

This Week in WASHINGTON

Washington, Oct. 24 — The complications of the European war with American politics are bringing about a situation in Washington which can only be described as one of running around in circles.

There are more amateur prophets on the job than ever before, most of them predicting dire things ahead for this country unless we adopt courses of policy which are in total disagreement with each other.

There is more confused thinking finding expression in and out

of Congress and official circles than the oldest observer of affairs in the National Capitol can remember since before the war with Spain.

There is only one point upon which everybody is in substantial agreement. That is that this country must keep out of the war.

Nobody here believes, as some seemed to think a few weeks ago, that there are Americans in high place who would plunge the nation into war for the sake of their own personal glory or political futures. But the fear that events may make it a matter of self-preservation for the United States to take a hand is definitely increasing.

To Aid Allies

There is no longer any attempt to conceal the fact that the purpose behind the efforts to amend the neutrality is to enable this country to give aid to the Allies against Hitler. That is not entirely because of special friendliness for the British and the French people, but arises from the growing belief that Germany is getting the best of the struggle, so far, and that if Germany wins a victory over the Allies our turn will come next.

Talk of victory is, of course, premature, but the events of the first few weeks of the war, with the tremendous loss of British shipping and especially the torpedoing of two capital ships, a battleship and an aircraft carrier, have aroused much anxiety as to Britain's ability to retain control of the seas and maintain the blockade of the Baltic.

If the British cannot maintain the "life-line of the Empire" and protect their outlying colonies and dominions, from Canada to Australia, the prophets here are envisioning the gradual nibbling away by Germany of one outpost after another and the eventual seizure of territory on the American continent.

This defeatist attitude in respect of the Allied Powers may account for many otherwise inexplicable acts and utterances in official Washington. Nobody can tell you what the final form of the amendments to the neutrality laws will be, but it is certain that it will reflect the best judgment of Congress and the White House as to how we can keep out of the war and still help our friends.

Two unofficial advisers have offered suggestions as to the best way to revise the arms embargo. Both are men who are generally listened to by the public and by men in office with a considerable degree of respect. They are Herbert Hoover and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh.

Both Mr. Hoover and Col. Lindbergh, in radio addresses to which millions listened, have recommended the lifting of the embargo on "defensive" weapons, but retaining it on "offensive" weapons. Both class bombing planes and their death-dealing "eggs" as "offensive" arms, but regard such things as pursuit

planes and anti-aircraft guns as purely "defensive." The distinction is a close one, and it may safely be said that little attention will be given to it in the final act of Congress.

Appeal to Canadians

Great attention, however, has been given, both here and abroad, to the further suggestion of Col. Lindbergh, that the safety of the United States is imperilled by the participation of Canada in the war. What amounted to an appeal to Canadians to further reassert their independence of Great Britain and to throw in their lot wholly with the rest of the American nations, so as not to involve any part of this continent in the war, was badly received in Canada and Great Britain and has revived here the talk about "Lindy" being a Nazi sympathizer, especially as he coupled with it some cutting remarks about the failure of Britain and France to pay their war debts or even to offer to recompense this country by the offer of a single Caribbean island.

Those who are closest to Col. Lindbergh say that sort of talk is nonsense; that he is the most patriotic of Americans and the most ardent opponent of Nazism or any other form of dictatorship and feels only that it is vital to our nation and to democracy that we should not become entangled with either side in this war.

No public report has been made of the facts about German air power which "Lindy" reported to the War Department, but the gossip is that he believes, after personal investigation abroad, that Hitler's air force is immensely superior, in numbers and efficiency, to that of any other two powers.

Washington Rumors

The Washington air is full of rumors that Mr. Roosevelt is merely biding his time to announce that he will not run for a third term. Meantime, recent polls of public sentiment are giving the Democratic party a greater "edge" for 1940 than at any time since the elections of 1938. That is partly due, observers here believe, to the general satisfaction with the present foreign policy of the Administration, but is also largely due to the fact that up to now the only Republican who has captured any great measure of popular enthusiasm has not yet declared himself a candidate or talked in public on the issues now uppermost in the public mind. He is Thomas E. Dewey. When he gets under way, many here believe, the 1940 picture may change materially.

Elect Only One

"What do you think of our two candidates for mayor?"
"Well, I'm glad that only one can be elected."

Some Flatterer

Doctor—Hm-m. You certainly have acute appendicitis.
Sally—Oh, Doctor; you flatter me.

Looking Ahead
Mrs. Newlywed sighed: "Darling," she said, "when did we get married?"
"Why, on Tuesday, pet," he replied.
"And this is Thursday," she murmured.
"Only think, precious — only twenty-five years from the day

before yesterday it will be our silver wedding. I do hope we get a lot of lovely presents!"

Got Tongue Left

Mrs. Fogmore — Have you nothing else you can show me, young man?
Clerk (nettled) — Nothing, but my tongue, madam!

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TODAY ONLY—(THURSDAY)—

PHILO VANCE MATCHES WITS WITH A CLUELESS KILLER!

S. S. Van Dine's master man-hunter returns to his most baffling case!

THE GRACIE ALLEN MURDER CASE
With Gracie Allen, Warren William, Kent Taylor - Ellen Drew

News — Admission 10c-25c

FRIDAY ONLY—

SHE'S THE "CLASS" OF 1939!

... if you don't believe it—ask the boys!

The crowd roars... for Betty, the glamour mater of a million college boys! The co-ed with the record-breaking figure carries the day for higher yearning in an all-American carnival of romance and racing thrills!

Million Dollar Legs

Shorts — Admission 10c-25c

Coming November 6-7—
"Lady of the Tropics"

November 9-10—
"I Stole A Million"

November 11—
"Frontier Marshal"

LYRIC THEATRE

FRIDAY—

Midnight Show
"Mad Youth"
Admission 25c

LADIES!
Don't Forget Free Tableware Thursday and Friday Get Yours!

SATURDAY—

Thrill again to the greatest story of war aces ever filmed!

THE EAGLE AND THE HAWK
A Paramount Picture with
FREDRIC MARCH
CAROLE LOMBARD
CARY GRANT
JACK OAKIE
Directed by Stuart Walker and Mitchell Leisen

Cartoon - Serial - Comedy
Adm. 10c-30c

MONDAY-TUESDAY—NEXT WEEK—

TWO WHO MAKE SCREEN HISTORY!

ON BORROWED TIME
with
LIONEL BARRYMORE - SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE
BEULAH BONDI - UNA MERKEL
BOBS WATSON - NAT PENDLETON
HENRY TRAVERS - GRANT MITCHELL
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
Directed by Harold S. Bucquet
Produced by Sidney Franklin

THE GREAT BROADWAY STAGE HIT REACHES THE SCREEN!
Lionel Barrymore... at the peak of his great career; Bobs Watson... at the start of his! Teamed... in an entertainment as happy as "You Can't Take It With You!"

Cartoon — Admission 10c-30c

WEDNESDAY—FAMILY SHOW—

"Inside Information"
Shorts — Admission 10c to All

RALPH GULDAHL—1937 and 1938 winner of the U. S. Open golf championship



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