

Weekly News Analysis

Europe Rushes to New Crisis As Loyalist Spain Is Crushed

By Joseph W. La Bine



EUROPE'S 'WALL OF NEUTRALITY'

Map shows how Hitler and Mussolini have built eastern European alliances to protect themselves from Russia while pressing new demands against France and Britain. (See EUROPE.)

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

Europe

Except for Spain, January found all Europe immersed in an ominous calm broken only by occasional under-cover whippers among democracies on one side and dictators on the other. Europe was a theater and Spain was its stage. By the end of the month the play on Spain's stage was definitely approaching its climax because Fascist-subsidized Rebels had put the communistic Loyalist government to flight at Barcelona. This marked the beginning of Loyalist Spain's end, soon to leave both Italy and Germany free to press new demands against Britain and France.

The reason for this embarrassing situation is that Europe's democracies have followed a policy of non-intervention in Spain, declining to admit that non-intervention is really a disguise for the now-discredited policy of dictator appeasement. Regardless of the moral issues reportedly involved in Spain's war, London and Paris must now realize that their mistake has not been the refusal to side with Loyalists against the Rebels, but rather their permitting Germany and Italy to aid the Insurgents. The result is that Fascist nations now control Spain. France is therefore surrounded on three sides by potentially hostile nations, while the Mediterranean becomes predominantly dictator-controlled.

Spain's war is not finished, but it has been sufficiently localized to free Mussolini's hands for other pursuits. Almost every competent European observer has predicted a new crisis following Barcelona's collapse and the whippers throughout Europe have backed up that prediction.

Most important foundation work for the new Italo-German demands is the assurance that any resultant conflict will be localized. This means preventing huge, mysterious Russia from aiding Britain and France. Therefore Rome and Berlin have quietly established a solid bloc of "neutral" states reaching from the Baltic to the Adriatic (see map), which will stand as sentinels against Russian aggression while Italy and Germany turn their backs to face France and Britain.

The new crisis will center around Italian demands against France, though it may be enlarged through new declarations by Chancellor Hitler. Italy wants Tunisia (enabling her to blockade the Mediterranean), control of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad (providing an outlet for Ethiopia). These demands are vital to Britain, because Italian control of the Mediterranean might cut off London's "lifeline" to India and the east.

Probable dictator strategy will be for Germany to assure France she will not help Italy, thereby encouraging Britain to stand aloof. Then Germany would aid Italy in a possible war just as she has aided Rebel Spain, with "volunteers." Whether London and Paris will wait for such an eventuality is another matter. Thoroughly scared by reports that joint Italo-German demands will be voiced by Chancellor Hitler before the Reichstag, by Italian mobilization of her 1908 army class, by threatened German mobilization of 1,500,000 men by February 15, the two democracies are beginning to wake up. Encouragingly, Great Britain has begun an intensive army recruiting campaign. But almost completely offsetting this practical step is the report that Prime Minister Chamberlain will soon in-

vite Hitler, Mussolini and French Premier Daladier to a new "Munich" conference, there to buy peace with more concessions.

Congress

Last summer, Rep. Martin Dies and his committee on un-Americanism unearthed dirt concerning Harry Bridges, west coast labor leader who is not a naturalized citizen but nevertheless guides the destinies of many American laboring men as an unofficial mogul of John Lewis' C. I. O. This put Madame Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins on the spot, because the Dies committee claimed Harry Bridges was an alien and a Communist, that he advocated overthrowing the government by force and that he had made dispar-



J. PARNELL THOMAS California also spoke up.

aging remarks about the President of the U. S.

Secretary Perkins has failed to give Dies committee members what they consider a satisfactory answer. Her claim: That a court ruling is now pending on whether membership in the Communist party is a deportable offense.

Not since 1876 has an attempt been made to impeach a cabinet member, but that has not stopped one Dies committee member from setting a modern precedent. New Jersey's Rep. J. Parnell Thomas has introduced a resolution calling for an investigation to determine whether Secretary Perkins should be impeached, along with Immigration Commissioner James L. Houghteling and Labor Department Solicitor Gerard D. Reilly.

That Madame Perkins' unaggressive interest in the Bridges deportation case is not popular has been indicated at Sacramento, Calif., where the state legislature may ask her for an immediate report on Mr. Bridges' citizenship status.

Chile

Earthquakes usually come when sea bottoms sink, forcing up mountainous areas and jarring the land for miles around. Squeezed along the rocky west coast of South America, Chile has often experienced such phenomena but never in such disastrous fashion as the earthquake which recently struck a zone 450 miles long and 100 miles deep. For newly inaugurated President Pedro Aguirre Cerdo, reportedly Fascist bent, it presented the worst initiation under fire ever experienced by any Western hemisphere chief executive. Total fatalities, which probably will never be determined, run from 8,000 to 11,000. Injuries run into even more thousands. Faced with a stupendous reconstruction job which will require several years, Chile will probably need all outside financial assistance available to stave off national calamity.

White House

This year's congress was advertised as highly independent, probably ready to fight any proposal coming from the White House. But within three weeks after congress opened President Roosevelt had apparently introduced the bulk of his legislative program and could expect favorable action on most of it: Defense. His \$552,000,000 emergency two-year program is moving slowly but certainly, aided by war clouds over Europe and Asia.

Social Security. Broad revisions and extensions will probably be approved, though congress may demand an accounting on the huge social security reserve fund.

Reorganization. Defeated last year by Republicans and insurgent Democrats, governmental reorganization is again being broached in the house by Missouri's Rep. John J. Cochran. Since this year's anti-administration bloc is bigger than 1938's, reorganization is probably doomed for failure.

Public Health. Already introduced is the national health program bill, to be paid for jointly by states and the U. S. First year's federal appropriation would be about \$50,000,000. Eventually the total annual cost to state and federal governments would be \$900,000,000. Aided by growing public health consciousness, the bill is expected to pass.

Railroads. The White House has introduced no bill, but has given its blessing to railroad relief measures introduced by California's Rep. Clarence Lea and Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler. Since rail relief is an established need, not a political question, it is being justified on the bases of national defense, public safety and national economics.

Monetary Powers. The White House will probably be granted continuation of the treasury's currency stabilization fund, which reportedly netted a neat profit last year, and the presidential power to further devalue the dollar, which congress does not think has been abused. Only stumbling block is that stabilization fund operations have been secret, which congress does not like.

Communications. Not vital, but a White House fetish, is interest in the federal communications commission which President Roosevelt would like reorganized this session. His purposes: To improve FCC's legal framework and administrative machinery. If congress gets time, this will probably be approved.

Taxation. Legislation to permit reciprocal taxation of federal, state and municipal bonds and salaries, now exempt, is apt to be adopted in the face of strong state and municipal opposition.

Labor

Last year Homer Martin, president of C. I. O.'s United Automobile Workers of America, quarreled with his vice presidents. President John L. Lewis of C. I. O. stepped in, appointing Vice Presidents Sidney Hillman and Phillip Murray as mediators. But 18 of U. A. W.'s 24 board members were anti-Martin men and early last month they voted to strip him of power. Reason: Mr. Martin had been consorting secretly with Harry Bennett, personnel director for the Ford Motor company, only non-U. A. W. auto manufacturer.

C. I. O. chieftains thought Mr. Martin was playing for personal control over the huge Ford labor vote. The upshot has been C. I. O.'s refusal to recognize Mr. Martin as head of U. A. W., followed next day by Mr. Martin's resignation from C. I. O.'s executive board with the charge that Mr. Lewis has "per-



U. A. W.'S HOMER MARTIN He resigned and was freed.

sonal ambitions and a dictator complex." The outcome of this scrap will be settled at a Martin-sponsored election March 4, and a C. I. O.-sponsored election 20 days later. Until then, no one knows who controls U. A. W.

While this row has made big headlines, observers are prone to dismiss the possibility that it may indicate a collapse of C. I. O.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Theory of Spending Ourselves Out Of Depression Seen Unwise Course

Evidence in Congress of Definite Determination to Cut Down on Appropriations; Sound Sense of American People Always Finds Answer to National Problems.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON. — It always has been my conviction that the American people will find a sound answer to every national problem, if they are given the facts and the time to figure out what those facts mean. They may be led or herded or threatened and these conditions may put them in a wrong spot temporarily, but I repeat that if they are given time, the national conclusion, the collective thinking, will be along sound lines.

They are demonstrating these things as a fact, again. There is no doubt about it. For five or six years, a considerable majority of the nation's citizenry was following the theory of spending ourselves out of the depression. It was an unsound course, obviously, but money was made to do a lot of talking—as money in billions of dollars will talk. Lately, however, hardy American thinking has been carrying the majority back to normal understanding, and the influence of spending by the federal government is sagging, distinctly.

Notwithstanding the statements, frequently heard from Republican sources, that "you can't beat Santa Claus," or the variation that "you can't beat \$4,000,000,000," there is plenty of evidence to show that there is quite a definite determination to quit that sort of thing. That is, there is a determination in most places outside of the so-called inner circle of New Dealers. Especially is this true in the halls of congress where, unless there is an earthquake, many important steps will be taken by senators and representatives in the direction of sounder government finance. The old and familiar American traits of initiative, of saving, of living within one's income, are coming to the surface very rapidly and the restoration of these traits to places of respectability in American life is being reflected on capitol hill in Washington.

Opposition to Philosophy Of Spending Breaks Loose

It will be recalled how the opponents of President Roosevelt's philosophy of spending showed their mettle in the house of representatives when that body voted to cut \$150,000,000 off of the deficiency relief appropriation. Mr. Roosevelt asked for \$875,000,000. The cut was accomplished despite some hair-raising stories from official sources in the administration that elimination of any of the requested funds would mean suffering, maybe starvation, maybe quick death, for many thousands of persons.

Well, the house members (or a majority of them) did not believe those stories, and thus they made a start at cutting governmental spending. They gave an indication at the same time that there must be a general revision of the federal government's machinery for relief of the unemployed. During the debate and in the corridors, one heard frequent expressions that congress had appropriated last year the funds the administration thought necessary to maintain relief until the end of next year. But prodigal spending had used up the money and the professional relievers had returned for more. Some of the debate was quite acrimonious and various charges were hurled that the relief officials had tried again to "buy" the election, that being why the funds ran short.

Immediately after the house was through with the relief bill, the opponents of spending in the senate started after the appropriation. There were many in that body who wanted to appropriate only for two months, proposing that in the meantime there should be a brand new relief setup devised.

Beginning Only Foretaste Of What Is Coming

While it seems that a cut of \$150,000,000—which is about one-fifth the amount asked—represents something substantial, this beginning is only a foretaste of what is coming. The spenders have had their innings for five or six years, or since Mr. Roosevelt's "economy act" of 1933 was abandoned as a pattern of government. They have used various names and descriptions, such as "pump priming" and

spending to restore prosperity, etc. It appears now, however, that their days are numbered. I do not mean that everything in the way of government cash sop is going to be thrown out of the window at once. I believe I can see, however, that curtailment of federal waste has begun; that the national belt is going to be pulled tighter by a couple of notches and that, sooner or later, even the beneficiaries of the federal cash will note the stigma and slacken their demands.

One of the leaders in this direction has been Sen. Harry Byrd, the Virginia Democrat, who is just as hard boiled in preserving a sound national government as his senior, the redoubtable Carter Glass. Through thick and thin, Senator Byrd has been attacking the spending policies, calling attention to the dangers of an increasing national debt and the certainty that the country as a whole must bear the burden of added taxation. He did this the while administration sharpshooters were firing one broadside after another at his head or hide.

The other night, Senator Byrd got on the radio and told the country again what was happening. He had some new facts and figures about the situation. The Virginian asked some rather pertinent questions, too, about the situation in England. He pointed out that England has not been running deficit after deficit and that, as a matter of cold fact, while the United States was adding more than \$21,000,000,000 to its national debt, England was balancing its budget and making some headway in reducing its national debt.

States Take Heed and Start Cutting Expenses

There are other things happening besides the Byrd attacks and the congressional action on relief appropriations to indicate the growing strength of those who believe spending borrowed money has been, and is, unwise. Word has come through to Washington of the action of several governors who are insisting that their states avoid getting into the hole. Governor Cochran of Nebraska, a Democrat, and Governor Bricker of Ohio, a Republican, each has put their respective state legislatures on notice that expenditures are to be pared to the bone. There are others who could be named, but from the information we have here in Washington, Governors Cochran and Bricker are the outstanding examples.

It might be said that these refer only to states and not to national policies. Very well. No state executive could get away with such a program unless he had the backing of a majority of his own people. If they believe that way about state affairs, there is no reason to think they will take a contrary view concerning the national treasury and funds which it must borrow to spend.

'Pump Priming' Gifts to States Force Them to Borrow

Further, nearly all of the federal appropriations for "pump priming," when granted to states or lesser jurisdictions, are offered on condition that the state, or city or county, must put up an equal amount. In hundreds of cases in the last six years, this policy has resulted in states or lesser subdivisions of government being forced to borrow on its own bonds in order to get hold of the federal cash. The result: new debt. It becomes clear, therefore, that if the state executives insist on reduced expenditures, they are unlikely to accept these federal gifts because of the probable added debt burden.

Another thing likely to happen in some of the states is added taxes. The state legislatures are due for an awakening as to the actual condition of their state finances. Some may dodge it this year, but facts will have to be faced. When new taxes come, what a howl there will be! That howl will be heard in congress, too, both concerning state and county and city taxes on the one hand and national taxes on the other hand. It appears to me that taxes will prove to be the best antidote for the poison of borrowing to spend that can be found.

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Speaking of Sports

Yankee Regime Changes Little Under Barrow

By ROBERT McSHANE

THE world's greatest baseball empire, built by Col. Jacob Ruppert, will remain almost unchanged with Edward G. Barrow, business manager of the club for 19 years, now president of the champion New York Yankees.

Barrow, 71, actually ran things even while the colonel was alive. He was one of four trustees named in the will, and will serve with George E. Ruppert, brother of the late owner and chief trustee, retaining his post as vice president, and Al Brennan holding his office as treasurer. Former manager of the Boston Red Sox and a president of the present International league when it was known as the Eastern league, Barrow is a baseball man whose acumen has always been unquestioned. Five other teams are included in the Ruppert holdings. Colonel Ruppert owned the Yankees virtually outright, holding all 3,000



EDWARD G. BARROW

shares of stock in them except for 10 shares split up among other officials who made up the directorate. Undoubtedly the colonel would be happy to know that the men he placed in charge of the Yankees at his death had passed on complete power to his old and trusted lieutenant. Barrow possesses one of the shrewdest brains in the business, and is the proper man to carry on the club's tradition of victory.

For all his years Barrow is still a strong, aggressive individual. A member of the old school, he is a product of the days when a manager was at least willing to try to whip any man on his club.

He developed two of baseball's greatest stars—Honus Wagner and Babe Ruth. Wagner he considers the best ball player he ever saw, because he could play more positions brilliantly than any of the others, including Ruth. He converted Ruth from a pitcher into the greatest slugger of all outfielders, handling the Babe with a heavy hand.

"There won't be any real change," Barrow stated. "I always made the decisions, and it was very seldom that Colonel Ruppert questioned my judgment. I think we'll rock along about as usual. I wouldn't be surprised if we won another championship this year."

New Cinder Star

A NEW cinder star is blazing his way around U. S. tracks, and he's none other than Leslie MacMitchell, the New York university freshman who broke schoolboy records all the way from half-mile to cross country distances.

Glenn Cunningham and Archie San Romani are emphatic in agreeing that he is the country's best mile-running prospect. N. Y. U. Coach Emil von Eling says he has all the physical attributes to be a great miler. That leaves experience to put him at the head of the field.

Recently he ran against Cunningham and Gene Venke at 800 meters. Though he ran fifth behind Cunningham, no one was disappointed. He hit 1:55, almost four seconds better than Venke's winning time a year ago, and only two seconds slower than Cunningham—and Glenn ran the fastest 800 that's ever been recorded. MacMitchell made that time despite the fact that he got off to a poor start and ran wide most of the way.

The new runner has the build and the poise. The average youngster going up against such famous rivals would be awe-struck. Set not MacMitchell. He meets them on equal terms, the way he will be racing them before long.

The Olympic games are coming up in 1940, and the freshman will be shooting for a spot on that team, and to shoot accurately, he'll need plenty of fast competition.

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Dusky Croesus

ACCORDING to Joe Louis' board of managers and stockholders, the heavyweight champion will be turned loose in the ring four times a year hereafter, twice indoors and twice in the open.

It is the ambition of Joe's directors to make him a millionaire, a self-less, admirable gesture, and also a profitable one. It won't be easy, even though Joe can make money as fast as Spencerian Sam could with a mimeograph machine.

John Roxborough, head of the champ's financial department, estimates that under new tax burdens Joe will have to have an income of a million dollars a year for five straight years in order to keep one million for himself. Needless to say, the Brown Bomber did not figure this out for himself.

He already has approximately a quarter of a million dollars in annuities, Chicago real estate and bank deposits. For a while he seriously considered retiring from the ring and live off his savings. However, not long ago he surprised pleasantly his ever-loving directors with the announcement that he likes his title, and will keep right on defending it in his brusque, even violent, manner.

Joe has grown up. He has confidence, more pride, and wants to fight. And that, rest assured, is all right with his board of strategy.

Hunters Warned

AS REGULAR as the seasons is the warning to sportsmen that duck hunting will soon be a thing of the past unless effective restoration methods are applied.

And for the most part these warnings are just as regularly ignored. Now comes word from officials of Ducks, Unlimited, that unless remedial measures are taken during the next five years there will be no duck hunting 20 years hence, and it will never come back. This prophecy was made only after an intensive survey of Canadian breeding grounds.

Surface water in the breeding areas has been reduced alarmingly through low precipitation and continued high temperatures. Rain falls in Alberta and Saskatchewan have alleviated conditions in southern breeding grounds to some extent, but the northern part, or "no man's land," is in critical condition.

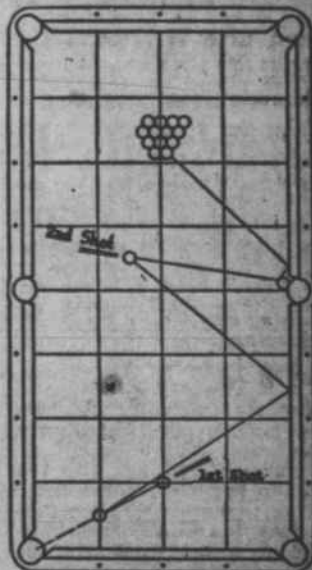
This loss of surface water is due largely to the failure of millions of small beaver dams and to serious forest fires that are destroying timber, muskegs and meadows.

To carry on a program of restoration requires money—sinews for this kind of war. It is only logical that this money come from hunters, those who enjoy the sport. Most sportsmen aren't alarmists, they've called the turn in this case. It's up to the rest to help.

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Pocket Billiards

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



Lesson No. 16

This is the sixteenth and last in the series of instruction shots and the most interesting, because it is the most important and attractive shot in the game—"the draw shot." Without the draw shot, position play at billiards and pocket billiards would be absolutely impossible. To make a good draw shot it is necessary to hold the cue level at the balance, make a firm bridge and strike the cue ball 3/4 below the center. Don't fall to follow through. Use a six inch bridge and stroke the cue ball medium hard.