

The Week In Washington

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, May 8—To convey or not to convey?

That is the question of paramount concern here, following statements on the subject by President Roosevelt, Secretary of Navy Knox and Secretary of State Hull. All of their statements emphasized these points: We are pledged to give all-out aid to Britain. The people favor our stand as the "arsenal of democracy." We cannot let the billions of defense materials we are producing be sent to the bottom of the ocean on their way to Britain. We must take any steps necessary to make certain that the lifelines to Britain are kept open.

None of them specifically recommended convoys but all hinted that convoys might be necessary. The attitude of the President is to try to find some means short of convoys for getting supplies across the Atlantic. The general opinion is that short-of-convoys is almost synonymous with short-of-war.

The congressional anti-convoy group, which is the anti-war group headed by Senator Wheeler of Montana, has repeatedly told the American people that convoys mean war. Letters to congressmen as well as public opinion polls show that the majority of people will expect war if our navy is used for conveying supply ships.

Aware of this feeling, the President is attempting to find a substitute for convoys which would still

be considered technically as short-of-war. His present plan is what he calls a "neutrality patrol" by which our navy would not escort ships but would patrol the sea lanes to aid in keeping them open. Although the ships carrying war cargoes would be the beneficiaries of such a patrol, we would technically be protecting the sea lanes as a defense measure and would be operating within the bounds of international law.

Will Avoid Vote

A recent poll of congressmen indicated a slight majority are personally in favor of convoys, but it is expected that any vote on the subject will be avoided. An anti-convoy resolution, which would be the hands of the government so far as convoys are concerned, has been side-tracked. Even those who favor in felt that its passage would be too much encouragement to the Axis powers—that it is better to keep the threat of convoys even if we can avoid using them.

A statement made by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in which he asked the President to supply convoys has caused considerable stir here. Mr. Rockefeller said that he hated war, but "for myself I would rather die fighting the brutal, barbarous inhuman force represented by Hitlerism than live in a world that is dominated by that force." He said that our production of supplies is "valueless unless laid down at Britain's door" and urged "prompt and effective action" at any cost. Mr. Rockefeller, who has in the past been bitterly opposed to the New Deal administration, also urged "a united public opinion solidly behind the President."

Labor problems, which seemed for a time to be lessening, have caused another flurry of demand for laws to curb strikes—particularly as a result of the difficulties that had

Attention!



Maureen O'Sullivan, movie star, is pictured here with her son Michael, as he stands at attention and salutes. Photo was taken as they arrived in New York from Bermuda. There Maureen and her son visited with their husband and father, Lieut. John Farrow of the British Navy.

been encountered in the coal industry.

Despite delays, production is going ahead at an increasingly rapid pace. It is estimated that deliveries have already been made on about \$30,000,000,000 worth of defense orders.

Tax Plan

A tax plan for paying for our \$19,000,000,000 of defense orders is now being worked out and practically everything we buy or earn has been suggested as a possible source of revenue. No one knows yet what the final tax law will be but it is definite that an effort will be made to raise \$3,500,000,000 in addition to the approximately \$9,000,000,000 which would result from present taxes. In the last war we raised two-thirds of our needs by borrowing and one-third by taxes, but this time it is going to be reversed.

Tax rumors have caused flurries of consumer buying in many different fields, as people hoped to stock up on luxuries before taxes are applied to them. Although this practice hasn't yet become widespread, it is pointed out here that such a practice is apt to send prices up artificially on products which, in the end, may not be taxed at all.

Income tax increases and sales taxes on specific products are expected to account for the major part of the new taxes. It looks now as though those with incomes ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 will be subject to the greatest increases and may have to pay from three to four times what they paid this year.

In addition to taxes, the rest of the \$19,000,000,000 which must be raised will be raised by borrowing and an increasingly great effort will be made to persuade as many Americans as possible to buy defense bonds and stamps. The sale of the defense bonds began May 1. They can now be purchased at banks and post offices throughout the United States.

Vilas News

Mrs. C. C. Edmisten and son, Billy, and Mrs. Henry Mast and daughter, Billie, are spending some time in Washington with their husbands, who have positions there.

Mrs. Daisy Archer of Alabama, and Mrs. Lucinda Wilson of Silverstone, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Henson.

Mrs. D. F. Horton, who has been ill for some time, is now able to be out.

Mr. Frank Billings is a patient at the Watauga Hospital, where he is quite ill.

Floyd Billings of Watauga Falls, was a visitor here Sunday.

Mr. R. M. Greene of Vilas, attended the Greene family reunion at Flat Springs in Avery county Sunday.

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Germany Can Defeat "Every Conceivable Coalition," Says Hitler

Berlin, May 6.—Proclaiming that Nazism will last 1,000 years, Adolf Hitler and an exultant speech to the world last night decreed United States aid to Britain with an assertion that "Germany can defeat every conceivable coalition in the world."

The reichsfuehrer spoke an hour and seven minutes before the hand-picked deputies of the reichstag gathered in Kroll opera house in their first sitting since immediately after the collapse of France.

Master of one-third of Europe after driving the British from their last foothold on the European continent, Hitler boasted of his lightning Balkan conquests and warned that "madman and fool" Winston Churchill that the Nazi luftwaffe will give Britain 100 bombs for one.

He avoided direct reference to the United States and its arsenal of democracy, but berated the "democratic agitators" abroad who are trying to crush Germany and asserted that no pool of industrial power was vast enough to halt German's march of conquest.

When today democratic agitators of a country to which the Germans have never done any harm threaten to choke our state with force by their capitalistic system and material production, I answer that we will never again witness a 1918 but will rise to ever-higher achievements," he shouted.

"The German reich and her allies at present have power, military, economically and above all morally, which is superior to every conceivable coalition in the world. I look to the future with perfect tranquility and the greatest confidence."

Foreign observers, disappointed in the speech, found no clue in it to Germany's next war moves, noted that Hitler made no reference to a possible invasion of the British Isles and saw indications that Hitler is doubtful now of an early victory.

TONSIL CLINIC

The health department wishes to announce that registration for tonsil clinic can now be made. Those interested are asked to call or write the health department, giving name of patient, address, sex, age and surgeon preferred.

One out of every four persons in Iceland speaks English.

LEGION AND AUXILIARY TO MEET FRIDAY NIGHT

The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary will meet Friday night, May 9th at the Legion hut. Important matters will be discussed and a full attendance is asked.

There will also be a district meeting at Newland on the following

night, May 10th. Members are urged to attend this meeting as this will be the last meeting before the state convention in June.

A pastured cow walks about two and one-half miles in 24 hours, grazing as much during the night as during the day, Cornell university reports.

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- Bonny Maid Rugs, 9x12, for short time \$3.90
- Used Kitchen Cabinets \$12.00 up
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- Sewing Machines \$7.50 up
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