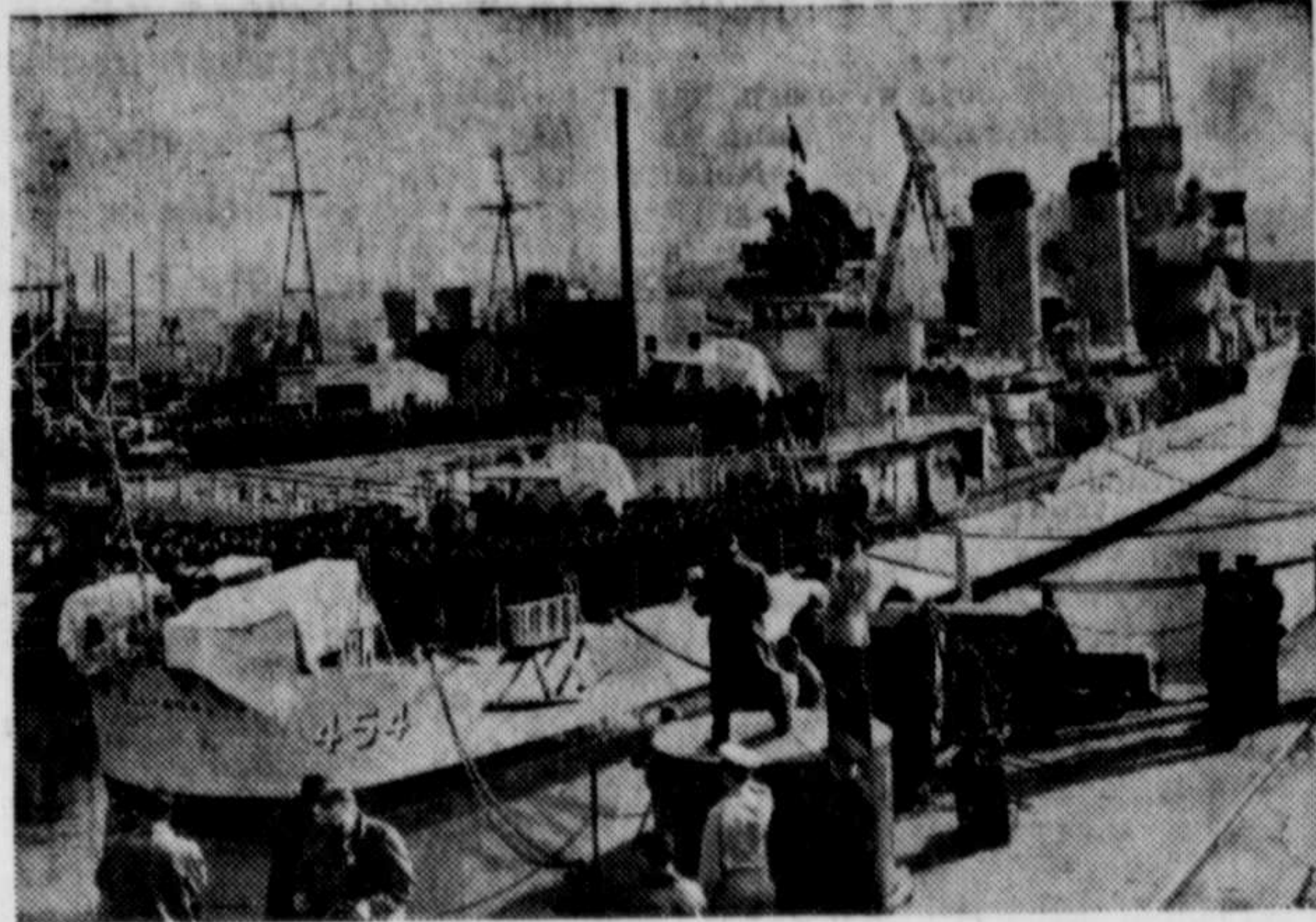


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

**Orient Bristles With Military Activity As U. S. and Japan End Conferences; U. S. Planes Aid British Libyan Drive; Nazis Admit Russian Recapture of Rostov**

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



Here is a view of the U. S. S. Ellyson, new destroyer for the U. S. navy, during commissioning ceremonies at the New York navy yard. Officers and crew are facing aft as the colors are raised. The Ellyson is a sister ship of the U. S. S. Kearny, which proved her mettle by standing up and making port under her own power after taking what a German torpedo had to offer.

**JAPAN: Demands**

Following exploratory talks between special Japanese envoy Kurosu and Secretary Hull which had more or less been kept secret, the latter suddenly issued a five-point ultimatum to Japan which showed plainly that the United States feared no crisis with Nippon, and that her attitude toward Japan's plans in the Pacific was unchanged.

The United States boldly asserted she was insisting on Japan's withdrawal from the Axis; that Japan must get out of China; that she must withdraw from Indo-China; that she must be willing to keep the open door in the Pacific.

This was followed closely by a welter of rumors—that Japan was sending 30,000 men in 70 transports to Indo-China—that the U. S. was going to patrol the supply lines to China along the Burma road with airplanes.

On top of all this came Premier Hideki Tojo's blunt statement that in the light of developments Japan considered Britain and the United States "hostile nations" accusing the Western powers of attempting to exploit East Asia, and saying:

"We must purge this sort of practice with vengeance."

Then came word from Singapore that all army leaves had been cancelled and that the entire British force there had been placed "on the alert."

There was little doubt but that the sword of war was dangling by a thread in the Pacific, a fact which President Roosevelt had recognized in taking a brief vacation to Warm Springs, Ga. As he left he remarked that his date of return "depended on Japan."

Tojo continued his tirade against Britain and America by taking note of the rumor that this country was planning a Burma Road patrol. He said that Japan "could not ignore" such a move, and would consider it a "deliberately hostile action."

Real spot that all eyes were turned upon was the border of Thailand, against which many believed that Japan would launch an invasion attempt as an "answer" to Hull's latest message.

**RUSSIA: Gateway Gain**

As the Russians admittedly had their backs to the wall in Moscow, they had claimed an outstanding victory in the central southern sector where they asserted their armies had recaptured Rostov-on-Don, an important gateway to the Caucasian oil fields previously lost to the Nazis.

For several days the Russians had been talking about a counter-attack somewhat to the west of Rostov, an attack which was driving southward with some success.

At that time Pravda and the army paper Red Star had hinted that this counter-attack was seriously affecting General Von Kleist's supply lines.

Suddenly the Russian armies fell with full force on the Von Kleist army corps, and Kubiyshev reported the entire corps was annihilated and that the Russians had the Nazi forces in the Rostov district rushing off westward in "disorderly retreat."

The Germans admitted the evacuation, and ascribed it to an effort to gain time for retaliation against the attacks of the civilian population on the German rear "in defiance of international law."

Stripped of its Nazi propaganda angles, this seemed at least a partial admission on the part of the German High Command that the Russian attacks on the German communication lines, which had featured Red dispatches for a week, had played a big part in the German disaster at Rostov.

**LIBYA: British Ring**

After winning battle after battle by swift encirclements based on the use of fast tanks and screaming dive-bombers, the Nazi forces in North Africa had evidently received a dose of their own medicine, and while dealing out deadly punishment to the British, had been unable to break the iron ring which had trapped an estimated half of the German armies.

The German High Command had blithely announced early in the battle that a "counter-offensive" had retaken Sidi Omar and was moving across the Egyptian frontier, despite the fact, obvious from the maps that in this maneuver the German tanks were going the "wrong way up a one-way street" as one British commentator put it.

The chief Italian mechanized force, the Ariete division finally managed to join forces with the chief remnants of general Rommel's tank outfits, and were attempting to break out near Rezegh. But Rezegh was at the extreme west end of the British trap, not the extreme east end, as was Sidi Omar.

It was obvious that it was at Rezegh that the main battle was joined, the battle that would spell success or failure for the British effort.

Despite the fact that Germany was sending airplanes from Europe to back up her tank forces in Africa, the British claimed they were still able to hold supremacy in the air, being equipped with hundreds of American planes in addition to their own.

The British also claimed they were steadily widening their wall within which the Nazis were trapped, and that each day the battle continued found them better able to continue it.

**ARMS: For Merchantmen**

As America rushed to arm its merchantmen in accordance with the permissions under the neutrality act as revised, the controversy raged hotly as to what good the weapons would do the vessels.

Naval authorities pointed out that they would do little good if the vessel encountered a surface raider.

But against submarines it was a powerful weapon if the ship were able to fire a lethal weapon at its attacker.

Naval men gave figures from the last war, showing that of 302 unarmed merchant ships attacked, only 67 escaped; but of 310 defensively armed merchant vessels attacked, 263 got away.

The secret was this, they said: Submarines attacking a ship while submerged, must get close enough to get a good view of the target through the periscope. Through a choppy sea this is well-nigh impossible because the vantage point is so close to the surface.

But if a submarine may attack a ship from the surface, then its chance of missing its mark is much less.

Hence the presence of guns, fore and aft, on the armed merchantman practically forces the submarine to remain submerged for its own protection.

Guns and depth charges on merchantmen may spell safety for a large percentage, navy men believe.

**VICHY: Surrendered?**

London had become perturbed over reports it had obtained from a "reliable foreign source" that Vichy already had yielded to German demands for air and naval control in French North Africa.

While the reports had been current that Petain was ducking a final showdown with Hitler while watching anxiously the British offensive in North Africa, it was reported that the Nazis had taken over four French commercial airlines.

**'Natural' Man**



DETROIT, MICH.—To Russell Allen, 26-year-old die-maker of Detroit, shoes are only the dictates of dignity. Nightly he can be seen walking down Detroit's streets—sans shoes. He says shoes aren't natural and has gone barefooted for years. He was sickly until he adopted a diet of foods in their natural state. His only meat is raw beef.

**U. S. ARMY: Changes Ideas**

Partly as a result of maneuvers in the South, partly as a result of reports from American observers with the warring armies in Europe and Africa, the U. S. army's ideas of a fighting force are undergoing rapid changes.

Modern arms had been accepted, also modern motor transport, and our army had its planes, tanks, anti-tank guns, anti-aircraft guns, and all the other appurtenances of modern warfare.

But this has not been deemed the best arrangement, and army officers now are rearranging the basic arm, the infantry, so that each unit is practically a whole mechanized army in itself.

Each infantry outfit, the new army idea envisions, will have its own screen of tanks, will be completely motorized as regards transport from place to place; it will have its own battery of planes; even its own self-propelled 75-millimeter guns.

Thus what used to be a regiment of foot-soldiers, working in conjunction with separate outfits of plane, artillery and tanks, will now become a complete little army in itself, with all the necessary arms.

**FINNS: Being Replaced?**

The report by the British admiralty that submarines of the Royal navy had sent to the bottom eight Axis troopships and supply vessels recently in Arctic waters gave rise to the belief that the Nazis were seeking to replace Finnish troops on the northern Russian front.

This indicated a probability that Finland might not be as wholeheartedly in the war as the German High Command would have the world believe.

One submarine, the British reported, sank five ships and seriously damaged a sixth, and the other sent three to the bottom out of a convoy of seven and damaged the others so that "their destruction was believed probable."

At least two of the vessels were carrying troops, London said.

**GILLETTE: His Letter**

Senator Gillette of Iowa, a Democrat who was the first target of one of the New Deal's unsuccessful purge efforts in 1937, and who has long been a relentless and capable foe of the President's foreign policy, had written a letter to the President offering his services in any capacity during the present emergency.

The President replied, in part: "If the occasion should warrant it, I would not hesitate to ask you to place your abilities at the disposal of your country in some other capacity than as United States senator."

The incident was regarded as another spectacular development in the progressive collapse of opposition to the administration's foreign policy in the light of the extreme tension in the Far East.

The Iowan informed the President that he had not retreated from his viewpoint. He said, however, that he was utterly willing under the present circumstances to work for causes which were in conflict with his personal opinions. Said he:

"This is for the purpose of enlisting myself and all that I have in service for the duration of the emergency."

**MISCELLANY:**

Washington: Five days before the nation's operating railway workers were to go out on their scheduled strike the tie-up was averted when it was announced from Washington that mediation had finally won out.

New York: The American Institute of Decorators was celebrating the addition of two new members (both honorary)—John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Henry F. Dupont.



Washington, D. C. BRITISH DIPLOMACY

The British barring of Russian Ambassador Litvinoff from an airplane en route to the U.S.A. has increased Washington whispers that it is about time the British did something to clean up their non-bund diplomatic service and cut out snubs to people who are trying to help them.

It has long been the belief of Americans, too polite to mention it, that the British embassy in Washington can make more mistakes to the square inch even than Mr. Hull's state department—and many of the state department's mistakes come from trying so ardently to ape the British.

For years the British embassy has sat on its hiltop, well removed from the bustle of Washington, and looked with slightly disdainful amusement upon the hoi polloi of congress. An invitation to the British embassy in those good old days was considered by the dowagers as better than an invitation to the White House.

But those good old days, unfortunately both for the dowagers and the embassy, are gone, never to return. However, the embassy appears completely unaware of that fact. And its charming young men go their charming way, saying sometimes too audibly: "We must be nice to Americans"; while the real work of defending Britain takes place in the British Purchasing commission, largely under the direction of hard-boiled Canadians and Australians.

Viscount Halifax is one of the most delightful and genteel persons ever to grace the embassy. He tries hard. But hard as he tries, he cannot overcome the bubbling Charles Peake, who minces around him as if his lordship still were viceroy of India with white and crimson-costumed Sikhs mounted on black chargers outside his palace, in Calcutta, instead of being in a city where politics are very earthy and where the congressman's wife from Keokuk has a lot more influence than the pink tea protocol experts usually seen at the British embassy.

**WASHINGTON SOCIETY**

Washington is a city where debate may rage furiously on the floor of the senate, but simmer down to friendly story-telling in the ante-room or around the dinner table afterward. This is not always the case, however, and sometimes Washington society becomes so aroused that it is dangerous to invite certain strong-minded people to dinner.

This was true during the fight over Roosevelt's Supreme court bill; and during the Roosevelt-Willkie election campaign; and it is somewhat true during the neutrality controversies today. Old hands at the game of controversy, however, manage to keep their tempers. For instance, seated next each other at dinner the other night were Sen. Burr Wheeler, than whom there is no more energetic isolationist, and Undersecretary of the Navy Forrestal, just as energetically interventionist.

Wheeler was talking about the recent neutrality debate, telling how Roosevelt forces influenced votes by promising jobs and dishing out patronage. Interrupted Undersecretary Forrestal:

"Senator, did the neutrality fight reach the depths of your fight to pass the Wheeler-Rayburn act?" (The Holding Corporation act.)

"No," shot back Senator Wheeler, "I didn't get the patronage."

The two men continued a good-natured discussion of neutrality, Wheeler maintaining that time would prove that his anti-war stand was right. After the war, he contended, history would reverse the present tide of war sentiment and there would be a revulsion of feeling if not a virtual French revolution.

"And when the guillotine ax begins to fall, senator," said Forrestal as he departed, "will you be my attorney?"

**FINNS VS. NAZIS**

Intelligence reports from Europe for the first time indicate friction between German and Finnish troops on the eastern fronts. The Finns are sore because the Nazis have been living off the country and have not been at all scrupulous in paying Finnish peasants for pigs, cows and chickens.

On top of this, the Nazis recently ousted Finnish children from an orphanage at Rovaniemi and used it for the general staff. This made the Finns boil with anger.

**CAPITAL CHAFF**

The government is paying out more money than ever before in history for use of the wires and ether. Even with reduced rates for official messages, the tolls for telegraph, telephone, cable and radio are tremendous.

Every time a government official picks up the telephone to make an outside call, Uncle Sam pays three cents, the wholesale rate. In telegraph messages the government gets a 40 per cent discount, though there is a minimum charge of 20 cents.



DINNER WITH PRESIDENT

We had a very pleasant dinner party one night, consisting of my husband and myself. He ate milk toast and I ate one poached egg, which was good for our figures and permitted much conversation, since neither of us had to pay attention to our food.

I spent the evening wrapping Christmas presents and was joined by one of my friends, who arrived from the train. She remarked that she had not found me in such a carefree mood for a long time. There was no mail in sight and no interviews scheduled, just a deluge of Christmas wrapping paper, ribbons and cards.

**PRIORITY PROBLEM**

One noon, I met a very charming young woman who, with her sister, has taken over her late husband's business, the making of wire screening. Priorities affect this industry, especially where they use copper. It is not a very large industry and the amount of materials needed in it are not very great, but Mrs. John Ralston is here not only in the interests of her own plant or the industry, but because of the danger she feels a shortage of screen wire will mean to the health of the nation.

She points out that screens are of vital importance in our camps, and in all our defense industry buildings. Without them, we lay ourselves open to epidemics of all kinds which are spread by flies and mosquitoes.

**HEALTH GROUP**

Talking of health, a most interesting health co-operative came to my attention the other day. It is called the New York Volunteer Health co-operative. You have a certain freedom in the choice of doctors. You pay \$18 a year without hospitalization. You cannot belong if you earn more than \$2,000 a year while single, or \$3,000 a year when married. There are already over 1,000 members.

There is much I should like to find out about this organization. For instance, just what are the services rendered if hospitalization is not included? I suppose if there is only a limited choice of doctors, there will be the same complaint about the doctor-patient relationship. People in this salary range do need more access to good and inexpensive medical care.

**FULL SCHEDULE**

Here was my schedule on one busy day:

Beginning with a meeting in the morning at nine o'clock at the office of civilian defense, I had no free minutes until I was back at the White House at 12:15 to meet and be photographed with Miss Margaret Hamma, the world's champion typist. Then I went to the Women's National Press club luncheon.

In spite of my membership in this club, I rarely manage to get there for lunch. Tuesdays come and go and there always seems to be something desperately necessary to be done at home.

At 2:30 I went to the sale for United China relief, received a group of 10 people at the White House a little after three, and made a four o'clock plane for New York city.

This was followed by a speech that night at Hunter college.

**WAR NEWS**

I find it increasingly difficult to feel either elated or depressed by the news which comes to us from the actual theaters of war. When I read one dispatch, the Nazis claim continuing victories. When I read another, the other side has moved forward without any setbacks. I now just pray that I can believe the things which I want to believe, and try to forget the rest.

**MUSIC AND DEFENSE**

One morning there came to my office in Civilian Defense headquarters, three women representing the National Federation of Music Clubs. They told me of the work they are doing for defense, and what they have accomplished is really astounding. Through their state and national organizations, they have already given phonographs to every camp. They provide records and their members volunteer to teach choral singing, to play for entertainments and to give concerts in various camps and nearby places where the boys congregate on leave.

Here is an organization which really has something to offer in the way of entertainment and has quietly gone about its work and already accomplished a great deal.

**'UNEMPLOYABLES'**

I received an interesting little folder the other day sent out by the Community Service society in New York city. It describes their employment service, which is largely devoted to placing people who, for one reason or another, have lost confidence in their own ability to hold a job. This is a difficult service because it is hard to find the right conditions and the right people to work together, so that the person to be rehabilitated will finally feel capable of standing alone.



WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, OTHER PROBLEMS BEGIN

WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, as it will be sometime, then what?

It is the job of the national resources planning board to answer that question. That board is headed by Frederic A. Delano, as chairman, with Prof. Charles E. Merriam and Prof. George F. Yantis as vice chairmen. They are proposing plans for preventing the customary depression which has invariably followed each war.

The board estimates that by 1944, 60,000,000 workers will be employed and that there will be no one without a job in the United States. It estimates the national income for 1944 at \$105,000,000,000. That would mean exceedingly high wages. Of the 60,000,000 employed, it is estimated that 27,000,000 will be working at war jobs and 33,000,000 on civilian production.

After the war, the board proposes plans to continue jobs at high wages for all of the 60,000,000 by having government finance industry so workers may be paid until the people are able to purchase the excess of civilian products such employment will create.

It is a good plan, on paper. But what will we use for money? At our present rate of expenditure, if the war continues until 1944, America will be in the financial hole to the extent of all of \$150,000,000,000. Can we provide another possible 50 to 75 billion to finance that period of transformation from war to peacetime production?

If government finances industry, government would acquire a financial interest in industry. That is state capitalism. That is what they have in fascist Italy. It means the end of the American system of free competition—the end of the American way of life.

Possibly a plan can be evolved that will do a practical job but, personally, I should like to see it worked out by men with practical experience in industry and finance, rather than by the theoretical economists of our universities. With so much at stake, we cannot afford to try something just because it sounds good.

**MORE NEEDED IN INDUSTRY**

WITH ALL OUR American industrial capacity we cannot produce sufficient tanks, guns, airplanes, ships and war equipment of all kinds to keep the fighting democracies supplied and at the same time equip an American army of a few million men. Shall we stop our supplies to England while we equip our own army, an army we could not transport to and land in Europe if we had it? The best service we can render the fighting democracies is to keep our manpower in our industrial plants.

**FROM THE FARM—EVERYTHING!**

ACCORDING TO Wheeler McMillen—and he knows if anyone does—future American prosperity will come from our farms. Farmers have produced what all of us eat and wear. In the future they will produce much of the material that will be used in industry. The products of 40,000,000 American acres are now going to our industrial plants and that is but a start. From the farms the scientist and the industrialist will secure products from which to make many commodities and make possible that increased American factory production from which prosperity is born. The six-year-old science of Chemurgy is responsible for it all.

**SUPPLY BIG: PRICES UP**

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT tells us that American farmers produced more food of all kinds in 1941 than for any other recent year; that we have on hand now enough grain to feed the nation for two years if no more were produced in that time; that our stocks of butter, eggs, cheese, beef and pork are far above normal.

In spite of such conditions, food prices to the consumer go up by leaps and bounds, and other departments of government are predicting food rationing for America in another year.

Does it mean that advancing prices are but the forerunner of that extreme inflation we so much fear?

ONE LEND-LEASE order placed recently was for 52,800 pounds of canned chicken for England. It takes a five-pound chicken to produce a one-pound can. That means 264,000 less chickens for American Sunday dinners, but perhaps they will leave us the necks.

**NOT BY FORCE**

AMERICANS AS A PEOPLE will never consent, either during an emergency or at any other time, to any system that forces them as individuals to pay for the privilege of working. There are in the United States something over 45,000,000 wage earners. Much less than one-third of them belong to labor unions. To force those who do not to pay tribute to a super government in order to have a job is not the American way.