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And Evening Chronicle

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1942

Double & Quits

The President Nips an
Inexcusable Labor Practice

The President's order eliminating double-time for work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, allowing it only for the seventh consecutive day of work, is more significant than appears on its face. It seems to say, inferentially, that even labor can commit excesses.

This double-time pay provision has been written into many contracts against the will of employers. They have accepted it because they had to, the unions refusing to enter into any agreement without it. And it stands to reason that if men are called to work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, it is because there is work which has to be done. Who's to do it if the workers don't do it?

The double-time device amounted almost to a legalized hold-up, and had no place in labor practices. There are a good many other provisions of the same kind, such as the "feather-bedding" of railway labor, which place a premium on idleness and waste, and do but discredit industry in general.

In bringing labor forward, the President actually chose to bring these practices along with it. Now that he has singled out one of the worst for outlawing, it is a hopeful sign.

The Encore

British Hit Madagascar With
An Eye on Future Operations

When the British swept down upon Madagascar with a major force yesterday and news of the offensive came, a great many people doubtless read, frowned, and said to themselves, "This is where I came in." That fat island, the last of the British Empire, has been stormed once. It was generally taken for granted that it was under Allied control. It was not, and because its possession may soon assume great importance, the British moved.

Behind the assault on the coast of the mountainous, jungle-tangled island is the story of coming operations in the area. The Allies, who surely discussed the move in the recent London conference, are tightening up around the edges of the Mediterranean theater. There is, too, another all-important reason for making Madagascar safe. Our own supply lines to Russia, never satisfactory, are thinning and breaking. The recent British announcement that we are losing half of the materials conveyed over the Northern route to Archangel and Murmansk speak clearly of failure. Ship movements will be shifted south, and to protect their movements, the Allies are making sure that no Madagascar-based submarines and planes are able to strike.

Talk which has swirled about Dakar on the opposite African coast, and the rapid deterioration of relations between the United States and Vichy, are related to this new drive. The High Command seems to have reached a decision to make sure of the Dark Continent, both to insure successful transport and to open new areas for the launching of coming offensives. In that light, a second attack on Madagascar is a preliminary step in time.

Welcome Note

Jonas Puts the War
Ahead of Politics

A model for all the Congressional campaigns in the country it might well be, Chas. A. Jonas' statement of the grounds and commitments on which he seeks to become a Representative from the new Tenth District. He covets to discard partisan politics for the duration of the war, and in using that phrase— which those who know him will accept in full faith—he virtually turns his back on many of his more zealous brothers in GOP. It is a war-time note that Mr. Jonas has struck, and of course it is exposed to the charge of opportunism. Never mind; if it be opportunism, the country could use more of that quality whenever it fell in so suitably with patriotism. The country could use, too, a cessation of the everlasting childish play of politics within and between the two parties. If ever the times called for adult Americanism, it is now. We do not think Mr. Jonas will be

elected to Congress. We do not think, in fact, that it would be a service to the war Administration, facing always the possibility of a Republican House, for a Democratic stronghold to send a Republican to Congress. But surely Mr. Jonas is due the gratitude of us all, of his worthy opponent in particular, for having determined to shun divisive tactics in favor of the grand strategy of winning the war.

Eye On Spares

Baruch Committee Lets
A Broad Hint Fall

There is iron in the rubber report. On the surface, it seems to say mainly that the rest of the country shall come tripping along on gas rations with the seventeen Eastern states; that non-essential driving shall be cut as necessary to keep the indispensable cars rolling; that more rubber shall be allowed for essential users; and that greater synthetic rubber capacity shall be installed at once.

But the additional capacity will be long in producing—late 1943, the Baruch Committee guesses. And while rationing will conserve tires now in use, it will create no new tires. Yet the report—and a thorough-going and realistic report it is, masters—recommends more recaps and new production for essential services. Where are they coming from?

The committee makes no specific recommendations but it does let out a pretty strong hint. Even the curtailment of driving which is proposed, it said, would be insufficient without intensification of such methods as car-sharing and—and this, we take it, is a sharper point of the report—Government purchase of tires from those who do not need them.

Tires are more precious than rubies, these days, and nobody can reasonably be expected to let them go except under compulsion. Whether or not the Government expropriates spares, reserve tires and tires on superfluous vehicles, is up to the Administration, but the committee appears to recommend precisely such a measure.

The Sign

Cramerton Mills Will Fly
"E" Pennant With Dignity

An Army-Navy "E" pennant is going to seem right at home fluttering over the Cramerton Mills. In that firm, a leader in the nation's combed-yarn industry, the military tradition is not new. Its founder, the late Stuart W. Cramer, Sr., was an Annapolis man. Its president, Major Stuart W. Cramer, is a West Pointer, for years a regular Army man. And fifteen years ago the mills, by developing their own cloth, accepted the first Army uniform contract of its kind.

Two years ago Major Cramer, head of the Southern Combed Yarn Spinners Association, began mobilizing his industry for war production. Today, 90 per cent of his company's output is for war use; over a million yards of uniform cloth are turned out of his plants every month. The "E" belongs there in Cramerton.

The 2,800 mill employees in the verdant Cramerton setting have broken production records in wartime, and the example this firm set in peace time is all the more noticeable today. Without industries like this one our armies could not take the field, and without the type of leadership it has had for two generations, this one would not have been ready when the need came.

A salute here to the Government's 34,000 full and part time publicity jobholders, who by their untiring devotion to duty manage to keep the war on page 1.

An undaunted dry says the country never wanted repeal; that it was an illusion. Possibly done with saloon mirrors.

Lost somewhere in forgotten Indian lore is the red man's secret of running a large continent without all this trouble.

Knocking off 92 Japs out of a possible 92 is perfect even in the progressive schools of arithmetic.



"Don't mention the foreman's nasty disposition to other if you don't want her to visit the plant and bawl him out!"

Down To Cases

Russia And Us

By Dorothy Thompson

OUR military situation is as grave as it can be. It is understandable that we stress every battle where American forces are engaged, and emphasize gains symbolic of their tough spirit. But they are only symbolic, and there is still only one front where the great war, in all its global implications, is being fought.

No gains in the Pacific, or in Egypt, or in the air fight over western Europe, compensation for defeat in Russia. The fate of the Russian front will determine the length of this war and the number of American and British lives that will have to be spent to win it.

Our Russian allies—I call them that though they try in vain to make a treaty of military alliance with us—are fighting in a spirit beyond praise. Their resistance before Stalingrad is one of the greatest miracles that Paul Reynaud, in France, invoked in vain. But the spirit alone is not decisive in this struggle, and we are not even helping that spirit adequately.

We will live bitterly to regret it. We have to face the strong possibility that soon the German troops will reach the Caspian Sea and cut the Volga traffic lifeline of Russia. It is obvious that the Russian army, a few months after that event, will be short of oil, and thus will lose its main offensive power.

Furthermore, the southern supply line to Russia will be cut, the most important food areas of Russia are already lost, and the steel center of Stalingrad is in shambles.

The consequences for us are that the Germans will be able to win a decisive war in Russia next year and to shift more than a hundred divisions to the West, together with the main part of their air force. The winter this year is not going to be on our side. The Russians have lost this summer the enormous riches of the Donets basin and to bring up materials from Siberia means that their communication lines are this time much longer than the Germans.

The offensive power of an army is not lost from one day to the next. There are still great reserves in Russia. And if the Russians are able to launch a successful counter-offensive late this fall or in the early winter, as they did last year, there is still a chance to turn the tide against the Nazis, who also are overextended.

But that tide will not be turned without our help.

Visit

Propaganda Mills

From The Hour

IN July the Washington Federal Grand Jury investigating Axis propaganda activity in the United States handed down an indictment listing a number of individuals, publications and organizations as participants in a conspiracy to promote "revolt and disloyalty" within the U. S. armed forces. Included in the list was an organization called the Constitutional Educational League. The head of the league is a man by the name of Joseph P. Kamp.

On Aug. 21 the editor of The Hour visited the New York headquarters of the Constitutional Educational League, a comfortable suite of offices located at room 361, 342 Madison Avenue, New York City. Decorated in a "patriotic" eye reminiscent of the late German American Bund headquarters, the League offices sported a huge American flag covering one entire wall. A batch of Joseph Kamp's subversive pamphlets, with titles such as "How To Win The War" and "and lose what we're fighting for," adorned the opposite wall.

The offices were the scene of hectic activity. Stamped and dressed manila envelopes were piled high on the desks and floors. They included Joseph Kamp's latest piece of Fascist propaganda—a pamphlet entitled Native Nazi Purge. The Conspiracy Against Congress. A couple of burly stormtrooper-type men wandered about the office, one of them, suspiciously eyeing the editor of this newsletter who was being told by a Miss Griffith that Mr. Kamp was not in.

After buying a copy of Native Nazi Purge Plot, the editor of The Hour left the office of the league and called Joseph Kamp on the telephone. The following conversation took place:

"Mr. Kamp, this is Albert Kahn, editor of The Hour. I was up at your office a short time ago but I was told you weren't in. I'd like to see you."

"I'm writing an article on the Fascist propaganda you're spreading and there are a couple of questions I want to ask you."

"Let me get your explanation for co-operating with William Dudley Pelley, who was just sentenced to prison because of the sedition propaganda he was spreading. I believe you

On Second Thought

Congress Settles Down

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
SOME thoughts in Congress on President Roosevelt's Labor Day demand for prompt action on price inflation and taxes are much more constructive than the first irritable explosions. Hardly had the clerks finished reading the Presidential message when a flood of comment was released raising the dictatorship question. Some thought they had another issue like the Supreme Court fight. Within a few minutes after the message was read, Senator Taft told the Senate that if the President tried to act without waiting for legislation, it would be the patriotic duty of citizens to defy his authority.

Now, after cooling off, members of both houses are taking a more reasoned attitude. Even two of the most intractable critics of the President, Representative Fish of New York and Representative Rich of Pennsylvania, urge prompt action by Congress. If for no other reason, Representative Rich wants to avoid a showdown that might result in President Roosevelt assuming dictatorial powers.

The more deliberate reaction in Congress undoubtedly is the result of common-sense taking hold. It was natural that the first effect in Congress of the President's blunt message should be one of resentment. But not much sympathy was forthcoming for Congress. Even the Republican New York Herald-Tribune, which is more interested in winning the war than in finding some way to put Mr. Roosevelt in a hole, felt that his insistence upon prompt Congressional action was justified.

Discussion in Congress now concerns practical ways of obtaining prompt action sufficient to enable the executive branch to deal with the unquestioned dangers that beset the war-time economy. With this probably will go strong instructions to the executive branch as well as rising prices. The Senate Finance Committee is moving with more ruthlessness to get the taxes where they want some. It is spending money that will aggravate price trouble if it is allowed to remain on the loose.

Most of the recent complaining about Leon Henderson as price administrator has died down. It is being more generally recognized now that his job is a thankless one and that if he does it effectively many people will be hurt. He is trying to do it effectively and gradually support both from the public and Congress is growing in recognition of his courageous attempt to do his duty.

The same reaction is setting in with regard to President Roosevelt. In the long run he will be more criticized for failing to do what needs to be done than for taking action, however painful the action may be to some sections of the public. In times like these, a leader who tries to keep people happy is to be suspected. If he is doing what he ought to do, he is going to hurt some people. Confidence grows, not around a leader who is pampering the public, but around one who is doing his duty regardless of fear or favor.

The same goes for Congress. Thin-skinned members of Congress have felt very much hurt at recent criticism. Some of them professed to see a plot to get rid of Congress. The criticism arose from disappointment and impatience at the inability of Congress to take adequate action, and at its lack of backbone in crawling to lobbyists like the Farm Bureau Federation lobbyist O'Neal. Pensions and X-cards dramatized and focused public dissatisfaction. Criticism has been equally rough on the President for temporizing with wages on WPA for its sluggish failure to get on top of the raw materials difficulty, and on all of the slow-moving inadequacy that has permeated this armed bureaucracy.

There isn't a shred of evidence anywhere that I know of to indicate that people want to get rid of Congress or lose any of our democratic methods. They just want them to work. They want democracy to be a success, and to be adequate to this crisis. Every survey of public opinion breaks down into that motive.

It is a healthy attitude, and, fortunately, one to which both the President and Congress seem to be responding.

They Did

—By Herblock



Post Mortem

Rommel Gets A Lesson

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON.
THE smart, Marshal Rommel got his nose caught in his own tank tracks at El Himeimat. He was snatched by a new adaptation of an old trick he played on the British.

The drive he started at the southern tip of that 31-mile British line was the opening maneuver of a full scale offensive. He maintained one third of his entire force against what he thought was the weakest point of the British line. At least it was farthest from the shore rail-road, and without any direct road back to the Alexandria base.

With skill he pushed his tanks through eight miles of British mine fields this lay out in front of their defensive positions, like a protective explosion apron. Mines, he counted, were not to be feared, and the British could not plant them as thick as carrots, a foot apart, but they had the field securely sprinkled.

The trick by which Rommel got caught, was to bury all mine-traps with artillery and gunfire to explode the mines, and his tanks to charge into safety over the pock-marked territory. This brought him up against the British defense line, and ready for battle. He found the line was not a series of trenches, but the use of defensive positions in depth, with machine gun pill-boxes and artillery positions—much artillery, more than he had seen before.

Rommel had brought along his magnificent 88mm guns, the big mobile cannon which served him so effectively against our tanks in Auchinbach's near-disaster at Gazala. There he had the fall of Tobruk.

Our General Grants and the British tanks were supposed to come out to do battle with his tanks in another open field conflict of the mechanized madhouse, whereupon Rommel would again unleash his 88s and make scrap metal of them.

The British need only one lesson. They kept their tanks safe inside their lines this time. Instead, they leveled their artillery at the German tanks and called up dive bombers, as well as fast fighting pursuit planes (hard to hit) carrying small bombs. These went after the Nazi tanks with great fury, in excellent clear weather. A sand storm hindered operations only the first day.

Rommel persisted in his position for several days, but he never got into the British lines. Wendell Willkie (who put more past the Egyptian censors than the correspondents) says 100 of Rommel's tanks were lost or crushed and ruined.

General Alexander then switched his bombers to the Nazi lines of gasoline pipelines, which crumbled for lack through the desert. After these had been pounded for several days, because of a shortage of fuel, Berlin explained away the misadventure as "a reconnaissance in force."

There can be no doubt from the size of the force, and the way Rommel used it, that this was a big drive to break the British line. It was the opening of a major offensive that did not fully materialize, because the first move failed.

And it failed, not only because we had more bombing power than his limited planes were could cope with, but drew in practically everything in the air for the Russian desert but, because General Alexander fought his superior airpower with skill matching Rommel's generalship.

This should keep Mister Rommel quiet for an indefinite period. He will probably need more tanks and gasoline before starting anything very important.

On the other hand, his losses may not have been sufficient to encourage the British to launch an offensive, especially as they now occupy a short compact battle line. Berlin explained away the loss in front of them offers Rommel, and with excellent short roads back to them.

At any rate, you can score the latest light on the Libyan front as a major defeat for the Nazis.

Visitin' Round

The Better to Mountain View
(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Emilie Brewer, Mountain View school girl, was a passenger on the Greyhound one day last week here to see Dr. J. S. Deans, oculist.