

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Moves to Free Economy; Paris Parley Ends in Dissent; Ask Reds to Settle Lend-Lease

Released by Western Newspaper Union
(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.)



Luxembourg palace was all lit up on the eye of adjournment of Paris peace conference but the weariness attending the 11 weeks of bitter bickering was indicated by the slumber of the bartender on his stool (upper left) and the newspaper man at his desk (upper right).

DECONTROL: Speeded Up

Hundreds of non-essential items were scheduled to be removed from price control as OPA moved to comply with President Truman's plans for a speedy shift to a free economy. Whereas 52 per cent of the nation's economy was under regulation, the total was expected to be reduced to 40 per cent by the end of the year.

Items basic to production or living will continue to remain under control to keep the economy within balance. Included in this category are farm equipment, needed for output of food and fibers; building materials in widespread demand for housing; clothing; household appliances and furniture.

Removal of controls from livestock led to OPA decontrol of fats, oils and feeds. Because of the lifting of ceilings on lards, OPA said it would be difficult to keep corn oil, cottonseed oil, peanut oil and soybean oil under control. Free market prices for livestock might lead to excessive use of cheap mixed feeds, OPA declared.

See Hope for Soap

Prospects for improved shipments of livestock following decontrol promised to relieve the critical soap shortage although a continued scarcity of copra from the Far East threatened to limit maximum production.

Normally, soap consists of 50 to 70 per cent tallow or grease, obtained from cattle and hogs, and 20 to 30 per cent coconut oil, derived from copra.

Since experiencing a shortage of coconut oil, producers have been increasing the amount of tallow and grease for soap. Heavier marketings of cattle and hogs thus would enable them to step up their production.

Despite high production of coconut oil in the Philippines, crippled grinding mills have been unable to turn out large volumes of copra. While cottonseed mills in the U. S. could crush the coconut, it was said that OPA ceilings were inadequate to permit operations.

PARIS: Grim Ending

Secretary of State Byrnes made a final address about a "people's peace"; Molotov spoke of a "democratic peace," and Bevin prayed for a "lasting peace," but there seemed as yet to be no peace as the Paris conference ended in the ornate Luxembourg palace.

Ten empty seats belonging to the Yugoslav delegation strongly attested to the differences existing between the powerful western and eastern blocs. Complaining that decisions had not been reached on the basis of existing facts, but rather in the interests of the nations commanding a majority, Yugoslavia preferred to remain away from the closing session.

Yugoslavia's action pointed up Molotov's declaration that the newly established democratic Slav states would not be "dictated to" by the western powers. The Russian foreign minister had backed Yugoslavia's strong protests against the creation of a neutral governor for the key port of Trieste and rejection of Tito's claims to Italian border territory.

Mar Duke's Happy Return

For the first time since their historic marriage in a French chateau, the Duke of Windsor took his wife, the former Wallace Warfield Simpson, back with him to England. Hardly had the couple settled down for a two-month sojourn in the country when a thief stole a million dollars in jewels from the duchess while she was entertaining nobility. Included in the booty were sapphires, rubies and diamonds.



MEAT: In Offing

If meat was slow in coming out the market following decontrol of the industry, consumers could lick their chops for a big feast ahead.

While housewives were sure to find increasing quantities of meat at market in the ensuing months, the chief effect of President Truman's

The record number of livestock on farms and ranges was instrumental in influencing the administration to lift controls, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson told the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Were the nation to suffer a drought, the meat industry would be menaced with loss and disorganization, he said. As of last January, there were 40,900,000 beef cattle on farms and ranges, and with the recent rate of slaughter the number would have risen to 44,800,000 by the end of the year.

decontrol will be to induce farmers to use their record supplies of feed to fatten cattle and hogs to prime beef and pork, experts said.

In the meantime, farmers are expected to market suitable livestock now, with the high prices prevailing influencing the culling of cows, fat bulls and old canner cows from breeding herds. While prices were expected to rocket with the first wave of buying, experts said they would level off once distribution channels were returned to normal or if consumer resistance was met.

LEND-LEASE: Ask Russ to Settle

In asking Russia to settle its lend-lease account of \$11,141,000,000, the state department reported that the action was taken in compliance with congressional desires to speed up final liquidation of such obligations.

Settlement is expected to follow the pattern of previous arrangements made with Britain and France, with the Reds paying only a percentage of the cost of the guns, tanks, airplanes and other material sent during the war. In arriving at the final figure, the U. S. has always written off part of the debt owed in consideration of losses and casualties suffered in the common cause.

In the case of the British and French, the U. S. extended credits for the purchase of surplus goods as part of the settlement, and the same privilege could be afforded the Russians. As it is, the U. S. advanced the Reds between 300 and 400 million dollars at the time of the cessation of lend-lease to permit them to obtain supplies ordered but not yet delivered.

Withdraw Czech Aid

Possessing no inclination to be Uncle Sam, Uncle Sam withdrew a 40 million dollar credit to Czechoslovakia and suspended negotiations for a 50 million dollar loan following the Czechs' support of Russian charges at the Paris peace conference that the U. S. was trying to enslave Europe economically.

While Czech support of Red baiting of the U. S. constituted the principal reason for the action, the state department also charged the Czechs with profiteering in the resale of American surplus goods to Romania and stated that the Czechs were far ahead of other European countries in postwar recovery.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

NERVOUS OVER CONVICTIONS

WASHINGTON.—The war department isn't saying anything about it, but General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery, both now in Europe, got nervous over the results of the Nuernberg trials.

What they didn't like was the conviction of their opposite numbers in the German army, especially Field Marshals Jodl and Keitel, and Nazi Admiral Doenitz.

Eisenhower sent some rather strong though confidential representations back to the war department from Europe.

High-up military friends of the chief of staff point out that the Nuernberg precedent of convicting army-navy commanders for war guilt might easily boomerang against those in command of the American army and navy.

For instance, U. S. and Canadian armies have been conducting important maneuvers in the Arctic, "Operation Muskox," calculated to defend Canada and the U. S. from an Arctic circle invasion. What worries Eisenhower and top military men is the idea that if we should get into war with Russia and lose, they could be tried and might be convicted on the grounds of instigating aggressive warfare.

Of course, the Muskox operation is defensive, and a long way from aggression, but a war-crimes court might twist it around.

NEW WAR PROGRAM

Although Hollywood strikes should keep movie mogul Donald Nelson busy, the former WPB chief is flying between Washington and Hollywood three or four times a month to work on a plan for quick remobilization of American industry in the event of another war.

Only announcement thus far is that Nelson has been asked by the President to consult him regarding which munitions plants should be kept in readiness for quick reconversion. Inside fact is that Nelson's activities have been far more extensive.

Administration leaders believe, however, that because of public impatience over continued war restrictions, it is best to censor public announcement of the remobilization preparedness program until after the elections.

The President probably will ask the next congress for what might be termed a peacetime WPB, and will offer the top job to Nelson.

WANTS GOOD ADVISERS

Harry Truman has received a lot of criticism for not surrounding himself with higher type men in the White House. One reason of course is that Truman is genuinely fond of the poker-playing, joke-telling Missourians and Mississippians who are around him.

On the other hand, few except those on the inside know how hard Truman has tried to get others to join his staff. He begged Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. to become assistant secretary of the navy. He urged Bob Nathan, former brain trust for the War Production board, to become an economic adviser.

One of his most significant talks was with Isador Lubin, a White House secretary under Roosevelt. The talk indicates that Truman at times feels a sense of genuine loneliness.

In the course of the conversation, Lubin blurted: "Well, Mr. President, there's something I sort of miss around here."

"You mean," suggested the President, "that you miss Roosevelt?"

"Yes," replied Lubin. "Well, I miss him too," said Truman. From the tone of his voice you could tell that he very much meant it.

ARMY BANS BYRNES DISCUSSION

The White House order against public debate of Byrnes' foreign policy has now been extended to G. I.s. This is one aftermath of the Wallace-Byrnes feud, and is a reversal of the "free discussion" policy usually followed during the war.

"Since Secretary Byrnes' address is an expression of government policy," the army has just ruled, "discussion leaders will take an affirmative attitude toward the policy as presented and maintain discussion within the bounds outlined for this army talk, rather than lead a debate on the wisdom of our foreign policy."

Last summer the army's manual to "the information-education officer" advised just the opposite, namely, that "the soldier may discuss matters pertaining to government and military policies."

CAPITAL CHAFF

The state and war departments are having a private pitched battle over army plans to send a large flight of B-29's on a round-the-world tour. It looks too much like sabre-rattling. . . . Assistant Secretary of State Will Clayton's Texas business partner, Lamar Fleming, has made a \$2,000 contribution to the Republican campaign. . . . The state department had trouble getting reservations at New York hotels for U. N. delegates—partly because of race, color and creed.

Washington Digest

Need Time for Democratic Roots to Take Hold in Japan

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

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WASHINGTON.—Recently one of Japan's liberal newspapers took occasion to admonish its readers against substituting General MacArthur for the emperor as an object of reverence.

The paper pointed out that MacArthur was a symbol of democracy, but not a living god. In so doing, the editor touched on a matter of deep significance to the future of Japan and one which poses one of the greatest problems of the occupation. I doubt if most people realize it.

This situation was revealed to me by a very earnest and very widely experienced observer, just back from Japan. The burden of his theme was the strange unreality which seems to envelop the life of the Japanese people like a mist. Let me give you, as nearly as I am able, the gist of his impressions, supplemented by other current reports of on-the-spot observers.

The remarkably successful record made by General MacArthur in one year's occupation of Japan can be written down on the credit side of America's postwar undertakings.

It is, nevertheless, only a beginning. Unless the structure is completed on the foundation we have laid, all of our work will go for nothing.

On the negative side, we have disarmed Japan and destroyed its military machine. We have taken over its industrial power. The business monopolies have been broken up.

On the positive side, according to MacArthur's own report, "the average Japanese no longer cringes in the presence of the police or other public authorities; his home has become his castle; he registers his opinion on public issues, uncontrolled except by his own conscience; he enjoys the right of assembly and petition; he worships as he chooses in accordance with his individual religious faith; he enjoys the untrammeled right individually or collectively to demand correction of unjust labor practices; electoral discrimination has been removed."

That is probably literally true. But it does not tell the whole story for, according to my informant, there are indications that the progress made, the reforms achieved in the political, economic and social life of the country, are only forms and it will take a long time—many years—before those forms can be hardened into enduring substance. The reason for this is that the life of the individual Japanese and acts of their government, actually are dominated by a supreme power which, while it is not constantly visible, is no less potent—that is the power of the U. S. occupation forces.

Recover From Stunning Loss

At first the Japanese were utterly stunned by the suddenness of their crushing defeat. Gradually they discovered that they were being well treated and they assumed a co-operative attitude, an almost sly loyalty, obedience, friendliness and an apparently complete sympathy with the Americans. But that does not mean they actually have absorbed our culture, socially, politically or otherwise. Nor does it mean that they have been able to build up any real or lasting structure of their own. An utterly exotic democratic culture has suddenly been superimposed upon them. It would be absurd from the standpoint of human psychology or human experience to expect that Japan, an almost feudal nation, a land of powerful tradition and a thoroughly oriental viewpoint, could possibly about-face in a period embracing even decades. Certainly not in years.

In addition to the wide gulf that exists between occident and orient, there are many obstacles which stand in the way of the achievement of a democratic Japan.

Let us look at this conquered country through the eyes of a man who had the opportunity to study, first-hand, the rise and fall of democracy in Germany under the Weimar republic. It so happened that this observer also watched the attempts at the westernization of Turkey after the last war. Both

Germany and Japan lived in a semi-feudal atmosphere for centuries. Of course, the Germans belonged to western civilization but ever since 1870 they grew under what amounted to a military dictatorship in a highly disciplined society, a rigid class system with complete subservience to authority. In these respects Japan is similar.

Like Germany, after World War I, Japan has suffered a crushing defeat, has deposed an emperor, has absolutely no training in democratic organization or democratic action, no experience in parliamentary government as we know it. Political parties organized in the sense that we know them were utterly strange to both nations, and both peoples lived under an economy and a society based on the support, morally and materially, of a huge army and navy.

These are some of the difficulties which the Weimar republic faced and the young Japanese democracy is facing. Strong anti-democratic influences represented by big business and the aristocracy of blood and uniform, common to Japan and Germany, are at least latent in the former.

But perhaps the greatest parallel danger in Japan today—and the thing that eventually destroyed the Weimar republic—is the economic situation produced by inflation. Many students of history feel that Hitler never would have gotten even a start in Germany if it had not been for the chaotic condition caused by the terrible inflation.

Inflation today is one of Japan's greatest problems.

Economic Chaos Breeds Controls

It is quite possible that the Weimar republic, even under the best conditions and with the material and moral assistance of the democratic nations (which it did not get) never would have succeeded. On the other hand, it never had a fair trial, for economic chaos forced the dic-



GENERAL MacARTHUR

tatorship. There was no time to establish in the minds of the people or in the processes of government, a real, solidly built democratic philosophy. It is inconceivable that without a long period of education the Japanese can evolve politically to the point which the Germans never reached.

America's greatest bulwark of democracy is conceded to be the public school.

A whole new curriculum must be laid down for the Japanese. At present the shortage of books is serious. The old books are, of course, almost useless. There is likewise a shortage of trained teachers.

Another factor essential to the growth of a democratic government is security, without which individual effort cannot flourish.

Today in Japan no Japanese worker is sure that his wage in the rapidly deteriorating currency will provide him a livelihood. No industrialist is certain he will have purchasers and many are not sure their factories will be allowed to operate until the question of reparations is settled.

In other words, the Japanese lives, thinks, acts, by the grace of a superior force, the American high command. Remove it, and the anti-democratic forces will be let loose; maintain it without a solid foundation of native grown democratic structure springing from the people themselves, and you are merely removing a substitute for a MacArthur or an Uncle Sam, or a Mikado, and another will quickly be found.

Cut-Out Frame for A Set of Shelves



IMPORTANT pieces of furniture that give a room an air of distinction are much in demand and hard to come by. Yet this sketch proves that the thing can be done—and with very little trouble and expense too.

A simple set of shelves with a well-designed cut-out frame always adds distinction to any room. Place these shelves on a table or a chest of drawers and you have a really important piece of furniture that will go a long way toward giving the room a well-furnished appearance.

Pattern 264 gives complete directions for the shelves shown here and an actual-size cutting guide for the frame which is designed in simple curves that may be cut by hand or with a power saw. This pattern may be obtained by sending 15c with name and address direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills, N. Y. Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 264.
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SECURITY

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

In Salt Lake City, 50,000 deer contributed their fat to the fatless public.

Early news conferences held by Commerce Secretary Averell Harriman failed to reveal any secret and sinister bonds connecting him with Wall Street, the Kremlin, Secretary Wallace or the Florida hurricane.

Washington is full of dead leaves, and live politics, and it's hard to avoid slipping when you tread on either.

Three new elephants arriving at the New York zoo made no comment on the elections except to say that if the donkey led an ace, they would trumpet.