

P. 7. - Sunoco. Friday, Mar. 26/43. Lynchburg, Va.

~~SUBSTITUTE FOR FIRST PARAGRAPH OF FOOD STORY~~

With meat rationing about to begin, and with weekend shortages

resorted all over the country, there is an acute focus of

*All the people here in Lynchburg, Va. where I am this evening, are talking about it.*  
attention on food. And, today in Washington the food crisis brought

about some rapid bits of action and counter - action.

Yesterday the President appointed Chester C Davis to head a new

agency in charge of problems of food, and now we have a new set

of presidential announcements that mark a considerable change of

White House Policy .

~~END~~

FOOD

The food crisis in this country brought about some rapid bits of action and counter-action in Washington today, this following the President's appointment yesterday of Chester <sup>and</sup> Davis to head a new agency in charge of the problems of food. We now have a set of presidential announcements that mark considerable change of white house policy.

President Roosevelt declares that <sup>the</sup> new food administrator, <sup>Chester</sup> Davis will have full authority, unchallenged command- in dealing with such matters as farm production, farm prices and agricultural manpower. Davis will cooperate with the office of price administration, but he will have the final say. <sup>A</sup> at least such was the impression given at the White House press conference today.

<sup>AP</sup> The presidential grant of food authority to the new food administrator is in accord with the establishment of the new food control agency, as announced yesterday. The novelty and unexpected turn of policy is to be found in a phrase that <sup>today's</sup> ~~the~~ news gives us- "land army". That is, an army not for land fighting but for land farming. The president stated today that a new

huge land army will be formed to work on the farms and help in the production of crops. He said that this agricultural mobilization will be directed by the new food administrator, who will be in command of the march to the fields.

TP The President made <sup>the</sup> comment that the land army might well recruit high school pupils. The youngsters may not qualify as skilled agricultural labor, but, the President remarked that they would be able to do a lot of chores down on the farm- as the farmers boys and girls have always done.

TP The President stated, furthermore that soldiers will be furloughed from the Army to work on the farms. Soldiers who were agricultural workers before they were drafted will get temporary leave to help in the cultivation of the crops necessary to meet the food shortage. The President qualified by stating that such farm work furloughs will not be granted troops who have already completed their training and are ready for combat - only such that are no more than partly trained will be released temporarily.

TP This today is quite a change. The administration and the Army had previously rejected proposals to furlough soldiers to agriculture.

~~agriculture.~~

Altogether, these new plans for food production constitute a White House novelty- if not a White House reversal. A reversal to avoid a reverse- some say, pointing to the revolt in Congress on the subject of farmers and farms. <sup>TP</sup> The supposition is that today's Presidential moves are in the nature of strategy to take the play away from Congress- the President himself assuming the lead in doing things to expedite the growing of food on our broad acres.

<sup>TP</sup> For one thing- there is the Bankhead Bill, which proposes to defer all farmers from the draft, keep them on the land. This is opposed by the Administration and the Army; But the Bankhead Bill has been okayed by the Senate, and is now before the lower House. The Presidential announcement of a land army and <sup>of</sup> soldier-farmer-furloughs might be considered as obviating the necessity for the Bankhead Bill- and thereby may stop it.

<sup>TP</sup> The reaction in Congress was prompt, ~~though not on a score with the Bankhead Bill.~~ There is still another measure to which the White House is hostile- the Pace Bill, which would have the effect of raising farm prices. The Administration denounced it as

another step toward inflation, and today the Pace Bill was put on ice- at least temporarily. The Senate voted to send the Pace Bill back to the Agricultural committee for further consideration, for hearings, to be precise. The Committee had okayed the Bill without public hearings, and now the Senate says to the Committee:—"You can take the Bill again, and hold some public hearings, and let people discuss it."

TP Thus Congress executes a retreat as the White House moves to take the food — farm leadership. Yet Washington advices indicate that the Pace-Bill-retreat before the Administration was only partial.

There was still another angle. We are told that the legislators delayed the measure that would increase farm prices, because they wanted to check Labor Leader John L. Lewis. The big boss of the mine workers is demanding wage increases, and his big argument is: the Union men should get more because food prices are rising.

TP Today, John L. Lewis testified in what the Washington News dispatch calls "A stormy Senate hearing." Storms and Lewis are almost synonymous. The union leader with the big eye brows and the equally big voice, told a Senate Committee that all was off with the

no-strike agreement, which labor leaders had concluded with the government at the beginning of the war. Lewis denounced what is called- "the little steel wage ceiling formula." This formula, which limits wage increases to fifteen percent above the prevailing rates on January first, nineteen forty one, is official with the National Labor Board. And Lewis stated that when the Labor Board adopted the Little Steel formula, it put an end to the agreement outlawing strikes for the duration of the war. Hence the threat to strike by four-hundred-and-fifty thousand soft coal miners.

*P* Lewis added that inflation was being caused by exorbitant profits that the corporations were permitted to make on war contracts.

*P* All of which produced a lot of acrimonious wrangling- John L. Lewis being an old hand at wrangling acrimoniously.

END

## TAX

The tax debate in Congress today brought charges that unless we have skip-a-year and pay-as-you-go, increasing numbers of tax payers will have to borrow increasing sums of money from loan sharks. Republican Congressman Reid, of New York stated that already the loan sharks have lent a hundred million dollars to small tax payers who couldn't raise the cash for their payments-- except by borrowing. The Congressman declared that many of them are paying usurious interest of from one-hundred-and-twenty to two-hundred-and-forty percent.

"This very moment," declared the Congressman, "loan sharks are hanging around the war plants like vultures. But this is only a beginning," said he; and <sup>then he</sup> added that lending agencies estimate that five million people will have to borrow money to pay the June installment of their income taxes.

~~In opposition to the Ruml Plan, Administration supporters hammered away at their argument that tax forgiveness would help people in the high income brackets. Congressman Lynch of New York called the Ruml plan-- "Ready relief for the rich".~~

In the midst of the debate Republican leader Joe Martin of Massachusetts repeated his belief that skin-a-year, pay-as-you-go would muster enough strength to pass through the House.



## INDIA

An ominous declaration was made in London today- the threat of a revolution in India. The House of Commons is beginning a debate concerning Ghandi- specifically on the subject on a British government White Paper which charges that the Mahatma was responsible for the rioting in India that followed his arrest. Also - that he was ready to deal with the Japs. Supporters of the Indian cause are rallying their forces in the Commons, and today an Indian leader in London stated that India must be given full freedom immediately.

"We shall prevail if not by peaceful negotiations- then by revolution,"

*said he — and*  
~~and he~~ furthermore <sup>he</sup> called upon the United Nations and especially the

United States to proclaim the independence of India immediately, *as*

*though that were our job.*  
END

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that Red Army forces are attacking the second line of the defenses of Smolensk. <sup>That</sup> They have driven through the first line of fortifications guarding that key point on the German front in Central Russia. <sup>At that now the Reds</sup> ~~and now~~ are assailing the second string of defenses ~~this is a point~~ <sup>to the</sup> ~~about fifty miles~~ North East of Smolensk.

Moscow tells of Soviet troops crossing the ice of the River Dniester in the Smolensk area, the Dniester still being frozen over. The Germans are resisting with a ferocious determination, battling for every foot of the ground- say the Russians. Nevertheless, the Red Army spearhead is driving deep into the defenses of what is probably the greatest and most powerful stronghold the World has ever seen.

END

FRANCE

We hear the Nazis have seized all American men in former Unoccupied France and reported them to Germany-- Americans and British too.

This report comes from Switzerland and states that last week Nazi authorities rounded up Americans and British, kept them for a while in concentration camps in Northern France and then sent them on -- to Germany apparently.

END

## AFRICA

The complex battle of Tunisia is simplified in the news today, with activity ~~concentrated~~ <sup>concentrated</sup> on the Mareth line. There a savage battle continues to rage, with Rommel hurling massed tanks and infantry against the advancing British. For advancing the British are- and they have driven another wedge into the Mareth line fortifications.

They did this same thing several days ago, only to be thrust out-- their wedge eliminated by fierce German counter-attacks. Now they have pushed forward again and <sup>have</sup> hammered their way into the powerful and complex line of forts. The issue, at last reports, was still undecided, the issue of whether the British this time would be able to burst through, smash a breach in the Mareth line and pour on.

TP While this was in the balance, little activity was reported on other Tunisian fronts. We hear nothing about <sup>the</sup> a British encircling force that swept around the Southern edge of the Mareth Line. Several days ago <sup>making</sup> a wide swift detour through the desert. This armored column was described as being in the rear of Rommel's fortifications. But of late nothing has been heard from it.

In the American sector, things were quiet with our troops well established in the hills east of that last important point which they captured - Maknassy. We are told that the soldiers of the USA stand now at the last line of "Natural difficulty" - and before them lies nothing but the level coastal plain leading to the sea.

*Tonight*  
They are consolidating and bringing up forces to launch a blow from that favorable strategic point--getting ready while the British Eighth Army continues it's effort against the Mareth Line, where Rommel has dug in so strongly.

END

## NORTH AFRICAN FRENCH

Tonight two French Generals are conferring in Algiers, High Commissioner General Giraud and Free French Representative General Catroux.

Their talks are expected to prepare the way for a meeting between Giraud and the leader of the Fighting French, General DeGaulle.

A short while ago Catroux was named as a liaison officer, a Fighting French representative in the camp <sup>of</sup> Giraud. <sup>He</sup> ~~He~~ and Giraud are old friends. We are told that their conference tonight is for the purpose of the clearing up ~~merely~~ minor problems-- these to be got out of the way in preparation for the forthcoming Giraud ~~and~~ DeGaulle conversations.

At the same time ~~a~~ former powerful supporter of Vichy has left the Giraud administration. He was <sup>the</sup> chief Economic delegate- who had been appointed by the Petain regime at Vichy. In spite of this connection he aided the landing of the Americans in the North African offensive. Nevertheless, he was considered objectionable to the Fighting French of DeGaulle and therefore embarrassing to <sup>G</sup> Giraud. <sub>^</sub>

Now he has resigned.

END

QUININE SUBSTITUTE *2-27-50*

We are told that things certainly are going to smell strong in North Africa this summer-which hardly sounds like news. Everybody <sup>who</sup> ~~has~~ has ever been to the lands of Islam <sup>a</sup> has experienced the great variety of scents and aromas that assail the nostrils. However, this summer North Africa is going to smell even stronger-and all because of the American soldiers.

It seems strange to think of our boys in odoriferous competition with the followers of the Prophet along the old barbary coast. I suppose the bathing facilities of our troops are none too good in actual battle, but you would never suppose that Johnny Smith or Billy Jones would have a chance of smelling half as loud as Abdul Hassan or ~~sidi~~ Mohamet *Amanullah*. However, it's true-and it all comes under the head of malaria protection.

North Africa is malaria country, particularly from April to November.

The malady is transmitted by mosquitoes, of which North Africa has a rare and powerful assortment, <sup>So</sup> ~~it's an old world New Jersey in fact. So~~

the American soldier will have to spray himself regularly with what today's Algiers dispatch calls-"A particularly offensive mosquito repellent." the

smell of which will drive mosquitos away. ~~offensive and Repellant?~~ that  
describes pretty accurately <sup>some of</sup> the perfumes wafted by the North African  
breeze, to which perfumes the American soldier will add one more.

END



ENGLAND

The manner in which the British take up American ways is often a source of wonder to American's. The latest from London tells us of sedate Englishmen and frosty English women strolling around Trafalgar square and shouting

to each other-<sup>Hi</sup> "Wi de hi" and "Ho de ho". And that should <sup>just about</sup> make Lord Nelson turn a somersault at the top of <sup>that famous Trafalgar</sup> his pedestal. <sup>square column,</sup> But then Lord Nelson himself had <sup>his informal moments.</sup> <sup>TP Anyhow</sup> The new outbreak of Americanism in Britain ~~seems to have~~ hit the headlines when a protest was lodged in the <sup>H</sup> House of Commons a

week or two ago. An M P got up and made a charge against a top lofty military officer, who was later identified as Lieutenant-Colonel W B V Gates, <sup>Left-tenant Colonel I should say</sup>

a veteran of Dunkirk. The M P declared that <sup>Leftenant</sup> Lieut. Colonel W B V Gates issued an order telling subordinate officers and enlisted men what they should say when they salute each other. The officers were instructed to sing out

"Hi de hi". And the enlisted men were commanded to reply- "Ho de ho". <sup>TP Can't you just</sup> <sup>of Guardsmen</sup> <sup>with the</sup> ~~So you can see his majestys~~ regiment, drawn up in formation, <sup>and Major,</sup> the <sup>Cholmondeley - Chumley</sup> ~~Cholmondeley - Chumley~~ <sup>approaching smartly,</sup> ~~struts out before them:~~ "Hi de hi", yells <sup>right Honorable Vivian</sup> ~~Chumley~~

the Major. "Ho de ho" roars the regiment.

It all seems like a gag in a Broadway show, but we are told that the

Sheet two ENGLAND

order was actually issued by Lieut <sup>Left-</sup> Colonel W B V Gates.

The charge in the commons immediately got a play in the London papers-

with the cartoonists hopping to it. The thing caught on, and ~~now all~~ <sup>today the</sup> news comes solemnly over the press wire that all London is echoing with those yip yap expressions:-Hi de hi M'Lord.

Ho de ho, your grace. And s-l-u-Monday.

END