

Churchill Accused Of Muffing Chance By Failure To Open Front In Africa

Laborite Says Battle In Libya Would Ease Strain On Reds

LONDON, Nov. 13.—(AP)—The Churchill government was accused in House of Commons debate today of muffing its chance to ease the German pressure on the Russians by failing to open a diversion warfront in North Africa.

Laborite Emanuel Shinwell, one of the most persistent critics of the British war effort who was mentioned recently as a possible recruit to the cabinet and was disclosed today to have refused to accept office in May, 1940, formed the spearhead of attack. The debate touched on virtually every aspect of the war effort, even to the labor situation in the United States, which was pictured as possibly facing a general strike because of "the inexperience of trade union leaders."

The debate was the reply to the message of King George VI yesterday opening a new session of parliament.

"Why has the offensive in Libya been delayed?" Shinwell demanded. "It has been expected many months. It would in effect have created a second front. It would certainly have distracted the Nazis and created difficulties for them. Let the government answer that question. 'Next week or next month an offensive in Libya may not be as effective.'"

If the failure to move once more into Libya in duplication of the great offensive of General Sir Archibald P. Wavell last winter is due to a lack of equipment, Shinwell added, then obviously it is idle to speak of invasion elsewhere.

In September the British at Cairo were freely predicting that the desert or western Egypt and eastern Libya would be "boiling."

WIDESPREAD AID EXPANSION SEEN

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or joint U. S.-British use, as necessary, of the bases already there.

Other steps, it was said, might include: (1)—Operation of American convoys through Gibraltar to Britain's Mediterranean ports, thereby cutting the time of deliveries for Egypt which now are routed around Africa to Red Sea ports.

(2)—U. S. Army delivery of bombers across the Atlantic to Britain. This would be merely an extension (which some air officers long have expected and which others describe as unnecessary) of the Army's present inland ferry command that now flies planes from factories to Atlantic coast departure points. The theory underlying these prospective enlargements of military and naval work in the Atlantic generally was summed up in this way:

Since American merchant ships now can be armed and sent into previously restricted zones, the Army and Navy must give protection to those ships wherever they go; moreover, the government must make the widest possible use of the new freedom of movement to increase efficiency in delivering war supplies.

Increased efficiency will result from reduction in time by cutting route mileage, elimination of transshipment problems where possible, and simplification of procedure by having the Army and Navy take over operations which they can handle more effectively than the British.

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SHIP ARMS MEASURE APPROVED BY HOUSE

(Continued from Page One)

sets, the majority floor leader, asked Mr. Roosevelt to tell the membership what effect in his opinion, an adverse vote would have upon the foreign and domestic situations.

Mr. Roosevelt complied in a letter which Rayburn read to a tense, stilled and packed chamber, a moment before the vote was taken. The failure of Congress to repeal the sections of the Neutrality act in question, he said, "would be definitely discouraging" to Great Britain, to China and to Russia, all "fighting a defensive war against invasion."

Further, he said, it would "cause rejoicing in the Axis nations," would "bolster aggressive steps and intentions in Germany" and other countries under the leadership of Adolf Hitler.

"Judging by all recent experience," he said, "we could, all of us, look forward to enthusiastic applause in those three nations based on the claim that the United States is disinclined as they have so often prophesied."

"Our own position in the struggle against aggression would be rope and in Asia but also among definitely weakened not only in Europe but also among the Americas. Foreign nations, friends and enemies, would misinterpret our own mind and purpose."

He turned next to the domestic labor situation and the threatened steel industry. "I am holding a conference tomorrow in the hope that certain essential coal mines can remain in continuous operation," he said. "This may prove successful."

"But if it is not successful, it is obvious that this coal must be mined in order to keep the essential steel mills at work. The government of the United States has the backing of the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States including the workers."

"The government proposes to see this thing through," Rayburn emphasized the last sentence, and the House, which had interrupted sporadically with short bursts of applause, broke into an ovation, which was only increased when Rayburn himself shouted "deklaration that."

"I am willing to follow or to lead in any movement that will keep defense production going." The vote was taken immediately with leaders of both sides anxiously keeping a tally. Half way through the list the trend of the voting was plainly discernible, and leading proponents of the legislation were smiling at each other in obvious relief.

The final tabulation showed 189 Democrats, 22 Republicans, and the one American-Labor party member voting for the measure. A total of 53 Democrats, 137 Republicans, one Farmer-Labor and three Progressives voted against it.

Of the 53 Democrats voting "No" only 11 were southerners, so that the southern bloc was not so large as the administration leadership had feared. There was no certainty as to just how many of the negative votes were due to the strike situation.

After it was finished, and the result flashed to the White House, President Roosevelt sent his personal thanks to Rayburn and McCormack. He was, a presidential secretary explained, "naturally, pleased with the result."

Secretary of State Hull, who also had made an appeal for the legislation, said of the House vote: "It was an exceedingly wise and timely decision."

The legislation was requested by the President on October 9. The House complied to the extent of approving legislation which would repeal only the Neutrality act's clause forbidding the arming of merchant ships. To this the Senate added language rescinding the prohibition on sailings into combat zones or to the ports of belligerent ports.

Still another development with a possible bearing on the vote was a statement issued in early afternoon by Gen. George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff, in it he emphatically denied that the War department was preparing an A. E. F. to go to Africa or "other critical area."

Reports of such an expedition had arisen from a disclosure by department officials that Selective Service trainees and National Guardsmen were being asked if they were willing to enlist for regular three-year terms in the Army and serve overseas.

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HE LOST His head bandaged and his face swollen, Michael Capano is shown after he and Percy Monahan, a buddy, attempted escape from Camden, N. J., county jail. The two prisoners got out of their cells, overpowered one guard and tackled a second before 40 cops and firemen beat them into submission.—Central Press Photo.

SENATORS FLAY SECRET TREATY

Four Foreign Relations Members Walk Out On Tax Discussion

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Resentment against secret consideration of a reciprocal tax waiver treaty with Great Britain led four members to walk out of a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations committee today.

Senator Vandenberg (R.-Mich.) said the four—himself and Senators Johnson (R.-Calif.), Capper (R.-Kan.) and Clark (D.-Mo.)—quit the meeting in protest against "absentee rule" over the committee's procedure.

Vandenberg had moved that the committee's usual rule of secrecy with regard to treaties be lifted. He contended the members should be permitted to discuss with their constituents certain terms of the agreement which he described as of "tremendous importance" to local taxing authorities.

Types Of Cargo-Vessel Ordnance, Crew Listed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—(AP)—Three major types of guns are expected to be used in arming American merchant-ships.

Secretary of Navy Knox has said that, depending on their size, some ships will be given five-inch guns, others four-inch and still others three-inchers.

Some of the five-inch guns will be dual-purpose, for both surface and anti-aircraft firing. The ships also will be equipped with machine-guns, effective against low-flying planes. Manning these weapons will be crews of 10 to 15 men under command of a petty officer. They will stand constant lookout against attack.

That, generally, is the way it was done in 1917-18 also, but the problem of defense today is expected to be somewhat different and may produce improvements as experience brings results on which to base them.

According to naval officials, the principal change is the new submarine tactics, apparently made possible by very advanced sound detecting devices, of firing torpedoes at night after lying in wait for convoys even though the ships at which the torpedoes are directed cannot actually be seen.

During the World War, 384 armed merchantmen made 1,832 trans-Atlantic trips, according to records published by Josephus Daniels, World War Navy secretary. Of those ships, 29 were torpedoed and sunk, two were sunk by shellfire. A total of 193 attacks were repulsed successfully and 34 encounters were described as resulting in "probable damage" to the subs.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—(AP)—January production of light trucks for civilian use must be held to 35.9 per cent below January of this year under an OPM order issued today.

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BRITISH OFFICER INSPECTS SCHOOL

(Continued from Page One)

ble, the British have nothing like it in the way of industrial plants," he said.

He also expressed a high opinion of the American soldier. The captain said, "the American troops are first-class, magnificent. I would give anything to lead American troops." He could not understand the various stories regarding low morale in the American Army.

The captain has returned to Washington but, before leaving, he expressed a favorable opinion of Camp Davis, particularly the officers and men of the Barrage Balloon Training center.

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