

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Interference With Law Of Supply and Demand Results in Headaches . . . Reorganization Looms for SPAB . . .
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON. — Many theoretical gentlemen, who were confident until just recently, that they knew all the answers, are finding out that when government interferes with the old law of supply and demand the result is headaches.

Never have better illustrations of this been manifest than in the "Big Brother" activities of the government, aimed at protecting the public from the dire consequences which would result from the national defense effort. Price control, for instance, and civilian supply.

To see the picture more clearly it is necessary to imagine what would happen if the government went ahead full steam with its defense spending and commandeering, but paid no attention to the effects on ordinary non-defense business. It is never so simple as for the government to want all of something. That would leave no problem. But when there is some left over after the national defense needs have been served—how to divide that leftover?

Even in some cases where the government wants practically all there is difficulty. For instance, take copper. Copper has been used very liberally in making lipstick containers. After it has been processed for this use it is of little use for anything else. Recovering the copper so as to make it fit for something else would be too expensive. Not that the government cares anything about expense, but the process of getting the pure copper out of the alloy used for lipstick containers would require too much labor.

So—there is agreement in the government that such copper as already has been worked into this alloy for lipstick containers may be used for that purpose.

Not So Simple

Simple? By no means. The trouble is that the Smith company has enough such metal on hand, already worked, and ready to be fabricated into lipstick containers, to run it until say June 1. Whereas the Jones company, its strongest competitor, has enough to run it only until February 1. To permit this situation to exist would give the Smith company an unfair advantage over the Jones company.

If this produces a headache with respect to copper, it is a thousand times worse with respect to steel. The government has said flatly that no more copper after January 1 shall be used for non-defense purposes—except such copper as is already made unfit for defense use (economically) as described.

But there is no such drastic decision about steel. As a matter of fact there will be some steel left over, despite the pessimistic predictions of many New Dealers, even if defense use of steel exceeds the present most optimistic forecasts—not enough steel to go around, of course, but SOME.

What to do about that SOME! Under the old law of supply and demand, if the government kept its hands off, it would be simple. The price of steel would skyrocket. The buyers willing to pay the highest prices would get it all. Every user of steel who could use substitutes would do it anyhow, to save money for his concern. So the surplus steel (that is, surplus above defense needs) would go only into uses for which it was very necessary.

But that might result in hardship on the financially less fortunate consumers. The price of steel in civilian goods would be boosted out of all proportion to the real value of steel.

Trouble? You said it.

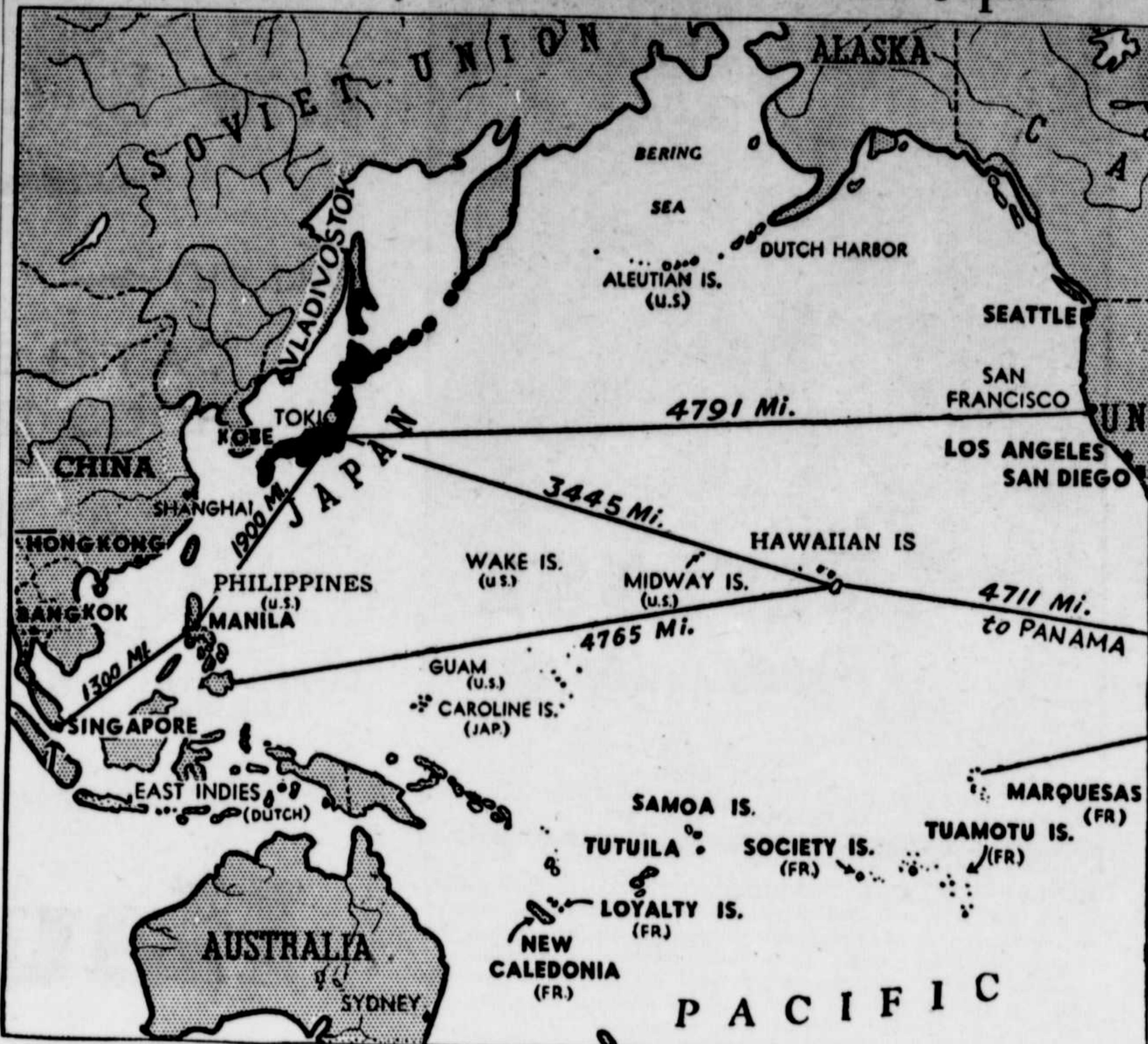
Reorganization Of 'Super' SPAB?

Don Nelson's SPAB is likely to be revamped in the near future. Just what form the new super-super body is to take no one knows. All that is known for certain is that President Roosevelt is giving all the usual signs which foretell one of his big reorganizations to end all reorganizations.

Nelson is not the technical head of SPAB. That honor goes to Vice President Henry A. Wallace. Nelson is not the man on SPAB who is closest to the President. That distinction without argument belongs to Harry Hopkins.

But since Wallace is the heir apparent to the "Chief" and in all probability will be nominated for President by the Democrats in 1944 unless F.D.R. wants a fourth term (in which event nothing would help him anyhow) it would seem that Wallace's only motive would be to have SPAB, and indeed everything involved in the administration, succeed. Failure of Roosevelt in his national defense program would be a black eye for Wallace as well as for Roosevelt. It might easily result in knocking Wallace off the track he is now riding—a track that leads straight to the White House.

Theater of War Between U. S. and Japan



Here in graphic detail is shown the location of strategic points in the war between Japan and the United States. Distances between important points now in the headlines are also shown. Of particular interest are the following points: the Russian port of Vladivostok and its nearness to Japan, which would make it an ideal air base in a bombing raid campaign on the enemy; the Hawaiian islands where at Pearl Harbor the Japanese opened their war on the United States with a devastating aerial attack; the most vulnerable sector of the continental United States to Japan attack—the Pacific coast area.

How Navies of Warring Nations Compare

	BATTLESHIPS	AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	CRUISERS	DESTROYERS	SUBMARINES
UNITED STATES	17	7	37	170	113
GREAT BRITAIN	16	4	62	219	48
JAPAN	10	6	39	119	66
GERMANY	6	11	14	20 to 50	123
ITALY	5		20	123	105

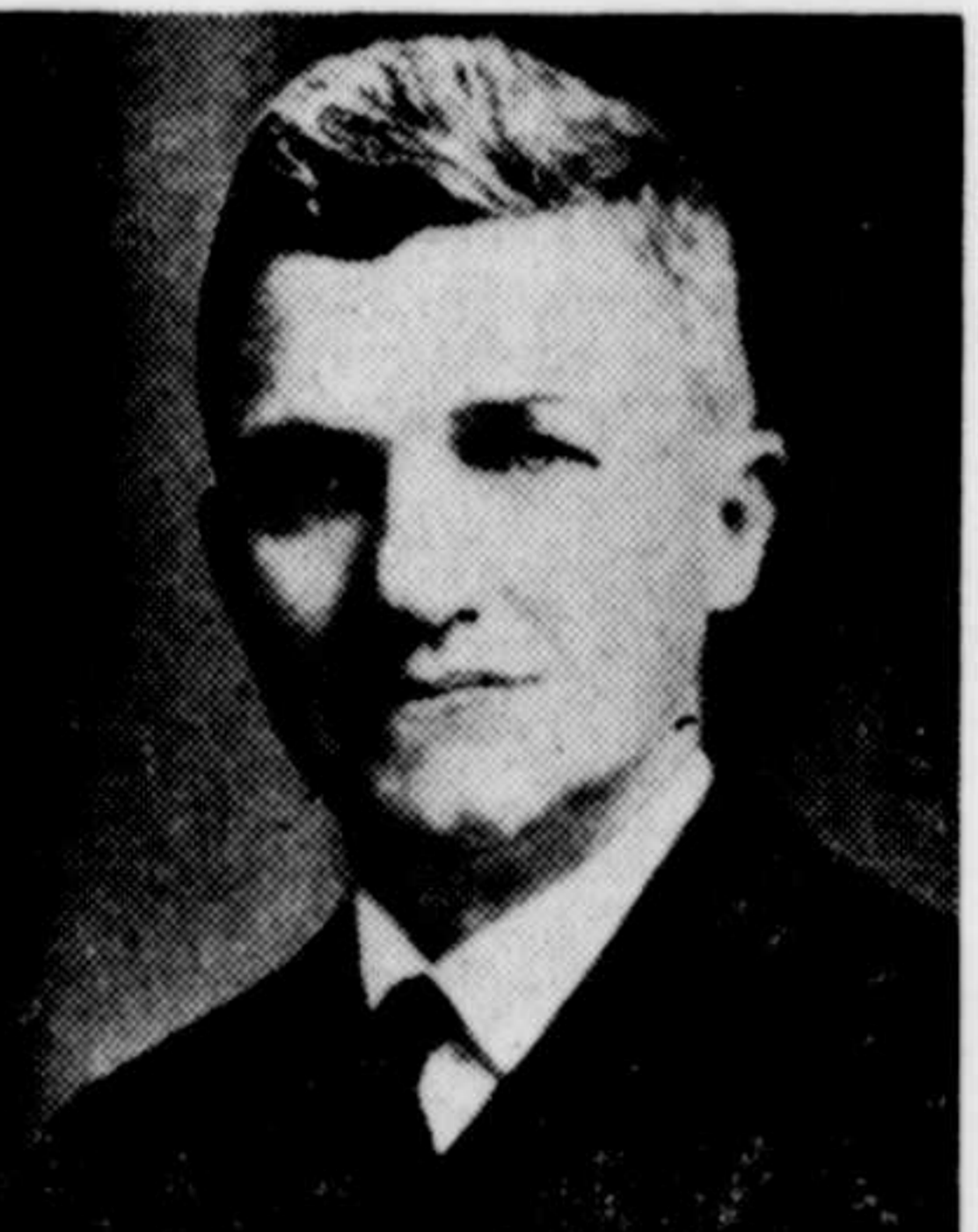
This chart shows the naval strength of the Axis and Allied navies. Latest figures available are shown.

Heads Pacific Fleet



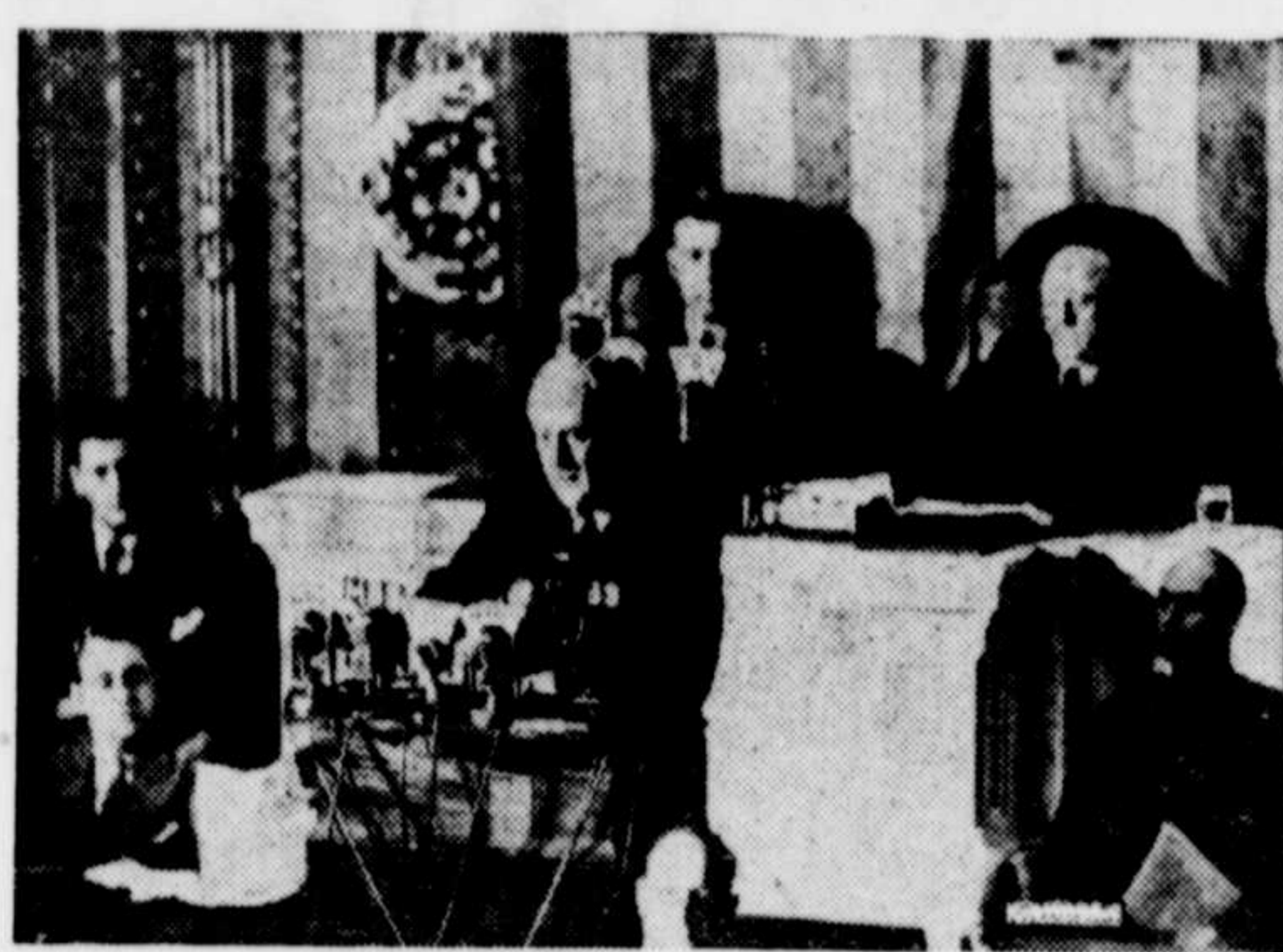
The American fleet in the Pacific is under the command of Admiral Husband Edward Kimmel, 59, who took over command of the Pacific fleet and also of the entire U. S. fleet last February 1.

In Asiatic Waters



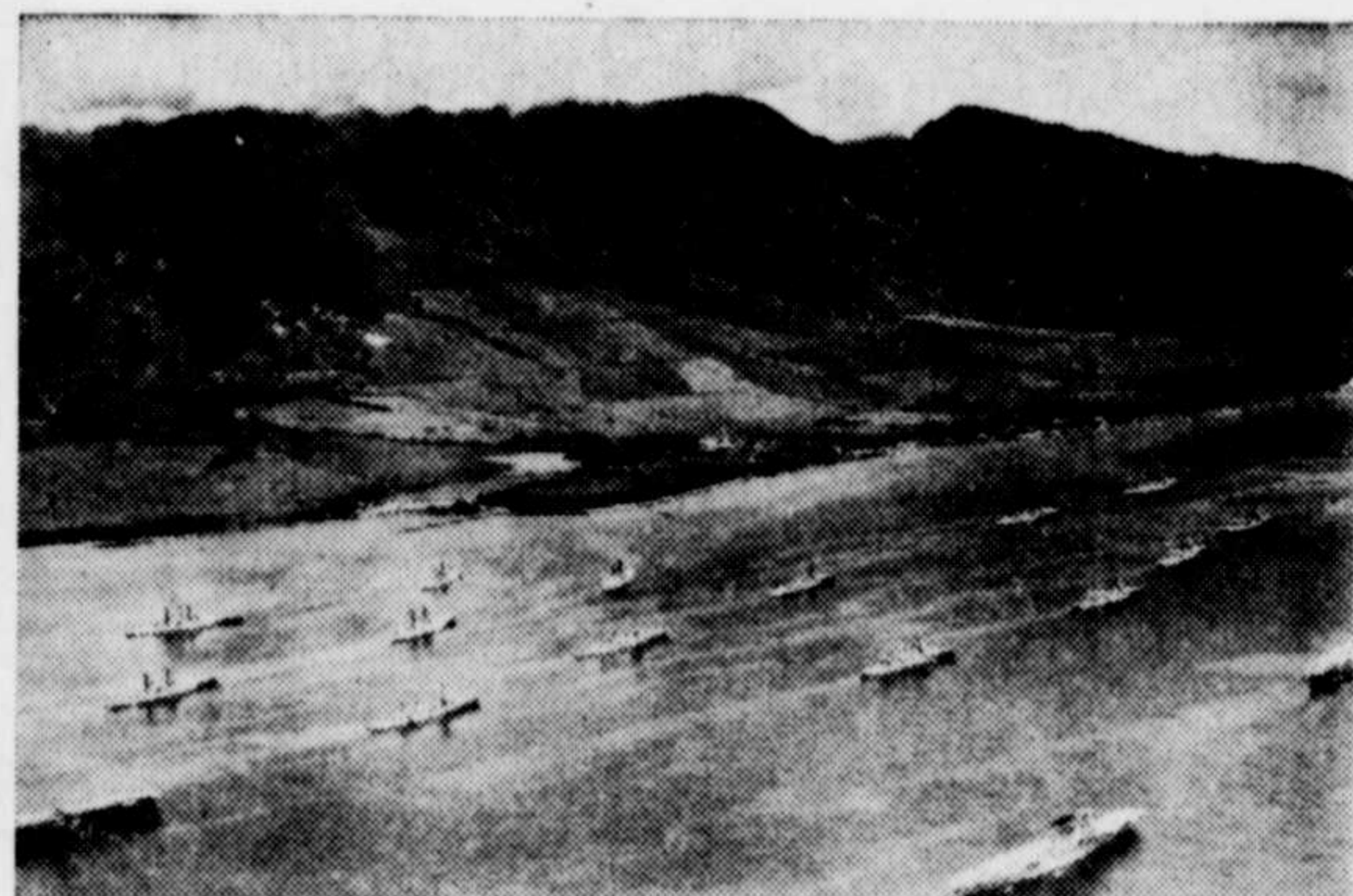
Admiral Thomas C. Hart, 64, who commands the U. S. Asiatic fleet.

As President Asked War Declaration



President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressing the joint session of congress, when he asked congress to declare a state of war against Japan. Congress passed the declaration 33 minutes after FDR's speech.

U. S. Fleet Off Coast of Hawaii



A splendid view of units of the United States fleet at anchor in Lahaina roads, Hawaii, near the scene of the unprovoked attack by Japanese bombers at a Sunday's dawn.



In bombing raids on Japan, Russia's port of Vladivostok would make an ideal air base for U. S.

GRASSROOTS

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THREE GENERATIONS OF FIELDS IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO has known three generations of Marshall Fields. Marshall Field I began life as a poor boy. By application and ability, he became one of the great merchants of the world. In Chicago he created a mercantile establishment that provided employment for hundreds of people. When he died, he did not take that store or those jobs away with him. What he had created became a part of the wealth of the nation and it continued to produce more wealth. A part of what he created is now the Field Museum of Natural History, which is of interest to and enjoyed by millions of people of Chicago and throughout the world. To build and maintain that institution provided jobs for workers and men of science, and is a continuing aid to the educational system of America. What the genius of Marshall Field I created continues to produce and increase the wealth of the nation. That increase erects great office buildings and attractive apartments in Chicago. The building and operation of these provide jobs and the apartments provide homes.

The grandson of Marshall Field I, Marshall Field III, has established a new morning daily newspaper in Chicago, the Chicago Sun. Its operation will mean the expenditure of millions. It will provide jobs for hundreds of people. It may or may not succeed as a business venture. It is but a continuation of that wealth creation started by Marshall Field I which has benefited the nation. Should the Chicago Sun by any chance fail, it would have distributed the millions spent in the effort among employees of the paper, the newsprint producers, the machinery manufacturers, and manufacturers in many other lines, who have supplied material. Such millions would not have been destroyed.

The story of the Marshall Fields of Chicago but illustrates the operation of our American system—our American way of life. With it we are continually increasing the wealth of the nation, the national annual income, and our standard of living. All of us profit by it.

WAR AND THE DENTIST

AS A YOUNG MAN in his teens, Dr. Hal Orr adventured in the mountains and deserts of the West. He was one of an expedition which followed the course of the Colorado river through the Grand canyon, a perilous undertaking. He fought the Spaniards in Cuba in 1898, and Aguinaldo and his army in the Philippines.

Between that time and America's entry into the World war, Orr graduated in dentistry and practiced in Chicago. I knew him first about 1913. He was a soldier in the AEF in France, and when that conflict was over, he remained in Paris to practice his profession. He acquired an international reputation and his patients came from many countries.

Then the German army captured Paris and Dr. Orr escaped, but left all he had behind him in the French capital. That "all" included home, office equipment, a valuable practice, money and investments. His was one of the many successful careers of Americans that fell as casualties before the victorious Germans in the capture of France. Today Dr. Orr is again a dentist in Chicago, attempting to build a practice.

INFORMATION

NO PEOPLE can successfully govern themselves. No republican form of government will stand the test of time, unless the people know the facts about their affairs.

People of any republic are entitled to full and unbiased information about the operations of the government for which they are responsible. They should have the facts, good or bad as they may be, if they are to decide governmental questions intelligently.

At the present time, the government is spending more than 27 million dollars a year in disseminating information about the operations of government. It employs more than 30,000 people, full or part time, in the preparation and distribution of this information, coupled with interpretations. The interpretations are all too frequently inclined to show the good and hide the bad in government. All too frequently is the taxpayer paying for misleading information, instead of the facts on which to base his own conclusions. Too many publicity men at Washington look upon their jobs as being of a partisan nature, rather than as purveyors of facts.

WAGGING THE DOG

THE NATIONAL Resources Planning board appointed by the President tells us that at the close of 1941, there are 50 million workers employed in war and civilian industries. Of this 50 million workers, about 13 million belong to labor unions. Leaders of these unions are insisting on a closed shop and that the other 37 million workers join a union or be denied the privilege of working. It looks like a case of the tail wagging the dog.

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The gratitude of most men is but a secret desire of receiving greater benefits. — La Rochefoucauld.

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