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HAILE SELASSIE INSPECTS KOREA-BOUND TROOPS—Emperor Haile Selassie (wearing cloak) of Ethiopia inspects a battalion of Korea-bound Ethiopians in Addis Ababa. The troops will join the United Nations forces fighting in Korea. (AP Wirephoto)

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First Real Impacts Of Defense Program Hit Business; Expansion Plans Announced

By RICHARD FISKE
NEW YORK — (AP) — The first real impacts of the defense program hit business and industry last week.

Many economists believed it would be summer before the full effects were felt. But high inventories, conversions from civilian to military goods and government restrictions were becoming increasingly painful.

Industrial production, however, whirled along at a breath-taking pace. Defense orders rolled in for many industries. Further plans were announced for hefty expansion programs. Many a first quarter earning was a record.

The steel industry was operating at 102.9 percent of theoretical capacity. This topped the previous week's figure.

Expansion Outlined
General Electric company, which spent \$425,000,000 on new plants and equipment in the past five years, will spend more than \$350,000,000 in the next four years to enlarge its facilities still further.

Minnesota mining and manufacturing company outlined a \$6,500,000 plant expansion program.

The Bureau of Employment Security at Washington said 50,000 unfilled jobs were clogging the rolls of state employment offices.

While overall production continued at this high rate without a pause, industries where civilian output predominated began to feel the pinch of the expanding defense program.

Shortages of copper and steel have its automobile production, eliminate second shifts and lay off about 3,000 workers.

Stromberg Carlson company jidled 200 employes because of lagging demand for television receivers. Other workers were shifted from the company's television shops to its busy telephone and sound equipment departments.

Paper Work Heavy
Some small cotton and rayon mills were reported starting to curtail production and return to a five-day week, lopping off the sixth day or premium shift.

The front office of many business and industry was up to its ears in the paper work required by government regulations.

Many complained it was next to a hopeless task to keep abreast of revisions and changes in government orders.

Retailers said it was costly and physically impossible to give the Office of Price Administration required information by the April 30 deadline. They asked for an extension of time.

Pricing methods for iron and steel scrap were revised and clarified. The aluminum order was changed to lift the May 1 ban on more than 200 civilian products. Now it's a 50 percent cut in the use of the metal during May and June.

Dun and Bradstreet reported its wholesale food price index declined slightly from the previous week. Retail meat prices held at ceiling levels. Eggs were a few cents higher in many places.

In Washington, Price Director Michael V. Disalle said the nation may be reaching a peak in the rising cost of living. He said he believes prices definitely are leveling off and the peak may be at hand — two or three months earlier than expected.

High Inventories
Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston said prices for consumer goods might even take a tumble in the next few months because of abundant factory stocks.

There was little doubt about the high inventories and many economists thought there was a possibility they might lead to an inventory recession.

A large number of businessmen, however, believed it was a temporary situation which would have no major effects on the economy beyond a temporary softening.

Sgt. Charles J. Ritzman Graduated From School

Sgt. Charles J. Ritzman, son of Mrs. Charles Ritzman, 953 Cobb street, Roseburg, was recently graduated from the non-commissioned officers school on the Berlin military post.

During the six weeks of intensive training, Sgt. Ritzman received specialized courses in leadership, weapons, tactics and standardized instructional techniques.

The Roseburg soldier is a member of "C" company, 1st battalion, 6th Infantry regiment, with duties as squad leader.

For his current tour of duty, Sgt. Ritzman is authorized to wear the Occupation medal with the Berlin airlift device.

More than half the proved reserves of petroleum, and natural gas in America are in Texas.

The sharks are believed to be the largest fish, some species reaching a length of 60 feet.

Consumer purchasing was up a little over a year ago but the increase was insignificant in view of the comparative 1950 week being the post-Easter period, traditionally a light buying time.

Admiral Radio reoperation came out during the week with a plan designed to clear out distributor stocks of television sets. Dealers, under the plan, can give away a radio-phonograph combination to boost their TV sales.

A lot of dissatisfaction cropped up with price and wage activities.

Dr. Alan Valentine, former director of economic stabilization, said price and wage controls as presently administered are "a futile, expensive and even tragic venture."

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