

Weekly News Analysis

Europe Rushes to New Crisis

As Loyalist Spain Is Crushed

By Joseph W. La Bine



EUROPE'S 'WALL OF NEUTRALITY'
Map shows how Hitler and Mussolini have built eastern European alliances to protect themselves from Russia while pressing new demands against France and Britain. (See EUROPE.)

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the newspaper.

Europe

Except for Spain, January found all Europe immersed in an ominous calm broken only by occasional under-cover whispers among democracies on one side and dictators on the other. Europe was a theater and Spain was its stage. By the end of the month the play on Spain's stage was definitely approaching its climax because Fascist-subsidized Rebels had put the communistic Loyalist government to flight at Barcelona. This marked the beginning of Loyalist Spain's end, soon to leave both Italy and Germany free to press new demands against Britain and France.

The reason for this embarrassing situation is that Europe's democracies have followed a policy of non-intervention in Spain, declining to admit that non-intervention is really a disguise for the now-discredited policy of dictator appeasement. Regardless of the moral issues reportedly involved in Spain's war, London and Paris must now realize that their mistake has not been the refusal to side with Loyalists against the Rebels, but rather their permitting Germany and Italy to aid the Insurgents. The result is that Fascist nations now control Spain. France is therefore surrounded on three sides by potentially hostile nations, while the Mediterranean becomes predominantly dictator-controlled.

Spain's war is not finished, but it has been sufficiently localized to free Mussolini's hands for other pursuits. Almost every competent European observer has predicted a new crisis following Barcelona's collapse and the whispers throughout Europe have backed up that prediction.

Most important foundation work for the new Italo-German demands is the assurance that any resultant conflict will be localized. This means preventing huge, mysterious Russia from aiding Britain and France. Therefore Rome and Berlin have quietly established a solid bloc of "neutral" states reaching from the Baltic to the Adriatic (see map), which will stand as sentinels against Russian aggression while Italy and Germany turn their backs to face France and Britain.

The new crisis will center around Italian demands against France, though it may be enlarged through new declarations by Chancellor Hitler. Italy wants Tunisia (enabling her to blockade the Mediterranean), control of the Suez canal, and ownership of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad (providing an outlet from Ethiopia). These demands are vital to Britain, because Italian control of the Mediterranean might cut off London's "lifeline" to India and the east.

Probable dictator strategy will be for Germany to assure France she will not help Italy, thereby encouraging Britain to stand aloof. Then Germany would aid Italy in a possible war just as she has aided Rebel Spain, with "volunteers." Whether London and Paris will wait for such an eventuality is another matter. Thoroughly scared by reports that joint Italo-German demands will be voiced by Chancellor Hitler before the Reichstag, by Italian mobilization of her 1908 army class, by threatened German mobilization of 1,500,000 men by February 15, the two democracies are beginning to wake up. Encouragingly, Great Britain has begun an intensive army recruiting campaign. But almost completely offsetting this practical step is the report that Prime Minister Chamberlain will soon invite Hitler, Mussolini and French Premier Daladier to a new "Munich" conference, there to buy peace with more concessions.

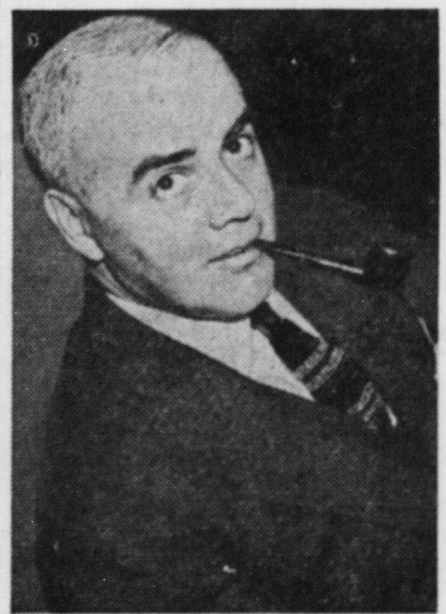
Chile

Earthquakes usually come when sea bottoms sink, forcing up mountainous areas and jarring the land for miles around. Squeezed along the rocky west coast of South America, Chile has often experienced such phenomena but never in such disastrous fashion as the earthquake which recently struck a zone 450

miles long and 100 miles deep. For newly inaugurated President Pedro Aguirre Cerdo, reportedly Fascist bent, it presented the worst initiation under fire ever experienced by any Western hemisphere chief executive. Total fatalities, which probably will never be determined, run from 8,000 to 11,000. Injuries run into even more thousands. Faced with a stupendous reconstruction job which will require several years, Chile will probably need all outside financial assistance available to stave off national calamity.

Congress

Last summer, Rep. Martin Dies and his committee on Un-Americanism unearthed dirt concerning Harry Bridges, west coast labor leader who is not a naturalized citizen but nevertheless guides the destinies of many American laboring men as an unofficial mogul of John Lewis' C. I. O. This put Madame Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins on the spot, because the Dies committee claimed Harry Bridges was an alien and a Communist, that he advocated overthrowing the government by



J. PARNELL THOMAS
California also spoke up.

force and that he had made disparaging remarks about the President of the U. S.

Secretary Perkins has failed to give Dies committee members what they consider a satisfactory answer. Her claim: That a court ruling is now pending on whether membership in the Communist party is a deportable offense.

Not since 1876 has an attempt been made to impeach a cabinet member, but that has not stopped one Dies committee member from setting a modern precedent. New Jersey's Rep. J. Parnell Thomas has introduced a resolution calling for an investigation to determine whether Secretary Perkins should be impeached, along with Immigration Commissioner James L. Houghteling and Labor Department Solicitor Gerard D. Reilly.

That Madame Perkins' unaggressive interest in the Bridges deportation case is not popular has been indicated at Sacramento, Calif., where the state legislature may ask her for an immediate report on Mr. Bridges' citizenship status. So far as he had determined, said Assemblyman C. Don Field, the labor leader has twice taken out naturalization papers but has failed to file them in the required time.

Aviation

Man's top running speed is 21.7 miles per hour; horse's, 45.1; train's, 127.1; boat's, 130.9; automobile's, 357.5, and airplane's, 440.6. But at Buffalo, N. Y., a pursuit monoplane being built for the French government has broken the old airplane record by about 150 m. p. h. With motor wide open but engine speed held down (by an electrically controlled propeller), H. Lloyd Child began diving at 22,000 feet, holding his vertical descent until he reached 9,000 feet. The graph chart chalked up his speed until it reached 575 m. p. h., then moved off the paper. Landing with no ill effects, Child estimated he had flown at 600 m. p. h. Since air reacts like solid matter at just over 600 m. p. h., scientists explained that Child had probably traveled fast as a modern plane could ever go.

White House

This year's congress was advertised as highly independent, probably ready to fight any proposal coming from the White House. But within three weeks after congress opened President Roosevelt had apparently introduced the bulk of his legislative program and could expect favorable action on most of it:

Defense. His \$552,000,000 emergency two-year program is moving slowly but certainly, aided by war clouds over Europe and Asia.

Social Security. Broad revisions and extensions will probably be approved, though congress may demand an accounting on the huge social security reserve fund.

Reorganization. Defeated last year by Republicans and insurgent Democrats, governmental reorganization is again being broached in the house by Missouri's Rep. John J. Cochran. Since this year's anti-administration bloc is bigger than 1938's, reorganization is probably doomed for failure.

Public Health. Already introduced is the national health program bill, to be paid for jointly by states and the U. S. First year's federal appropriation would be about \$50,000,000. Eventually the total annual cost to state and federal governments would be \$900,000,000. Aided by growing public health consciousness, the bill is expected to pass.

Railroads. The White House has introduced no bill, but has given its blessing to railroad relief measures introduced by California's Rep. Clarence Lea and Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler. Since rail relief is an established need, not a political question, it is being justified on the bases of national defense, public safety and national economics.

Monetary Powers. The White House will probably be granted continuation of the treasury's currency stabilization fund, which reportedly netted a neat profit last year, and the presidential power to further devalue the dollar, which congress does not think has been abused. Only stumbling block is that stabilization fund operations have been secret, which congress does not like.

Communications. Not vital, but a White House fetish, is interest in the federal communications commission which President Roosevelt would like reorganized this session. His purposes: To improve FCC's legal framework and administrative machinery. If congress gets time, this will probably be approved.

Taxation. Legislation to permit reciprocal taxation of federal, state and municipal bonds and salaries, now exempt, is apt to be adopted in the face of strong state and municipal opposition to the bond exemption feature.

Labor

Last year Homer Martin, president of C. I. O.'s United Automobile Workers of America, quarreled with his vice president, President John L. Lewis of C. I. O., stepped in, appointing Vice Presidents Sidney Hillman and Phillip Murray as mediators. But 18 of U. A. W.'s 24 board members were anti-Martin men and early last month they voted to strip him of power. Reason: Mr. Martin had been consorting secretly with Harry Bennett, personnel director for the Ford Motor company, only non-U. A. W. auto manufacturer. C. I. O. chieftains thought Mr. Martin was playing for personal control over the huge Ford labor vote.

The upshot has been C. I. O.'s refusal to recognize Mr. Martin as head of U. A. W., followed next day by Mr. Martin's resignation from C. I. O.'s executive board with the charge that Mr. Lewis has "personal ambitions and a dictator complex." The outcome of this scrap will be settled at a Martin-sponsored election March 4, and a C. I. O.-sponsored election 20 days later. Un-



U. A. W.'S HOMER MARTIN
He resigned and was freed.

til then, no one knows who controls U. A. W.

While this row has made big headlines, observers are prone to dismiss the possibility that it may indicate a collapse of C. I. O. More likely it is an internal squabble. If the anti-Martin majority of 18-6 on U. A. W.'s executive board is any criterion, U. A. W. will remain pro-C. I. O. under a new president.

People

James S. Douglas, father of one-time U. S. Budget Director Lewis W. Douglas, has renounced U. S. citizenship to return to his boyhood home of Quebec. Reason: Abhorrence of recent American governmental trends.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Theory of Spending Ourselves Out Of Depression Seen Unwise Course

Evidence in Congress of Definite Determination to Cut Down on Appropriations; Sound Sense of American People Always Finds Answer to National Problems.

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

WASHINGTON. — It always has been my conviction that the American people will find a sound answer to every national problem, if they are given the facts and the time to figure out what those facts mean. They may be swayed temporarily; they may be led or herded or threatened and these conditions may put them in a wrong spot temporarily, but I repeat that if they are given time, the national conclusion, the collective thinking, will be along sound lines.

They are demonstrating these things as a fact, again. There is no doubt about it. For five or six years, a considerable majority of the nation's citizenry was following the theory of spending ourselves out of the depression. It was an un-sound course, obviously, but money was made to do a lot of talking—as money in billions of dollars will talk. Lately, however, hardy American thinking has been carrying the majority back to normal understanding, and the influence of spending by the federal government is sagging, distinctly.

Notwithstanding the statements, frequently heard from Republican sources, that "you can't beat Santa Claus," or the variation that "you can't beat \$4,000,000,000," there is plenty of evidence to show that there is quite a definite determination to quit that sort of thing. That is, there is a determination in most places outside of the so-called inner circle of New Dealers. Especially is this true in the halls of congress where, unless there is an earthquake, many important steps will be taken by senators and representatives in the direction of sounder government finance. The old and familiar American traits of initiative, of saving, of living within one's income, are coming to the surface very rapidly and the restoration of these traits to places of respectability in American life is being reflected on capitol hill in Washington.

Opposition to Philosophy Of Spending Breaks Loose

It will be recalled how the opponents of President Roosevelt's philosophy of spending showed their mettle in the house of representatives when that body voted to cut \$150,000,000 off of the deficiency relief appropriation. Mr. Roosevelt asked for \$875,000,000. The cut was accomplished despite some hair-raising stories from official sources in the administration that elimination of any of the requested funds would mean suffering, maybe starvation, maybe quick death, for many thousands of persons.

Well, the house members (or a majority of them) did not believe those stories, and thus they made a start at cutting governmental spending. They gave an indication at the same time that there must be a general revision of the federal government's machinery for relief of the unemployed. During the debate and in the corridors, one heard frequent expressions that congress had appropriated last year the funds the administration thought necessary to maintain relief until the end of next June. But profligate spending had used up the money and the professional relievers had returned for more. Some of the debate was quite acrimonious and various charges were hurled that the relief officials had tried again to "buy" the election, that being why the funds ran short.

Immediately after the house was through with the relief bill, the opponents of spending in the senate started after the appropriation. There were many in that body who wanted to appropriate only for two months, proposing that in the meantime there should be a brand new relief setup devised. But the majority sentiment was swayed by the general argument that, whatever the shortcomings of the Harry Hopkins relief methods, poor people should not be made the goats; it was no fault of the unemployed who needed help that Mr. Hopkins, now the secretary of commerce, had made a mess of the relief program.

Beginning Only Foretaste Of What Is Coming

While it seems that a cut of \$150,000,000—which is about one-fifth the amount asked—represents something substantial, this beginning is only a foretaste of what is coming. The spenders have had their innings for five or six years, or since Mr. Roosevelt's "economy act" of 1933 was abandoned as a pattern of government. They have used various names and descriptions, such as "pump priming" and spending to restore prosperity, etc. It appears now, however, that their days are numbered. I do not mean that everything in the way of government cash sop is going to be thrown out of the window at once. I believe I can see, however, that

curtailment of federal waste has begun; that the national belt is going to be pulled tighter by a couple of notches and that, sooner or later, even the beneficiaries of the federal cash will note the stigma and slacken their demands.

One of the leaders in this direction has been Sen. Harry Byrd, the Virginia Democrat, who is just as hard boiled in preserving a sound national government as his senior, the redoubtable Carter Glass. Through thick and thin, Senator Byrd has been attacking the spending policies, calling attention to the dangers of an increasing national debt and the certainty that the country as a whole must bear the burden of added taxation. He did this the while administration sharpshooters were firing one broadside after another at his head or hide.

The other night, Senator Byrd got on the radio and told the country again what was happening. He had some new facts and figures about the situation. The Virginian asked some rather pertinent questions, too, about the situation in England. He pointed out that England has not been running deficit after deficit and that, as a matter of cold fact, while the United States was adding more than \$21,000,000,000 to its national debt, England was balancing its budget and making some headway in reducing its national debt.

States Take Heed and Start Cutting Expenses

Due largely, the senator thought, to the fact that England had tried to live within its income as an individual would do, that nation had a national income in 1937 that was 118 per cent of its income in 1929. Which is to say that it was more prosperous than in 1929. Senator Byrd pointed out that this had happened while our government was running from a billion or so to five or six billions into debt each year. He suggested, moreover, that if the United States had done as well this country's national income would now be \$88,000,000,000 instead of the \$60,000,000,000 which was estimated for 1938. The thought was then advanced that England had not tried to "harry and frighten business" which was employing people who wanted work, not charity.

There are other things happening besides the Byrd attacks and the congressional action on relief appropriations to indicate the growing strength of those who believe spending borrowed money has been, and is, unwise. Word has come through to Washington of the action of several governors who are insisting that their states avoid getting into the hole. Governor Cochran of Nebraska, a Democrat, and Governor Bricker of Ohio, a Republican, each has put their respective state legislatures on notice that expenditures are to be pared to the bone. There are others who could be named, but from the information we have here in Washington, Governors Cochran and Bricker are the outstanding examples.

It might be said that these refer only to states and not to national policies. Very well. No state executive could get away with such a program unless he had the backing of a majority of his own people. If they believe that way about state affairs, there is no reason to think they will take a contrary view concerning the national treasury and funds which it must borrow to spend.

'Pump Priming' Gifts to States Force Them to Borrow

Further, nearly all of the federal appropriations for "pump priming," when granted to states or lesser jurisdictions, are offered on condition that the state, or city or county, must put up an equal amount. In hundreds of cases in the last six years, this policy has resulted in states or lesser subdivisions of government being forced to borrow on its own bonds in order to get hold of the federal cash. The result: new debt. It becomes clear, therefore, that if the state executives insist on reduced expenditures, they are unlikely to accept these federal gifts because of the probable added debt burden.

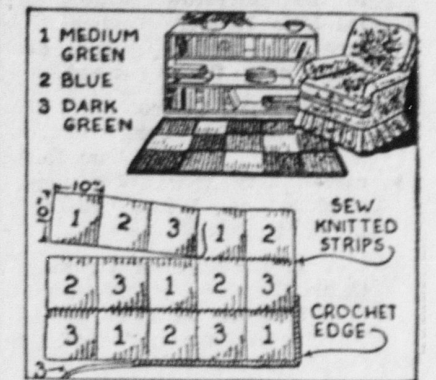
Another thing likely to happen in some of the states is added taxes. The state legislatures are due for an awakening as to the actual condition of their state finances. Some may dodge it this year, but facts will have to be faced. When new taxes come, what a howl there will be! That howl will be heard in congress, too, both concerning state and county and city taxes on the one hand and national taxes on the other hand. It appears to me that taxes will prove to be the best antidote for the poison of borrowing to spend that can be found.

© Western Newspaper Union.

Knitted Rag Rug to Make in Soft Colors

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS
HERE is news for those who have been writing me for more rag rug designs. A special Rag Leaflet has been prepared for you. It will be included free upon request with your order for the two books offered herewith. If you already have these two useful books, send 6 cents in stamps for the Rag Leaflet.

Wooden knitting needles 3/8-inch in diameter are used for this rug. Cut or tear the rags 3/4-inch wide



and knit them in strips 10 inches wide, changing colors every 10 inches by cutting the material close to the needle and sewing a new color to it.

When three strips have been knitted with the colors arranged as shown here, sew them together on the wrong side with heavy carpet thread. Use a crochet hook of about the same size as the knitting needles for the edge of single crochet.

NOTE: Be your own decorator. Make new draperies; curtains; slipcovers; bedspreads and dozens of other things for every room. Mrs. Spears' Sewing Book No. 1—"SEWING for the Home Decorator," shows you exactly how, with step-by-step illustrations. Book 2—Gifts, Novelties and Embroidery, shows you how to make fascinating things from odds and ends and will save its cost many times. Books are 25 cents each; if you order both books, the Rag Leaflet is included FREE. Address: Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplains St., Chicago, Ill.

SAFETY TALKS

Crossing the Road

HERE'S the modern counterpart of the ancient chicken poser:

Why does a pedestrian cross the road—at the wrong places and without looking?

That's what the National Safety Council is trying to find out after an examination of its records which proved that at least a third of the pedestrians killed in rural areas and 40 per cent of those killed in cities were crossing at places other than intersections.

In 1937, the loss of life from these classifications mounted over the 5,600 mark.

TRUE!

"Like lemons, Luden's contain a factor that helps contribute to your alkaline reserve. I prefer Luden's."

EDNA RIGGS, Lecturer, Los Angeles
LUDEN'S
MENTHOL COUGH DROPS 5¢

Heart to Heart

A man cannot touch his neighbor's heart with anything less than his own.—G. Macdonald.

CONSTIPATED? Don't Let Gas, Nerve Pressure Keep You Miserable

When you are constipated two things happen. FIRST: Accumulated wastes swell up the bowels and press on nerves in the digestive tract. This nerve pressure causes headaches, a dull, lazy feeling, bilious spells, loss of appetite, and dizziness. SECOND: Partly digested food starts to decay forming GAS, bringing on sour stomach, acid indigestion, and heartburn, bloating you up until you sometimes gasp for breath. Then you can't eat. You can't sleep. Your stomach is sour. You feel tired out, grumpy, and miserable. Adlerika gives you the DOUBLE ACTION you need. This efficient carminative cathartic relieves that awful GAS almost at once. It usually clears the bowels in less than two hours. No waiting for overnight relief. Sold at all drug stores.

Personal Mastery

He that would govern others, first should be master of himself.—Massinger.

A Sure Index of Value

... is knowledge of a manufacturer's name and what it stands for. It is the most certain method, except that of actual use, for judging the value of any manufactured goods. Here is the only guarantee against careless workmanship or shoddy materials.

Buy use of shoddy materials.

ADVERTISED GOODS