

## Weekly News Review

### Four-Power European Treaty May Avert General Warfare

By Joseph W. La Bine

#### Foreign

Until he spoke at Nuremberg a fortnight ago, Adolf Hitler had never given open, out-and-out promise of assistance to Czechoslovakia's Sudeten Germans. If his purpose was to brew trouble, it was not long in coming. By promising his exiled fellow Germans the right of "self determination," Der Fuehrer gave overnight rise to demands for a plebiscite, demands which were not long in bringing bloodshed.

Confident that frightened Prague would tolerate anything, the henchmen of little Fuehrer Konrad Henlein organized demonstrations that ended in riots which took six lives. By this time the Czech government was forced to show its hand. Tight martial law was clamped on five Sudeten towns, then on three more. While a jittery world held its breath, Fuehrer Henlein shot back an ultimatum that martial law be lifted in six hours or his party would "decline responsibility for all further developments."

In the next 24 hours Prague rejected the ultimatum, rushed troops

soaked roads, found his car mired, stopped to chat 20 minutes with a farmer about crop prices. Outcome: The President promised he would try to raise them.

From his special train, which served as hotel, the President watched the outcome of his "purge" (See **POLITICS**), also watched nervous Europe (See **FOREIGN**). Finally, interview-hungry correspondents were told: "At this time, Minnesota is not a news source for events in Europe, Maryland and Maine."

Mr Roosevelt's worries about Europe were obvious. To a nine-year-old visitor who found him studying Czechoslovakia's map, he advised: "Just now, more than ever, it is necessary to remember my geography lessons. So keep up your interest in geography."

That night the presidential special left for Washington where Secretary of State Cordell Hull waited to talk diplomacy, where Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. waited to discuss U. S. money and stock market action in the event of war.

#### Politics

Until August 11, the word "purge" had little application in American politics. On that date Franklin Roosevelt asked Georgians to defeat their Sen. Walter F. George because: "He is out of touch with the broad objectives of the party . . . On most questions we don't speak the same language."

Subsequently, "purge" went after South Carolina's Sen. Ellison D. Smith and Maryland's Sen. Millard E. Tydings. Both won anyway. Adding to the President's consternation was Maine's historically prophetic election in which all Republicans won, all Democrats lost. Only two days later, Georgians voted to give "purge" a final shelling, to bury with vengeance the gravest political error Franklin Roosevelt has ever made, to send Walter George back to Washington.

#### Business

No target of New Deal dislike has been U. S. small business, though a leading small town business man is often regarded by his fellow townsmen as the counterpart of big business. Last spring, Franklin Roosevelt called a meeting of little business men at Washington, was later shocked to see his conference turn into a near riot.

Not the outgrowth, rather a reaction from this meeting is the National Small Business Men's association, founded by a letter-writing letterhead manufacturer from Akron, Ohio, Dewitt M. Emery. Jokingly called "little in everything but stature," 6½-foot President Emery solicited members by mail from business firms not employing more than 500 persons, not capitalized at more than \$1,000,000. Presumably too inarticulate for membership are the butcher, baker and

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What happened at Berchtesgaden was mere conjecture. Best guesses said London and Paris seek a four-power pact with Germany and Italy, since Prime Minister Chamberlain's visit was suggested by French Premier Edouard Daladier. No one could figure how the source of this trouble, Czechoslovakia, fit into the picture, but it was clear Der Fuehrer would accept little short of outright autonomy for his Sudeten friends.

The Chamberlain flight brought little but gloom in Prague, where resistance stiffened and an angry cabinet ordered Konrad Henlein's arrest. But Fuehrer Henlein, who had just broadcast a proclamation demanding Sudeten union with Germany, was already fleeing to Munich. In the mood she was in, Czechoslovakia was ripe for loud broadcasts that came from Moscow that night, assailing Neville Chamberlain's "sellout" to Fascism, urging Prague to "fight to the last" against Germany.



NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN  
In a crisis, he took to the air.

to the frontier and won a brief series of skirmishes that took on the temporary aspect of a civil war.

Since further trouble would certainly bring Germany to the rescue, since France and Russia are bound by treaty to aid Czechoslovakia, since Great Britain must aid France, this overnight turn of events assumed international importance. In Berlin, the press cried out at "terrors of the Czech police." France maintained her high-pitched military machine and looked, as usual, to London.

Next afternoon came the most precedent-setting move yet made. A thoroughly frightened Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced he would take his first airplane ride, crossing the channel to Berchtesgaden for a conference with Adolf Hitler. Said he: "I am going to see the German chancellor because . . . discussions between him and me may have useful consequences."

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#### White House

Like any other hospital visitor with time on his hands, Franklin Roosevelt waited impatiently at Rochester, Minn., watching Son James on the mend from his gastric ulcer operation. Finally he went riding on Minnesota's rain-

#### Crime

Fortnight ago, before his rackets case against Tammany Leader James J. Hines was thrown out of court, New York District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey was a good bet to win Republican gubernatorial nomination. Cause of the mistrial was Tom Dewey's reference to Tammanyman Hines' alleged conspiracy in Manhattan's poultry racket, a reference which Justice Ferdinand Pecora thought constituted a breach of court etiquette.

Since Justice Pecora has a Tammany-Democrat background, it was easy for disgruntled prosecutors to mutter about political influence. Day after the mistrial decision, even the august New York Times pontificated that "Justice Pecora has made a profound mistake of judgment."

In its efforts to prove Politician Hines had participated in the late Arthur ("Dutch Schultz") Flegen-



JUSTICE FERDINAND PECORA  
... made a profound mistake ...

heimer's policy racket, the state had spent \$50,000, presented four weeks of testimony, gone to great pains guarding precious witnesses.

But Justice Pecora's decision had hardly ceased echoing through the courtroom before Tom Dewey began planning his next move. Though the Republican nominating convention was but two weeks away, though Defense Attorney Lloyd P. Stryker had sarcastically suggested that a new trial be delayed until "after the political campaign," the state will probably rush through a new trial which would preclude the 36-year-old prosecutor's running for governor. Biggest job will be to avoid Justice Pecora's sitting on the case.

#### Relief

As enacted, social security is insurance based on a man's lifetime earnings. But Depression and Recession have shown that some never earn enough to retire comfortably. For this reason, also because 1938 has brought an alarming rebirth of pension ideas (Townsendism had 100 supporters in the last congress) social security will probably be revised next winter in the face of such "short cuts to Utopia" as California's "\$30-every-Thursdays" plan.

Changes Franklin Roosevelt reportedly wants: (1) Beginning of old age insurance payments in 1940 instead of 1942; (2) increasing minimum monthly old-age payments from \$10 to \$30, decreasing maximums from \$85 to \$60; (3) payments to widows and orphans of workers equal to those received by a man retiring at 65.

Already announced are plans to expand social security among 16,000,000 now excluded: Farm laborers, domestics, seamen, federal reserve bank employees, and possibly self-employed persons.

#### War

In theory the forlorn League of Nations applies sanctions against aggressor nations. Ineffective against Italy's Ethiopian campaign, the league has been even less capable of spanking Japan for her Chinese conquest. Fortnight ago, when the league began its current session, China resolved to demand action. From Hankow went hundreds of telegrams to league representatives.

But last week all hopes were dashed when a European crisis (See **FOREIGN**) developed into such proportions that China's complaint drifted to the background. Only hope remaining is that Great Britain will force the league's hand to protect her swiftly vanishing economic domination of the Far East. Meanwhile, Jap troops continued creeping up on Hankow.

#### Miscellany

On Utah's Bonneville salt flats, Englishman John Cobb drove his button-shaped, 2,500 horsepower racing car 350.20 miles per hour, capturing the record held by a fellow countryman, Capt. George K. T. Eyston.

## Bruckart's Washington Digest

### Government Must Be Kept Liberal, Cry of President and Spokesmen

Roosevelt's Definition of Term Means He Has Cast Die  
For Realignment of Political Parties; Time May  
Prove Fallacy of Today's Liberal Doctrines.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There is a great to-do being made these days about "liberalism." We are told in the press, through the radio, in personal conversations that "liberalism," liberal thinking, is vitally necessary; it is urgent that our government be kept liberal, and that our daily lives be moulded along liberal lines. President Roosevelt says so, and sought in a recent speech to define liberalism; his spokesmen repeat and emphasize what he has said; the vast army of ballyhoo artists on the government payroll is saying it after the manner of a stooge for a ventriloquist. A lot of Republicans, trying to ape the New Dealers, are saying it, too, and making just as much of a mess of the proposition as the less slick-tongued among the New Dealers.

Well, any way, at any cost, there must be liberalism. If we don't be liberal, we are warned, the devil will get us. The nation, its 130,000,000 inhabitants and all of their works will sink to the depth of perdition. It's a very sorry situation, indeed.

Recognizing the need, the urgent necessity for liberalism, Mr. Roosevelt undertook recently to define it. I quote his words from a recent speech in Maryland where he had gone to try to bring about the defeat of Sen. Millard Tydings in a race for the Democratic senatorial nomination:

"For example, Mr. A is a composite conservative. He admitted that in 1933, interest rates charged by private bankers to ordinary citizens who wanted to finance a farm were altogether too high; he admitted that there were sharp practices, excesses and abuses in issuing securities and buying and selling stocks and bonds; he admitted that the hours of work in his factory were too long; he admitted that old people, who became destitute through no fault of their own, were a problem; he admitted that national and international economics and speculation made farming and fishing extremely hazardous occupations; and he even admitted that the buying power of farmers and fishermen had not kept pace with the buying power of other kinds of workers.

"But conservative Mr. A not only declined to take any lead in solving these problems in co-operation with the government. He even found fault with and opposed, openly or secretly, almost every suggestion that was put forward by those who belonged to the liberal school of thought.

#### Would Force Realignment Of Politics of Country

Mr. Roosevelt's pronouncement on what constitutes a liberal followed very closely a statement he had issued in a meeting with the newspaper correspondents at the White House, saying that he had no objection to election of "liberal Republicans." Said he: "If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election. The good of the country rises above party."

The importance of these two declarations? Mr. Roosevelt has cast the die for a new alignment of political parties. He has swept aside all previous bonds that held men and women within the Democratic party or the Republican party or the lesser political groups and has said, in effect, "Come with me into a new fusion of forces and action." Of course, no one who has studied Mr. Roosevelt's course since his political ears were first pinned back in defeat of his malodorous plan to add six justices of his own choosing to the United States Supreme court could have failed to recognize this eventuality. He was planning to force realignment in politics in this country for some months; but now the thing is out in the open, and the Democrats and Republicans, alike, know what confronts them if it is their desire to maintain the present political party setup.

What will happen is quite another question. Undoubtedly, the Democratic party will be the greater sufferer. It has to be so, because Mr. Roosevelt became titular head of the Democratic party by virtue of election to the presidency in 1932 and again in 1936 as the candidate of that party. So many of the former Democrats have become wedded to the New Deal either by con-

viction or as a result of having won office on New Deal coat tails that there is no turning back for them. Thus, there is a split, with those who subscribe to the New Deal theory of liberalism on the one hand and the Democrats who adhere to the hundred-year-old principles of the Democratic party on the other. There will be some Republicans drawn into the new alignment, but they will be fewer than the wing formed from Democrats. The Republicans who will go over to any new alignment will be of the type of Harold Ickes, now secretary of the interior, Senator Norris of Nebraska (who once wore a Republican label) and others of the here-today-gone-tomorrow category.

#### Ideas Subject to Quick Change; Try Something Else

Then, too, their ideas are subject to such quick change that few of them are retained very long. They are cast aside for something else that has more glamor. A case in point is an incident of recent history. After New Dealer Senator Pope had been licked for the Idaho Democratic nomination for senator by the youthful Worth Clark, there was talk among the New Dealers about having Senator Pope seek reelection independently; it was proposed and discussed with Mr. Roosevelt whether Senator Pope should embrace the faith of the LaFollette's progressive ticket in Idaho. It was found, however, that the LaFollette had a candidate for the senate on their ticket. To the suggestion that he withdraw and let Senator Pope be their candidate, the LaFollette spokesman said: no sir! Senator Pope isn't progressive enough for us—and Senator Pope had campaigned as a 100 per cent New Dealer.

One can walk around the halls of congress any day when the session is on and find hundred-per-centers arguing how far "reform" must be carried; what "liberalism" means. And, in downtown Washington, where the really important headmen of liberalism are to be found, they are constantly fuming and fretting at each other. Instances are on record where two rabid liberals actually have sought to get each other discredited in the eyes of the President because of their differences over what liberalism means.

The only thing about which they seem to agree is that anyone who insists on sanity in governmental thinking—anyone who takes heed of lessons of experiences and traditions of the past—must, of necessity be a tory, a bloodsucker, a trampler of the poor, an obstructionist, a "republican," or some other animal in human form who is overcome with personal greed. On that point, the liberals that we see in the government these days present a united front.

#### Time May Prove Fallacy Of Today's Liberal Ideas

That is the story of the self-appointed liberals. To them has been given the right—in their own minds, at least—to guide the destinies of the nation. I assume that if they regard me at all they classify me as coming from across the railroad tracks, question my mental balance. But I shall continue to study their methods, commend what is good, criticize that which is obviously unsound. More important, I shall continue to cling to the doctrine of the ages that human nature is going to be changed by some Power that is considerably above the level of human intelligence; I shall hold to a conviction that real progress comes by that method and not from the crackpots who look upon the human race as a fresh litter of guinea-pigs.

But, anyway, we have liberalism defined at last by a man who is qualified to define it, and we find that it differs from what liberalism formerly meant. It was only a few generations ago that liberalism meant restricting, not increasing, the powers of government. Neither Mr. Roosevelt's definition nor his record in office coincides with the former understanding of the word. It seems to me likely, therefore, that we will go on for quite some years with this quarrel, and that may be—and this is just a hunch—time will prove the fallacy of some of the so-called liberal doctrines of this day.

## Speaking of Sports

### Comeback of Di Mag Makes Yanks Happy

By GEORGE A. BARCLAY

AS THE New York Yankees have thundered down the home stretch in the American league pennant race, piling up a lead that could not be challenged, the denizens of Gotham's "Little Italy" have been happy. For Joe Di Maggio was hitting and his bat was winning ball games. Joe's batting average is a barometer of joy or despair in the east side neighborhood where the sons of Italy have settled and raised their bambinos.

In the early days of the season when Joe was in the dog-house with the Yankee ownership and his bat was feeble, there was consternation in "Little Italy." But as the season wore on and the Yanks began pulling away from the Cleveland Indians, there were smiles, for Joe had found his batting eye again.

If "Little Italy" was happy over Di Maggio's revival, so was Joe Mc-



JOE DI MAGGIO

Carthy, for once again this astute manager's faith in a ball player was vindicated. McCarthy is noted for sticking with a player when the averages are throwing him down. He demonstrated that long ago with Pitcher Pat Malone when Joe was manager of the Chicago Cubs. In Malone's first year as a Cub, he lost his first five starts.

#### Joe Is Game

That might have discouraged the average manager, but not Joe McCarthy. He sent Malone back for his sixth start. Pat justified this confidence by winning that game and going on to become one of the most effective pitchers in the National league.

You could cite other examples of this tenacious McCarthy faith. There's the case of Pitcher Lefty Gomez, who ran into a discouraging series of defeats and finally worked his way back into the winner's estate. Or you might mention Lou Gehrig, who was a bust in the early days of this season. Joe didn't give up on Lou when the fans and critics were panicking him.

And so Joe Di Maggio is the latest reward of McCarthy's loyalty. Joe's troubles this year started with his holdout demand for \$40,000, after a brilliant 1937 season. Joe's holdout was a failure and he finally compromised for \$25,000 a year after missing the training trip entirely.

Obviously out of condition because of missing the training trip, he missed the first ten days of the season and one of the disciplinary measures adopted by Col. Jacob Ruppert, owner of the club, for this recalcitrant holdout was to dock Joe at the rate of \$162 for each game he missed, or a total of \$1,620. Once Joe got into the lineup, however, he was careful not to miss another game.

#### Joe Gets Going

The going wasn't easy for Joe in the early stages of the season. The hits didn't blast into the outfield as they had in his two previous years and a home run was something of a curiosity. But McCarthy stuck with him. As a matter of fact he tried to drop Di Maggio into the lineup as a pinch-hitter on opening day, but was overruled by Business Manager Ed Barrow. That gesture, as well as McCarthy's serene confidence in him when Joe apparently couldn't get going, was a convincing evidence that his manager believed the slump was only temporary. Joe's performance in the home stretch of the pennant race proved how right McCarthy was.

Finishing his third year in the big leagues, Joe Di Maggio can rest and invite his soul. His batting average, and also his record for runs batted in and runs scored mark him as one of baseball's greats.

## Softball School

THE axiom that England's battles of tomorrow are being won today on the playing fields of Harrow and Eton might be paraphrased for baseball as follows: Major league games of tomorrow are being won on softball fields of today.

For the outstanding baseball finds of the past several years got their start playing softball.

Joe Di Maggio was a softball player before he jumped to baseball and started toward the hall of fame as a member of the New York Yankees. His sensational young teammate, Tom Henrich, broke into the game via the softball diamond. Ken Keltner who has made a name for himself this year as third baseman for the Cleveland Indians, was a member of a Milwaukee softball team that played in the world's championship meet two years ago—long before he thought of professional baseball as a career.

Baseball men who watched the world's championship softball tournament in Chicago which drew teams from 44 states of the Union, agreed that a player who can attain a respectable batting average against competent moundsmen in the fast ball pitching events, should be able to hit a baseball without exceeding difficulty.

The softball pitcher stands only 40 feet away from the batter at home plate, whereas the baseball pitcher stands 60 feet away. The ball he uses is not much larger than a regulation baseball—12 inches in circumference compared to 9½. It is nearly as hard. It comes to the batter with almost blinding speed when thrown by a star softball pitcher.

Far from scoffing at softball as a sissy game, thoughtful baseball men frankly agree that it may be effective in preparing a youngster for baseball later on. Says Joe Cronin, manager of the Boston Red Sox:

## Here and There

GREATEST fullback in the Middle West this fall will be Howie Weiss, of the University of Wisconsin, according to Coach Harry Stuhldreher . . . The Longwood Cricket club of Chestnut Hills, Mass., has the first tennis racket it ever purchased. It was bought April 24, 1878, or 50 years ago . . . Among Temple university's football opponents this year are three with whom the Owls played scoreless ties last year. They are Bucknell, Holy Cross and Boston college . . . With the signing of Cecil Isbell of Purdue and Andy Uram of Minnesota, stars of the recent All-Star football game in Chicago, the Green Bay Packers have made themselves a formidable threat in the National Professional Football league this fall.

## Shake-Up Time

WHEN the winter baseball meetings are held several months hence, it is the prophecy of informed baseball men that there will be more trades between big league teams than the national game has experienced in a long time.

"Shake-up" talk is in the air as baseball gives way to football in seasonal sports interest and teams that promised well but fared indifferently are preparing to strengthen themselves for the 1939 race.

It is conceded that three teams—the New York Giants, and the Chicago Cubs in the National league and the Cleveland Indians in the



CONNIE MACK

American league—are most in need of overhauling if they are to be pennant contenders again next year. How to do it?

Few managers would be prepared to take the drastic steps used by Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics on two occasions years ago when he decided his teams had passed their peak.

But Managers Terry, Hartnett, and Vitt, respectively, will be unusually receptive to trades that will replace fading or disgruntled players with fresh performers.