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Hollywood Takes Time Out for War Production Slow as Studio Managers Bite Nails at Delays

Studio managers are tearing their hair over loss of time on the lots. An efficiency graph would show a new high in activity, a new low in production today. The dramatic impact of Europe's news is echoing in offices, on sets and along the shady sides of narrow streets inside the studio walls.

A week ago radios were forbidden in several of the studios. Everybody kicked. Today one finds workers grouped about in offices or shouting down hallways to exchange the latest bulletins. Newspapers are bought up as fast as they get out from Los Angeles.

During President Roosevelt's recent speech telephone calls throughout Los Angeles dropped 50 per cent and were virtually nil in the studios for more than half an hour.

One reason for Hollywood's intensive interest in war developments is the large number of foreign-born workers in the studios. Their relatives are in the invaded zones. Another is the insatiable desire of picture people to be able to tell the other fellow what is going on.

This lost time hits Hollywood in its tenderest spot, as any interference with production costs the studios thousands of dollars. An average uninterrupted day before the camera produces only enough of the finished film to run three minutes on the screen.