WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

### Soviet-U. S. Relations Strained By Molotov's Attack on FDR; Italy Protects Her Neutrality

(EDITOR'S NOTE-When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Un

EUROPE:

Double Feature

All Hallow's eve found every European ear cocked to Moscow, awaiting history-making utterances from Premier Viacheslav Molotov. Adolf Hitler had 1,500,000 men poised at the front; so did the allies. But war hung in abeyance. For as Russia swung so would the war, because every other European state had declared its status, neutral with leanings either toward Germany (like Italy and Hungary) or toward the allies.

Stolen Thunder

A few short hours before Molotov's speech, Il Duce Benito Mussolini pulled a coup that must have stunned his erstwhile colleague in Germany. Ousted was Propaganda Minister Dino Alfieri, close friend of Nazidom's Propagandist Paul Joseph Goebbels. Ousted were Fascist Secretary Achille Starace, close friend of Deputy Fuehrer Rudolf Hess and the man who gave a signal for the Itallan chamber's demonstration against

German merchant ships, providing a subtle way of staying "neutral." Poland. He said there can be no question of restoring Poland and

that it was absurd to continue the war for that cause. Two days earlier, Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain had acknowledged Russia's right of invasion to "protect" her Polish blood brothers from Ger-

shunning a treaty with the Soviet. United States. He precipitated a



IL DUCE'S STARACE

Pariani, friend of Hitler's Col. Gen. Walther von Brauchitsch and author of the Italian "blitzekrieg" plan for a German - Italian - Spanish drive against France; Gen. Giuseppe Valle, friend of Field Marshal Hermann Goering. Replacing them were middle-of-the-roaders like Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, chief of staff. Retained were other favorites like Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano (Mussolini's son-in-law) and Count Dino Grandi, minister of jus-

In Paris there was a feeling the Rome-Berlin axis had broken down completely. London was also happy, for a few hours earlier Italy's Ambassador Giuseppe Bastianini had made a strong anti-Communist speech. In the Balkans it was thought Mussolini disapproved Russia's expansionist policy, especially since Il Duce did not even wait until Molotov spoke. But in Italy it was a simple indication that Mussolini had his ear to the ground; Italians wanted no pact with the allies, they merely wanted strict neutrality.

Ominous Talk

First allied reaction to Premier Molotov's speech was relief over his failure to declare a military alliance with the Reich, even though he did charge Britain and France



RUSSIAN DEMANDS

The Soviet would give Finland part o Karelia (1) in exchange for moving back Finnish frontier northwest of Leningrad (2); Russia wants (3) islands of Seiskari, Hogland, Lavansaari and Tytarsaari; would lease land (4) at mouth of Finnish gulf for naval bases; asks for Finnish part of Rybachi peninsula (5).

were warring not to preserve democracy or restore Poland, but to safeguard their world empires. But sober reflection made the allies worry about:

Finland. Molotov revealed, much month. Besides a mutual assistance pact, Russia wanted territorial exchanges (see map) which Finland declared would "rob us of the chance of defending the independence . . . of our land."

Germany. He said Nazi-Russian friendship was getting thicker. Next day it was revealed trade discussions were going forward successfully. One report from Stockholm said Russian submarines would be given the Nazis in exchange for

Balkans. He gave no hint of expansion there, but shook a nasty finger at Turkey for signing mutual assistance pacts with the allies after

heated argument which observers thought might end with severance of Soviet-U. S. diplomatic relations. Commenting on President Roosevelt's earlier note expressing hope for continued amicable Finnish-Rus-



STALIN'S MOLOTOV ... stole his thunder.

France last winter; Gen. Alberto sian relations, Molotov said: "One finds it hard to reconcile that with | Sen. Charles McNary, who tentathe American policy of neutrality . . . One might think that matters | Democratic picture jumped a brand are in better shape between the United States and . . . the Philippines . . . than between the Soviet Union and Finland, which has long ago obtained both freedom and political independence . . .'

Next day, while Massachusetts' Rep. John McCormack demanded from the house floor that Ambassador Laurence Steinhardt be recalled from Moscow, the President dug from his files an exchange of notes with Soviet President Michael Kalinin last April, when Kalinin cabled an unsolicited "expression of profound sympathy" with the President's efforts to safeguard peace. This cable had come one day after Mr. Roosevelt sent peace pleas to Dictators Hitler and Mussolini. Thus the U. S. put Kalinin on record as supporting the President's peace efforts in contrast to Molotov's declaration. Suggested White House Secretary Steve Early: "It would seem that he (Molotov) had the embargo in mind rather than what he termed the President's moral support of Finland."

(Unspotlighted, the neutrality bill wormed its way through the house which voted 237 to 177 for sending it to conference with the senate, conferees to have definite instructions. One instruction: To repeal the arms embargo, by a vote of 243 181. Thus congress expected to get out of town immediately. Britain hailed the repeal; Nazidom was enraged. One suddenly discovered danger of cash-and-carry is that the allies will indeed buy more arms but will cut other imports from the U. S. One Britisher thought imports of U. S. industrial products and foodstuffs may fall off \$150,000,000 a year.)

Western Front

Abandoning purely defensive positions, German "shock troops" stormed the French frontier at scattered points as murky weather gave way to sunshine. Fears grew that Belgium and the Netherlands might be invaded. The Dutch proclaimed a state of siege in eight provinces, flooding frontier positions to check any Nazi advance.

At Sea

While the embattled U. S. S. City of Flint steamed carefully down the Norwegian coast to Germany under a Nazi prize crew, the U.S. asked both the Reich and Britain to protect her interned American crew. Washington also reported 27 U.S. ships have been detained by belligerents since the war began. The war at sea came too close to American shores when the British freighter Coulmore was reportedly torpeto the Finns' chagrin, the stalemat- doed 450 miles off New England. ed proposals which have occupied Nazi planes and U-boats continued these two countries for the past successful raiding of allied shipping, but Britain retaliated by naming Lord Nuffield (her "Henry Ford") to a key post in the air ministry. His instructions: To intensify the navy's North sea blockade against

# NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred points if you can answer all these. De-duct 20 for each complete question you miss. You can't boast about a score of



1. Aviation News : (a) Who are Clyde Schlieper and Wes Carroll, shown above, and why are they so tired?; (b) What was the intended destination of a nonstop flight that left New York, and did it succeed?

2. What happened to Mrs. Homer Stout, Oklahoma farm wife who tried the "freezing" treatment for cancer? 3. True or false: The Mexican

revolutionary party has asked for return of oil lands expropriated from American-owned panies. 4. Choice: Sen. James Mead of

New York introduced a bill proposing that \$139,000,000 be set aside by the treasury for small loans to: (a) business firms; (b) distraught farmers; (c) municipally owned power plants; (d)
"little theater" groups.
5. True or false: No food ration-

ing will be needed in Britain during the winter. (Answers at bottom of column.)

POLITICS:

Candidate-of-the-Week

Rooseveltian third-term talk, which took a back seat in early days of the war crisis, loomed again in San Francisco when Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace boomed the President for re-election. Next day Secretary Steve Early made it clear that Franklin Roosevelt wanted no boom, and Iowa's Sen. Guy Gillette left a White House conference where the President had reportedly asked that Iowa's delegation to next year's convention go unpledged. The deduction: That Mr. Roosevelt will not seek re-election, and certainly wants the matter hushed for the present.

But Henry Wallace had started the political pot boiling again. Into the Republican picture jumped Oregon's tively consented to run. Into the new name, Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, who tried to win the vice presidency with the elder La-

Follette in 1924. Writing California's Gov. Cuthbert Olson to protest a meeting of "progressive leaders" scheduled



SENATOR WHEELER AND WIFE Plenty of friends.

next month in Salt Lake City, C. I. O.'s John Lewis gave, among other reasons: "The slight to Senator Wheeler and other great liberals of the west, who have not been consulted . . ."

Lewis apparently considered the meeting (some of whose participants may be violating the Hatch "no politics" act) as a third-term boom. Certainly it was made clear that Senator Wheeler should be consulted in any future "liberal" discussions about 1940. Washington observers, realizing that Lewis support may be a kiss of death to any political aspirations the senator may entertain, nevertheless admitted he has A. F. of L. backing, a big railroad following and plenty of friends in the senate.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Twisted Wires

Following an ultimatum from Chicago's District Attorney Thomas J. Courtney and U. S. District Attorney William J. Campbell, the American Telephone and Telegraph company barred Moses Annenberg's race betting information service from using its facilities. The Illinois Bell Telephone company followed suit.

#### News Quiz Answers

durance fliers who stayed up six hours more than 30 days over Long Beach, Calif. That's why they're tired; (b) The destination was Lima, Peru, but flight ended in Ecuador.

 She died when "thawed out," but physicians said cause of death was rup-ture of a bile duct, and that cancer treatment had probably been successful. 3. False. Party has demanded that lands be seized permanently.

4. (a) is correct.

5. False. Ration cards will be distributed starting December 1, with emphasis on butter, ham and bacon.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

## Investigation of Un-American Activities in U. S. Bearing Fruit

Gives New Perspective on Foreign Influences at Work in Our Midst; Shows How Our Citizens Are Used To Promote Ends of Dictatorship.

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

sometimes wearisome, investigation | shown him and his committee that by the special house committee on un-American activities, headed by Rep. Martin Dies of Texas, has begun to bear fruit. It is not yet clear whether all of the fruit will be good. But there surely is reason to believe that, even with some of that fruit slightly decayed, a great deal has been accomplished that will In other be helpful in retaining America for Americans.

I have a feeling that when the committee's work finally is brought to a close, most of us will have a new perspective on the foreign influences that have been at work in our midst. We will know more about the "isms" that have been transported to our shores and spread among us under organization names that are designed wholly to conceal the purposes of a controlling clique which gains its strength and its money, to a considerable extent, from foreign lands.

For another thing, it is now evident that whatever else the Dies committee has done, it has disclosed how thoroughly easy it is for a few rat-eyed, scheming foreigners to feed upon American resources and use our citizens to promote the ends of dictatorship. Moreover, the testimony thus far taken has shown how these weasels operate, the methods revolution in a so-called intelligent

they use. The testimony has brought out the fact again that one of the simplest things in the world is to "organize" Americans. Some vague promises, simple. The American Communist delivered with oratorical fervor; citation of some wrongs and theories for correcting them, stated only in generalities, and a group of active organizers, working for pay-that is what you have to have to "organize" in the United States. And the tragedy of it is that thousands of individuals will part with coin "for this great movement," or that one, without knowing that the leaders are using the membership only for whatever crooked purposes will serve their own interests.

#### Activities of Nazis and Communists in U. S. Revealed

The committee has been attacked, threatened. Even President Roosevelt characterized some of its operations as a "a sordid procedure." Members of the groups whose history and purposes have been laid bare have shouted their heads off about "unfairness," and "injustice." served a useful purpose and the public should remember that the stuck pig squeals the loudest.

Let us look back over the record. It shows that the "German-American Bund" is a tool of the Nazi leaders, if not directly of the German government. It shows that communists have been and are operating in countless "cells" in the United States, and because of the record the committee made, Earl Browder, the boss communist in the United States, is under indictment charged with having forged passports that enabled him to make frequent trips to Russia without the facts being known. It shows also that there are numerous organizations in this country which are simply the catspaw of the communist

party of Russia. It appears there is more scandal, more evidence of violation of law, yet to come. Largely, because of the committee's exposures there probably will be prosecutions of various foreigners or officials of so-called American organizations because they have failed to comply with our law. They have not registered with the department of state showing their connections with foreign governments or foreign groups.

In addition to all of these, the committee has made a ghastly expose of communists within the ofpublished the names of 563 persons, on the government payroll, who are members of the American League for Peace and Democracy, with the assertion that part of them, at least, were avowed communists.

Publication of Names Considered Grave Mistake

Publication of the list stirred official Washington. It was an action that was undoubtedly a grave mistake, because anyone can examine the list and find "victims" of the racketeering organizers - persons who were misled, persons who believed they were serving a sincerely fine purpose. Many of them are likely to lose their jobs in the government-minor clerks, messengers, stenographers-because of their alleged connection with an outfit whose motives, unknown to most of the members, were designed to de-

stroy our form of government. It was about this action that President Roosevelt spoke, although it has been known for months that he had little respect for the Dies committee program. Chairman Dies unlication of the entire list. Common, and our navy?

WASHINGTON. - The long, and | ordinary horse sense ought to have only a comparatively small number of those people were "guilty." It would have been so easy to have rooted out the real crooks and no one could have had sympathy for them. But the others were just vic-

> In other words, this bad mistake by the Dies committee has done much to nullify the good it has done,

tims and ought to have been treated

I am hopeful that the department of justice will be forced into the position where the real leaders, behind the scenes, will be kicked out of their government jobs from which they have been promoting destruction. But leniency is called for with respect to those other stupid, but sincere, individuals who make up the majority of the list. Their only blame is that they were so gulli-

ble that they did not attempt to find

out who was behind the "great movement."

Operations Are Directed From Moscow and Berlin

But how did the Russian "Comintern" operate to get into these various organizations and promote its nefarious schemes toward world race of people here?

The processes, according to the testimony by Browder and others before the committee, were very party sends delegates to the Communist Internationale in Moscow. Decisions are made by the Moscow group. Browder explained that the delegates came back with these decisions and policies but he described them as only "voluntary agreements" between the Americans and Russians. The Americans were not "compelled" to observe the Russianmade rules or follow Russian-made orders, according to Browder. But the head-communist in this country was squeezed into a corner by committee questions and finally explained that it was "customary" for can members of the party to "part company" with the group when they failed or refused to agree with the imported schemes. And thus voluntary action was forced action, directed from Moscow, as far

as I can understand words. American "Fuehrer" Kuhn, of the German-American bund, appears to But I repeat, the Dies committee has have had something of the same system. He nevertheless insisted before the committee that his organization had no connection with the Nazi party leaders and was not guided in any way by them. This statement was made despite testimony, some from Kuhn, himselfthat he had many close contacts in Berlin and that he had made re-

cent visits to Adolph Hitler. There has been considerable suspicion that both Browder and Kuhn have many men and women in their organization who can be described only as racketeers. That is to say, they have numerous "workers" who are fully aware of the general purposes but who are willing to engage in the "movement" solely because they have well-paying jobs within the ranks-which, in my opinion, rates them as completely dirty crooks.

Confidential Information

Available to Foreigners But to get back to the Dies com-

mittee list of alleged communists, or fellow travelers, within the government itself. Those of us who have been in constant contact with individuals in various official capacities recognize the dangers that are inherent in their situations. I, for one, am genuinely fearful of them. Any government worker comes into possession of vast quantities of highfices of our own government. It ly confidential information. It is information that belongs to you and to me and to others, because we are compelled by law to supply to the government all records and facts which the government seeks.

It is not information that belongs to any one government employee or official and that person has no right to use it or disclose it to others, except as the laws require.

I believe, therefore, it does not take a vivid imagination to see how such information can be used destructively by one of the rats who secretly owes allegiance to the Soviet or the Nazis or to the Fascists, of Italy. America long has proceeded upon faith. If that faith is breached between individuals, our laws and our courts are available for correction, for damages, for enforcement of rights. But what, I ask, are any of us going to do when, within the offices of the government itself, there are concealed men and women who descend below the level of common thieves and secretly supply facts about our nation to foreigners whose purpose is to destroy us? Who knows but that this sort doubtedly deserves censure for pub- of thing goes on within our army

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Strange Facts Odd Court Rulings Freaks for Speed

Minnows, Whales

During recent years, courts of law in various states have held that railroad cars are buildings, asses are cattle, bicycles are animals, dentists are mechanics, death by lynching is an accident and baseball is labor, not a game or sport. Even the Supreme court of the United States ruled in 1931 that the airplane is not a self-propelled vehicle.

Many characters in animated movie cartoons are drawn with only three fingers and a thumb on each hand because the omission is rarely observed and saves considerable time and labor.

The chief feature of a recent sports festival in Germany was a chariot race in which motorcycles took the place of horses. Each quartet of riderless cycles was held upright and apart from one another by crossbars and steered from the chariot by reins attached to their handle bars.

The seeds of some flowers, such as certain species of petunias and begonias, sell for 10 or more times their weight in gold.

There are approximately 700 submarines in commission in the navies of the world today, ranging in size from the giant French "Surcouf" with a surface displacement of 2,880 tons down to the little Finnish "Saukko" of only 99 tons.-Collier's.



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