

Weekly News Analysis

Kennedy-Bullitt War Forecast Justified by World Situation

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.

International

When U. S. foreign envoys make their rare appearances in congress, it is usually to advise house and senate committees on foreign affairs. But two days before President Roosevelt gave congress his unprecedented defense proposals (see below), two top-ranking U. S. ambassadors walked into secret session not with the foreign affairs committees, but with a committee on military affairs. The ambassadors: Jos-



MESSRS. KENNEDY, BULLITT
It looked like cold-blooded truth.

eph P. Kennedy, home from London, and William C. Bullitt, home from Paris.

Though committee room walls supposedly have no ears, it was learned that Messrs. Kennedy and Bullitt thoroughly frightened their congressional audience with the following opinion on European affairs:

Great Britain has favored "appeasement" of Italy and Germany because neither she nor France have adequate arms. So intense is British appeasement sentiment that London would permit Germany to build an airbase in Canada rather than revert to war. But since Czechoslovakia's "sellout" at Munich last September proved that one appeasement leads to another, France has determined to stop this policy. Therefore France will not concede to Italian territorial demands, knowing that in war Great Britain must come to her aid and that Russia, in turn, must aid the democracies.

Crux of the Kennedy-Bullitt opinion: That further appeasement, as advocated by Prime Minister Chamberlain, will only delay the eventual showdown and make war even more critical when it comes, which will probably be within the next few months. The U. S. will not be drawn into this conflict immediately.

If this was propaganda for President Roosevelt's long-range national defense program, committee members swallowed it hook, line and sinker. And well they might, because the forecast appeared to be cold-blooded truth when measured in the light of that day's news from abroad. It all looked like war:

THE BIG FOUR

As Prime Minister Chamberlain left London's Victoria station for his appeasement visit with Italy's Premier Mussolini, unemployed demonstrators booed him and shouted: "Appease the unemployed, not Mussolini!" Between London and Dover, where he crossed the channel, Mr. Chamberlain might have reflected on the advisability of such a course. Hitler was clamoring for submarine parity with Britain; Italy was fighting the Spanish civil war and yelling for concessions from France; both Germany and Italy were propagandizing about British "atrocities" in Palestine.

En route to Rome, the Chamberlain entourage stopped in Paris to (1) show Germany and Italy that France and Britain stand together, and (2) assure France that Mussolini could not induce Chamberlain to bring pressure for French concessions to Italy. After two hours of tea drinking, a spokesman announced Chamberlain would tell Mussolini that France agreed to consider concessions on "secondary" questions. These are (1) the status of 100,000 Italians in Tunisia; (2) control over the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad; (3) administration of the French-controlled Suez canal. As for himself, Chamberlain expected to tell Mussolini he refused to mediate between France and Italy, or grant belligerent rights to Spain's General Franco so long as Italian troops are fighting the war.

But Chamberlain also knew he must speak softly, for only a week before the Anglo-French alliance had suffered a severe blow. At Berchtesgaden, Polish Foreign Minister Joseph Beck had deserted his French alliance to find greater security with Germany. Moreover, this meant that Poland would be ready to block any Russian effort to aid France and Britain. Temporarily free from danger in the east, the Rome-Berlin axis was ready to apply pressure on democracies.

The best prediction: That Cham-

berlain-Mussolini conversations will lead to another "Munich" peace conference, but certainly not to general European peace.

HUNGARY

Last November's Italian-German commission settled a boundary for Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but neither nation liked it. Since January 8 a series of border incidents has kept both nations aflame, each holding the other responsible. Czechoslovakia has offered terms for truce, but Budapest refuses until Prague pays for damages, acknowledges responsibility for attacks and punishes individuals responsible. The outcome of this squabble is unpredictable, but Germany may well step in to help the Czechs since the Reich wants the border city of Munkacs to be retained in Czechoslovakia's Carpatho-Ukraine. The town is important in Berlin's program of fortifying Carpatho-Ukraine in preparation for a German drive into Russian Ukraine. Meanwhile there is war on the Czech-Hungarian frontier.

JAPAN

"Britain and the United States are believed to be aware that should they resort to serious economic pressure against Japan, Japan would have sufficient determination and preparation to resort to retaliatory measures against their mainlands and dependencies."

This war talk came from Japan's Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita in answer to measures Great Britain and the U. S. had already taken to combat growing Japanese domination over the Orient. Because Tokyo has closed China's "open door" in violation of the nine-power treaty, both London and Washington have given China financial support. Mean-



JAPAN'S HACHIRO ARITA
He threatened a U. S. invasion.

while the U. S. has completely stopped the sale of war materials to Japan.

Minister Arita's statement, appearing in Tokyo's Fascist newspaper, Nichi Nichi, is the most warlike gesture yet made against the U. S. What equalized the threat, however, was a similar gesture made against Russia by Lieut. Gen. Rensuke Isogai, Japanese chief of staff in Manchuria. Said he: "We do not want war. . . . But the Soviet authorities have shown no sign of cooperation. Instead they are strengthening their military works and reinforcing their armies in Russia and the Far East."

AT HOME

Checking the above news with Bullitt-Kennedy statements, congress was in fine shape to discuss U. S. defense measures. Tennessee's Rep. Andrew J. May of the house military affairs committee popped up to urge military training for 300,000 CCC boys. He also asked four-lane superhighways down Atlantic and Pacific coasts and across the gulf states.

Next day the President sent congress his defense message, well pared down from the multi-billion figures originally bandied about Washington. The total extra, emergency appropriation request: \$552,000,000, half of which should be spent before the next fiscal year is over. Presidential arguments, few of which were needed, pointed out that the U. S. is relatively no better prepared today than in 1917, when it took a year from the war declaration date for American troops to reach a major engagement.

Items in the proposed outlay: \$300,000,000 to increase army air corps up to 3,000 fighting planes; \$110,000,000 for "critical" items of war equipment; \$32,000,000,000 for industrial mobilization; \$8,000,000 for improved seacoast defenses; \$44,000,000 for stronger Atlantic and Pacific naval bases; \$21,000,000 for more naval planes; \$10,000,000 for civilian pilot training; \$27,000,000 for adequate Panama canal defenses.

Politicians

Because Massachusetts state-house custom decrees the governor shall have private, nonstop elevator rides, the operator whizzed new Gov. Leverett Saltonstall past a group of employees on their way to lunch. Said the governor: "Pick them up in the future. I like to ride with people."

Agriculture

Under Secretary Henry A. Wallace, the U. S. agriculture department's "original objective" has been increased consumption through one method or another. Last summer came announcement of a new method, a "two price" plan for boosting domestic consumption of farm products. Under this arrangement the U. S. would subsidize manufacturers, whose products would be sold at a below-normal price to low income families.

First objections came from manufacturers and retailers, many of whom thought the plan would curtail free enterprise. Then congressmen turned a cold shoulder, suggesting difficulties in getting the special purchase privilege in the hands of people deserving them. As congress got underway it became certain that Mr. Wallace had dropped the plan entirely, though still clinging to the "original objective."

Announcement was made that conferences are being held with cotton manufacturers to encourage the lowest possible prices for mattresses to be sold to low income families. Grapefruit will be similarly "merchandised." Said Mr. Wallace: "We want increased consumption. . . . We will use any method to obtain it. We hope we can get the trade (processors and distributors) to do specific things to share costs to the limit."

● Via London, U. S. farmers have learned that the agriculture department proposes to reduce American wheat land from 81,000,000 acres to 55,000,000 acres, resulting in total wheat plantings of 65,000,000 acres even if some growers do not cooperate. This news came from the international wheat advisory committee's conference, where 21 nations had sent envoys to study schemes for export and import limitations. As the sessions got underway, a discouraging note appeared in the International Institute of Agriculture's report. Wheat available for export in the year ending next July 31, the report said, was 1,140,000,000 bushels, against a world import demand of 540,000 bushels.

People

At San Pedro's Terminal Island correctional prison, where he was transferred from Alcatraz, Al Capone was said by a guard to be "screwy as a bedbug."

● In Vienna, Jewish, persecuted Dr. Salomon Frankfurter, 80, rejoiced that the U. S. had elevated his nephew, Harvard's Felix Frankfurter, to the Supreme court.

Races

Less evil than that of any other high Nazi is the reputation of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, president of Germany's Reichsbank. In appearance more a business man than a politician, Dr. Schacht is the Reich's No. 1 contact with foreign commercial interests. When it came time to peddle Germany's 600,000 Jews abroad, Chancellor Hitler turned naturally to Dr. Schacht, knowing he was the only high Nazi whose utterances on the Jewish problem would get a hearing abroad.

A cold business man as well as a diplomat, Dr. Schacht could be depended on to evolve a Jewish plan which would work to the Reich's financial benefit. Early in January, at London, he announced the plan: Part One. Within the next three years, 400,000 of the Reich's 600,000 Jews would be shipped abroad, the remaining 200,000 to be retained as common laborers. The 400,000 emigrants would leave by installments, heads of families going first. For aged and infirm, Germany would guarantee satisfactory provision.

Part Two. World Jewry would raise a \$2,500,000,000 loan, "secured" by Jewish property in Ger-



FINANCIER SCHACHT
He mixed diplomacy and business.

many, funds to be used for sending poor German Jews abroad. The loan would be serviced by increased German exports, to be paid for in free foreign exchange. World Jewry (which Nazi Germany regards as all-powerful in democracies) would derive greater use of German export items.

Still master of the situation, the Reich can apparently force Jew-respecting nations to choose between accepting the plan or tolerate further persecution. For Germany, the Schacht idea provides for disposition of 400,000 "undesirable" citizens whose property will be confiscated. Most important, it offers a way to break the world boycott on German goods. But where Jewry can raise \$2,500,000,000 is another problem.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Outlines His Policies In Annual Message to Congress

Gives No Assurance of Prospect of Balanced Budget; Necessity for Armed Preparedness Stressed; Continued Spending Makes Some Democrats See Red.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It is always expected that the annual message to congress from the President of the United States will outline his policies. The message is presumed to reflect, in a broad general formula, what the Chief Executive regards as the major problems and what should be done about them. Moreover, the annual message on the state of the Union is a document that usually embraces some political considerations and, frequently, therefore, constitutes the basis for a test of its author's leadership either from what is proposed or because of things which were omitted.

President Roosevelt's recent message meets each of the phases just described. He outlined the general policies: 1. the necessity for armed preparedness in protection of our religion, our liberty and our form of government—democracy; 2. he disclosed that he has no intention of retreating from his New Deal social policies and that to buttress them and accomplish national protection against dictatorship, he proposes to keep on with his policies of spending. He likewise omitted to give one bit of assurance that there is any prospect of a balanced budget or any means by which the business of the country, small as well as large, can look forward to less governmental messing.

Thus, there seems little reason to doubt that what Mr. Roosevelt proposed, as well as what he omitted saying, places his current annual message in a position to provide a test of his leadership. There are those among the legislators who do not want larger armed forces; there are those who think an armed America will invite trouble; there are those wanting business recovery here much more than wholesale reform of our national business practices and social relations, and there are those who think there will be no reduction of unemployment until the government itself quits its wild orgy of spending and borrowing—they want a balanced budget.

Message Most Temperate Roosevelt Has Delivered

Any President's message is greeted with hurrahs by his party supporters and hisses from the minority. This one was no exception. These shouts of praise and denunciation, respectively, do not always go to the merits. Frequently, they are more than half political. And if I were asked to evaluate those that I have heard in the last 10 days, I should say that each side was about 50 per cent right.

In the first place, Mr. Roosevelt's message this time was the most temperate he has ever delivered, or so it impressed me. There was an evidence of greater sincerity in it than has characterized most of his messages to congress. He spoke out boldly against dictatorships and supported our form of government with an emphasis that belongs with the office of President of the United States.

In the matter of armament, he told why he believes it is needed. He may have gone too far; he may be inviting another battle on a subject akin to the long-time League of Nations controversy by proposing protection "of democracies." Yet, fundamentally, I think it must be agreed that we, in the Western world, must be able to snarl as well as to smile.

In the matter of social reforms, there can and will be violent differences of opinion. It appears that Mr. Roosevelt had not listened very closely to the election returns of November 8 because, instead of a "mandate" which he believed he received in 1936, the last election was a distinct brake on the machinery of social reform.

In the matter of continued spending, Mr. Roosevelt's message must be regarded as having its greatest weakness. There was less justification in his words for the conclusions he reached than in any other phase of the document. Even a substantial number of his own partisans could not swallow his assertions that the spending of some 20 billions of borrowed money was an "investment."

People Wondering When Dividends Can Be Expected

It is pretty difficult for one to accept these piling deficits and increasing totals of the national debt as being anything except an extremely dangerous condition. When Mr. Roosevelt's argument about the "investment" is followed by a budget message that fixes next year's deficit in excess of \$3,300,000,000 and a probable national debt of \$44,500,000,000 in 1940—well, a good many people are wondering when dividends can be expected. Three years ago, Mr. Roosevelt defended the growth of the national debt, saying there was no need to fear it. He held that it could go to \$5,000,000,

000 before it became a real burden upon the nation. It is only six billions short of that total now, and many members are getting fidgety about it, especially, as I mentioned earlier, since no mention was made of a balanced budget.

This question of debt, therefore, can be expected to provide some divergence of opinion among the legislators, and there will be other bases upon which disagreement with the Chief Executive will rest. I am wondering, for example, whether Senator Borah of Idaho and Senator Johnson of California will smell something of a League of Nations aroma about the program of defending any and all democracies. Friendly interpreters of the President's message believe his program contemplates only a strengthened support of the Monroe doctrine, but the other side's views envision national policy going beyond that point. It may not happen, but what if the Borah-Johnson school of thought decides to breathe fire about "new alliances" under the expanded defense of democracies?

Continued Spending Makes Some Democrats See Red

There are prospects of opposition to his arms program confronting the President, therefore, among the Borah-Johnson school of thought, as well as among those representatives and senators from inland areas where there never has been much fear from attacks by other nations. There will be ridicule of his arms program, too, on the basis of his indication that it will provide work. That ridicule will be justified. Work can not start on ships for a year and a half or two years after they are authorized, and supplies for the army, even an expanded army, will not call so many men back to factories.

Proposals for continued spending, as outlined by the President, made a number of strong Democrats see red again. Men of the type of Senator Byrd of Virginia and Bailey of North Carolina, and others in the senate and house. They can not be reconciled to such a program and they will have the Republican minority backing them up wherever and whenever they attack continued spending of government funds.

The proposal to continue spending, of course, is linked like a tangle of yarn with the whole question of relief administration, and there is no telling what may come of that row. Senator King, Utah Democrat and anti-New Dealer, already has a bill in the hopper to eliminate the entire federal relief setup. He would turn it back to the states, providing only for grants of federal money when the states can't meet their obligations.

On top and alongside of the Democrats who, for one reason or another, will differ with Mr. Roosevelt's program will be found almost a solid Republican phalanx. There are 169 of them in the house, now, and 26 in the senate. This is far from enough to control, but when that number is coupled with any defects from the Democratic ranks, the answer spells out into the words "trouble for Mr. Roosevelt."

Use of Subject of Religion Causes Some Comment

From the standpoint of political considerations, there were numerous published comments, after the message was delivered, in which members of the house and senate openly chided Mr. Roosevelt for attempting to capitalize politically upon sentiment among the church people. I relate that because it illustrates how no political leader can be quite sure when he makes a statement whether it will be received favorably or not. It is so easy, and every politician knows it, to make a perfectly sincere statement, only to learn two days later that it was being held up to ridicule as bunk or being torn to pieces as being unsound, fundamentally.

Those who have been razzing Mr. Roosevelt's use of the subject of religion recognize, of course, that destruction of free religion has been one of the keystones of dictatorship. They recognize further that the actions of Hitler and Stalin and Mussolini in this regard have been responsible, as much as any other one thing, in creating bitter resentment in the United States. Obviously, then, they look upon the Roosevelt appeal in this regard as being good politics, but they are unwilling to let him get away with it.

In summary, then, it seems proper to catalogue Mr. Roosevelt's 1939 message to congress as one of his best state papers, but it must be added that it stands to create greater difficulties for him than any other annual message he has delivered. Whether one agrees with all, or only a part, or none of its proposals, it is a great improvement over the intemperate character of some of his earlier efforts.

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It's Early Worm That Get the Bird's Smile

John and his twin brother George had been paying a great deal of attention to the very pretty girl at the dance. And at last John managed to get her to himself for a few minutes:

"Mary," he said earnestly, "every morning you are my first thought."

Mary looked up at him. "George says so, too," she murmured.

For a moment John looked blank, then his face lit up. "Ah," he exclaimed, "but I get up an hour before he does." And she favored him with a smile.

Coolidge's Tribute

Writing of the death of his mother, Calvin Coolidge said: "In an hour, she was gone. It was her thirty-ninth birthday. I was 12 years old. We laid her away in the blustering snows of March. The greatest grief that can come to a boy came to me. Life was never to be the same again. . . . Five years and 41 years later almost to a day, my sister and my father followed her. It always seemed to me that the boy I lost was her image."

OF COURSE!

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Without Risk
Get a 5¢ box of NR from your drugist. Make the test—then if not delighted, return the box to us. We will refund the purchase price. That's fair!
Get NR Tablets today. NR TO-NIGHT
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QUICK RELIEF FOR ACID INDIGESTION

Just Rebellion
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