

ESTABLISHED 1888
By HAROLD L. ICKES
Former Secretary of the Interior
Under the guise of merging the
armed forces, the Army has
marched into the streets with a
bill which, if enacted, could be
used to destroy the executive arm
of the Government as it is now
constituted.

Harold Ickes

Army's Merger Plan Threat To Executive Arm Of Government

A more honest title for this new secret weapon the Army would be "A Bill to Bolster All Other Departments and Agencies of the Government Simultaneously and Secretly."
What the Army's proposed bill does in addition to the War and Navy Departments into a single Department of Common Defense is to establish a National Security Resources Board, another one of those "new and independent agencies" of the United States is notorious. The chairman of this board, the Secretary of the War Department, is the Secretary of State, under the bill, comprise a triumvirate known as the Council of Common Defense and Resources Board are given powers so broad as to be revolutionary.

TAKES OVER SECRETARY OF STATE'S FUNCTION

For all practical purposes, the foreign policy of the nation would be determined by the President and the triumvirate and not by the President and the Secretary of State as it is now.

The bill authorizes the new agency, the National Security Resources Board, to prepare and maintain an inventory of the natural resources of the United States, to conduct policies and programs for the purpose of maintaining adequate strategic materials and conserving our natural resources. . . . to formulate policies and programs for the maximum use of the Nation's resources."

Since the Nation's resources include not only minerals but also forests and soil, fish and animals, the bill would do away with the necessity for a Department of the Interior with the Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey, General Land Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Reclamation Service and Bureau of Reclamation. Nor would there be any place for a Department of Agriculture with its soil husbandry programs or its Forest Service.

DUPLICATES DUTIES OF LABOR AND COMMERCE

Another section of the bill provides that the board shall prepare and maintain adequate information on the manpower, resources, and productive facilities of the Nation. This would, to say the least, duplicate the work of the Labor Department and the Commerce Department.

Despite these broad specific powers, just in case the board will be disposition to retain certain of the existing departments, the bill provides that the board shall have "with respect to decisions of the Board which affects agencies beyond the control of the Council or not represented by members of the Council, appropriate action (a) . . ."

Hal Boyle

Brooklyn Boys Gave The Army What It Needed To Win War

By HAL BOYLE
BERLIN — (AP) — Who won the war? Brooklyn. Because her sons gave the Army what it needed to win the war. They gave it the "mole" who could dig as fast as a mole. They gave it the "fox" who could throw a horse-shoe in the air and control the center of the ball without hitting someone from Texas, and what Texas was in the air Brooklyn was on the ground. If you picked any five guys at random from the Infantry, one of them would be from Brooklyn. It was always one of the mysteries of the war how so many subway riders managed to end up among the "walking soldiers." And the bunions they brought home

Call Truce Temporary Senate Urged To Go Ahead With Strike Controls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senatorial critics declared today that John L. Lewis' coal strike truce is "only temporary and demanded that the Senate go ahead with strike control legislation."

Senator Eastland, Democrat, Mississippi, told reporters he will insist on speedy action on a revised version of the House-approved Case bill, which the Senate was expected to take up this afternoon immediately after disposing of the \$2,750,000,000 British Loan Bill. "Lewis offers the American people a temporary reprieve from death," Eastland said. "The fight must go on to curb him and his kind. Congress shouldn't leave the power in the hands of any one man to destroy the nation."

Devers Faces Inquiry Denies Calling Solons 'Cowards'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman May announced today the House Military Committee will "investigate immediately" a report, since denied, that Gen. Jacob L. Devers referred to Congress as a group of "cowards."

In a statement last night, Devers said "I did not use the word 'coward.'"

Draft Action Is Held Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — An objection by Representative Sheridan, Democrat, Pennsylvania, blocked immediate House action today on stop-gap legislation extending the draft law until July. Sheridan, a member of the Military Committee, objected to a report which Devers was quoted as referring to Congress as a group of "cowards, afraid to tackle the controversial draft bill."

Report 3 Planes Crashed In Fla.

PENSACOLA, Fla. — (AP) — A state forest service dispatcher reported today that three B-24 state forest bombers and a small plane had crashed and were burning in a remote area several miles north of Munson, Fla.

House Vote For Subsidy To Aid OPA

Deadlock Over Housing Demand

By FRANCIS M. LE MAY
WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration hopes for the OPA soared today after the House reversed itself to vote \$400,000,000 in subsidies for emergency home-building program. The tally was 187 to 158. Last month the Chamber turned down the premium payments, 161 to 92. Democratic leaders attributed the change to the top-dog Eastern races, which gave many members their first chance in months to find out at home how their constituents are thinking. Speaking privately for the most part, these leaders voiced confidence in the House since it would face on price control extension which the House last month hammered down to a point where OPA Administrator Paul Porter said the agency would be without power after June 30.

King Abdicates Umberto Granted Lease On Throne

By JOHN P. MCKNIGHT
ROME — (AP) — The Italian Cabinet approved today the assumption of the throne by Crown Prince Umberto, but specified his powers would extend only until June 2. On that day the Italian people will decide whether to continue the monarchy. The ministers decided Umberto could sign decrees "in the name of Italy" but not use the signature, "by grace of God and will of the people." Umberto's father, Vittorio Emanuele III, abdicated last night after a 45-year reign and sailed for Egypt. Communists oppose Umberto, and the Socialist press today called him the "King of May" and declared in its headlines "Fascist Prince succeeds Fascist King for 23 days."

Bank Clerks Dazzled Low-Necked Dresses Used To Advantage

CLEVELAND (AP) — Postal inspectors say Mrs. Helen Czarnacki's distractingly low-necked dresses helped them in a three-year search. The extensively-dressed Cleveland woman pleaded guilty before Federal Judge Emerich B. Freed to a charge of stealing from the mails and was sentenced to two years in Federal prison. Her husband, Harry, alias Campbell, 32, received a similar sentence on a charge of possessing stolen checks. Postal inspectors say they never obtained a sharp description of Mrs. Czarnacki because she made a point of wearing extremely low-necked dresses which she changed every two days.

Coal May Be Mined During 2-Week Period

UMW Chief Moves On Eve Of Conference Called At White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — John L. Lewis today called for a twelve-day truce in the soft coal strike, beginning Monday. Lewis wired every local union president urging him to arrange for the 400,000 striking United Mine Workers to get back on the job as soon as the local mine management agreed to make retroactive during the truce any pay increase later negotiated. OPERATORS BLAMED "This action is the contribution of the United Mine Workers of America to our nation's economy," Lewis telegraphed the locals, "which is being imperiled by the stupidity and selfish greed of the coal operators and associated financial interests and by demagogues who have tried to lash the public mind into a state of hysteria rather than grant justice and fair treatment to the men who mine the nation's coal."

WAGE BOOST CONSIDERED

Simultaneously a close associate of President Truman reported the Chief Executive was considering proposing an 18 1/2 cent an hour wage increase and the establishment of a commission-controlled health and welfare fund in an effort to end the strike. This official, who cannot be named but who participated in discussions of the plan, said the President appeared to have decided he would make a definite proposal in the hope of obtaining a compromise. This plan, he said, included no provision for royalty payments on coal produced, such as operators say have been demanded by Lewis. As the White House proposal tentatively took shape, it was reported as follows: Establishment of a three-member commission which would supervise the collection and distribution of a fund to be established for miners' health and welfare. One member of the commission would be chosen by the operators, a second by the mine union and a third named to represent the public. While Mr. Truman was reported as definitely opposed to the levying of a royalty to finance the health and welfare fund, his proposal reportedly left the method of establishing necessary money to future agreement.

At White House 'Hon' Lewis, 'Mr.' O'Neill Conferees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House listed the "Hon." John L. Lewis and "Mr." Charles O'Neill as participants in today's coal strike conference with President Truman. "Mr." O'Neill is head of the Northern Appalachian group of mine operators and acts as official spokesman for the mine owners' negotiating committee. The "Hon." Mr. Lewis is, of course, head of the United Mine Workers. Their names were so posted on the press room bulletin board. "FAMINE GARDENS" ROCHESTER, N. Y. — (AP) — They are no longer victory gardens in this section. Howard Kemp, gardening columnist, groping for a more appropriate name for his own "vegetable patch," suggested that "star" gardeners adopt the title "Famine Gardens."

The Sky The Limit Navy Gambling Hall In Hawaii Described

WASHINGTON (AP) — An account of a Navy-supervised gambling hall at Pearl Harbor specializing in roulette, craps, blackjack and poker was laid before the Senate War Investigating Committee today by Rear Admiral Austin K. Doyle, Deputy Inspector General. Doyle said a chief boatwain mate was stationed in the hall "to keep order, regulate the gambling and see that only the proper personnel were admitted."

Weather Official Weather Bureau Forecast

Increasing cloudiness and warmer today and tonight with showers and scattered thunderstorms. Temperature at 3:00 today high and low 64 and 46. Wind from the north at 10 to 15. Sunrise today 6:10. Sunset tomorrow 7:40. **Professor Maxwell's Advance Predictions**

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