

With trapped Nazi forces in the Netherlands facing a desperate situation, official sources in London now believe that Hitler's V-2 campaign against England is at last at an end. For some days past, the British have been completely untouched by rocket bombs, and the assumption is that the Dutch launching sites have been abandoned or have run out of supplies and that the weapon's range is too limited to permit effective firing from areas still held by the enemy.

This is news that will deeply cheer all of Britain. V-1, the flying bomb, was terrible enough, killing and wounding tens of thousands of persons, but anti-aircraft fire and fighter planes were able to cope with it and finally made it largely ineffective.

V-2, however, by which many thousands of others have been killed and wounded since last June, has been far more terrible. A stratospheric rocket, its speed of descent has been estimated at as much as 3,000 miles an hour, and there is no known defense against it, except its seizure of its launching sites and the plants producing it. Now that Allied operations in and around the Netherlands seem to have eliminated it as a menace, the British can well afford to breathe a sigh of relief, but V-2 can never be forgotten—either by them or by us—because a vastly improved and vastly more lethal version will almost certainly be used if there is ever another war.

There is good reason to believe that if the Nazis had been able to put V-1 and V-2 into action on a large scale earlier than they did, the present military situation would be much less bright than it is. The same may be said of at least one other German secret weapon—one that the Nazis devised and set up just a bit too late for operation. This weapon, according to the British Information Service, was located near Calais 95 miles across the Channel from London and consisted of a battery of 50 giant mortarlike guns designed to fire 120-pound rocket shells at the rate of ten a minute, night and day, from emplacements deep underground. Had it not been for timely countermeasures by our Allied air forces, or had the invasion of France been delayed, these guns would have served as a deadly supplement to the flying bombs and the rocket bombs.

Not much imagination is needed to visualize how such weapons can be perfected in laboratories and testing grounds all over the world in the years to come. We can be thankful that the Nazis did not have them on time or in sufficient quantity to affect the course of this war, but we cannot let the matter go with that, for nothing argues more eloquently for an international security system that will really work. Nor does anything serve clearer notice upon us that this country will be inviting disaster if it ever again neglects the development of its arms.

'Not Unanticipated'

There is no reason to doubt the official Japanese news agency when it says that Russia's denunciation of the Moscow-Tokyo neutrality pact "was not unanticipated." There had been numerous forewarning signs, the first of them being Marshal Stalin's blunt declaration last November that Japan was an "aggressive" nation—a declaration that sent a nervous spasm through the now-departed Koiso government.

Before then the Soviet Union had carefully refrained from any gesture likely to associate it openly with Allied activity bearing upon the Far Eastern theater of war, but from the moment Marshal Stalin made his celebrated remark, the Russians began to indicate quite clearly that their aloofness in this respect had become a thing of the past. The Japanese certainly were not blind to this, and they grew particularly conscious of it when Russia, after the Crimea Conference, joined China as a cosponsor of the forthcoming San Francisco Conference.

Nor could the Japanese have overlooked the fact that at the State Department, just a few days before the treaty denunciation, Soviet Ambassador Gromyko and Chinese Ambassador Wei had their pictures taken side by side during a special meeting with Secretary Stettinius and British Ambassador Halifax. This was the first open Russian association with China in the war, and apart from its possible implications as an indication of improving relations between Chungking and the Yenan Communists, it must have struck Tokyo as another bad omen for the future.

And now that the Russians have made clear that the days of neutrality are numbered, the Japanese unquestionably are expecting that much more is going to happen. A complete break in diplomatic rela-

tions, for instance, is not "unanticipated" in Tokyo; nor is it "unanticipated" that the Moscow-Tokyo pact may not live out the year of life technically remaining to it; nor is war with the Soviet Union "unanticipated," nor are any number of other unpleasant possibilities "unanticipated." The only thing not anticipated in Japan these days is good news. Never has a nation had a bleaker outlook.

Norway's Appeal

The dreadful plight of the Dutch people still under German domination is paralleled by that of the Norwegians. Indeed, the Norwegian ordeal may be the more prolonged and terrible, because, while the liberation of the rest of Holland is seemingly near, Norway appears to be still firmly in the German grasp and its redemption promises to be proportionately difficult and costly. It would seem that the Nazis intend to make Norway one of their final refuges and fight there to the bitter end.

What this might mean for Norway's national future is revealed in an appeal by the Norwegian government in exile addressed to Sweden, imploring that country to drop its neutrality and aid the Allies to save "what can be saved" of Norway. The Norwegian official statement declares that the German army of occupation in Norway, numbering approximately 200,000, is preparing to make a "last desperate stand" there, abundantly supplied with equipment and stores, and ready to wreak general destruction before it is overcome. Internal resistance is being quelled by mass arrests, torture of prisoners and the taking of hostages for reprisals. Frontal Allied attacks on the heavily fortified Norwegian coasts, mostly mountainous except for narrow fjords commanded by German heavy guns, will entail heavy sacrifices. The only vulnerable approaches to the Norwegian fortress are across the Swedish land frontier. With Germany itself about to be conquered, leaving the isolated Nazis in their Alpine or Norwegian mountain lairs reduced to an outlaw guerrilla status, the Norwegian government feels that the war "has reached a stage where neutrality has become a mere empty word," and that "both the Swedish people and its government are in fact aware of their moral responsibilities."

The official statement then goes on to depict the catastrophic consequences if the Nazis are allowed to prolong their resistance and carry out fully their diabolical designs. Pointing out the terrible losses which the Norwegian people have already suffered from five years of German occupation and the sinking of most of its large merchant navy, the chief source of its prewar prosperity, the statement continues: "If the Germans are allowed fully to carry out their plans—if electrical works are blown up, the fishing fleet stolen, factories destroyed and railway lines put out of service, the economic destruction of Norway will be practically irreparable."

This does not appear to be an overstatement. Norway is intrinsically a poor country, with a cold climate, little arable land and few natural resources. Its modern prosperity was chiefly the result of long-term intelligent planning and the scientific development of its few assets. This patient labor, involving many decades of time and heavy capital investment, could be so thoroughly undone by wanton destruction that generations might be needed to repair the damage. Norway's current peril is thus peculiarly acute.

Plow or Starve

Ever since the smashing of Germany's western border defenses and the crossing of the Rhine into the heart of the Reich, General Eisenhower, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Allied forces, has been issuing a series of warnings to the German people advising them to stop a hopeless resistance and pointing out the terrible consequences which persistence in this suicidal stubbornness will entail.

The latest of these grim but salutary admonitions is a broadcast addressed especially to German farmers, telling them to get on with their spring plowing and planting, besides husbanding their existing food reserves, if they want to avert wholesale famine, because "Germany must rely on her own food resources to forestall starvation after the hostilities. . . . If you disobey these instructions, nothing which either you or the Allies can do will prevent a catastrophe in Germany this year."

General Eisenhower then follows this general warning with an itemized list of "musts." First and foremost, German farmers are told to get busy with their usual duties, using the labor of evacuated compatriots to replace the "slave labor" of impressed foreigners who are in process of being liberated by Allied arms. Farmers are then told to avoid Volksturm service, deserting if need be to return to their lands. They are likewise bidden to resist, even by force, removal of local food stocks by Nazi authorities, together with the slaughter of livestock under a "scorched earth" policy decreed from Berlin. Eisenhower's proclamation ends with this explanatory warning: "Remember! For years Germany has relied on plundered food from the occupied territories. Relying on this plundered food, she has mobilized her land workers for the army and failed to feed herself. This year, Germany must depend on her own food resources."

The urgency of Germany's food problem becomes clear when it is realized that, even under normal peacetime conditions, the Reich is

agriculturally not self-sufficient in certain food items, especially meat and fats. On the average, Germany's soil is not especially fertile, while summers tend to be cold and rainy. German agriculture is dependent on fertilizers on a lavish scale. Nitrates have been obtained from the air under the Haber process, but phosphates have to be entirely imported, while native potash deposits are insufficient. All fertilizers have been diverted to the war effort, so the soil has been "mined" during the war years and has therefore declined in productivity. German livestock normally depends in part on important feeds such as oil cake and soyabean. It, too, has been depleted during the war. When the war ends, the liberated countries, robbed and starved by the German conquerors, will have first call on shipping insufficient even for their needs.

Vicious Chatter

Some of the radio commentators are waging a sort of campaign against what they call the "pampering" of German prisoners of war in this country. The stories from Germany, with photographs, of the neglect of our own captured soldiers furnish a contrast which lends colorful emphasis to such charges. There are many allegations but little evidence of pampering German prisoners. The War Department is making a point of living up to the letter of the Geneva Conventions, which cover such matters. They do so, first, as a matter of national honor. They do so, in the second place, because of the very obvious possibility that the Nazis are capable of some act of alleged retaliation against our men, based on the flimsiest of pretenses—such, for instance, as the radio broadcasts themselves, which could be twisted to mean anything.

Most level-headed Americans would be willing to pamper German prisoners and feed them on the fat of the land, to the temporary inconvenience of our own civilians, if it meant even a slim chance that our soldiers who are prisoners of war would come to no harm. The foolish chatter about pampering German prisoners of war is vicious and it ought to be stopped.

Bernard Baruch will find a good many things different in London from what they are in America. Here he could sit on his Lafayette Park bench "for free," but reliable information is that, in spite of the war, park-sitters in London are still charged the proverbial penny.

A "master bedroom" is that sleeping chamber in a house intended for the fellow who takes orders from his wife, his children and the help and also pays all the bills.

This and That

By Charles E. Tracewell. "ARLINGTON, Va." "Dear Sir: "You have never failed heretofore to have the answer to any ornithological question I have asked you, but I think I have you stumped this time. "As I have remarked before, the bird chorus out my way is as varied and gorgeous as any to be found anywhere, the leaders being cardinals and mockingbirds. Last Monday night or rather Tuesday morning I was awakened by the first reveille call that a cardinal generally gives, and then subsides into silence about an hour before sunrise, when the choral starts. "When I jumped out of bed, and started dressing, so I could be on time with my gardening. As I stepped out of my room, I glanced at the clock, and saw it was 2:30 a.m., and incidentally, a cardinal and a mockingbird were having a duet, or it might have been a "choral duel," that would have knocked your ear off. "They kept it up until the sun did rise, about 7 o'clock or thereabouts. I know because I couldn't get back to sleep. "The moon was particularly brilliant, as you will recall, on Monday night. "What I want to know is, did these birds think it was daylight? "Quirulously yours, J. P. Y."

No, birds do not think moonlight is daylight. They have more sense than that. They simply respond to increased light, to sing softly. With quiet otherwise reigning, their singing may seem loud, on such a night, but if some sort of measuring instrument could be used, the "choral" song would be found to be about half that of daylight hours. Many species sing at night, including, of course, the famous mockingbird. Often smaller species spend most of the night chirping softly. Moonlight is supposed to be the peculiar light of lovers, and also of madness. Birds were the first great lovers. In many species, two birds mate for life, and never vary in their love. They are famous for the care they take of their birds. It is no unusual thing among the birds for a mother to give her own life for the nestlings. Often both mother and father are worn to a frazzle, as the old country saying has it, carrying food to the young. It may be realized that birds singing at night do not think it is daylight by the fact that they do not fly around. If they thought it daylight, they would fly from tree to tree, just as they do in daytime. They do not. They simply stay where they are, but instead of sleeping they sing softly. Light is one of the great facts in their lives. They cannot help respond to it. No human, perhaps, except a few gifted souls, can realize what light means to a bird. It should mean the same to us, were we wise.

Letters to The Star

Senator Guffey's Gratuity Plan Is Criticized by Veteran

To the Editor of The Star: In a recent Overseas Edition of The Star I was attracted by Senator Guffey's proposal to award each member of the armed forces a year's base pay on his discharge. While this gesture is one I am sure every returning veteran will accept if it becomes a law, I seriously doubt whether a majority would like to see such legislation enacted. The fellows I have spoken to in this battalion have been in the service over 3 years with 27 months overseas and, when confronted with the issue in question, they felt that the present benefits now available are sufficient to meet their wants on their return to civilian life. Surely, this is not to be taken too lightly, for the primary interest of every serviceman is, first, to return to his home and second, to be able to obtain employment. Legislation such as has been proposed does not assure the returning serviceman the prewar job he had before entering the service, and there is no guarantee that postwar employment will continue on the present wartime basis. Many of these men gave up responsible positions to answer the call and are expecting to find similar conditions when they return. These men are not interested in charity nor Government "doles" but desire assurance from their Government that postwar planning has the availabilities and places for them. Also there must be opportunities to enter into business of their own choosing reserved with rights to compete and a right to earn to live. Although Senator Guffey's proposal is in an early state it should never be permitted to go beyond this period. It does not offer what the veterans are expecting, but rather an increase of the present deficit of our Government which is bound to be followed by an inflationary period, creating an unnecessary burden for the returning veterans, providing no adequate social needs but tends to give to those who need it less; and the grave injustice of it all is that it would not be in conformity with the need but fixed on the serviceman's rate of pay upon his discharge, which is wholly un sound.

My status is that of a nonvoter but I believe that my views should be heard and when the time comes, I would like to do my share to help America play a role in planning and organizing a better world to live in. FRANK LOUIS CORRADO.

Echo of War With Spain

To the Editor of The Star: Your recent editorial, "No Color Line" in which you mention the preparation to send some 2,500 Negro riflemen into combat with white troops as an "experiment which will be watched with greatest interest," shows how short is the memory of some in this country. In every major war in which this Nation has been engaged Negroes have fought as bravely as the white men and in every such war have distinguished themselves. The undersigned fought as a member of the 10th Cavalry in Cuba in 1898 when it was brigaded with the 1st Regular Cavalry and the Rough Riders, two white regiments, and the name this Negro regiment won for itself undoubtedly still is remembered by some, at least. The regiment, it is true, was commanded by white officers; but since the Spanish-American War has the name of being an "enlisted man's war." I trust the success of the regiment may not be ascribed wholly to the old theory that "Negroes make good soldiers only if led by white officers."

It was not until World War I that the notion that Negroes could not be allowed to fight alongside whites in the American Army became prevalent. PRESLEY HOLLIDAY.

Urges Three Local Gains

To the Editor of The Star: In your editorial in The Sunday Star regarding the proposals to relieve Congress of burdens of local legislation for the District, you state: "Will Congress assign to some agency other than Congress the levying of local taxes and their expenditure? Nobody is seriously proposing it." Whatever may be one's opinion as to what Congress will do in the immediate future or later, it is certainly erroneous to say that nobody is seriously proposing local control over local finances. While I do not know of any bill so far introduced in the present Congress that would provide for it, there have been such bills in the past, and I feel sure there are some present members of Congress who have previously been on record as favoring local fiscal autonomy in a very substantial form. Certainly the local citizens who have been working for local suffrage have quite generally contemplated that a locally elected council or assembly should have power to pass local tax ordinances and appropriations, as part of the original District charter if possible, or as something to be worked for later in case something less must be accepted as a starter. This power is such a virtually universal part of American municipal practice elsewhere that I should assume that most of the 82,977 local residents who voted in favor of local suffrage in the referendum held seven years ago this month thought of it as a natural part of what they were voting "yes" upon. History shows that Congress thought that was the natural arrangement to have in the District for over 70 years, and changed its mind only when the local governmental spending was dominated by federally appointed District officers who had become overzealous in defending the Capital.

District representation in Congress is important to a give Washingtonians the same sort of a share in controlling national taxes and appropriations that other Americans have, and also a similar share in that over-all authority in the Nation's Capital which Congress must constitutionally retain. There is no need, however, for Congress to retain its present detailed control over what Washingtonians pay to their local government and how that money is spent. Taxation without representation would not really be cured if distinctively local taxes were voted by a body in which the people primarily concerned were represented by less than 1 per cent of the voting power. I doubt if the residents of Richmond or Annapolis would be satisfied to have their local finances fully dictated by the State Legislature which meets in their midst merely because they are represented in it pro-

The Political Mill

By Gould Lincoln

Denunciation of the Russo-Japanese agreement by the Soviet government has materially enhanced the chance of an earlier termination of the war against Japan and at the same time has improved the situation for the United Nations Conference in San Francisco two weeks hence. This action on the part of Russia was expected. However, it came so suddenly and suddenly and helped to clear the atmosphere. It may or may not be a precursor of Russia's entry into the war against Japan—but whether that step is ever taken or not, the denunciation of the neutrality agreement has necessarily had the effect of increasing the pressure on Japan.

One thing is clear, however. The emphasis in the new international organization has shifted from the use of force to maintain peace to the adjustment of international difficulties through peaceful means. When the Big Three agreed to the voting formula for the proposed Security Council, whereby any one of the permanent members will have the power to veto the use of force, in cases in which that power is itself involved, the shift already had occurred. This is a disappointment to Americans who had come to the conclusion that force must be used against any possible aggressor. At the same time, it was a solace to those in this country who looked with suspicion on any setup which might vote to use force against the United States. Obviously no powerful nation will vote the use of force against itself—and it is only the powerful nations that are in a position to become aggressors in a big way.

No one knows for certain what further agreements may have been reached. There is a suspicion, however, that ultimately it may turn out Russia is to have Manchuria. This is not a matter with which the San Francisco Conference will deal—since its job is only to set up machinery whereby peace may be maintained in the future. The problems of peace settlements, however, keep intruding themselves more and more and may have their influence on what is done at the coming conference. It is clear, at the present time, however, that this country and the other United Nations are intent upon bringing forth a treaty at San Francisco to which they may all subscribe.

German Resistance

By Maj. George Fielding Eliot

Between the North Sea and the Harz Mountains, German resistance on the approaches to Berlin from the west seems definitely broken. The road to the Reich capital from Hamburg and Kiel and to the liberation of Denmark, lie open. The German attempt to hold the line of the River Weser collapsed almost at a touch; there seems virtually no possibility that the Germans can fare any better at the Elbe. The reasons for this German collapse are not far to seek. They lie in the reports of German prisoners taken in the west during the first week of April—228,000. The prisoner index has always been the best criterion by which to judge military success, and this total marks not a mere Allied advance against a determined and valiant foe, but the disintegration of the Wehrmacht as far as this northern sector of the western front is concerned. German casualties, including prisoners, are said to be averaging 50,000 a day, which means that in addition to the 228,000 prisoners taken during that fateful first week of April there is something like 120,000 killed and wounded in the west. In addition to all this, there are perhaps as many as 100,000 German troops trapped in the Ruhr pocket, and another 50,000 or so virtually trapped in the Netherlands. While this means that the German army has the name of being an "enlisted man's war," I trust the success of the regiment may not be ascribed wholly to the old theory that "Negroes make good soldiers only if led by white officers."

We shall probably see various German attempts to defend such places as the Ruhr pocket, and the defense of the Rhine, but the chance of a breakthrough here and there for a little while. The statement made in this column on February 16, that the prolonged defense of the North German plain had become a military impossibility, is being fully borne out by the events of the first week of April. Whether or not the Germans choose to make a last-ditch defense of Berlin is no longer of any military importance. Their other local defense measures will be little more than nuisances, to be dealt with as opportunity offers. But all this does not mean the end of the German war effort. On the contrary, as the defense of the north collapses, comes the so-called "Operation Goetterdämmerung"—the last desperate, fanatical stand in the mountains and forests of the south. How strong will this army of feral defense be? How much does it have stored up in the way of weapons and supplies? And—can its preparations be broken up by any considerable degree by the Allied thrusts?

On these questions, and not on the fate of Berlin, hangs now the answer to the greatest question of all: When will the German war be at an end? (Copyright, 1945.)

Spiritual Approach Urged in Labor Deals

Code Formulated by CIO Leader

Worth Study, Says Observer

By David Lawrence

Whether labor and management can get together on a code of principles to govern labor relations depends on how much of the spiritual approach they can bring to their discussions. This means a fundamental willingness to examine the issues objectively. Here is a code worth studying which was formulated by Howard T. Curtis, a member of the Executive Committee of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, and which he contributed recently to the bulletin of the "Laymen's Movement for a Christian World." It is divided into three categories:

- "1. Labor Agrees With Management: "1. That the management and control of an industrial unit should remain in the hands of representatives of the company. "2. That the authority of management should be questioned only when an injustice is alleged and then only by orderly procedure. "3. That the property and materials which represent the investment of stockholders must be protected both as to its existence and its reasonable earning power. "4. That the intelligent planning and control of production and marketing by management should be adequately compensated. "5. That the company's position as a competitor with other companies in the same line of production must be protected. "6. That management must be free to select and assign its own executives. "7. That management has a right to expect every worker to do his work well up to the limit of his normal capacity to produce. "8. That management has the right and obligation to introduce new equipment and methods designed to increase the amount of or reduce the unit cost of production. "9. That top management cannot be held responsible for errors or misdeeds of minor executives until it has affirmed them by denying relief from them. "10. That management has the right to enter the field of political action and exert reasonable and honest influence on State and national administrations.

"II. Management Agrees With Labor:

- "1. That workers have a right to organize for purposes of collective bargaining. "2. That labor has a substantial interest in many of the problems of production and can assist in their solution. "3. That a worker acquires a right to job security commensurate with length of service. "4. That labor unions, having established a record of dependability, have a right to some measure of security. "5. That disputes between management and labor which cannot be adjusted by conference between the parties should be referred to an arbitrator whose decision is final. "6. That the terms of wages, hours and conditions of employment should be established by a written agreement signed by representatives of labor and management. "7. That grievances should be adjusted quickly, preferably at the level of the first complaint. "8. That workers have a right to a wage level that will provide more than mere subsistence. "9. That there should be equal pay for equal work within a given plant and, approximately, throughout a given industry. "10. That labor has a right to express itself in political action and to influence State and National administrations within the bounds of reason and honesty.

"III. Labor and Management Agree Together:

- "1. That they have a joint responsibility to maintain and promote the economic welfare of the Nation. "2. That they have a joint responsibility to consider the safety and health not only of the plant personnel but also of the community and the Nation. "3. That they have a joint responsibility to promote and support public agencies engaged in the solution of social problems. "4. That in time of war the security of the Nation and victory of our armed forces is of prime concern to both labor and management. "5. That they have a joint responsibility to maintain and promote the principles of equality, justice and democracy which constitute our civic heritage. "6. It can be concluded that the resolution of industrial conflict for the future depends largely upon the attitude of honest and objective thinking and action on both sides. Since as over against these basic agreements, the differences between labor and management are comparatively few and unimportant, the outlook for industrial peace ought to be very good. "7. It remains true, however, that a lack of sincerity on the part of individuals on either side, can threaten not only the welfare of industry and labor but also that of the Nation. "8. One single requirement remains, that men be honest with one another." (Reproduction Rights Reserved)

The Finest

From the London Daily Telegraph and Morning Post. If success is the test, there can be no disputing Sir James Grigg's claim that our Army is equipped today as no British Army has ever been equipped before. He quoted some observations of Field Marshal Montgomery about the superiority of our tanks over those of the enemy, which will convince everybody except, perhaps, one or two critics who are impervious to persuasion however authoritative the evidence against them. When the field marshal says that if Rundstedt had been equipped with British tanks on December 16 he would have reached the Meuse in 36 hours, and that if the 21st Army Group had been equipped with German tanks they could not have ever crossed the Seine when they did, that must close the argument for all reasonable people. Whether it be in equipment, or in training, or in spirit no finer army ever battled in a better cause than the British Army today.

Spendthrift

I have a fortune to run through my fingers; A wealth of plum bloom, gold sunlight that lingers In paths of rich flame before feteled twilight. In silence descends. I am a spendthrift and rash with my spending, With wonder enough and beauty for lending, I own not a room without space for a skylight Until the day ends. HELEN VIRDEN.

Further Praise for Chaplain

The chaplain's letter appearing in the Letters to The Star column April 4 is something that should be emblazoned on the front page of every newspaper in the country. In quality of thought and expression it stands close to the "Gettysburg Address." I would like to see this in large type, covering a whole page of The Star. ALBERT JOSEPH McCARTNEY.

No Limit on Sale Prices

To the Editor of The Star: Would you please lift your voice on behalf of justice? OPA controls prices of rents, but there is no ceiling on the selling prices of used houses. My landlord now wants to sell my house over my head. Many persons thus are forced to buy houses at inflation prices. What good does it do to stop temporary gouging (on rents) and encourage permanent gouging (on forced sales)? If Congress would only put ceiling prices on used houses—like selling prices on used cars—it would save a great deal of inflation and exploitation. AN UNFORTUNATE TENANT.