

## Heard in Washington

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first-class infantrymen in 17 weeks for replacement troops overseas.

\* \* \*

Farm Security Administration will be continued another year, according to present outlook, while Congress studies reorganization plan proposed in Cooley committee bill. Senate Agriculture Committee has recommended this course, Appropriations Committee seems likely to agree.

\* \* \*

Reason planes are being returned to air lines is to prevent breakdown of domestic airmail service. In a recent week 10,000,000 airmail letters failed to get air transport; priority cargoes took all the room.

Lines probably will get 24 planes back shortly, more later. They have 195 in service now.

\* \* \*

Proposed Wheeler-White bill to amend radio law is bogged down, probably won't be heard of again in this Congress. One reason: Industry can't agree on what it wants.

Long hearings were held after first bill was introduced; measure was to be brought back in revised form. But weeks have passed, and there's no sign that it's coming.

\* \* \*

Representative Jim McCord will leave the House to be Governor of Tennessee. He's candidate of Crump-McKellar machine; has no serious opposition.

\* \* \*

Effort will be made in Senate to continue Board of Investigation and Research on transportation, despite failure of House to give it funds for 1945. Senate Appropriations Committee is more favor-

able. Chief point of controversy: Two of board's three members wrote report favoring parity for South and West on freight rates.

\* \* \*

Former Justices Hughes and McReynolds may be summoned back to Supreme Court to decide aluminum and North American cases, pending for years because four Justices have disqualified themselves and law calls for court quorum of six.

Congress turns a cold shoulder to Justice Department proposals that quorum be lowered to five. Substitute legislation is before Judiciary Committee authorizing use of retired Justices when quorum can't be secured otherwise.

\* \* \*

John L. Lewis' demand for retroactive portal-to-portal pay for his miners isn't the only headache at Solid Fuels Administration.

Faced with the job of getting out 620,000,000 tons of coal this year with a limited number of miners, and with draft threatening younger men, officials are still plagued with absenteeism. Some mines report one-third of their forces absent at a time.

Usual reason advanced by managers is that miners are "making too much money," take time off to spend it. Union leaders have co-operated in the field to cut down absenteeism, but with little success.

\* \* \*

Allied prisoners of war will

keep on getting food packages when invasion starts. British Red Cross has 20,000 tons of packages stored in Switzerland in case regular transportation routes break down.

\* \* \*

American "cowboy drivers" annoy British. Some 1000 damage claims are filed each week for personal injuries, property damage. Claims over \$5000 had to be sent to United States, for action by Congress, until recently. Delays added to ill feeling. Now Lend-Lease will take care of them. British taxpayers will settle for damage done by American soldiers; American taxpayers will meet claims of British subjects in America.

\* \* \*


Taxpayers cashed many government bonds to meet April tax instalments. But records show that since Jan. 1 redemptions have been only 9 per cent of sales.

\* \* \*

Last January WPB said no cut-backs to permit civilian goods in 1944 unless war in Europe should end by June or July. And no one talks now about early ending.

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