

Weekly News Analysis

U. S. Seeks Peace Safeguards As Bulwark in Case of War

By Joseph W. La Bine



SENATOR JOHNSON, STATESMAN LONG, SENATOR PITTMAN
He didn't like . . . but he did like . . . his proposal.
(See CONGRESS)

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

Europe

Without waiting for Adolf Hitler's speech on April 28, President Roosevelt knew what reply to expect from his peace appeal. Benito Mussolini had already given the Rome-Berlin axis' answer in a speech at Italy's 1942 world fair ground. Though Il Duce publicly spurned Mr. Roosevelt's "Messiah-like message," he reminded listeners that Italy would not be sinking millions into a world war if she planned war. This sounded hopeful, but each day brings less diplomatic leeway to an already tense Europe:

Mediterranean. Internationalized Tangier lies opposite Gibraltar. Observers fear trouble because 40 German warships are now making unprecedented maneuvers in this area, also because Spanish Moroccan troops are massed nearby and thousands of fresh Italian troops are landing in Spain. Cruising nearby are French and British warships, causing Europe to talk about the "greatest naval battle of all times" off Spain's coast.

Another possibility: Powerful Portuguese Fascists are rumored working for internal blowup of Dr. Oliveira de Salazar's regime, uniting the entire Spanish peninsula under Nazi-Fascist domination without risking any international repercussions from an invasion. Thus would Germany get Portuguese colonies in Africa and the East Indies.

With the western Mediterranean in such powder-keg shape, the stage is set for another Munich.

Balkans. Chief public German activity nowadays is to recoup eastern



SALAZAR AND HOMELAND

(Map shows Iberian cities being visited by German warships in current mystery maneuvers. Also Tangier, international zone which the Axis may try to seize.)

European losses suffered at Anglo-French hands. With Turkey, Greece and Rumania apparently under democratic protection, Hitler has unsuccessfully invited Rumania to join the Axis powers. Shrewd Franz von Papen, last Nazi envoy to Austria before Anschluss, has been named ambassador to Turkey. Meanwhile, Italy has won a reiteration of friendship from Hungary. Premier Paul Teleky and begun bringing Yugoslavia into the Rome orbit.

Triple Entente. Countering these moves is a new effort to perfect an Anglo-French-Russian mutual assistance aid, stymied only by Polish and Rumanian refusal to let Soviet troops cross their soil. As a direct result of the new triple entente, emboldened France has threatened to march if Germany seizes the Free City of Danzig by force.

Congress

Self defense is a more basic tenet of U. S. foreign policy than either President Roosevelt's internationalism or congress' isolationism. How

ever it may be accomplished, John Public wants (1) to keep out of foreign wars, (2) to be prepared if he gets into one. Hence, despite optimism over the President's peace appeal to dictators, congressmen, defense chiefs and tradesmen find themselves sizing up America's political, economic and military preparedness for a European war:

Political. Under the neutrality act as finally amended, congress hopes to keep peace with the world. To the senate foreign relations committee, Bryn Mawr college's Professor Charles Fenwick uttered one of the month's most sagacious remarks: "I do not think there is any such thing as neutrality."

But plans persist, chief of which are: (1) Sen. Key Pittman's "cash-and-carry" principle under which any belligerent could buy all the war materials it wanted, provided it paid cash and hauled them away in its own ships; and (2) Sen. Elbert Thomas' sanctions plan whereby the President could designate treaty violators and cut off commercial relations with them.

After a week's testimony, jittery committee members were less optimistic about a Utopian neutrality. On the Thomas plan, Utah's wizened Sen. William E. Borah commented it would lead us into war, in fact, was a war in itself. Reasoning: Its "obvious purpose" is to cut off trade and starve a nation into submission, which is a choice trick of modern war makers. On the Pittman plan, California's equally wizened Sen. Hiram Johnson commented it would make the U. S. an ally of such strange bedfellows as Great Britain and Japan. Reasoning: In wartime, only these two nations could reach U. S. ports for cash-and-carry purchases.

In the end, cash-and-carry held most favor. Testified Breckenridge Long, former ambassador to Italy and World War undersecretary of state: "I am thinking of what would be best for the U. S., not what would help any other country . . . Cash-and-carry . . . entails no sense of discrimination by positive act . . ."

Economic. Assistant War Secretary Louis Johnson outlined instantaneous mobilization of manufacturing resources in case of war. Present status: Of 7,000 industrial items needed by a marching army, converted private factories could produce all but 55 within six months, the remainder in another six months. Present goal: To cache supplies to last a 400,000-man army six months. Biggest problem: To build reserves of 21 essential national-defense raw materials which the U. S. lacks, including aluminum, antimony, coffee, mica, manganese and tin.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Cordell Hull reviewed four years of U. S. reciprocal trade in contrast to Germany's unorthodox barter system. His conclusion: From 1934 through 1938 the U. S. boosted commerce with trade-agreement countries by 39.8 per cent; Nazi trade with the same nations rose only 1.8 per cent. As an instrument of foreign policy, reciprocal trade has been successful. Not so thrilling, however, were simultaneous reports on the first two months (January, February) of the U. S.-British reciprocal pact, showing U. S. purchases of British goods had increased while U. S. exports to Britain dropped under last year. Explanation: U. S. exports in early 1938 were above normal.

Military. Publicly booked to testify before the house foreign affairs subcommittee, exiled Col. Charles A. Lindbergh sprang a surprise by jumping from his steamship to a desk in the war department, there to survey all aviation research facilities available.

Science

In 1934 General Motors dedicated its Chicago World fair exhibit at a banquet where great industrial advances were prophesied, many of which came true. This year General Motors has another exhibit at New York's World fair. Giving another "prophecy banquet," Board Chairman Alfred P. Sloan Jr. culled statements from big U. S. corporation executives, forecasting everything from cities lighted by artificial suns to fool-proof, self-parking automobiles. Other features of tomorrow:

Truck crops produced in soilless "bathtubs"; television as vital as radio; chemically produced fuels and foods, with raw materials coming from farms; clothing so inexpensive it could be discarded when soiled; automatic machinery to perform routine jobs; dustless, air-conditioned homes; daily plane service from the U. S. to Europe at 500 to 600 miles per hour.

Most vital prophecy: Chemical advances which will postpone old age.

Labor

Broadly speaking, proposed revisions in the Wagner labor act would cut the national labor relations board's power and give judicial color to decisions involving employer-employee disputes. No. 1 reason for such amendments is that employers charge NLRB has not only discriminated against capital, but against the more conservative American Federation of Labor in favor of the newer Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Called to testify before the senate labor committee, NLRB Chairman J. Warren Madden protested so vehemently against employer charges that committee members were rather certain he favored labor instead of sitting on the fence like most judges. Yet he gave figures to back up NLRB's fairness claim. Exam-



NLRB'S MADDEN

Good start, questionable ending.

As A. F. of L. and C. I. O. broke even on cases which NLRB dismissed or were otherwise settled without the board's aid; of 94 per cent of cases adjusted without NLRB hearings, 42 per cent were won by employers.

(Simultaneously, Secretary of Labor Perkins released figures showing 1938 had fewer strikes than any year since 1932. Figures: In 1938 there were 2,772 strikes involving 688,000 workers, costing 9,000,000 individual working days; in 1937 there were 4,740 strikes, 1,860,000 workers and 28,624,000 days' idleness.)

Madden sentiments: "Employers and employees are learning to live together within the framework of industrial democracy." But the next day he spoiled a good impartial start by inferentially defending C. I. O. in a statement charging employers favor A. F. of L. Again plumping for pinkish C. I. O., he held an employer may not legally call a union leader a "communist" because, in turn, courts have often (but not as a general rule) restrained unions from advertising that an employer is unfair to organized labor.

QUIZ

If you read Weekly News Analysis, these questions will be easy:

- Identify: Breckenridge Long; Paul Teleky, Olivier de Salazar, Franz von Papen.
- There were (more) (fewer) labor strikes in 1938 than in 1937.
- What nation plans a world fair in 1942?
- Name three strategic raw materials which the U. S. lacks.
- How may cities be lighted in the future?
- What famous transatlantic flier now works in the U. S. War department?
- U. S. exports to Britain in January and February, 1939, were (higher) (lower) than U. S. imports from Britain?
- What European nation's independence is being threatened unexpectedly by Italy and Germany?
- What country owns Tangier?

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Signs of Impending Trouble for National Labor Relations Board

Advocates of Amendment of Wagner Act Grow More
Vociferous; Law Itself and Its Administration Cause
Widespread Criticism; Some Expert Stalling.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It was only a few years ago that any politician, seeking a harvest of votes, would rather have cut off his right arm than offend organized labor. In a close fight, the labor vote held the balance of power. Labor unions forged ahead with remarkable force.

But labor started fighting within its own ranks and there came the C. I. O. Rather, John Lewis, the leader of the mine workers, got ambitious and broke away from the old established and respected American Federation of Labor and gave birth to the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

So, many politicians, including President Roosevelt, turned to C. I. O., because it was modern, streamlined, aggressive. It appeared, for a time, that C. I. O. was going to be the big power among the workers. Having that advantage, C. I. O. went to town, as the football players say. Its strength was manifest in congress and under the impetus of C. I. O. force, Senator Wagner, the New York Democrat, brought forth the national labor relations act, under which the national labor relations board was appointed and began functioning.

That much is history.

But now there are signs of impending trouble for the national labor relations board. With its main support, the C. I. O., having its troubles in collecting dues, and with the peace efforts of President Roosevelt who sought to get union men of the United States back in one organization having failed miserably, the labor board is up against it. In fact, to summarize the situation in the homely expression of my boyhood home: it looks like the swash-buckling, defiant calf is just about ready to choke itself because of too much rope. It may not happen in this session of congress, but it will happen before long. Why? The answer is that organized labor, as represented by the Lewis faction, made the same mistake as greedy big business frequently makes. It became arrogant; it bit off more than it could chew. The reaction has now set in.

Demands for Amendment of Labor Act Grow Noisier

Advocates of amendment of the Wagner labor act have been knocking at the door a long time. Recently, the knocking has resembled sledge hammer pounding. A very large number of senators and representatives have heard it.

As a matter of fact, it was Mr. Roosevelt's efforts to get A. F. of L. and C. I. O. back into a single national union that has delayed the moves in congress looking to amendment of the labor law. C. I. O., having stood by the President when he was a candidate and having fought for his cause-time after time, was entitled to the President's services as a peace negotiator. Many persons thought there would be no chance at all from the very outset of the negotiations, and the affair did nothing to lift Mr. Roosevelt's prestige, especially in the rural areas where C. I. O. and sit-down strikes have much the same meaning.

While the administration's plans for a union reunion were slipping, there came that sensational verdict by a federal court jury in Philadelphia which assessed \$700,000 damages against the sit-down strikers in a hosiery plant. The damages were assessed directly against the men who did the job, and thus for the first time a responsibility, as well as a right, was given to labor. The right to strike long has been established and labor must guard it; never before, however, had there been a court determination that liability also exists if damage is done.

Act and Its Administration Causes Widespread Criticism

It is, perhaps, as much because of the terrible administration of the law as from the inequities of the loosely drawn law itself that the criticism has been so widespread. Hundreds of cases, coming before the board, have left employers with personal losses as a result of one-sided determinations. Labor unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, have repeatedly asserted they could not obtain justice if the C. I. O. figured in the situa-

tion. In any event, there are now senators and representatives sponsoring a hatfull of amendments to the law, and a large number of these amendments are being promoted by the A. F. of L. lobby at the capitol.

There is one amendment, for instance, that proposes to disband the present three-man board and supplant it with a five-man board. That, of course, is the political maneuver to get rid of people with whom congress is disgusted. The amendment is by Senator Walsh, Massachusetts Democrat.

Senator Walsh also has introduced several other amendments, one of which, in particular, is worth noting. It would attempt, at least, to eliminate "prejudicial delays." That sounds rather academic. It is, however, important because, according to the A. F. of L. explanation, delays by the board have worked, or have been used, to the advantage of C. I. O. If the C. I. O. was not sure that it had a majority, according to the other union, rather thinly disguised reasons for delays were brought up. Then, C. I. O. organizers would start their drives.

Whether the A. F. of L. charges are true and whether the criticisms of employers have been justified, it remains as fact that C. I. O. is now opposing amendment to the act.

Hearings Are Delayed by Various Stalling Maneuvers

Supporters of the law in its present form and defenders of the board as it is now made up succeeded for example in delaying hearings on amendments to the act for more than a month. They urged Senator Thomas of Utah, committee chairman, not to hold hearings while peace negotiations were in progress. They insisted that it was unfair to embarrass the President in his attempts to restore unity in the labor movement, and argued that hearings would bring bitter statements into print. Mr. Thomas yielded to the plea for delay, but eventually the pressure for action became too strong even for the Utah senator to resist.

And the friends of the law were right when they anticipated bitter words. Senator Wagner in his testimony spoke rather blatantly about critics being unacquainted with the purposes of the law. He felt, too, that there was no need for haste about changes. He rather hinted that there were some Ethiopian gentlemen in the woodpile, but failed to put his finger on them. He simply was standing pat about the whole thing.

A little later, however, the C. I. O. people named the terrible "conspirators" who wanted the act changed. The American Federation of Labor had "conspired" with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. There was the fine unseen hand, the Chamber of Commerce, big business, personified. It was the guilty party; it was speaking for the employers who want to grind poor workmen into the dust.

Say Changes Would Benefit Neither Labor Nor Industry

Finally, the labor board itself appeared before the senate committee and announced it had an "open mind." Its mind was so open that it submitted a document of 360 typewritten pages, analyzing the proposals for changes and arriving generally at the conclusion that the proposed changes were no good. In substance, the board said that the bulk of the changes being pressed "would benefit neither labor group, nor would they be of help to industry." Most of all, in the labor board's mind, the amendments would "conflict with the basic purposes of the act."

Thus, as the hearings were concluded and the committee seeks to do some deliberating on its own account, labor finds itself still fighting within itself, lacking direction and one could almost say, lacking purpose. It is too bad that there must be the same greed, the same thirst for power within the ranks of workers as there is among political leaders and heads of governments. Those fellows who play the game of politics can lose their jobs and the country is none the worse. But when political labor leaders play their games and lose, the pawns are the workers who have no means of protection.

Speaking of Sports

Boston Red Sox Seen as Threat To Yank Regime

By ROBERT McSHANE

WHEN the New York Yankees clinched their third straight American league pennant last year—to say nothing of the world series—the worry boys started working overtime. Moans of pure, unadulterated anguish could be heard distinctly from East Cape, Fla., to Tatoosh, Wash.

"Break up them Damsyanks" became the rallying cry for thousands of viewers-with-arms. The Yankees were too good. They were throttling baseball because they had a corner on all the talent. No one would be interested in a sure thing. Etc., etc.

Only one club ever won four straight pennants since the begin-



LOU GEHRIG

ning of organized major league baseball in 1876. The New York Giants, headed by John McGraw, annexed four National league pennants in a row from 1921 through 1924.

However, all good things come to an end sooner or later. The law of averages can't be repealed, and has just as much force today as it had before the Yanks started their rampage. One more thing—the luster of Lou Gehrig, one of the greatest first basemen in diamond history, is almost certain to be dimmed to the vanishing point this year.

Granted that the loss of one man won't break up the Yankee club. But it will be a serious psychological loss—almost as great as if Manager Joe McCarthy decided to retire.

In 1925 "Columbia Lou" started one of the most remarkable sporting feats in history, a streak of 2,123 consecutive games at the close of the 1938 season. During the past two seasons he played in 157 games each. His inevitable loss to the Yanks will be a serious blow to pennant hopes.

May Upset Yanks

Who can upset the Yanks? Most authorities are of the opinion that it can't be done this season. But there are a few who are willing to concede the Boston Red Sox an outside chance. And well they might, for the Sox have a lot of what is needed to turn over a well-stocked apple cart.

The Red Sox have the best spirit of any team in the league, and they're going out to win with a team entirely capable of annexing that coveted banner. The Sox are a young, hard-fighting outfit. They have one of the brightest assemblages of rookies in either league, including Ted Williams, the 20-year-old American Association batting king from the Minneapolis Millers, who will be stationed in right field, and Jim Tabor, a 330 clubber with the Millers a year ago. Tabor is being groomed for second base. Another—Woodrow Rich—is being tottered as a real find. With Little Rock last year, he won 19 and lost 10 and yielded only 2.47 earned runs a game.

Though there is considerable doubt about Lefty Grove, whose arm went "dead" last season, their pitching staff will be sufficient, even if the ancient Lefty does fade out.

The Yanks, who have cut three straight world series melons, aren't as hungry for the honors as the Red Sox. Three straight titles dulls to some degree the urge to win, and that spells dynamite for any club.

And it won't be the biggest surprise of the year, alarmists to the contrary, if the Boston Red Sox wind up the season about 10 games ahead of the Yankees. And the "break 'em up" boys would have to find something else to worry about.

That Man Again

CONVERSATIONALLY Max Baer has already fattened Lou Nova, disposed of Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis, and is in possession of ringdom's crown of supremacy.

Actually the enigmatic Maxie is on the comeback trail, training for a bout with Nova on June 1, and hoping for another match with Joe Louis—a match that he has not thus far earned.

He claims if Lou Nova beats him he will quit the ring for good because no Baer is "gettin' himself slapped happy."

In training quarters Maxie looks like the world-beater he really should be. A fine physical specimen, the wide shouldered, rugged Hercules seems to have all the attributes of another Dempsey. He struts and swaggers for the benefit of gymnasium customers. He isn't at all shy, and seizes every opportunity to tell how dangerous he is when aroused. The wise boys pay no attention. The uninitiated get a thrill out of it. It doesn't do much harm.

One of the severest beatings of Baer's career was administered by Joe Louis, and today Max is talking his way to revenge. He swears that he is ready—that he is determined to win out—that he will whip Joe Louis when he gets to him.

Maxie uttered the remark recently that he'd like to make a lot of guys holler "Uncle" for some of the things he said about his last fight with Louis. Baer's courage was questioned in many corners, and that hurt. In fact, his knockout by the Brown Bomber perhaps hurt him less than some of the resulting tales questioning his willingness to fight.

He now claims that his wife and little Baer have reformed him, have torn him from the prisonhouse path. Maybe it's true, but we've heard similar statements from Max in the past.

One thing can be said in his favor. He started training early,



MAX BAER

gradually working into shape instead of depending on his usual month of feverish preparation. He has quit smoking, and, unlike Two-Ton Tony Galento, will even drink a glass of milk without the forceful aid of his manager and a couple of roustabouts.

Turnabout

WHETHER or not Ellsworth Vines, who has forsaken pro tennis to concentrate on an amateur golf career, can ever become a successful golfer is a much-debated question.

Vines himself is quite optimistic, believing he will do more than all right for himself. Others, particularly golf experts, are not so sure. The former tennis notable qualified for the National amateur golf tournament last year, but went out early. He is of the opinion that if he devotes all his time to the links game he may advance further.

Perry points out, very logically, that Ellsworth Vines, the tennis star, playing around 75 is quite an attraction, but when he becomes exclusively the golfer he's merely one out of thousands who play about the same kind of golf.

If Vines carries his tennis tendencies over to his golf debut he will run into trouble. Vines has always tended to fold up when there was something at stake in a tennis match, and is likely to do the same when he is in a crucial golf test.

His tennis game went to pieces in National championship and Davis cup tests, and as a pro it crumbled in matches against Tilden, Perry and Hodge.

So Ellsworth may go back to the tennis courts after a year on the links.