

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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German Recovery

Germany's attack in the center of its Russian lines is not regarded as a major offensive, although any local success would naturally be exploited to the utmost. Its purpose may be to engage the Russians, throw them off balance, and perhaps spoil a Russian offensive; or it may be a diversion to occupy the enemy while the Germans realign their own forces. The present attack, while in strong force, is not on the usual German scale. Germany is on the defensive, husbanding its strength against the expected allied attack.

There is no doubt that Germany has used the past months of cessation of active warfare in Europe for rest and recuperation for her armies. According to Hanson Baldwin, military observer for the New York Times, the strength of the German army has probably been restored. He attributes this recovery to the "tremendous mobilization" that started in Germany coincident with Stalingrad and that has been too little noticed in this country.

People are apt to forget the recuperative power of a nation at war. Year after year Napoleon was able to rebuild his armies by fresh levies, as they were called. Each year there is a new crop of youth reaching military age. They can be called into service, filling the gaps of losses. Germany has been combing its population more closely, inducting more of its able-bodied men into its army. So, while the allies have been busy preparing for their attack on Fortress Europe Hitler has been using the same time preparing his defense.

So much time has elapsed this summer that it appears very doubtful if a decision in Europe can be secured this year. The air war alone will not do it. Each day's delay in attacking, necessary though it may be, makes it more probable that the war in Europe will extend to 1944.

Business Change

That the previous observations in this column to the effect that the "war plant is built" are true is borne out by statistics concerning construction. The Portland Journal of Commerce reports that on a weekly average basis for the first half of this year, the total volume of construction was 63 per cent below that of a year ago. The decrease appears to be accelerating, for the June contracts were 72 per cent under those of June 1942.

Putting it in figures, June engineering construction amounted to \$274,493,000 compared with \$968,936,000 a year ago. The decline was in public construction, chiefly in federal, as war factories and camps were being completed. Private construction moved up from \$49,647,000 to \$72,718,000; but see how far it would have to go to reach the \$888,907,000 volume which was made by the federal government in 1942.

As these trends develop we will have cross-currents in our economy, as we have had. First, part of the civilian economy was injured by the war, while the manufacturing and contracting interests profited. Now the contractors and their crews are running out of work. Later on the big munitions plants will get cancellation orders (some have already). Then will come release of materials for resumption of production for civilian consumption.

When the tempo of manufacturing is as fast as it is now, changes can come very rapidly. The man in business knows they are coming, like the second front, but he can't tell when.

Dead Marxism

That communism is dead in Russia, pure Marxist communism, that is, would seem to be proven by the report in the news agency of communists, the "Inter-Continent News", that Russian farmers are heavy buyers of Russian war bonds. One collective farmer, Berdybekov, of Kazakhstan, with his family, bought 1,937,000 rubles worth of bonds and paid cash for them. Other collective farmers bought up to 100,000 rubles worth of bonds. Berdybekov wrote Stalin about what he had done and Stalin wrote him expressing his gratitude.

Russia has gone in for its own brand of capitalism, a state capitalism, in which the state owns the tools of production, but pay is graded as under private capitalism. Collective farmers are now allowed to own private farmsteads. Plant executives and foremen receive pay far in excess of the wages of ordinary workers.

Well, if Russia keeps on changing, in the same direction, maybe her present allies will feel safe in loving her.

Evidence of Progress

Just one year ago Radio Rome was saying: "Pantelleria's guns have disturbed the dreams of many who had basked in the pleasant belief of our impotence."

"There is no more room for the British in the Mediterranean; they can neither cross it with their transports to Egypt nor efficiently threaten our transports to Libya. As a consequence, our convoys to Africa will arrive there with an ease and regularity infinitely greater than that with which the enemy's convoys can reach their ports."

War is a succession of battles. In this war we have had the battle of Poland, of France, of Britain, of the Atlantic, of the Pacific, of North Africa. Recently we have had the battle of Washington, a regular Kilkenny cat affair. Some blame it on the summer heat; others on the president. To date no one has thought of "original sin", which in former days would have got the most votes.

The war relocation authority is getting around to separating the disloyal from loyal Japanese. The action, which is promised but not completed, is needed, because the disloyal Japs constantly poison the minds of the loyal Japs, against this country.

Teacher Shortage

At present there is a lack of about 500 teachers to supply the schools of the state for next year. This is not a bad record, considering there are normally 8000 teachers in the state. It is made possible by the action of the legislature and the state board of education in authorizing the issuance of emergency certificates to persons not strictly eligible under the law but who are deemed competent to step in and teach in the emergency. In this group would be former teachers who have let their certificates lapse, teachers from other states who have not met the regular requirement of study of Oregon history and school law, and others who can undertake special courses for which they are qualified.

The shortage of teachers has forced the closing of many one-room schools, and would cause more to close were it possible to obtain suitable transportation for children. Now school buses are very hard to get. Since there have been too many weak schools, the "ill wind" may blow some good in encouraging consolidation.

It took a war to do it, but teachers' salaries are now up to very decent levels. They compare favorably with wages in business, outside of war-baby industries. They ought to attract more people to the teaching profession, but now high school graduates can get good jobs without further preparation and so are reluctant to go to normal school and take the required two- or three-year course to qualify for teaching. This condition will change, however. Society must make teaching attractive enough to draw and hold competent women- and men-who will do the job of instructing youth.

Congress which blew cold and hot by turns on roll-back subsidies, finally capitulated to the administration and authorized a continuance of the program until next January. The device is unsatisfactory, but will not be fully effective; but it is about the only tool left in the kit with which to retard the pace of inflation.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, July 8.—Those who call themselves liberals are pressing suspicions against the presence here of General Giraud in conference with Mr. Roosevelt, and again are waving mildly the flag of General DeGaulle.

A professed spokesman for this group is the indescribable agitator New York newspaper PM.

This same newspaper dispatched its leading political writer, Kenneth G. Crawford, to North Africa some weeks back to investigate the Giraud-DeGaulle controversy first hand.

Mr. Crawford is an eminent reporter, able, sincere, and a past president of the national newspaper guild.

He found facts which did not justify the DeGaulle attitude of his paper, found the Roosevelt policy was not so sharply at variance with necessities of the situation.

PM suppressed two of his articles, one predicting DeGaulle and Giraud never would be able to make a real alliance, and the other praising the diplomatic job by our consul, Bob Murphy. Others of his pieces were badly garbled in voice radio transmission, probably not deliberately.

But when Mr. Crawford returned to this country, learned of the suppression, and was confronted with the necessity of writing a round-up series to conform to editorial policy, like an honest writer, he quietly quit. He is now with the magazine Newsweek.

There must be more to this DeGaulle-Giraud situation than can be explained. Obviously, the DeGaulle liberals do not wish to face the facts—or have them printed. Their DeGaulle agitations continue, heedless of realities that go out of their way to ignore. For what purpose? An American one?

Conclusion of the MacArthur-Halsey campaign to clean out the Solomon Islands should not be expected swiftly. Presence of 30,000 scattered Jap units throughout that area presages a long and difficult job. If it is finished by the end of summer, most authorities would be satisfied.

Surely, however, it will not take as long as Guadalcanal where 30,000 Japs (augmented frequently by reinforcements) were able to cling to their trees in the jungle for six months, from August to February.

Mr. Roosevelt said declining severity of the Nazi war effort may allow abandonment of rationing on sugar and coffee, but he said nothing about gasoline, which is far more important to most people, and the first product to fall as a casualty of submarine attack.

There are two reasons. Our gasoline and oil are being consumed at the battle fronts of the world at an unbelievable pace, some say a million barrels a day. Tankers destroyed in the first Nazi sub attacks have not yet been replaced, but soon will be.

Second reason is the administrative handling of the oil and gas problem from the beginning. Doubt if you dare, but the office of defense transportation now estimates the railroads could handle 40,000 barrels a day more to the eastern seaboard if Mr. Ickes would only give them more gas to carry.

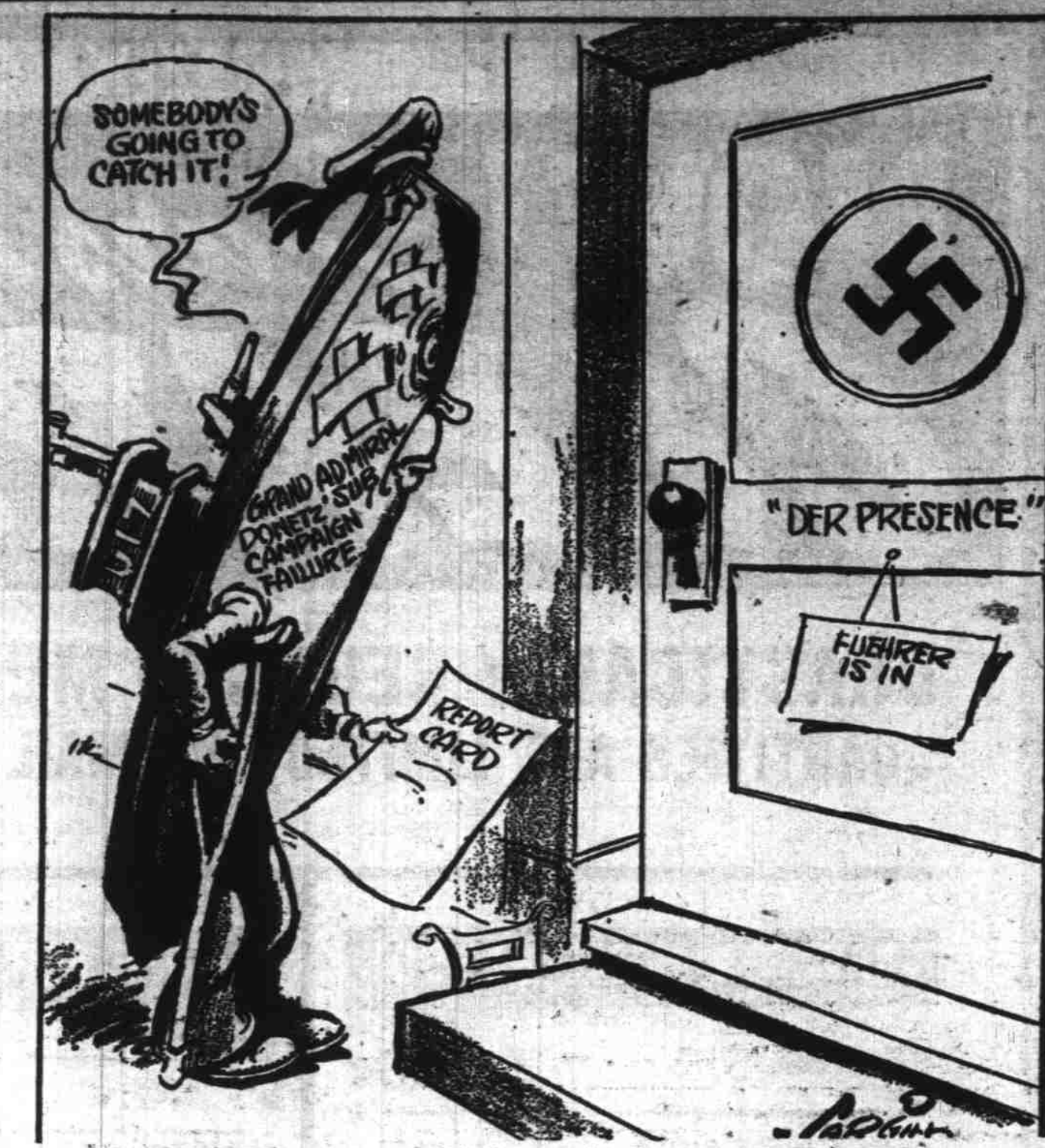
The bottleneck now is in refineries. Mr. Ickes will be blamed for not allowing expansion of refining and storage facilities earlier in the game.

Four government bureaus are now handling this subject—those of Messrs. Ickes, Brown, and Eastman. One or more of them will, or should, soon tell Ickes his 328,000 barrel allotment of transportation for civilian use in the east during July, August and September is much lower than the transportation situation warrants.

A movement is afoot to tighten rationing in the west and use the gas savings to ease the situation in the east, but this will run up against objections.

Eastern oil interests own Texas and Oklahoma oil and would have to buy from their competitors if required to take western oil.

Chances, therefore, are the administration will continue to muddle and argue, argue and muddle.



'Inbad, the Sailor'

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM—FRIDAY—1300 Ks.	Next day's programs appear on comics page.	9:15—Speaking of Sports.
7:00—News in Brief.	7:00—News.	9:30—General Barrows.
7:05—Blue 'n' Shine.	7:15—Texas Rangers.	9:45—Fulton Lewis.
7:20—News.	7:30—Memory Timekeeper.	10:00—Attack on Aitua.
7:45—Morning Mood.	8:00—Shady Valley Folk.	10:15—Treasury Star Parade.
8:00—Rhythm Time.	8:30—News.	10:30—Newly.
8:20—News Briefs.	8:45—What's New.	10:45—Music.
8:30—Tango Time.	9:00—Snake Carter.	11:00—Cheer Up Gang.
8:45—Uncle Sam's Call.	9:15—Woman's Side of the News.	11:30—Music.
8:50—Popular Music.	9:30—Edgewood Arsenal Band.	
9:00—Foster's Call.	9:45—News.	
9:15—Uncle Sam's Call.	10:15—Curlin Calls.	
9:30—Popular Music.	10:30—This and That.	
9:45—World in Review.	11:00—Buyer's Parade.	
10:00—A Song and A Dance.	11:15—Bill Beer Reads the Bible.	
10:20—Langworth String Quartet.	11:30—Concert Gema.	
10:45—Mazda Buren.	11:45—Rose Room.	
11:00—Hits of Yesterday.	12:00—Music.	
11:15—Organalities.	12:15—On the Farm Front.	
11:30—Billieby Serenade.	1:15—Music.	
11:45—Matinee.	1:30—Music.	
1:00—Lam 'n' Ahner.	1:45—On the Farm Front.	
1:15—Mildred's Melodies.	1:55—Music.	
1:30—Spotlight on Rhythm.	2:00—Music.	
1:45—Spirit of the Vikings.	2:15—Shelach Carter.	
1:55—Rhythm Time.	2:30—Texas Rangers.	
2:10—State Safety Program.	2:45—All Star Dance Parade.	
2:25—Broadway Band Wagon.	2:55—War-time Women.	
2:40—KSLM Concert Hour.	3:10—Songs.	
4:00—Charles Magnante.	3:20—Phillip Keyne Gordon.	
4:15—News.	3:30—Overseas Report.	
4:30—Morning Tunes.	3:45—Stars of Today.	
4:45—Merrick's Vocal Group.	4:00—Fulton Lewis.	
5:00—Rhythms of Reminiscence.	4:15—State of Dreams.	
5:15—Cappy Orchestra.	4:30—Serenade.	
5:30—Tonight's Headlines.	4:45—Music.	
5:45—War News Commentary.	5:00—Music.	
6:00—Evening Serenade.	5:15—Superman.	
6:15—Popular Music.	5:30—Norman Hebbitt.	
6:30—News in Brief.	5:45—Frank Singler.	
6:45—Keystone Karavan.	6:10—News.	
7:00—War Fronts in Review.	6:30—Music.	
7:15—Lam 'n' Ahner.	6:45—John B. Hughes.	
7:30—Melody.	7:00—Movie Parade.	
7:45—Treasury Star Parade.	7:15—Lone Ranger.	
8:00—News.	8:30—Music.	
8:15—John B. Hughes.	8:45—Music Without Words.	
8:30—Serenade.	9:00—News.	
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