

### Manpower Rule Over All Major Industry Looms

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—(AP)—The war manpower commission reported today that "within three months, some plan of manpower control will be in effect in every major industrial community in the United States."

The commission lists 270 such areas, and its report shows 102 of them already have labor shortages, 77 are expected to have shortages soon, and 91 others have enough labor for current production schedules.

In the eight and a half months since it was set up by the president, with Paul V. McNutt as its chairman, the commission has developed two types of manpower control plans.

One applies to jobs in various industries, but is confined to a relatively small area, while the other applies to a single industry and may be used on a nationwide scale if that industry's labor shortage is nationwide in scope.

The industry plan was started last fall with an order by McNutt declaring 12 western states a "critical area" for the non-ferrous metals and logging industries and bringing those two industries under control in the specified area.

Since then, similar orders have been put into effect for the aircraft industry in southern California, the shipbuilding business along San Francisco bay, and the dairy, livestock and poultry industry on a nationwide basis.

The dairy, livestock and poultry industry plan has been rendered virtually inoperative because its controls since have been applied to all agriculture, but a nationwide order affecting merchant seamen is now under WMC consideration.

Both the industry and the area plans are designed to hold needed workers in essential occupations and protect war production from disruption, and both so far have depended almost altogether on persuasion and voluntary cooperation.

**U. S. Airmen Raid Axis Bases in North Africa**

(Continued from page 1.)

squadron repeatedly attacked enemy fighting planes over Tunisia Tuesday, destroying one Messerschmitt and damaging several others.

Meanwhile RAF fighters made several sweeps over forward but the areas yesterday and reported greater activity by enemy fighters and bombers.

"Ground forces operated only on patrol," the spokesman said.

One patrol of highlanders Tuesday night shot up an enemy detachment, inflicting at least 45 casualties, it was said.

**Nazis Bolster Lines**

A Reuters (British news agency) dispatch from Tunisia said that with the cessation of rain on the southern sector of the Tunis-Bizerte zone, the Germans were moving up armored forces below Pant Du-Fahs, 30 miles south of Tunisia.

The German strategy here was evidently aimed at preventing French and American troops from knifing through to the gulf of Gabes coast and thus cutting off the vital line of axis communications between Tunisia and Tripoli.

On the Libyan flank, Gen. Montgomery's headquarters reported that vanguards of the British 8th army continued "in contact" with Marshal Rommel's Africa corps west of Wadi El Chebir, 180 miles east of Tripoli, while RAF fighters shot down eight Nazi Messerschmitts over the battlefield.

BERLIN (From German broadcast), Dec. 31 (AP)—German long range bomber squadrons made a surprise raid Wednesday night on Casablanca, allied Atlantic port of Morocco, while axis explosives sank three allied transports totaling 22,000 tons from a convoy off Bengasi, German news dispatches said today.

**Streams in Douglas County, Willamette River Go On Rampage**

(Continued from page 1.)

blocked temporarily last night by high water.

**EUGENE, SPRINGFIELD DISTRICTS HARD HIT**

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 31—(AP)—Hundreds of Lane county residents were being evacuated from their homes this morning by Red Cross disaster relief workers as the Willamette river rampaged past the 16-foot mark in the worst flood since 1927.

The river gauge at Eugene read 16.7 feet at 10 a. m.

A few residents of the river road area northwest of Eugene were being evacuated this morning by the engineers. But the hardest hit area was in west Springfield, where more than three feet of water was flowing

### War Spending Probe Demand Replies To Roosevelt's Economy Challenge

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—(AP)—A thoroughgoing investigation of the expenditure of war appropriations was proposed today by Senator Taft (R-Ohio) in response to President Roosevelt's declaration that congress must decide where to make economies in the new budget.

While Senators Byrd (D-Va) and Tydings (D-Md) predicted congress would accept Mr. Roosevelt's "challenge" to trim ordinary government expenditures, Taft said he thought the time had arrived to go much further by shaking down some of the war agencies to see if economies could be made in that field.

"The war production board has 15,000 employees and probably could do a much more efficient job if it were reorganized and had about 5,000 fewer workers," Taft told reporters. "Similarly, the office of price administration has 40,000 employees and it's likely that a lot of them are falling over each other's feet."

"It's up to congress now not only to limit non-war expenditures but to see to it that war expenditures are made efficiently," he declared.

**Tough Attitude Foreseen**  
Agreeing with Taft, Republican

through a thickly populated residential and business district.

All electricity for the West Springfield district was cut out early in the morning by the rising flood.

Among those evacuated by boat from the Glenwood area to Springfield were at least three persons who had to be moved in stretchers, including one suffering from pneumonia.

**Damage Enormous**

Damage was expected to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, with many buildings being affected as well as many acres of rich farm land. The engineers also said that several revetments along the Willamette would probably be washed out.

All roads south were closed, with a slide blocking the Lovane Cottage Grove route, usually used as a detour during high water. Greyhound lines said no buses were running south from Eugene this morning.

The Oakway district, directly across the Willamette from Eugene, was covered by several feet of water, and the Goodpasture island farming district was expected to be heavily hit.

Also inundated was the Santa Clara residential community about five miles southwest of Eugene.

**Reservoirs Swollen**

C. C. Mongold, U. S. army engineer in charge of flood control dams here, said the Fern ridge reservoir was filled to about 93 percent of capacity this morning. The water level was about one and a half feet from the maximum possible.

Water was coming into the reservoir at the rate of 12,000 cubic feet per second, and all but 1,000 cubic feet were being held back. He said the remaining capacity should enable the engineers to hold back waters of the Long Tom and Coyote creeks until this evening, after the peak has been passed.

The Cottage Grove reservoir was 60 per cent full, with 6,000 cubic feet per second coming in and 1,400 cubic feet going through. It was up about 10 per cent from the level of last night.

**HIGHWAYS IN WESTERN OREGON ARE BLOCKED**

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31—(AP)—The Pacific and Oregon coast highways, as well as routes connecting southern Oregon with the coast, are closed by floods, as are many other Oregon roads, the state highway commission said today.

The Dallas California highway, however, is the only north-south road through Oregon that remains open.

The Pacific highway is closed south of the Harrisburg bridge, and also between Eugene and Springfield. There is water on the highway between Cottage Grove and Roseburg, but it remains passable. There also is water over the highway 15 miles south of Grants Pass.

The Oregon coast highway is closed between Coquille and Bandon.

The condition of the other highways includes:  
Siuslaw highway, between

Junction City and Florence, closed by slides near Blachly.  
Umpqua highway, between Reedsport and Drain, closed west of Scottsburg.  
Coos bay-Roseburg highway, closed by slides and high water.  
Willamette highway, closed by high water between Goshen and Dexter.  
South Santiam highway, between Albany and Bend, closed by slides near Cascadia.  
Corvallis-Albany eastside highway closed by high water. The main route between the two cities is still open, but probably will be closed by 6 p. m.  
Springfield-Cresswell secondary highway in Lane county, closed by high water.  
On the west side Pacific highway, between Junction City and Portland, travel is possible, but the road might be closed by 6 p. m. because of high water at Monroe.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 31—(AP)—The swollen Willamette river rose slowly during the night to reach a stage of 20.9 feet this morning, with a crest of about 22 feet expected next Saturday.

While 21 feet is considered flood stage, little damage has been caused. The only land being flooded is lowlands, including several hop ranches, north of the city. The river would have to go to 28 feet to cause much damage in Salem.

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 31—(AP)—Rogue river was 19.03 ft. above summer low at 8 a. m. today, the highest mark recorded at the city filtration plant since its installation in 1931. The river is rising at 2 feet an hour.

Water is over the Pacific highway south between here and the city of Rogue river and is over the car's running board near Rogue View camp.

**Pro-Axis Plotters Put Under Arrest in Africa**

(Continued from page 1.)

distinguished service medal, a rare tribute to a civilian.

"That Murphy figured as a potential target for assassination suggested that Giraud looked for trouble among the violently pro-axis elements in the former Vichy holdings in London, a lightning French source expressed the suspicion that the prisoners might have been followers of Jacques Doriot, advocate of outright collaboration with Germany."

**Victory His Sole Aim**

Giraud insisted that his intervention, which he described as strictly non-political, was aimed solely at squelching trouble-makers who might interfere with the main purpose "to win the war."

He disclosed that 50,000 French soldiers were fighting in Tunisia and have received sorely needed anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons from their British and American allies.

But, he told the correspondents "that is only the beginning... The real play is about to begin and the actors must be properly equipped. There you are. I'm

counting on you telling that to America and that the high commissioner of French Africa is above all a soldier who thinks of one thing only—to win the war. Help me to win it."

Of the prisoners, of whom Giraud said that "only those who were acting carelessly" were arrested, it was reported reliably that only two had aided the allied landings.

Asked if the men held would be shot, the general said: "Don't worry, they won't. I said I would rather prevent than punish. You are giving a great deal of importance to something that isn't worth it."

Giraud took advantage of the occasion to call for unity of all Frenchmen, including the fighting French led by General Charles DeGaulle.

**Russians Press Nazis To Point of Disaster**

(Continued from page 1.)

Moscow, to the deep Caucasus.  
On the Kalmyk front, Soviet columns fanning out across the bleak Steppes that stretch westward from the Volga and Caspian toward the Black sea were officially credited with a 28-mile advance in capturing Remontnoe, 70 miles southeast of Kotelnikovsk.

Other soviet forces thrusting toward the Black sea from Kotelnikovsk, which fell two days ago, were reported to have captured another town, and the Russian newspaper Red Star said a fierce battle was raging along the 42-mile rail line from Kotelnikovsk to Zimovniki. Front-line reports said the Russians had driven past the station of Semichnaya, 15 miles southwest of Kotelnikovsk.

On the middle Don steppes, where the Russians are driving toward Rostov, the German high command threw masses of infantry and tanks into the struggle.

"At first they succeeded in pressing back our units," soviet headquarters said.

"Then Red army men struck a flanking blow and forced the enemy to retreat in disorder."

The locale was not specified, but the most dangerously threat-

ened area was at Millerovo, 120 miles north of Rostov, where Russian troops yesterday were reported only two miles from the city at the nearest point.

**Thousands Homeless in Pittsburgh Flood Area**

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Other soviet forces thrusting toward the Black sea from Kotelnikovsk, which fell two days ago, were reported to have captured another town, and the Russian newspaper Red Star said a fierce battle was raging along the 42-mile rail line from Kotelnikovsk to Zimovniki. Front-line reports said the Russians had driven past the station of Semichnaya, 15 miles southwest of Kotelnikovsk.

On the middle Don steppes, where the Russians are driving toward Rostov, the German high command threw masses of infantry and tanks into the struggle.

"At first they succeeded in pressing back our units," soviet headquarters said.

"Then Red army men struck a flanking blow and forced the enemy to retreat in disorder."

The locale was not specified, but the most dangerously threat-

ened area was at Millerovo, 120 miles north of Rostov, where Russian troops yesterday were reported only two miles from the city at the nearest point.

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