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Weekly News Analysis

Britain Drops 'Appeasement' But Policy Even Weaker Now

By Joseph W. La Bine



EASTWARD THE MARCH OF EMPIRE GOES
A week's supply of conquests and objectives.

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

Europe

It is easier to hoot at a boxer from outside the ropes than within. If the average U. S. citizen were an Englishman, he would be far less critical of a government which eschews war even if it means loss of prestige. But after eight months of a "foreign policy" which is more concerned with immediate convenience than permanent direction, the most peace-loving Englishmen are now beginning to believe Prime Minister Chamberlain might have achieved greater results with no more risk by holding to a steady course.

From the Czech crisis last September until mid-March, Mr. Chamberlain's "appeasement" cries grew progressively weaker as Britain and France strengthened their defense against possible aggression from Dictators Hitler and Mussolini. By March 1 the two democracies were strong enough to suggest dictating terms to the Reich, whose economic position had grown intolerably weak. Then, overnight, all semblance of "policy" collapsed. The events, in sequence:

(1) Hitler grabbed Czechoslovakia, whose boundaries were guaranteed last autumn by France and Britain. Mr. Chamberlain said it was no concern of his.

(2) Two days later Mr. Chamberlain suddenly whipped about-face, accusing Hitler of dishonesty and unwarranted aggression.

(3) Russia, for 15 years unwelcome in British circles, was asked to join London in a pact to "consult" in case of future German aggression.

(4) Britain reversed its course again and made no protest when Hitler occupied Memel, whose ownership by Lithuania was guaranteed by British-French signature of the Memel statute.

(5) Britain backed down on its pact with Russia, refusing any stronger measure than the useless "consultative" treaty.

The substance of these disjointed events is that Britain's "appeasement" policy has given way to no policy at all. It can well be doubted that London sincerely hoped its Russian overtures would have more than a temporary jolting effect on German territorial ambitions. For Britain still wants nothing to do with Moscow; in fact, the fondest Tory hope is that Germany and Russia will eventually lock horns, fighting out the issue of Nazism versus Communism to the ruin of both.

Congress

Europe's Czechoslovak and Memel crises (see EUROPE) have brought quicker, more definite reaction in the U. S. than most people realize. Last January, when President Roosevelt made timid suggestions that the present neutrality law should be changed, a terrific uproar ensued. The same uproar returned when he asked a special \$388,000,000 defense appropriation a few weeks later. But the new European situation has brought a remarkable show of inter-party solidarity, admittedly temporary, but strong enough to give France and Britain a strong moral support and warn Reichsfuehrer Hitler that he is not wanted on the western hemisphere:

(1) Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles received both Democrat

ic and Republican praise for his diplomatic protest against Hitler's seizure of Czechoslovakia.

(2) Neutrality legislation expiring May 1 permits "cash and carry" sale to belligerents of anything but war materials. Nevada's Sen. Key Pittman has asked that munitions be placed on the allowed list. Utah's Sen. Elbert Thomas would give the President power to designate an aggressor nation and forbid shipments to it.

(3) Washington's Sen. Homer T. Bone has offered, with bi-partisan support, a bill to tax profit out of war. The plan: Greatly increased tax rates would be imposed in case of conflict, lowering exemptions and imposing surtaxes on highest brackets ranging up to 93 per cent for individuals. Corporations would be taxed 100 per cent on net incomes over 6 per cent of their adjusted value.

White House

How to raise U. S. price levels is one of the administration's biggest problems. Republican laymen, and many Democrats, contend a retrenchment of federal spending would do the trick. But the White House places more faith in Marriner S. Eccles, federal reserve chairman, and Sen. Key Pittman, Nevada silver advocate. Even these two "doctors" find themselves at odds, however. During a recent public debate they outlined these two opposing paths to the coveted price level.

Pittman. Favors currency inflation, "since government billions

have completely failed to raise the price level." Believes federal reserve board's periodic increases and decreases in reserve requirements have had a bad effect on business. Eccles. Against currency inflation. Partially agrees it would help raise price levels, but fears new money would not be put to use. "Lack of opportunity to get a profit is the principal impediment to recovery today."

Whether the White House could pull a definite monetary program from such an exchange of theories is doubtful. But there are indications that the ideas of Mr. Eccles, famed advocate of spending, hold favor. President Roosevelt told his press conference that he refuses to cut U. S. spending until private enterprise guarantees jobs. Neither will he favor repeal of "deterrent" taxes, apparently, for he has mildly denounced advocates of a slash in the federal budget. But since Mr. Eccles is on record as favoring government action to "remove impediments to the encouragement of private capital," White House and Eccles do not jibe.

PITTMAN (LEFT) AND ECCLES
The doctors did not agree.

Politics

Smart politicians never count chickens before they hatch. But neither do astute political observers forget that it is a high-well impossible job to bounce a favorite from the saddle. Although more than a year remains before Republican and Democratic parties hold their nominating conventions, New York's Republican District Attorney Tom Dewey and Texas' Democratic Vice President John Nance Garner have emerged definitely as men of the hour.

Garner. Sometimes disgustingly independent to President Roosevelt, the vice president has led a powerful Democratic revolt this session of congress and today controls approximately as many house and senate votes as the White House. Though 70 years old, he holds the favor of Emil Hurja, astute party analyst who has indicated there is little chance Garner can be bounced from favor in 1940.

Unpredictable as his father, Texas' Elliott Roosevelt gave politicians a puzzle by announcing that Mr. Garner is "in the driver's seat, well in the lead as a likely Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1940." That Son Elliott holds White House favor for this remark is seriously doubtful. Franklin Roosevelt prefers not to run again in 1940 but will do so unless the party accepts another man who will and can

carry out his New Deal philosophy. John Garner would not be apt to do this.

Dewey. New York's district attorney lost the governorship to popular Herbert Lehman by less than 1 per cent of the popular vote last fall, but the mere fact that he lost—and that a few weeks earlier his case against James Hines had been tossed from court—cost Mr. Dewey much popularity. But since last November old guard Republicans have dropped from the picture. Moreover, able men like Michigan's Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg have shown disinclination to run. Realizing a candidate must be found soon, G. O. P. voters have unofficially settled on Dewey since he "came back" to convict Hines on the rackets conspiracy charge. Whereas a mid-February poll by the American Institute of Public Opinion gave Dewey only 27 per cent of the popular Republican vote, a month later he had jumped to 50 per cent.



ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT
Garner in the driver's seat.

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The war department has prepared a list of some of these "strategic war materials" and it has listed some of the most important, such as nickel, tin, manganese, rubber, etc. That is as far as it has gone.

It is true, and the swivel chair officers will stress the fact, that congress passed a law a few years back that was designed to encourage American production of these essentials. It was called, popularly, the buy-American act. It even went so far as to afford authority for payment of premiums, up to 25 per cent above foreign quotations, in order that American capital would go to work here on those essentials. But has anything resulted from it? The records answer, no.

A congressional committee also lately has answered "no" by drafting another bill to encourage production in the United States of these war essentials. The house committee on military affairs has reported a bill which Chairman May hopes will do the work, but even Chairman May is doubtful of its success. He is doubtful because, as he said, when the bureaucrats in the executive branch of the government do not want to encourage domestic production, they simply sit in their chairs and swing their feet back and forth.

Officials Unwilling to Learn From Other Nations

Those fellows in the executive departments apparently are unwilling to learn from other nations either. I came into possession of a document, for example, that made a confidential report to the national emergency council more than a year ago. It told that the British government had stored in warehouses enough nickel and tin for a three years supply to be used by industries manufacturing war materials. This was done by the British government, notwithstanding the fact that London is the seat of the great International Nickel corporation which owns the

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Bruckart's Washington Digest

Official Washington Is Watching Events in Europe With Uneasy Eye

State Department Voices Disgust of American People at Hitler's Dastardly Actions; Our National Resources Of War Materials Should Be Developed.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.— Obviously, official Washington, as indeed the whole world, has been watching what has been going on in Europe in the last few weeks. They have been watching with more uneasiness, more genuine fear, how Hitler has been expanding the Reich, seizing, crushing, stealing, new territory, subjugating new peoples, as his insane ambition leads him on and on. Those charged with official responsibility have watched because there can be no mistake about the dangers inherent in this wild remaking of the map of the world.

Our government has had the courage to speak out, through its department of state. It has said the Hitler action in overpowering the peoples of Europe, the minority races, is a dastardly thing. There was nothing else that could be done about it. Secretary Hull and Under Secretary Welles, of the department of state, have left no doubt in the minds of other nations, however, that we, as a people, are angry about what Hitler has done. But again: we can do nothing more than protest, because the United States has no business going to war over some other nation's troubles.

But while our state department has been getting on record with its disgust, and there has been a great to-do about strengthening our national defense just in case trouble would break out and involve us, Washington bureaucrats and some selfish elements in congress have been foiling correction of our greatest weakness. President Roosevelt has used his most patriotic voice to force action by congress in development of airplanes for defense, in construction of new battle boats and has moved strongly for production of equipment, guns, and the like.

Strategic War Materials That Must Be Developed

But with all of this hullabaloo, we have not heard nor seen any plans for development of our national deposits of raw materials which are used in the stock pile of war resources. It might not be so important were it not a fact that a score or more of these materials have to be imported. I regret the necessity for being so bold, but it is proper to say that our war and navy departments have advanced not a single program, or even a thought, as to how this nation could gain certain raw materials if we were to be involved in a war that would cut off importation of them.

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largest nickel mines in the world and does 88 per cent of the world's trade in nickel. The British thought it was wise to have the essential material available, when and if needed, and it had that conviction even with the largest nickel mine known now located on British territory at Suds-worth, Ontario, Canada.

Further, according to that report, the British were unwilling to leave the main nickel refinery on United States soil. It was moved to a Canadian spot where, according to the report, it would be "out of distance of any long range guns." The British royal commission which made the study added that while they and the United States are friendly and none can see any reason for that friendship ever to be disturbed, "no man can forecast the future."

"The shortage of nickel," said the report, "might be a weakness sufficient to determine the issue of a war."

I discussed this question of war essentials with various members of the house—Representative Murdock of Arizona, Representative Francis Case of South Dakota, Representative Scroggins of Nevada, among others. To a man they said that the will of congress was being thwarted by bureaucrats who are unwilling to encourage American industry. Mr. Scroggins, for instance, a former governor of his state and a mining man, told how the bureau of mines had reported there was no worthwhile nickel deposits in Alaska. The same agency has found no reason to encourage American capital to develop manganese deposits in the United States. Mr. Case has been trying to get congressional action on measures to get some use of the metal deposits of South Dakota.

Pleads for Money to Develop Mineral Resources

Mr. Murdock, also a mining man, made a plea on the floor of the house the other day for congress to provide some money enabling realistic procedure with respect to our unknown and undeveloped metal resources—so that we would know in case of war, if for no other reason.

"Since my school boy days," said Mr. Murdock in house debate, "I have been told that Alaska is a treasure house of natural wealth and economic resources. I believe we have been and are overlooking that fact in our dealing with that far off corner of our country. I feel that we ought to develop those resources; we ought to know more about them."

Mr. Murdock's statement causes me to ask the question: since it is our national policy (at present, at least) to spend billions of dollars under the guise of making war, why not designate some few of the millions for worthwhile national development?

Reference was made the other day to testimony given two years ago before the senate finance committee. I looked it up and found that the late Francis P. Garvan, then president of the chemical foundation, had caused an investigation to be made of Alaskan metal resources. The report brought in by a Wisconsin university professor, who did the searching and digging on the ground, makes one wonder what undercurrent of influence has prevented the development of metal claims, such as nickel and tin, up there. Very few of the national legislators knew of the testimony.

Buying for Reserves Would Start Brand New Industries

In my conversations among Rocky Mountain congressmen, I could not avoid the conclusion that capital funds held in the United States will not be put to work on such things without some encouragement from officials in Washington. I know that some representatives and senators are of the opinion that the federal government ought to offer to buy these war essentials here and disregard foreign sources. They believe that a commitment to buy for reserves, if made by the federal government, would start brand new industries going in many, many parts of the United States. All of the while, however, we have the bureau of mines and the war department sitting back and making it hard for Americans to develop America.

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Speaking of Sports

Yanks Happy As Di Maggio Settles Down

By ROBERT McSHANE

THE Joe Di Maggio who went into training with the New York Yankees this spring isn't quite the same lad who was so completely and enthusiastically booted from one end of the American league circuit to the other last season.

For one thing, Joe is working harder than ever this spring. A great natural athlete and an outstanding performer, he is just beginning to realize the gravity of his last year's mistake.

A review of the unusual situation highlights Joe's errors of finance and diplomacy. In 1938, at which time he had been in the league for only two years, the late Col. Jacob Ruppert of the Yankees boosted Di Maggio's salary to \$25,000. Joe demanded \$15,000 more, and refused to report to training camp until a satisfactory contract (to him) had been signed, sealed and delivered.

That didn't make the colonel happy. He felt that he had met Di Maggio more than half way, and if the youngster couldn't see it that way it was his tough luck. Ruppert

William Woodward has seen two of his horses gallop home victorious. Gallant Fox in 1930 and Omaha in 1935. This year his candidates are Johnstown, Foxlane, Challenge, Flarion, Thelsson and Johnnie. Johnstown is thought to be the most serious threat.

Ral Parr, whose Paul Jones won the 1926 event, will be represented by Ebonita, son of Flying Ebony, 1925 winner.

Winner of the recent Flamingo stakes at Hialeah Park, Technician will represent Herbert M. Wood's stable. Lawrin, Technician's stablemate, won the Flamingo stakes last year and from there went up to win the Derby victory. Both horses are sons of Inaco.

Speed King

JOHNNY BORICAN, 25-year-old art student at Columbia university, is one of the most amazing track discoveries of the past decade. The young Negro has chalked up three official and one unofficial world marks during the season.

In a recent 1,000-yard race Johnny established a new record. But that record will never get in the books, for the starter, Johnny McLaugh, claimed a false start had been made by Borican. Borican not only covered the distance in record time, but defeated Glenn Cunningham, who also was clocked faster than the existing mark.

His rise to international running fame came under the tutelage of A. W. Wisner, head of an Elberon, N. J., athletic club. Until this season Borican concentrated on the pentathlon, and didn't fare too well. Under Wisner's influence Borican centered his interest on the 660-yard and the 1,000-yard events.

The new cinder sensation has even tried the mile. Cunningham beat him over the mile route, but Borican has twice beaten Glenn at 1,000 yards. As yet Borican lacks the necessary endurance.

Sport Shorts

GENE TUNNEY called the turn in regard to the proposed Joe Louis-Tony Galento fight: "There's one battle I wouldn't care to see. Somebody might be killed, and it won't be Louis."

New Major Sport

BOWLING as a major high school sport was given a healthy boost recently when Chicago schools voted to award major sports letters to youths participating in active competition.

To bowling enthusiasts this was an important step, though by no means did Chicago establish a precedent. There are already high school leagues from Brooklyn to Beverly Hills, Calif., and from Minneapolis to Houston, Texas. Its importance is due to the fact that 10,000 Chicago prep school boys and girls are now competing in league play.

As much or more than any other sport, bowling is the ideal "carry-over" recreation. A student can continue to bowl for exercise, fun and good fellowship for the rest of his or her life. The majority of sports are either too strenuous or require facilities hard to obtain.

One of the game's most admirable features is that it allows for maximum participation. It calls for no unusual physical attributes and a scientific system of handicapping makes all prep bowlers equal.

Because it is a logical sport for popular participation, interest in high school bowling leagues will grow rapidly.

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Derby Winners

EDWARD R. BRADLEY, whose horses have accounted for four Kentucky Derby victories since 1921, has nominated only one horse—Benefactor—in his attempt to win his fifth Churchill Downs event.

Six other owners, who have each their horses win the Kentucky Derby in other years, will try to duplicate the performance when the race is held May 6.

Bradley's previous victories were scored in 1921 by Behave Yourself, in 1926 by Bubbling Over, in 1932 by Burgoon King, and in 1933 by Broker's Tip.

Mrs. Payne Whitney's Twenty Grand won the 1931 Derby. This year she has nominated Equilibrium, Hash, One By One, Toll and Toss and Third Degree.

Gala Hour and Book Plate will represent the Mrs. John Ritz stable this year, and observers are not too optimistic for them. They will attempt to follow in the footsteps of Reigh Count, who won the 1923 Derby and proceeded from there to have things his own way during that season. Neither Gala Hour nor Book Plate were impressive as two-year-olds.

War Admiral, famous horse owned by Samuel Riddle, carried off top honors in the Derby of 1937. This year Riddle has nominated Get Off, a colt whose successes last year were few.

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