

## LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

War in The Atlantic. U. S. To Deliver "Goods." Asserts Full Rights. Standing squarely upon the time-honored American doctrine of the "freedom of the seas" and implementing the recent national policy enunciated by Congress to aid the enemies of Hitler, the United States has given an unmistakable reply to recent Nazi attacks upon American ships.

Secretary Knox revealed to the American Legion convention that orders have been issued to the Navy "to capture or destroy" Axis-controlled submarines or raiders encountered in position to prevent "ships of every flag" from carrying lend-aid supplies between the American continent and the waters adjacent to Iceland.

Almost as important is the legal ruling that American merchant ships, manned by American crews, are not prohibited from carrying munitions and other articles of war to such key British points as Hong King, Burma and the Suez. Attorney-General Biddle, in an opinion on the Neutrality Act, holds that Eire and all but five British overseas possessions are excluded from the terms of the Neutrality Act and from President Roosevelt's proclamation declaring a state of war to exist between Britain and Germany.

Of course, the prohibitions of the Neutrality Act continue to apply to India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. Moreover, Eire, not considered a part of the United Kingdom, is nevertheless in the combat areas proclaimed by the President and shipments are therefore unauthorized. This likewise applies to Mediterranean ports in the combat zone.

The way is thus paved for American-flag vessels to carry war supplies to the far-flung parts of the British Empire. It is expected to relieve some of the strain on the British and Allied merchant marines. It is in accordance with the President's positive insistence upon the "freedom of the seas."

Instructions to naval officers, as officially revealed, make it perfectly plain that the full power of the United States will be used to keep open the route for ships carrying war supplies as far as the waters of Iceland. Neither Germany nor Italy can complain of any uncertainty. Under the Lend-Lease Act, the United States became the theoretical "arsenal of democracy," and now, by the broad assertion of our rights under International Law, we demonstrate a fixed determination to deliver the goods.

No American citizen should delude himself as to the gravity of the step taken. Face to face with German aggression, plainly directed against our vessels, the United States had to make a choice between pulling down its flag or asserting its rights. The President, firmly convinced that peace cannot be expected by a policy of retreat in the face of danger, evi-

dently continues to believe that full-fledged warfare can be avoided by resolute action to safeguard our rights and interests upon the high seas.

No Peace Appears. Japs Demand New Order. Outlook Is Uncertain. The idea that the "peace message," sent to President Roosevelt by Premier Prince Konoye, of Japan, inaugurated a new era in the relationship between the United States and Japan should not be accepted without further confirmation.

"It is generally recognized, however, that Japan's 'immutable policy' is now being subjected to violent stresses and strains under the impact of American economic policies, the strengthening of British forces in the Far East, Russia's surprising defense against Germany and firmness in the Far East and certain arrangements being made in and around the Netherlands East Indies and the Philippine Islands.

It would be a mistake in the first instance to underestimate the serious dilemma in which Tokyo statesmen find themselves. After proclaiming for years their firm determination to establish a "New Order" in East Asia, the Japanese Government, together with Army and Navy leaders, have whipped up war sentiment in Japan.

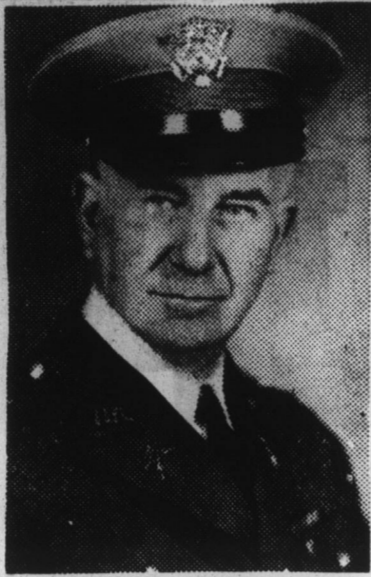
Tokyo statesmen have not hesitated to fan the fires of belligerency, speaking glibly of the expulsion of the Westerners from the East and counting firmly upon the positive support of a victorious Germany and Italy in Europe. Now that the situation has developed into a crisis, the Japanese discover that the odds against them are almost insurmountable. Their Axis partners are far away and unable to give them assistance.

Drastic economic sanctions by the United States and a firm policy of assisting China have convinced Tokyo that the United States has definitely abandoned their appeasement policy. The British, despite their occupation in Europe, are ready to fight to the end for Singapore. Russian bombers, known to be at Vladivostok, can easily reach the heart of Japan proper.

Just what ultimate course the Japanese will follow remains uncertain, largely because of the contradictory voices presuming to speak for Japan. A governmental crisis was avoided by calling upon the Emperor to take charge of the Empire's affairs but this could be a move toward war, as well as a move toward peace.

The Japanese Foreign Minister recently spoke on the anniversary of the recognition of Manchukuo, the Japanese Puppet state set up as a result of the "Manchurian Incident," on September 18, 1931. In this public utterance, this important Japanese official reiterated the determination of his country to establish its "New Order" and pointed to Manchukuo as an example of what the

### Defense Chairman



Colonel Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, above, has been appointed chairman of the National Defense Committee of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. In this capacity, he will head the defense activities of the association, composed of reserve officers, throughout the nation. Colonel Bain is state director of the Brewers and N. C. Beer Distributors committee in charge of the beer industry's "clean up or close up" campaign in this state.

### New Order meant.

He frankly stressed the fact that Japan is confronted with a "super-emergency unprecedented in the annals of her history," but carefully refrained from saying anything that would indicate the startling reversal of Japanese policies which must be the prelude to peace in the Pacific. Legion's Strong Stand. For Defeat Of Hitler. Abandon Isolationism.

The American Legion, an organization devoted to 100 per cent Americanism, and boasting more than a million soldiers, sailors, marines and coast-guardsmen as members, has been at times something of a non-intervention and isolationist group.

Meeting recently in Milwaukee, the Legion, in annual convention, repudiated entirely such sentiment and by official action called for the "defeat of Adolf Hitler and all that he stands for." This was considered tantamount to a declaration of support of the President's foreign policies.

The Legion favored repeal of the Neutrality Act, which bars U. S. ships from war zones, the lifting of geographical limitations on the use of American troops in line with the request of the Army High Command, the establishment of naval bases in the Philippines, Iceland and other key islands in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, universal military training and refused to approve a report opposing lend-lease aid to Russia.

Generally, the Legion went on record, "if fighting is necessary" upon "being prepared to do the fighting outside the United States," thus endorsing the offensive-type of defense that is now advocated by leading Army and Navy officers. The Legion wants the nation strong enough to "meet any possible attack

before it arrives and to turn the enemy back so that our homes remain intact and our families secure.

The meeting of the Legion was generally anticipated as the first public reaction to the President's "shoot on sight" order. The members heard Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox outline the orders issued to the warships of the United States in connection with keeping the ocean lanes open as far as the waters adjacent to Iceland. They received a message from the President in relation to the grave dangers confronting the nation.

On the eve of the convention the America First Committee, an organization militantly opposed to the President's foreign policies, held a demonstration at which Rep. Hamilton Fish and Senator Bennett Champ Clark assailed the course of the United States. Both of these speakers are members of the Legion and there were additional spokesmen available to represent the non-interventionist philosophy.

The action of the Legion is as significant as it is clear-cut. The men who participated in the last World War, after years of serious consideration, have concluded that the interests of this nation, as well as the peace of the world, require the defeat of Adolf Hitler. They have likewise decided that the United States has a direct interest in the job to be done.

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### NOT SAFE AT HOME

, Rome, Ga.—Arriving home after a 6,000-mile trip to the West Coast and back without even a minor accident, Mrs. Louis A. Dempsey had the

unlucky experience of being injured as she stepped from her automobile in front of her home. As she stepped from the car, it began rolling, throwing her down and dislocating a vertebra.

# NOTICE To City Tax Payers

The Tax Books for 1941 are now in my hands for collection.

On taxes paid in September or October a discount of 1/2 of 1% will be allowed.

Taxes will be at par in November, December and January.

After February 1st the following penalties will be enforced:

From February 2nd through March 1st...1%  
From March 2nd through April 1st...2%  
From April 2nd through May 1st...2 1/2%

After May 1st the penalty will continue to increase 1/2 of 1% each month until taxes are paid in full.

LOUISE D. COKE, Collector  
Town of Edenton

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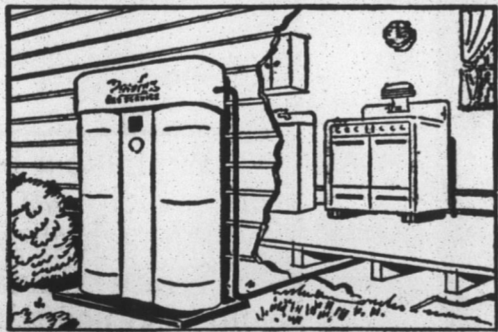
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