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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Ironside Visit, Credit Offer Climb British Aid to Poland If Germany Moves on Danzig

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

Stifled Rumor

At midnight 40 military supply trucks from East Prussia rumbled into the Free City of Danzig, their heavy gray doors locked tight. Next day Nazi Leader Albert Forster returned from a conference with Adolf Hitler in Berchtesgaden. On Danzig's outskirts a Polish customs official was shot dead by a Free City officer. Both Warsaw and Danzig jails held a prisoner from the enemy camp. To top it off, the Danzig senate was reported planning to elect Adolf Hitler its president and thereby effect nominal annexation to Germany.



SIR IRONSIDE
He returned.

This background of hatred suddenly and mysteriously gave way to a rumor of peace which newspaper correspondents traced from Warsaw to London and finally back to their birthplace at Berlin. The rumor: That Danzig's problem is now subject to peaceful negotiation.

Both Poland and Britain denied it, and their explanations made sense. The rumor began spreading just as Maj. Gen. Sir Edmund Ironside, inspector general of British overseas forces, arrived in Warsaw for Polish-British staff consultations. Germany obviously hoped the peace rumor would split the consultants. Poland thinking Britain had sold out for a German-sponsored peace.

Nothing like that happened. To the contrary, General Ironside's visit offered the most firm reiteration to date that Britain is ready to fight for Poland's cause. It came sharp on the heels of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's guarantee to protect Danzig as well as Poland, plus offers of British credit to bolster Warsaw's rearmament.

RELIEF:

More Trouble

A big enough headache for one man was WPA's wage strike, which hit Administrator F. C. Harrington smack between the eyes. But no sooner was the strike settled than

Pictorialized



LITTLE WAR—Austrian German-speaking farmers in the Italian Tyrol refuse to be Italianized, yet refuse to be returned to Germany. A profitable tourist trade has been killed by Mussolini's order evicting foreigners from the Tyrol while he and Hitler "strong-arm" the Tyrolians into some sort of submission. Meanwhile Italy denies rumors that the area will be leased or ceded to Germany.



BIGGER WAR—Soviet-Japanese disputes in Manchukuo's Lake Bor region are minimized by a new dispute on Sakhalin island involving Japanese leases on Soviet coal and oil concessions. Sakhalin is owned half by Russia and half by Japan. When Soviet officials fined Jap concessionaires \$112,000 for failure to fulfill obligations to Russian workers, Tokyo claimed its prestige had been insulted and demanded that fines be rescinded. Both nations stood their ground.

Colonel Harrington faced an even bigger headache:

Under the "anti-career" provision in this year's relief measure, WPA must discharge 650,000 (one-third of all employees) by September 1. Although the law specifically states employees who have worked 18 months must take a 30-day "vacation," the holiday will probably be much longer. Reason: WPA's \$1,750,000 for 1939-40 will carry only 2,000,000 workers contrasted with 3,000,000 in 1938-39.

One good reason why congress may lose its adjournment enthusiasm is that dismissals and new wage scales will take effect just about the time weary solons would reach their home stamping grounds.

MICHIGAN:

Sin

Eighty-year-old Gov. Luren D. Dickinson came to office last winter when Republican Gov. Frank Fitzgerald died. A Godly man, Governor Dickinson amused veteran politicians, yet many a constituent found him refreshingly different. In June he attended the National Conference of Governors in New York, returning home to deliver a sermon warning mothers and daughters of high life evils in New York.

New York's Mayor LaGuardia called him "a senile old fool." Nebraska's Gov. R. L. Cochran thought the convention's only dull feature was Governor Dickinson's speech.

A week later the governor's sermon made bigger news. New York



MISS MICHIGAN AVIATION
New York woman's wicked

newsmen cornered 23-year-old Willo Sheridan who came east as "Miss Michigan Aviation" by the governor's own appointment. Willo made a good story. While shutters snapped Willo sampled Manhattan champagne and said: "I'm having a wonderful time here. I respect Governor Dickinson and think he's a very fine man. But I don't think New York's a very wicked city."

Back home in Lansing, Republican John B. Corliss Jr. started a recall petition against the governor because of his "recent sounding off about the evil he thinks he found in high places." While Corliss' fellow thinkers rushed to sign, the governor took them by surprise. Said he: "I'll sign the petition myself."

LOUISIANA:

Both Feet

A whisper of scandal started when Louisiana State University's President James Monroe Smith fled to Canada after allegedly bilking three banks out of \$500,000. The whisper grew to common gossip when Smith, LSU's Construction Superintendent George Caldwell, LSU's Business Manager E. N. Jackson and Dr. Clarence A. Lorio, president of the state medical society, were indicted on a total of 29 counts. This was only the beginning.

By mid-July federal probes were underway regarding (1) Louisiana's administration of the 1937 sugar act; (2) violations of U. S. oil regulations; (3) misuse of WPA materials and labor; (4) an unannounced subject under scrutiny by the U. S. treasury's department of revenues. Meanwhile five men made great by the late Huey Long were arraigned on charges of using the mails to defraud the state of \$75,000. The five: Dr. Smith; Seymour Weiss, political bigwig and millionaire; J. Emory Adams, nephew of Dr. Smith's wife; Monte E. Hart, electric company official who has received many state contracts; and Louis Lesage, oil official.

CONGRESS:

Prayer

"I am certain that from the time of adjournment until congress meets again, the President will pray as never before that there will be no new crisis in Europe."

Thus did White House Secretary Stephen Early help Franklin Roosevelt swallow his most bitter pill of the year, an agreement with congress to table neutrality legislation until next session. This agreement seemed premature, however, for the next day Secretary of State Cordell Hull received two resolutions from the senate foreign relations committee asking consideration of: (1) an embargo on all U. S. war material shipments to Japan; (2) renunciation of the U. S. Jap trade treaty.

This done, only the President's \$3,460,000,000 lend-lease bill barred adjournment. While carriers them-



JESSE JONES
Railroads remained silent.

selves remained silent, Federal Lending Administrator Jesse Jones endorsed the scheme to let railroads lease \$500,000,000 worth of new equipment. He also suggested they could offer bondholders RFC cash and preferred stock in exchange for outstanding bonds. Meanwhile Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., praised the lending bill as a "realistic approach to our economic problem" which would "put 500,000 people to work without adding to the tax burden or public debt." As battle lines formed, Senate Minority Leader Charles McNary conceded the bill would probably pass.

Also in congress: House conferees sought compromise between wage-hour amendments offered by New Jersey's Mary Norton and North Carolina's Graham Barden. Argument: Farming interests want processors of farm products eliminated from wage-hour supervision.

The senate passed the Logan bill, embarrassingly discovering in next morning's Congressional Record that it had subjected decisions of the labor board and all other quasi-judicial or quasi-legislative agencies to review by the court of appeals.

The house passed the bill of New Mexico's Rep. John J. Dempsey and Sen. Carl Hatch, banning use of official authority to influence elections.

The senate approved and gave the house a bill extending federal crop insurance to cotton farmers.

ENGLAND:

Wheat Armament

Even in 1931's crisis British wheat prices hit no lower than 3 shillings, 8 pence. But in mid-July of this year came a new low of 3 shillings 6 pence (about 49¢ cents per bushel). At this juncture a "preparedness" parliament considered a step which would at once relieve price pressure, eliminate surpluses and bolster defense. The move, suggested by Economist John Waynard Keynes: Appropriation of 100,000,000 pounds (\$468,000,000) for accumulation of war reserves in four categories of England's vital imports. About 234,000,000 bushels of wheat would thereby be purchased.

BRIEFLY...

IN NEW YORK, Gossipier Walter Winchell let it be known a reliable informant had told a secret: That 1940's Democratic ticket will be Roosevelt and McNutt.

IN WASHINGTON, Treasury figures showed the U. S. had an average deficit of \$22,300,000 per day during the new fiscal year's first 15 days.

IN MID-PACIFIC, an American ship helped rescue 209 from the flaming Bokuyo Maru, Jap passenger and freight liner.

IN TOKYO, British-Jap talks concerning British rights in China reached a hopeless deadlock and collapsed.

IN JERUSALEM, Arabs kidnaped Dr. Jacob Goldner, Cleveland minister, and his son, Gerould. Later they released Dr. Goldner to dig up \$5,000 ransom for his son.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Whole Farm Program for 1940 Is To Be Broadened, AAA Announces

Soil Conservation to Be Stressed; Increased Opportunities Given for Participation by Small Farmers; Folks Are Awakening to Fact Waste Must Be Paid For.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—A press release has just come to my desk from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. It outlines the farm program for 1940. That is next year. The statement from the AAA press bureau announced that the 1940 farm program was evolved at a three-day conference of "approximately 100 AAA farmer-committeemen and others interested," acting for all of the millions of farmers. It explained that the whole farm program is to be broadened, but I will quote the opening paragraph, which is, of course, official:

"Increased emphasis on soil conservation, increased opportunities for participation by small farmers and greater responsibility of administration by the farmer committees are included."

I have watched the AAA officials operate for five or six years. They are still struggling for that more abundant life and, therefore, I have observed the changes with some curiosity. Also, there has been a certain amount of humor in what they have done—not humorous for the farmers but for an onlooker whose life savings and hopes were not directly at stake. There never has been a dull moment. Sometimes, the antics have resembled the movements of whirling dervishes of the desert in their most fervent moments of prayer; other times have produced attitudes on the part of the officials and their underlings that strangely resembled a mouse-colored and very stubborn mule that my father once owned, and then, again, there would be forthcoming schemes so fantastic that only a person wearing the degree of doctor of philosophy could have read the words without turning to Mr. Webster's unabridged edition of the dictionary. They have gone from the doctrine of scarcity to the doctrine of some other extreme and most things in between, always requiring, however, that the farmer must sign up a contract with a lot of do's and don't's.

Just a Word of Praise

For AAA Administrators

That I may not be accused of being a common scold, let me give the AAA administrators a word of praise just here. The soil building and soil conservation phases of the program likely are going to be valuable although I fail to understand why anybody thinks it is necessary to pay a farmer to keep his own land in good shape. But, skipping my own thoughts on that, there is justification for governmental interest in helping to restore soil on a national scale because our nation is going on for a number of years — we hope.

Then, too, there is argument favorable to a policy of government encouragement in the planting of trees, a program of reforestation.

There is, of course, that famous "parity" business. There is a fund of \$225,000,000 which a bunch of vote-getting congressmen put into law. From it, the AAA officials can pay farmers producing wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco and rice certain sums if the price of these commodities is less than "75 per cent of parity."

We have had that one before and after many trials there are still many hundreds of versions of "parity." It has put the money out. There is no doubt about that. The AAA men made sure that all of it went out, but some of the methods of calculations, of appraisals, of discriminations among farmers, of do's and don't's and just plain bureaucratic regimentation make a fellow dizzy. I cannot help wondering what those who live a hundred years from now will say when they read the current AAA records. They may find some new words that will properly describe the mess.

Now Comes the Pay-Off

On the 1940 Farm Program

Next comes "commercial vegetables." There is to be designation, as this year, of "commercial vegetable counties," the designation, of course, to be done by AAA officials. Commercial vegetable farmers, after they sign up and do as they are told, will get payments, too, and I hope the arrangement will make the green onions that my wife buys from the commercial vegetable man who calls at our door somewhat less spongy.

And now, we give you the pay-off on the 1940 program.

Next year, any farmer who grows a vegetable garden will get \$2—two whole dollars that are still highly regarded by me—if he "co-operates" and does as he is told by the AAA master farmers. If he fails to grow that vegetable garden, he will be docked \$2. The government will get it, too. Uncle Sam's boys are good at that. To make sure about getting that \$2 fine, the AAA will deduct it from whatever other payment that the farmer has earned.

The regulations have not been issued yet so I cannot report to you in advance what you will have to do to get your \$2. The AAA may possibly tell you that you have to grow so many rows of radishes, so many hills of beans of two or more types—maybe some pole beans if you have planted trees under the reforestation program. Or they may tell you to produce so many yards of spinach, and there must be carrots and peas, because children must eat carrots and peas. And potatoes! I want to warn the AAA about potatoes. Maine and Idaho voters may kick about including potatoes in the list of "must" vegetables. In the South, there ought to be melons, for there is nothing like a good ripe watermelon. Medical men advise squash in the diet, along with rutabagas. As a special favor to me, I am going to ask that onions be included and planted alongside that row of tomato vines.

Will Extend Law as Far as

Language Can Be Stretched

Of course, as I said, the regulations have not been issued and so I do not know what will constitute a vegetable garden "within the meaning of this act," as the official rules will say. On this point, however, I think it can be said safely now that the regulations will extend the law just as far as human ingenuity can stretch language. The idea will be to embrace as many of the farmers as can be brought under the newest—and rawest—of the schemes for regimenting the farmers of the nation. None will be overlooked, except perhaps those like myself whose farm consists of a backyard some 60 feet deep wherein are crowded flowers that I love.

I guess that I will not get any payment for planting trees, either. But the real reason I resent this \$2 payment is that it represents a gigantic reduction in the price of votes. I think those AAA men haven't learned much about politics. They've gone sissy. The new price sounds like a fire sale. They ought to know that no votes induced by that price will pay put.

But to get serious about this thing, this new atrocity that is being put over in the name of farm aid, it ought to be said that never in all recorded history has there been any such thing attempted before.

Folks Awakening to Fact

That Waste Must Be Paid For

We have witnessed waste in more forms in the last few years than ever happened in our nation or any other. Folks throughout the country are awakening to the fact that this waste has to be paid for, because taxes are beginning to sneak up on them from the most unexpected directions. There will be more. Of that, there can be no doubt. Meanwhile, instead of slowing up federal spending, we find AAA paying \$2 for a garden. There should be something in the way of aid for those who grow window boxes.

It was only the other day that the treasury released final figures on its condition at the end of the fiscal year, July 1. Those figures showed that the government had spent \$3,500,000,000 more in the last 12 months than it had taken in by taxation. Shortly thereafter, a private organization issued a statement showing income and taxes of 163 great corporations. Those figures revealed that only about half of those corporations had made enough money in the last year to meet their tax bills. In some instances, the taxes paid by those corporations amounted to as much as three times the income that was left to them after they had paid their workers and their overhead expenses.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Speaking of Sports

Wimbledon Win Brightens U. S. Tennis Outlook

By ROBERT McSHANE

NOT so sure of themselves today are the many calamity howlers who bade tearful farewell to the United States' Davis Cup chances when J. Donald Budge, latter-day scourge of the tennis courts, turned pro.

It was a sad, unhappy time for his millions of followers when Budge succumbed to the lure of a \$75,000 a year guarantee. Amateur tennis in the United States, they croaked dismally, was all washed up. Budge was the only star worthy of the name, the only man who could give this country a fighting chance for the greatest of all tennis honors.

The recent Wimbledon tournament gave the prophets of disaster a terrific setback. Bobby Riggs, America's No. 1 disciple of tennis, defeated Elwood Cooke, another Yankee, in the all-American finals of England's great court show. The match was nip and tuck for five sets and then Riggs won out.

Riggs inherited the No. 1 position from J. Donald. Those experts who saw the Wimbledon matches declared that he is a much improved player. The hard-fought finals indicated that Cooke is pretty close to being the No. 2 racketeer, ranking a



BOBBY RIGGS

great deal higher than he did a year ago, when he was considered just another good tennis player. Twelve months ago Elwood was not considered seriously as Davis Cup timber. He was held in such low esteem that the brass hats did not think enough of him to send him across to England with Miss Marble, Miss Jacobs, Mrs. Fairley and Riggs. They gave him boat fare and told him to shift for himself.

Riggs, of course, hasn't been listed as the greatest player who ever appeared at Wimbledon. Which is remarkable in that it was said about Don Budge, Fred Perry and Ellsworth Vines. It was also said about Henri Cochet, Bill Thompson and Tony Wilding.

Von Cramm Absent

And it is also true that this year's Wimbledon match left one thing to be desired. Baron Gottfried von Cramm, who defeated Riggs 6-1, 6-0 at the Queen's club tournament, is considered by many to be the best amateur of today's game. Von Cramm did not play at Wimbledon.

Another United States hopeful is Frankie Parker. Remember him? A few years ago he looked to be a pretty good tennis player. Experts agreed that if Frank could polish up his forehand he would be near the top. But that forehand didn't seem to acquire much polish. Several months ago experts were all for dropping him.

Now comes reports from the West that Parker has at last discovered himself. His forehand has definitely improved. Going out to California, he discarded his old style and worked out a new forehand. In Chicago Frank won the national play court championship. Then he teamed with Gene Mako to win the doubles from Johnny Deeg and Wayne Sabin, both under consideration for Davis cup action.

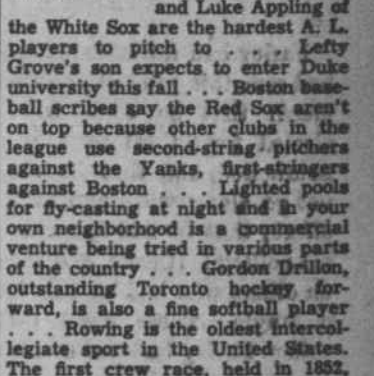
Another thing that keeps Davis Cup enthusiasts from figuring too strongly on an American victory is the fact that Australian players were occupied elsewhere. And long ago Australia was selected as the logical place to house the big-eared Davis Cup.

However, when Riggs, Cooke, et al start hammering the ball across the net, anything can happen. The boys might even win. Anyway, where once before was only gloom and despair, now comes through a ray of hopeful light. America still has a good chance of annexing this year's match.

Sport Shorts

LOU GEHRIG'S daily stint really isn't hard. He merely walks to the plate before each game and presents the lineup to the chief umpire.

For this he is paid \$277 daily. . . . The 20 first stringers on Northwestern's 1938 football squad compiled a B average in classroom work, all of which made Coach Lynn Waldorf happy. . . . According to Luke Sewell, veteran American league catcher, Charley Gehring of Detroit and Luke Appling of the White Sox are the hardest A. L. players to pitch to. . . . Lefty Grove's son expects to enter Duke university this fall. . . . Boston baseball scribes say the Red Sox aren't on top because other clubs in the league use second-string pitchers against the Yanks, first-stringers against Boston. . . . Lighted pools for fly-casting at night and in your own neighborhood is a commercial venture being tried in various parts of the country. . . . Gordon Drillon, outstanding Toronto hockey forward, is also a fine softball player. . . . Rowing is the oldest intercollegiate sport in the United States. The first crew race, held in 1882, was between Yale and Harvard. . . . Johnny Drake, former Purdue player who is now owned by the Cleveland Rams, is a special policeman at the San Francisco fair. . . . Big league pinch hitters aren't very fond of night baseball. They come out of a dark dugout into the brilliance of the field and too often find themselves easy prey for opposing pitchers. . . . Ohio State awarded 144 athletic letters last year. Football led with 31 and baseball was next with 19. Because Grover Cleveland Alexander allowed his dues to lapse in the Players' Benefit association while he was still in the majors, he is not eligible for help from the baseball relief fund, which is swelled each year by funds from the All-Star game. . . . Marquette university did not lose a football regular by graduation. . . . Lefty Grove's son expects to enter Duke university this fall.



Lynn Waldorf

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Fistic Svengali

JIMMY GRIPPO, manager of lightweight Mello Bettina, has added a new wrinkle to the honored profession of pugilism. Jimmy is the proud possessor of an "evil eye."

A genuine hypnotist and straight-of-hand expert, Grippo demonstrated his novel training technique recently in Bettina's camp at Benson, N. Y. Before every fight he hypnotizes his man, thereby giving him the courage of a lion, the speed of an eagle and the punch of a pile-driver. All in all, Mello is a very dangerous citizen when transfused with his manager's evil eye. Even his manager will admit that.

Grippo isn't fooling about the beneficial effects he says hypnotism has



Grippo Goes to West

on Bettina. He points out that Mello has suffered only one defeat since he began giving him the eye.

When this cauliflower Svengali goes to work on his leather-tongued Trilby he first puts him to sleep with the old hocus-pocus. Then he gives him instructions on how to gently massacre his next opponent. The black magic worked wonders until one night recently when Mello dropped a decision to Billy Conn for the championship of the 175 pound division. A second match is scheduled for this fall.

Only one handicap exists. Bill Brown, New York boxing commissioner, declared that Grippo must do his hexing act before the fighters enter the ring. That eliminates what might be, from the spectator's standpoint, an enjoyable double feature.

The boxing commission also told Grippo that there could be no more pictures of him hypnotizing boxers. "Maybe they're right," said Grippo, "they want to keep boxing serious. They don't want it to be like wrestling."

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