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Our Greatest Victory

Smashing of Japanese Armada Opens Way For Real Offensive Action in Pacific

When our newsmen bewailed their eyes last night they weren't just exercising their lungs. The brass brokers of good news had something to sell. The smashing American victory in what was probably the greatest naval engagement of all time ranks as news second to none in the war to date. It is the most terrible destruction dealt to the Japanese navy rivals last week's landing of U. S. forces in North Africa.

It marks no second front, but it is likely to make one possible. It does not end the war, but it assures a cut in its duration. It is the final thrilling answer to the old whine, "Where is our fleet?" Following the victories of the Coral Sea and Midway, the heavy blows to the enemy in the Solomons can mean only that the real Jap surface strength is spent.

Already counted are 23 destroyed enemy vessels (eleven of them warships), and the report of one engagement is still to come. That runs the total of Jap losses to 268 for the war—and according to the best estimates of November 1941, Japan had only 258 warships, afloat and in building. Most of those now resting on the bottom are merchantmen, transports and cargo ships.

Admiral Chester Nimitz was even more optimistic than most laymen at home. "I think they brought down everything they had," which would mean that Jap soldiers in the Solomons are doomed.

Too Many Cooks

The Government Has an Army of Jobholders

The rising tide of waste at home, keeping pace with a growing army and towering stockpile of new munitions, has drawn the full attention of an important Congressional Committee. Under Virginia's Senator Harry Byrd, the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-essential Federal Expenditures, hereinafter to be designated by its short title of JCRNFE, has already begun delving into the back drawers of bureaucracy, and even the preliminary figures serve to indicate a mess.

Exclusive of recent increases (an estimated 3,000 daily), the U. S. Government employed as of 8-31-42 almost three million civilian workers. If you include local and state government workers, the total runs over five million. That, claims Senator Byrd, is more than all the soldiers, sailors and marines in the world.

The Committee expects to be able to report soon that virtually all of the 81 separate Government agencies (there were but 30 in 1918) are over-manned themselves, are doing overlapping jobs, and generally getting in the way. In fact, the remedy is a combination of agencies, new assignments of duties, and the dropping of thousands from the public payrolls. The costly business of hiring everyone in sight stopped naturally into wartime from the heat days, but has so dangerous an outgrowth that it must be stopped. We drink to the success of that Joint Committee, which may yet effect a rescue.

And Sudden Life

Shall We Benefit By Our New Gains Or Turn Back to Sudden Death?

Strange as it may seem, a good many people in the United States are alive today because of the war. In the three pre-war years of 1939-40-41, more than 100,000 persons in the United States were killed in automobile accidents. The current year is far from a decided decrease in the average of 35,000 deaths in Charlotte, so far, four deaths against twenty up to this time last year) and next year, after the full effects of the national 35-mile speed limit have had a chance to be felt, the savings in human life will be astonishing.

War's end and the return to the old ways of going places are likely to present a question for the people of the country to answer. In fine, shall we reduce the speed that kills, or take it up with the top nation-wide limit of traveling like 45 miles an hour? It is not an uncomplicated question.

Untimely Probe Congress in The Solomons

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—A CONGRESSIONAL investigation of the Solomon Islands campaign is advocated by House Leader Martin and some others. Nothing could be more unfortunate than to have a full-scale Congressional investigation of the Solomons fighting in the midst of action. We are engaged in a critical campaign in the Solomons—and now we have added the North African campaign.

Undoubtedly Admiral Ernest J. King, commander of the United States Fleet, and other high naval officers will be willing to give a small group in either House, or the Naval Committee, a picture of what has happened. But to attempt a full-scale investigation extending over a period of days would be a disastrous thing.

First, we are in the midst of the fighting in both the Pacific and the Atlantic. The Mediterranean action raises many new problems because ships and supplies must be diverted to sustain that campaign. It will take the full ingenuity of our command to wage both campaigns at once. Their full time is necessary. They should not be asked to spend hours day after day in committee rooms at the Capitol when they ought to be at their desks to give instant decisions on the messages that are coming in at all hours. They are in the midst of operations and should give their whole time to it.

Second, any kind of full-scale inquiry now would have to be secret. Questions which are answered would concern current operations and would involve discussing military information of the most secret nature and of the utmost current interest to Japan. Perhaps this could be kept behind closed doors, but it is taking a long chance in a full-scale inquiry that might continue for many days.

Third, our high command consists of human beings. They cannot give full attention to current operations if they must be worrying at the same time about a premature post-mortem. Did you ever sit down to write a column and have the boss rattle with you in the middle of it and then try to set yourself going again? It is true in any kind of work. Admiral

Rivet Them Down

—By Herblock



Under The Nazis France Battles Famine

The Christian Science Monitor

upheaval has deprived us of nearly everything; we cannot now buy any linen, no underwear; no top wear. One silk nightgown was to be seen in Lyon last week at a price of 3,000 francs! There are no needles, no safety pins, no paper envelopes, and we have turned them inside out for many weeks; no blue. Not only working clothes are impossible to get but expectant mothers cannot find anything to buy for the coming babies; they have pockets but cannot get the goods.

Now our hens are mobilized, hens of the laying age. Each hen is to give the Government 30 eggs per year as follows:

Five eggs in April; nine in May; eight in June; five in July; three in August; two in September, etc.

Each big farm will have to be run by an expert accountant.

Life in the city is still more complicated. I passed one afternoon in Vichy on my way to Lyon; I had several appointments which detained me until seven. My train was to start at 4:45 the next morning and I was to be on it the greater part of the day. I rushed to buy some bread for my trip, the baker shops were closed; people were in their working bread was on the shelves but no one would open.

I went from one shop to another, trying doors, showing my tickets, through the window panes, crying loudly that I would be on the train the next day and would have nothing to eat. Finally a woman behind me on the sidewalk heard me and said: "Come to my home, I'll give you one. The inexperienced traveler has many surprises though all are not quite as nice as that one."

Decidedly.

—M. L.

Unoccupied France.

Here, we are anxious to be able to give two spoonfuls of germinated wheat to our youngsters each day. It is the only thing in this ghetto available somewhat our deficiency of food. We are trying the method.

Then our next worry is what to wear on our feet. Wooden soles with a few straps around are not ideal; they hurt, don't remain in place, and won't do for the snow. In a foggy way, suitcases and shoes always disappear first. The recent



"You've certainly got the idea, girl! Since that war plant has started its night shift, your egg output has doubled!"

Gas War Ickes-Henderson

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON—COME first inside administrative cluing attended Mr. Ickes' recommendation to Donald Nelson that fuel and gas rationing consumption be curtailed more sharply in the East.

As Fuel Co-ordinator Ickes knew (but the public did not) the Henderson Office of Price Administration had taken an immovable stand against the Ickes recommendation to advance rationing. Official reason for the new curtailment commotion is that the Navy and Army now want their oil and gas delivered on the Eastern seaboard. Also, the transportation situation is showing signs of deterioration. Only a few ocean tankers, so slow as to be of no use to the Army and Navy, are still in private operation. Officially, the tank cars are showing the wear of the terrific pace and repair shops are crowded.

But Mr. Ickes took some steps on the side to assure action. He privately told the major oil companies, Army and Navy requests must be given prior consideration before any consumer business, thereby proposing to leave less gas and fuel for public distribution, despite OPA. Official reason for the new curtailment commotion is that the Navy and Army now want their oil and gas delivered on the Eastern seaboard. Also, the transportation situation is showing signs of deterioration. Only a few ocean tankers, so slow as to be of no use to the Army and Navy, are still in private operation. Officially, the tank cars are showing the wear of the terrific pace and repair shops are crowded.

But some steps besides cutting coupon values can be taken. A great leakage in unnecessary consumption is supposed to exist rationed on a basis of mileage. Instead of coupon values, this in itself may make up the shortages Ickes foresees.

While the fuel and gas situation is darkened beyond expectations for Winter, drastic action against coupon holders is likely to wait.

Labor Speaks Out

That Truman Committee report demanding that the unions go to a 48-hour week for war work was written by a union labor man, Senator Arthur W. Capper, of Virginia, who is considered a mine worker representative. New Deal Senator Jim Mead is also on the committee, which has a strongly pro-Administration reputation.

Not only from this, but from other Congressional evidence, it is becoming plain that the 48-hour arrangement is to be changed. Obviously, the Government cannot try a draft of manpower or take many firm steps to promote war production in that way, with union labor enjoying a 48-hour week, and working on the average 42 hours.

This question, however, is primarily a matter of pay. Time and a half or double time is generally paid above 40 hours to union men. The miners, for instance, who until recently have been on the five-day week, are now going to work six, but they will get time and a half for the sixth day.

This practice opposes every Administration purpose—the holding down of income to prevent inflation, price limitations to keep down living costs.

Silence Greets Mass

Quietude was the answer to Representative Mass' hot broadcast deploring the inefficiency of our naval war effort in the Pacific, but his views represented what many Congressmen, perhaps a majority, really think, and have been saying among themselves.

Democrat Representative Lyndon Johnson of Texas has privately taken somewhat the same view, so it cannot be considered a political matter. No one has taken up these charges, however, for several reasons. The Naval command has been changed since the "sleeping cruiser" and other incidents occurred and naval communications have been issued more promptly the past few weeks.

Also, the question of a unified Pacific command is strictly Mr. Roosevelt's problem, and the Navy is considered a mine worker representative. Arthur's efforts and the Solomon Islands campaign under one head, and apparently he takes the position they are joined through him now. I had several appointments which detained me until seven. My train was to start at 4:45 the next morning and I was to be on it the greater part of the day. I rushed to buy some bread for my trip, the baker shops were closed; people were in their working bread was on the shelves but no one would open.

Visitin' Around

That Wasn't Currency, That Was Capital (37 Years Ago, Transylvania Times)

What about a man who offers to pay for a year's subscription to the Sylvan Valley News and who asks you to make out his receipt by offering a \$100? As we had just deposited we would not change the bill, but if he had not been bigger than we were there would have been a scrap right then and there. Do you think we would worry ourselves to death trying to get people to buy because of the brains distilled in our office if we had change for a one hundred bill?

16 Plus 28 Is 44—It's Two Years Early (North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. John A. Wheeling of Charlotteville, Va., arrived one day last week to visit his brother, Henry Wheeling, near Ekiville, a couple of weeks. This is his first visit to his former home county since he's sixteen years ago in 1928.

Overshoots Underfoot (37 Years Ago, Transylvania Times)

He would if it would not have come a little cheaper to the citizens of Brevard if they had hired hogs to fix up the sidewalks than it has been to have their overreeds dug out or lost.

Musky's Fell Forward (Weekly Chapel Hill, Monroe Journal)

Mr. John A. Secret had the misfortune of falling from a wagon and hurting his collarbone and several ribs. We hope him a speedy recovery.

The Sure-Thing Restor (37 Years Ago, Transylvania Times)

Mr. John A. Secret had an idea to change they would like to wear that V. J. Bryan will not be President of the United States if he lives, let them some around and we will cover their pile.

Has She Tried a Mustard Paste? (Southwest Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Mr. Woodrow Zimmerman, who sprained her ankle some time ago, is still feeling the effects of it, we regret to state.

Today's Bible Verse

God never stops speaking if we listen and observe. *—Scripture*
God never stops speaking if we listen and observe. *—Scripture*
God never stops speaking if we listen and observe. *—Scripture*