

Weekly News Analysis Congress Speeds U. S. Defense: Okay Army Bill, Plan Big Ships

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.

Defense

On January 1, 1936, Japan scrapped her 5-5-3 naval treaty with the U. S. and Britain. Subsequently an arms race started on both land and sea, precipitated each time Der Fuehrer or Il Duce made an aggressive step. In the U. S., even loud-mouthed congressmen were loathe to think of defense in terms of actual invasion until self-righteous Germany swiped Czechoslovakia and Memel. Two weeks later congress got down to talking cases, passing an unprecedented \$513,188,000 army appropriations bill in jig time after war talk like this in the senate:

Oklahoma's Thomas: "Every nation must be ready every moment . . . to defend itself."

Utah's King: "The only possible danger is from Japan, and . . . Japan is beating her head against a stone wall in China. Even if Ger-



SENATOR LUDEEN
He favored Hitler technique.

many should defeat England, I haven't the slightest idea that would endanger us."

Indiana's Minton: "Germany might obtain Bermuda or part of Canada."

Minnesota's Ludeen: "Then let the United States seize Bermuda and Britain's West Indian possessions to force payment of her war debts. Andrew Jackson set a precedent in collecting a debt from France by threatening to seize French territory in this hemisphere."

Indiana's Minton: "That would be adopting the technique of Hitler."

Having boosted army funds \$52,987,000 over the current year's appropriation, congress had next to consider navy news from the White House. Admitting Japan's secret naval program was one reason, President Roosevelt approved two 45,000-ton super-sub-battleships to cost \$95,000,000 each, bigger than any yet conceived and capable of squeezing through the Panama canal with two feet to spare on either side. One good reason: By showing that the U. S. is able to out-arm any other nation, Japan might be forced back into a limitation treaty.

Present U. S. strength includes 15 capital ships (one nearing obsolescence) ranging from 27,000 to 33,000 tons. Six more are authorized. Britain has 15 capital ships in the same category, plus the 42,000-ton Hood and nine other boats underway. Last Japanese report (in 1936) showed 10 capital ships, none over 33,000 tons, and three under construction. Vague rumors since then indicate about five new super dreadnoughts of excessive tonnage. Treaty or not, both Britain and the U. S. feel obligated to maintain a 5-5-3 ratio even though the world's third largest sea power sets the pace.

Agriculture

Though the house approved an \$816,513,000 agriculture appropriations bill (\$499,500,000 of which is for soil conservation benefit payments) the measure was far more significant for two exclusions:

(1) Parity. Not included in the

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

WEALTH WESTWARD—Fleeing European war scares, \$56,204,000 in gold—largest consignment on record—arrived in New York on the S. S. Manhattan.

MATURING UNIONISM—In 1933, U. S. labor strikes dropped 50 per cent and union membership hit a record high of 8,000,000. Reason given by the labor department: Transition in management-employee relationship.

FARM HEADACHE—More than 40 per cent of the \$7,632,000,000 U. S. farm income for 1933 went for debts and taxes, agriculture department figures show.

EARNINGS DOWN—Standard Statistics company reports the net 1933 income of 1,898 corporations was 42 per cent under 1937's figure.

President's original budget, but tossed in anyway, was a \$250,000,000 grant for parity payments. But no financing was provided, and the house seemed economy bent. Rather than resort to unpopular processing taxes the house voted against parity, winning disfavor of the potent farm bloc and a victory for the President, who insists extra-budgetary needs must be met with definite taxation. Agriculture leaders hoped the senate would restore parity; even so, an embarrassing situation apparently lay ahead. With no money, glum dirt farmers saw only one way to pay off the government loans on which they have pledged 81,000,000 bushels of wheat. The way: To default, making the U. S. the world's largest wheat owner.

(2) **Cotton.** Another rejected amendment called for \$60,000,000 "to develop domestic markets and subsidize foreign exports." This obviously referred to the plan President Roosevelt broached a few hours earlier: To spend \$15,000,000 between now and August 1 by paying producers \$1.25 a bale (on 8,000,000 bales) for releasing their government-held loan cotton for sale on the world market. Though the 1939 crop will otherwise swell government-held surpluses to 13,000,000 bales, congressional economy apparently won. Said Virginia's Rep. Clifton Woodrum: "We might as well repeal the budget and the accounting act, and let pandemonium and chaos reign."

Meanwhile, far in the future, southern cotton farmers saw relief in the revolutionary "cottonless" cotton developed at Texas A. & M. college's experimental college. Said to produce an over-large, oil-rich seed without detracting from the grade of the lint, the new product made farmers wonder if cotton couldn't be raised exclusively for oil, whose price is fairly constant.

Transportation

Among other things, U. S. railroads blame high taxes, bad business and unfair competition from other media for their present plight. Labor blames the railroads themselves. Most people blame a mixture of geographical, economic and political factors, in which everybody's hands are partially soiled. When railroading reached a crisis last autumn and congressional aid became imperative, a flock of panaceas arose ranging from the Hastings "postalizing" plan to the substantial bills of Montana's Burton K. Wheeler and California's Clarence F. Lea. Both management and labor pressed their particular cases and after two months of haggling the issue seemed little nearer a solution.

The latest voice is that of Joseph B. Eastman, interstate commerce



ICC'S COMMISSIONER EASTMAN
A guiding hand?

commissioner, who told the house interstate commerce committee that "the government must at least assume leadership and apply some form of compulsion." Whether Mr. Eastman's will be the guiding hand remains to be seen, but his comments were at least clarifying. After attacking the apparent reluctance to consolidate or co-ordinate as "wasteful practices," and after refusing to recognize any benefits from greater freedom to increase rates, the ICC member outlined a few high points for rail recovery:

(1) The government should give concessions in taxation and relief in connection with grade crossing elimination and reconstruction of bridges over navigable waters.

(2) Elimination of rate concessions to the government would save about \$7,000,000 a year.

(3) All important forms of transportation should receive "equal and impartial regulation," preferably under ICC direction.

While the house sped passage of a bill to facilitate voluntary rail reorganizations, Mr. Eastman pointed out that creation of a new reorganization court would delay rather than facilitate matters. His alternative: Give ICC charge of reorganization duties.

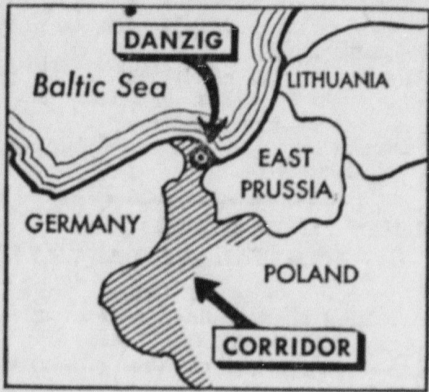
People

Douglas Fairbanks, ex-movie star, has been ordered to return \$72,186 refunded by the U. S. on income tax payments in 1927-28-29.

Europe

Few observers doubt that Adolf Hitler's ambition is restoration of the pre-war Hapsburg and Hohenzollern empires. Most agree, also, that his next step will be capture of the Free City of Danzig (now under League control) and the adjacent corridor which is Poland's only outlet to the Baltic sea. That Germany will get these concessions without a fight is further evident because Danzig is already 90 per cent Nazi; Poland, moreover, apparently recognizes her futile position and is ready to move into a French-British-Russ alliance permitting Soviet troops to cross her soil.

Though German Ambassador Hans von Moltke has assured Po-



DANZIG AND POLISH CORRIDOR
Next on Hitler's list?

land of Germany's good intentions, Nazi press notes like these sound suspiciously like the start of another campaign:

Field Marshal Goering's Essener National Zeitung: "Polish attacks on Germans (in Pole territory) are an intolerable strain on the German-Polish treaty of friendship—democracies pull the strings!" (Similar allegations regarding German minorities preceded recent Nazi invasions in Austria, Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia.)

Deutsche Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz: The paper advised Poles to continue collaborating with Germany and not to listen to "foreign sirens" lest the results not be "advantageous." The "foreign sirens" are obviously France and Britain, whose failure to back up protection promises the past year will undoubtedly force Poland to seek German mercy.

Labor

The unhappy plight of U. S. employer-employee relations may be due either to (1) the Wagner labor relations act, or (2) American Federation of Labor's battle with Congress of Industrial organizations. Like an impatient school teacher, both congress and the White House have resolved to end this squabble, the White House by sponsoring A. F. of L.-C. I. O. peace talks, congress by amending the Wagner act.

When April 11 was chosen starting date for senate committee hearings on Wagner amendments, labor peace talks were in full bloom. But so strong are the workingman's feelings about the proposed changes that many a peace advocate thought hearings might have been delayed until labor's warring factions either make up or draw swords.

To amend the Wagner act, congress can pick from four sets of proposals, all opposed by C. I. O., three of them submitted by coherent factions with special interests:

(1) By Massachusetts' Sen. David I. Walsh, obviously favored by A. F. of L., which opposes all other proposals: Curtail the national labor relations board's power to invalidate union contracts; require NLRB elections by craft rather than by industrial units; permit employer petitions for elections; permit appeals in representation cases.

(2) By Nebraska's Sen. Edward R. Burke, and supported by the potent, strike-weary National Association of Manufacturers: Require that NLRB have representative from labor, management and the public; outlaw deduction of union dues from pay envelopes; outlaw "coercion" by either employers or unions; establish code of "unfair labor practices" for unions as well as employers; forbid strikes unless a majority of employees approve; require all union officials to be U. S. citizens; permit transfer of "unfair labor practice" charges from NLRB to federal district court.

(3) By Oregon's Sen. Rufus Holman: To split NLRB's duties. Administrative and investigatory power would be vested in a labor relations commissioner. Final decisions would be made by a nine-member labor appeals board.

(4) By Kentucky's Sen. M. M. Logan, supported by the National Grange and other farm groups: To extend exemption of agricultural workers under the Wagner act to processors and packers of farm produce.

Miscellany

Figured, by New York's Rep. Bruce Barton, that the stock market usually gains when President Roosevelt goes fishing or vacationing, usually falls when he goes on a speaking tour.

● **Willed**, by the late Chicago Jew, Harris Goldman, that his 32-year-old Congregational daughter will receive one-seventh of his estate (valued at from \$300,000 to \$500,000) if she marries in the Jewish faith within a year, that otherwise she will receive only \$5.

● Scheduled for congressional approval, the highly controversial governmental reorganization bill, compromised to remove most of last year's objection.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Find Joker in Department of Agriculture Appropriation Bill

It's the Soon-to-Be-Famous Food Stamps and Here's How Advanced Thinkers Think It Will Work; Billion Dollars Is All They Want.

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

WASHINGTON.—It was not so long ago—six or eight years, perhaps—that the annual cost of the department of agriculture to the taxpayers of the country amounted to something like \$40,000,000. There was some talk even in those days about the drain upon the federal treasury resulting from department of agriculture operations. The totals were questioned; many persons wondered whether the politicians were justified in voting that much money to the department because there was little to show in the way of results. That is, congressmen could show very little except the packages of seeds sent out to their districts.

It was in those days, however, that the department of agriculture was seeking to operate effectively. Farming was not regarded by the folks who used to run the department as a subject for politics. The departmental officials were going about their business, rendering assistance in the form of advice and promoting better farming—when the farmers asked for it.

I was reminded of those days recently when the house appropriations committee brought out for consideration the appropriations bill for the department of agriculture for the fiscal year that begins next July 1. A Rip Van Winkle who could have slept through the last 10 years would have believed, truly, that he was in another world. The new money bill for the department contains a total of more than \$1,000,000,000. The measure, indeed, ranks as the third largest appropriations bill of this year when altogether there is likely to be almost \$10,000,000,000 appropriated.

What Is Planned To Do With a Billion Dollars

It is extremely difficult to realize what a billion dollars is. That is, it is difficult for me to understand what it is. I can write the figures glibly enough. But to comprehend that sum of money, or a billion of anything, is something almost outside the pale of human knowledge. Yet that is what the department of agriculture seeks this year, and here is how that money is supposed to be divided:

\$429,560,000 for soil conservation payments.

\$250,000,000 for parity payments.

\$191,000,000 for road building.

\$21,462,000 for soil and moisture conservation and operations.

\$24,984,000 for the farm tenancy program.

\$7,175,000 for eradicating tuberculosis and Bang's disease.

\$6,996,570 for the weather bureau and its services.

\$4,978,000 for retiring submarginal lands.

\$1,631,000 for soil and moisture investigation.

\$1,500,000 for wild life restoration.

\$300,000 for co-operative farm forestry.

\$250,000 for the water facilities program.

There were some other odds and ends embracing items of 20 or 40 or 90 thousand dollars, amounts so small that men almost smirk because they have forgotten how to speak in such limited numbers.

Then, and here is the joker which is hidden away. I really should not say "hidden" because no reference is made in the agriculture bill language. The joker is that there are almost countless millions of other dollars with which the department can play around, including approximately \$100,000,000 of money for use in getting rid of farm surpluses. That is the money from which Secretary Wallace and his advanced thinkers will draw funds for the soon-to-be-famous food stamps.

The country got its belly full of blue eagles before the NRA was plowed under. But the undistinguished, yet befitting, end that came to the NRA blue eagle has not deterred the advanced thinkers from attempting something else that is blue—a blue stamp for relief food. Yes, relief workers will have the same wages as before, but they will receive free blue stamps with which to buy surplus products for foods.

How Wallace's Men Think Blue Food Stamp Will Work

I must write a little bit about that blue food stamp, about how the advanced thinkers think it will work, before I report on the main department of agriculture appropriation bill.

It seems to be Secretary Wallace's idea of a more abundant life to designate certain farm products each week as being "surplus" and to help get them off of the glutted market by making them available for relief workers' kitchens. The first trial of the scheme will be limited to six cities. In those areas, the relief supervisors will be supplied with books of blue stamps. They are rather pretty stamps, too. Each WPA worker will get a book of stamps of a specified value. He can take those stamps to his gro-

cery store and use them just like they were quarters, or half dollars or dollars. The groceryman will take them and he will be paid honest-to-goodness United States money for them. Thus will the surplus stocks of food products be reduced and the remainder will bring better prices. Or so say the advanced thinkers.

When I read the explanation of the program that was sent me by one of Mr. Wallace's publicity staff, the first thing that struck me was the extreme discrimination that will result. It is easy to see. Take any man who is trying to hold down a private job. It may be paying him only \$50 a month, or about the same as the relief worker gets. Naturally, he would like to be making more money. Who wouldn't? But he sticks on his job and stays off of relief. Then, when he gets paid he goes to the grocery store to buy some food. He pays cash, and gets his food.

About the same moment a relief worker walks in, orders the same list of groceries, perhaps, and pays for them out of a stamp book. It appears to me that the hard bitten private worker is going to find little solace in remaining on his job. It strikes me he—and millions of others—are going to be resentful of such tactics.

See Possibility of Creating A Lot of Bootleggers

There is another phase of the picture which was mentioned to me by Representative Hope of Kansas, one of the ranking members of the house committee on agriculture. He suggested that the blue stamps are going to create a lot of bootleggers. For example: the relief workers are not permitted to buy liquor with the stamps. They won't be redeemed if they are used to buy anything but food. However, Mr. Hope could see no reason why a relief worker couldn't use the stamps to buy liquor from a liquor store and the liquor store owner might possibly be a crook. It is possible, you know. He might own a food store, too, or he might have an understanding with a food store owner who would take the stamps at a few pennies discount. What is to stop such procedure? It's your guess.

The whole thing strikes me as being so silly as to defy one's powers of imagination. It is dealt with here at such length only because I regard it as typical of a great many things that are going on within the department of agriculture for which more than \$1,000,000,000 is soon to be appropriated for a year's operations. The blue stamp scheme is destined to fail, even as the plowing under of crops and the slaughtering of 6,000,000 pigs was doomed a-bornin' and as the limitation of crop production was certain to flare back on those who were sucked into the maelstrom of nit wit plans.

Now, lest I be misunderstood, let me restate with emphasis that there is good work that the department can do, and has been doing. Road building appropriations, for instance. Where would this country be had there been no attempt to build usable roads? Who can say that eradication of tuberculosis and Bang's disease among live stock is not a valuable aid to farmers?

Learn Beautiful Phrases But at Rather High Cost

I am not prepared to say that the wild life restoration program is wholly bad. It seems probable that the country ought to rebuild the wild life stocks that have been wantonly destroyed in the days when people could go out and shoot ducks or deer or what have you without thought of the morrow. It is a program for which considerable justification can be advanced.

But it is to be noted that most of these items are small. Neither the department of agriculture administration nor the members of the house and the senate have seen fit to do more than maintain them. I have seen the inmates of the capitol squirm and fuss and scowl about some of them, while swallowing the items reaching into hundreds of millions with the greatest of glee.

As I said, it was not so long ago that department of agriculture appropriations were regarded as huge if they totalled 40 millions. As far as I can see, agriculture is no better off today than it was in those years. Of course, a very great number of farmers have learned that the beautiful phrases like "the more abundant life" and such, are meaningless. But I venture the assertion that the education has been rather expensive.

From all of these things it is surely made to appear that there are some large Ethiopian gentlemen in the wood pile. When the politicians and the advanced thinkers joined hands to manage agriculture, just then federal expenses for the department of agriculture began zooming upward.

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THE full-sleeved, high-waisted dress (1721) is a perfectly charming fashion for afternoon parties, club meetings and luncheons. It does nice things to your figure, because the bodice is gathered into just enough fullness, and the high waistline makes you look slimmer around the middle and over the diaphragm. Make it of silk crepe, georgette, prints or chiffon.

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The Patterns.

No. 1721 is designed for sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46. Size 36 takes 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. One yard edging for neckline.

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Keeping at It

Perpetual pushing and assurance put a difficulty out of countenance, and make a seeming impossibility give way.—Jeremy Collier.

How Women in Their 40's Can Attract Men

Here's good advice for a woman during her change (usually from 38 to 52), who fears she'll lose her appeal to men, who worries about hot flashes, loss of pep, dizzy spells, upset nerves and moody spells. Get more fresh air, 8 hrs. sleep and if you need a good general system tonic take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made especially for women. It helps Nature build up physical resistance, thus helps give more vivacity to enjoy life and assist calming jittery nerves and disturbing symptoms that often accompany change of life. WELL WORTH TRYING!

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