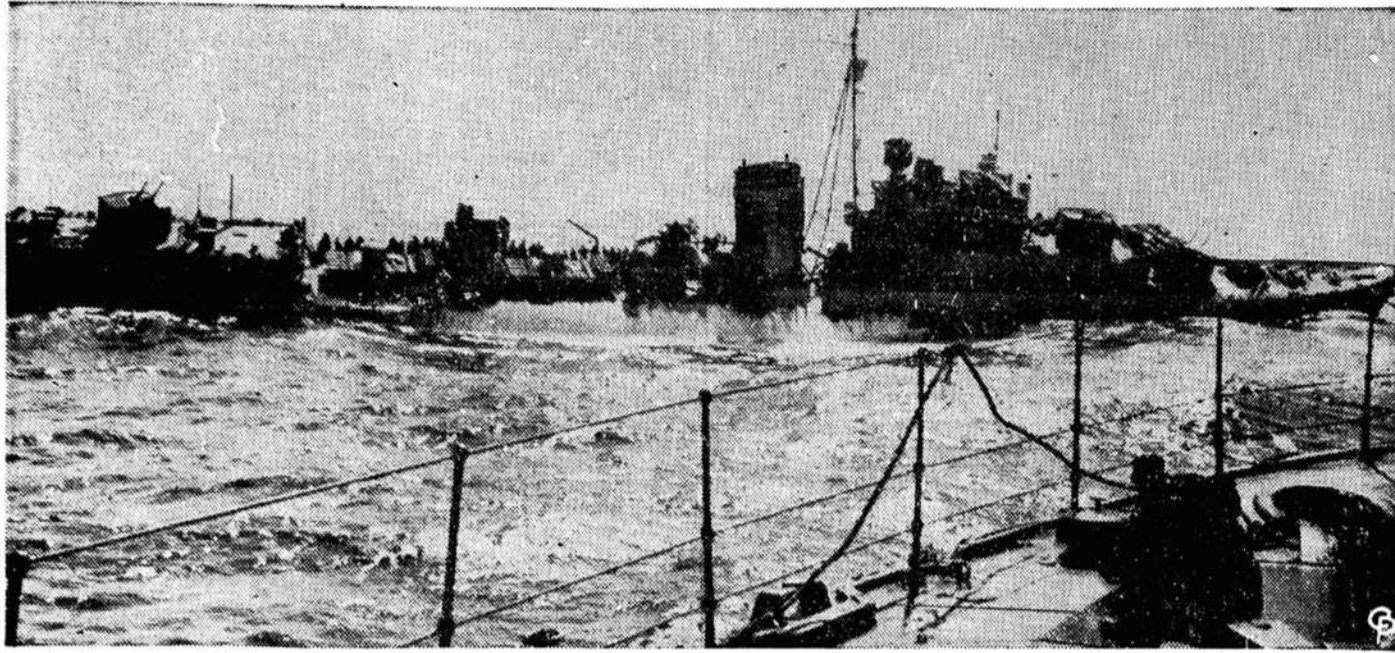
It's being widely advertised that our war production lags, pogs down. The question is, why so? The answer commonly given is that we're inefficient, don't appreciate the vital gravity of today's emergency—industry doesn't, labor doesn't, and neither does our public generally.

So the OPM's first business is to inject into our system generally the stimulus of a national scare. That ought to make us develop a lot of activity. Bill Knudsen's task will be to give it industrial direction. Associate Hillman will attend to the labor detail. Secretaries Stimson and Knox will tell Bill and Sidney what our army, navy and aviation services particularly need.

But the initial dose consists in the throwing into us of a first rate scare. Director Knudsen gave us a shot of our 'terrible danger.' Secretary Knox supplemented Bill with his declaration that "it (the danger) is nearer than you know." Stimson

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Nazi Communique Said It Was Sunk—Here It Is



Decks awash, but still afloat, the British destroyer Kelly, is towed from Nazi torpedo boat in the North Sea. British say she was ported, deck German communique said the Kelly had been sunk by a torpedo and has again put to sea. Note crew members clustered on the reef side.

Gayda In Warning To America

North Carolina's Highway Safety Record Is Very Bad

Traffic Fatalities For 1940 Expected To Exceed Those of 1939, State Safety Division Says; Good Record First Half-Year.

Daily Dispatch Bureau, Raleigh, Dec. 28.—Continued increase in highway fatalities in November, coupled with an already assured high figure for December makes it sure that North Carolina will have nothing to brag about in the highway safety line this year.

In fact it is already certain that the state's record will be definitely mad. Carl Barefoot, Safety Division statistician, gloomily predicts: "We will be among the worst states in the country."

The cold figures confirm his fears and his dark outlook: November claimed 108 victims on North Carolina roads, as compared with 103 in the same month of 1939; and the eleven months total for this year rose to 851 against 834 for 1939, minus December.

There have already been received enough death statistics to make it appear positive that this month will go above the 109 fatalities of 1939. Last year's final total reached 943. There is every reason to believe that 1940's total will climb well above 960, or even higher.

Safety officials are doubly concerned because the state's safety record was wrecked during the second half of the year, after the January to June six-month period had shown a reduction of more than ten percent over the first half of 1939.

In the analysis of the first half Ronald Hoeutt, safety director, wrote: "The first six months of 1940 accounted for 353 traffic fatalities in North Carolina compared with 396 for the first six months of 1939. This indicates a reduction of 10.8 percent."

In his annual report he'll not be able to write any such cheerful and cheering news. The only question now is just how much higher this year's deaths will go.

Nor can the safety division officials offer any reason for the terrible toll of lives snuffed out since July 1. So astonishing has been the jump that both September and October showed more than twice as many deaths as in March. The low month of 1940, when but 55 fatalities were reported, September's figures reached 111 and in October the death went up two from that high level, to 113.

In three counties there was at least one traffic fatality every month so far this year: Buncombe, Guilford and Mecklenburg.

Three other counties missed only one month out of the eleven. Forsyth escaped a fatality in April; Gaston had none in November, and Robeson's May record was perfect.

Cumberland, one of the heavy-death counties, showed a perfect record for three months in a row—

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Hiking to Help the Hungry



A group of "Food-for-Europe Pilgrims" are pictured on a hike from Lancaster, Pa., to New York City to dramatize their plea that food be sent to the war areas. The group expected others to join them en route. Left to right, Lee Stern, of Aurora, O.; Preston Luitweiler, same; Phillip Mayer, Stubenville, O.; and Angelo Magiore, New York.

Storm Leaves Continuance Twenty Dead Of Farm Aid Demanded

(By the Associated Press)

A tropical windstorm that ravaged parts of Cuba and Mexico and spread fanlike up the Florida and California coasts reaped a death toll of 20 dead, left hundreds injured and caused heavy property damage yesterday.

The west Cuban town of Mecujal, where ten persons were killed and 150 injured by freakish gale winds, was most seriously hit.

Vera Cruz state, Mexico, reported nine dead and many injured by 50-mile winds that disrupted communications and rail service.

Torrential rains accompanied the storm into Florida, where one man was electrocuted by a fallen power line. The rains ceased today, when the heaviest fog the weather bureau has ever recorded in the state set in.

The eastern seaboard was spared serious damage, although parts of it had heavy fog, rain and light winds.

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Says War May Spread

Italian Editor Warns Against Convoys; France Becomes Active; Other War News

(By the Associated Press)
Virginia Gayda, the highly placed Italian editor, today warned American "interventionists" that if they sent supply convoys to Britain by way of neutral Ireland, they would start "a spread of the conflict from Europe and the North Atlantic to the western hemisphere, the southern Atlantic and the Pacific."

Gayda wrote that Japan, under her three-power pact with Italy and Germany, "is watchful and would not allow without immediate reaction extension of the European and Asiatic conflict."

Travelers arriving at Lisbon, Portugal, from unoccupied France reported that they had been reliably informed that Chief of State Petain has authorized a number of French naval officers to spend "vacations" in North Africa and that several French warships already had sailed to north Africa.

The travelers' unconnected decision to rule France himself free from foreign impositions.

British general headquarters in Cairo announced that 38,114 prisoners taken in the offensive against Italian Libya had been counted.

The British said that "the concentration of our forces investing Bardia is proceeding smoothly while our artillery continues to harass the Italian garrison." Captured Italian soldiers said that Premier Mussolini himself ordered the garrison of Bardia to be "ready to die rather than give up."

Greeks besieging Tepeleni on the middle Albania battlefield were reported to have wrested domination of the town from the Italians with bayonet charges and shell fire.

"Crumbling" Italian resistance had brought the battle to the "decisive stage," Greek dispatches said.

After one of the heaviest night bombing attacks of the war on London, British bombing planes were reported to be jabbing at Adolf Hitler's invasion ports along 1,000 miles of Nazi-occupied coast from the Bay of Biscay to Norway.

Wave after wave of German bombers attacked London last night in a raid which, while it lasted, equalled in intensity any of the past. A terse government statement acknowledged that "a number" of people were killed, that "many dwellings were destroyed or damaged" and that numerous fires were started.

On the Republican side, Senator Capper, of Kansas, declared that existing parity and soil conservation programs should be continued. He said that while some refinements might be necessary the fundamentals of the plan should be extended until a better system could be worked out.

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Troops In Hungary To Guard Against British Invasion

Roosevelt Labors On Address

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt arranged to work through today on the radio speech he will deliver tomorrow night—an address he considered so important that he called in members of his cabinet to work on the rough draft.

He indicated he would have a lot to say and some important pronouncements. His principal task, he said, was building into a half-hour talk what he would like to say in about two hours. The address will be broadcast from 9:30 to 10 p. m. (EST).

Stephen Early, presidential press secretary, has predicted the speech would be very clear and specific on aid to Britain.

The cabinet was reported to have gone into an exhaustive review of the defense equipment production program and to have discussed appeals to the Chief Executive that he speak out boldly on the chances of an English defeat and what this would mean to the United States.

Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York, a White House caller yesterday, told reporters that "there are a great many people in this country who as yet have no realization of the urgency of the situation."

He urged that all possible speed be applied to defense production for this country and for Britain.

It was learned officially last night that the President would deliver his annual legislative message to Congress in person before a joint session on Monday, January 6.

Larkins-Gay Race Close

Neither Claims Election "In a Walk" in Race for Senate President Pro Tem.

Daily Dispatch Bureau, Raleigh, Dec. 28.—Outstanding oddity about the Larkins-Gay fight for president pro tem of the Senate is that they are scrapping tooth and nail for a job which yields no political returns commensurate with the effort required to win it in the face of any sort of opposition.

Either of the contestants could probably land a good committee chairmanship were he to put his mind to it with the same enthusiasm and drive he is displaying in the current campaign. Neither is persona non grata to Lieutenant Governor Reg. Harris, which would make such an appointment the more likely.

The Senate's president pro tem hasn't any appointive power, no patronage to dispense and, in general, is little more than an honorary figure head.

On the other hand it does not call for any hard work and gets nobody into a political jam or on a political spot, while an important chairmanship often does both. Maybe that's why John D. Jr., from Jones, and Archie from Northampton are so anxious to get the place.

Second unusual feature is that neither is claiming his election "in a walk." Larkins' top estimate of his pledged support is 28 votes, Gay's is 27. The Jones county senator contends 18 to his opponent and says he has been definitely informed by eleven that they will be against him. He believes that at least 16 of his supporters have written Gay that they are committed to Larkins.

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Hitler Said To Have Agreed to Invasion of Greece Only to Divert Italian Attention from France After Armistice.

Budapest, Hungary, Dec. 28.—(AP)—With the advance guard of a new Nazi expedition of 300,000 troops already rolling eastward across Hungary, authoritative sources reported today that Germany plans to move against Greece by way of Bulgaria only if Britain tries to use Greece as the starting point for an invasion of central Europe.

Germany, these sources said, will not make any move to aid the Italian forces now fighting the Greeks in Albania if the British refrain from landing troops in Greece.

Germany was understood by these sources to have let it be known in the Balkans that in the event of a Greek victory the Nazis would hasten to make a definite peace with France. It was stated authoritatively that Adolf Hitler had agreed to let Premier Mussolini attack Greece last October only because he wished to divert Italy's attention from beaten France.

Germany was said to have been considerably embarrassed by Italian clamor for slices of French territory when Hitler reportedly wished to give Marshal Petain, French chief of state, easy terms so as to win the Vichy government's full friendship.

The debacle in Albania, far from disquieting Germany, has made Italy keep quiet about demands in France, these sources said.

They asserted that Hitler was prepared to make a full peace settlement with France with only the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine changing hands.

Petain was understood to have told the Nazis that in case the German terms were "unreasonable" he would cut north Africa loose, with General Weygand taking a large colonial army into the ranks of General de Gaulle's "free French" forces moving against Italian Libya from Tunisia in coordination with the current British action from Egypt.

British Cash Running Low

Preliminary Audit of Resources in U. S. Reveals End of Cash Payments Is Near.

Washington, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A preliminary audit of British resources in the United States has revealed, authoritative sources disclosed today, that Great Britain will run out of cash to pay for purchases of arms and munitions here "in the early autumn" of next year.

The preliminary examination of Britain's financial condition, made by United States treasury experts, established that the end of British cash payments was approaching, it was said. A more detailed examination of the British financial situation is to be made.

That detailed analysis, informed sources said, was being made to determine as precisely as possible British capacity to pay for purchases here and the probable calendar date on which British cash would be exhausted.

The Treasury's study also will provide answers to the questions President Roosevelt and Secretary Morgenthau expect to be asked when Congress considers the problem of aid to Britain.

The British government now is shipping for war supplies with gold paying for London, payments for British goods, and receipts from the sale here of British-owned dollar securities.

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Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Shows this evening and tonight, probably ending Sunday morning; cooler Sunday and in west and east portions tonight.

EXTENDED FORECAST. For South Atlantic states, for period ending January 1. Moderate to heavy rain first of period and unsettled again near close. Cooler Saturday night and Sunday; average temperature near to or somewhat above normal.

DIES IN CRASH

Elizabethtown, N. C., Dec. 28.—(AP)—J. Walter Williamson, 60, of Wilmington, was burned to death last night when his automobile went over a steep embankment near here and caught fire.

ABC APPOINTEE

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Governor Hoy announced today the resignation of F. Webb Williams of Elizabeth City from the State Board of Alcohol Control and the appointment of A. Roy Moore of Wilson to fill his unexpired term.