

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

PRESENT LABOR TRENDS SPELL REAL DISASTER

OUR TOWN, U. S. A.—This is Our Town, U. S. A., just like many another I suspect, and a rather astonishing place right now for everyone in it.

I should not say "astonishing" because no one is astonished at anything these days. Its peculiar condition is a chief subject of conversational concern among its residents, although not yet recognized in public statements. It just seems to be growing into something no one understands.

There is our plumber, for instance, as good a plumber as there ever will be. His integrity shows in his work. When he fixes a pipe, you know it is fixed, which is perhaps an unusual thing in itself these days.

In the past year, there were only three days out of the customary 365 in which his entire force of help appeared for work. They are making such high rates of pay that they can live comfortably (to the fullest of the liquor ration also) by working only half the time, and nothing can get them to work the other half. He keeps 12 men on the payroll in order to get the six necessary for his business.

I called the best bricklayer in Our Town to do a little job. He said he had gone out of business. His health could not stand the strain of trying to keep his troupe of bricklayers together, as none wished to work regularly.

FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS

It was not worth the trouble to try to handle them because you could never get a job done. He opened, instead, an old blacksmith shop which had been closed for 30 years. Yes sir, our leading bricklayer has become a blacksmith, a symbol of our progress.

The hotel manager in Our Town is a superior fellow, has had top experience in New York City, a progressive kind of manager who wants to make his food better, his place efficient and superior. He broke down trying to do it, and after a few weeks in the hospital is now taking a month's rest.

His waiters made enough money to allow them to retire each payday and return, either rested or bleary-eyed the following Tuesday or Wednesday. His maids went off to the local war factory where they could make \$30 a week and more standing around doing practically nothing. Some days only one employee showed up.

What has happened to Our Town? No one wants to work. No one who can live otherwise wants the responsibilities of an employer. It is not a manpower question (the men are here) or an economic question involved in all those statistics the government bureaucrats wrangle about. It is a state of mind, a condition for which there seems no remedy.

The elderly couple down the street finally got a man to wash their windows this fall, but he wanted \$3 a day for that simple task and they could not afford it. The kitchen maids ask \$30 a week—more than twice as much as a soldier fighting at the front—and sometimes get it.

But like others they do not want to work, as a group, and they increase their salaries while cutting their hours of labor and their days off, laying off when they accumulate enough money to rest up for a few weeks.

RUIN OF NATIONS

Is this a war situation or a local phenomena? I think not. It is not a war question because it started long before the war. Indeed it is the same condition to which most authorities ascribe the fall of France and it ruined Communism in Russia.

When conditions encourage people not to work, they naturally will not work, and when a nation does not work it deteriorates and gives its eminence to nations which are producers. A nation has no wealth except the product of its labor and when the production falls off, for any reason, it declines.

But what bothers me is the future. The government is pledged to an inflationary postwar policy of high wages and high prices, thus continuing the conditions which are causing the unofficial institution of the three-day week, of work avoidance and employer retirement.

I know labor leaders who doubt that the union people in our war factories can be kept at their jobs after peace in Europe. I hear authentic predictions of a breakdown in American production before Japan can be conquered.

This is Our Town already. Will it soon be our country.

The best possible nonpartisan authority recently has made a check of inner union campaign trends and returned here with doubts that put even California and Washington in unsure categories. Mr. Roosevelt is holding a good portion of the CIO.

Washington MERRY GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

EISENHOWER'S BRILLIANT PLANNING

Washington, D. C. When the inside story of General Eisenhower's European war planning is finally told, the American public will be amazed at some of the things he has put across. Here is part of the story:

Long before D day Eisenhower had timed every operation down to the last minute. The most important maneuver was to break through the Germans' Atlantic wall and wedge an opening through which other troops could pour. The German High Command considered this wall impregnable. Yet Eisenhower's driving demand for offense was such that he allotted his men exactly 45 minutes to get through.

He had each move so carefully timed and planned that, after 45 minutes, other ships, supplies, men would be piling up on the beach, would have no place to go unless the break-through was accomplished in the time allotted.

Before the invasion a full-scale replica of German fortifications was constructed in England, built from aerial photographs. And day after day, American troops rehearsed their break-through. The best time they were able to make in these rehearsals, however, was one hour and 30 minutes. But when D day finally came, thanks to General Eisenhower's dynamic planning, they made it not in 45, but in 35 minutes.

But with his advance into France timed to the hour and day, Eisenhower, after the original breakthrough, ran into difficulty.

Lieut. Gen. Omar Bradley kept right on schedule in penetrating south into Normandy. And Maj. Ben. Joe Collins was on schedule or ahead of it in penetrating Cherbourg. In fact, they had developed, in cooperation with Eisenhower, a new type of advance. Instead of advancing so many miles and then waiting for supplies to come up, as at the slow-moving Anzio beachhead, they developed the tactic of barging ahead regardless of supplies.

Thus General Collins surprised the Nazis and the world, ignoring Nazi machine-gun nests, forgetting about supplies and forging right into Cherbourg before its defenders knew what was happening.

Trouble with Monty.

Eisenhower's chief trouble, however, was with General Montgomery, whom Winston Churchill once described as "magnificent in defeat, insufferable in victory."

General Montgomery had been given Caen as his objective. But days passed and nothing happened. The offensive-minded Eisenhower kept hammering at Montgomery, urging an advance. But nothing happened. Actually, Montgomery had just as high a rank as Eisenhower, had seen many more battles, so Eisenhower was in no position to get too rough.

Finally, Air Intelligence showed that German resistance behind the Allied lines was a mere shell. He could tell from air observation that the Nazis were able to bring up only about 25 per cent of their needed supplies. Their reinforcements had to hide in the daytime, advance only at night. Most of the bridges across the Seine were down.

So Eisenhower, tired of waiting for Montgomery and already behind schedule, gave the order for General Bradley to ignore Montgomery and break through the Nazi lines to the south.

DEMOBILIZING OLDER MEN

War department officials are under heavy pressure to make one very important change in the army's plan for demobilization.

The demobilization plan did not consider servicemen's age. However, men overseas, particularly those in the European theater, have been angrily pointing out that the British demobilization program gives each man a specific number of points for age, thus assures older men a better break. The army said it had drafted older men "reluctantly," because most were heads of families. The GIs now point out that it would be equally logical to discharge these older men among the earliest, since they are needed by their families.

Veterans' administration studies reveal that the cost of keeping older men in uniform is greater than for younger men, since the army pays out large sums for dependency. Allotments have proved meager and scarcely able to keep families together. Yet, under the demobilization plan as it stands now, family heads would be among the last men to be released.

CAPITAL CHAFF

¶ The danger of a new crime wave as a result of letting returning war heroes keep captured revolvers and machine guns is worrying officials.

¶ Publisher Joe Patterson wasn't kidding when he explained that the New York News was dropping the "Presidential Battle Page" because of libel. He faces a libel suit from CIO's Beannie Baldwin. . . . The GOP accused Baldwin of drawing a salary from the government while working with the CIO and Patterson printed it.

'We Promised and We Are Back'—MacArthur



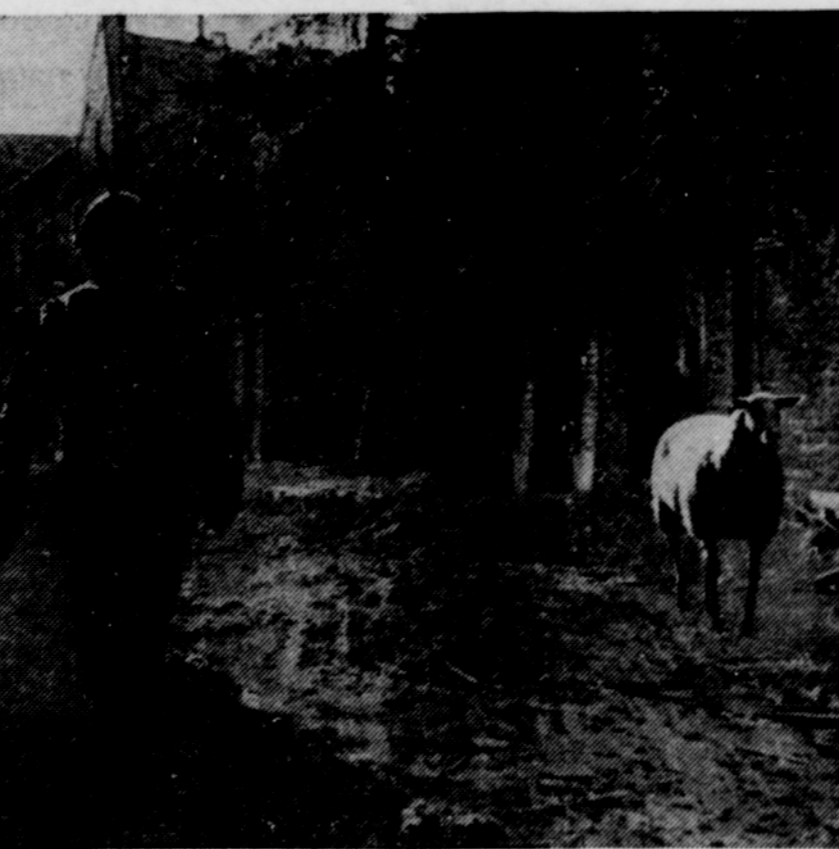
Gen. Douglas MacArthur (right), Lieut. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland (left), and Sergio Osmena, president of the Philippines, keep their promise and return to the islands—with American troops, in one of the steps to regain the islands from the Japs. Lower right shows a landing craft bristling with U. S. infantrymen as it cut its way toward the smouldering shore of Leyte island, the first major step in retaking the islands.

Big Crowds in the Rain and in Pittsburgh



President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits New York City (right) and is welcomed by a shower of rain. Governor Thomas E. Dewey is welcomed (left) at Pittsburgh amid showers of paper. Thousands turned out to look at and later to vote for their favorite for the office of President of the United States. End of campaign found Roosevelt the "betting" favorite despite claims of Dewey's supporters that he would spend the next four years in Washington instead of Albany.

The Sheep and the Liberator



An American infantryman, one of the new arrivals in Germany with the advancing American forces, making his way through a wrecked street in Ubach during the drive into German territory, passes stray sheep left behind by the Germans when they fled to hills during the air attack.

Eisenhower's New Deputy Aide



Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. chief of staff, congratulates Lieut. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, new deputy supreme Allied commander in the Mediterranean theater and commander general of the U. S. Mediterranean theater of operations. McNarney was awarded Distinguished Service medal and the Legion of Merit by General Marshall.

War Style Fishing



Air force fliers shown as they are ready to launch their deep-sea fish line beyond rocky coral cliffs of Marianas base, using a rifle grenade launcher for their 200-yard line. Good catches were reported.

American Captured



Mrs. Gertrude Legendre, daughter of John Sanford of Amsterdam, N. Y., according to German radio, was captured by Nazi soldiers while in company of a staff officer en route to Wallendorf, Germany, near Trier.

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. How many times a year do a clock and a sun dial agree exactly?
2. What sovereign, upon seeing an imitation of herself by a groom-in-waiting, said: "We are not amused"?
3. What country has the largest volunteer army?
4. In London what is Rotten Row?
5. Duncan Phyfe's best-known motif on furniture is what?
6. What country's legislative body is called the storting?

The Answers

1. Four times—April 15, June 15, September 1 and December 24.
2. Queen Victoria.
3. India. It has a volunteer army of 2,000,000 strong, according to the government of India's information service in Washington, D. C.
4. A fashionable equestrian thoroughfare.
5. A lyre.
6. Norway.

Good News! FOR FOLKS WITH SNIFFLY Head Colds

Quick relief from distress of head colds is what you want. So use Va-tro-nol. A few drops up each nostril soothe irritation, relieve congestion. Also helps prevent many colds from developing if used in time. Just try it! Follow directions in folder.

VICKS VA-TRO-NOL

Happy Relief When You're Sluggish, Upset

WHEN CONSTIPATION makes you feel punk as the dickens, brings on stomach upset, sour taste, gassy discomfort, take Dr. Caldwell's famous medicine to quickly pull the trigger on lazy "insards", and help you feel bright and chipper again.

DR. CALDWELL'S is the wonderful senna laxative contained in good old Syrup Pepsin to make it so easy to take.

MANY DOCTORS use pepsin preparations in prescriptions to make the medicine more palatable and agreeable to take. So be sure your laxative is contained in Syrup Pepsin.

INSIST ON DR. CALDWELL'S—the favorite of millions for 50 years, and feel that wholesome relief from constipation. Even finicky children love it.

CAUTION: Use only as directed.

DR. CALDWELL'S SENNA LAXATIVE

CONTAINED IN SYRUP PEPSIN

OLDER PEOPLE!

Try Great Tonic Many Doctors Advise

See how good-tasting Scott's Emulsion helps tone up your system; helps build up stamina and resistance against colds—if there is a dietary deficiency of A & D Vitamins. It's easy! Simply take Scott's daily throughout the year. It's great! Buy at your druggist's today!

AT FIRST SIGN OF A

COLD

USE 666

Cold Preparations as directed

To relieve distress of MONTHLY

Female Weakness

(Also Fine Stomachic Tonic)

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is famous to relieve periodic pain and accompanying nervous, weak, tired-out feelings—when due to functional monthly disturbances. Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such annoying symptoms. Pinkham's Compound is made especially for women—it helps nature and that's the kind of medicine to buy! Follow label directions.

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND