

Weekly News Analysis

Kennedy-Bullitt War Forecast Justified by World Situation

By Joseph W. La Bue

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.

International

When U. S. foreign envoys make their rare appearances in congress, it is usually to advise house and senate committees on foreign affairs. But two days before President Roosevelt gave congress his unprecedented defense proposals (see below), two top-ranking U. S. ambassadors walked into secret session not with the foreign affairs committee, but with a committee on military affairs. The ambassadors: Joseph P. Kennedy, home from London, and William C. Bullitt, home from Paris.



MESSRS. KENNEDY, BULLITT
It looked like cold-blooded truth.

Though committee room walls supposedly have no ears, it was learned that Messrs. Kennedy and Bullitt thoroughly frightened their congressional audience with the following opinion on European affairs:

Great Britain has favored "appeasement" of Italy and Germany because neither she nor France have adequate arms. So intense is British appeasement sentiment that London would permit Germany to build an airbase in Canada rather than revert to war. But since Czechoslovakia's "sellout" at Munich last September proved that one appeasement leads to another, France has determined to stop this policy. Therefore France will not concede to Italian territorial demands, knowing that in war Great Britain must come to her aid and that Russia, in turn, must aid the democracies.

Crux of the Kennedy-Bullitt opinion: That further appeasement, as advocated by Prime Minister Chamberlain, will only delay the eventual showdown and make war even more critical when it comes, which will probably be within the next few months. The U. S. will not be drawn into this conflict immediately.

If this was propaganda for President Roosevelt's long-range national defense program, committee members swallowed it hook, line and sinker. And well they might, because the forecast appeared to be cold-blooded truth when measured in the light of that day's news from abroad. It all looked like war:

THE BIG FOUR

As Prime Minister Chamberlain left London's Victoria station for his appeasement visit with Italy's Premier Mussolini, unemployed demonstrators booed him and shouted: "Appease the unemployed, not Mussolini!" Between London and Dover, where he crossed the channel, Mr. Chamberlain might have reflected on the advisability of such a course. Hitler was clamoring for submarine parity with Britain; Italy was fighting the Spanish civil war and yelling for concessions from France; both Germany and Italy were propagandizing about British "atrocities" in Palestine.

En route to Rome, the Chamberlain entourage stopped in Paris to (1) show Germany and Italy that France and Britain stand together, and (2) assure France that Mussolini could not induce Chamberlain to bring pressure for French concessions to Italy. After two hours of tea drinking, a spokesman announced Chamberlain would tell Mussolini that France agreed to consider concessions on "secondary" questions. These are (1) the status of 100,000 Italians in Tunisia; (2) control over the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad; (3) administration of the French-controlled Suez canal.

As for himself, Chamberlain expected to tell Mussolini he refused to mediate between France and Italy, or grant belligerent rights to Spain's General Franco so long as Italian troops are fighting the war.

But Chamberlain also knew he must speak softly, for only a week before the Anglo-French alliance had suffered a severe blow. At Berchtesgaden, Polish Foreign Minister Joseph Beck had deserted his French alliance to find greater security with Germany. Moreover, this meant that Poland would be ready to block any Russian effort to aid France and Britain. Temporarily free from danger in the east, the Rome-Berlin axis was ready to apply pressure on democracies.

The best prediction: That Chamberlain-Mussolini conversations will lead to another "Munich" peace conference, but certainly not to general European peace.

HUNGARY

Last November's Italian-German commission settled a boundary for Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but neither nation liked it. Since January 8 a series of border incidents has kept both nations aflame, each holding the other responsible. Czechoslovakia has offered terms for truce, but Budapest refuses until Prague pays for damages, acknowledges responsibility for attacks and punishes individuals responsible. The outcome of this squabble is unpredictable, but Germany may well step in to help the Czechs since the Reich wants the border city of Munkacs to be retained in Czechoslovakia's Carpatho-Ukraine. The town is important in Berlin's program of fortifying Carpatho-Ukraine in preparation for a German drive into Russian Ukraine.

JAPAN

"Britain and the United States are believed to be aware that should they resort to serious economic pressure against Japan, Japan would have sufficient determination and preparation to resort to retaliatory measures against their mainlands and dependencies."

This war talk came from Japan's Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita in answer to measures Great Britain and the U. S. had already taken to combat growing Japanese domination over the Orient.



JAPAN'S HACHIRO ARITA
He threatened a U. S. invasion.

Because Tokyo has closed China's "open door" in violation of the nine-power treaty, both London and Washington have given China financial support. Meanwhile the U. S. has completely stopped the sale of war materials to Japan.

Minister Arita's statement, appearing in Tokyo's Fascist newspaper, Nichi Nichi, is the most warlike gesture yet made against the U. S. What equalized the threat, however, was a similar gesture made against Russia by Lieut. Gen. Rensuke Isogai, Japanese chief of staff in Manchuria.

AT HOME

Checking the above news with Bullitt-Kennedy statements, congress was in fine shape to discuss U. S. defense measures. Tennessee's Rep. Andrew J. May of the house military affairs committee popped up to urge military training for 300,000 CCC boys. He also asked four-lane superhighways down Atlantic and Pacific coasts and across the gulf states.

Next day the President sent congress his defense message, well pared down from the multi-billion figures originally bandied about Washington. The total extra, emergency appropriation request: \$532,000,000, half of which should be spent before the next fiscal year is over. Presidential arguments, few of which were needed, pointed out that the U. S. is relatively no better prepared today than in 1917, when it took a year from the war declaration date for American troops to reach a major engagement.

Agriculture

Under Secretary Henry A. Wallace, the U. S. agriculture department's "original objective" has been increased consumption through one method or another. Last summer came announcement of a new method, a "two price" plan for boosting domestic consumption of farm products. Under this arrangement the U. S. would subsidize manufacturers, whose products would be sold at a below-normal price to low income families.

First objections came from manufacturers and retailers, many of whom thought the plan would curtail free enterprise. Then congressmen turned a cold shoulder, suggesting difficulties in getting the special purchase privilege in the hands of people deserving them. As congress got underway it became certain that Mr. Wallace had dropped the plan entirely, though still clinging to the "original objective."

Announcement was made that conferences are being held with cotton manufacturers to encourage the lowest possible prices for mattresses to be sold to low income families. Grapefruit will be similarly "merchandised." Said Mr. Wallace: "We want increased consumption. . . . We will use any method to obtain it. We hope we can get the trade (processors and distributors) to do specific things to shave costs to the limit."

Via London, U. S. farmers have learned that the agriculture department proposes to reduce American wheat land from 81,000,000 acres to 55,000,000 acres, resulting in total wheat plantings of 65,000,000 acres even if some growers do not cooperate. This news came from the international wheat advisory committee's conference, where 21 nations had sent envoys to study schemes for export and import limitations. As the sessions got underway, a discouraging note appeared in the International Institute of Agriculture's report. Wheat available for export in the year ending next July 31, the report said, was 1,140,000,000 bushels, against a world import demand of 540,000 bushels.

Races

Less evil than that of any other high Nazi is the reputation of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, president of Germany's Reichsbank. In appearance more a business man than a politician, Dr. Schacht is the Reich's No. 1 contact with foreign commercial interests. When it came time to peddle Germany's 600,000 Jews abroad, Chancellor Hitler turned naturally to Dr. Schacht, knowing he was the only high Nazi whose utterances on the Jewish problem would get a hearing abroad.

A cold business man as well as a diplomat, Dr. Schacht could be depended on to evolve a Jewish plan which would work to the Reich's financial benefit. Early in January, at London, he announced the plan: Part One. Within the next three years, 400,000 of the Reich's 600,000 Jews would be shipped abroad, the remaining 200,000 to be retained as common laborers. The 400,000 emigrants would leave by installments, heads of families going first. For aged and infirm, Germany would guarantee satisfactory provision.

Part Two. World Jewry would raise a \$2,500,000,000 loan, "secured" by Jewish property in Germany, funds to be used for sending poor German Jews abroad. The loan would be serviced by increased German exports, to be paid for in



FINANCIER SCHACHT
He mixed diplomacy and business.

free foreign exchange. World Jewry (which Nazi Germany regards as all-powerful in democracies) would decree greater use of German export items.

Still master of the situation, the Reich can apparently force Jews respecting nations to choose between accepting the plan or tolerate further persecution. For Germany, the Schacht idea provides for disposition of 400,000 "undesirable" citizens whose property will be confiscated. Most important, it offers a way to break the world boycott.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Outlines His Policies In Annual Message to Congress

Gives No Assurance of Prospect of Balanced Budget; Necessity for Armed Preparedness Stressed; Continued Spending Makes Some Democrats See Red.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It is always expected that the annual message to congress from the President of the United States will outline his policies. The message is presumed to reflect, in a broad general formula, what the Chief Executive regards as the major problems and what should be done about them. Moreover, the annual message on the state of the Union is a document that usually embraces some political considerations and, frequently, therefore, constitutes the basis for a test of its author's leadership either from what is proposed or because of things which were omitted.

President Roosevelt's recent message meets each of the phases just described. He outlined the general policies; 1. the necessity for armed preparedness in protection of our religion, our liberty and our form of government—democracy; 2. he disclosed that he has no intention of retreating from his New Deal social policies and that to buttress them and accomplish national protection against dictatorship, he proposes to keep on with his policies of spending. He likewise omitted to give one bit of assurance that there is any prospect of a balanced budget or any means by which the business of the country, small as well as large, can look forward to less governmental messing.

Thus, there seems little reason to doubt that what Mr. Roosevelt proposed, as well as what he omitted saying, places his current annual message in a position to provide a test of his leadership. There are those among the legislators who do not want larger armed forces; there are those who think an armed America will invite trouble; there are those wanting business recovery here much more than wholesale reform of our national business practices and social relations, and there are those who think there will be no reduction of unemployment, until the government itself quits its wild orgy of spending and borrowing—they want a balanced budget.

Message Most Temperate Roosevelt Has Delivered

Any President's message is greeted with hurrahs by his party supporters and hisses from the minority. This one was no exception. These shouts of praise and denunciation, respectively, do not always go to the merits. Frequently, they are more than half political. And if I were asked to evaluate those that I have heard in the last 10 days, I should say that each side was about 50 per cent right.

In the first place, Mr. Roosevelt's message this time was the most temperate he has ever delivered, or so it impressed me. In the matter of armament, he told why he believes it is needed. He may have gone too far; he may be inviting another battle on a subject akin to the long-time League of Nations controversy by proposing protection "of democracies." Yet, fundamentally, I think it must be agreed that we, in the Western world, must be able to snarl as well as to smile.

In the matter of social reforms, there can and will be violent differences of opinion. It appears that Mr. Roosevelt had not listened very closely to the election returns of November 8 because, instead of a "mandate" which he believed he received in 1936, the last election was a distinct brake on the machinery of social reform.

In the matter of continued spending, Mr. Roosevelt's message must be regarded as having its greatest weakness. There was less justification in his words for the conclusions he reached than in any other phase of the document. Even a substantial number of his own partisans could not swallow his assertions that the spending of some 20 billions of borrowed money was an "investment."

People Wondering When Dividends Can Be Expected

It is pretty difficult for one to accept these piling deficits and increasing totals of the national debt as being anything except an extremely dangerous condition. When Mr. Roosevelt's argument about the "investment" is followed by a budget message that fixes next year's deficit in excess of \$3,300,000,000 and

a probable national debt of \$44,500,000,000 in 1940—well, a good many people are wondering when dividends can be expected. Three years ago, Mr. Roosevelt defended the growth of the national debt, saying there was no need to fear it. He held that it could go to \$5,000,000,000 before it became a real burden upon the nation. It is only six billions short of that total now, and many members are getting fidgety about it, especially, as I mentioned earlier, since no mention was made of a balanced budget.

This question of debt, therefore, can be expected to provide some divergence of opinion among the legislators, and there will be other bases upon which disagreement with the Chief Executive will rest. I am wondering, for example, whether Senator Borah of Idaho and Senator Johnson of California will smell something of a League of Nations aroma about the program of defending any and all democracies. Friendly interpreters of the President's message believe his program contemplates only a strengthened support of the Monroe doctrine, but the other side's views envision national policy going beyond that point. It may not happen, but what if the Borah-Johnson school of thought decides to breathe fire about "new alliances" under the expanded defense of democracies?

Continued Spending Makes Some Democrats See Red

There are prospects of opposition to his arms program confronting the President, therefore, among the Borah-Johnson school of thought, as well as among those representatives and senators from inland areas where there never has been much fear from attacks by other nations. There will be ridicule of his arms program, too, on the basis of his indication that it will provide work. That ridicule will be justified. Work can not start on ships for a year and a half or two years after they are authorized, and supplies for the army, even an expanded army, will not call so many men back to factories.

Proposals for continued spending, as outlined by the President, made a number of strong Democrats see red again. Men of the type of Senator Byrd of Virginia and Bailey of North Carolina, and others in the senate and house. They can not be reconciled to such a program and they will have the Republican minority backing them up wherever and whenever they attack continued spending of government funds.

The proposal to continue spending, of course, is linked like a tangle of yarn with the whole question of relief administration, and there is no telling what may come of that row. Senator King, Utah Democrat and anti-New Dealer, already has a bill in the hopper to eliminate the entire federal relief setup. He would turn it back to the states, providing only for grants of federal money when the states can't meet their obligations.

Use of Subject of Religion Causes Some Comment

From the standpoint of political considerations, there were numerous published comments, after the message was delivered, in which members of the house and senate openly chided Mr. Roosevelt for attempting to capitalize politically upon sentiment among the church people. I relate that because it illustrates how no political leader can be quite sure when he makes a statement whether it will be received favorably or not. It is so easy, and every politician knows it, to make a perfectly sincere statement, only to learn two days later that it was being held up to ridicule as bunk or being torn to pieces as being unsound, fundamentally.

Those who have been razzing Mr. Roosevelt's use of the subject of religion recognize, of course, that destruction of free religion has been one of the keystones of dictatorship. They recognize further that the actions of Hitler and Stalin and Mussolini in this regard have been responsible, as much as any other one thing, in creating bitter resentment in the United States. Obviously, then, they look upon the Roosevelt appeal in this regard as being good politics, but they are unwilling to let him get away with it.

Speaking of Sports

British Racers Retain World's Speed Record

By ROBERT McSHANE

A COUPLE of lantern-jawed Englishmen and an American aviation engineer decisively shattered land speed records during the past year, furnishing thrills aplenty and setting up brilliant records for speed artists to try and break.

The duel for the distinction of traveling faster along the ground than any other human being was won by Capt. George E. T. Eyston, who whizzed through a measured mile at 357.5 miles per hour last September. He thus erased the mark of 350.2 established only 24 hours previously by his compatriot, John H. Cobb, London fur broker.

The engineer, Floyd Roberts of Van Nuys, Calif., roared to hard-earned victory in the 500 mile Indianapolis classic when he achieved a record speed of 117.2 miles per hour. Late in August his black, seven-ton Thunderbolt traveled over the saline course at Bonneville Flats, Utah, to raise from 311.42 to 345.49 the standard which he himself had set there in November of 1937.

The gallant captain was deprived of one record performance. Three days prior to establishing the record in such decisive fashion, Eyston had attained a speed of 347.155 on one dash down the 13 mile straightaway. However, on the return run, required to strike an average and make the mark official, the timer used to measure the speed failed.

His new standard of 345.49 stood for only a couple of weeks when Cobb wrested the honor from the retired British army captain. In his Ballion, a machine only half as heavy as Eyston's, he thundered down the stretch at 353.29 and 347.16 for his 350.2 average.

Eyston was little daunted. Next day he climbed into his machine and averaged 357.5 to regain the speed king crown.

In winning the Indianapolis event, Roberts obtained his first major victory in 23 years of racing when he crossed the finish line five miles ahead of Wilbur Shaw.

Dean in Shape?

DIZZY DEAN, the erratic gentleman the Chicago Cubs secured from the Cardinals last spring for a mere \$125,000 and a parcel of ball players, is as sound as a dollar—according to Dizzy Dean.

Baseball's problem child insists that he hasn't cheated on the series of doctors who have examined his arm. He follows, he says, their orders, and hasn't done anything more strenuous than caddy three or four times a week for the "missus down in Dallas."

Always the optimist, Diz gave the rest of the family a boost:

"Yes, and Brother Paul is all right again. His arm's so good he's been playing golf. I told him he'll win 20 games for those Cardinals and lose only four. He'll lose those four pitching against me, which is how many times I intend to beat the Cardinals."

Cups and Coaches

PITY the poor football coach for his lack of job security, but at the same time reserve some of your sympathy for coaches, managers, etc., of other sports. There is by no means a bed of roses.

Take the case of "Bald Bill" Stewart, former coach of the Chicago Black Hawks, world champion hockey team last year.

Stewart learned recently that no speedy wingman can skate half as fast as a hockey manager slides when his club fails to function as the owner would like it to. The Black Hawks won the Stanley cup last year, and half a season later the manager was notified that his services were no longer required.

Any big league manager's job depends largely on his team's ability to pack in the fans. That can't be done with losing teams. The Black Hawks started off with a bang this year, drawing top crowds. Loss after loss caused receipts to slump. Therefore, mused McLaughlin, a new manager was a necessity.

The new manager, Paul Thompson, is one of the best liked players on the team. He'll do his best to win the coveted Stanley cup, even in the face of what happened to his predecessor. Though he probably doesn't like to think of the high mortality rate.

Grid Rule Changes

THE rules committee of the National Collegiate Athletic association, meeting recently, held one of its shortest and most uneventful sessions—much to the delight of thousands of coaches throughout the nation.

Only two changes in intercollegiate football rules were adopted by that committee. They are:

1. The penalty for a forward pass striking an ineligible player shall be the loss of a down and 15 yards from the point of the previous down, instead of loss of the ball.

2. All ineligible players—usually the center, guards and tackles—must remain on the line of scrimmage until after a pass is thrown. The penalty for violation will be 15 yards and the play also will count as a down.

The rules committee can well be congratulated for the adoption of these two rules. For one thing the new rules will undoubtedly encourage the use of shovel passes—short passes behind or to the line of scrimmage. It is very possible, of course, that they may lead to longer run-backs by the opponents an intercepted passes because fewer players will now be allowed to go down under a pass.

Sport Shorts

THE Green Bay Packers played before more than 150,000 spectators in four games on the road last season for a new National Football



Jimmy Foxx

league record. . . . A. D. Locke, South African golfer, who recently won the New Zealand open, has decided to revisit England next year for the open meet. . . . Jimmy Fox x, American league's outstanding player as its 349 hitting champ batsman, was voted the Eddie Hurley Memorial plaque by Boston baseball writers. . . . The White Sox have released infielder George Meyer. . . . Ed Krause, former Notre Dame star, has been named line coach for Holy Cross. . . . Amos Alonzo Stagg's College of the Pacific will meet Notre Dame in 1941 for their first gridiron tilt.

Swim Champs

BY FAR the most remarkable development in water sports during 1938 was the irresistible rise of Danish girl swimmers to a place of supremacy.

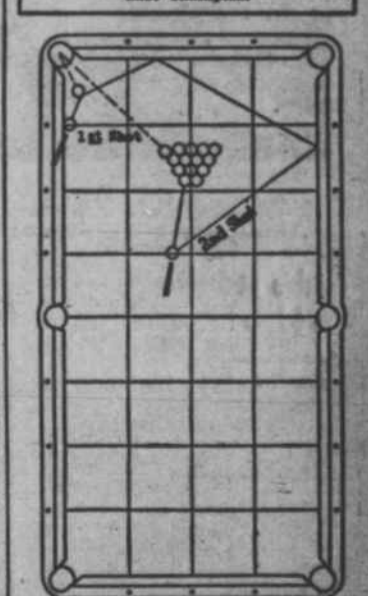
Miss Ragnhild Ewger, greatest feminine swimmer of all time, and her Danish fellow star, have to their credit the fastest long-course marks for 100 meters, free style, 1:04.3 and 1:04.8. Miss Ewger again tops the field at 400 meters, free style, with an almost unbelievable long-course world record of 5:09.

Miss Rie Van Veen, Holland mermaid, navigated the 100 meters, free style, with 1:18.2. She was second only to Miss Ewger in the 400 meter stretch, followed by Mrs. Katherine Rawls Thompson, winner of our national 440-yard championship.

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Pocket Billiards

By CHARLES C. PETERSON
President, National Billiard Association of America and World's Trick Shot Champion.



Lesson No. 14.

This diagram shows the breaking of the cluster on the second shot.

Place balls as per diagram. Play shot No. 1 by hitting the object ball 1/4 to right; strike ball in the center with a medium stroke and your cue ball, after pocketing the object ball, will hit two rails (cushions) and stop where No. 2 shot is marked. Your second shot then is the break, and all you need is to strike hard into the object ball.