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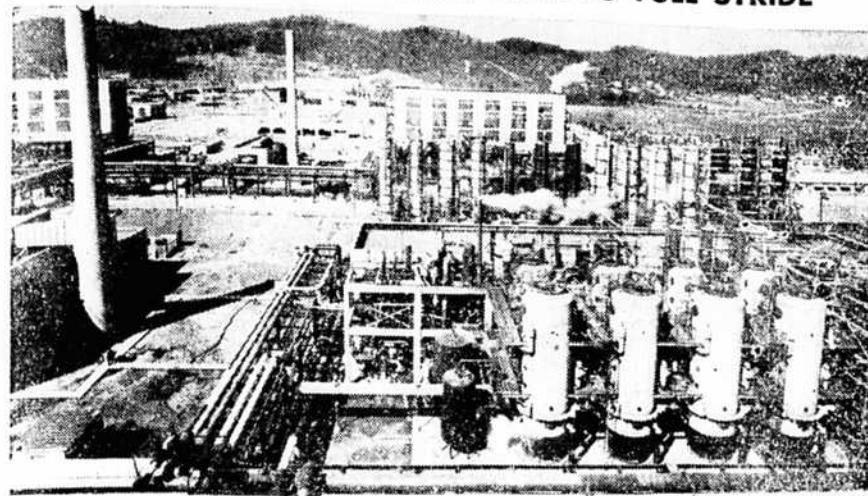
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# FDR CREATES OFFICE OF WAR MOBILIZATION

SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANT HITTING FULL STRIDE



MORE THAN 60,000 AUTOMOBILE TIRES a day soon will be rolling out of this plant at Institute, W. Va., where Buna S (synthetic rubber) is being produced. The \$52,000,000 plant was begun in May, 1942, and the first tests were made recently. The butadiene units are in the foreground. OWI Photo. (International)

## Idle Farm Machinery Is Sought

Reasonable Price Promised for Discarded Implements Needed for Crops

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—The War Food Administration embarked today on a nationwide search for idle farm machinery, announcing it would be requisitioned by the government and distributed where it is needed most to boost food production.

The WFA promised farmers a reasonable price for such machinery. It could be salvaged for re-use in active production areas has been estimated.

A spokesman said that a minimum price for implements was left by the WFA removed from their west coast areas after Pearl Harbor, and it probably will get the first attention in the campaign.

The agency war board have been instructed to look around for machinery not being used now, or expected to be put into service this year. Their findings will be submitted to State headquar ters, with recommendations for acquiring specific pieces, and the State war board chairman then is to proceed with the selection.

## Doughton Will Probably Urge Federal Sales Tax

Administration Is Gaining Votes for Reciprocal Pacts

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—Today is to be picking up votes in its The administration appeared to fight to prevent any amendment of House-approved legislation renewing the reciprocal trade authority for two more years.

After preliminary oratory, the first test of strength is expected to come on a finance committee approved amendment permitting Congress to end any trade agreement—so all of them, for that matter—six months after the close of the war by passage of a joint resolution.

This proposal seems headed toward the closest sort of vote, largely on party lines. As the situation stands, 39 senators—ten fewer than a majority—are publicly committed to support it, and 37 to oppose it. Twenty still remain uncommitted.

## Farmers Plan New Start In Flood Region

By the Associated Press

The mighty Mississippi river and some of its tributaries were receding at several critical points today while thousands of farmers in inundated areas hoped to be able to start their beleaguered wartime food production again.

Army engineers estimated, however, some of the land would not be tillable for another month.

Even as it receded from flood-devastated areas, the Mississippi approached a record crest at Cape Girardeau, Mo., of 42.5 feet. Dikes to the south were expected to be able to hold the torrents.

The Illinois and Arkansas rivers also were dropping, and Colonel E. B. Fenzl, of the United States Army engineers, at St. Louis, said he did not expect the Mississippi to get out of hand below Cairo, Illinois.

The Ohio river, in past years an equally dangerous partner in flood destruction was below bankfull.

## Buses Are Worst Offenders Against New Speed Limits

Raleigh, May 28.—(AP)—Buses are the worst offenders of the 35-mile speed limit which went into effect in North Carolina May 6, according to speed checks made at several rural points on State highways between May 17 and May 25.

The buses had an average speed of 42.7 miles an hour, said James S. Burch, engineer of statistics and planning for the State Highway Commission. Twelve percent of the buses, Burch said,

out-of-state passenger cars averaged more than fifty miles an hour,

had an average speed of 38.5 while North Carolina passenger cars average 28.7.

## Air, Land Battles Now Rage Fiercely In East

Moers, May 28.—(AP)—Sharp land and air battles are raging in the Rhine delta area after a period of comparative quiet, but neither official Russian disclosure nor dispatches from the front confirmed Russian reports that a Soviet army of 100,000 is attempting an all-out smash to Krefeld strait.

The Russians reported they ward off the Nazis, downing 64 German planes in one day and losing only 13 Russian craft meanwhile.

West of Roetgen, the Red army was reported to have taken the initiative in violent local combats which resulted in the capture of an important hill and a general improvement of the Russian positions.

The German broadcast said the Russians scored temporary gains

yesterday, which were wiped out in German counterattacks by nightfall.

Front line dispatches, however, declared the Red army had repelled a big group of enemy infantry trying to improve its positions and said the Red air force and the German plane fleet were fighting great battles in the same area.

The very wording of the President's statement, however, suggested that when the conference began there were questions of vital strategic importance which required answering to the satisfaction of both British and American leaders. The fact that, as Mr. Roosevelt indicated, they have now been answered leaves no doubt that decisions of supreme importance have been made.

## N. C. Post Offices Are Stepped Up to Presidential Rank

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—Approximately 1,200 fourth class post offices will be advanced to presidential rank July 1 by order of Postmaster General Walker.

Presidential class postmasters are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They receive an annual salary with a minimum of \$1,100. The appointment is for life and the postmasters have civil service status.

Among the post offices advanced to presidential rank are Calpso, Cerro Gordo, Grimesland, Hobgood, Luccama.

## German And Italian Centers Blasted By Allied Bombers

Esen Again Blasted, With Other Ruhr Points; Sardinia Further Strafed

London, May 28.—(AP)—A great fleet of heavy RAF bombers attacked Esen and other targets in the Ruhr last night a few hours after speedy American bombers had made a daring dash attack on important German war industries in Jena, the British announced today.

Twenty-three bombers were lost in the Esen attack, said the announcement, which declared the raid was carried out "in great strength."

Other British planes had names in many waters during the night.

Esen is the site of the sprawling Krupp munitions works, and is 22 miles northeast of Dusseldorf, which was blasted by the RAF in a smashing assault the night before last.

Esen became the most heavily bombed city in the world after the last previous raid on April 30—an assault which brought the total weight of high explosive and incendiary bombs dumped on this target to more than ten thousand tons since the start of the war.

Last night's raid was the fifteenth on the city and was probably lighter than the 2,000-ton raid on Esen Sunday night, and the Tuesday night attack on Dusseldorf, both described as "of very great strength."

London, May 28.—(AP)—Alfred Headquarters in North Africa, May 28.—(AP)—Alfred bombers and fighters struck again yesterday at Villacidro and Decimomannu, important Axis oil fields in Sardinia, and the island of Pantelleria. It was unopposed today.

Thirteen enemy fighters were destroyed in combat—all from a hornet's nest set up at Decimomannu, and many more on the ground in the continued softening up of Italy's outer defenses.

B-26 Marauders unloaded more than 40,000 fragmentation bombs over the Decimomannu airfield. Crewmen said the explosions smashed a large number of grounded planes and damaged many more.

Strong enemy fighter groups intervened the bombers, and a fierce 30-minute running fight ensued. The Marauder gunners shot down seven of the attackers. The P-40 Warhawk escort accounted for six others.

The only American loss in the battle, in which enemy fighters pursued the bombers to within 25 miles of the north African coast, was a Warhawk, which fell into the sea. The pilot was rescued.

Flames and smoke columns of smoke resulted from the bombings of Villacidro by B-25 Mitchells. Photographs showed many grounded aircraft to have been destroyed. P-38 Lightnings, swooping the bombers, shot up a 150-foot freighter in the Gulf of Palma.

## Profit-Taking Halts Stocks

New York, May 28.—(AP)—Profit-taking on the three-session advance to average points since early 1940, in preparation for the Monday session, put brakes on today's stock market.

Bonds were narrow and commodities in arrears.

Among stocks, Allied Chemical, Johns Manville and Dow Chemical got into the new high class. Support was accorded DuPont, Kennecott, United Aircraft and Goodrich. Laggard included U. S. Steel, Bethlehem, American Telephone, Western Union, Woolworth, Glenn Martin, American Can, Anaconda and Consolidated Edison.

President Roosevelt appealed to the Akron, Ohio, workers to go back to their machines and end a strike of 10,000 at the nation's greatest rubber plants.

Officers of the U. S. Rubber Company's Buffalo, N. Y., plant also voted to return after a Navy spokesman warned that the armed forces would take over unless the walkout ended. The strike followed wage disputes.

Production virtually halted, however, at the Martin Rockwell ball and roller bearing plant, largest war production factory in Jamestown, N. Y., where 1,600 C. I. O. United Automobile Workers joined in a strike unauthorized by the union. The men protested living conditions from outside at what they said were higher wages than they received.

Previous close, open: July 20.17,

20.17; October 19.38, 19.37; December 19.33, 19.32; March 19.54, 19.52;

May 19.43, 19.41.

## WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Showers this afternoon and near the coast early tonight; no decided change in temperature, except little cooler in the mountains.

## PUP TENT HEADQUARTERS



WITH ONLY A PUP TENT to help ward off the cold, these two American soldiers operate their post radio on lonely Kodiak in the Aleutians. They are keeping in touch with the gun crew for which they are observing. This is an official U. S. Army photo. (International)

## Byrnes Will Be Head Of New Bureau

Intended to Develop Unified Programs for Maximum Use of Resources

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt created a new Office of War Mobilization today to be directed by James F. Byrnes, who will exercise virtually complete power over all home front war efforts.

The new office is to:

Develop unified programs and establish policies for maximum use of America's natural and industrial resources for military and civilian needs, for effective use of national manpower outside the armed forces, for maintenance and glorification of civilian economy and for adapting that economy towartime conditions.

Byrnes is giving up his job as economic stabilization director, and that will be taken over by Judge Fred M. Vinson of Kentucky, now a member of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia. Vinson served in Congress fourteen years before he went on the bench, and is considered an authority on taxation and economic affairs.

The new Office of War Mobilization was activated in the Office of Emergency Management in the President's executive office. Therefore, it will be subject to the "direction and control of the President."

Byrnes will be director of the war office and also chairman of a war mobilization committee which will assist him. Its members will be Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of the Navy Knox, Chairman Harry L. Hopkins, of the munitions assignment board, Chairman Donald Nelson of the War Production Board, and Vinson.

The board, small in number but large in authority, was told to unify activities of Federal agencies and departments engaged in or concerned with production, procurement, distribution or transportation of military or civilian supplies, materials and products, and to resolve and determine controversies between such agencies or departments.

The power to resolve inter-agency disputes means that Byrnes will be the arbiter in any future controversies such as that between Rubber Director William Jeffers and Under Secretary of War Patterson.

## Italians Are To Continue Resistance

London, May 28.—(AP)—Premier Mussolini met secretly yesterday with his Fascist party chieftains and decided to continue resistance in Sicily and Sardinia "to the end," the Morocco radio said today in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press.

All fortifications on both steeping stones to the Italian mainland will be strengthened immediately, anti-aircraft batteries will be increased and Sicily's bomb-battered airports will be enlarged under decisions of the Fascist leaders, according to the broadcast.

The Morocco radio has not always been accurate in its presentation of the news of the Mediterranean theatre, and this account was not confirmed in other quarters, but with the threat of invasion growing, some such arrangements were due to be made by Mussolini.

The report by Italian dispatches that Allied ramp boats or invasion barges had been attacked by Axis war planes in the Bizerte and Sousse harbors underlined the urgency of defense measures.

## LOVING GETS CONTRACT

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—The War Department has awarded construction contracts, including:

T. A. Loving & Company, Goldsboro, N. C., conversion of temporary frame buildings, Wayne county, N. C.

Eden Says Axis To Be Bombed Until Defeat

Portsmouth, England, May 28.—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden declared today that Germany and Italy would be bombed "until the utter defeat of the Nazi and Fascist regimes and all they stand for."

He emphasized particularly that "now lies wide open to air attack" and that attacks "will be pressed home by all means in our power."

"We are relentlessly determined to destroy Fascism and prosecute the war against Italy with all the force we possess, so long as Italy fights Hitler's war," the foreign secretary declared at a "wings for victory luncheon here."

Eden said "we have not forgotten" it was Mussolini who asked Hitler for the privilege of sharing in the bombing of London.

"It is for the Italian people to decide whether they are to endure this bombardment to the bitter end, and when it is to stop," he added.