Weekly News Analysis-Congress Speeds U. S. Defense: Okay Army Bill, Plan Big Ships -By Joseph W. La Bine-

EDITOR'S NOTE.-When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the spres analysis, and not necessarily at the newspaper.

Defense

On January 1, 1936, Japan scrapped her 5-5-3 neval treaty with the U.S. and Britain. Subsequently an arms race started on both land and sea, precipitated each time Der Fuehrer or Il Duce made an agressive step. In the U.S., even loud-mouthed congressmen were loathe to think of defense in terms of actual invasion until saff-right-cous Germany swiped Czecho-Slovakia and Memel. Two weeks later congress got down to talking cases, passing an unprecedented \$513,188,000 army appropriations bill in jig time after war talk like this in the senate:

Oklahoma's Thomas: "Every na-

Oklahoma's Thomas: "Every na-tion must be ready every moment... to defend itself."

Utah's King: "The only possible danger is from Japan, and . . . Japan is beating her head against a stone wall in China. Even if Ger-



SENATOR LUNDEEN He favored Hitler technique

many should defeat England, I haven't the slightest idea that would endanger us."

Indiana's Minton: "Germany night obtain Bermuda or part of

Minnesota's Lundeen: "Then let the United States seize Bermuda and Britain's West Indian possessions to force payment of her war debts. Andrew Jackson set a precedent in collecting a debt from France by threatening to seize French territory in this hemi-

Indiana's Minton: "That would e adopting the technique of Hit-

987,000 over the current year's appropriation, congress had next to propriation, congress had next to consider navy news from the White House. Admitting Japan's secret naval program was one reason, President Roosevelt approved two 45,000-ton super super-battleships to cost \$85,000,000 each, bigger than any yet conceived and capable of squeezing through the Panama canal with two feet to spare on either side. One good reason: By showing that the U. S. is able to out-arm any other nation, Japan might be forced back into a limitation treaty.

Present U. S. strength includes Present U. S. strength includes 15 capital ships (one nearing obsolescence) ranging from 27,000 to 33,000 tons. Six more are authorized. Britain has 15 capital ships in the same category, plus the 42,000-ton Hood and nine other boats underway. Last Japanese report (in 1936) showed 10 capital ships, none over 33,000 tons, and three un-der construction. Vague rumors since then indicate about five new super dreadnaughts of excessive ton-

Agriculture

Though the house approved an \$316,513,000 agriculture appropriations bill (\$499,500,000 of which is for soil conservation benefit payments) the measure was far more signifi-

the measure was far more significant for two exclusions:

(1) Parity. Not included in the President's original budget, but tossed in anyway, was a \$250,000,000 grant for parity payments. But no financing was provided, and the house seemed economy bent. Rather than resort to unpopular processing taxes the house voted against parity, winning disfavor of the potent farm bloc and a victory for the President, who insists extrabudgetary needs must be met with definite taxation. Agriculture leaders hoped the senate would restore parity; even so, an embarrassing situation apparently lay ahead. With no money, glum dirt farmers saw

only one way to pay off the government loans on which they have pledged 81,000,000 bushels of wheat. The way: To default, making the U. S. the world's largest wheat

(2) Cotton. Another rejected amendment called for \$60,000,000 "to develop domestic markets and subdevelop domestic markets and subsidize foreign exports." This obviously referred to the plan President Roosevelt broached a few hours earlier: To spend \$15,000,000 between now and August 1 by paying producers \$1.25 a bale (on 8,000,000 bales) for releasing their government-held loan cotton for sale on the world market. Though the 1939 crop will otherwise swell government-held surpluses to 13,000,000 bales, congressional economy apparently won. Said Virginia's Rep. Clifton Woodrum: "We might as well repeal the budget and the accounting act, and let pandemonium and chaos reign."

Meanwhile, far in the future, southern cotton farmers saw relief in the revolutionary "cottonless" cotton developed at Texas A. & M. college's experimental college. Said to produce an over-large, oil-rich seed without detracting from the grade of the lint, the new product made farmers wonder if cotton made farmers wonder if cotton couldn't be raised exclusively for oil,

Transportation

Among other things, U. S. rail-roads blame high taxes, bad busi-ness and unfair competition from other media for their present plight. Labor blames the railroads them-Labor blames the railroads themselves. Most people blame a mixture of geographical, economic and political factors, in which everybody's hands are partially soiled. When railroading reached a crisis lest; autumn and congressional aid became imperative, a flock of panaceass arose ranging from the Hastings "postalizing" plan to the substantial bills of Montana's Burton K. Wheeler and California's Clarence F. Lea. Both management and labor pressed their particular cases and after two months of haggling the issue seemed little nearer a solution.

The latest voice is that of Joseph B. Eastman, interstate commerce commissioner, who told the house interstate commerce committee that "the government must at least assume leadership and apply some form of compulsion." Whether Mr. Eastman's will be the guiding hand remains to be seen, but his comments were at least clarifying. After



ICC'S COMMISSIONER EASTMAN A guiding band?

attacking the apparent reluctance to consolidate or co-ordinate as "waste-ful practices," and after refusing to recognize any benefits from greater freedom to increase rates, the ICC member outlined a few high points for rail recovery: for rail recovery:

(1) The government should give concessions in taxation and relief in connection with grade crossing elimination and reconstruction of elimination and reconstruction bridges over navigable waters.

(2) Elimination of rate concessions to the government would save about \$7,000,000 a year.

(3) All important forms of transportation should receive "equal and impartial regulation," preferably under ICC direction.

While the house sped passage of a bill to facilitate voluntary rail reorganizations, Mr. Eastman pointed out that creation of a new reorganization court would delay rather than facilitate matters. His alternative: Give ICC charge of reorganization

Bouglas Fairbanks, ex-movie star, has been ordered to return \$72,186 refunded by the U. S. on income tax payments in 1927-28-29.

Europe

Few observers doubt that Adolf Hitler's ambition is restoration of the pre-war Hapsburg and Hohenzollern empires. Most agree, also, that his next step will be capture of the Free City of Danzig (now under League control) and the adjacent corridor which is Poland's only outlet to the Baltic sea. That Germany will get these concessions without a fight is further evident because Danzig is already 90 per cent Nazi; Poland, moreover, apparently recognizes her futile position and is ready to move into the German orbit rather than join a French-British-Russ alliance permit-French-British-Russ alliance permit-ting Soviet troops to cross her soil. Though German Ambassador Hans von Moltke has assured Po-

DANZIG LITHUANIA Baltic Sea PRUSSIA. GERMANY POLAND

DANZIG AND POLISH CORRIDOR

land of Germany's good intentions, Nazi press notes like these sound suspiciously like the start of another

Field Marshal Goering's Essener National Zeitung: "Polish attacks on Germans (in Pole territory) are an intolerable strain on the German-Polish treaty of friendship—democracies pull the strings!" (Similar allegations regarding German minorities preceded recent Nazi invasions in Austria, Sudetenland and

Deutsche Diplomatisch-Politische Kerrespondenz: The paper advised Poles to continue collaborating with Germany and not to listen to "foreign sirens" lest the results not be "advaptageous." The "foreign sirens" are obviously France and Britain.

The unhappy plight of U. S. employer-employee relations may be due either to (1) the Wagner labor relations act, or (2) American Federation of Labor's battle with Congress of Industrial organizations. Like an impatient school teacher, both congress and the White House have resolved to end this squabble, the White House by sponsoring A. F. of L.-C. I. O. peace talks, congress by amending the Wagner act.

When April 11 was chosen starting date for senate committee hearings on Wagner amendments, labor peace talks were in full bloom. But peace talks were in full bloom. But so strong are the workingman's feelings about the proposed changes that many a peace advocate thought hearings might have been delayed until labor's warring factions either make up or draw swords.

To amend the Wagner act, congress can pick from four sets of proposals, all opposed by C. I. O., three of them submitted by coherent factions with special interests:

(1) By Massachusette' San David

(1) By Massachusetts' Sen. David
I. Walsh, obviously favored by A. F.
of L., which opposes all other proposals: Curtail the national labor
relations board's power to invalidate
union contracts; require NLRB elections by craft rather than by industrial units. dustrial units; permit employer pe-titions for elections; permit appeals in representation cases.

(2) By Nebraska's Sen. Edward R. Burke, and supported by the po-tent, strike-weary National Associa-tion of Manufacturers: Require that NLRB have representative from la-bor, management and the public; outlaw deduction of union dues from pay envelopes; outlaw "coercion" by either employers or unions; es-tablish code of "unfair labor practices" for unions as well as em-ployers; forbid strikes unless a majority of employees approve; require all union officials to be U. S. citi-zens; permit transfer of "unfair la-bor practice" charges from NLRB to federal district court.

(3) By Oregon's Sen. Rufus Holman: To split NLRB's duties. Administrative and investigatory power would be vested in a labor relations commissioner. Final decisions would be made by a nine-member labor appeals board.

(4) By Kentucky's Sen. M. M. Lo-gan, supported by the National Grange and other farm groups: To extend exemption of agricultural workers under the Wagner act to processors and packers of farm produce.

Miscellany

Figured, by New York's Rep. Bruce Barton, that the stock market usually gains when President Roose-velt goes fishing or vacationing, usu-

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Find Joker in Department of Agriculture Appropriation Bill

It's the Soon-to-Be-Famous Food Stamps and Here's How Advanced Thinkers Think It Will Work; Billion Dollars Is All They Want.

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

long ago—six or eight years, per-haps—that the annual cost of the department of agriculture to the taxpayers of the country amounted to something like \$40,000,000. There to something like \$40,000,000. There was some talk even in those days about the drain upon the federal treasury resulting from department of agriculture operations. The totals were questioned; many persons wondered whether the politicians were justified in voting that much money to the department because there was little to show in the way of results. That is congressmen of results. That is, congressmen could show very little except the packages of seeds sent out to their districts.

was in those days, however, that the department of agriculture was seeking to operate effectively. Farming was not regarded by the folks who used to run the department as a subject for politics. The departmental officials were going about their business readaring as about their business, rendering as-sistance in the form of advice and

sistance in the form of advice and promoting better farming—when the farmers asked for it.

I was reminded of those days recently when the house appropriations committee brought out for consideration the appropriations bill for the department of agriculture for the fiscal year that begins next July I. A Rip Van Winkle who could have elect through the last 10 years. have slept through the last 10 years would have believed, truly, that he was in another world. The new money bill for the department contains a total of more than \$1,000,-000,000. The measure, indeed, ranks as the third largest appropriations bill of this year when altogether there is likely to be almost \$10,000,-000,000,-appropriated.

What Is Planned to Do With a Billion Dollars

It is extremely difficult to realize what a billion dollars is. That is, it is difficult for me to understand th is difficult for me to understand what it is. I can write the figures glibly enough. But to comprehend that sum of money, or a billion of anything, is something almost outside the pale of human knowledge. Yet that is what the department of agriculture seeks this year, and here is how that is how that money is supposed to

\$429,560,000 for soil conservation payments. \$250,000,000 for parity payments. \$191,000,000 for road building. \$21,462,000 for soil and moisture

onservation and operations, \$24,984,000 for the farm tenancy

\$7,175,000 for eradicating tubercusis and Bang's disease. \$6,996,570 for the weather bureau

and its services. \$4,978,000 for retiring submarginal

\$1,631,000 for soil and moisture investigation. \$1,500,000 for wild life restoration. \$300,000 for co-operative farm for-

\$250,000 for the water facilities

There were some other odds and ends embracing items of 20 or 40

ends embracing items of 20 or 40 or 90 thousand dollars, amounts so small that men almost smirk because they have forgotten how to speak in such limited numbers.

Then, and here is the joker which is hidden away. I really should not say "hidden" because no reference is made in the agriculture bill language. The joker is that there are almost countiess millions of other dollars with which the department can play around, including approxican play around, including approxi-mately \$100,000,000 of money for use in getting rid of farm surpluses. That is the money from which Sec-retary Wallace and his advanced

thinkers will draw funds for the soon-to-be-famous food stamps. The country got its belly full of blue eagles before the NRA was plowed under. But the undis-tinguished, yet besitting, end that came to the NRA blue eagle has not deterred the advanced thinkers from attempting something else that is blue—a blue stamp for relief food. Yes, relief workers will have the receive free blue stamps with which to buy surplus products for foods.

How Wallace's Men Think Blue Food Stamp Will Work

I must write a little bit about that blue food stamp, about how the ad-vanced thinkers think it will work, before I report on the main depart-ment of agriculture appropriation

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

It seems to be Secretary Wallace's idea of a more abundant life to designate certain farm products each week as being "surplus" and to help get them off of the glutted market by making them available for relief workers' kitchens. The first trial of the scheme will be limited to six cities. In those areas, the relief supervisors will be supplied with books of blue stamps. They are rather pretty stamps, too. Each WPA worker will get a book of stamps of a specified value. He can take those stamps to his grocery store and use them just like they were quarters, or half dollars or dollars. The groceryman will take them and he will be paid honest-to-goodness United States money for them. Thus will the surplus ey for them. Thus will the surplus stocks of food products be reduced and the remainder will bring better prices. Or so say the advanced thinkers.

When I read the explanation of When I read the explanation of the program that was sent me by one of Mr. Wallace's publicity staff, the first' thing that struck me was the extreme discrimination that will result. It is easy to see. Take any man who is trying to hold down a private job. It may be paying him only \$50 a month, or about the same as the relief worker gets. Naturally, he would like to be making more money. Who wouldn't? But he sticks money. Who wouldn't? But he sticks on his job and stays off of relief. Then, when he gets paid he goes to the grocery store to buy some food. He pays cash, and gets his food.

See Possibility of Creating A Lot of Bootleggers

There is another phase of the picture which was mentioned to me by Representative Hope of Kansas, one of the ranking members of the house committee on agriculture. He suggested that the blue stamps are going to create a lot of bootleggers. For example: the relief workers are not permitted to buy liquor with the stamps. They won't be redeemed if they are used to buy anything but food. However, Mr. Hope could see no reason why a relief worker couldn't use the stamps to buy liquor from a liquor store and the liquor store owner might possibly be a crook. It is possible, you know. He might own a food store, too, or he might have an understanding with a food store owner who would take the stamps at a few pennies. take the stamps at a few pennies discount. What is to stop such pro-

cedure? It's your guess.

The whole thing strikes me as be-The whole thing strikes me as being so silly as to defy one's powers of imagination. It is dealt with here at such length only because I regard it as typical of a great many things that are going on within the department of agriculture for which more than \$1,000,000,000 is soon to be appropriated for a year's operations. The blue stamp scheme is destined to fail, even as the plowing under of crops and the slaughtering of 6,000,000 pigs was doomed a-bornin' and as the limitation of crop production was certain to flare crop production was certain to flare back on those who were sucked into the maelstrom of nit wit plans.

Learn Beautiful Phrases But at Rather High Cost

I am not prepared to say that the wild life restoration program is wholly bad. It seems probable that the country ought to rebuild the wild life stocks that have been wantonly destroyed in the days when people could go out and shoot ducks or deer or what have you without thought of the morrow. It is a pro-gram for which considerable justiation can be advanced.

But it is to be noted that most of these items are small. Neither the department of agriculture adminisdepartment of agriculture adminis-tration nor the members of the house and the senate have seen fit to do more than maintain them. I have seen the inmates of the capi-tol squirm and fuss and scowl about some of them, while swallowing the items reaching into hundreds of mil-lions with the greatest of glee.

As I said, it was not so long ago that department of agriculture appropriations were regarded as huge if they totalled 40 millions. As far if they totalled 40 millions. As far as I can see, agriculture is no better off today than it was in those years. Of course, a very great number of farmers have learned that the beautiful phrases like "the more abundant life" and such, are meaningless. But I venture the assertion that the education has been rather expressive.

-Speaking of Sports-

'Hutch' Remains Level - Headed Despite Praise

By ROBERT McSHANE

FREDERICK CHARLES HUTCH-INSON, Detroit's \$50,000 pitcher, has one outstanding virtue which will do much to save him from his

mill do much to save him from his friends and well-wishers.

"Hutch" is a salid, unimaginative player. Much more so than the average youth his age, which is 19. Imperturbable and unemotional, the youngster has been the subject of more publicity pieces than any pitcher of his age in the history of the game. So far this spotlight hasn't dazzled him in the least.

Most of the stuff written about the Seattle youth has been in superlative praise. One author gave him the "pitching magic of Christy Mathewson in his right arm." Another article was titled "The 'Nothing Ball' No One Can Hit."

Hutchinson still has to prove himself in big league competition. Un-



FRED HUTCHINSON

questionably his admirers had very worthy motives in heaping praise on his head. But they also succeeded in putting the boy on the spot. To live up to his publicity would require the skill of a genius. If he fails it will be largely the fault of his friends who have, built him up into a pitching juggernaut.

into a pitching juggernaut.

He will need all his composure and steadiness. American league wits are practicing for Hutchinson. A high-priced and highly publicized player, he offers a fair target for their "riding." And they won't be gentle when they start ribbing him about his "nothing ball" and his "magical right arm."

Best in Minors?

Termed the greatest pitcher in the minor leagues last year, Hutchin-son's claim to that distinction-or son's claim to that distinction—or rather his friends' claim to that homor for him—can be disputed. Paul Trout, Sandcut, Ind., idol, won 22 games and lost 6 in the Texas league. Hutchinson won 25 and lost 7 in the Pacific Coast league. Trout's victories were gathered in three and one-half months of play while Hutchinson's were compiled in six months of competition. All in all, Trout's record for the year was the more formidable.

formidable.

Nevertheless, Hutchinson is a great ball player. He was beaten the blad school nitches. only once as a high school pitcher, twice as an American Legion pitch-er, twice while hurling for Yakima and seven times last year. That is

a great record.

His immediate future would be in less doubt if the superlative praise would come to a sudden end. Few things are as harmful to a young thiefe as extravagant, over-done

No. 1 Contender

Tony Galento, the beer vat from Newark tained his National Boxing ton ranking as the No. athlete as extravagant, over-done acclaim. His personal cheering sec-tion would do well to soft pedal its applause until the season is under

Sport Shorts

Sport Shorts

H ASKELL Indian institute has bowed out of the big time with an announcement that hereafter the school will meet only prep teams on the gridiron. Haskell, in former years, played Notre Dame, teams of the Big Six and the Big Ten... Prof. Herbert Olivecrona, Swedish brain specialist, says boxing is no more dangerous than any other sport, but that a fighter should retire from the ring for at least a year after being knocked out... Three Florida golf courses, abandoned during the depression, have been reconditioned and reopened... Stagehand, winner of the Santa Anita handicap and derby, was the leading money winner of 1938. Prior to that Joseph E. Widener sold him for only \$8,000 . . . Sixty-five year old Tom Sharkey, heavyweight contender in the days of Corbett, Fitz-simmons and Jeffries, is appearing as a strong man in the Golden Gate exposition.

Court Puzzler

BASKETBALL'S rules manipulators soon may be faced with another task—that of devising some method to make goal tending illegal. As the rules now stand any unusually tall player can station himself beneath the basket and with no more than a slight jump bat opponents shots away from the danger zone. This was thoroughly demonstrated during the past season by Mike Novak, six-foot-nine-inch center of the Loyola university team in Chicago. The altitudinous Mike stationed himself under the basket and when the

feet off the floor, and flip the ball away.

Novak's contribution wasn't only to the defensive side. His transactions height enabled him to tally something better than 10 points a game to Loyola's total.

Officials and fans are generally agreed that too great a premium is placed on height. It gives a player an almost unsurmountable advantage, demoralizing members of the opposing team. On the other hand they argue that it isn't fair to penalize a player because he happens to reach nearer the clouds than his fellow-athletes.

There isn't quite as much danger

low-athletes.

There isn't quite as much dange in the situation as is seen on the surface. A majority of abnormally tall athletes are physically handle capped in that they are often slow awkward and a trifle freakish. This is not true of Novak. Nat Helman the old Celtie hero and for 20 year coach of City College baskethall calls Novak a fine athlete and the best college player he has ever seen. The argument is one that can stay fresh for years. And it is doubtful it the rules committee will take drastic action on the question in the very near future.

Plus One

WILLIE TURNESA, national

singled out for the Metropolitan Gassociation's top honors when was ranked at plus one in the hon role of leading mashie wielders.

Wee Willie, the only amate member of the famous Turnesa going family, received the highest ranking ever accorded a New York player, indicating that in the ever of player, indicating that in the eyes of officialdom Willie is a stroke better than par every time he tees off.

The Metropolitan Golf Association's

ratings are sport's slipperiest pole. It's even harder to stay there. A ranking golfer has to produce in tournaments to keep h

In addition to the plus rating of Turnesa, there are three players rated at seratch, despite the slip of Ray Billows, who was dropped me stroke. At seratch are Frank Sirafaci, who defeated Turnesa in the metropolitan amateur championship final at Ridgwood, N. J.; Dick Chapman, amateur darkhorse, and John Burke, handicapped by M. G. A for the first time.

Rurke captured the intercollegiate

Burke captured the intercollegiate championship in Louisville, Ky. That feat shouldn't be underestimated, however, as Turnesa failed to turn the same trick in three years

of effort.

Bracketed in the two stroke handi win, John Parker, Mark St Jess Sweetser and Charles W

No. 1 Contender

Tony Galento, the animated beer vat from Newark, has retained his National Boxing association ranking as the No. 1 heavy-weight title challenger.

Association records show that Joe Triner, Illinois committeeman, voted to leave vacant the No. 1 post which the N. B. A. first awarded the New Jersey heavyweight last year.

Two-Ton Tony's high ranking position carries little glory with it, fie's merely been designated as tap man of a particularly minopressive selection of challengers. Committee members did not take themselves too seriously when they designated Tony to lead the list, They made it clear that Tony cannot be considered a very grave threat to Champion Joe Louis.

Heavyweight boxing's sorry state of affairs is evidenced by the first 10 ranking fighters. In addition to Galento the committee ranked, in order, Bob Pastor, Lou Nova, Max Baer, Red Burman, Maurice Strickland, Nathan Mann, Roscoe Toles, Johnny Paycheck and Tony Musto.

Not long ago the antics of these contenders would have been laugheable—at least as fighters they wouldn't have been taken seriously. Now they're the cream of the crop, which doesn't speak well for the crop.