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Oil Fables

Germany Has Enough, Russia Might!

One busy salient for loose talk on the wishful thinking front lies in the realm of the German oil supply. From the start amateur "experts" have dreamed for us a dream of the terrible Nazi war machine coming to a clanking halt, oil-less and helpless. There has been a great deal too much emphasis placed upon that need of Hitler, and events of these days serve as proof thereof.

The gloating seers have apparently overlooked the fact that the Russian machine also needs oil—just as "desperately" as the German, and that, if Germany takes the Caucasian fields the Soviet will be left almost without oil, in one blow. It should be a simple matter of logic that Russian oil is far more important to the Russians than it is to the Germans. Hitler has done fairly well without it up to now.

One with a mind for figures might explain the Eastern oil situation without words. For example: Russia produced some 213 million barrels of oil in 1940 (all but 45 million came from the Caspian region). The relatively small amount in the East Russian areas is much less than Hitler now has the gets 50 million barrels from natural petroleum alone, more from well-developed synthetic processes.

That figure of 45 million barrels means more when contrasted with production by the rest of the world (1940 figures): The U. S. produces 1.2 billion barrels, Venezuela 184 million, Iran-Iraq 104 million, Netherlands Indies 61 million, Mexico 44 million. It should be apparent from those items that Russia cannot sustain her armored forces and still turn the necessary supplies to the big farm industry for tractors and other machinery.

It is not that Germany lacks for oil, but that her drive for it holds real peril for the Soviet Union.

Super-Colossal Hollywood Looks Forward To Big Wartime Profits

Outside the headquarters of Axis news agencies and the clamorous offices of our labor unions, we can't think of a spot on the cinema screen to be classed as irrepressible than our Hollywood. Since the beginning the ray capital of tinselology has pressed ever forward. These times find it actually increasing the tempo. There, never a thought of retrenching.

Reliable surveys point to an immediate bright future for the movie world. The Department of Justice, chances are, may relent on its restrictions of block booking of films, cut down production costs. Important pictures are being made, and earnings are expected to be higher than in many years for investors.

Out in the provinces, new money and its new stewards are ready for Hollywood's best. When wages began climbing, the tremendous flow of money into movie houses increased, and the tide still rises. The probability is that the \$30 million blocked by Britain in freezing foreign exchange is more good news to the magic moguls. The money, certainly, will be there for the taking. All of which is no sign that things aren't as they should be in a dizzy Southern California. Motion pictures spread propaganda effectively and perhaps with greater ease than many another agency. The Government can use Hollywood more and more. And if fat profits accrue from that use, who's to complain?

Fire Away, Boys

The President Opens Gates to Critics

President Roosevelt, apparently, is undergoing a change in his feelings about criticism. His record of sensitiveness to the barbs of the press has been long and loud; so long and so loud that fears were expressed that the New Deal might clamp down hard on press freedom. Nowaday, it is not so. The President has welcomed criticism of the war effort.

A Congressman who had attacked the "Gold Bar Brigade" of the armed forces in a blast at our inability to combat the submarine menace trembled in his boots when called into a White House conference where he learned he found himself

using even stronger language on the same subject.

Recently, The President publicly congratulated a Senator who had assumed a highly critical attitude toward the production phase of the war effort. He has been slow to make body-needed changes in personnel in the past, but has reached the point of open-mindedness on affairs in general.

The difference may be, in truth, that criticism leveled at the building of a war machine is, to The President, a very different matter from the sharp harpoons aimed at him personally. Regardless of rhyme, reason or background, we look upon the changed attitude as a good sign, believing that critics more often aid than hinder progress.

Changing Times

Law Business Declines, Medicine Speeds Up

Among the new casualties of war, we are told, the lawyers of the nation rank high. In special instances, of course, many an expounder of the big books is running wild expediting Government contracts. But in Charlotte and hundreds of other cities, the barristers have barged into barren times. It has been thus before. In wartime; but there seem to be new trends today.

A veteran News reporter says that, every time he passes the Law Building, he becomes depressed. Men there who once flourished are now just hanging on, with incomes dwindling. And, naturally, the lesser ones among them are turning toward practices smacking of shysterism. It makes our reporter sad.

This, indeed, seems to be no simple wartime slump for the profession. With the coming of the social evolution under the New Deal, people somehow found that they had less and less use for the talents of an attorney. The field is not what it once was, even without the war. Perhaps things will never again be like the old days. The national attitude and atmosphere change.

But, while law practice declines, Charlotte's men of medicine, their ranks depleted by departure of leaders into the armed services, find that their heavy volume of business is almost too much for them to handle. And this is probably the situation all over America. Many a physician, literally snowed under by business of his own and that of the departed, will become a rich man during these times. If he can collect, that is, and if taxes leave him a decent share. Finest medicine will be changing with the medicals as they have for the lawyers. Signs of the long-threatened coming of socialized medicine recur more frequently by the week. In the ebb tide of war, the United States may not recognize these two of its old, and favorite, professions.

Salty Sharp

CIO Stakes a New Claim, With the Wrong Stakes

The nation, we believe, has already reached the conclusion that, of all its troubles, Labor has benefited most from the huge war program. Indeed, research of any kind indicates that the fat increases of income have gone chiefly to the laboring classes. In face of that fact, the CIO stakes a bold counterclaim.

A statement from the Murray unions, issued from Washington, serves as a damper to this notion. It seems worthy of note, chiefly because of its setting in the fresh parlance of the American street. It was a charge against the President's anti-inflation drive that anyone could understand.

The whole program was "lost, strayed or stolen"; industry and the "boulevard farms" grew fat without control such as CIO suffered; the Morgenthau tax program was one of "soak-the-poor-and-spare-the-rich"; the Presidential prohibition to limit all personal incomes to \$25,000 was "a burp in a church"; to be quickly forgotten; rationing was a "crab-apple process"; and Leon Henderson was trying to play every position on the anti-inflation team.

Those were words calculated to arrest American attention. They will, perhaps, but only momentarily. Every section of the country knows too well how wages in war industry have soared over the norm. CIO's unknown spokesman commands the language of the day, but does not necessarily speak the truth. So far as one may determine, the basis is

Also Forced Back in Russia

—By Herblock



For The Big Show Free France Joins Up

By Pertinax

WASHINGTON

The new agreement between the United States Government and the Free French National Committee under General Charles De Gaulle is expected to do away with various embarrassments experienced on both sides in recent months in New Caledonia and French Equatorial Africa.

Those two French colonies are of great strategic importance and it has long been felt in Washington that American military commanders must have full use of them according to circumstances. But the arrangements concluded for that purpose with the representation of General De Gaulle in this country Feb. 26 and April 3 proved inadequate when they were put to the test.

While the United States Government made it a rule to treat with local officials "on the basis of their local administrative responsibilities," the Free French National Committee insisted that the central authority vested in it could not, ritually, be ignored and passed over. Hence the difficulties which, from time to time, have been mentioned in the press.

All Free French officials in the Pacific and in Africa did not react in the same manner to the American claim. Some of them were prone to comply immediately with all demands put forward from Washington. Others stuck to the letter of the instructions they had received from London. On that account, General De Gaulle had to do some administrative reorganizing.

We Take a New Line

At last, and it is a very fortunate development, the new arrangement provides for a channel of communication between the United States Government and De Gaulle's headquarters in England which did not exist before. Admiral Harold R. Stark, chief of U. S. Naval forces in Europe and Africa, Charles L. Bole, chief of staff of the U. S. Army's European headquarters will consult with General De Gaulle's staff.

So much as good. But it is to be hoped for granted that the relations between America and the French

National Committee have now been placed on a definite and stable basis? That all the problems which may conceivably arise had fair to be solved automatically? To indicate the gaps which still can be detected in the agreement, it suffices to explain how General De Gaulle sees his movement among the United Nations.

The common belief is that the Free French leader wants his National Committee to be recognized as the eventual government of France, as a government in exile. General De Gaulle's program, as recently defined, gives the lie to that assumption. Since it is not possible for the French people freely to assert their will, he explains, the National Committee only pretends to have a provisional authority and it intends to exert it solely for carrying out the will of the French nation as known before the surrender of June, 1940.

Undoubtedly, then, a majority of Frenchmen stand for the continuation of the alliance with England and the policy advocated by Pertinax and Laval repelled them. It develops upon the French National Committee to resign the French people by the side of the fighting nations.

Cashing the Little Chips

To fulfill that mission, General De Gaulle has set for himself a double task: (1) to insure the full participation in the struggle of the armed forces available to him and, in association with the Allies, to make the most of the strategic positions which have been or will be subtracted from the Government of Vichy; (2) to organize and co-ordinate, in all its forms the resistance to the Nazi occupying power, whether through France, is on the increase.

General De Gaulle does not think that he can achieve that aim unless the United Nations act on the principle that whatever relates to French resistance is of his concern and unless they regard him and the National Committee as the proper authority which normally takes charge of the French possessions whenever the will of the German conqueror and of the commission of armistice ceases to run.

Nazi Wedge

U. S. Wants British Empire

From the American Outlook (Published in London)

AMERICA'S designs on Britain grow more crafty and repulsive month by month—in the insensitive minds of the distortion artists who perform on the air in Germany, Italy and the enemy-occupied countries of Europe. The Spring campaign of English-language propaganda in Britain and from the European continent includes some choice inside information.

U. S. WANTS BRITISH WEST INDIES "The British 'clearance sale' to the world is going on happily. London has officially announced the formation of a common Anglo-U. S. Caribbean Commission. The real task of the Commission consists in preparing the handing-over of the British possessions in the Caribbean Sea to the U. S. A." (German broadcast.)

U. S. WANTS AUSTRALIA "In the sort of war with Japan which he (President Roosevelt) visualized, it would not be a matter of great difficulty for America to dispatch strong forces to Australia and New Zealand nominally for the purpose of defence but actually to take perpetual possession." (German broadcast.)

U. S. WANTS INDIA "The political crisis engendered by the British position in the world is welcomed by the Americans. It enables them to establish themselves more firmly and to get the reins into their hands. The Americanization of India follows the Americanization of Britain." (Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung.)

stretch from the English the Americans take it." (Breitlauf broadcast.)

U. S. WANTS BRITAIN DEFEATED "The American press columnist says that Mr. Thompson admitted sadly, as she happens to be one of the few American Anglophiles, that there are still too many people in the U. S. A. who wish for Britain to be beaten and pretty fast, in this view." (Breitlauf broadcast.)

Germany plays the propaganda game to win both ways. The edge of British psychology may still be so poor as to delude her into believing the English will yet accept at face value the Axis reports about the U. S. A. lose heart and withdraw from the struggle. The other alternative, which the enemy fears and which we are all pledged to achieve at any cost, is complete victory of the United Nations—Germany means, too, to see the world with her hands manacled and suspicion among the English-speaking people whose harmonious collaboration the future peace of the world depends. These seeds fall upon fertile ground indeed but the Boche's last hope after defeat is that some of them at least will have lain dormant, not dead, awaiting only the intricate process of peace to spring to life and flourish.

U. S. WANTS PROFITS AT BRITAIN'S COST "Once more Britain is paying for the war. Once more America is playing the part of war profiteer." (Green broadcast.) "America had been profiting in the years 1933-41 just as she did in 1914-18. At the expense of England, who must bear the burden of the war." (Breitlauf broadcast.)

U. S. WANTS ANYTHING ELSE BUT BRITISH "The British are hoping to see the American people's opinion on the subject of the war." (Breitlauf broadcast.)

Less Intuition

Changed Strategy

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

HITLER'S new plan of grand strategy for winning the war this year has now at last become apparent in recent events. It is the one he dreamed up in his "lonely night" last winter. The one he promised the German people would evolve from his "intuition." The most obvious thing about it is that his "intuition" is not as lively this year as formerly. Significant also is the fact that his plan for winning almost ignores Axis consideration and is limited to purely German objectives. It almost ignores the whole Italian theater of war, the operations of General Edmundo have been purposely led by Hitler to a dudshow. Most recent reports from that front make it clear.

The Rommel campaign originally was intended only to capture Tobruk. Hitler was greatly amused at the ease with which this was accomplished, and authorized further pursuit to capture Alexandria and Cairo, but would not furnish enough prompt plane reinforcements to assure that result. He refused to spare them from his own campaign in Russia.

There the whole mass of German strength has been centered to force an armistice before next Dec. 1. Even Axis-partner Japan has not fitted yet into Hitler's intuitive scheming (it may any day agree with an attack on Russia in the Siberian theater).

His Hooks Are Still Out

His naval strength has been centered off Norway for a sea blitz against Allied supplies to Murmansk (the results of this operation are still undetermined in view of the claimed Russian disabling of the Triples and the amazing German contention that they have sunk 33 out of 38 ships in one convoy).

In the Mediterranean, he has brought to bear only a few Italian submarines under German officers, and a limited number of planes to attack Malta and British convoys in Egypt. Also the Nazi submarine operations off our coast have been shown by events to be only a minor phase of Hitler's operations, despite our heavy losses, amounting to about 200 known and many more unknown ships.

His Russian tactics indicate nothing as brilliant as the German Army showed earlier in France and Poland. At Kursk, he struck at a already-chosen weak point between the central and the southern Russian Armies, cutting the railroads connecting them, and thus preventing them from getting reinforcements back and forth. This cut enabled him then to turn south against Marshal Timoshenko's Army with the immediate objective of destroying it and the ultimate objective of reaching the Volga, where he could sever the indispensable Russian oil supply route from the Caucasus or seize the fields himself.

But it is apparent from the way he is working, his military objectives in Russia are not limited to these points alone. His operations behind the lines already show that he is getting ready to hit at Moscow again in the north—if these southern operations do not work out well.

Unless he can destroy the Russian Army with this program, he cannot claim a victory in Europe, and he does destroy the Russian Army, he must still face the United States and Britain. All bad news now and for the next few weeks should be read in the light of these focusing facts.

The War Presents

A Black Picture

By Fletcher Pratt

(Overseas News Agency Military Expert)

WASHINGTON

THERE is nothing encouraging whatever about the strategic situation for the United Nations this week, and that greater efforts than are yet put forth are required to avoid the loss of essential positions this Summer.

The American Army has been heavily defeated on the only occasions when it has been in action, although it was much better trained and equipped than the forces which it was fighting.

On the Russian front nothing has changed. The Germans are still there in great strength of men, material and skill and are still able to take what they want to take at what cost to themselves we do not accurately know.

Marshal Rommel is farther into Egypt than any Axis army has been and is actively threatening the last British naval base in the Mediterranean. The defenders have put in their final reserves. It will be a matter of months before they can get any real reinforcements, but the Axis armies can be as they have been, readily reinforced across the Mediterranean.

The Japs Are Still Around

The Japanese are within a very little bit of setting up their line of all-overland communications between the Chinese north coast and their main bases in the South. With that line once in operation their material resources will be at least equal ours and they will be open only to direct attack across the width of the Pacific.

It is over a month since the Japanese forced a landing on the Aleutians, and only sporadic raids by lighted forces have been made against them there. In this position they are across the communication line with our Russian ally and hold the best line of approach to their home islands.

With the bulk of their forces engaged elsewhere the Japanese are still able to keep the fighting at the north edge of Australia down to the level of readiness cross-riding.

There is no sign whatever that the air raids have in the least upset German industry or disturbed the German hold on the continent. Ships are being sunk by submarines off our Atlantic coast faster than they are being built, and this does not count any ships sunk in other theaters of the war.

That is the situation as it is today. It is an extremely dangerous one and one of the greatest dangers is that people will think hopeless when the rest of the world of optimism emanating from official quarters is dissipated by events.

The situation of the Russians is a good case in point. With the fighting falling on the Don and the German thrust to Kopyansk they are in a more dangerous position than they have been since the start of the war. If the Voronezh line has actually been captured, it cuts the route from Moscow to the south. And vice versa. The first and most obvious drawback this yields is that it seriously hampers the flow of oil from the Caucasus fields to Moscow and the whole northern front. There is no alternative railroads to carry the traffic, it must go by water transport on the Volga; a much slower means, more roundabout, and one on which there is some doubt as to the quality and quantity of the transporting vehicles.



"Your mom is hunting us for turning the hose in the neighbor's window if she finds us. It's a pity it's just the 'unwilling war influence'!"

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Whereupon we advanced our Rockingham correspondent, whom we respect highly, to polish his crystal ball, which it may be well to say, had been ruined us, and him.—Editors.