WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Nazi Forces Retreat Toward Rumania As Russians Regain Rich Farm Lands; Allied Troops Drive New Wedge Into Germans' Main Defense Line in Italy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

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Italy—Row on row, these little white crosses in Mount Soprano cemetery mark the graves of fallen American Doughboys in Italy.

OPA:
Renewal Sought

Claiming that OPA has held wartime price increases to half the level of World War I, Price Administrator Chester Bowles appeared before the senate banking committee to testify for continuation of the agency for another year.

Chester Bowles

Following early increases to iron out prewar depression prices, the cost of living has been held absolutely stable during the last 11 months, Bowles said.

Asking for retention of present powers, Bowles said OPA would continue with present techniques for keeping down prices, including subsidies, which he called essential.

Cattle Subsidy

To bring cattle off the range and prevent a market glut in the fall, OPA considered increasing packers' subsidies by 30 cents to enable them to offer higher prices for the stock during spring and summer.

At the same time, government officials considered placing a floor under medium and lower grade cattle whose quality may be affected by the tight feed situation, with floors for the spring and summer above those for the fall.

While increased subsidies were being considered for cattle, lower subsidies were being studied for hogs, in line with government policy for decreased pig production. Now $1.30 a hundred pounds, the hog subsidy may be cut by 30 cents.

SOLDIER VOTE:
President Gets Bill

Passed by congress, the compromise soldier vote bill, allowing use of the short federal ballot if certified by the governor and state ballots are unobtainable, found its way to President Roosevelt's desk for signature or veto.

Once outspoken in his opposition to a bill limiting soldier voting to state ballots alone, the President took up the compromise measure with caution before acting, wiring all 48 governors to report to him whether they would permit use of the short federal ballot, which only lists the presidential and congressional offices without including the names of the candidates.

If the governors O.K. the short federal ballot, servicemen will only be able to use it if their states have no absentee voting laws, or if they have applied for state ballots but have not received them.

RUSSIA:
Free Ukraine

Germany's remaining foothold in the Ukraine was loosened as Russian troops smashed into Nazi lines along the Bug river, and as the enemy's forces fell back toward Rumania, the Reds regained the rich farm and mineral land.

As Russia scored its military success in the south, Finland in the north turned down Moscow's armistice offer, based on restoration of the 1940 borders and internment of German troops entrenched in the little country.

Russia's southern drive carried Red troops to within 30 miles of the prewar Rumanian border, while farther to the northwest, they were within 100 miles of the old Czech and Hungarian frontiers.

EUROPE:
Drive Wedge in Italy

Having driven a wedge into the German's main defense line by leveling Cassino with a devastating aerial attack by heavy bombers, Allied forces fought hard to advance up the road to Rome and get at the rear of the enemy hemming in U. S. and British troops on the Anzio beachhead.

Although the thunderous leveling of Cassino left that once-fortified village standing directly on the road to Rome a pile of jumbled mortar, Nazi guns established in the surrounding hills continued to rake Allied troops, making progress slow.

Preliminary to the big showdown in the west, Allied bombers continued to roar over Axis Europe, ripping at Nazi channel defenses, France's network of rails over which the enemy plans to shuttle troops to meet invasion armies, and German industries turning out the weapons of war. To counter the raids, the Nazis sent up swarms of fighter planes, and great sky battles raged.

PACIFIC:
Troubled War-Lords

As U. S. army and naval forces kept up a running fire over the entire Pacific area, Japan's jumpy little war-lords had this to worry about:

Continued Allied bombings of Weewak, New Guinea, and Rabaul, New Britain, feeder bases for Jap troops in those regions.

U. S. control of the Admiralty islands lying along the supply route to Rabaul.

General MacArthur's increasing isolation of the 30,000 Jap troops hemmed in on Bougainville island in the Solomons, with the U. S. fleet and air force in control to prevent major reinforcement or general withdrawal.

Navy and army bombers continuing attacks on the Jap fleet's big outpost of Truk, guarding the entrance into the waters of the enemy's South Pacific empire.

DRAFT:
Tighten Deferments

In order to meet the services' demands for 1,160,000 men by July to bring military strength to 11,300,000, local draft boards have been directed to tighten up on all deferments, particularly for those in the 18 - 25 age group.

Gen. Hershey

Under the new directives issued by Selective Service Chief Lewis B. Hershey, only indispensable employees, regardless of family status, are to be deferred, and only the state draft head or national headquarters is to pass on any deferments for the 18 to 25 year age group.

Only farm workers producing 16 units will be eligible for deferment, and careful consideration will be given to the cases of 470,000 farm workers under 26.

While Selective Service pressed for more men, General Hershey said few of the 3,485,000 4Fs will be found acceptable for military service. Only about 11 per cent of those with dependents, including fathers, have been taken thus far, he said, and only about 1 in 10 will pass physicals.

IRELAND:
Faces Isolation

Traditionally strained, Ireland's relations with Great Britain have again tensed, this time over London's threat to completely isolate the Emerald Isle from the outside world if German and Japanese officials are permitted to remain in Dublin and carry on alleged espionage activities detrimental to Allied invasion forces massed in the United Kingdom.

Anxious to maintain its neutrality, one reason being given that its cities were open to destructive bombings, Ireland replied that it could not banish Axis diplomats without inviting war, and insisted that it had clamped down on any suspicious enemy activity.

As the U. S. refused to sell Ireland ships for carrying needed imports and Britain closed all travel between the two countries, Eire grimly awaited events, its economy already hard hit by unemployment caused by a scarcity of imported raw materials.

COLD STORAGE:
More Meat, Produce

With cooler space 73 per cent occupied and freezer capacity 92 per cent filled, U. S. storage holdings as of March 1 were at record levels, with only apples at a low mark.

Beef stocks aggregated 276,300,000 pounds; pork, 792,700,000 pounds; trimmings, 151,300,000 pounds; lard and rendered pork fat, 354,300,000, of which War Food administration held 200,200,000.

Frozen fruit stocks were 29 per cent over those of a year ago, frozen vegetables 107 per cent, creamery butter 792 per cent, cheese 85 per cent, frozen eggs 75 per cent, and poultry 117 per cent.

Knitting Vet

Ninety-two-year-old Mrs. Christine Lorenzen of Clinton, Iowa, is an old hand at knitting for the boys, having first made mittens for Civil war soldiers, and other apparel for vets of the Spanish-American and World War I conflicts. Now, Mrs. Lorenzen knits for the Red Cross for World War II's heroes.

Declaring that Americans are suffering little deprivations compared with Civil war days, Mrs. Lorenzen said: "We had no coffee at all, and, sometimes, little to eat but cornbread."

WAGES:
Control Attacked

Labor's efforts to revise the War Labor board's stabilization formula limiting wage increases to 15 per cent over January, 1941, were thwarted by the public's and industry's representatives on the board, who advised holding off consideration until congress goes over the whole question of price control.

In an effort to revise the stabilization formula, labor asked that the President be requested to modify the wage ceiling to reflect actual living costs, and the War Labor board hold public hearings to bring out facts which might justify higher pay. Steelworkers pressed for public hearings on their demands for a 17-cents-an-hour raise.

MONEY SYSTEM:
Shaped for World

Long in consideration, the United Nations' plan for an international money system after the war is taking shape, with gold to play an important part as a result of Russia's support.

Based on a plan drawn by the U. S. treasury's monetary expert, Harry D. White, the new money system would require each country to contribute a certain percentage of gold and its own currency to a stabilization fund, which would then operate to prevent any nation's exchange from rising or falling.

White's plan differs from Britain's, which considered having each nation contribute to an international stabilization fund on the basis of its prewar trade, thus tending to favor countries which had heavy foreign commerce.

With a comparatively small prewar trade, Russia found the U. S. plan more acceptable, thus swinging the balance in its favor.

POPULATION

At the present rate of increase, the Russian population will number about 250,000,000 people by 1970, or 25 million more than there will be in all northwestern and central Europe, according to a survey by a League of Nations committee. The 1939 census of the Soviet Republics gave a total of about 170 millions. Current estimates place the figure at 180 millions.

The survey stated that the population of Europe as a whole is now declining.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . *in the week's news*

PENNIES: Since the copper situation has improved considerably, the War Production board has decided to permit addition of enough of the red metal to pennies to restore the old copper-zinc ratio of 95 parts copper to 5 parts zinc. Production rate currently is at 150 million one-cent pieces per month. It is expected that the annual output will exceed a billion steel pennies.

FOOD PROCESSORS: There will be a need for at least 700,000 seasonal workers in canneries and other food processing plants this year, Paul McNutt, manpower commissioner, says. This is 100,000 more than were needed last year. Students, women, and part-time workers will be the only source, he believes, though prisoners of war and soldiers on leave can be called upon.

Washington D[illegible]

GOP Leader Places Faith In Simple Election Formula

Harrison Spangler, Party Chairman, Sees Republican Victory as Result of Complete Effective Local Organization.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

On a recent sunshiny Washington afternoon, I made a pilgrimage to the Republican National committee headquarters. As I entered the white-pillared portal of the modest little house they have rented on Connecticut avenue, a number of thoughts, which may be omens of good or ill in the coming election, floated into my ken.

The house was once a private home but now it is situated amidst shops and restaurants and looks across the avenue toward a towering apartment house taken over by the Civilian Defense administration.

As I ascended the stairway to the second floor office of Chairman Harrison Spangler, memories rushed about me and I was transported back to the days when the Republican party was suffering in the slough of its deepest despond. The rooms about me then housed one of the many trade organizations created by that wonderful and awful National Recovery administration presided over by the late and stormy General Iron Pants Johnson.

And later, as I chatted with Mr. Spangler, I was reminded of another circumstance, gently symbolic of the days when the elephant sulked, impotent and neglected, in his tent—the Republican committee was forced to move some two years ago from its snappier, modern quarters on Lafayette Square where it could gaze longingly at the White House on the right hand, and not too hopefully at the United States Chamber of Commerce on the other. The reason the committee had to move was because it was only a tenant on Lafayette Square and the CIO (which had tossed a million into the Democratic electioneering fund) was the landlord.

Tempora mutantur.

But if the times and the quarters have changed, so have Republican spirits. "Roosevelt won't carry two states (or was it five?)," I was confidentially informed by one of the modest laborers in the GOP vineyard.

Harrison Spangler made no tall predictions to me. He made no predictions at all. He simply told me about what he is doing, the results so far obtained. He has a simple faith that results already achieved are the precursors of victory.

Well-Used Word

Spangler's forte is organization, and that's the word he uses most.

"The precinct is the squad," he said. "If you have good squads, you have a good regiment."

He has reduced the training of the squad to a very simple formula. Get one energetic worker and assign him or her 20 Republican voters. See that they vote. Mark Hanna used that system. It works. Iowa (Spangler's own state) uses it. Many others do.

The important word in the last sentence is "do." Important because Spangler used it in the present tense. In the days of the Blue Eagle, and for many years thereafter, any statement about an effective Republican political organization had to be used in the past tense. But tempora mutantur, again. Spangler believes that times have changed and have been changing for some time.

Chairman Spangler is not starting at scratch with his organizing; 26 states which have elected Republican governors, he pointed out to me, already have pretty good machines which are working now.

The chairman is a typical, successful businessman of a middle-sized town (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) in the Middle West. His speech and his speeches are pretty much basic English except when he "rises to pronounce" on party principles. Then he uses good old substantial political phrases marshaled in the conventional manner. But like all pre-convention committee chairmanships, his job is eschewing the over-specific. He can talk about candidates, but not a candidate, pro or con; he can talk about platforms but not about planks.

He is, according to his associates, a man of action. Already he has visited all of the northern states and that is what he is still doing, dividing his time between the field and the Washington office. He likes best to meet with a small group of leaders, about 30. He also makes his contacts with non-political organizations. (He, himself, is an Elk and a Mason.)

The Farm Problem

The farm organizations will be handled en masse. Representatives of all the farm organizations have been invited to attend a meeting in Chicago early next month in order to express their views for possible incorporation in the party platform. They will meet with members of the Republican postwar advisory council's committee on agriculture. Its chairman is Governor Hickenlooper, who succeeded the late Senator McNary, father of the farm bloc.

Agriculture is one of the eight "problems" listed by the advisory council at its meeting in September, 1942. The others are foreign policy; postwar industry and employment; social welfare; federal administration; finance and currency; labor; agriculture; and international economic problems.

A staff of experts under Dr. Neil Carothers, dean of the school of business of Lehigh university, has been assembled, who assist the council, which hopes to produce timber for the party platform by scientific methods.

Chairman Spangler admits that we face a world in which conditions which will affect the election in November are likely to change radically, perhaps before the conventions; certainly before the elections. But he believes that insofar as possible, the various "problems" listed by the advisory committee should be threshed out in as much detail as possible before the convention so that they will not have to be dealt with superficially at the last moment by the platform committee at the convention.

Votes and Relief

"We made several surveys covering different periods in the East a few years ago," he said, "and we found that the New Deal vote rose in direct proportion with the amount of relief in the community. The people were grateful for the help they got and gave Roosevelt the credit; they forgot that it was the people's money they were spending. When they are able to pay their own bills, earn enough for what they need, they want to be independent. They want to shake off government control and regulation."

Mr. Spangler and his associates believe that the Republican party will win—first, because of the energetic response of people which has made the rebuilding of an effective political organization possible; second, because they consider trends already evident are a factual indication of a turn of the tide.

Mr. Spangler did not attempt to argue the case of the Republican party, nor are these columns a place for such a political debate, but anyone can see that he and his staff believe that they share a popular feeling that "the times have changed," "et nos mutamur illis" (and we are changed with them). The "we" meaning a voting majority of the American people.

Of such is the optimism which fills the workshop on Connecticut avenue where the one concern is the practical side of politics—there, where the shadow of the Blue Eagle once fell across the portals, not even the flutter of a ghostly feather can now be detected.

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Service Education

To facilitate the educational program for servicemen overseas, the United States Armed Forces institute has set up branches in five theaters of war—Southwest Pacific, South Pacific, Middle East, European and Alaskan theaters. Members of all branches of the American armed forces serving overseas may now apply directly to the new branches for the same courses that are given in the states through institute headquarters at Madison, Wis. The curriculum covers the range from grammar school to university subjects. An enlisted man may apply for as many courses supplied directly by USAFI as he wishes for only one enrollment fee of $2. For self-teaching courses, text books and materials are supplied free of charge.

BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

A campaign to fill 100,000 present and impending job vacancies on the railroads will be conducted by a newly established railroad manpower mobilization committee representing the united efforts of the government and railroad labor and management.

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The pay-as-you-earn system of income tax collections is being considered in Australia.

American servicemen consumed approximately 143,192,000 cups of coffee and 70,000,000 doughnuts at Red Cross clubs, canteens and clubmobiles overseas during the last 12 months.

• • •

Horse-drawn streetcars—after an absence of 40 years—are again being used in Amsterdam. They may be slow, but power is conserved.

cha[illegible]
cide?

6. Which is the [illegible]gest navigable lake in the world?
7. Where is located the center of population in the United States?
8. The small flag or streamer that flies from the masthead of a ship is called what?

The Answers

1. Seventy degrees below zero.
2. Ride. A droshky is a four-wheeled carriage.
3. The facade.
4. Venice.
5. Judas, Samson and Saul.
6. Lake Titicaca (between Bolivia and Peru).
7. A point about two miles southeast of Carlisle, Ind.
8. A banderole.

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Kidneys Must Work Well-
For You To Feel Well
24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.
If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of *why* the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.
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