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Allies Edge Ahead In Tunisia

John L. Lewis Must Make Decision In Mine Crisis

Midnight Zero Hour Draws Near

OMW Unionists Say They Will Not Work Without Orders From Chief

Washington, April 30—(AP)—John L. Lewis, Iowa-born descendant of Welch coal miners, today must make the biggest decision of a snowdown-studded labor-leading career.

For the question of whether Saturday will see the nation's soft coal industry still shoveling fuel into the fires of war production seems strictly up to the head of the United Mine Workers.

President Roosevelt yesterday told Lewis that all strikes must stop by 10 a. m. Saturday or he will "use all the power vested in me as President and as commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy to protect the national interest."

But the zero hour loomed ever nearer. Chancing a quarrel over renewing a key wage contract, a nationwide shutdown impends at midnight—Lewis has said his mine workers "will not trespass" on company property thereafter. Unsanctioned walkouts already have taken nearly one-sixth of the affected 600,000 miners off the job and the rest reportedly are ready to follow the leader's work stoppage call.

Lewis silently sent the President's telegraphed ultimatum on to the striking union locals—and the unofficial echo from the coal fields was that the miners are standing pat, leaving the decision up to their bushy-browed union boss.

New York, Lewis' office in the Hotel Roosevelt announced that the union international policy committee would convene at 10 a. m. EWT. The meeting presumably will discuss the President's ultimatum and formulate its next step.

Pittsburgh, April 30—(AP)—President Roosevelt's back to work appeal to striking coal miners apparently went unheeded in western Pennsylvania today, as leaders of union locals reaffirmed their determination not to work until John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, gives the word.

After hearing the President's appeal read to them, unionists at two mines of the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Co. formally voted last night to remain idle. A bit later 1,000 more of the company's workers quit. This left more than 40,000—about one-third of the state's soft coal—miners on strike and approximately 100 of its 1,600 bituminous mines closed.

E. A. Norman, president of a union local near Vernon in the Fayette county coal and coke region, said: "If President Roosevelt came down to this patch himself and told these men to go back to work without an agreement, without a contract, without something in the way of an increase, they'd tell him: 'You go back and get an order from John L. Lewis. Then we'll go back to work.'"

SWEET POTATOES ARE REALLY HIGH

Raleigh, April 30—(AP)—If there's any doubt about sweet potatoes being high, consider this: When they sold at \$3.75 a bushel a few weeks ago, A. B. Harless, market newsman of the Agriculture department, looked into his records.

Yes, it was the highest ever recorded in his office.

Yesterday, when the potatoes went to \$7 a bushel on the wholesale terminal markets, he wired Washington. It was the highest price since records have been kept.

MARCH BUILDING

Raleigh, April 30—(AP)—State Labor Commissioner Forrest H. Shuford said today that 371 building permits for construction estimated to cost \$835,003 were issued in March in the 26 North Carolina cities of more than 10,000 population.

SWORN IN

Raleigh, April 30—(AP)—John A. Oates of Fayetteville, and Mrs. Roland Hill Latham of Asheville were sworn in today as members of the State board of charities and public welfare.

MARINES RELAX IN PACIFIC



MEMBERS OF A MARINE TANK PATROL somewhere in the South Pacific take time out from a tour of duty for a swim. It looks like the old swimming hole except that a tank instead of a hickory limb is used for the clothes rack. Helmets, guns and apparel are strewn over the vehicle. Official U. S. Marine Corps photo. (International)

Miners Want Work--With Agreement

Counter Proposal, Asking Collective Bargaining Renewal, Sent to President

New York, April 30—(AP)—Soft coal miners today told President Roosevelt, in reply to his back-to-work-order, that they "want an agreement," and want to work and ask a renewal of collective bargaining with the mine operators.

Their counter proposal, made in a telegram to the President, reiterated the miners' charge that the war labor board had prejudged the miners' case.

A return to collective bargaining at this late date, in the opinion of union executives, would not prevent a work stoppage in the soft coal mines at midnight tonight, the expiration date of the extended contract, unless the contract is further extended.

A recheck in the afternoon showed 100,400 miners already on strike in Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, with Tennessee unreported. Pennsylvania topped the list with 44,000. Approximately 450,000 miners have been employed in the soft coal mines.

John L. Lewis, UMW president, made public the reply after a session of the international policy committee of the union. Lewis handed newsmen the text of the committee's message to the President without comment, and declined to answer questions.

Several union district presidents who are members of the policy committee and who were interviewed after the meeting said that in the absence of an agreement there could be a voluntary stoppage of work in the mines at midnight tonight when the present extended contract expires.

Jap Patrol Wiped Out

Washington, April 30—(AP)—American troops wiped out a Japanese patrol of one officer and eight men on Guadalcanal Wednesday, the Navy reported today, but the reason for the enemy's being on that American-occupied Solomon island was not given.

A communique said the patrol was discovered in the vicinity of Beaufort Bay on the western coast, about 25 miles northwest of the American airfield. All Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ceased on February 9, though the mopping up of stragglers continued after that.

Whether the nine-man unit was simply one of the final groups of stragglers which had wandered down from the mountains to attempt an escape or whether it was a functioning military patrol put ashore was not disclosed by the Navy.

Cone Warns Of Draft Calls

Atlanta, April 30—(AP)—Cotton manufacturers were advised today to plan for withdrawal and replacement of single men and married men without children who are between the ages of 18 and 38.

Herbert Cone of Greensboro, N. C., president of the American Cotton Manufacturers Association, in a speech prepared for the annual meeting of the group here today, said he was convinced from information at hand that all members should prepare replacement schedules and file them with their state selective service officials.

"This replacement schedule," he said, "is simply a list of draftable men in your employment, with their draft status, and the month in which they can be released for military duty."

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Warmer this afternoon. Scattered showers and thunderstorms tonight and possibly this afternoon.

ALLIES PUSH FORWARD IN TUNISIA



FURIOUSLY FIGHTING ALLIED FORCES continued to make progress in Tunisia in their effort to drive the Axis into the sea. In the north (1) French troops were within six miles of Lake Achkel, with U. S. forces within ten miles of Mateur. British troops moved closer to Tebourba (2) while both French and British (3) coordinated in a drive that menaced Preit du Fahs. The British Eighth Army continued its push on the strategic Axis supply town of Bou Ficha. (International)

Strong Axis Resistance Encountered

Axis Counter Attacks Are Beaten Off, With Heavy Enemy Losses; Air Attacks Continue

With the U. S. Army Southwest of Mateur, Tunisia, April 30 (9:15 a. m.—5:15 a. m. EWT)—(AP)—Heavy fighting continued along the Tunisian front today with U. S. artillery active overnight and stepping up the tempo with a steady barrage at mid-morning.

Fifteen axis aircraft attacked front line positions in the biggest enemy air action in that area in several days.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, April 30—(AP)—Allied troops edged forward on both wings of the Tunisian front yesterday, while Lieutenant General Anderson's first army fought off powerful enemy counter attacks in the Medjez-el-Bab area to hold all but a small section of its positions before the Tunis plain, it was announced today.

The second U. S. Army corps, pushing through northern Tunisian mountains toward Tunis and Bizerte, made further local advances, the allied communique said.

A military spokesman said the American forces launched an attack four miles east of Sidi N'sir against German gun emplacements on hill 601 which dominates the valley extending 16 miles northward to the Mateur road junction, but met strong resistance and failed to reach the summit.

Nazi troops counter attacked repeatedly against U. S. lines south of the hill, but all the thrusts were repelled.

General Montgomery's eighth army mounted a local attack on the southern front and gained its objective, he communique announced, adding that "an enemy counter attack in this sector achieved slight success."

German tanks and infantry struck heavily again at first army lines in the Medjez-el-Bab sector, but the communique said that, with the exception of one small gain by the enemy in the Medjeza river area, all attacks "were repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy and our forward positions were maintained."

Apparently the heaviest fighting was in progress in the Medjez-el-Bab area, with the Germans seeking to wipe out gains made by the first army recently. The main enemy thrust yesterday was against British troops holding positions on a ridge and fighting continued there throughout the day, it was announced.

The extent and direction of the gains made by the U. S. second army corps were not disclosed in the communique.

Allied aircraft, continuing their attacks on enemy shipping in the Gulf of Tunis and the Sicilian straits, sank two more vessels, the communique said. His were scored on other ships and 14 enemy fighters encountered on their attacks were shot down, it was announced.

Light allied naval forces engaged a flotilla of fast enemy motor craft in the Sicilian channel Wednesday night and cut one of them in two by ramming and damaged two others by gunfire, it was announced. One of the latter probably was sunk, the communique said.

American Consul General Recalled from Martinique

Red Paper Forecasts Land Drive

Moscow, April 30—(AP)—Soviet Russia's official government newspaper Izvestia said today that the coming month will see the beginning of an intensive summer land campaign which may well decide the outcome of the war.

"Not many days separate us from big events," the newspaper we are at the threshold of a decisive editorially. "This May decisive stage of our sacred war of liberation."

The pronouncement came as a violent air war mounted all along the front.

Izvestia's editorial recalled that the Russian winter campaign has restored 40,000 square kilometers (155,000 square miles) to Russian control.

The press generally sounded a prophetic note, that tremendous events were in the making and a significant air of expectancy pervaded Moscow.

All Agreements With Admiral Robert Abrogated Because Of Vichy Contact

Washington, April 30—(AP)—The United States has recalled its consul general from Martinique and abrogated all agreements with Admiral Georges Robert, French high commissioner in the Caribbean.

Secretary of State Hull announced today that in a note handed to Robert before the departure of the consul general, the high commissioner was notified that in view of his attitude the United States would have to consider him a tool of the Hitler regime which has enslaved his French homeland.

"It is a matter of common knowledge," the note said, "that the territory of metropolitan France, contrary to the wish of the French people, is being used in an ever increasing degree for active military operations against the United States and that the Vichy regime is now an integral part of the Nazi system."

"The government of the United States does not recognize Vichy nor will it recognize nor negotiate with any French representative in the Antilles, who remains sub-revient to or maintains contact with the Vichy regime."

"In the circumstances the government of the United States does not consider effective or binding any informal understanding with respect to the French Antilles based upon past discussions and conditions, nor does it consider that those discussions can serve as a basis for either present or future relations with the French Antilles."

Memphis, April 30—(AP)—An international commodity agreement concerning cotton such as now exist with regard to wheat, beef, sugar and other products was suggested by P. K. Norris, principal marketing specialist in the office of foreign agricultural relations.

Addressing the forum sponsored by the New York Cotton Exchange, Norris said no agreement has been negotiated or is being negotiated but admitted "a good deal of thought has been given to the possibilities of attacking a world's cotton problems through some form of cooperation."

(Continued on Page Seven)

SUIT TO BE FILED IN ROONEY DIVORCE

Los Angeles, April 30—(AP)—The divorce complaint of Ava Gardner Rooney against Mickey Rooney is expected to be filed tomorrow, her attorney, H. G. Ritter, says. It alleges cruelty, requests division of community property estimated at \$200,000 or more, but does not ask for alimony.

Mickey and the Wilson, N. C., girl were married in Ballard, Cal., in January, 1942, separated eight months later, were reconciled, and parted again.