Weekly News Analysis Axis Adopts 'Confusion' Plan To Force More Concessions

-By Joseph W. La Bineher tactics, reverting to silence. But several German troop trains have passed through Italy bound for Italian Libya, potential operations base for a Tunisian campaign.

Balkans. Italo-German thrusts converge here, focused on Rumania, Greece and Turkey. Docile tools of the Reich, Hungary and Bulgaria have massed troops on Rumania's border, threatening to strike if King Carol gets too friendly with Britain. Yugoslavia is neutralized, surrounded by Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania. From the latter point, and from Rhodes and other islands of the Dodecanese group, Italy could strike at either Greece or Turkey. Northeast Europe. Poland, fearful of invasion yet jealous of her independence, risks German invasion from north and west as the price for a military pact with Britain. Also to the north are Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, tools of the Reich and potential points of invasion into Poland. Likely sources of trouble here are Danzig, which seeks annexation by Germany, and the Polish corridor.

Western Europe. Mysterious German troop movements have brought

lish corridor.

Western Europe. Mysterious German troop movements have brought reinforcements on both sides of Belgian, Swiss, Dutch and Danish frontiers, any of which might be crossed in a brisk German coup.

Besult. Though forced by public opinion to stiffen, Mr. Chamberlain's government still hopes to woo Italy from the Axis and make peace by appeasement. Mr. Chamberlain will not declare war, which is the only alternative to a stronger foreign pol-

alternative to a stronger foreign pol-icy if the government would remain in power. This failing, parliament has become so hostile that Anthony

Eden, ex-foreign minister, is an ex-cellent bet to succeed Mr. Cham-berlain when the next crisis arrives.

In New York marine underwriters boosted war risk insurance. The treasury announced \$365,436,000 in gold fled to the U. S. in March, while \$49,000,000 more arrived in two mid-April days alone. At Rome, Mussolini Mouthpiece Virginio Gayda wrote in a caustic editorial for his Giornale d'Italia: "The United States should heed timely advice before those European nations (Italy and Germany) which have been chosen as targets by America, are forced to occupy themselves in the same spirit with American internal affairs." Back in Washington from Warm Springs, where he had promised to return next fall "if we don't have a war," President Roosevelt heard two cabinet officers (Hull and Morgenthau) warn that a European war is likely unless effective curbs are placed on Nazi-Fascist threats to the world economic structure. What his seemingly casual remark

VIRGINIO GAYDA

He offered edvice to the U. S.

Almost forgotten by war-mad Europe this month has been little Albania, whose conquest by Italy really started the cauldron boiling. While Benito Mussolini quietly made the tiny Balkan state part of King the tiny Balkan state part of King Victor Emmanuel's monarchy, Eu-rope became a frantic checkerboard of moves and countermoves in which harried France and Britain seemed hadly outmaneuvered. Biggest news came from the Balkans, where democracies concentrated on Gre-cian friendship while Premier John Metaxas quavered under threats of Metaxas quavered under threats of Axis invasion if he continued hob-nobbing with Britain. Finally, al-



GREECE'S METAXAS

though British Prime Minister Chamberlain offered a weak "guarantee" of protection to Greece and Italy, Premier Metaxas took pains to proclaim joyfully that Italy promised to respect the Greek frontier. This, he said, symbolized a "new period of Italian-Greek relations," but it was merely symbolic of how lesser European states, one by one, are bowing to the Axis rather than accept British "protection."

By mid-April the post-Albanian crisis had subsided but another was plainly in the offing. Newly strengthened, Italy and Germany are expected to jab soon at any of 20 possible points, confusing the democracies so badly that all dictator demands will be granted. Among possible attack points:

Spain. The civil war is over but Italian troops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in defence of the Italian Hoops are still arriving in the still arriving

alian troops are still arriving in effance of the Italo-British Meditermance of the Italo-British Mediter-mean pact. The excuse is a "vic-sy parade" on May 2, but shrewd d Field Marshal Henri Petain, hom France named its first envoy Burgos, has returned in disgust explain that he was snubbed and eated insolently, and that General ranco is a tool for the Axis. If its is true, Italy or Germany could that France's southern border, attack France's southern border, British Gibraltar or French Algeria from bases in Spain.

Mediterranean. Gaining nothing by howling for French Tunisia in northern Africa, Italy has changed

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . AVIATION — Round-the-world airplane tickets, placed on sale for the first time, are priced at \$1,785 for a trip requiring 14 days, including 11 overnight stops.

SHIPPING-A total of 165 vessels, aggregating 678,000 gross sels, are under construction in U. S. shipyards, compared with 106 ships weighing 389,000 tons last year at this time.

EXECUTION-Maj. Edward J. Dyer, retired U. S. army officer, suggested before the Washington Society of Philosophical Research Society of Philosophical Research that euthanasia (mercy killing) be adopted for aged indigents, hopelessly insane and diseased persons, children born as monsters and first degree murderers.

Justification: "One of the Ten
Commandments might be modi-

CATTLE—Because eggs bring only 11 cents a dozen, A. W. Ellsworth, dairy farmer at Hurd, N. D., is feeding his cattle eggnog, raising the "milk-fed" standard.

Time was when the ambitious U.

S. mother wanted her son to be a banker. But nowadays the hand that counts money keeps far less of it.

Today's ambitious mother should tutor her son (or daughter) to enter the motion picture industry. At Washington, the house ways and means committee received its annual list of top flight U. S. wage earners and their salaries for 1937, disclosing that Movie Magnate Louis B. Mayer led the pack with \$1,296,503 (\$1,161,753 as production executive for Loew's, Inc., \$124,750 as vice president of Metro-Goldwyn - Mayer).

Second place went to Loew President J.
Robert Rubin, \$651,123; third, Publisher William Randolph

123; third, Publisher
William Randolph
Hearst, \$500,000;
fourth, Loew's N. M.
Schenck, \$488,602.
Of 63 salaries topping \$200,000, an even 40 were reported by movie workers. Highest paid cinema star: Greta Garbo, \$472,499.
Highest paid radio star: Maj. Edward Bowes, \$427,817. Highest paid industrialist: International Business Machines' Pres. Thomas J. Watson, \$419,398.

One consolation for bread-and-butter workers is that the more a man makes, the more he pays the government. Sample: More than \$800,000 of Louis Mayer's \$1,296,503 probably went out in federal taxes. On net incomes of \$50,000, the government gets 17.7 per cent, or \$8,869; on \$1,000,000 it gets 67.9 per cent, or \$679,044. Often heaped atop this levy is a state income tax, like New York's, which ranges from 2 per cent of the first \$1,000 taxable income to 7 per cent of all taxable income over \$9,000.

Pan America

In late March Argentine officials reputedly discovered that Nazi agents were undermining their country. Papers unexpectedly printed a facsimile of the letter Germany's Buenos Aires embassy had written to the Berlin foreign office, saying: "We are able to annex Patagonia." Hardly willing to surrender a rich, unworked section comprising one-third of Argentina's territory, police dug for dirt, soon discovering a well-organized chain of Nazi centers directing the work of German agents, throughout the nation. Alfred Muller, chief agent, was arrested and charged with plotting against the state's security. More raids inland disclosed more Nazi communities, and after three weeks' probing it became evident Germany had probably committed a blundering tactical mistake.

Reasoning: Alone among the leasest South American nations.

tactical mistake.

Reasoning: Alone among the larger South American nations, Argentina has favored German barter commerce. The rest of Other America has eschewed it, knowing that Nazi political and military agents work hand in hand with Nazi tradesmen. Having discovered a Nazi threat to its security, Argentina is already clamping down on German imports, ready to join her neighbors in a solidarity declaration. Thus the Patagonian incident fits perfectly with President Roosevelt's often-experienced dreams of Pan-American unity.

American unity.

Meanwhile, several thousand miles away, Ecuador is worrying over the chance that Germany may seize the strategic Galapagos islands, which lie 1,000 miles southwest of Panama, and which California's Rep. Edward V. Izak recently wanted the U.S. to purchase as a naval base, and willing

Aviation

Some 4,100 miles southwest of San Francisco and 3,250 miles northeast of Australia, just south of the equator, are Canton and Enderbury islands, the former named for a Massachusetts whaler wrecked there in 1854. Both islands went officially unclaimed until March, 1938, when President Roosevelt saw them as a vital link in U. S. defense and a logical base for trans-Pacific aviation. When Great Britain disputed the claim it was announced last August that both countries would use the islands for commercial aviation, but not until recently was a formal treaty signed. Its 50-year provisions: U. S. and British administrators will reside there, exercising powers to intended, the President later explained was that "we" meant not the U. S., but western civilization. While a Gallup poll was reporting that 65 per cent of the U. S. population favored boycotting Germanmade goods, congress was busy creating a foreign trade program that would fight the Reich with its own weapon, namely, barter. Its gist: The U. S. would trade wheat and cotton surpluses for such strategic materials as tin and rubber. Since neither Italy nor Germany can furnish tin and rubber, the U. S. would be joining the Stop Hitler bloc economically by dealing primarily with Britain and the Netherlands. Moreover the move would jibe with "cash and carry" neutrality—being debated simultaneously in the senate—because the barter plan would give "nations which have control of the seas" access to American supplies as provided by the controversial Pittman resolution. Britain and France are those nations. U. S. and British administrators will reside there, exercising powers to be determined by consultation; American interests will build an air-port, to be used by British aircraft in return for a fee.

in return for a fee.

Pacific aviation is boomed by the pact, for Canton and Enderbury lie only-1,850 miles from Hawaii, directly on the route a ship would take to Sydney, Australia. Canton boasts a quiet lagoon nine miles long and three miles wide, ideal for planes. But aviation to the contrary, many a congressman was dubious when asked to ratify the ready. Reason: If Britain were involved in war, an attack on British property in the Pacific might force the U.S. to defend the islands, thereby getting its own feet in the international puddle.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Time Has Come to Pay the Fiddler New Tax Sources Must Be Found

Supreme Court Decision Opens Way to Tap Salaries of Federal, State and Local Government Employees; Never Has Nation Had Such Gigantic Debt.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

Pay of Federal Employees Tax Exempt for 69 Years

For the last 69 years, the pay of any federal official or employee could not be taxed in any form by any state or local government. Of course, there was no income tax during most of that time, either national or state, and during most of that time, as well, there was not the press for government revenue that now obtains. But, to repeat, for 69 years state or local governments could not touch the pay of a federal government touch the pay of a state or city or county worker, even after the federal government turned to income taxes as a revenue source. Some judge, somewhere, sometime, had said the Constitution prevented it. It was just taken for granted.

had said the Constitution prevented it. It was just taken for granted. All of that now has been changed, however, and if the pay of a county judge is sufficient to fall within the federal tax brackets, he will pay. It will be the same with everyone from the governor on down and from the mayor on down. It will be the same with federal officials and other federal employees stationed or live

federal employees stationed or liv-ing within a state that imposes in come taxes on its residents.

No one has yet calculated how much additional tax will be obtained by the federal government as a re-sult of the decision

Very important also, in my opinion, is the effect this additional tax will have upon the mind of the jobholder. You know, a jobholder very frequently is most willing, even anxious, to spend the taxpayers' money. It is one way by which he can curry favor, make votes for himself. I have a feeling that many of those jobholders are going to stop and think a wee bit more. He may possibly stop to think how much it will take out of his pocketbook. That ought to be helpful, because it ought to reduce the number of fiannelmouths going about the county or district, shouting for another bond issue before the ink on the last one gets dry. One of the results, therefore, possibly may be to cause that type of public official and advocate of "improvement" to favor living within the income of tax receipts.

To make it complete, now, we

within the income of tax receipts.

To make it complete, now, we ought to have the same kind of reciprocal taxation of income from federal bonds and bonds issued by state and local governments and their agencies. Mr. Roosevelt has said he believes these can be taxed—that is, those to be issued in the future—under present laws. Some very fine legal minds in congress believe, on the other hand, that creation of such a taxing right will require amendment of the Constitution. In any event, it ought to be done for the good of the country.

• Western Newspaper Usics.

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

WASHINGTON.—Court decisions as a rule are difficult things for laymen to understand. True, most everyone who hears or reads an opinion by a learned justice will know what the result is—whether one side or the other wins. But, generally peaking, the public as a whole fails to understand the full importance of a decision. It is not their fault.

Comparatively few persons are WASHINGTON.—Court decisions as a rule are difficult things for laymen to understand. True, most everyone who hears or reads an opinion by a learned justice will know what the result is—whether one side or the other wins. But, generally speaking, the public as a whole fails to understand the full importance of a decision. It is not their fault. Comparatively few persons are trained in law, and a good many of those only believe themselves to be lawyers.

lawyers.

For that reason, as well as the fact that many persons do not have the time or the opportunity to examine court decisions, I have been wondering whether it is clear exactly what happened when Mr. Justice Stone recently read the decision in the case involving taxation of federal and state employees. No doubt, most persons realized that Justice Stone had ruled there can be taxation of the salaries of federal employees by state governments and that the federal government may tax the salaries of state officials and employees and employees of lesser governments like cities and counties. But there is more to the ruling than the simple statement just made, very much more.

As a matter of fact, I believe that

As a matter of fact, I believe that As a matter of fact, I believe that those who were privileged to listen to Justice Stone that day heard an opinion that is going to go a long way in changing the course of government from the federal government down to the lowliest township. I think frankly that it will be several years before the full force and effect of that decision will be exerted, both nationally and locally, but I am definitely convinced that it will be felt and that it will have important effects upon governmental policies.

And beyond that, the decision told another story. It told the story that our national, state and local govern-ments are hard up for tax sources. ments are hard up for tax sources It actually shouted to all who would listen: boys and girls, your spending dance is over; now, it's time to pay the fiddler.

Never Before Has the Nation Had Such a Gigantic Debt

It can not be construed otherwise. Never before in our history has the nation had such a gigantic debt, a debt of more than 40 billion dollars. Never before have the states or the cities or the counties had such debts, where their state constitutions permit creation of debt, as they have today. I do not know of anyone who can give accurate figures on the debts of governments of states, cities, and counties. It is a tremendous sum. They have danced, and they, too, must pay their fiddler.

In the lush days when most folks

In the lush days when most folks were working and there was good business, the taxes rolled in and there was little or no thought about spending money for new roads, new post offices, new county courthouses, post offices, new county courthouses, new city halls, new bridges and so on. Money was spent rather liberally in those days. There were bonds sold, and the proponents campaigned for bond issues in a big way. They said, in effect, "Aw come on and vote these bonds. We can pay them off over 20 years and the little teeny added tax won't hurt." It probably did not hurt, in those days. But there came the depression and there came 10 mildepression and there came 10 mil-lion men out of work, and there came the worst business in a half century. Then, that teeny little bit of tax did hurt. The taxpayers weren't paying taxes, because they had no money to pay them.

There was, however, a debt. The destitute had to be fed and clothed. destitute had to be fed and clothed. First, the local authorities did it; then the states and then the days of the real dance began. Billions upon hillions were poured out of the federal treasury to be used for feeding and clothing and housing those whom the states and cities had cared for, but could care for no longer. And up zoomed the national debt. It was about 16 billions to start with because only 9 billions of start with because only 9 billions of the World war debt had been paid off. Since the taxes were not bring-ing in enough money, the federal treasury borrowed and borrowed

Now, They're Seeking Money To Pay Their Fiddlers

Now, the time has come to begin paying off the debts. The states and the cities and the counties have

Baseball Color Most Powerful Drawing Card

-Speaking of Sports-

By ROBERT MCSHANE

efficiently organized, professional and businessilke, still it is beyond their earthly powers to subdue those unconquerable souls who, by their odd antics, add vivid color to Amer-

odd antics, add vivid color to America's own game.

Baseball color isn't confined to the players. One of the best known agures of the diamond world today is Bill Klem, the "Old Arbitrator." Klem is the dean of all major league umpires, with more than 30 years continuous service in big league circuits. He has called 'em for no less than 17 World series. He is a man of supreme self-confidence, and once declared that he had never made an incorrect decision.

"Nary a one, Bill?" demanded ways of taxation. So, where shall we turn? was the question.

President Roosevelt has believed for a long time that it was rather silly that officers and employees of the federal government should not be taxed by their home states. He has believed, too, that the federal government should have the right to tax the income of those who were held to be exempt from income taxation because they worked for a state government, or city government or a county government, or some agency of those governments.

Likewise, Mr. Roosevelt has contended that income from federal bonds and income from bonds issued by state and local governments and school districts and drainage districts and irrigation districts should be taxable. He has thus far been unable to accomplish anything in this direction, and the matter was not before the court. It, therefore, did not figure in Justice Stone's opinion. Sometime, such taxation may be brought about. I hope so, anyway, because it is a proper subject of taxation, it seems to me.

But to get down to another direct result of the Stone ruling which, by the way, was supported by seven of the nine justices of the highest court, Pay of Federal Employees

"Nary a one!" he replied stoutly.

The famed "Klem line" is the real Maginot line of the Old Arbitrator's defenses against outraged ball players. When an argument



BILL KLEM

with a player reaches the white-hot stage and threatens actual hostilities, Bill Klem makes his line. With his right foot he draws a real or imaginary line on the ground between himself and the player. Then he backs away. There is not one player in the major leagues who has ever dared to cross that line.

"Baseball color" is clearly defended.

ever dared to cross that line.

"Baseball color" is clearly definable in the case of Klem, whose mannerisms are mostly unconscious, the accumulated personality of 30 odd years in the game. In the case of Joe Engel the color is about as subtle and unconscious as a five-alarm fire. Joe Engel is the whoop-'em-up manager of the Chattanooga Lookouts of the Southern association. Engel's idea is that baseball is just not baseball unless the grand-stands and bleachers are full of thundering, shricking fans.

Baseball Circus

Engel fills the stands by using everything except warrant officers and summonses. Among other things he has staged elephant parades across the diamond, hired brass bands and handed out free lunches to get spectators for the

The rags-to-riches angle adds color to almost any ball player. Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees is high in the gallery of young men who walked in the footsteps of Ruth and Tris Speaker. The slugging Yank star is not yet a rich man, but he's well on his way. His present salary is \$25,000 a year. Joe DiMaggio is the son of a San Francisco fisherman.

They Keep Fighting
More often than not the colorful
player is the aggressive, pugnacious individual who puts his heart
in his work and makes everybody
on his side of the field keep up with
him. Gabby Hartnett is that kind
of a player. So is Lippy Leo Durocher.

Gabby is a good hitter and a great catcher. In addition to that he is a noisy, jovial fire-eater, always on his toes and willing to put every-thing he has into each game.

thing he has into each game.

Durocher has been in the big leagues steadily since 1928. His batting average approximates only .250. Yet he's been on top for more than 10 years because of his ability to make himself important. He talked, scrapped and played with unlimited pep. He made himself valuable because he made himself colorful.

A colorful player isn't necessarily a crackpot. The players who really tickle the fans' risibilities are those who refuse to be regimented. And that doesn't imply even mild in-

Who's the Best?

King of Golfers



RALPH GULDARE

through the motions. But every time he steps up to the tee he leaves little doubt that he is the supergolfer of today. Especially when the class of the field he dominates is considered. He has won the Western Open for the past three years and the National Open the past two years.

In winning the Masters', Guidahl called his shot. Before the tournament began he announced that he would win it. His successive rounds were 72-63-78-63, for a total of 273, the lowest score by three strates in the six-year history of the most crelusive tournament of the game.

From the moment Guidahl steps up to the first tee the thought never occurs to him that he im't the world's best golfer. Which he very well may be.