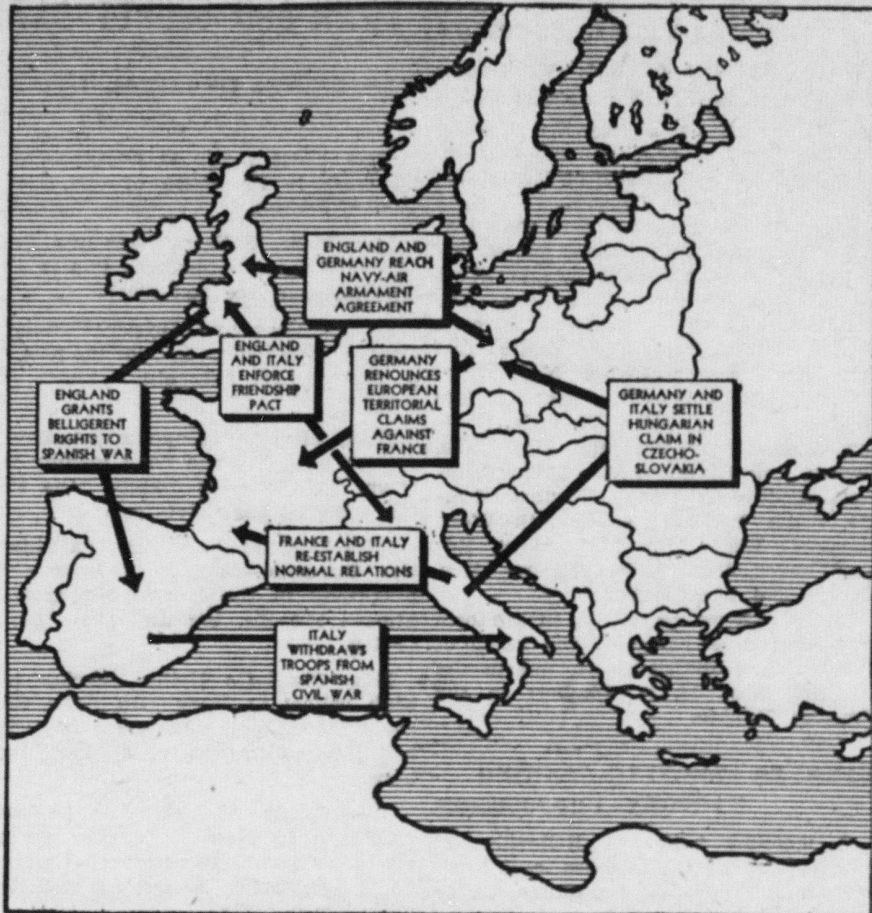


Weekly News Review

Germany, Italy Dictate Terms Of Proposed Four-Power Pact

By Joseph W. La Bine



EUROPE LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR PEACE (See FOREIGN)

Foreign

The European domination won at Munich by Germany and Italy is but a prelude to Hitler-Mussolini plans for relegating France and Great Britain into second-rate status. Still to come is a four-power pact, but first must come the groundwork (See MAP) in which France and Britain are fattening themselves for the slaughter:

ENGLAND sees growing resentment toward Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who claims: "Our sole concern is to see that this country and her colonial communications are safe." But recalling successive British diplomatic defeats in Manchukuo, Ethiopia, Spain, China, Austria and Czechoslovakia, Chamberlain's foes wonder what he means by "safety." The real Chamberlain policy is appeasement of dictators at any cost. Thus the prime minister has forced a 345-138 approval of his Italian friendship pact in the house of commons. Thus, too, he has dropped Britain's elaborate defensive armament plan and urged the retirement of War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha. Once active in opposing Spain's civil war, Great Britain must now grant belligerent rights to both Loyalists and Rebels. Still unfulfilled are Hitler's demands for return of war-mandated colonies and a 3-1 air domination over Great Britain. Then he will be ready to make peace.

FRANCE, now torn by financial distress resulting from feverish rearmament, has welcomed Reichsfuehrer Hitler's offer of a 10 or 25-year truce. This is more groundwork behind the eventual four-power pact. In return for German renunciation of territorial claims (in Europe) against France, Paris would re-establish normal diplomatic relations with Italy (already accomplished) and actually turn away from the League of Nations to live at the mercy of dictators. Since France faces bankruptcy unless she can halt rearmament, any kind of peace is welcome. Still another sign of French capitulation is Premier Edouard Daladier's renunciation of Communist party support, a move which gains favor with Soviet-hating Nazi-Fascist states.

ITALY AND GERMANY are now so sure of their positions that they find it unnecessary to ask British-French advice on handling Czechoslovakia's minority problem. Although the treaty of Munich stipulated four-power action on Czech minority problems, Foreign Ministers Joachim von Ribbentrop and Count Galeazzo Ciano have just transferred a large part of Czechoslovakia to Hungary. For Germany, recent weeks have opened a wedge permitting a successful economic "drive to the east." For Italy they have brought Franco-British recognition of her Ethiopian conquest, placing Premier Mussolini's battle-won empire in good standing with Europe's highest diplomatic society. At best the highly touted four-power pact will be a mere formality for totalitarian states.

Labor

Chief among objections to the national labor relations act are that (1) makes the labor board prosecutor, judge and jury, and (2) permits employers, but not employers, to invoke its aid. Industry agrees generally that NLRB is fundamentally sound if these abuses can be corrected. Industry claims further that NLRB was designed to cover abuses practiced only by a minority of employers, that it fails to recognize that the average employer is honest. Changes in the act have been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor, U. S. Chamber of Commerce and National Manufacturers association. But when John Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization meets in Pittsburgh this month, NLRB will be defended

against amendment proposals on the ground that changes would make the act impractical. Along with NLRB amendment proposals next January, congress will also get A. F. of L.'s plea for nonconfirmation of President Roosevelt's appointment of Donald Wakefield Smith, NLRB member whom Federationists say is pro-C. I. O.

International

America's demand that Japan maintain China's "open door" trade policy is based on the nine-power pact signed by China, Japan, the U. S., Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal. Under this territorial integrity agreement, Western powers have enjoyed profitable trade with



SEI-ICHIN IKEDA
New sacrifices must be made.

wealthy and populous China. The situation began changing in 1931 when Japan walked into Manchukuo, and has become a greater threat to Western trade interests since the Chinese war began. Today, with the richest part of China under Japanese control, Western powers have feared that nation might go the way of Manchukuo, becoming a Japanese protectorate entirely dominated by Japan.

This fear has been justified by Japan's statement of policy in the Far East, interpreted in part as an answer to the U. S. "open door" demand. Japan has announced she intends to create a political and economic union of her empire with China and Manchukuo, which means that Western powers will be left on the outside. Since a foreign office spokesman has said no part of eastern Asia shall be "westernized," British, French and U. S. concessions in China are considered threatened.

Part of the "new deal" for the Far East includes a united front against Communism, which has become popularized in China the past 10 years. In this respect, and in making a final withdrawal from the League of Nations, Japan has lined up definitely with the other two "have not" nations, Italy and Germany.

Thus, more than a year after her undeclared war on China began, Japan has taken time out to tell the world why. But if Tokyo's statement of future policy has given heart to war-weary Japs, they have also been confronted with the situation's realities. Sei-Ichin Ikeda, Harvard-educated minister of finance, has warned that new sacrifices must be made to complete China's conquest and rebuild that nation. Although Japan will make immediate and drastic slashes in her domestic expenditures, the war budget will be hiked to push China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek out of the picture. When that is accomplished, Western powers might as well pack up of the Orient.

Transportation

In the opinion of three experts, American railroads have no right to cut 15 per cent from pay checks of 930,000 employees because: (1) it would be a stop-gap measure at best, only reducing the standard of living at a time when business in general is coming back; (2) the railroads' financial problem is still of short term aspect, having been critical less than a year; (3) although railway wages have not fluctuated so badly as wages in other industries, they have not been advancing proportionately so fast as in other industries; (4) a flat 15 per cent wage cut would not be equitable, since smaller roads—which are in worse shape—would derive less benefit than the larger, more prosperous lines.

This was the gist of a 40,000-word opinion handed down by President Roosevelt's emergency fact-finding commission after three weeks of deliberation. Board members: Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy of the North Carolina Supreme court; Dean James M. Landis of Harvard law school, once chairman of the securities and exchange commission; Professor Harry A. Millis, University of Chicago economist and former member of the national labor relations board.

Likelihood of enforcing the 15 per cent wage cut despite the commission's findings is considered small. But this does not lessen the plight of U. S. railroads, whose sorry condition will probably receive attention from next winter's congress. Since utilities are getting government aid under the guise of U. S. defense insurance (see below), moreover since the government plans to strengthen its defenses generally, railroad management will justify its request for federal aid on the same grounds. Already suggested is a revolving government fund for purchase of new equipment, plus a federal appropriation to pay one-quarter of railroad maintenance costs during a five-year test period. The American Association of Railroads' program includes: (1) revision of ICC rate-making procedure; (2) low rate government loans; (3) abolition of government freight rates; (4) repeal of long and short haul rate law; and (5) new government regulations over competing water transportation such as the Mississippi river's newly-developed system.

With that preface, we can examine into the situation that exists in the federal communications commission. As laymen whose only contact with radio is on the listening end, or whose only contact with telephones is to use them for business and social intercourse, or whose only contact with the telegraph is to send or receive messages, well, obviously we laymen do not know much about the F. C. C. But that does not excuse any of us for lack of interest. For F. C. C. is just as close to you and me as the interstate commerce commission is, and unless I miss my guess it will be even closer in the years to come.

There has been a measure of control over radio for years, and they have been troublesome years, both for the agency administering the law and the industry forced to abide by the law. Within the last few years, however, there has come into existence the F. C. C. which is concerned not alone with radio, but with telephones and telegraphs. These latter industries, however, are themselves settled down and out of their teens. They have got by the growing pains, but as for radio, the story is quite different and decidedly more important, because there are fundamental dangers to you and me in the situation.

Federal Control of Radio
Story of Troubled Days

The history of federal control of radio, as I said above, is a story of troubled days. The bulk of the trouble has been due to the type of personnel selected for administration of that control. That is to say, politics is to blame as much as anything. Politicians will endorse any screwy bird, long-haired theorist or narrow-eyed half-breed if such endorsement will get him votes or help hold the royal order of nose-pickers in line at election time.

And that is why, or largely why, the federal communications commission at this writing is undergoing pains like I used to have when I allowed my childish enthusiasm to overcome my judgment and ate apples before they were ripe. I wouldn't care how many of the boys on the government payroll had tummy aches about their jobs, or how many private and bitter words passed between highups or low-downs in the commission except for the fact that precedents are being established that will affect you and me directly as the years roll by.

The things that have developed in the F. C. C. concern us because they involve free speech, involve it as directly as any attempt to use censorship on your newspaper or mine. Besides, there is the certainty that radio has been used to foment or put to sleep some national issues. It brings the nation within a small room that happens to house a couple of good, workable microphones. If there was ever a place for establishment of basically sound and wise policies, it is in the government supervision of radio.

It is hard to get at the facts in the current dust storm within the commission. There are so many stories afloat, however, that somewhere there must be some truth. And this belief is buttressed by the known fact that President Roosevelt is considering what to do to get the tangle straightened out.

Trouble Shooter Fails To Smooth Out the Mess

To go back a bit, it will be recalled that Mr. Roosevelt sought more than a year ago to smooth out the mess by transferring Frank McNinch from the job of chairman of the federal power commission to that of chairman of the federal radio commission. Every one conversant with the situation said at that time that the new chairman was a good trouble shooter and that he would get things working as a highly technical agency ought to work. But the truth is that Mr. McNinch has not succeeded. If anything, there have been more rows and the work of the commission has been slowed down even to a worse condition than it was.

The whole thing would not amount to a hill of beans except that it seems utterly impossible to get

Bruckart's Washington Digest

General Housecleaning in Federal Communications Board Is Needed

History of Control of Radio Is Story of Troubled Days; Public Is Concerned Because Free Speech Is Involved; Split on Board Adds to General Confusion.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—It seems among the inevitable and unavoidable things that there must be growing pains when the government starts execution of any new policy. This always has been the case. I assume it is going to be true always, and it does not matter whether that new policy involves something as inherently governmental as government supervision of public services or something as inherently political as the national emergency council. The latter institution ought to have as a part of its title some words designating its value as the hod carrier in political emergencies, such as the recent "purge" of Democrats who insisted on being Democrats as distinguished from New Dealers.

With that preface, we can examine into the situation that exists in the federal communications commission. As laymen whose only contact with radio is on the listening end, or whose only contact with telephones is to use them for business and social intercourse, or whose only contact with the telegraph is to send or receive messages, well, obviously we laymen do not know much about the F. C. C. But that does not excuse any of us for lack of interest. For F. C. C. is just as close to you and me as the interstate commerce commission is, and unless I miss my guess it will be even closer in the years to come.

There has been a measure of control over radio for years, and they have been troublesome years, both for the agency administering the law and the industry forced to abide by the law. Within the last few years, however, there has come into existence the F. C. C. which is concerned not alone with radio, but with telephones and telegraphs. These latter industries, however, are themselves settled down and out of their teens. They have got by the growing pains, but as for radio, the story is quite different and decidedly more important, because there are fundamental dangers to you and me in the situation.

It is the regular routine in a governmental agency for consideration of problems, determination of policy, interpretation of law, to have their initiative in suggestions from the top individuals. They are named as the policy-makers. They have to assume responsibility. In the case of the communications commission, there seems to be something of the same procedure followed, except that the individual members of the board, or some of them, persist in acting individually rather than collectively as a board.

This would not be so bad if the board members as a whole were in accord. But they are not. There is a split as wide as Pennsylvania avenue. The result is that on many, many occasions underlings have brought forward propositions that served only to fan the flames of disagreement between board members. And, of course, as these proposals became known the portion of the radio industry concerned was thoroughly upset because it had no way to defend itself—no place to tell its side of the case.

General Housecleaning In Commission Needed

Again, even this condition could be corrected and something of a workable nature developed if the bulk of the subordinates around the commission were sound thinkers. That, unfortunately, however, seems not to be the case. The place is packed and jammed with numerous men who think they are hot shots, whose only claim to recognition is that they, themselves, claim to be experts, or who have been unable to make good in the industry and have succeeded through political endorsement to get a place at the feed trough of government checks.

So I say that I am unwilling to charge continuation of the mess to Mr. McNinch. He apparently has tried, but as long as some members of the commission manage to gain public attention by their nauseating blarney and as long as some of the silly flock, claiming to be "original New Dealers," continue to spew out venom about "unfairness of newspapers," it is likely the communications commission is going to get nowhere very fast.

Much of the silly propaganda, that newspapers are unfair to the New Deal, bubbles to the surface from points other than the communications commission. Those who serve as the mouthpieces for such clatter, however, can be seen flogging together frequently. It is only natural, therefore, to suppose that they are active in spreading their views among commission underlings who, in turn, get the germs incubated within their own organization.

I said earlier that it may be Mr. Roosevelt will have to ask for a general housecleaning and resignation of most of those in key positions. It is quite likely that he will dodge that action if any other way can be found to solve the problem. In any event, I hope that congress looks into the situation. If it does, maybe something concrete will be done to establish a sound agency—one that will consider the interests of listeners and services and manufacturers equally, just as the Interstate Commerce commission does in its supervision of rail and other forms of transportation.

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Fashions for Daytime That Are Flattering

EACH of these good-looking new designs is just as comfortable and practical as it is becoming, and each is accompanied by a detailed sew chart that assures you no difficulty at all in the making.

Dirndl-Style Jumper.
High neckline, to cover up her collar bones, with a little round collar to soften. High-puffed sleeves and very full skirt to fill her out. Shirred waistline, to make her look soft and small



at waist. Make the jumper of flannel, jersey or wool plaid, for every day, with linen, batiste or flat crepe blouse. Repeat it, for parties, of velveteen, with organza or chiffon blouse.

Large Woman's House Dress.
Plenty of leeway for reaching up, down and under, is promised you by the ample armholes, slight blouse above the belt, and easy waistline of this practical home dress. And it looks very trim and tailored, because the long lines, the darts around the middle, scalloped closing and narrow collar are just as slenderizing as they can be. You will enjoy having a jersey or challis version of this dress for cold weather, as well as several in calico, gingham or percale. It's a diagram design that you can make in no time.

The Patterns.
No. 1621 is designed for sizes 8, 10, 12, and 14 years. Size 10 requires 1 1/2 yards of 54-inch material for the skirt and 1 1/4 yards of 39-inch material for the blouse.
No. 1624 is designed for sizes 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Size 38 requires 4 1/2 yards of 35-inch material. Contrasting collar takes 1/2 yard; 3 yards braid.

Fall and Winter Fashion Book.
The new 32-page Fall and Winter Pattern Book which shows photographs of the dresses being worn is now out. (One pattern and the Fall and Winter Pattern Book—25 cents.) You can order the book separately for 15 cents. Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.
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