

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Soviet Presses New Conquests As World Looks Elsewhere; Nazi 'Ally' Is Sole War Victor

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

Cat and Mice

Six weeks after it started, the war of 1939 had apparently been won by Russia, a noncombatant. The soviet held two-fifths of Poland and controlled the little nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia whose German populations were repatriated by the Fatherland in what was Nazi-dom's most ignominious defeat. In all these countries Russia won important naval bases (see map) which gave her control of the Baltic sea and constituted a direct threat against Scandinavia. Lithuania, the last to capitulate, even accepted a part-Communist social order.

Finland was next, her delegation opening consultations in Moscow while the folks back home evacuated cities, strengthened the army and

mate: 189,000,000 bushels. Including winter wheat there will be an aggregate of 740,000,000 bushels, plus 254,000,000 carryover. Total: 994,000,000, of which about 700,000,000 will be needed domestically.

THE WAR:

From Rostrum:

Said France's Premier Daladier: "If Hitler really wants a durable peace it must be based on the security of nations, guaranteed reciprocally, without the danger of surprises."

Chimed in Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain: "It is for Germany to make her choice. . . . Either the Germans must give convincing proof of the sincerity of their desire for peace . . . or we must preserve our duty . . ."

Said Adolf Hitler: "The decision of peace or war lies with others. We simply have a grave determination to fight."

From such a hopeless deadlock there seemed no alternative except a fierce war. But the still, small voices of peace began rising everywhere. In Germany it was the mysterious mobile radio station urging that Hitlerism be discarded. In France it was a few "defeatists" who were promptly slapped into jail. But in London it was little David Lloyd George, World War prime minister who only a week before had startled commons by demanding that Britain give careful consideration to Hitler's peace offers. Arguing that a collective pact among all European nations need not be "dependent on the word of Herr Hitler," Lloyd George was rumored leading a campaign against advocates of "war at any price."

Taking a cue from the earlier speech in which Lloyd George had counseled U. S. leadership in a world peace move, Herr Hitler first had his throttled press give the British statesman a build-up, then released a plea that America might help prevent Europe's frightful "bath of blood." But the U. S. was choosy; the White House and state department would think carefully before volunteering.

At the same time, other Britons looked askance at the allies' apparent plan to wage war only on the western front. Could anybody win from such stalemated positions?

On Land

There was every indication Germany planned to open a fierce thrust on the western front, thus retaliating against spurned peace offers. Paris heard that Hitler had summoned his generals, ordered them to clear the French off Nazi territory and to drive swiftly through Belgium and Switzerland in a great offensive. The first part of this order was evidently borne out when "suicide squads" of grenadiers were thrust wave after wave against French outposts. Scouting planes appeared over the lines taking photographs. Strangely, many a Nazi raid appeared to have a solitary aim—to capture prisoners and thus get information.

At Sea

Fireside generals have long fought the battle of warship vs. bomber. Before October is out, the victor may be known. Authoritative Ger-



DAVID LLOYD GEORGE
This little man wanted peace.

man circles said Nazi planes had dropped 10 bombs in a single raid on British vessels blockading the North sea. Since the allies wanted no peace, the raids would continue. Commented the official German news agency: "The time of unqualified British control of the seas is gone forever."

(At Amsterdam, Netherlands, a Dutch seaman came home to announce he had sailed from New York on the long-missing German luxury liner, Bremen, had helped plow her through cold northern seas while she flew the Soviet flag, and helped dock her safely at Russia's Arctic ocean port, Murmansk.)

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is a perfect score. Deduct 20 for each question you miss. Anything about 60 is good.



1. The above fellow, once governor of Kentucky, is shown taking an oath in Washington. What's his name? What oath is he taking?
2. Al Capone, former Chicago gang czar, is in the news now because: (a) he is taking piano lessons at Terminal Island prison, California; (b) he has become a fruit grower at his Florida home; (c) he will be released from prison next month.
3. His initials are Robert G. As official executioner for five eastern states, he electrocuted Sacco and Vanzetti and Bruno Richard Hauptmann, kidnaper of the Lindbergh baby. What's his last name? What happened to him?
4. Richard Gallogly is under life sentence in Georgia, convicted of a "thrill" murder in 1928. How did he make news recently?
5. Charles A. Byrne is New Orleans district attorney. He recently: (a) set a new record for prosecutions, for which the governor honored him; (b) was charged with blocking a grand jury's investigation of alleged graft and corruption; (c) started a racket-busting campaign similar to that of New York District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey.

(Answers at bottom of column.)

CONGRESS:

Talk Fest

Washington's important news was not that the senate had refused 65 to 26 the resolution by New Hampshire's Sen. Charles W. Tobey to split the arms embargo repeal issue away from the rest of the pending neutrality bill. This was not big news because the administration bill seemed a cinch to pass whenever the final vote came.

Much bigger news was the fact that the issue of war vs. peace vs.



MISSOURI'S CLARK
"Idiotic, moronic, unpatriotic . . ."

neutrality had stirred an unprecedented free-for-all in congress and elsewhere at a time when national unity was the watchword. There was angry speech-making, too much of it, fraught with a bitterness that might have made the U. S. look slightly silly and indecisive in time of crisis.

Missouri's Isolationist Bennett Champ Clark took the senate floor to maintain that the Tobey vote was no test. He stayed to make a speech on how the President's "limited emergency" proclamation has been used for dictatorial, warlike moves. Case in point: Placing the Panama canal under military control, an action Senator Clark said was valid only when the U. S. is engaged in war, or when war is imminent.

A speech the night before by Assistant Secretary of War Louis Johnson next attracted the senator. Mr. Johnson had said the U. S. army is as vulnerable to German mechanized legions as was the Polish army. Commented Mr. Clark: "In my judgment no more idiotic, moronic, unpatriotic remark ever has been made . . . To compare the situation in the U. S. with the situation in Poland . . . is an attempt to alarm our people . . . which to my mind is beneath contempt."

Next came Nebraska's Repealst Edward R. Burke in a speech denouncing Hitlerism, predicting a revolution for Germany and urging the U. S. to cast its lot with the allies by providing every assistance "short of supplying men and money."

News Quiz Answers

1. He is A. B. ("Happy") Chandler, who resigned as governor to succeed the late Sen. Marvel M. Logan.
2. (c) is correct. Capone is expected to be freed by November 19.
3. Robert G. Elliott. He died.
4. By walking out of prison, picking up his wife and driving to Texas "to get justice."
5. (b) is correct. Impachment proceedings have been filed against him.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Paradox of Peace Songs Coupled With War Plans Prompt Inquiry

Debates in Senate All Stress Theme 'We Must Keep Out Of European Mess'; Then Why Is Alarmist Point Of View Propagated From Capital?

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—While the senators continue drooling out thousands of words concerning the proposed repeal of the arms embargo, any observer can hardly fail to note the same theme song in all of the speeches: we must keep out of Europe's war. The senators, and the representatives, too, seize upon every opportunity to tell the nation—either from the capitol or any other rostrum—that it is a war on the other side of the Atlantic and that we must remain out of it.

President Roosevelt's every statement, and they have been coming with the frequency of rain in the tropics, projects the same command. He says he hates war and wants to keep the country at peace. His subordinates throughout the government—every one with a title sufficient to draw a crowd to a banquet or to a camp meeting—are causing the doves of peace to coo with their softest tones. Beyond Washington, also, the theme song is being picked up and repeated by every individual who can gain access to a radio microphone or gather a dozen listeners in one room.

But the same observer rambling around Washington and hearing the theme song of peace cannot fail to note also a war psychology, an alarmist point of view. It is a view that is being propagated from Washington, and there can be no mistake about it. And, so, I rise to ask why all of these war plans are coupled with the theme song of peace? For in every section of the national government those plans are going forward as though we were going to have a declaration of war just ahead of the newly fixed Thanksgiving day of November 23.

Why All These War Plans When Nation Is for Peace?

No mature person can ignore the dangers of war; nor ought any person make light of serious consideration of war plans. I certainly do not intend to treat the matter in a humorous vein, but I repeat the question: why all of these war plans when the nation is 99.44 per cent in favor of peace?

Let me set down some of the things that have happened around here and maybe it will clear why I have become puzzled:

The other day I was in the navy department. There, hanging in a most conspicuous place, was a sign which read: "Beware of Female Spies," and some other warning notes. It struck me that female spies are no more dangerous now than at any time in the last 50 years, and I observed to a navy officer that if foreigners wanted to know our military secrets, they would not wait until now to try to find out about them.

President Roosevelt announced a few days ago that he intended to add something like 75,000 men to the army in accordance with discretionary authority granted by the last congress, and that during 1940 he expected to increase the army to its full authorized strength of 250,000 men.

Shortly after making known this decision, the President issued orders to the war department, directing construction of a series of new barracks and cantonments. These are to house the new army personnel. But congress has given no authority for that, nor has it appropriated money to be expended for that construction. Mr. Roosevelt called attention to this lack of authority, and explained that he believed there was no intention on the part of congress not to provide living quarters for the new soldiers. So, he is going ahead without that authority. He will ask congress to legalize his action when it meets in regular session next January. Before making known his intention to proceed, however, the President discussed the question with Comptroller General Brown, and the Comptroller General suggested that he be not requested to give a "formal opinion" on the President's right to carry out the program.

Navy yards throughout the country have been closed to visitors. For the first time in years, the capitol building is under police regulations as rigid as war time.

Again, Why the Paradox of Peace Songs and War Plans?

You will recall how on several occasions the President has made public statements about war dangers near our shores. First, he told his press conference one day that two submarines had been sighted, one off the Atlantic coast and the other off the shores of the state of Washington. There was that announcement also about the German gunboat that was meandering around somewhere in the Caribbean sea. Finally, Stephen Early, the Presi-

dent's press secretary, disclosed that the head of the German navy had sent a warning that an American ship—the Iroquois, was to be sunk. The German word, according to Mr. Early, was that the British were going to sink that ship which was loaded with American refugees from the war zone; and then they would blame the Germans for doing it. The purpose of all of this was to inflame American public opinion against the Nazis, so it was officially stated.

Now, I would have no way of knowing whether the U-boats were actually sighted and whether they were German or British or our own. Nor would I know anything about the German man-o-war that was reportedly cruising around not too far from American waters. Likewise, the Iroquois warning was something I could not know about. But these things, among many others, have prompted the general discussion and the inquiry as to the paradox of peace songs and war plans.

Dismissal of Mobilization Board Causes Speculation

Now, I can see some sound judgment in the decision to withhold from publication the report by the newly established industrial mobilization board which was headed by Edward R. Stettinius, one of the powers in the United States Steel corporation. That group of men, who surely could be trusted to be in favor of preserving the United States if anyone can be trusted to be patriotic, had made a careful analysis of all of the resources of the country that could be used for war purposes. It is presumed that the board drafted general plans and revised, or at least reviewed, many of the war department programs for war supplies. But Mr. Roosevelt deemed it best not to make the board's findings public. With that, surely, no one can disagree.

There is quite a difference between the sort of findings that represent such conclusions as those informed men could contribute and the sort of information that is obtainable every day concerning the mechanics of ships and guns and airplanes and there is a difference, too, between that and alarmist announcements about U-boats.

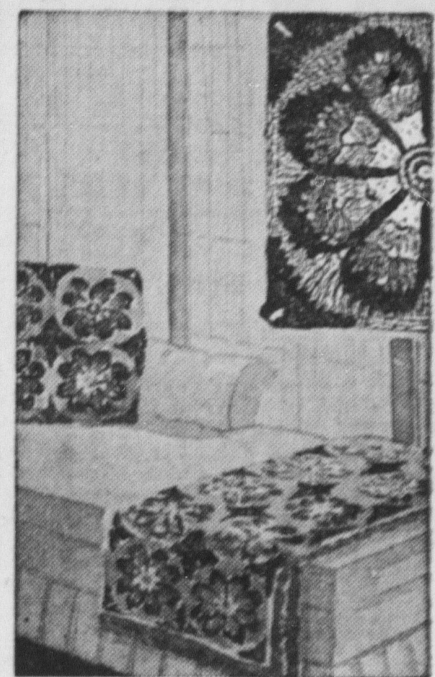
Just here the facts of the mobilization board's dismissal ought to be chronicled. The members of the board, or some of them with whom I had talked, believed they had been asked by the President to do a continuing job. They felt that they were something of a permanent agency, available at the call of the President. Whatever their belief was, however, it turned out that they were wrong. Those industrialists, working without pay and paying their own expenses, had been known as conservatives. Any conservative thinker is a dangerous individual to such men as the Corcoran-Cohen group of presidential advisers. No sooner had they started work, than it was bruited about in various quarters that these men were going to scuttle the New Deal. The "inner circle," a gang that came from oblivion into power and will eventually go back to oblivion, did not overlook a bet in spreading their gospel that the industrialists were out to wreck everything for which Mr. Roosevelt stood.

Can Easy Get Into War if Psychology of War Continues

The rumors concerning the activities of the members of the mobilization board spread rapidly and grew in number. It is made to appear that the sponsors got to Mr. Roosevelt with their propaganda. In any event, something happened with the suddenness of a rabbit jumping from a lair of weeds. Mr. Roosevelt announced in his press conference one afternoon that the mobilization board would make its report and would be dissolved. That would not have been a startling announcement except that none of the members of the board, nor the general staff officers of the war department who were working with the board, had any previous knowledge that their work was ended.

I have not attempted in this discussion to report all of the little incidents that have come along to excite curiosity. It is not to be forgotten that the congress was called into extraordinary session to act on the President's request for repeal of the arms embargo. Many persons saw no need for the extra session. And the passage of three weeks of debate on the question whether to keep the embargo against export of arms or repeal it has shown, as far as I am concerned, that it really does not matter which side wins. The United States is not going to get into war any more quickly by keeping the embargo than it will by repealing that mooted section. But it can get into war very easily, embargo or no embargo, if this psychology of war is continued from Washington.

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Dangerous Rumor Many a happy family has been spoiled by an idle rumor.—Koval.

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Travesty The uneducated man is a caricature of himself.—Scheigel.

ESSO REPORTER NEWS

	A.M.	Noon	P.M.	P.M.
WJZ	7:55	12:25	6:00	11:00
KYW	7:15	12:45	6:00	11:00
KDKA	8:00	12:00	6:00	11:00
WBAL	7:25	12:00	6:00	11:00
WRC	8:00	12:00	6:00	11:00
WCHV	8:00	12:00	6:30	10:00
WRVA	7:55	12:30	6:00	10:30
WTAR	8:00	12:30	6:30	11:00
WPFF	7:40	12:30	6:30	11:00
WBT	7:55	12:55	5:25	10:30
			(Fri.) 9:45	
			\$10:30	

D-Daily S-Sunday

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