

Weekly News Analysis

European Crisis 'Postponed'; Delay May Be Fatal to Axis

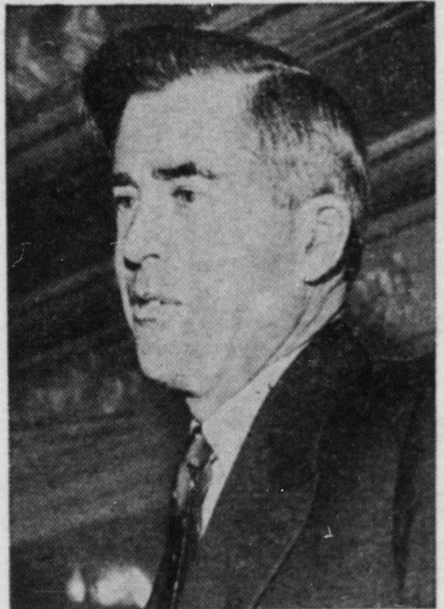
By Joseph W. La Bine

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

Domestic

In 1787 the constitutional convention wiped out trade barriers between states. Since then financially pressed commonwealths have sought to protect their own tradesmen and taxpayers from competition with non-residents by licensing, inspection, labeling and a host of similar regulations. By 1939 the barriers have grown so high that Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace claims it causes an incalculable economic loss to the nation. Forwarding a report by the bureau of agricultural economics, Secretary Wallace made these charges:

(1) New York city's inspection requirements bar milk and cream



SECRETARY WALLACE
He would hurdle the barriers.

from points west of the New York and Pennsylvania state lines, thereby raising prices on the metropolitan market.

(2) Trucking "wars" thrive in Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, Maine and South Dakota, where restrictions are imposed against trucks from neighboring states.

(3) Many states virtually bar produce of other states by establishing unique trading, labeling and packaging regulations, quarantines, embargoes and "a bewildering maze of . . . other impositions."

Though the administration has thus far left remedial action up to states themselves, there is little reason to hope that 48 individual legislatures can work out a nation-wide system, or labor hand-in-hand to solve a problem in which each has a selfish interest. But federal intervention is broadly hinted in the Wallace report, one phase to cover interstate commerce of motor vehicles. The proposed plan: A vehicle properly registered in its home state and with the interstate commerce commission would be exempt from further registration.

Europe

The Ides of March brought disaster for Julius Caesar. The same Ides were scheduled by European observers to bring 1939 disaster to England and France via (1) conclusion of the Spanish war, (2) Italian territorial demands against France, and (3) a subsequent impasse in which London and Paris could choose between appeasing the Rome-Berlin axis or going to war.

The two major hitches in this schedule came in Spain, where Loyalists did not capitulate as expected following the surrender of Barcelona, and in the Vatican, where Pope Pius XI died. Obviously Italy could not free her hands for demands against France until she could withdraw troops from Rebel Spain. The pontiff's death brought a respectful pause in diplomatic warfare, coupled with international conjecture over the choice of his successor.

Whether the axis ever had a "plan" for March is questionable, but certainly the natural course of events would have brought a crisis. Today's most moot question in Europe is whether the unforeseen delay may not weaken the Rome-Berlin position. Speeding rearmament, forcing Germany into world trade submission, pledging aid to France, Great Britain has emerged a much

stronger power the last 30 days.

One idea of the crisis-to-come has been offered by Journal Des Debats, conservative Paris newspaper. The alleged plan, which Berlin described as "ridiculous and laughable": Fascist states (Germany, Italy and Japan) would diffuse trouble for democracies throughout the world, part of that campaign being Tokyo's recent seizure of Hainan island in defiance of France. Other troubles would include Italy's Mediterranean demands and agitation against Britain in already troublesome Palestine and Syria. This done, and mobilization completed, Adolf Hitler would make a "great speech" setting forth ultimatums, shocking the world next day by making "territorial security" marches into Holland and Switzerland. This done, London and Paris would be given their choice of capitulating or watching Holland and Switzerland remain under Nazi domination.

Housing

Despite federal stimulus, home building has remained at low ebb since 1929, providing a good index of the times. In 1937 a hinted uptrend was cut short by rising material costs and labor troubles. But by the current spring U. S. housing has reached such deplorable shape that renewed building activity is inevitable.

Some idea of the industry's expectations has been voiced by L. Seth Schmitman, consulting economist and member of the army industrial college, who predicts the greatest residential building volume since 1929. Activity for the first three months of this year is 75 per cent greater than during the comparable period last year, representing total expenditures of \$325,000,000.

Housing experts agree the initial stimulus was given by New York's Bowers savings bank, which recently cut about one-seventh in the interest rate for mortgage money on Federal Housing administration insured home mortgages. Picked up by other New York banks, then spreading westward across the country, the plan has given impetus to investment building operations.

England

From mid-May to mid-June, Great Britain's King George and Queen Elizabeth will be guests of the North American continent on a junket which most good Americans regard as a simple, friendly gesture. But as travel time approaches, the royal expedition is meeting with far more distracting bogeymen than Toronto's Dionne quintuplets, which are being shipped 180 miles under protest to curtsy before their queen.

From June 8 to 11 the royal party will visit the U. S. Because the entire journey was planned last winter in the heat of international chatter about "democratic solidarity," more than one anti-Chamberlain writer has tried to place the prime minister in a difficult position. A sample, by one Peter Howard in Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express: "Now the royal visit puts Chamberlain himself on trial. If it succeeds Chamberlain goes up. If it fails he goes down."

What Englishmen mean by "success" or "failure" of the American visit was finally brought into fairly close focus, but it still remained a doubtful quantity. Probable meaning: The visit will "fail" if U. S. citizens get the impression that King George and Queen Elizabeth are making a begging expedition to gain American aid in pulling England's chestnuts out of the European fires.

Defense

Six thousand airplanes would effectively darken the sky. Nose to nose, they would reach 45 miles; to wing, 52 miles. To build and maintain 6,000 planes, plus personnel and equipment, would cost about \$300,000,000. Authorization for such a U. S. army air force has already passed through congress and the appropriation will follow close on its heels. This done, American aviation will be in good shape. But even today both army and navy boast new accomplishments:

Army. Principal delight of Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the army air corps, is the five-man, twin-engine, high speed "Airaucuda," designed by 34-year-old Robert J. Woods after he "consolidated" the ideas of 500 army experts and 45 civilian engineers, draftsmen and engineers. Features of the Airaucuda: Tremendous cruising range, two anti-aircraft cannon, four machine guns and aerial bombs which explode like anti-aircraft shells when dropped near enemy planes. General Arnold's opinion: "It's the most striking example of airplane development of the past year, anywhere in the world."

Navy. In choppy Caribbean seas some 600 navy planes—one-third the entire force—recently provided "eyes" for U. S. battlewagons solving Fleet Problem XX. One spectator, President Roosevelt, watched the conduct of these planes and reportedly asserted the U. S. had naval air forces as good or better than any other. Said Adm. William D. Leahy, chief of naval operations: "The performance was the best I ever saw. They carried out their mission without an accident."

Congress

Most Americans do not realize that the bulk of New Deal reform measures have been adopted in one form or another. But practically everyone realizes the cost of reform has been tremendous, that the public debt now stands at \$40,000,000,000, that the treasury has a current deficit of \$2,200,000,000. With reform achieved, President Roosevelt is willing to join conservatives in two mutually desired ambitions, balancing the budget and helping business get back on its feet.

Chief arguments concern the method. New Dealers, whose program is voiced by Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins, would remove oppressive taxes and hope that the resultant boom would swell federal coffers, balancing the budget without eliminating "necessary" activities. Most businessmen and many congressmen would take an additional step—economy.

Total 1939-40 budget estimates are \$8,995,000,000, creating a new \$3,326,000,000 deficit and zooming the public debt smack against its legal limit of \$45,000,000,000—unless congress raises the limit. Far from willing to raise it, or even to approve the new budget, congressional Republicans have found strong support in rebellious Democrats. Their spokesman is Mississippi's Sen. Pat Harrison, who came out for a flat 10 per cent budget cut and a warning: "The country's credit is good and I don't think we have reached the debt danger point, but the stop-and-listen sign is up . . . A lot of this emergency stuff could be cut, and I'm in favor of cutting."

Senator Harrison has already found support in two studies:

Brookings. Surveying the new governmental reorganization bill (to consolidate and abolish executive agencies for the sake of economy and efficiency), Washington's thorough-searching Brookings institution claimed it was ill-conceived, that no economies would result. Of 132 agencies listed for reorganization, only 54 require legislative authority, and no legislation is necessary unless congress wants to "give the President authority to make laws by executive order." Suggestions: (1) Prune all present activities "rigorously"; (2) develop a "more consistent" program.

National Economy League. Reason for this survey was that "before lasting recovery and increased employment can be a reality . . . all



SENATOR HARRISON
Time to stop-look-and-listen?

doubts about national credit must be removed. The plan: Reduce next year's deficit from \$3,000,000,000 to \$500,000,000. Comparative budgets (000,000 omitted):

Expenditure	Budget	League	Saving
Relief	\$2,240	\$1,400	\$840
Public works	1,131	700	431
Social security	928	928	—
AAA	694	500	194
Defense	1,220	1,220	—
Interest	1,050	1,025	25
Veterans	539	539	—
All other	1,293	875	418
Total	\$8,995	\$7,287	\$1,708
Receipts	5,669	6,142	—
Net deficit	3,326	1,145	—

*Assumes business improvement from pared budget.

So potent are economy's new friends that the administration may well find its cautious business-wool program a boomerang. Wading half way across the pond of conciliation when opinion favored a complete passage, Mr. Roosevelt has been left behind and confronted with charges of insincerity because Harry Hopkins—the man who started his program—would need business' support to win the 1940 nomination.

Headliners

MARSHAL HENRI PETAIN
The "hero of Verdun" emerges from retirement to serve France in another crisis. Now 82, Marshal Henri Petain has been named ambassador to newly reorganized insurgent Spain in an obvious gesture to win Gen. Francisco Franco's friendship by emotional appeal. Many years ago, as instructor in the French war college, Marshal Petain instructed Spain's new iron man, himself a famous Twentieth century militarist. Later, in 1925-26, Marshal Petain joined forces with Franco in leading the expedition that defeated Abd El Krim, Riff leader in Morocco. Petain also went to Madrid and negotiated an agreement with the governor of Premier Prima de Rivera.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Congress Takes Bit in Teeth to Restore National Confidence

Vast Resources of Nation to Be Made Available Again for All People; Old-Line Democrats Responsible for Sudden Determination to Assume Congressional Leadership.

WASHINGTON. — The dictionary defines the word, "confidence," as meaning: "trust in, or reliance upon, another; a belief in a person or a thing." The dictionary might well have added that confidence is something quite intangible but yet it is a condition of national or state thought about its governmental policies as well as a condition of individual thought. It might have added, further, that confidence can be destroyed more easily than it can be maintained, or recreated when it once has been destroyed.

In any event, the thing about which we have heard most in Washington lately is the necessity for establishing a feeling of confidence throughout the country. The necessity exists, it is explained freely, because the depression continues and millions of persons, who would like to work, are not working. In some places, where political face-saving is important, the movement is called "business appeasement," but that is a difference between tweed-dee and tweed-dum. It remains as an effort to recreate national confidence so that all of the vast resources of the nation can be made available again for all of the people.

All of this is only a prelude to the declaration that:

Congress has taken the bit in its teeth with a determination that indicates rather a unified effort to restore the country's confidence. It apparently is going to guide the policies and work out solutions for the various problems that are viewed as destructive of a feeling of assurance among the bulk of the people. In other words, congress seems to have assumed a leadership in national life that it has not had in recent years, and is moving sincerely to bring back prosperity.

President Hoover's Plans Wrecked by Stock Market

The course of events that has led up to the latest development (a development that has both political and economic significance) has been rather a wandering trail. It had its headwaters back in 1930 and 1931, when Herbert Hoover, then President, sought to stem the tide of rushing waters of depression by inviting dozens of business leaders to Washington for consultation. He was seeking to restore confidence, to encourage the country to feel safe. Those were days, it will be recalled when "prosperity was just around the corner." Mr. Hoover wanted to bring it out where it could be of some use.

Well, Mr. Hoover failed because the stock market crash had so destroyed the confidence of the country in him and in his policies of government that there was no possibility of recreating it. The folks simply would not believe in him, nor in any of his works at that time.

Along came the elections of 1932 and Mr. Roosevelt took over the job in 1933. Those days need not be reviewed, except to point out that no man ever had the complete confidence of a people as the new President held it. Congress did as it was told, thereafter. Of course, there were ups and downs but the scene was dominated by the personality of Mr. Roosevelt, a condition that continued through about six years.

That brings us to the mistakes in politics which Mr. Roosevelt made in 1938—reorganization of the government, proposed expanding of the Supreme court by appointment of six justices of his own choosing, charges that business leaders were attempting to subvert the New Deal policies and destroy the Roosevelt administration. This was the beginning. In quick succession, there came important gains for the Republicans in the 1938 elections, fear among many old line Democrats that their seats in congress were being jeopardized by mistakes of various New Deal agencies and laws, and in general a doubt that their party should be allowed to remain under New Deal leadership.

Old-Line Democrats Decide To Assume Leadership

And I believe it is the latter condition of belief among the old line Democrats that is chiefly responsible for the sudden blossoming of congressional determination to take leadership. Some observers hold the conviction that many members of the house and senate feel they should protect their own hides and that, to accomplish this, they must assume national leadership instead of leaving the policies to be theorized and blue-printed by such as Jerome Frank, Thurmond Arnold, Tommy Corcoran, Secretary Ickes, and others of that type. That is only saying numerous house and senate members believe the country has lost confidence in that sort of leadership.

Only recently, it may be recalled, Mr. Roosevelt voiced an assurance that business would have no new taxes to burden it. He spoke confidently about the future. Others, reflecting the President's position, including Secretary Hopkins and Secretary Ickes spoke pieces of an as-

surging nature. This is the same Mr. Hopkins who used to be head of the relief spending.

What happened? The stock market that ruined Mr. Hoover's administration showed its confidence in the new statements of 1939 with only a little less feeling than it did in the years when prosperity was just around the corner. The market dipped down only a few days, but if the stock market can be regarded as an answer for any question, the stock market must have said, "pfooye."

Anyway, there arose immediately the new and very potent movement in congress for a program of "business appeasement." One of the first things to happen was a declaration by Senator Harrison, Mississippi Democrat and one of the really powerful men in the senate, for a cessation of spending, or, specifically, Senator Harrison demanded a curtailment of spending, a start toward a balancing of the national budget, in the belief that the whole country is fearful of the gigantic national debt.

Shows Days of Rubber Stamp Congress Are Gone

The foreign policies of the administration were dragged out onto the floor of the senate for examination under a magnifying glass. Of course, the senate did not force any real change in the international relations which Mr. Roosevelt has established. From long observation in Washington, I doubt that the senate's criticism of these policies was any too sound, but it had to engage in debate on the subject to let the country know it was watching everything that was being done. It obviously had the effect of demonstrating to the country that the days of the rubber stamp congress are gone, and it constitutes another bit of evidence of the new Washington leadership.

The real demonstration of congressional vitality, however, came the other day when Senator Harrison, as chairman of the senate finance committee, and Representative Doughton of North Carolina, as chairman of the house committee on ways and means, joined in a letter to Secretary Morgenthau, requesting a treasury statement on a tax program. The two congressional leaders urged a new and sound tax program and an administration re-assurance against further heckling of business to the end that business would try to go ahead. What they were asking, therefore, were some signs which could give business, great or small, a feeling of confidence that the government at Washington would quit pulling hair.

It was a natural request of the treasury. The treasury always has provided the fundamentals of every tax program. Capitol Hill had read Mr. Roosevelt's pronouncement concerning "no new taxes" as meaning there would be no changes in the tax structure, however, and there were a good many legislators who felt revision of some, and abolition of other, taxes were advisable.

Congress Will Go Slow on Increasing National Debt

There are numerous signs that congress is not going to be in any hurry at all to pass a law that will allow an increase in the total national debt. Present law provides that the treasury may issue notes and bonds up to \$45,000,000,000. The current total is not so far below that figure, and Secretary Morgenthau has asked congress to boost the limit to \$50,000,000,000. Congress apparently is not so sure that there should be an increase in the debt limit. It is a type of confidence—rather, a lack of confidence—that is plainly visible. I believe the debt total will have to be increased because there is no provision made for enough taxes to offset the vast spending program for relief and national defense upon which Mr. Roosevelt has launched. There is no place to get that money, therefore, except by borrowing. So about the only good that can come from congressional barking on this score is to awaken the country as to the dangers of its great national debt.

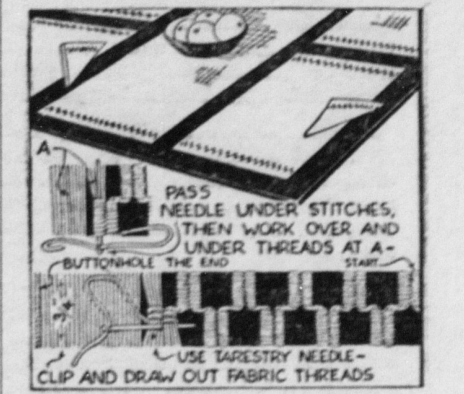
From all of these things, one is pretty likely to get the hebejeesbees. One can hardly help wondering where we are headed. But it seems to me that there probably is need for a confidence that thus far has not been mentioned in this discussion. This is a confidence in fundamental Americanism. The voters of the country can compel sound government on the part of those who make the policies and, on the surface, it appears now that the voters are telling congress what to do.

Rabid Dogs Do Not Avoid Water

Dogs with rabies do not avoid water, although this erroneous opinion is common among the laity. Mad dogs are often very fond of water and will rush into it, thrusting their heads and swallowing with great difficulty. Rabid dogs have been known to swim streams in their roving.

Needle Weaving for Blue Luncheon Set

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS
"DEAR MRS. SPEARS: I had been wanting some really handsome velvet roses to pep up an evening dress. I was thrilled to find in your Book 2, instructions for making them from materials I already had. I would also like to thank you for the knitted rag rug in Book 1. My Mother spent many happy hours making it last winter."
"I thought you might be interested in a luncheon set I have just finished. It was planned to go



with a set of blue dishes. There are four mats and a long runner in medium blue linen with bands of old fashioned needle weaving in darker blue across the ends. Just two edges of the napkins are banded with the weaving."

We can imagine how attractive the table must be set with these mats and the blue dishes. Some of you who have pink dishes might like to try the same idea in tones of rose. Use a rather coarse linen. Prepare the work for the weaving by drawing out the fabric threads as for hemstitching. Each step is shown here in the diagram. Either linen or mercerized embroidery thread may be used.

Sewing Book No. 2, Gifts, Novelties and Embroideries, contains 48 pages of step-by-step directions which have helped thousands of women. If your home is your hobby you will also want Book 1—SEWING, for the Home Decorator. Order by number, enclosing 25 cents for each book. If you order both books, copy of the new Rag Rug Leaflet will be included free. Those who have both books may secure leaflet for 6 cents in postage. Address Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplains St., Chicago, Ill.

QUESTION

You never seem to have a cold, Ethel.

ANSWER

Perhaps I'm just lucky. But I always use Luden's at the first sign. They contain an alkaline factor, you know.

LUDEN'S 5¢

MENTHOL COUGH DROPS

Up to You!
Accuse not nature, she hath done her part; do thou but thin! —Bacon.

NERVOUS?

Do you feel so nervous you want to scream? Are you cool and irritable? Do you spend those dreary to you?
If your nerves are on edge and you feel you need a good general system tonic, try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made especially for women.
For over 60 years one woman has told another how to get "smiling thru" with reliable Pinkham's Compound. It helps nature build up more physical resistance and thus helps calm quivering nerves and lessen discomforts from annoying symptoms which often accompany female functional disorders.
Why not give it a chance to help YOU? Over one million women have written in reporting wonderful benefits from Pinkham's Compound.

Destitute
He who has lost confidence can lose nothing more.—Boiste.

Don't Aggravate Gas Bloating

If your GAS BLOATING is caused by constipation don't expect to get the relief you seek by just doctoring your bowels. What you need is the DOUBLE ACTION of Adierka. This 35-year-old remedy is BOTH carminative and cathartic. Carminatives that warm and soothe the stomach and expel GAS. Cathartics that act quickly and gently, clearing the bowels of wastes that may have caused GAS BLOATING, headache, indigestion, sour stomach and nerve pressure for months. Adierka does not grip—it is not habit forming. Adierka acts on the stomach and BOTH bowels. It relieves STOMACH GAS almost at once, and often removes bowel wastes in less than two hours. Adierka has been recommended by many doctors for 35 years. Get the genuine Adierka today.
Sold at all drug stores.

Thoughtless Words
Words without thought never to heaven go.—Shakespeare.

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