

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

VOL. LXXH

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1946

No. 7

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Cracks Down on Russia; British Loan Called Trade Aid; Modify Emergency Housing Bill

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

DIPLOMACY: Crack Down

First evidence of a stiffening of U. S. policy toward Russia was contained in the state department's warning that this country could not remain indifferent to the Reds' refusal to withdraw from Iran in accordance with an agreement made in 1942 and reaffirmed at Teheran.

Oil-rich, Iran has been prominent in the news since its northwestern province of Azerbaijan moved for local self-rule and Russian troops prevented efforts of the central government to quell the revolt. During negotiations between Russia and Iran for withdrawal of Red forces from the country, Moscow was said to have pressed for oil concessions, held exclusively by the U. S. and Britain.

While the state department's note to Russia emphasized that this country could not sit idly by while tri-partite agreements affecting another nation's sovereignty were broken, it urged the Reds to retire to promote the confidence necessary for fostering world peace.

Having pressed the Russians on the Iranian situation, the state department followed with another protest to Moscow over the Reds' looting of Japanese industries in Manchuria and their efforts to set up a joint Russian-Sino economic rule over the province to the exclusion of other nations.

BRITISH LOAN: Called Aid

Declaring that the alternative to lending financial assistance to Britain was a postwar economic dog-fight, the administration opened its fight for the 3 1/2 billion dollar loan to the United Kingdom with Secretary of the Treasury Vinson and Assistant Secretary of State Clayton endorsing the advance before the senate banking and currency committee.

Vinson and Clayton presented parallel testimony to the solons, asserting that if Britain were unable to obtain dollars with which to buy

the purchase of new dwellings; increase the FHA's resources to insure mortgages of ex-G.I.s by one billion dollars; and set ceiling prices on new homes.

BROTHERHOOD: Truman Plea

With former Prime Minister Winston Churchill's plea for a U. S.-British military alliance posing the question of American adoption of the proposal or continued adherence to the United Nations Organization for maintaining world peace, President Truman stood by UNO in an address before the Federal Council of Churches in America at Columbus, Ohio.

Though sponsoring Churchill's speech at Fulton, Mo., Mr. Truman apparently intended to await public reaction to the proposal before taking a position himself. Meanwhile, the President avowed complete support to UNO, declaring that this country expected to defend it and work for its perfection along with the other member nations.

In addressing the 500 delegates, representing 25 million Protestants, Mr. Truman declared that only through the observance of Christian principles could any mechanism for peace be successful. Extending the thought to domestic affairs, he asserted that only through religious fervor could the country develop a social program designed to meet the needs of the mass of people.

In considering the church's position in the postwar world, the council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning any form of racial segregation.

Presenting the resolution, Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, noted Presbyterian theologian, rapped church organizations themselves for practicing discrimination against Negro and other minority groups. Many church-supported hospitals, schools and theological seminaries were guilty of the offense in varying degrees, he said, and some churches themselves refused to hire people on racial or other grounds.

DENAZIFICATION: Germans Help

To speed the arraignment and trial of between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 Germans charged with Nazism, U. S. military authorities approved a law promulgated by provincial governments of the American occupation zone providing for prosecution of suspects in local courts.

Applicable to the U. S. zone only, the new procedure is expected to allow rapid disposition of pending cases and removal of much of the uncertainty affecting sectional economy. Germans hope that convicted persons might be substituted for war prisoners presently employed as forced labor by the Allies.

To be tried by anti-Nazi prosecutors and three-man tribunals, defendants will be classified into four broad categories, including major offenders, active promoters of Hitlerism; youthful adherents and nominal party members who joined the movement for business or social convenience. While penalties for major offenders and active promoters include forced labor, confiscation of property and restriction on employment privileges, the other groups would be subject to occupational curbs and fines.

STRIKE: Crisis Brewing

As the CIO-United Automobile Workers strike against General Motors proceeded through its fourth month, pressure grew for settlement of the walkout to avert a crisis resulting from the prolonged idleness of 175,000 production employees.

With the union and management remaining one big cent apart from agreement on wages and both sides indicating no inclination to budge, the city of Detroit appealed to President Truman to personally intervene because the strike was seriously impairing the economic life of the community. To provide funds for growing relief applications, the city authorized an appropriation of \$400,000.

Increasing bitterness developed between the UAW and G.M. over the company's refusal to go above its offer of an 18 1/2 cent an hour wage increase or submit the issue of paying 19 1/2 cents to an impartial arbitrator. With the UAW convention scheduled for March 23 to 31, union spokesmen charged that the company hoped to prolong the strike to create dissatisfaction over present officials and open the way for their ouster.

Ingrained Tradition



Innocent Bystander

The Cinemagicians: Paved with guffaws, "Road to Utopia" has Bing and Bob performing their whacko-batics. . . "Sunbonnet Sue" packs the nostalgic charm of a family album—playing a heartfelt of Gus Edwards' lilt. . . "Open City" (which was produced in Italy) is a slam bang-up tribute to the intrepid Italian Undergrounders. . . "The Sailor Takes a Wife" is a fluffy little romantic fable with Robert Walker and June Allyson whipping up the froth. . . "Six Gun Man" is a stenciled plot, repetitious as hiccupps. . . Advance reports say that "Journey Together," an importation from Britain by Terrence Ratigan, will be a big click. . . "Phantom Express" co-stars a yawn and a snore.

The Radio: The newest man-wife combo on the air is Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilson of Akron, Ohio, and these parts. Via Station WLJB once weekly. Billy Halop's emoting on CBS' "Aftermath" is a welcome addition. He recently returned from the wars. . . "Duffy's Tavern" is cooked up by only 11 gag-writers. . . "Dead End" was loaded with earthy lingo. But the roughest word in the Theatre Guild's version on the networks was "jerk."

Bigtown Newsreel: Honorable John Coffee of the House of Representatives week-ending from the Capitol at the Pierre. . . Anita Colby, the model's model. . . Ann Sothorn, the star, paying an unexpected visit to the 52nd street joynts and delighting the proprietors of same. . . Don DeFore (the orchestra leader in the film, "Stork Club") in town to rehearse with "Judy O'Connor," which opens in Apr. . . Claudette Colbert, whose husband is a specialist on hay-fever and allergies and she suffers and suffers and suffers all year 'round. . . Martha Raye carrying her beautiful baby from the St. Moritz to a waiting cab and the choo-choo to Chi.

Sallies in Our Alley: Jackie Green, the Embassy Club clown, was in a Broadway restaurant and asked a waiter the price of dinner. "We have two dinners—one for \$2 and another for \$5," was the reply. . . "What do I get extra on the \$5 dinner?" asked Green. . . "Prestige," was the snapper. . . Harvey Stone says Sinatra has muscles now — from carrying all that money to all those banks. . . Latin Quarter boss Lou Walters asked an actor if he knew what an atheist was. . . "Sure," was the retort, "someone who don't believe in Looney B. Mayer!"

Novellette: When Harry Tugend (who wrote the film "Wake Up and Live") was an unknown writer, he courted Jean Barkow. . . At the time she was Billy Rose's Girl Friday. . . "Why do you go around with a nobody?" Rose asked her. "Hook up with a success or some guy likely to be one!" . . . Jean disregarded the counsel and married Tugend. . . They've been living (happily ever after) in Movietown, where Tugend is now Paramount Studio's executive producer. . . He will soon produce Paramount's film, "The Life of Billy Rose."

Three months ago the U. S. Army in Germany discovered the lists of Nazi sympathizers in the U. S. A. Army officials promised the lists would be made public. The State Dep't promised the lists would be made public. A Cong. Committee promised the lists would be made public. . . And what happened? Absolutely nothing! After all those promises — the lists are still a secret. And even the reason the lists are being hushed up—is a secret.

Quotation Marksmanship: K. Roos: Shall we split a kiss? . . . Anon: Rudeness is the reply we cannot think of. . . J. M. Barrie: I am not young enough to know everything. . . Virginia Faulkner: The decoration was not so much period as exclamation point. . . Stefan Zweig: The lark whirred upward like a skyrocket of delight. . . Chris Morley: The extraordinary insect obligato of Summer nights. . . H. V. Morton: Conversation as formal as a minuet. . . C. E. Coe: As naked as a peeled banana. . . O. W. Holmes: Sin has many tools, but a lie is a handle which fits them all. . . Sax Rohmer: A smile 30 years her junior. . . Heywood Brown: The ability to make love frivolously is the chief characteristic which distinguishes the human beings from the beasts. . . Gelett Burgess: A secret as fascinating as a loose tooth.



KANSAS SAHARA . . . In 1936 there were desolated homes such as this around Liberal, Kansas. Pasture lands were ruined and grasshoppers aided drouth in destruction of crops. In mid-summer not a green thing was in sight.

Many Sections Fearful Of New Dust Bowl in '46

(A WNU News Feature)

THE "dust bowl's" rich land, after several good years, is dry enough in some spots to take wings again. But whether it will or will not is the 64-dollar question. Millions of people would like to know the answer—before the soil starts moving.

So far, there has been "a little blow" out in western Kansas and Oklahoma and it's dry too. But no one who went through the "black" blizzards of a decade ago would compare this year's storms with those years.

"Another dust bowl may develop, but conditions would have to grow a lot worse than they are now before I would climb out on a limb with any such prediction," one Kansas official has stated after snow and rain fell.

The winter has been a dry one in all the old dust bowl states. Wheat made little growth in some areas. And the U. S. department of agriculture has reported that a new dust bowl appeared to be forming in the "redlands" district of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Some wheat damage has been reported at Pratt and Liberal, Kans., but recently snows and rains have improved the wheat lands west of Hutchinson. At Amarillo, Tex., Gene Howe, newspaper publisher, is optimistic, pointing out that conditions are not yet critical, and spring snows and rains may end the threat of a drouth.

Both farmers and the government combatted the tendency to plow up grasslands for planting during World War II, as was done in World War I. The land is tied down better this time. Farmers have learned to plow and cultivate so as to leave more stubble to hold the soil.

In some places in the old dust bowl there has been little or no moisture all winter, and undoubtedly wheat is in bad shape. Whether or not it will survive much longer no one knows. Perhaps the fate of many fields hangs in the balance, and not until late spring will the verdict be known.

Even experts in the winter wheat belt differ widely in their opinions. Some say the wheat is already gone; others hold out for an 80 per cent yield. Still others think that rain any time within six weeks will give the fields new life.

Wheat supplies are lower than for many years. Some of the mills are working only five days a week. In

Kansan Says He Predicted Drouth 'Cycle'

PRATT, KANS. — The dry cycle is here again—just as Fred Reece predicted 11 years ago in an article in the Pratt Daily Tribune.

Recently Fred dug out the old article he had written in 1934 under the title, "Sun Spots." And then he sat down and wrote another one, in which he stated:

"In my 1934 article I noted that observations over almost a century showed these increased sun spot outbreaks occurred at fairly regular intervals of about 11 1/2 years. Nobody knew why or if that rate would continue. But on the theory that it might continue, I ventured that 1946 might find us in the midst of another series of dry years. That year is here; the sun tornadoes are here, perhaps a bit late but they started their upsurge more than a year ago. Last year's wheat crop was not much affected, probably because we have learned to conserve moisture. This year's crop hangs in the balance between good subsoil moisture and a hot, dry, blowing surface. Maybe the memories of the dust bowl days of the '30s will enable you to guess the next two or three.

Some Scoff At Idea of New Drouth

TOPEKA, KANS. — There won't be a repetition of the 1934-38 "dust bowl" in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. At least that's what a lot of people out here say as they scoff at the U. S. department of agriculture's report that another drouth is developing.

"Of course, if it doesn't rain for four years, it'll go blowing again," Eck Brown, banker and rancher of Dalhart, Tex., admitted: "but the soil is tied down now."

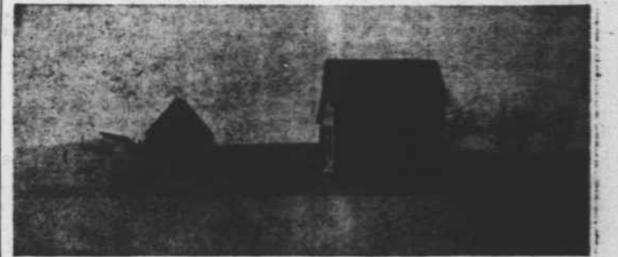
The agriculture department's pessimistic prediction prodded a sore spot in the memories of Soomers and Jayhawkers alike. Farmers



DWINDLED . . . The old dust bowl of the '30s gradually dwindled until it was no more. There has been plenty of rain the last few years.

were fighting then to hold title to their land in the depths of a depression, prices were low, and dry, powdery dust was piled in fence rows like snow drifts. The vagrant winds were "swapping" the farmers' real estate like careless horse traders.

The people out in this part of the nation don't like "gloomy Gus" predictions. They've seen drouth, grasshoppers, blizzards, and other plagues, but they've managed to come through them all. A little "Duster" doesn't scare them, and rain always comes—just 15 minutes before it's too late!



BACK IN 1935 . . . Sand storms worked havoc in Oklahoma and other plains states. The above picture was taken in Western Oklahoma and shows drifts of sand around buildings on an abandoned farm.

China, Australia and Iran Plan Irrigation Projects

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In 1945, more than 170 engineers representing 30 foreign countries visited the United States for the purpose of studying reclamation and irrigation projects, and they are now returning to their native soil to begin work on similar works in their own countries.

Heading the list is China, with 66 engineers, while India follows with 24, Australia with 11, and other nations famous for deserts — Iran, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan—have sent delegations varying in number from one to nine.

Wornout Land Needs Cultivation And Fertilizing to Regain Vigor

The notion of giving worn-out farm land a "rest cure" has fortunately just about passed, says J. C. Hackleman, professor of crops extension at the University of Illinois college of agriculture.

"Calcium leaches out of the soil, and every ton of beef, pork or mutton or milk produced on these pastures removes nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and calcium or lime just as surely as does a crop of corn, oats, wheat or hay," Hackleman says. "In addition, as these permanent pastures become less productive they provide less cover, and the result is more loss through erosion, until on rolling pastures the present crop is largely weeds or unpalatable weed grasses."

But these worn pastures are not to be abandoned, according to the crop specialist, and the response of most of them to treatment is almost mir-



Vinson; Warns of Dog-fight.

goods, she would tighten up her exchange regulations and conserve her resources for careful expenditure within a friendly trading bloc. The result would be a return to high tariffs, sanctions and other restrictions which bogged trade prior to World War II and spurred the development of totalitarian economy.

HOUSING: Emergency Bill

Though balking against imposition of ceilings on old houses and payment of 600 million dollars in subsidies to building material manufacturers to step up the flow of supplies, the house approved an emergency housing bill giving the government broad powers to speed low-cost residential construction.

Pushed through by a coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats, the bill gives Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt independent authority to channel building materials into home construction through priorities until June, 1947; set prices for such materials to increase output, and halt the export of lumber or other scarce supplies.

Other provisions of the measure establish preference for war vets in