

News Review of Current Events

DEALS WITH DICTATORS

Chamberlain Planning Anglo-Italian Agreement and Four-Power Pact . . . France in Dilemma



Chancellor Hitler delivering the sensational speech in which he defied the world, declaring Germany was not afraid of war. Above him is seen General Goering. This is a radiophoto from Berlin.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Anglo-Italian Plans

SUPPORTED by a large majority in the house of commons, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain moved rapidly toward realization of his plan for European appeasement, the basis of which was to be a speedy truce with Italy, to be followed by a four-power pact including Britain, France, Italy and Germany. Chamberlain abandoned entirely the British foreign policy based on collective security. He got rid of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, putting in his place Lord Halifax, outspoken friend of Nazi Germany, and defied the opposition of the Labor party in parliament.

The earl of Perth, British ambassador to Rome, had conversations with Italian Foreign Minister Ciano and was then called to London for further instructions. It was said Perth and Ciano agreed the following points must be discussed and, if possible, made a part of the London-Rome treaty:

Britain must recognize the Italian conquest of Ethiopia. An Anglo-Italian Mediterranean pact should be arranged to include Italian naval parity with Britain in the Mediterranean, reduction in Italy's troops in Libya, and British assurances that the Suez canal will be safeguarded against closing or air attack.

Immediate cessation of anti-Italian propaganda in the British territories in the Near East in return for which Italy will guarantee not to include anti-British propaganda in its Bari radio broadcasts.

Withdrawal of foreign "volunteers" from Spain was to be demanded by Britain, and it was understood in London that Chancellor Hitler of Germany had agreed to that, and that Italy would not refuse, although Mussolini especially wishes that Franco be granted belligerent rights.

France in Tight Place

FRANCE, it was expected, would adopt a course parallel with that of Britain, for, as Foreign Minister Delbos said, she might otherwise find herself isolated in Europe. However Premier Chautemps served notice on Chamberlain that the French would join in the proposed four-power pact only if protection were assured for Czechoslovakia and Austria. The French secret defense committee met to organize an arms expansion program involving \$85,400,000 and to lay plans for defending the Czechs against German aggression.

The Chamberlain plan leaves out Soviet Russia, an ally of France; and the French also seemed likely to lose another ally, for Poland, it appeared, was about to enter into an agreement with Germany against Russia. Field Marshal Goering, Hitler's right-hand man, was in Warsaw, entertained by President Moscicki, Foreign Minister Beck and Field Marshal Smigly-Ridz, head of the Polish army. That soldier and other leading Poles believe war between Germany and Russia will break out before long. They don't like the Germans but fear that if Stalin lost the war Hitler would proceed to grab Poland.

Isolationists Cheered

AMERICAN isolationists saw in the new European developments the eclipse of the internationalism fostered by President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull, and were greatly encouraged in their determination to keep the United States free from foreign entanglements. At the same time the proponents of powerful national defense were elated and the administra-

tion's big navy program received a great boost. The house naval affairs committee was about ready to report favorably the billion dollar navy construction bill, which may include provision for the establishment of more naval bases, mainly in the Pacific.

Hitler Defies the World

POLITICAL turmoil spread over Europe after Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler, in an address to the reichstag, declared his intention to make Germany one of the most powerful nations in the world, gave warning that it was re-arming and did not fear war though it desired peace, and demanded the return of Germany's lost colonies. Furthermore, Hitler upheld the aggressive actions of Italy and Japan, and asserted that Germany would not tolerate ultimate victory of the loyalist faction in Spain over Franco's rebel forces.

The Fuehrer told with gratification of his success in compelling Chancellor Schuschnigg to give the Austrian Nazis representation in his cabinet and to permit them to act as a political party. He gave no assurance that the independence of Austria would be preserved. He openly threatened similar action against Czechoslovakia unless the Germans in that country were granted "political liberty."

Hitler's speech might be summarized as a declaration that Germany will ignore Great Britain, France and other western powers in carrying out her international policies, will continue her efforts to destroy the last vestiges of the general settlements which followed the World War; will insist that the "have not" nations must be restored to a basis of equality with the "have" powers, and is prepared to defy any combination of powers which may be formed against her.

Halifax Succeeds Eden

REFUSING to go along with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in his plans to "buy" a friendly settlement with Germany and Italy, Capt. Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary who has fought the ambitions of European dictators for two years, resigned from the cabinet. With him went Viscount Cranborn, the principal foreign undersecretary. Viscount Halifax was appointed to succeed Eden temporarily. This change was in effect another triumph for Hitler, was especially regretted by France, and threatened to precipitate a serious crisis for the British government.

Viscount Halifax, lord president of the council and former viceroy of India, is a personal friend of Hitler and an insistent advocate of immediate friendship with Germany and Italy, even at the cost of great concessions by Britain. He was sent to Berlin not long ago to talk over matters with the Nazi leaders.

Crop Insurance Manager

ROY M. GREEN of Missouri has been made manager of the \$100,000,000 federal crop insurance corporation, the agency created under the new farm law to insure wheat growers against crop failures. The appointment was made by the board of directors, which also selected Cecil A. Johnson, formerly of Ames, Iowa, as its secretary. Green has been chief of the Agriculture department's division of finance in the bureau of agricultural economics since 1935.

McNutt Hullabaloo

PAUL V. McNUTT, high commissioner to the Philippines, came home to report to the President, and as soon as he arrived in Washington his enthusiastic friends staged a big reception for the purpose of booming him as Democratic nominee for the Presidency in 1940. All experienced politicians agree that this is most premature, and in the capital it was felt that it was decidedly distasteful to Mr. Roosevelt, who doesn't wish to be hurried in picking his possible successor. No member of the cabinet except Secretary Roper and no important man of the administration attended the reception.

McNutt said he was not a candidate for any office, but Senator Sherman Minton, Governor Townsend and other leading Democrats of Indiana insist he should be nominated in 1940, and no one doubts that he would like to be so honored.

Chandler in Race

GOVERNOR A. B. ("HAPPY") CHANDLER of Kentucky formally announced his candidacy for the senate seat occupied by Alben W. Barkley, majority leader. He said he would try to confine his fight to state issues, but would not hesitate to take issue with the Roosevelt administration if it interfered in the primaries in behalf of Barkley.

Green Hits Lewis' Plan

MOVING to stop John Lewis and his C. I. O. from gaining political control of Pennsylvania, the American Federation of Labor revoked the charter of the state federation. President Green announced that action with a declaration that the votes of 400,000 "loyal" federation members in Pennsylvania "cannot be delivered" by "self-constituted labor leaders, ambitious for political power."

Lewis and his unions are planning to elect Lieut. Gov. Thomas Kennedy to the governorship. He is secretary-treasurer of the miners' union.

Coal Prices Revoked

FACED with growing litigation, the national bituminous coal commission announced it had taken the advice of producers and labor unions and voted unanimously to suspend its schedule of soft coal minimum prices, marketing rules and regulations. The prices had been set aside by the courts in numerous cases.

Franco Regains Teruel

FRANCO'S insurgent forces recovered possession of Teruel, Spain, and continued their progress toward the Mediterranean coast. In the recaptured city they took more than 16,000 prisoners and buried 9,000 government dead. Rebel warships bombarded the coastal cities of Valencia and Sagunto and were in turn attacked by government bombing planes.

Rumania Goes Fascist

RUMANIA is now a Fascist corporative state of guilds patterned after Italy. This was settled when King Carol proclaimed the new constitution, which provides for a parliament composed of guilds of farmers, workers and intellectuals. Both the chamber of deputies and the senate are reduced in size and election of members is to be by trades and professions, not by political parties. The king will appoint half the senators and will have veto power over all legislation. All Rumanians are declared equal, with radical distinctions, and religious freedom is granted with the Orthodox Rumanian church as the state religion. Trials by jury are abolished and the death penalty reintroduced for certain crimes.

The constitution was created by Rumania's powerful crown council, a special body established by King Carol to define general policies.

Hungary Offers Pay

JOHN PELENYI, minister from Hungary, revealed that his government has proposed a readjustment of its "war debt" whereby it would repay the United States the full amount of its original loan but without interest.

Parker Gilbert Dies

S. PARKER GILBERT of New York, who at the age of thirty-two won fame by his brilliant work as agent general for war reparations, died of heart disease. After completing his job in Berlin he became a partner in J. P. Morgan & Co., dealing especially with matters of international finance.

Army Planes' Great Flight

SIX bombing planes of the United States army air corps successfully completed an epochal mass flight of 6,000 miles from Miami, Fla., to Buenos Aires. The only intermediate stop was at Lima, Peru. From there the bombers roared over the snow-capped Andes and landed at the Argentine capital, where thousands cheered the aviators. The planes carried 45 men besides the flight commander, Lieut. Col. Robert Olds.

Washington Digest
National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington—Changes in President Roosevelt's policies have been coming so fast lately that about all I am able to do this week is to report more agricultural commodities than it exported. I could not find when that condition had obtained before. Certainly, there have been few times in our history when that has happened.

The department figures showed that the United States imported 18 per cent more commodities from the farms of the world than it exported from our farms. Further examination of those statistics reveals the disturbing fact that the bulk of those imports were things which our American farmers could have grown right at home. I can find no other reason for the condition than that the reciprocal trade treaties which were to bring us prosperity have taken prosperity to some other farmers.

The circumstance caused me to wonder then whether these trade treaties are not slowly grinding the American farmer into the dust. I have tried to find out how the new farm aid law, which restricts production further in the United States, is going to help this situation. Accepting Secretary Wallace's statement that it will result in higher prices for our farm products, will it not by the same token make a greater difference between foreign prices and our own? And if that be true, is not it to be expected that there will be more imports of farm products from foreign lands? My reasoning brings an answer of "yes" in each case, and so I cannot see where we are going to get "balanced expansion" out of those factors.

Now, as Al Smith used to say, let us look at the record as it concerns the trust-busting drive and its relation to prices, employment and the like. I simply have no patience at all with the big business groups that ignore or forget their responsibilities to the public. There is no excuse and can be no excuse for crushing any individual who is trying to run a business of his own. It is one thing, however, for a business to have grown big because it serves its public well and quite another thing for the same group to have attained its bigness through savage tactics.

That brings me to the recent conviction of the oil companies in a trial that was held at Madison, Wis. As far as I have read the record in that case, the basis of the charge by the government was that the oil companies had used a pricing system which was fostered by the infamous NRA, a policy laid down by congress. Secretary Ickes of the Department of the Interior, now one of the loudest mouths in the chorus of bust the trusts, insisted on the oil companies getting together. He wrote letters to them to that effect. Of course, the NRA was held unconstitutional but the decision was based on the question of congressional authority to delegate powers to the executive officers. It did not declare that congress had no right to grant privilege of agreement on prices for purposes of stabilization.

We might also look at some of the tactics employed by the government. Robert H. Jackson, who was the spearhead and spokesman for the trust busting drive, lately has been promoted to the job of solicitor general of the United States. Mr. Jackson told a senate committee considering his nomination that he had picked "the proper forum" for the oil case. He said the Department of Justice would continue to do it. They picked a New York court to hear the case against the Aluminum company in order to get the proper kind of a jury as they did in the oil case.

The tactics used in the Aluminum case seem to me to be almost reprehensible. For instance, the government had been anxious to set a date for the trial and the Aluminum company counsel urged early action. The record of that day in court in New York revealed that when Judge Knox proposed a date early in April, Walter Rice, one of Mr. Jackson's assistants, admitted to the court that the government did not yet have enough evidence to prosecute.

This seems far afield from the price question. I wonder if it is so far off the subject. As I said earlier in this discussion, legal action against anybody, individual or corporation, is destructive, demoralizing and expensive. I know nothing about the merits of the oil case or the aluminum case or any of the others beyond what I have picked up in the records. On the other hand, however, it is plain for anyone to see no "price structure" can be arranged for "balanced expansion" if the federal government is going to decree one course of action for business with one hand and write an obituary for the same business with the other hand. That is to say, if the people are unable to know or understand what their government policies are, it is quite likely that those same people will continue to ask each other: "Where are we going and what is the end going to be?"

Although admitting that much of the new program is too deep for me to analyze, there are certain phases of it which have been operative and from which results have begun to show. Take the reciprocal trade treaties as an example. I came across some figures down at the Department of Commerce the other day and they were something of a revelation. They showed that in 1937 this nation of ours was im-

Trade Treaties

porting more agricultural commodities than it exported. I could not find when that condition had obtained before. Certainly, there have been few times in our history when that has happened.

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