

Zum andern ufer
Tsoom andern oofer
To the other bank

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces
Vol. 5 No. 119-1d.

in the European Theater of Operations
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1945

Quand faut-il venir?
Kau(ng) foh-til ve'neer?
When shall I call?

Two German Armies Shattered

When the Doughs Hit the Road—the Road Heads for Berlin



Doughboys of the 9th Division move across a junction of the battle-scarred Frankfurt-Ruhr express highway after it was cut by 9th Army troops east of Honell. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Reich West of Rhine Almost Conquered; Nazis Flee Ruhr

BULLETIN
3rd Army tanks have entered Ludwigshafen, war chemical center on the Rhine opposite the twin city of Mannheim, dispatches reported late last night. It was the fourth great city west of the Rhine to be entered within the last two days. Packed with war industries, it had a population of about 150,000.
Only the southeastern corner of the Saar-Palatinate remained yesterday to be conquered by troops and armor of the U.S. 3rd and 7th Armies, whose lightning thrusts have shattered two German armies, the 1st and 7th, as effective fighting forces, costing the already depleted Wehrmacht a record amount of men and equipment. One great city west of the Rhine, Ludwigshafen, still was to be entered, but its fall was imminent as four 3rd Army columns bore down upon it.

8th Pummels Luftwaffe's Airfields

In a savage blow aimed at crippling the Luftwaffe, which had appeared to be forming for a comeback in the past few weeks, U.S. heavy bombers and fighters yesterday thundered out to hammer 11 airfields, many of them bases for jet-propelled fighters and fighter-bombers, in northwest Germany, the Ruhr and southern Germany.
The 8th and 15th Air Forces combined to deliver this trip-hammer punch. The 8th had some 2,200 planes out, nearly 2,000 of which figured in the drive on air-dromes, while the 15th dispatched a separate force of Liberators to lash at the Neuburg drone, jet base 50 miles north of Munich.

The bombers and fighters carried out their assault under excellent conditions—visibility was unlimited. In the greatest blow of the whole operation, approximately 1,100 bombers of the 8th

While residents of Saar cities in many cases were welcoming the entry of U.S. troops, farther north the inhabitants of towns in the Ruhr—the only industrial region left in the Reich—were reported streaming eastward following Gen. Eisenhower's warning broadcast over Luxembourg Radio that the area had become a battle zone.
Troops in the bridgehead on the Rhine east bank had already pushed so far north that dispatches said it could possibly be called the Bonn rather than the Remagen bridgehead, should the American command decide to throw pontoon spans across at the more northerly point, where a thrust into the heart of the Reich would be aided by the easier terrain.

German forces on both the north and south perimeters of the bridgehead were reported to have slackened their resistance and fallen back to more defensible positions. One of these was the narrow Sieg river, in the northern sector of the bridgehead, but Yank troops were already lined up along its southern bank on a seven-mile stretch.

Allied fliers continued their blitz on German communications in the threatened Ruhr areas by firing marshalling yards. Towns, air-dromes and front-line enemy positions were struck.

After knocking out thousands of vehicles in sweeps over enemy columns seeking to escape from the Saar, the fliers yesterday found their targets fewer. Along a 50-mile stretch of the route followed by the 3rd Army's 10th Armored Division were the charred wrecks of tanks and armored vehicles, a front dispatch

(Continued on back page)

Carrier Planes Hit 17 Jap Warships

PACIFIC FLEET HQ, Guam, Mar. 21 (ANS)—At least 17 Japanese warships, including a 45,000-ton battleship and eight aircraft carriers, were crippled Monday by more than 1,000 American carrier planes which hunted down the bulk of the enemy home fleet hiding in Japan's 240-mile-long Inland Sea, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz revealed today.

Daring raiders from Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's task force—the world's largest—penetrating into the hitherto untrouched area which Japan considered safe for her Navy, also destroyed 475 enemy planes on Sunday and Monday and damaged more than 100 others, a communique said.

In addition, six small surface craft, including one oiler, were sunk and seven other vessels were probably sent to the bottom.

Not one American warship was sunk,

Says Japs Lost 10,000 Planes Since Sept. 1

WASHINGTON, Mar. 21 (ANS)—The Japanese air force is "now comparatively ineffective," Gen. George C. Kenney, commander of the Far East Air Force, said today, adding that the Japanese have lost approximately 10,000 fighting planes since Sept. 1.

The Japs "lost their shirt as far as air power is concerned in the Philippines operations," Kenney said.

although one was damaged seriously and others sustained minor damage when the Japanese home-based air force loosed waves of planes against the U.S. armada. Combat losses of our own carrier

planes, whose pilots reported flak "heavy enough to walk on," were "extremely light."

These first accounts of the most daring action of the Pacific war were pieced together here from the preliminary report of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, U.S. 5th Fleet commander, issued by Pacific Fleet HQ, and from pilots' accounts given to correspondents on the scene.

The fliers who swept over Japan's major naval bases in the Inland Sea, bounded by the islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, said their bombs and rockets smashed into:

A battleship of the Yamato class. The 45,000-ton Musashi was sunk last October in the battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines and her sister ship, the Yamato, was damaged. They were Japan's two biggest battleships.

A battleship converted into a big aircraft carrier; three large aircraft carriers; four small escort type carriers; a heavy cruiser; a light cruiser; four destroyers; a destroyer escort and one submarine.

The carrier planes also cratered airfields, attacked airplane factories and destroyed plane hangars, arsenals, oil stores and workshops. Although enemy air opposition was comparatively light, 200 Japanese planes were shot down in air combat and 275 others destroyed on the ground during the two-day battle.

Japanese warships, identified by Nimitz as the principal units of the Japanese fleet, scurried for shelter as the raiders bored in and Mitscher's carrier planes went in after them.

Mitscher's planes scored the first telling blow against the Japanese Navy since it was routed off Leyte Gulf and adjacent Philippine waters, with 24 warships sunk, 13 probably sunk and 21 damaged, last October.

New Fire Bomb Burns Hot Enough to Cut Steel

DETROIT, Mar. 21 (AP)—The M69 bomb used in B29 fire raids on Jap cities burns for eight to ten minutes at temperatures above 6,000 degrees centigrade—hot enough to cut through steel, R. B. Marshall, manufacturer of the weapon, disclosed today with Army approval.

The bomb, 19 inches long, six inches in diameter and weighing six pounds, contains a cloth sack filled with jellied gasoline. The bombs come in 500-pound clusters, breaking open at about 5,000 feet altitude. Four gauze tail streamers serve as speed regulators on each bomb, preventing them from breaking when they land. A delayed fuse causes detonation five seconds after impact, spewing the oil-filled cloth over an area of about 25 square yards.



Reds Mass for Berlin Drive

Holding practically all the eastern bank of the Oder River, the Russians last night were reported massing their forces for assaults on Berlin and Vienna as the Germans clung desperately to their precarious positions at Stettin, Danzig, Gdynia and in East Prussia.

At the northern end of the front, a Berlin spokesman said "the eastern bank of the Oder in the Stettin area now is in Russian hands," and other German commentators indicated that Soviet amphibious operations against the port were imminent.

Along the central front due east of Berlin the Germans reported savage fighting around Kienitz.

To the south, Marshal Koniev's troops apparently were in a position to drive across the Neisse River in a thrust toward Cottbus, guarding the southeastern defenses of Berlin.

The Germans, however, claimed that counter-attacks had halted the Russian advance.

Farther south, in southern Slovakia, Marshal Malinovsky's 2nd Ukrainian Army moved along the Hron River toward a possible union with Marshal Tolbukhin's forces for a double thrust toward the Bratislava Gap and Vienna.

In Hungary, Tolbukhin's men were reported by Berlin to have penetrated to Szekesfehervar, between Budapest and Lake Balaton. This Russian force also was said to have gained ground northwest of Tata, near the Czech border.

Along the Baltic, the Danzig-Gdynia pocket was split by the Russian drive through to the coast at Zoppot, where the Germans admitted that the loss of the dominant heights permitted Soviet guns to rake coastal communications.

Vignette of War Casts Sins Into Rhine

By Ernie Leiser

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH 9TH ARMY, Mar. 20 (Delayed)
—Pvt. Loren D. Branch, a medic from Morganton, N.C., was baptized in the waters of the Rhine River yesterday.

The baptism, an old-fashioned immersion in an inlet of the Rhine near Homberg, was performed by Chaplain Carl L. Jacobs, of Benton, Ill., to solemnize Branch's entry into the Calvary Baptist Church of his home town.

The spot chosen was in a defile out of enemy observation from the other side of the river. Asked why he chose the Rhine for his baptismal font, Branch replied, "It's customary for baptism to be in a river, and—well, the Rhine was the closest."

Bowles Denies Meat to Go Up

WASHINGTON, Mar. 21 (UP)—The U.S. government will not raise meat prices as a means of overcoming the shortage, Chester Bowles, head of the Office of Price Administration, told the Senate Banking Committee today in answering allegations of the American Meat Institute that OPA was price-fixing meat producers into bankruptcy.

Bowles accused the Institute of causing "newspaper headlines of famine" and declared that the facts do not justify scare stories.

From farmers at the same time came news that food production this year was expected to be five to ten per cent lower than last year, despite the fact that planted

acreage will be about the same.

The Department of Agriculture said that U.S. farmers had reached their maximum production under war-time conditions and that no further increase was possible because of the lack of equipment, transport and the large numbers of young farmers who have been drafted.

In London, Prime Minister Churchill declared that, contrary to the impression in some U.S. quarters that the British food reserve amounted to 700 million tons, it actually was less than six million. These stocks, he said, were in the process of being reduced by aid to the liberated countries to about 4½ million tons by the end of June.

RAF Sees—and Hits—Through Camouflage

Typhoon pilots of the 2nd Tactical Air Force yesterday reported that the Nazis, in a desperate effort to preserve their battered supply lines, have taken to painting rails, ties and even bolts along the top of idle rail cars to make them blend with the real tracks.

The pilots came low enough to see through the slick camouflage job, however, and decorate it with a bit of cannon and rocket fire.

and most of its 800 fighters zoomed over nine fields in northwest Germany to wield a three-pronged blow.

First the bombers came in for their run, followed by fighters which laid fragmentation bombs on runways and other vital spots on the fields. Fighters carried out the third phase of the attack by sweeping in to strafe the dromes.

In a later operation, approximately 100 Liberators, covered by 100 Mustangs, struck an additional blow, pounding the Mulheim airfield between Duisburg and Essen. The remainder of the 8th's bomber force soared deep into eastern Germany to hit once more a tank and armament plant at Plauen, south of

(Continued on back page)

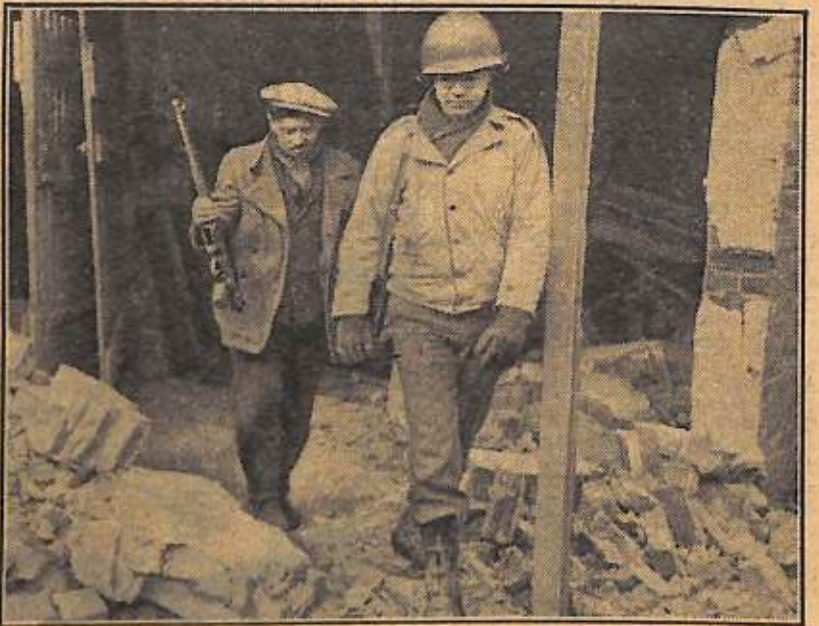
Koenig Assumes Command UK Base

Brig. Gen. E. F. Koenig, who headed the American delegation to the armistice commission in Bulgaria last year, has been named commanding general of U.K. Base. He succeeds Maj. Gen. H. B. Vaughan Jr., who has received an assignment elsewhere in the ETO.

Prior to his arrival here, Koenig commanded the Mediterranean Base Section. He has also seen duty in Alaska and North Africa.

A New Yorker, Koenig was graduated from Columbia University in 1912. In World War I he served with the British Army. In 1916 he transferred to the American Army and has remained in the service ever since.

What You'd Call a Weapon Carrier



A 1st Army soldier leads a bedraggled member of the Nazi Volkssturm out of a shell-blasted building in the Roer Valley, conscious of the old guy's machine-gun but not giving a damn. When a Nazi officer issued the weapon to this defender of the Fatherland, he forgot to tell him how to use it. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

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Politics for Peace
 Mar. 15, 1945

To the B-Bag:
 I must confess that I really know very little of the activities and accomplishments of either the VFW or the American Legion. The net impression has been that they do very little but parade on Armistice Day, have a noisy, drunken convention once a year and lobby for benefits to their members. If this is the extent of their aims they have apparently accomplished much. If they have aimed higher they obviously have failed to score.
 As Pfc Stephen R. Novak pointed out in a recent letter, these veterans' organizations completely failed themselves, the nation and, in fact, the world as far as preventing the present conflict is concerned. Yet they knew war then as we know it now.
 Let the men of this war get together, if necessary, in a new organization where the control is in their own hands and play politics, hard, cold, above or below board, exert influence, not for their minority body but for the whole country, not for a bonus or pensions but for peace. Let us appoint ourselves the watch dogs of good will on earth.
 It has been said that folks at home "don't know there's a war on." This, I believe, disregarding the many reasons, is partly true. If they don't know now, how hard is it going to be for most of them to remember ten years from now? Those who know now, the soldiers, should be able to recall with little trouble, and it is then that we may serve to best advantage in preventing World War III.
 I hope there will be other similar answers to Novak's letter and that a hundred years in the future will find a grateful world honoring the soldiers of the 1940s, not only for winning the war but for winning the peace as well.—Capt. John H. McCullough, T. C. Sq.

Discharge Furloughs
 Mar. 14, 1945

To the B-Bag:
 You report that Admiral Standley is advocating a month's furlough for all armed forces members before discharge. Sounds good at first—but isn't the Admiral aware that officers get accumulated unused leave for the past four years upon release? (AR 605-115.) But a GI's theoretical furlough time of 30 days a year expires yearly whether he can get it or not.
 Such inequality of treatment cannot be justified in a citizens' army. Why not simply give EMs the same benefit of the unused furlough time that officers get?
 Justice could be done by simply amending the Army Regulation, making unused furlough time cumulative. That it hasn't been done after three years of war indicates that Congress should act on the matter. How about it?—T/4 A. L. Friedman, Sta. Hosp.

Effective Orientation
 Mar. 13, 1945

To the B-Bag:
 The letter "Lecture vs. War Effort" is definite proof that our Army orientation program isn't as effective as it should be.
 I happen to be a discussion leader and I say, with all due modesty, that I have done more toward this program than the average GI. I take an interest in it because I'm sold on it. I feel that we can't contribute ideas on peace as recommended by Senator Vandenberg if we don't discuss the factors necessary for a lasting peace.
 How about getting some men involved in the orientation program who don't consider this important work "just a job," but who are convinced that winning a peace is as important as winning a war.
 Let's take this program out of the "paper work" class and give the men a program they will appreciate and understand.—Sgt. M. Chaves, BAD.

Question Box

What are the regulations that determine membership in the Short Snorter club?
 (Although there are no official rules the most commonly accepted membership requirement is a flight across any ocean.)
 Are hash marks authorized for National Guard service?
 (No. Hash marks are authorized only for Federal service. You start counting from the day you actually were sworn into the Army. See AR 600-40.)
 Is there a regulation or policy governing the maximum length of overseas service?
 (No. The legal staff at Army News Service in New York reports that there is neither regulation nor policy to limit the length of foreign duty.)
 Are decisions to return combat casualties to the U.S. based on the length of hospitalization?
 (No. U.K. Base medical officers said decisions depend entirely on diagnoses.)

Hash Marks

Overheard in a Bistro. "My memory is excellent. There are only three things I can't remember. I can't remember names, faces—and I forget what the third thing is."
 "What's the Army coming to," asks Sgt. Edward Marnige, "when you take over from a guy on guard and he says, 'For this relief, many thanks.'" (Hamlet, Act I, Scene 1.)

Silly Story (repeated by request). A worm met another worm coming up from the ground and remarked, "You're very beautiful. I'd like to marry you." "Don't be silly," was the reply, "I'm your other end."
 Afterthought. How come gals with



cotton stockings never see a mouse?
 Sgt. Gaston L. Dargis, somewhere in Belgium, sends in this swell parody on "The Trolley Song":
 Chug, chug, chug, went the mortar,
 Bang, bang, bang, went the shells,
 Whiz whiz, whiz, went the shrapnel,
 And the moment I heard it I fell.
 Crank, crank, crank, went old meemie,
 Whee, whee, whee, screamed her shells,
 Thump, thump, thump, went my heart-strings,
 And it's started to pounding like hell.
 Oddities in the News. Being short of pounds and pence one month, Sgt. Herman Schlanger of a hospital unit wrote his wife for some money. Weeks later he received a package containing a roulette wheel.
 Suggested headline on the New York saloon curfew: "Twenty Million Men Made Homeless."
 Sgt. Bernard Maxwell sez they name it the Oder River because it is defended by so many stinkers.
 Definition of an Old-Timer in the ETO: "A guy who can remember when the Red Cross clubs could leave trays full



of cigarettes on the counters and you could even be choosy about your brand (for free, too).
 Afterthought. Just because a girl is well oiled is no sign she won't squeal.
 Who said that? Sometimes you can't tell how a girl will turn out until her folks turn in.
 J. C. W.

Hope for the Future

HERE are seven points in a recent speech by Commander Harold E. Stassen, U.S. delegate to the approaching United Nations conference at San Francisco:



Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen
 future welfare and peace and happiness of the world.

"That as a nation we will join with our present Allies. . . . To build a definite continuing organization of the united nations of the world, based on justice and law and insured by force. . . .
 "That we do not subscribe to the extreme view of nationalistic sovereignty; that we realize that neither this nation nor any other nation can be a law unto itself. . . . And that we are willing to delegate a limited portion of our national sovereignty to our United Nations organization. . . .
 "That we consider the future welfare and peace and happiness of the people of America are inseparably intertwined with the

productive capacity of America . . . to contribute to the gradual advancement of the standards of living of the peoples of the world, not as recipients of charity but as self-respecting men and women.
 "That we believe in freedom of information through press and radio and school and forum. . . .
 "That those who were aggressors in this war shall be stripped of all means to make war and shall remain so stripped. . . .
 "That we are and propose to remain a democracy of free citizens and will explain our system to the world but will leave it to the peoples in each nation to decide for themselves their own form of government so long as they do not trample on basic human rights or threaten the peace of the world.
 Things are looking up.

Nazis Better Edelweiss Up

Germans Aren't Kidding Doughs By Hailing Them as Liberators

By Howard Byrne
 Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 7TH ARMY, Mar. 21—Doughboys pressing into Germany detect little change in the appearance of the people or the villages from those in northern Alsace.
 "That's why it is hard for us to realize that we are in enemy country," said Maj. Sheldon D. Elliott, of Los Angeles, AMG officer.

'Nuts' McAuliffe Cracks More

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
 WITH 103RD INF. DIV., Germany, Mar. 21—When American fighter bombers swooped to work over a town in Siegfried, Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, CG of the 103rd, hit the dirt with the rest of his men and came up with 14 prisoners and one of the first pillboxes taken by his division.
 McAuliffe was visiting a forward area of his 411th Regiment below Nieder Schlettenbach when he was forced to hit the dirt. When the planes passed, Capt. Ted Starret, of Belfast, Me., nudged the General and said:
 "Don't look now, Sir, but there's a pillbox."
 McAuliffe calmly brushed off his clothes and sauntered over with his party to investigate. When they were almost close enough to the bunker to strike matches on it, a stick appeared with a white flag on the end.
 Fourteen Nazis walked out of the pillbox to surrender. They were taken into custody by the General's party, which included Maj. Robert L. Crouse, of Tracy City, Tenn., Sgt. Everett O'Laughlin, of Ottumwa, Ia., and Pfc Paul Lehman, of Baraboo, Wis.
 Now the 103rd boys are arguing whether the Germans were stunned by the bombs or by McAuliffe.

"We've been accustomed to being friendly with German-looking and German-speaking people and the adjustment is not going to be easy."
 He was tacking up proclamations along the street giving the civilians blackout regulations which stated that they would be shot if they appeared outside their houses after curfew. He said that few people had left the town because it had been taken so quickly.
 "Now they all pretend to be neutral," he said.
 "They tell us that they are all good Germans and hate Hitler. Some even have the gall to say we are liberators. I wonder whom they think they're kidding."

Nobody Was Kidding

But nobody seemed to be kidding the doughboys. They went about their duties methodically, paying no attention to the civilians. The Germans stood in doorways and gathered on corners, watching everything covertly. They were a stolid lot and seemed neither downcast nor cheerful. They kept their distance from the soldiers and did not attempt to strike up conversations.
 Some wore edelweiss in their caps which is said to be a symbol for some underground anti-Nazi organizations. Nobody knew much about it and the edelweiss didn't look as though it had been there very long.
 The doughboys found it difficult to restrain their natural impulse of friendliness toward the children compared with their stony, cold attitude toward the adults. But they seemed to be doing it.
 "The only fraternization trouble I have heard so far," said Elliott, "is that two kids were found with a stick of gum and a piece of chocolate. An investigation is going on now to determine how they got the candy."

Cathedral Still Stands



Large stone fragments, blasted loose during Allied air attacks on nearby targets, litter the floor of the Cologne Cathedral. Despite blast damage, the edifice remained structurally intact.

Troop Carriers Relieve 152,000

More than 100,000 sorties over Europe—including missions to besieged Bastogne and to 3rd Army divisions cut off near St. Vith last February—were flown by planes of the U.S. Troop Carrier Forces since activation in the ETO 16 months ago.
 Since arriving from the Mediterranean, the TCF has delivered more than 130,000 tons of priority supplies and evacuated over 152,000 wounded soldiers, Maj. Gen. Paul L. Williams, TCF commander, announced yesterday.
 Highpoint of activity recently was a two-day Red Ball supply mission on Feb 13 and 14 when 493,095 pounds of rations, ammunition and other supplies, including 18,153 gallons of gasoline, were dropped through heavy weather at St. Vith.
 Troop Carrier skytrains began operating from continental bases on June 10, 1944, four days after D-Day, when two planes landed on an improvised strip with nurses and medical supplies and took off with beachhead casualties.

British Bailey Bridge Called 'Best' by GIs

U.S. combat engineers have nothing but praise for British bridging equipment—take it from Lt. J. L. Ryan, of Butte, Mont., whose squad has put up 20 British Bailey bridges since D-Day.
 "It's better than ours and better, by far, than anything the Heinies have been able to think up," Ryan, an engineer in civil life, said. "We have a good bridge ourselves, but it carries only comparatively light loads and there's a limit to its length. Now the Baileys can be put up just as quickly and can carry heavier loads.
 Ryan's squad is currently working on a two-way timber trestle bridge to replace the existing Bailey bridge outside a ruined German town.

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Why don't you chuck a grenade in and blast 'em out?"

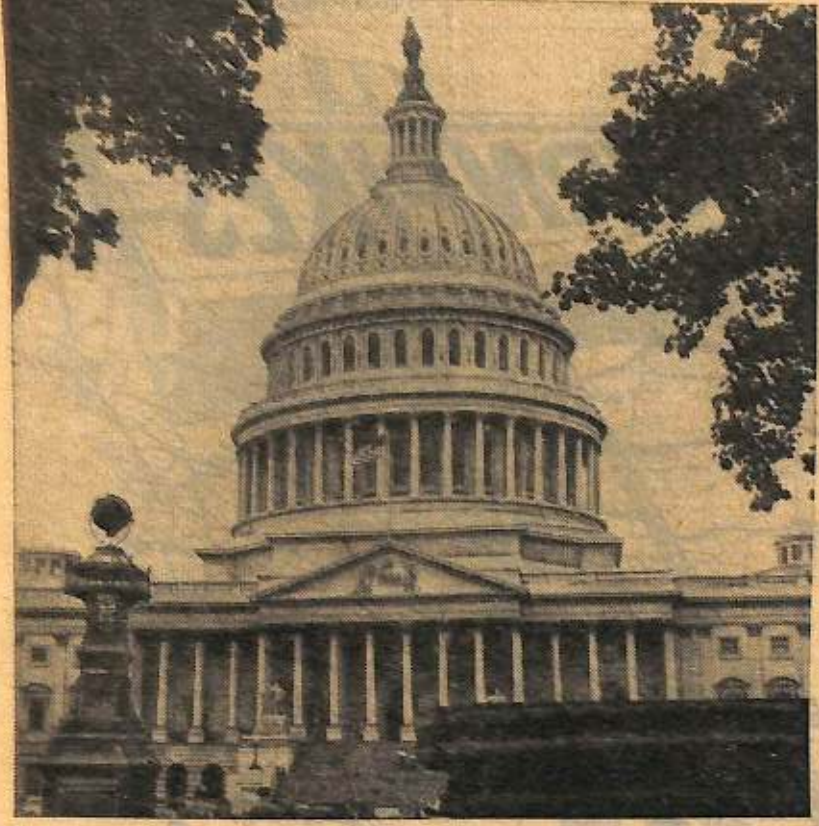
AFN Radio Program

- Thursday, Mar. 22
 1200—World News.
 1205—Duffie Bag.
 1300—Headlines—This is the Story.
 1330—Rudy Vallee.
 1400—World News.
 1410—AEF Extra.
 1430—Let's go to Town.
 1500—Headlines—Strike up the Band.
 1530—On the Record.
 1630—Amos 'n' Andy.
 1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup.
 1715—Canada Swing Show.
 1745—AEFP on the Spot.
 1800—World News.
 1805—Mark up the Map.
 1810—American Sports Roundup.
 1815—GI Supper Club.
 1900—Headlines—Hollywood Music Hall.
 1930—American Dance Band.
 2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.
 2015—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop.
 2030—Burns and Allen.
 2100—World News.
 2105—Soldier and a Song.
 2115—Harry James.
 2130—Mystery Playhouse.
 2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
 2205—Navy Date.
 2235—Merely Music.
 2300—News.
 2305—Merely Music.
 2330—Sign off until 0755 hours Friday, Mar. 23.
- Friday, Mar. 23
 0755—Sign On—Program Resume.
 0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
 0815—Personal Album with Martha Mears.
 0830—Music by Freddy Martin.
 0900—World News.
 0905—Spotlight on Jan Savitt.
 0925—AEF Ranch House.
 1000—Headlines—Morning After (Crosby Music Hall).
 1030—Strike up the Band.
 1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
 1105—Duffie Bag.

Housecleaning On Capitol Hill—

Streamlined Congress Sought To Speed Legislative Process

By Robert Iglehart
 Tomorrow's U.S. Bureau



NEW YORK, Mar. 21—Back in 1943, a marine sergeant, frightened by visions of the post-war world advertising copywriters pictured, published an impassioned poem in YANK, “Please Don’t Streamline Mother While I’m Gone.” While chances are slim that anything drastic will happen to Mother, it does look as though another old and respected institution—Congress—is in for some streamlining. The present Congress will consider a great many important things and one of them is Congress itself.

In the past few years there has been a shower of criticism about the “horse and buggy ways” of Congress. Some of this criticism, the loudest in fact, has been from Congressmen. They say they are trying to do the work of a bulldozer with a child’s shovel. That we are a mangled democracy trying to operate our government by the methods of an infant republic.

Now our senators and representatives seem to be ready to make some changes designed to strengthen the role of Congress in national affairs, and to modernize legislative machinery no longer apace with twentieth-century government. Congress has come to the decision to create a joint committee to streamline for efficiency.

The first concrete step in this direction was the passage of the Maloney-Monroney Resolution, setting up a joint Senate-House Committee to study Congressional operations and recommend improvements. Representative A. S. Mike Monroney, of Oklahoma, who with the late Senator Francis Maloney, of Connecticut, was co-sponsor of the reform measure, does not expect anything too drastic at the start.

A Free Hand

The Maloney-Monroney Resolution carries the Bankhead amendment closely defining the inquiry’s scope and banning any tampering with Senate debate rules. In addition, the Lucas amendment gives the committee a free hand to study and recommend consolidation and reorganization of House and Senate committees. The first report of the committee, as required by the resolution, must be made by April 1, 1945.

The committee will get the views of newspapermen, political scientists, specialists in business management, as well as those of fellow-congressmen. The committee has a two-year life span. Its approach will be slow toward the two basic and most troublesome problems. One is the seniority system, by which an unfit man sometimes is lifted to the chairmanship of an important committee simply because he is the oldest in point of service. Many senior members are from poll tax states, and actually represent but a small minority of the population of their districts. They remain in office indefinitely because there can be no strongly organized resistance. The second problem is the fact that a congressman must spend perhaps as much time lobbying for his district as he does in working on national politics.

The self-admitted need for change has brought to Congress offers of aid from outside sources. The National Planning Association (composed of leaders in agriculture, business, labor and government) has presented proposals drawn up by Robert Heller, Cleveland business

management adviser. After a nine-months study, Heller feels that unless Congress is strengthened “there is danger it will lose the degrees of public confidence it should command.”

Some Suggestions

Most of the suggestions to trim Congress to fit the present fast-pace age might be placed under the following headings:
 1—There should be fewer committees. The two houses together have 80 standing committees plus 38 special committees in the Senate and 30 in the House. Senator LaFollette, Wisconsin Progressive, believes that the Senate could get along with 13 committees instead of its present 33.

Others say that there should be but ten standing committees in each house—the same number as executive departments in the government. Each committee would then handle legislation dealing with one particular field and would not duplicate the work of some other committee. Duplication of effort is one of the things most frequently and loudly criticized by Congressional observers.

Rep. Cochran, Missouri Democrat, points out, “Time after time, I have seen high ranking officials of the Army, Navy, Maritime Commission, and other war agencies before a Senate committee one day and a House committee the next day, going over the same subject.” The New York Times believes that the chairmen of these committees should be organized in a central committee overseeing the work of Congress and conferring with the President and his advisers.

2—The seniority system should be changed. There is objection to giving a chairmanship to a man “just because he has outlived his colleagues and has been re-elected regularly.”

Republican weakness in the “Solid South” makes it easy for a Southerner to be re-elected. In the 78th Congress, Southerners were chairmen of 16 of 33 Senate Committees and 21 of 46 House committees. The seven poll tax states—Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia—produce many senior members in both Houses because incumbent Congressmen have merely to indicate a willingness to run again to be returned for another term.

A Majority Vote

The seniority system, many observers believe, bars capable younger men from responsible positions. To allow capability to rise to its fullest, it has been suggested that the committee chairmen be chosen by the majority party caucus, or by majority vote of the members of the committee.

Defenders of the seniority rule insist that most of the chairmen are excellent men, or at least qualified by long experience. Champ Clark, of Missouri, 26 years

in the House and speaker four times, once said: “A man has to learn to be a congressman just as he has to learn to be a blacksmith . . . or a doctor. A new congressman must begin at the foot of the class and spell up.”

3—Taxation and appropriation measures should be handled differently. Today, tax bills are written both by the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. They work independently of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, which decide how much is to be spent and for what. The President’s annual budget and his tax recommendations are thus never debated as a whole by Congress. There is no one unified budget, and no one person or committee is responsible for it. Proposals include a Fiscal Committee for each house and the merger of these two into a joint Fiscal Committee to act for Congress.

4—Congressional committees need more help in their work. They lack expert staffs to supply them with information on the tremendously technical jobs with which they must constantly deal. Students of this problem believe that adequate help would enable Congress to keep accurate check on government agencies and relieve Congressmen of a great deal of routine study by making available essential first-hand information.

No More Filibuster

Bills are written in Congress by a drafting service consisting of eight lawyers who cost Congress only \$83,000 a year for salaries and expenses. But, the office of Solicitor of the Agriculture Department alone has 600 employees and a yearly appropriation of \$1,679,000. Congress has one expert of social welfare whose annual salary is \$2,600. The Bureau of Labor Statistics spends \$2,000,000 a year and the Social Security Board spends \$3,000,000 a year collecting such material. They have plenty of experts.

Heller’s plans include wiping out the filibuster as a parliamentary weapon along with the practice of tacking on unrelated “riders” to appropriation bills and other measures. If that is done an amused crowd in a congressional gallery will no longer witness a future Huey Long reading from “Gone With the Wind” or a cook book to maintain his right to the floor.

He also believes that congressional salaries are far too low—and should be raised from 10 to 25 thousand dollars a year with pensions for those who retire after 55. Congress has hesitated to take such a step in the past for fear of criticism. Yet, in these days Congress votes \$7 for the rest of the government for every penny it votes for its own upkeep.

Another suggestion by Heller is the idea of questioning Cabinet members periodically on the floors of both houses after the British parliamentary manner.

Another voice of authority and knowledge, the American Political Science Association’s Committee on Congress, has made a four-year study of Congress. This committee’s suggestion follows Heller’s in most ways. It recommended, among other things, that salaries be raised to 15 thousand dollars, that Congress pass on to other agencies such works as the government of the District of Columbia, the settlement of claims and pensions,

other private and local legislation with a greater use of government corporations and regional authority, subject to strict Congressional control.

Both Heller and the committee were agreed that the complex committee structure should be reorganized and the work of both houses be more centralized and co-ordinated.

Critics of Congress do not question the fact that our senators and representatives are, by an overwhelming majority, able, conscientious and hard-working. Their point is that these men are handicapped by out-dated procedures, keeping them from doing the best job possible.

The average senator now serves on four to six permanent committees and the average representative on three to four. Mail alone is a full-time job with at least twice as many letters flooding in upon Congress as there were ten years ago.

Personal calls from constituents are heavier than ever before and a Congressman who wishes to keep his job can’t

afford to turn away from too many of them. Faced with this, the average senator or representative finds it impossible to attend the full daily session of his house. If a Congressman is absent during debate, the gallery visitor should not conclude he is taking a nap. He is probably outside the chamber meeting someone from home, at his office answering requests for favors or preparing material for tomorrow’s committee meeting. Your typical Congressman keeps falling behind in his work even though he keeps his office open three or four nights a week.

Die-hards, opposing all reforms in Congress, will stand pat on their arguments that the present procedures are the result of a century and a half of trial and error and that rapid, sweeping changes would be unwise. But, the Maloney-Monroney Committee emphasizes the real consideration being given to the problems. And, since Congress is the institution most closely tied up with our liberties, anything which helps Congress do a better job strengthens democracy.



A Senate Committee, like one above quizzing Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., on department appointees, may shortly turn to question of “rejuvenating” Congress.

Science in Review

Snow-Clogged Runways Pose Problem for Nation’s Airports

By Waldemar Kaempfert
 N.Y. Times Correspondent

DURING the past December and January airports in many States were closed down for days by heavy snows, drifts and ice ruts. One large metropolitan airport, with \$100,000 invested in snow-removal equipment, had to cancel more than 300 flights over one five-day period because its runways were operated only on an emergency basis for almost a month.

In some industries underground snow-melting lines cope with this problem. Hot water in the lines melts snow on truck driveways and crosswalks and also evaporates the resulting water.

Engineers believe that 1-inch to 1½-inch wrought-iron pipelines spaced about a yard apart and formed into grids of approximately 1,000-foot circuits will keep runways clear. Steam from the airport’s boiler house could be fed into a small underground heat exchanger in each circuit for conversion into hot water to be circulated by pump. With the temperature of the runway raised to 40 or 45 degrees the heaviest snowfall would melt quickly. The cushion of warm air that would form immediately above the runway surface would rapidly absorb the water so that it would evaporate. Such a system would have to function only during the few days when snow falls.

At present the cost of removing snow at an airport which serves an area with a million population runs about \$200,000 annually. This includes the annual charges for equipment and labor and the revenue lost by canceled flights. If the underground snow-melting system could be bought and installed for \$3,000,000, the annual interest on the investment, plus operating and maintenance costs, would amount to less than is now being spent. Flight schedules could be maintained the year round, except for the usual bad weather. As one commercial airline pilot affirms: “It isn’t snow in the air that makes flying hazardous; it’s snow on the runways that we must land on and take off from.”

Young Scientists Prove Their Worth

WASHINGTON—Not all American youngsters are limited in their tastes to jive and comic books.

Take 40 who assembled here this week. One had made a tuning fork device for measuring the speed of bullets; another 17-year-old girl had built a mechanical heart with which to nourish living organs while studying them; others demonstrated homemade electric furnaces, photoelectric cells and other devices of importance to science.

They were high school seniors from all over the country who had won finalist positions in the fourth annual science talent search. They’re competing for \$11,000 in Westinghouse science scholarships.

More Jobs for Vets

NEW YORK—American industry will provide 3,400,000 to 4,400,000 more jobs after reconversion than existed in 1939, and with comparable increases in other lines there will be work for 56,000,000 individuals, Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, predicts.

The NAM forecast was only slightly under the goal of 60,000,000 set by Administration leaders.



House and Senate meet in joint session to count electoral college ballots. No change in this procedure has been voiced by law-makers who seek to revamp Congress.

Radio Telephone Service Urged

WASHINGTON—The American Telephone and Telegraph company has urged the Federal Communications Commission to give it radio wave bands for mobile telephone service between moving vehicles and for service for rural subscribers.

F. M. Ryan, speaking for the company, asked the FCC to allocate at least a single six-megacycle band to common carrier services and the sharing of frequencies between rural subscribers to the telephone service and urban mobile telephone service.

He said several bus and truck lines have expressed interest in AT and T plans for telephone service between moving vehicles.

Radio telephone service for rural subscribers, he said, would enable the company to furnish service to many thousands of families living in areas where no telephone service now is available because there are no lines.