

UNION

L.J. - Standard Friday, Dec. 31, 1943.
Sun

Hollywood:

One large segment of railroad labor today turned down President Roosevelt's proposal of arbitration. The fifteen non-operating brotherhoods said -- "no". The unions had previously asked *him to* give a ~~amfi~~ decision on the subject of overtime pay. To which the President responded that he would arbitrate not only the over time but also a straight wage increase. This wage increas^e_a has been set ~~it~~ at from four to ten cents an hour on a sliding scale.

TP The union declaration today is that they don't want the joint arbitration of both the overtime and the straight wage increase. (~~They say this would be what they call "gross injustice". They'll accept the President's decision only on the overtime~~)

FOLLOW STRIKE

The three dissenting operating unions issue a statement which blames the Administration for the strike crisis -- saying that action taken by the government prevented a settlement. And they add: "If this situation has any effect upon the war, or offers any psychological comfort to Hitler the labor unions are not responsible".

F.D.R.

President Roosevelt is ~~going to~~ celebrating
the New Year in bed. The President has been having
a cold in the head which now has developed into
grippe, a mild case of the flu. His physician,
Rear Admiral MacIntire upon applying the clinical
thermometer ~~at~~ today found a half degree of fever
so he ordered the Commander-in-Chief to stay in
bed -- and even the Commander-in-Chief takes orders
from the Doctor.

INVASION COAST

London tells us that a new and dramatic turn has come in the bombing of Hitler's Fortress Europa. Last night and today great fleets of assault planes struck at short range. That is, just across the channel -- the ~~immense~~^{invasion} coast. ~~and~~ And British military commanders believe that this is the beginning of the aerial prelude to the second front -- that immense and prolonged ~~an~~ pounding that will be necessary to smash ~~an~~ the way for the invasion landings.

Not that we are to think ~~of~~^{that} the second front, is close at hand. The Germans ~~are~~ known to have constructed an elaborate underground system of defenses protected by concrete and steel all ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ along the French Coast facing Britain and this will take a tremendous amount of pounding.

The British expect the ~~xx~~ bombing to go on day
by day mounting in a crescendo, until the climax is
reached [^] that zero hour just before invasion barges
push ashore.

FOLLOW INVASION COAST

While the invasion coast was being bsted
today, American Flying Fortresses and Liberators
flew further on and assailed two ball-bearing
plants near Paris.

ADD INVASION COAST

A Stockholm dispatch quotes the Mayor of Berlin who describes his city in these two words:- "almost unrecognizeable". Mayor Ludwig Steed of the Nazi Capital painted a grim picture of the tremendous havoc wrought by Allied bombings. And other Germans arriving in Sweden described the famous Unter den Linden as "a street of skeleton buildings".

HITLER

Hitler today issued a proclamation and reviewed the old year. And it's hard to find fault with what the Nazi Fuehrer said. "The year of Nineteen Forty-three", he told the German people, "brought us the heaviest setbacks". Right you are! Adolf -- it was a punk year for you cut-throats.

And Hitler looked forward to the new year with no buoyant cheer and joy. All he could see ahead was a second front invasion and he tried to reassure the German people about that, ^{by} telling them how strongly the invasion coasts were fortified. He wished them as happy a new year as possible, which wasn't very happy.

SCHARNHORST

London tells us there are only thirty-six survivors of the Scharnhorst. The crew of that ill-fated Nazi battleship is reported to have numbered fourteen hundred and sixty. ^{So announced} ~~that was~~ [^] ~~reported~~ by the Nazi controlled Vichy radio. The Scharnhorst smashed to wreckage and sent to the bottom in Arctic waters ^{with} ~~and~~ only thirty six of the crew ~~were~~ picked up and made prisoners.

RUSSIA

Today's news from Russia continues

yesterday's tidings of overwhelming Soviet advance and corresponding German retreat -- the Nazi front in the Ukraine apparently in a state of disorganized

collapse. Moscow formally confirms the capture of Jitomir about which we heard yesterday and tells of one hundred and fifty more towns and villages ~~xx~~ ~~xxxx~~ reoccupied by the Red Army. ^{TP} One interpretation

of Russian events is that the German High Command has taken military control away from Hitler; ~~(This~~

~~is the thing we have heard often before and and~~ ^{today}

~~the~~ ~~now xxx London view is of the xxxxxxxxxx German~~
~~disaster in Russia which is blamed on the Nazi~~

~~Fuehrer, is that~~ (The Prussian Generals have pushed

him aside) and are now running the war, -- with

the intention of keeping the war outside of the

~~xxxx~~ boundaries of Germany, if possible.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The latest news tells that the fortress of Vitebsk is virtually under siege, with the Soviet forces cutting the last highway out of the city.

LEAD ITLAY

In the news from Italy today there was some confusion about the village of San Vittore. A mere village -- but a place that's ~~re~~ rated of key importance in opening the way to more open country leading to Rome. The Allied radio at the Italian city of Bari flashed word that San Vittore had been captured by American troops. **B**ut Allied headquarters itself, failed to give any confirmation. The explanation of this may perhaps be found in a late dispatch from United Press correspondent ~~Reynolds~~ Reynolds Packard, who tells us that American troops did indeed enter the strategic village -- but it was only an adventurous dash by an American patrol.

Allied artillery thundered with a huge bombardment against San Vittore and in the deluge of shells the Nazi defenders disappeared from sight. Then the barrage stopped suddenly and the American^S

~~xxxx~~ made a fast push into the town. Whereupon

Nazi troops appeared ~~xx~~ on all sides, plenty of

them -- swarming out from underground. (They had

been sheltered in dug-outs, wine cellars, caves

and basements deep below the wreckage. The blasting

bombardment had merely driven them out of sight)

and now the American patrol was in a hot spot. *However*

They fought it out, weaving their way through the

mazes of ~~xxx~~ desperate peril, and battled their way

into the clear. A melee of gun fire and exploding

hand grenades.

SPAIN

Spain denies the story that the Franco government has recognized the phony Puppet Fascist regime headed by Mussolini in Italy. This is disclosed by the State Department which explains that when the report ^{came} that Franco had recognized the Mussolini fraud as the legal government of Italy, the United States Ambassador to Madrid was instructed to inquire. He did and now states that he has been informed that the whole thing consists of what the Franco spokesman calls "flagrant lies" - propaganda designed to create difficulties between Spain and the United Nations.

In Washington this Spanish reply is taken to indicate that the government formerly so friendly to our axis enemy has veered sharply in favor of the United Nations -- ~~xxxixgxtm~~ seeing the handwriting on the wall.

NEW BRITAIN

The loss to the Japs in the American conquest of ~~Expt~~ Cape Gloucester is number at five hundred men -- that many Japs killed. Later two hundred and fifty enemy troops were slain in futile counter ~~re~~ attacks. This is stated by advanced Allied headquarters in New Guinea, with our New Britain Commander, Lieutenant General Walter Kreuger adding "our losses were unbelievably light".

FOLLOW NEW BRITAIN

At General MacArthur's headquarters it was stated tonight that the Seabees are on the job. No sooner were the Cape Gloucester air strips captured than the Seabees moved in and are rebuilding the blasted airdromes.

ALEUTIANS

Here's a late story which tells of big American preparations for an offensive drive from the Aleutians. The story is strictly from enemy sources: ~~But~~ Berlin quoting Tokyo. The Japs ^{(describe} ~~next~~ the American offensive preparations in the Aleutians ^{as} what the dispatch calls: ~~xxx-xx~~ ^{"on} "an extraordinarily large scale". And it tells of aircraft carriers, cruisers, long range bombers, tanks, and parachute troops concentrated at Dutch Harbor, Attu and Kiska.

LOS ANGELES

The various prophecies ^{concerning} ~~of~~ the end of the European war in Nineteen Forty-four and a shift of the power of the United Nations to the Pacific area -- is pointed up by the work of ^a ~~the~~ Congressional committee. This legislative group is studying the problem of the transfer of the war burden ^{from} ~~by~~ one side of the United States to the other. That is -- from the Atlantic Coast facing Europe, across to the Pacific, ~~and~~ facing the war areas of Japan. And today a member of the committee, ^{Congresswoman} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Margaret Chase of Maine, served notice to the area of Los Angeles: "The big push ~~said she,~~" is moving slowly but steadily in its direction", *said she.*

The Committee previously had issued a critical report on the way Los Angeles is handling the increased burdens of the ~~and~~ Pacific War. According to the Committee it is largely a case of

social conditions and race problems. And the statement is made that ^Q~~the~~ dangerous situation exists in Los Angeles -- a state of affairs that might produce a recurrence of the zoot suit riots of some while back.

The Mayor of Los Angeles Fletcher Bowron said he agreed in part with the report. "I'm happy the Committee has called attention to certain conditions here", ^{said he, adding} ~~but, he added~~ that the Committee members had overlooked some things that the city of Los Angeles has been doing. He said he didn't believe that the local race problem might result in rioting. "I think the matter can be intelligently handled" said he. "An actual outbreak can be averted".

FOURTH TERM

In Washington Senator Wagner tonight expressed himself on the subject of a fourth term. The Senator from New York is one of the most stalwart of Franklin D. Roosevelt men and his opinion on presidential plans are always to be listened to. A late dispatch quotes him as saying that he doesn't know whether there will be a fourth term campaign, and he doubts whether the President himself knows whether he will run again or not.

"I don't think Mr. Roosevelt is giving a fourth ~~fourth~~ term any concern" said Senator Wagner. And he thereupon refused to announce his own support of the fourth term idea saying it was too early to talk about candidates.

However, he did ~~make~~ make the following statement, ^{which} ~~that~~ you can figure ~~out~~ out for yourself:

"I do think", said the New Yorker, "that the President

has done so masterly a ~~job~~ job in the war that
I ~~he~~ would regard it as unfortunate -- if the war
is still on -- if he should be replaced".

The Senator used a few ifs; ~~and~~ though
not any buts. In any case, I don't think that
F.D.R. need worry about Senator Wagner's support if
he should decide to run again.

SLIP

Here's a story that begins with a neat plot twister, which might be developed toward a clever ending. The way things actually happened, the ending, while a surprise, is on the rowdy noisy side. It happened in Chicago ^{where a} ~~XXXXXX~~ lady received an expensive slip, as a Christmas present from her husband. The slip was elaborately trimmed with lace, embroidery and ribbon. However, wifey didn't need a slip -- she already had one, so she took the Christmas gift back to the department store where it had been purchased and asked for credit on her account.

The exchange clerk, a smart young woman, made a check, and presently informed the lady that her husband's purchase had really consisted of two slips, charged to his account. The wife responded there must be some mistake that she had received only one slip. The girl clerk however was ~~XXXXXXXX~~

positive that hubby had bought two, and the snippy young woman talked out of turn. "Perhaps" she said to the lady "perhaps ~~xxx~~ your husband is cheating on you". And that's how the fight began. It took two strong men to pull the two women apart.

WEATHER

A resumé of the year that is going out is given to us by the U. S. Weather Bureau, ~~(and it is interesting because it shows Nineteen Forty three to have been one of the freakiest years this country ever had with the elements going to extremes in one way or another.)~~ February was the driest month ever recorded by the weather bureau. In the north eastern part of the country April was the coldest in thirty years. Down the great corridor of the middlewest the month of May produced the worst floods in one hundred years from Oklahoma to Michigan.

Washington, D.C. had the hottest summer in its hot and sweltering history -- (also the driest summer.)

(Texas had an ~~an~~ excessively wet experience -- also violent. A hurricane hit the Lone Star State with a wind of eighty-four miles an hour, and fifteen inches of rain fell in twenty-four hours.)

And for the ultimate climax of freakishness we go to Spearfish, South Dakota -- (where I suppose no fish was ever speared. However, this has to do with the temperature.) On one day in January the mercury in the thermometer climbed from four degrees below zero to forty-five above -- and all of that in two minutes. Later, the same day, the temperature fell ~~from~~ fifty-four above to four below in twenty- seven minutes.

ROSE BOWL

As a visitor to Los Angeles, I've been impressed by the fact that -- though Southern California has been having a ^{(spot} ~~mark~~ of rain, the elements here are too benevolent apparently to interfere with the Rose Bowl game. At any rate the weather man promises clear skies for tomorrow. ^{TF} And yet, only a slim crowd is expected, for the annual festivity of football. Official estimate is that hardly more than sixty-five thousand people will watch the clash between Southern California and the University of Washington -- the smallest Rose Bowl throng in recent history. ^{TF} And the explanation is -- the West Coast gasoline shortage. Their inability to drive to the game will keep thousands away. We hear that even some of those who have bought tickets will be unable to get to the battle of the Trojans and the Huskies.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

At Sleepy Eye, Minnesota today Happy New Year was not so cheery as he ordinarily is. He is being pestered by the deluge of mail that pours in on him at this time of the year, all because of his interesting name -- Happy New Year. In fact, the influx of mail ~~disturbs~~ disturbs his slumbers at night, and that's no proper thing to happen in the town of Sleepy Eye.

Happy New Year is a carpenter and in his mid-forties and a bachelor, never married -- maybe that's what makes him happy, His parents were natives of Janesville, Wisconsin which ~~is~~ happens by an apt coincidence to be the home town of Merry Christmas. Happy New Year stated today that he knows Merry Christmas and is also an acquaintance of Santa Claus, a preacher at Marshall, Missouri. I don't think he's ever met Mr. Fourth of July, because that's in summer, and too far away. *And now Happy New Year to you Terry O'Sullivan - and what's on your mind?*

BASKETBALL

Here's news -- a real sports headline.

The University of Chicago has ~~XXXX~~ won a basketball game. The Chicago five has been having a hard time to find a team that it can beat, having lost forty-six consecutive games. But finally along came

Chicago Tech with the first baseball squad that *Tech* ~~ever~~ put on the floor, and Chicago U finally ~~XX~~

succeeded in winning one - sixty-five to twenty-seven.

This triumph was witnessed by a throng of thirty-five persons, mostly relatives ~~and~~ of the players.

INDUSTRY

Los Angeles two immense Lockheed plants.

And then there is the stuff it takes to fly those planes--and this brings us to a statement by one of the great gasoline producers of the nation. In a review of the year's production of oil for war, compiled by J. Howard Pew, President of the Sun Oil, my sponser, Mr. Pew tells of the part played in the war by the new gasoline plants, plants recently built. And in this Sun Oil has played an especially large part; in the construction of new plants, and in the expansion of gasoline making equipment.

He also refers to the problems created by the Nazi submarine campaign and the sinking of tankers. Also the shipment of vast amounts of oil overseas, which meant the use of the big tanker fleet that normally had brought oil to our Atlantic Coast ~~ex~~ states.

You who drive cars will be interested in this; in spite of U*boats and the diversion of tankers more oil was shipped to the East Coast in 1943 than

INDUSTRY

ever before -- an all-time high. However, as J. Howard Pew reminds us, the greatly increasing military needs continue to restrict the amounts of oil available for civilians.

This is followed with a glance into the future, with J. Howard Pew telling us that the oil industry believes that now, with the solution of the transportation problem, the time has arrived for the petroleum industry to return to healthy and intelligent competition. And he says this can be done when rationing is soundly administered.

The oil industry, by and large, the President of the Sun Oil Company assures us, wants no relaxation of the anti-Trust Laws or any immunity of either the spirit or the intent of these laws; and he adds that neither the oil industry or the American people should tolerate any combination which might lead to conspiracies against the public interest.

The competitive spirit says J. Howard Pew "burns brightly in the petroleum industry." and

INDUSTRY

he goes on: "the light that this casts marks the way to better products at lower prices for the consuming public and more jobs at higher wages for those who comprise the industry."

In the air the raids against Nazi highway centers in North Italy were more widespread than ever, with Flying Fortresses hitting such places as Anagni, Ardea and Fiume. And the railroad bridge was blasted at Florence -- that city of history, also Harbor areas were reached at the port of Leghorn.

Any review of the year should dwell not only on exploits of American arms, but also on the magnificent achievements of American industry. We need, for example, of the giant output of war planes, with military aircraft streaming by the thousands from our factories. I see some of this today here near

ITALIAN

San Vittore is some distance inland from the coast. Most of the recent Fifth Army fighting has been in that sector. Today, however, hostilities flared right along the shore, with American troops pushing across the Garigliano River for a thrust toward the coastal junction town of Minturno.

In the air the raids against Nazi highway centers in North Italy were more widespread than ever, -- with Flying Fortresses hitting such places as Rimini, Ravenna and Padua. And the railroad yards were blasted at Florence -- that city of history, also Harbor areas were smashed at the port of Leghorn.

Any review of the year should dwell not only on exploits of American arms, but also on the prodigious achievements of American industry. We hear, for example, of the giant output of war planes, with military aircraft streaming by the thousands from our factories. I saw some of this today here near

port of Leghorn. Moreover, Billy Mitchell bombers ranging across the Adriatic hurled bombs upon the Nazis in the Jugoslav harbor of Zara.

The catalog of places gives a picture of the far ~~xxxxxx~~ reaching magnitude of American operations ^{far} behind the enemy line.

BABY

Today at Knoxville, Tennessee, Mr. George Esslinger was bothered by a problem familiar to mothers -- what to name the baby. The baby as it happens is pretty nearly a record breaker. He is the fifth largest infant on record. He weighed in at eighteen pounds ten and a half ounces. In other words -- almost nineteen pounds -- at birth. This young Goliath is described as looking like a veteran of six months old. He ~~is~~ is in excellent health, kicking vigorously and eating with an appetite. He seems quite content and not at all concerned with his mother's bother about a name for him. I suppose they'll end up by calling him Tiny, or Peewee, or maybe just Snookums -- that young giant.