

I N F O R M A T I O N D I G E S T

THE PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt told his press conference he is encountering difficulties in attempting to devise a "home defense" program to enable every man, woman and child to do his bit in the national defense effort. The President said the program is perhaps the most difficult he ever attempted to devise, and although he has been working on it for more than a month, he still has not reached a final solution.

The difficulty, the President said, is to provide administration sufficiently pliable to permit complete decentralization through which local communities would be the major administrative agencies in carrying out the plan. Such a scheme, he said, naturally must be extremely broad in its scope and accordingly presents correspondingly broad difficulties in drafting.

President Roosevelt nominated Ray C. Wakefield, of Fresno, California, member of the California Railroad Commission since 1937, to be a member of the FCC succeeding the late Thad H. Brown. Mr. Wakefield's commission would expire June 30, 1947.

THE CONGRESS

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the nominations of Pierre de L. Boal, Pennsylvania, to be Minister to Nicaragua and Wesley T. Frost, Kentucky, to be Minister to Paraguay.

The Senate adopted six amendments to the lend-lease bill as follows:

1. To permit termination of the powers of the bill before June 30, 1943, by concurrent resolution of both Houses, without Presidential approval. (This clarifies legality of a similar House amendment sponsored by Representative Dirksen, the Foreign Relations Committee said.)
2. To terminate on June 30, 1946, the Army and Navy revolving fund created by repayment by foreign governments for war aid from the United States.
3. To provide that if any section of the Act is declared unconstitutional the validity of other sections is not affected.
4. To provide future appropriations for the U. S. Army and Navy shall not be used for the British Aid program without the specific authorization of Congress.

5. To permit the President to transfer to foreign governments as soon as the bill is passed \$1,300,000,000 worth of Army and Navy equipment, but requiring Congressional approval of further aid.

6. To give heads of government agencies the right to fix the value of the \$1,300,000,000 worth of equipment which could be loaned, leased or donated to Britain.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

The OPM Labor Division announced that after conferences with OPM officials the AFL roofers and carpenters agreed to return to work at the new Glenn L. Martin Company plant in Baltimore; the Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland; the Naval Academy dormitory at Annapolis; Fort George Meade, Maryland; and at Watertown, New York.

The OPM Labor Division also announced the Consumers Power Company at Lansing, Michigan and union representatives agreed in response to a request from OPM Directors Knudsen and Hillman to seek a settlement for forty-eight hours more before a threatened strike is called. The Division stated that conferences are continuing at the Allis-Chalmers plant in Milwaukee and at the Vanadium Corporation of America plant at Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.

The Division said that conferences were being held to settle strikes at the Universal Cyclops Steel Company plant at Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, at the Army Air Corps' Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio and at four plants of the International Harvester Company. The U. S. Conciliation Service announced that the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee (CIO) had agreed not to extend the strike against the International Harvester Company to the West Pullman plant in Chicago pending the outcome of the current conferences.

Charles P. Taft, Assistant Coordinator of Health and Welfare and related defense activities, issued a statement that "our best estimate is that a maximum of 350 buildings of some type" embracing 200 communities in defense areas throughout the country and costing about \$15,000,000 is necessary "in connection with health facilities and schools" in these areas.

Mr. Taft said that "with the approval of the President" and other Government officials, a tentative agreement had been reached with the United Service Organizations for National Defense, Inc., an organization of six national welfare groups, for the "joint operation of these community buildings, wherever local funds and experienced personnel is not available" when the buildings are constructed. Members of the USO are: The Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, the Salvation Army, the Jewish Welfare Board, the Travelers Aid Society and the National Catholic Community Service.

Federal Loan Administrator Jones announced the completion of arrangements by Defense Supplies Corporation for delivery of the first 100,000 tons of the 300,000 tons of nitrate of soda recently purchased from the Chilean Nitrate and Iodine Sales Corporation of Santiago. Mr. Jones said that the balance of the nitrate of soda will be delivered by June 30.

Secretary of State Hull issued a statement that "in our relations with the Far East as elsewhere, this country has had two main ends in view: The promotion and protection of legitimate American rights and interests on the basis of respect for the legitimate rights and interests of other countries; and the furtherance of peaceful interests and mutually beneficial relations among the members of the Family of Nations. In seeking to attain these ends, this country has favored equality of opportunity, respect for national sovereignty, and faithful observance of treaties as the basis of a really durable international order."

"Our relations with the Far East," Hull said, "have brought, along with benefits, problems that have arisen from time to time. In the recent period, during the most of the last 10 years, two countries of that region have unhappily been engaged in military and political conflict. Still more recently, the area of conflict has been spreading to neighboring regions. At such a time there is great need for informed and intelligent discussion of far eastern questions."

Export Control Administrator Maxwell announced all metal drums and containers have been placed under the export control licensing system, except three classes specifically exempted: 1. Metal containers of less than five gallons capacity. 2. Metal drums and containers with capacity from 5 to 30 gallons, except those containing or intended to contain gasoline, oil, or petrolatum of low grade to be used as lubricant or to prevent rust, and 3. Containers regardless of size but containing certain specified commodities.

Secretary of War Stimson announced appointment of four new members, all engineers, to the National Technological Civil Protection Committee which assists the War Department in "collecting, evaluating and disseminating information concerning the protection of civilians and vital civilian installations in time of war." The new members are: Mr. E. M. Hastings, American Railway Engineering Association, of Richmond, Virginia; Mr. W. Cullen Morris, American Gas Association, of New York City; Mr. John C. Parker, electric engineer, New York City; and Mr. Frederick G. Frost, American Institute of Architects, of New York City.

The War Department announced that all U. S. military personnel now stationed in tropical regions, including Panama and Puerto Rico, must

be vaccinated against yellow fever, and directed commanding officers to take immediate steps. Large groups of military personnel will be vaccinated at home stations prior to their departure, and small groups at the port of debarkation if possible. Air Corps personnel, and passengers, called to leave suddenly for tropical regions may be vaccinated at Air Corps stations.

OPM Director of Purchases Nelson announced appointment of Howard B. Cunningham of New York former Director of Purchases for the National Biscuit Company as Assistant Director in charge of Subsistence and Supplies. He will be in charge of the section advising the Army Quartermaster General's office on procurement of foodstuffs for the Army. Mr. Cunningham succeeds Mr. Douglas MacKearchie, new Deputy Director, Division of Purchases.

Assistant WPA Commissioner Florence Kerr announced that to further assist military authorities and city officials in meeting the problem of wholesome recreation in Army and Navy posts and defense industry centers, WPA has assigned 4,000 of its 36,000 trained recreation leaders to conduct programs which include athletics, handicraft, dramatics and dancing. The WPA now operates Music, Art, Writers and Library projects in many of these posts and centers, Mrs. Kerr said.

Acting NDAC Price Stabilization Director Bishop asked secondary aluminum smelters for the following information before 5 p. m., Thursday, March 6, preparatory to setting a "ceiling" price schedule for aluminum scrap:

1. Inventory in dollars and pounds of aluminum scrap on hand on January 1, 1941;
2. Inventory in dollars and pounds of aluminum scrap on hand on March 1, 1941;
3. Totals in dollars and pounds of non-cancellable unfilled purchase orders for aluminum scrap as of March 1, 1941;
4. Totals in dollars and pounds of shipments of secondary aluminum for January and February;
5. Totals in dollars and pounds of firm orders for future shipments of secondary aluminum at prices in excess of 17 cents.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Secretary of State Hull announced appointment of G. Howland Shaw to be Assistant Secretary and by departmental order delegated to the four Assistant Secretaries the following duties:

Assistant Secretary Berle--to be coordinator of questions of finance and major policies; general supervisor of affairs relating to Canada and Greenland, the Passport Division, Division of International Conferences (except fiscal) Division of International Communications (aviation only), Division of Foreign Activity Correlation and the Translating

Bureau.

Assistant Secretary Long—to be coordinator of matters relating to foreign policies assigned to him by Secretary Hull; in charge of liaison work with Congress, excepting the legislative activities and administrative functions relating to the Assistant Secretary and Budget Officer; general supervisor of the Visa Division; Special Division, Office of Philippine Affairs; and the Division of International Communications (except aviation); and of special problems arising from international conflicts and international fisheries.

Assistant Secretary Acheson—to be coordinator of commercial and economic questions with questions of major policy, general supervisor of Division of Commercial Treaties and Agreements, Division of Controls, Treaty Division, Division of Commercial Affairs, and the Editor of Treaties.

Assistant Secretary Shaw—to be general supervisor of the Office of Fiscal and Budget Affairs, Division of Personnel Supervision and Management, Division of Accounts, Division of Communications and Records, Division of Foreign Service Administration, Division of Foreign Service Personnel, Foreign Service Officers Training School, Foreign Service Buildings Office, Division of Research and Publication, Division of Protocol (fiscal only); Division of International Conferences (fiscal only).

The Commerce Department announced that although U. S. exports in January totaled \$325,000,000 and represented a \$3,000,000 increase over December, total exports for January were slightly below the average for the last half of 1940. The Department said that total imports of \$229,000,000 in January represented a decline of \$24,000,000 from December imports.

Agriculture Secretary Wickard sent letters to Senator E. D. Smith and Representative H. P. Fulmer, Chairmen of the Senate and House Agricultural Committees, suggesting legislative authority for 4 amendments to the AAA Act to "simplify administration" and make marketing quotas "more effective." A suggested joint resolution which accompanied the letters proposed to amend the Act to:

1. Increase the penalty for excess marketings when quotas are in effect from 15 cents per bushel to 40 cents on corn, and from 15 to 50 cents on wheat.
2. Authorize marketing referenda to impose quota restrictions for two years instead of one.
3. Exempt from marketing quotas all farms on which the acreage in wheat or corn is not in excess of 15 acres.

4. Base penalties on excess acreage, thereby eliminating the necessity of determining actual production.

Mr. Wickard said that as provided by the Act he had ordered a referendum on wheat for May 31. He also said because of surpluses of corn and wheat he was convinced the marketing quotas on both grains would enable farmers to make needed adjustments in view of the large surpluses of both grains.

(Unless otherwise indicated, all information herein is from official sources).