

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Allies Counter Nazi Air Might With Turkish Diplomatic Coup; Italy Seeks Balkan Supremacy

(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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THE WAR AT SEA

Will Nazi air might outpoint Britain's battlewagons?

THE WAR: Diplomacy

In early 1938 Germany's conservative Field Marshal Werner von Blomberg married blonde Erika Gruhn, a carpenter's daughter whom other Nazi officers termed "socially impossible." This month Erika Gruhn felt the news spotlight again in a British "white paper" by Sir Neville Henderson, pre-war ambassador to Germany. Wrote he to Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax: "I drew your lordship's attention (in 1935) to the far-reaching and unfortunate results of the Blomberg marriage. I am more than ever convinced of the major disaster which that—in itself—minor incident involved, owing to the consequent elimination from Herr Hitler's entourage of the more moderate of his advisers, such as von Blomberg..."

At Sea

In 1919 the proud but beaten German navy scuttled 72 warships in Scapa Flow (see map) rather than lose them to the allies. In the war of 1939, Germany remembered Scapa Flow. Day after Nazi raiders had bombed the Firth of Forth naval yard at Edinburgh, long-range airships, again set out (probably from Wilhelmshaven) and unleashed the full fury of Herr Hitler's air might against Scapa Flow. Five times in four hours they struck, damaging the old Iron Duke and giving Britishers a bad case of jitters. Next day press and parliament railed at Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain for sloppy defense work. The cries grew stronger when Chamberlain revealed the Royal Oak had also been sunk at Scapa Flow by a daring U-boat.

But Britain was not idle in this battle of airship vs. warship; she was merely less communicative than the Nazis, who boasted of their conquests. Next day Hollanders reported the Emden naval base had been bombed, and possibly Wilhelmshaven. Both Danish and Norwegian fishermen scurried for cover when the foes clashed somewhere west of Skagerrak.

Western Front

Whether by choice or convenience, French-British troops began fighting a defensive war whose principal feature was "strategic retreat." On the 100-mile northern flank of the western front, Nazidom's fighting men opened a vicious offensive which drove allied troops back to their main line. Paris reported one part of this drive, on the Moselle and before Saarbruecken, had cost the Germans 5,000 casualties in two days. The French were apparently content to dig in, letting Germany pay the cost of offensive warfare. But they were also waiting for a clearer definition of Russia's intentions. (See THE NEUTRALS). Meanwhile reports persisted that the 30 German divisions massed on the Belgian-Netherlands frontier were

not there to enjoy the scenery. The burning question: Will 1914's route of invasion be used again?

THE NEUTRALS: Search for Security

From Scandinavia down through the Balkans to Turkey, diplomats scurried madly after an elusive quantity called security. The reason was Russia, whose grisly head had been shoved into eastern Europe the moment Adolf Hitler opened the door. Although Moscow shipped 17½ tons of gold to Berlin (presumably Polish gold), and although German engineers were busy supervising the Soviet's new five-year plan, and the happy wedding of Communism and Nazism seemed to have cost both principals a lot of friends:

Balkans. Russian-Turkish talks in Moscow broke down and Foreign Minister Sukru Saracoglu left for Istanbul, presumably refusing (1) to close the strategic Dardanelles to all but Russian warships and thus imperil the allies' chances to aid Rumania; (2) to permit Russo-German domination of a Balkan neutral port; (3) to recognize the Polish partition; and (4) to permit expansion of Bulgaria and Russia at Rumania's expense. Next day Turkish friendship with the allies was cemented by mutual assistance pacts whereby France, Britain and Turkey agreed to protect the eastern Mediterranean. Meanwhile Turkish troops rushed to northern frontiers. Commented irked Germany, which promptly snuggled closer to Russia: "It can be taken for certain that other states of the Balkan entente will see in Turkey's attitude a



SUKRU SARACOGLU
Italy also watched his work.

renunciation of the preservation of neutrality..."
Baltic. Fearing that Finland might meet the fate of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, all victims of Russia's westward drive, the four Scandinavian powers (Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) met at Stockholm to declare their solidarity. President Roosevelt sent his best wishes, having received the day before an answer to his note to Soviet President Michael Kalinin. Said the answer: "The sole aim (of Finnish-Russian negotiations) is the consolidation of reciprocal relations between the Soviet Union and Finland." There was still no official announcement of Russian "demands," but everyone knew Russia wanted naval and air bases on Finnish-Baltic islands.

NEWS QUIZ

Know you news? One hundred to perfect score. Deduct 20 for each question you miss. Grades: 100, excellent; 80, good; 60, average; 40, poor; 20, —!!

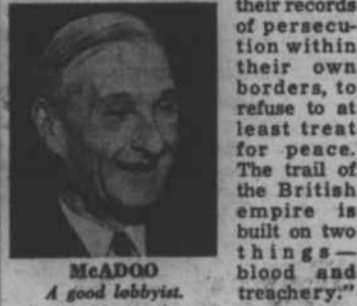


1. Above photo shows New York's Al Smith with his son. Why is the son, Al Jr., in the news?
2. What proposed U. S. trade pact are western senators fighting? Why?
3. What Latin-American nation, having been given the use of \$3,000,000 in U. S. gold, has ordered \$5,870,000 worth of railroad equipment here?
4. True or false: Under an unprecedented ruling, President Roosevelt opened U. S. harbors to all belligerent submarines.
5. What American automobile manufacturer has excluded Russian engineers who have been studying in his plant?

(Answers at bottom of column.)

CONGRESS: Budding Friendship

Three weeks of neutrality debate had passed before the word "fillibuster" was mentioned on the senate floor. Yet isolationists were making a fillibuster in everything but name. West Virginia's Rush D. Holt began vying with North Dakota's Gerald Nye as No. 1 speaker. Idaho's D. Worth Clark offered the best oratory: "If Germany is destroyed, her people will be driven into the arms of Stalin..." This holier-than-thou attitude of England is a pretext... It ill-behoves England and France, with their records of persecution within their own borders, to refuse to at least treat for peace. The trail of the British empire is built on two things—blood and treachery."



McADOO
A good lobbyist.

But behind scenes there was compromise on the two most debatable points. Repeal of the arms embargo was certain, but isolationists demanded "cash-on-the-barrelhead" instead of 90-day credits to belligerents. Shippers and seaboard states demanded that proposed restrictions on U. S. shipping be relaxed. One of the latter lobbyists whose word carried weight was former Sen. William Gibbs McAdoo, now a west coast shipping executive, whose call at the White House was followed quickly by modification proposals.

Key Pittman, administration leader, called his foreign affairs henchmen into council and observers were pretty sure they'd win most isolationists with these concessions:

1. Designating areas where U. S. ships could carry all materials except armaments, i. e., lands like Australia and New Zealand.
2. If a U. S. vessel is destroyed with loss of life, the President would automatically stop trade in that vicinity.
3. The U. S. would not support a shipper's claim against a foreign government if a cargo is destroyed.
4. Vessel masters would be required to give the U. S. a statement of their cargo, detailing consignees and scheduled ports-of-call.
5. The entire western hemisphere would be opened to commercial aircraft.
6. "Cash-on-the-barrelhead" would be imposed not only against foreign governments, but upon residents of those countries.

From such compromise, Democratic wheelhorses saw hope for 1940. If the President drowns third-term ambitions before congress opens next January, and if he avoids any new reform or spending program, observers were pretty certain the once-disheveled Democratic party would hang together against the foreign "enemy" until next year's election has passed.

News Quiz Answers

1. Al Smith Jr. is running for alderman in New York.
2. Pact with Argentina. Because U. S. manufactured products would be exchanged for Argentine farm products, allegedly working a hardship on American farmers.
3. Brazil.
4. False—definitely! The ruling was unprecedented, however, and it bans all belligerent submarines except those forced to seek haven by force majeure—an emergency due to natural or "act of God" causes.
5. Henry Ford.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Public Sentiment Grows Insistent To Keep Out of European Muddle

Unmistakable Change Is Going on Throughout the Country; People Make Known Their Feelings and Their Thought Is Thoroughly Reflected in Congress.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—While the Roosevelt administration continues to subordinate everything to the general subject of the European war, there has been an unmistakable change in sentiment going on throughout the country and in the capital city. It is inescapable to the barest eye of an observer. It represents a crystallization of that foggy thing called public sentiment.

The senate has debated the issue of repeal of the arms embargo to the fullest, but the debate has fallen short of telling the whole truth. There was an entire lack of any truly great speeches. Much additional light has been thrown on the whole question of a neutrality policy, yes; but I believe the senate failed to do the job in a way that history will measure as statesmanlike. The amazing fact is, therefore, that public sentiment should have solidified so definitely in such a short time, with a verdict that says: "We will stay out of that European mess; it is not ours, and we will not play their game."

It is always difficult to describe what takes place in the matter of public sentiment, powerful as it is in the United States. But it is easy to describe the condition, the status, of national thought as represented by an overwhelming majority of the citizens. In the current case, it can be told in two sentences. A few weeks ago, the big shots of government were saying: "possibly" we can keep out of war; the present statement is that "probably" we can keep out of the war. It is a vital difference.

The reason for this is obvious. People have made known their feelings. They have made clear that whatever else they may differ about, they are determined and united on the one proposition, namely, that we must not get tangled up with Europe's power politics. Further, existence of this sentiment has been thoroughly reflected in congress and those who would willingly toss our armies into the flame have begun to get scared about their own hides.

Clark Takes Wallop at Assistant Secretary of War

I must qualify that statement that all of the big shots have toned down their remarks. Several continue to shout in an inflammatory way. The best known of these is Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war. It is unnecessary for me to discuss Johnson's unwise statements. I can quote a real authority, for Senator Bennett Clark, the Missouri Democrat, dealt quite fully with the assistant secretary's utterances—especially that in which Mr. Johnson said that "if the United States were not fully prepared for war, it would be overrun like Poland." Of that remark, Senator Clark had this to say, during the arms embargo debate in the senate:

"In my judgment, no more idiotic, moronic or unpatriotic remark ever has been made by a man in high public office..."

"This is the same Louis Johnson who has been flying around the country in an army airplane for the last several years, preaching the inevitability of war and the certainty of our being drawn in and drawing horrific pictures with grisly prophecies of our shores being invaded and our own land being laid waste."

Johnson Reported Seeking Job of Secretary of War

It is no longer a secret in Washington that Mr. Johnson has been trying for months to get the job of secretary of war. He and Mr. Woodring do not get along, and have not for much of the time the assistant secretary has been on the job. The result has been continual friction, a handicapping of department policies and a general fear among army officers. They are afraid they will get tangled up in departmental politics and every officer knows if he guesses wrong, the chances of getting top flight assignments are nil.

As can readily be seen, such a situation in a policy-making agency of government certainly does the nation no good. It is said that President Roosevelt sees Assistant Secretary Johnson more frequently than he confers with Mr. Woodring, the head of the department. Whether that is true or not, it is a fact that the President has done nothing at all to settle the long-standing row.

Getting back to the senate debate, attention ought to be turned momentarily to the defeat of the motion to separate the arms embargo question from that involved in the "cash and carry" sections of the bill. Senator Tobey, New Hampshire Republican, proposed that the bill be split up, because there was virtually an unanimous vote in prospect for a law that would let American business sell ordinary supplies to both sides of the European struggle, provided the buyers came here in their own ships, paid cash for their purchases and hauled them away in their own vessels.

Short shrift was made of that motion. It was licked by more than two to one. The reason: if the "cash and carry" section were disposed of, there would be so much less interest in the arms embargo repeal that its eventual defeat would be entirely possible.

Old Party Whip Is Used To Keep Followers in Line

Which brings us back to the subject of politics. It will be remembered that President Roosevelt called for an "adjournment of politics," during the dangerous period. No one made the open charge in debate, but there were plenty of senators who felt that the President exerted pressure to keep his own followers in line. The administration's leaders were quite well aware that a titanic struggle confronted them to obtain repeal of the arms embargo if it were cut loose from the "cash and carry" section. So the old party whip was brought into play.

But all of the changes that have taken place in the country's thought have had one reaction in Washington that is not obvious to those living outside of the capital city. I have reported to you before how the little clique that surrounds the President—extreme radicals and men with dreams who know how they will disappear if Democrats instead of New Dealers are in control—saw in the possibility of war an assurance of President Roosevelt's election to a third term. They were rubbing their hands and licking their chops because they saw themselves certain to continue in their jobs, exercising great power. The lack of enthusiasm for their plans has left them with nothing to do but mope and sulk. Their strategy has been blown up under their own noses. They do not know what to do about it.

The question that now confronts the country, from a political standpoint, is whether the European war will run six months or a year or six years.

Farley Has Party Control Locked Up in His Own Safe

It has been noted, repeatedly, how the arms embargo debate has found many of the anti-administration Democrats aligned with the President, favoring repeal. Most of the senators whom President Roosevelt sought to "purge" from the Democratic party believe with the Chief Executive that the embargo ought to be repealed. Some few of the ardent Roosevelt supporters are standing against repeal. The interesting fact is that the intra-party row, among the Democrats, has had no effect upon the stand taken by the party members in the embargo controversy. And, thus, there has been considerable speculation whether there is to be a healing of the wounds. I think there will not be. The differences seem too deeply seated.

However, that may be, it can be said now that "Big Jim" Farley, who is chairman of the New York State Democratic committee in addition to being chairman of the National Democratic committee, has control of the party locked up in his own safe. If he chooses to align himself with the Garner-Harrison group, Mr. Roosevelt and his followers are through, washed up. If he decides to support Mr. Roosevelt again, the anti-Roosevelt Democrats will be tossed about like a straw in a whirlwind. It appears to this observer as of this time that the swing of public sentiment definitely against anything in the nature of American participation in the European war probably will mean a Farley swing to the Garner-Harrison side of the line.

Speaking of Sports Pro Gridster Backs College Rule Changes

By ROBERT McSHANE

WHETHER or not college football could be made a better, basically sounder game through revolutionary rule changes is a question upon which coaches and fans alike disagree.

Many coaches, and it must be admitted that most of them are of professional clubs, would like to have institutional teams adopt regulations governing the play-for-pay boys. Most college mentors are content with the existing set-up. Of course many of them have their own axe to grind—they would like to see a few minor changes, but on the whole are satisfied with things as they are. Heading the former group is George P. Marshall, outspoken owner of the Washington Redskins, who has called upon the college rule makers to save their game from going the way of the dodo bird by adopting pro rules.

An outstanding advocate of rules as they are is Amos Alonzo Stagg, the No. 1 Grand Old Man of American football, who entered his fifth year of coaching this season. Stagg is rounding out his career in the comparative obscurity of a small campus at the College of the Pacific at Stockton, Calif.

It is Marshall's claim that colleges are charging "fancy prices" but they are not giving the public the kind of a show it deserves. His interest in furthering the cause of college foot-



AMOS ALONZO STAGG

ball is by no means academic. He wants various school teams to play good football—and for a reason. It is his view that mediocre football kills off the interest of would-be customers. In other words, if John Q. Phan pays \$4.40 for a seat at a college game and then sees an inferior brand of football, he loses interest in the game, whether it be pro or simon-pure.

Uterior Motives?

Marshall charges that a great many college football rules were placed on the books for selfish reasons. Coaches who wanted to capitalize on their own strength or their opponents' weaknesses inaugurated a new rule. He charged specifically that goal posts were moved back of the goal post lines not to protect the players but to handicap the foes of rule committee coaches whose squads were scheduled to meet clubs with better kickers.

On the other hand, Stagg feels that the rules of the college game are settled to their permanent form. There will be no further rapid and radical changes. During his 50 years as a coach he has watched the game develop from the kicking to the carrying to the razzle-dazzle game. He remembers the 15-man team. He remembers when the playing field was first called a gridiron. He was on the Yale team when slugging was abolished.

Veteran Observer

Stagg has been a member of the football rules committee since 1904—a life member since 1932. He has been an integral part of the game's development. A review of his past 40 seasons convinces Stagg that there is still a good chance that one or two more major systems may be developed, and that there is plenty of room for development of new individual plays. Because of this, Stagg knows that rule alterations may be necessary. Both sides sound logical. Stagg's the more so because the advocates of rule changes have, for the large part, a selfish interest. They look upon colleges as farms for the professional gridiron, and therefore are anxious to have the collegians molded to their style as soon as possible.

Sports Shorts

JOHNNY MIZE was the second first baseman to lead the National league in batting in a decade. Bill Terry did it in 1928 and 1929. Lefty Grove keeps the ball ball thrown in each of his winning games. His major league batting average is up to .286... According to Connie Mack, was the only man who ever played baseball who could teach another man to hit... Oklahoma a university's entire 1938 team was in military service during the World War and returned intact in 1919 to win eight games and tie one in a nine-game schedule... Bill Jones, Nebraska's football mentor, has an all-time record of 173 as a coach... The average weight of Northwestern's football squad is 184 pounds, the average height 5 feet 11 inches, and the average age is 20 years... The Haskell Indians, who used to play one of the best college football schedules in the nation, now meet prep school opponents... Columbia, the world's largest university, has one of the smallest football squads in the East.

Heap Big Chief

ARTURO GODOY of Chile, a rough, rugged mountain Indian, will face Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis February 9 in that dandy gentleman's ninth title defense. It would be an exaggeration to say that more than 5 per cent of the nation's citizens have ever heard of Arturo Godoy. However, founder Mike Jacobs emphasizes that the Chilean twice bested Tony "Ball Out the Barrel" Galento during the Indian's U. S. campaign in 1937. Godoy, whom you'll recognize as being timid and reticent, shyly remarked: "I'll knock him out. He can't take it. But I can. I'll prove to the world that Louis is not the invincible man everybody tries to make him out."

Though he didn't underestimate his ability to absorb punishment, Godoy is really one of the toughest fighters of modern times, ranking along with Tommy Farr of Wales. He has never been knocked out, or injured, though he was stopped once because of cuts in a service fight.

Thirty years old, Godoy pushed his way into the limelight in 1935 by knocking out the tenth, decent Angel Firpo in the tenth round. Firpo, if you remember, was the brewer who knocked Jack Dempsey out of the ring in '23. Jacobs forgot to mention that the contender was outpointed here by Roscoe Toles and Nathan Mann.

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Gridiron Topnotchers

This continues a series of articles featuring outstanding football players from schools throughout the nation. Watch their records during the coming season.

Ralph Stevenson, University of Oklahoma guard, can claim a good share of credit for his team's championship showing in the Big Six conference last year.

According to deponents, his interference made Oklahoma's running attack function last year. He starts tremendously fast and runs well laterally. A fast charger on offense or defense, he knows how to apply the various blocks.

Aggressiveness with Ralph is almost a fault. It took two years of intercollegiate competition to show him the futility of his temper. During those two years he cost his team quite dearly in penalties. But Coach Tom Stidham declares him a better behaved player every year he sees action. As a freshman Stevenson spent a great share of his time in the showers, chased there nearly every afternoon for fighting. Since then he has learned to discipline his temper.

His football career got under way at the Ponca City (Okla.) high school, where he impressed coaches with his ruggedness, durability and, yes, his aggressiveness. Five feet 11 inches tall, Stevenson weighs 185 pounds. A senior, Stevenson was named on every all-Big Six conference selected last year.

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Ralph Stevenson