

## The Week In Washington

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, May 21.—The mad whirl of conflicting opinion on the war issue has reached such an intensity here that a break is bound to come soon—a break which will determine whether we will enter the war or will re-define "short of war" to permit us to give greater aid to Britain without actually becoming a belligerent.

No one can predict what developments will take place from day to day which will force a decision and even the congressmen closest to the President do not feel certain that they know his plans. The President's spokesmen, such as Secretary of the Navy Knox and Secretary of War Stimson are practically urging war, but are doing so in words which allow for back-watering. They ask for convoys without using the word "convoys." They stress the war as being our war, but avoid asking us to send men.

In congress the majority are believed to be for convoys, even though it may mean war, but many of the representatives refuse to talk on the subject for fear of the reactions back home. The strong isolationist group, on the other hand, is speaking at every opportunity realizing that they are fighting with their backs to the wall.

Both isolationists and those who believe that our future depends on a victory for Britain are grasping at every straw of public opinion in the hope of finding out how far their constituents are willing to go, but they all have found that public opinion is confused, uncertain and diversified.

Polls such as the Gallup poll, continue to show strong sentiment for giving all-out aid to Britain but equally strong sentiment against using our armed forces. The problem of how to continue to satisfy both of these aims is becoming increasingly difficult of solution.

Organized groups, which have taken a definite stand, continue to bring pressure on congress and the President. The strong committee to defend America by aiding the allies is urging the adoption of a six-point program, including the use of naval convoys, which they admit "may lead to armed conflict."

A large group of women, with Kathleen Norris, popular authoress, as their spokesmen, are demanding that the President hold to his campaign promise of not using our armed forces to fight in foreign wars; the America first committee and the Lindbergh-Wheeler isolationists are charging that we are being forced into war unnecessarily and against the will of the people, Winston Churchill is calling across the sea for immediate help; thousands of people who attended a "Freedom Rally" in New York wired the President urging the use of convoys.

In congress Senator Pepper was applauded for urging that we "get tough" even if it means losing a few lives, and Senator Nye was applauded for saying that men like Senator Pepper are "blitzkriegering the American people into this war."

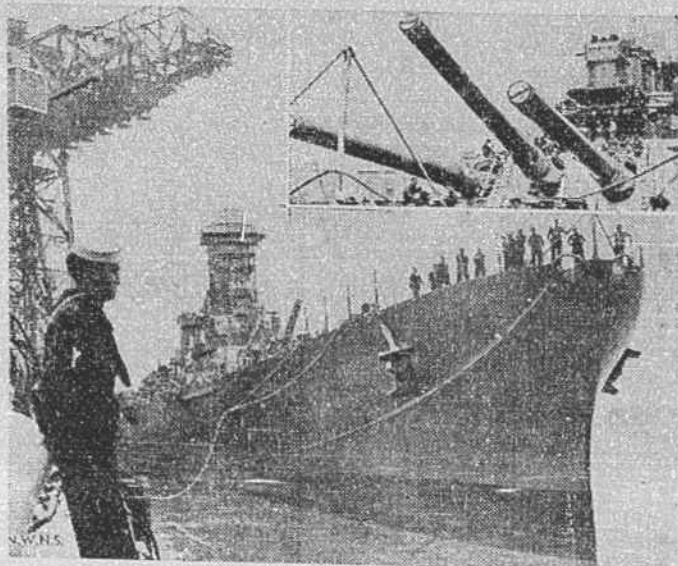
Whether the President has a clear plan of what he wants done and is waiting for public opinion to catch up with him, or whether he, like the public, is also grasping in the dark for some way of getting our goods to Britain without actually becoming involved in the war, is a subject of much debate. The argument of Herbert Hoover that we would have to keep more materials for our own use, and consequently could not give as much aid to Britain, if we were actually in the war, may also be the President's viewpoint, it is believed by some.

All other issues in Washington, many of which would be headline news in normal times, are now inconsequential compared with this one momentous question of war. The seizure of German, Italian and French ships, the seizure of German seamen and Italian aliens charged with violation of our immigration laws; the seizure of funds of the German dye trust; all have contributed to the intensity of the war situation, but are of comparatively minor importance.

The only other leading interest, and of course a closely related one, is the progress of our defense program. Each week, new moves are made to speed that program. Sidney Hillman, associate director general of the office of production management, has worked out, with labor leaders, a plan for putting defense industries on a 160-hour week of four shifts; President Roosevelt has ordered that production of heavy bombers be pushed up to 500 a month to create the world's most powerful fleet of long-range bombers; government figures are released to show that plane production now is ahead of schedule and may reach 20,000 planes for the year.

The war department released plans for maneuvers next fall which will probably be of greater scope than ever before attempted by any country in peacetime; army headquarters announced that our army

## Another Battleship for Uncle Sam



This week, one year and six months ahead of schedule, the U. S. S. Washington, 35,000 ton battleship is being commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. This picture shows the huge ship being rushed to completion. Inset shows the frowning muzzles of three sixteen inch guns of the after turret.

## Jerusalem

The exiled government of youthful King Peter of Yugoslavia has found its first haven, according to news dispatches, in a spot not always so appropriately as on this occasion named the "City of Peace."

"Jerusalem, where the Yugoslav officials are reported temporarily taking refuge, was known in pre-Israelite times as Urusalim, Uru for city, salim for peace," says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society.

"Despite its name, however, this ancient site which is sacred ground to three world-powerful religions, Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, has seen much of war and bloodshed.

"As early as 1400 B. C., it is recorded that a fortified town (then paying tribute to the Egyptians) stood on one of the Urusalim hills. In the centuries that followed, the city was conquered again and again—by the Israelites, the Macedonians, the Romans, the Persians and others of Mohammed's faith of the Koran and the sword. In 1099, the Crusades again brought devastation, after which Jerusalem became the Latin capital until it was retaken by Saladin in the 12th century.

"At the time of the World War, Jerusalem was still a Moslem city, in possession of the Ottoman Empire. It was won by the British campaign of November, 1917, under the leadership of Field Marshal Allenby.

"Only about a year before the outbreak of the present war, Palestine riots resulted in the marching of British troops into the walled inner city of Jerusalem, where Arab rebels had sought refuge. The British authorities were especially careful at that time not to fire on and sacred Moslem buildings (of which the famous Mosque of Omar is the 'holy of holies'), lest repercussions of such action be felt around the entire Islamic world.

"Modern Jerusalem is a 'two-in-one' city," the bulletin continues. "Behind crumbling walls lies an early core of settlement, the ancient town of narrow, crooked streets, tiny bazaars and heavily barred windows. Its uneven skyline, with sharp spires and broad, curving domes, lofty minarets and crosses, hints at the variety of its life and ritual. There Christians, Moslems and Jews find three of their most sacred shrines in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mosque of Omar, and the famous Wailing Wall, where the Jewish faithful bow their heads in prayer and lamentations.

"To curious explorers, a mysteriously romantic aspect of the Old City is its fabled labyrinth of caverns, running under the Moslem quarter and believed to have outlet in a nearby open valley.

"Outside the walled section, the modern city of Jerusalem spreads itself in ever widening circles. With a population of little more than 90,000 in 1931, the entire city now has nearly 130,000.

"Like Tel Aviv and Haifa, although perhaps not so obviously as the two newer coastal points, the Palestine capital has boomed surprisingly within the last decade. Whole new districts of homes, apartments, and restaurants have risen, with up-to-date movies, banks, hotels, parks and shopping centers. In May, 1939, a million and a half-dollar medical center, with university, hospital and medical school was dedicated.

"This spectacular expansion has followed in the wake of a rising tide of Jewish immigration which, starting in 1917 when the British set aside Palestine as a national home for the Jews, has received considerable acceleration in recent years through anti-Semitic legislation in European countries."

now includes 1,302,500 men; and it was revealed that plans are now being made to call up a million more men for listing under the selective service act next July. Those men will be the ones who have reached the age of 21 since registration day last fall.

## PRESIDENT ASKS FRANCE NOT TO GIVE UP TO NAZIS

Washington, May 15.—President appealed to France tonight not to deliver herself up to a German bent on "the utter destruction of liberty" and at the same time the United States coast guard took a dozen or more French merchant vessels in American waters into protective custody.

These steps were Washington's swift reaction to dispatches from abroad indicating that Vichy was throwing in its lot with the Nazis. The British were virtually accusing the French government of acting as a German ally by permitting Nazi planes to cross Syria to Iraq.

In a surprise statement from the White House, President Roosevelt implied that France was about to enter an alliance with Germany which involved "the peace and safety of the Western Hemisphere."

After a long conference with Secretary of State Hull and Under-Secretary Welles, the President declared that the American people could hardly believe that the French government would lend itself "to a plan of voluntary alliance implied or otherwise which would apparently deliver up France and its colonial empire."

The surrender of this empire, the President added, would include "French African colonies and their Atlantic coasts with the menace which that involves to the peace and safety of the Western Hemisphere."

Shortly before the statement was issued, it was announced that the coast guard had placed armed guards aboard all French ships in American ports, including the great luxury liner Normandie at New York harbor.

French vessels had not been taken into custody at the time those of Germany, Italy and Denmark were seized several weeks ago.

(A bill permitting the President to put such foreign ships to work in the national defense or British programs was passed today by the senate.)

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## DR. HAMILTON AGAIN HEADS SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

Birmingham, Ala., May 15.—Southern Baptists today voted to hold the denomination's centennial convention in 1945 at Augusta, Ga., where the southern church was formed a century ago.

Dr. W. W. Hamilton of New Orleans, who was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist convention, was authorized to launch preparations for the 100th session.

Baptists of the South broke away from the Northern denomination in a historic meeting at Augusta, May 8, 1845, after sectional differences arose over slavery.

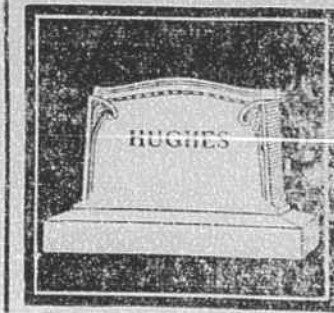
The convention re-elected Dr. Hamilton by acclamation to another three-year term and chose two new vice presidents—Dr. E. D. Solomon of Jacksonville, Fla., and Dr. Chas. A. Jones of Columbia, S. C.

Dr. Hight C. Moore of Nashville,

and Joseph H. Burnett of Hendersonville, N. C., were re-elected secretaries.

The 10,000 delegates and visitors here for the 83rd session joined in celebrating the Sunday school board's 50th year since the agency was created at the 1891 convention in Birmingham.

A colored woman who had received a three-cent check for participation in the AAA farm program, was told at a Greenville, S. C. bank it would cost her 10c to cash it. She appealed to the county agent. He gave her three pennies for the check.—Pathfinder.



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