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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS
U. S. Farm Goals for 1948 Boosted;
French Political Troubles Increase;
Marshall to Seek Quick Decision

Released by WNU Features.
(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



BRADLEY IN FOR IKE . . . President Truman completed reorganization of the nation's armed forces with appointment of Gen. Omar Bradley, veterans' administrator, to succeed Gen. Dwight Eisenhower as army chief of staff. General Bradley will take over the job when Eisenhower leaves the army to become president of Columbia university next year.

FARM GOALS:
Still Higher
Farm production goals for 1948, as announced by Clinton Anderson, secretary of agriculture, call for a continuation of high wartime levels of output in recognition of the desperate world need for food and this nation's own increased domestic consumption. Anderson's report, which will serve as a guide for farmers next year, asks for nine million acres more of cultivated and noncultivated crops than the 347 million acres used to produce this year's near-record total of farm commodities.

Although aware of the need to give overworked land a rest from its heavy production burden of the past seven years, he said large domestic and foreign requirements dictated his decision. Total production next year will top the record set in 1946, but supplies of meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products are destined to be smaller in 1948 because this year's short corn crop left farmers with insufficient grain to maintain the volume of animal products.

Crops for which Anderson recommended increased acreages over this year include: Corn, 7 per cent; grain sorghums, 36; soybeans, 1; cotton, 3; potatoes, 5; oats, 2; barley, 4, and rye, 26. He called for a decrease of 3 per cent in wheat acreage.

STRATEGY:
Big Four
Secretary of State George Marshall, the old strategist, had planned his campaign for the London foreign ministers' conference along the lines of attack and retire.

He was ready to seek a quick showdown with Russia on the issues of Austrian independence and German unity, and if a deadlock developed—an all too likely possibility—Marshall would move to adjourn the conference on the grounds that it would be fruitless to continue. As the meeting opened, prospects for its success remained dismal. Russia and the U. S. were split right down to basic principles on the subject of dealing with Germany. Secretary Marshall will seek a unified and federated Germany, while Russia will attempt to keep the country under international control. Most vital aspect of the entire problem is the handling of the Ruhr area — industrial powerhouse of western Europe. There again, Russia wants the Ruhr internationalized, while the U. S. will insist that the Germans be allowed to develop the industries in that area for peaceful production.

American contention is that an industrially potent Ruhr would be the greatest single force to promote rehabilitation of Europe, and that it is an indispensable asset to the Marshall plan. The Russians, of course, opposed both to the Marshall plan and the democratic reconstruction of Europe, want desperately to establish communism strongly in the Ruhr district. With a divided, international control they could achieve that end. It was more likely, however, that neither the U. S. or Russia would succeed in getting its way at the London conference; their own deadlock would be too much to overcome.

HE'S OFF:
Stassen
Harold Stassen, the lone wolf in the Republican presidential nomination race, formally opened his campaign in Milwaukee with a blast against the "powerful presidential pickers in the Republican party." The former governor of Minnesota, who made public his political principles in a recently published book, denounced "behind the scenes" operations in GOP circles.

BATTLE AGAINST CAPITALISM
Russians May Fight Marshall Plan With Gold

Under a cloak of secrecy as close as that which guards its atomic projects, Russia desperately is building up its huge gold reserve, already the greatest in the world outside of Fort Knox. According to Dr. Charles Prince, specialist on Soviet economic affairs, writing in the magazine *United Nations World*, the Soviet

singling out for special criticism Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York who has not yet gone on record as being a candidate for the Republican nomination. "I know that the powerful president pickers consider that it is wrong to be so frank and forthright with the people of America," he told his audience. "It is their view that the correct thing to do is to go through very elaborate operations of looking the other way . . . but that great care should be taken never to meet a difficult real problem face to face."

TURMOIL:
French Style

Leon Blum, who tried on the premiership of France like a man buying a new hat, found it didn't fit. And, as in the case of his predecessor, Paul Ramadier, the only reason it didn't fit was because his head wasn't the right shape. It was too medium, with not enough bulge to the right.

Blum, who outspokenly rejected both the Communists and De Gaulle's, failed for that reason to get a vote of confidence in the national assembly.

Next man up was Robert Schuman, for minister of finance, who was not above wooing the powers of Gen. Charles De Gaulle. As a result, he received a strong vote of confidence, getting the support of all French political parties except the Communists.

How long he would be able to remain in office, with the French economy tottering and the ranks of strikers swelling to above the million mark, was an open question. Probably, he would stay as long as DeGaulle wanted him.

As far as the national crisis was concerned, Schuman said he had decided on "very energetic" measures to prevent more strikes, coupled with possible concessions to the workers already off their jobs.

The over-all situation, however, was intolerable. There was no assurance that Schuman would remain in power long enough to take any effective action, even if he did attempt to reconcile the warring political factions by forming a coalition government.

And in London, at the Big Four foreign ministers' conference, French representative Georges Bidault was in a ticklish spot as far as negotiating in the name of his country went. He virtually would have to listen to the radio to find out just what his government was from one day to the next.

TAXES AGAIN:
Two Ideas

The makings of another rousing tax battle were introduced into the house of representatives with two separate proposals for removal of six million low-income persons from tax lists, and for tax exemption of the first \$25,000 of net income of all corporations. Rep. Walter C. Ploeser (Rep. Mo.) offered the corporate exemption suggestion to the house ways and means committee to settle "the nationwide controversy over the tax exempt privilege of co-ops."

The other tax-cutting provision would embody an increase in personal exemptions — probably from the present \$500 to \$600. But Rep. Harold Knutson (Rep. Minn.) said his new four-billion-dollar tax slashing measure, to be introduced in mid-December, probably would include no provision for increased individual exemptions. He was sticking by his idea for percentage cuts for all the 48,500,000 taxpayers.

SAVE THE PEACE:
Letter to Joe

Dr. Leo Szilard, known among his fellow physicists as "the father of the atom bomb," had a few words to say to Joseph Stalin concerning world peace.

In an open letter to the Soviet premier, Szilard, who first advanced the belief that the atomic bomb was possible within the scope of World War II, told Stalin that "peace can yet be saved by you, yourself."

Admitting that many Americans now believe that war with Russia is inevitable, the scientist proposed, in effect, that peace-making negotiations be conducted at the level of the people instead of through formal diplomatic relations where genuine issues too often are obscured by protocol and face-saving.

Szilard recommended that:
1. Stalin make a series of frank sincere talks to the American people, released simultaneously here and in Russia, outlining what eventually would become an offer for a postwar settlement.

2. Stalin invite President Truman to make a similar address to the Soviet people to inform them of what the American point of view is.

3. A committee be formed among scientists, acting as hosts, to gather a group of Americans from all walks of life to meet with similar groups from other nations. Purpose of the meetings would be to clarify international thought for guidance of the respective governments.

Szilard's plan reflected a splendid idealism of the kind that is sorely needed in international relations now; but that it ever would be given serious consideration by the Soviets was far beyond the realm of possibility.

CONTEMPT:
A Fine Point

Ten Hollywood film writers who refused to tell the house un-American affairs committee whether or not they were Communists were cited for contempt of congress by an overwhelming vote of the house.

The action brought into focus the hitherto inconclusive and helter-skelter investigation of communism in Hollywood which the committee undertook with such flamboyant overtones last October.

It was the only concrete result of the probe which failed to prove any instances of communist propaganda in movies, but whether or not it was a good result was debatable.

The cases of the 10 writers were to go first to the District of Columbia grand jury for indictment, but the main issue involved probably will have to be decided ultimately by the supreme court, inasmuch as it centers on a constitutional question: Does a congressional committee have the right to question an individual as to his political beliefs?

It would be a fine point, and extremists were saying that on the one side lay the dangers of communism while on the other was the threat of dictatorship.

? Current Events ?

The following five questions were rejected by 32 radio quiz shows because they didn't have enough refrigerators to go around. If you can answer them, take the correct answers, plus \$350, to your nearest electrical appliance dealer and you will receive a brand-new refrigerator.



1. It was clearly a case of "They went thataway" when the above pictured horse opera hero and his leading lady announced that they would be married New Year's eve. Who are they?
2. Within the space of one week crisis-ridden France had three different premiers. Their names?
3. What three titles did King George of England confer upon Lt. Philip Mountbatten before his marriage to Princess Elizabeth?
4. Gen. Omar Bradley will replace Gen. Dwight Eisenhower as army chief of staff. Who will replace General Bradley as head of Veterans' administration?
5. At a recent meeting in New York the subject of oncology was discussed. Would you say oncology is the study of (a) shells, (b) tumors, (c) fossils, (d) snails?

- ANSWERS**
1. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
 2. Paul Ramadier, Leon Blum, Robert Schuman
 3. Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, Baron Greenwich.
 4. Carl R. Gray, vice president of the Chicago and Northwestern railway
 - 5 (b) Tumors.

Bigger and Better

If there's a new car in your future it's likely to be a bigger, better and more expensive one than previous models, according to present plans of the auto industry. Models for 1948 and 1949 will follow the general uptrend in size and cost, since automobile manufacturers believe they can sell all the cars they can make for the next year or so if prosperity continues at its present boisterous level.

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