

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Belligerents Fight for Favor Of European Neutral States; 'Flint' Incident Still Simmers

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

THE WAR IN BRIEF

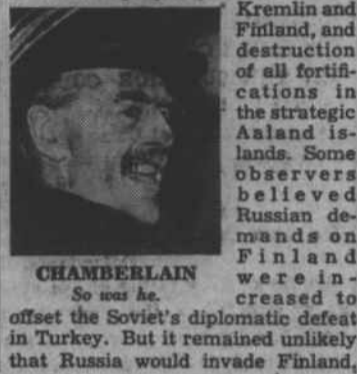
Unorthodox warfare continued on the western front, original positions being assumed after Nazi forces forced the French to relinquish early gains. Though 1,500,000 German troops were massed at the Siegfried line, any offensive must come immediately or not until next spring. Three solid days of rainfall left trenches half-filled with water and stranded the highly touted mechanized artillery. Then came snow and sleet.

Diplomatic activity continued at top speed, far overshadowing the actual war. Turkey's new pact with Britain to guarantee the eastern Mediterranean was the source of all efforts, which resolved into a frantic scurrying among belligerents to line up neutrals. At Danzig, German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop furnished diversions by lashing at British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain for "breaking promises." He also tried to drive a wedge between the allies by wooing France. Two days later Chamberlain replied just as scornfully. In the Balkans, Britain encour-

aged Turkish formation of a neutral bloc, using what some observers called poor strategy by apparently neglecting to consult Italy.

While the Reich wooed Rumania, Turkey and Hungary by threats, Britain was more subtle. Under consideration at London were trade pacts to assure the neutrality of Sweden, Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Turkey and Russia. To soothe the latter nation, Chamberlain agreed that Dictator Josef Stalin's invasion of Poland had been necessary for protection against German aggression.

Russia continued negotiations with Finland, but their nature remained mysterious. Finnish Foreign Minister Eljas Erkkö called "just as unfounded as all others" the latest report that Russia had demanded concessions in the Gulf of Finland, a friendship policy between the Kremlin and Finland, and destruction of all fortifications in the strategic Aaland islands. Some observers believed Russian demands on Finland were increased to offset the Soviet's diplomatic defeat in Turkey. But it remained unlikely that Russia would invade Finland,



CHAMBERLAIN So was he.

MARINE: 'Flint' Saga

German seizure of the 5,000-ton U. S. S. City of Flint bid fair to affect world commerce far more than all the 100-odd vessels which bombs and torpedoes have sent to the bottom since November 1. Carrying contraband to Britain, the Flint was seized by Germany in mid-Atlantic, taken first to Norway and then to Murmansk, Russia, where her American crew was reported safe. But the Soviet indicated Germany would get the ship, thereby relieving Joseph Stalin of bickering with the U. S. Most observers agreed the Reich was justified in seizing

position in another Flint aftermath. At Moscow, British Ambassador Sir William Seeds was given a note rejecting Soviet recognition of Britain's war contraband list because it violates international law.

CONGRESS: Victory, Then What?

If an isolationist filibuster was really delaying action on the neutrality bill, the City of Flint incident (See MARINE) was enough to end it. Next day the senate agreed to allow each speaker 45 minutes for the bill and an extra 45 minutes for each amendment. Lashed by acid-tongued John Nance Garner, who rebuked the senate for being a "horse-and-buggy outfit," battling solons called a truce to approve amendments (1) banning 90-day credits to either belligerent nations or their residents and (2) lifting shipping restrictions against American boats in the Pacific (except armament), Bermuda, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Tasmanian sea and Capetown. Rejected was an amendment to make President Roosevelt sole judge of the necessity for invoking neutrality. There was good chance another amendment would pass: To forbid any belligerent ship from flying the U. S. flag as defense against a foe.

As early as two days before the senate's final vote, Isolationists Borah and Nye conceded administration forces a two-thirds victory. But they were more hopeful about the house, where neutrality would run against pretty strong opposition. An attempt to invoke parliamentary rules (preventing amendments to the senate bill) was conceded little chance by argumentative representatives.

PEOPLE: Dies Coup

At Washington, Texas' Red-baiting Rep. Martin Dies achieved publicity with his list of 563 U. S. employees who are on a "membership and mailing list" of the pinkish American League for Peace and Democracy. In the house an argument brewed over the suggestion by Washington's Rep. John Coffee that Dies' un-Americanism committee be disowned for insinuating that all 563 federal employees were Communists.

At Phoenix, Ariz., the state insane hospital announced Winnie Ruth Judd, notorious trunk slayer of 1931, had escaped leaving a note: "I'm only going to see my father and my husband . . ."



THE REICH BREAKS LOOSE

Nazi raiders have broken Britain's North sea blockade to raid Atlantic shipping, and Britain cannot hunt them down without weakening her home defenses. Evidence of raiding: British liner Stonegate picked up torpedo victims at (1), was then torpedoed herself (2), probably by the Deutschland, which proceeded north to capture the U. S. S. City of Flint (3) and sail her to Tromsø, Norway, (4) where Stonegate passengers were dumped. City of Flint was then taken to Murmansk, Russia (5). In the heavily protected North sea (6) a convoyed Greek steamer was sunk, while three British vessels went down 80 miles off Gibraltar (7). A French sub reported driving five Nazi raiders to an African port (8).

the Flint, but few expected his next bold move. Berlin ordered a prize court hearing to determine whether the boat, crew or cargo should be freed.

Britain began crowing prematurely about her "speedy" inspection of neutral vessels by contrast with German blundering. U. S. skippers thereupon complained to Washington that Britain's contraband control was actually pretty bad, often taking 18 days to clear a boat. Result: A "gentleman's agreement" to speed inspection.

Obviously the Flint incident put Russia on a spot. By releasing her the American crew, Russia would snub an erstwhile ally, Germany. As it was, the Soviet incurred U. S. skepticism. If Russia again offers haven to a neutral vessel seized by Germany, the Kremlin might well be asked to tell how she stands in 1939's war.

There was a strong hint of her

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? Deduct 20 points for each of the following questions you miss. One hundred is perfect; anything below 40 shouldn't be bragged about.

1. At Muncie, Ind., a young man said: "We wouldn't do it again for a million dollars. Our legs became too stiff to operate the plane properly." To what was he referring?
2. Choice: New head of the wage-hour administration is (a) Elmer Andrews, (b) Fiorella LaGuardia, (c) Clark Gable, (d) Col. Philip Fleming.
3. For what purpose is the U. S. building 41,000 huge steel bins in the Midwest hog-raising states?
4. What European nation (the only one to pay its war debt) is trying to arrange a loan or credits from the Reconstruction Finance corporation to acquire agricultural commodities in the U. S.?
5. Why was President Roosevelt reprimanded for going to church?

(Answers at bottom of column.)

BUSINESS: Big Stick

At South Bend, Ind., the U. S. anti-trust suit against General Motors (for allegedly forcing dealers to use G. M. A. C. financing) went to the jury. In Washington three other prominent anti-trust actions were in the mill: (1) against the American Medical association, being appealed once more; (2) against Chicago area milk dealers, being weighed in the Supreme court; (3) against building trades, which may mushroom into a nation-wide probe. A fourth potential case centered against 68 life insurance companies producing 90 per cent of all ordinary life contracts, a situation frowned on by the securities exchange com-



A. A. R.'S PELLEY What is public interest?

mission and the senate's temporary national economic committee.

Against this background, Trust Buster Thurman Arnold popped a new issue: In District of Columbia federal court the justice department filed complaints charging the Association of American Railroads and 236 individual roads with violating the Sherman act. Cause for action was an A. A. R. resolution of June 25, 1937, which declared public interest would be served "if railroads refrained from establishing with motor carriers through routes or joint rates or fares which invade territory not served by such railroad and which is already served by one or more other railroads."

In Washington, A. A. R.'s President J. J. Pelley "welcomed the action in order that there may be once and for all . . . determined to what extent the railroads are permitted . . . to declare sound policies consistent with the public interest."

WHITE HOUSE: Boys Stay Home

Addressing the New York Herald-Tribune forum on current events, President Roosevelt added his thoughts on America's responsibility in Europe's war. He excoriated "orators, commentators and others beating their breasts and proclaiming against sending the boys of America mothers to fight."

News Quiz Answers

1. To the endurance flight just ended by himself (Robert McDaniel) and Kelvin Baxter, who flew 535 hours, 45 minutes.
2. (D) is correct. Colonel Fleming.
3. To store part of 70,000,000 bushels of corn now sealed under U. S. loans to farmers, most of which will be in the government's hands by mid-winter.
4. Finland.
5. For being present at the Hyde Park church when the pastor, having received a Bible from Britain's King George, prayed that the king might be strengthened to "vanquish and overcome all his enemies."

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Time for Showdown in Labor Situation Is Not Far Distant

Serious Reaction Follows Attitude of NLRB; Public Also Resentful of Conditions Caused by Union Leaders; Inquiry May Bare Startling Facts.

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

WASHINGTON.—There is every indication that the labor situation in this country—government policies, labor union policies, employer attitude—is fast approaching a new tangle. A reaction has set in on the part of the public to certain phases of the Roosevelt administration's earlier (but not necessarily the current) policies. Likewise, labor union leadership has produced certain conditions that are not finding public support, and there are still some employers who continue to make fools of themselves by following Eighteenth century methods.

I have suggested in these columns previously that the national labor relations board was riding for a fall. It was riding too high. There was bound to be a serious reaction. The board's arrogance, unfairness, overbearing attitude, its general contempt for anyone disagreeing with its conclusions were elements certain to lead to an eventual showdown. The time of that showdown seems not far distant.

The same type of mentality as that which jeopardizes the principles of the national labor relations act also has caused a blowup in the wages and hours division of the labor department—the division which administers the year-old law limiting hours of work and prescribing minimum wages. Administrator Elmer F. Andrews was the goat, and he had to resign. No one probably ever will know whether it was foolhardiness on the part of Mr. Andrews or the treachery of his subordinates that brought about the explosion. But explode, it did; and as a result, Col. Phillip Fleming is in the job of wage and hour administrator without benefit of senate confirmation of his appointment, although the senate is in session.

Lewis and Green Warfare Shows No Signs of Let-Up

No cessation of the warfare between John L. Lewis' C. I. O. and William Green's A. F. of L., is foreseen. The Lewis faction of organized labor continues to do a lot of things that do not fit into the picture of Americanism, despite a strong denial by Mr. Lewis that communists are in key positions. Mr. Green's organization is building up a magnificent record of fighting within itself. One craft is pitted against another, here, there and everywhere, with the result that people generally are getting pretty tired of having to wait to get work done because carpenters and bricklayers, for example, both go on strike over the question of which one shall do particular work.

The unhappy labor board has few defenders, any more. For a long time, the board, its attorneys and investigators were commonly regarded as an adjunct of the Lewis labor union. Surely, there was ground for such belief by the admissions that came from time to time, coupled with consistent and concerted attacks by leaders of the A. F. of L. Whenever it was necessary to make a choice between Lewis followers and Green supporters, it was an odds-on bet that the Lewis group's contention would be sustained.

All of this was followed ultimately by an attack from the C. I. O. on the functions of the board. That happened at the annual C. I. O. convention and came from Mr. Lewis. No one seems to know the real reason.

Expected to Examine Facts And Then Propose a Remedy

The house committee is headed by Rep. Howard Smith, a Virginia Democrat, who long has been noted for fairness. As far as his record goes, I believe it can be said that Mr. Smith has seldom been "anti" or "pro" on any question without first having facts. With him on the committee are Representatives Healey of Massachusetts and Murdock of Arizona, Democrats, and Halleck of Indiana and Rortznahn of Ohio, Republicans. "Mr. Healey is about the only member of the group who can be suspected of leaning violently one way or the other. Mr. Healey's record marks him as a New Dealer on nearly all occasions, sometimes without too much reason. I have heard Mr. Halleck praised for his fairness any number of times in house debate, and the commendation has come as much from Demo-

crats as from the Republicans. So, there is every indication that the investigation will be of the type that examines the facts and then proposes a remedy. Much evidence has been gathered, and will serve as the basis for further inquiry. Some of it is reported to be of a sensational character, but it is not Mr. Smith's idea that the committee is operating solely to make newspaper headlines.

Among other things, the house committee has sent out questionnaires to hundreds of employers, hundreds of labor leaders of both factions of unionism, and local officials, such as police chiefs and others charged with law enforcement. The purposes of the questions are rather obvious. With the statements from all of these sources, the committee believes it can sift out much chaff from rumors, complaints, counter charges and propaganda. Further, the committee wants to ascertain whether there is evidence that the board, itself, had any connection with labor disturbances and, if so, which of its personnel was involved.

May Uncover Facts That Will Startle Legislators

Copies of records in nearly all of the board's hearings are being examined by the committee staff. Board decisions have been under fire many, many times. It seems to have been the rule, rather than an exception, that the board was willing always to listen to C. I. O. attorneys and almost never pay attention to alleged facts which employers or others tried to submit. From this source, alone, there is every reason to believe the committee will uncover enough abuse of power to stun the legislators who fought for passage of a law which the administration described as perfect. In any event, if the principle of the labor relations act is to survive and become a workable part of governmental interference in relations between worker and employer, it seems that the Smith committee must produce the proper basis.

Concerning the wages and hours bureaucracy, however, there is less optimism that a sound solution can be found. Colonel Fleming is taking over the job, with feeling among all types of partisans at fever heat. That is a handicap. Mr. Andrews went in with wishes of good luck, but he had to administer and enforce a law that was loosely drawn, a principle untried. As in the case of labor board personnel, either through his own mistakes or because nutty individuals were forced upon him, Mr. Andrews immediately was surrounded by a sour group of subordinates. It seemed almost that if a wrong way to solve the problem was available, the wage and hour division folks would find it.

Another Army Officer Takes Job Outside Military Work

Colonel Fleming is the third army officer to take over a job outside of the military service, lately. First, there was Col. F. C. Harrington, who was made head of the WPA; secondly, Brigadier General Watson was made Mr. Roosevelt's secretary, and lastly, there came the appointment of Colonel Fleming.

It is rather hard to forecast how an army officer is going to deal with one particular part of the job now undertaken by Colonel Fleming—application of the law to certain types of farm labor and to businesses directly connected with farming. A number of organizations, affiliated directly or indirectly, with farm operations have been engaged in a do-or-die struggle here in Washington with Mr. Andrews. I think the mere change in headship of the wage and hour division is not likely to quiet those people, because the increase in wages that became effective October 24 represents the difference between profit and loss in most instances. Probably, the seers who invented the idea of federal control of wages and hours never milked a cow after dark or husked corn on a frosty morning. These conditions were not of the making of Colonel Fleming, but his is the task of attempting to reconcile an inflexible law with conditions that vary in every county in the United States. If he can succeed, some political party ought to nominate him as its presidential candidate next year.

Speaking of Sports

Reformed Red Infielder Gets League Award

By ROBERT McSHANE

A LITTLE more than four years ago, William Henry Walters Jr., third baseman of the Philadelphia Phillies, was persuaded to forsake his infelicitous chores and try a turn on the pitcher's mound.

Today Bucky, right-handed slinger ball star of the Cincinnati Reds, is the National league's most valuable player, an honor voted him by 24 members of the Baseball Writers of America, three from each city in the league.

Had that 1934 suggestion been made a few months earlier "Bucky" would have laughed it off. He broke into organized baseball and climbed up to the majors as a third baseman. The Boston Braves brought him up for his first big league chance, but he failed.

Then the Red Sox tried him, but again it was no go. As a hitter he was a distinct washout. He was a .350 hitter in the Pacific Coast league, but he couldn't prove that in the majors.

The Red Sox sent him to Philadelphia on waivers. Still he failed to make any impression on major league pitching. Johnny Vergez was holding down the third sack for the



BUCKY WALTERS

Phillies and Bucky couldn't displace him. Both Walters and Jimmy Wilson, then manager of the team, were pretty well convinced he wouldn't make the grade as a top-notch third baseman.

Wilson had noticed, however, that Walters put more stuff on a throw from third to first than some of his so-called pitchers. So he suggested pitching.

The Conversion

That was in 1934. Walters pitched every day in batting practice. He did look pretty crude, but had a fine teacher in Wilson—and also had a mind of his own. Before the season was over he had responded to treatment and had developed a good fast ball, curve and sinker.

He had no won and lost record in 1934. In 1935 he won nine and lost nine with the Phillies. The next season he won 11, but lost 21. In 1937 he scored 14 decisions while losing 15. The next year he bettered 500, winning 15 and losing 14.

Cincinnati purchased him in June of 1938 for \$55,000 and two players, Catcher Virgil Davis and Al Hollingsworth. This past season, his most successful by far, saw Bucky winning 27 games, balanced against 11 losses. He led the league in victories, in innings pitched with 319 and in complete games with 31. He struck out 136 men, walking 109.

'Hittingest' Pitcher

Though he'll never knock the league's leading hitters from their pedestal, Walters needs no one to pinch hit for him. Right now he's the "hittingest" pitcher in the big leagues, his lethal bat adding extra-base hits to a large assortment of singles to any part of the field.

To show the esteem in which Bucky is held, the committee of 24 sports writers gave him 393 out of a possible total of 336 votes. His worth to the Reds in winning 27 games was considered such an outstanding contribution to their success that his nearest rival, Johnny Mize, St. Louis first baseman, had only 178 votes.

Walters is well liked by newspaper men. Last July, after winning the first of a doubleheader from the Phils in Cincinnati, Bucky observed the second game from the press coop. During the game he pulled a brand new ball out of its carton and, almost bashfully, handed it to one of the reporters, saying: "Here, will you autograph this and then pass it down the line?"

Sports Shorts

SADDED were Indiana's football coaches when motion pictures of the game failed to show Cloc Maddox's 60-yard dash for a touchdown against Wisconsin. The film was being changed at the time. Maddox was none too bony; either

Max Schmeling, according to reports, has been ordered into the German army where he will serve as an artillery observer in the air force. Alabama Poly plays only one of its 11 football games at home this year. Syracuse university uses a glued football for the opening kickoff. Jess Willard, former heavyweight champion, is serving as greeter in a Milwaukee cafe. Three Ohio State gridlers are married. They are Fullback John Rabb, Center Claude White and Fullback Tommy Welbaum. Lee Ramage has enrolled as a freshman at San Diego State college, where he will coach boxing. Joe Hill, California boxer who had been a deaf mute since infancy, regained his faculties while sparring.

Willard, former heavyweight champion, is serving as greeter in a Milwaukee cafe. Three Ohio State gridlers are married. They are Fullback John Rabb, Center Claude White and Fullback Tommy Welbaum. Lee Ramage has enrolled as a freshman at San Diego State college, where he will coach boxing. Joe Hill, California boxer who had been a deaf mute since infancy, regained his faculties while sparring.

Powder Bowl Stars

WINNERS of the first Powder Bowl football classic at Western State college, Gunnison, Colo., are eager for new worlds to conquer.

Eleven upper-class coeds, charmingly attired in shorts, tennis shoes, regulation helmets, shoulder pads and jerseys, defeated a freshman-sophomore combination 11 to 6.

Biggest drawback of the game was the girls' difficulty in breaking up huddles. Though the players do not admit it, reports have circulated that too much time was wasted in making barbed remarks about the opposition's uniforms, many of which sacrificed style for safety.

However, everything is just ducky from now on. Alon Shanks, captain and quarterback for the winners, flashed with success, stated:

"I wouldn't be afraid to challenge the whole world."

Helen Ruth Wilcoxson, 115-pound tackle, was just as enthusiastic: "I love this football. I love to bowl 'em over."

Thanks to assistance volunteered by members of the varsity football team the girls came through with a wide variety of forward and lateral passes, and runs, line snatches, reverses, spinners and kicks. These blocking and tackling was rough, tough and effective.

Gridiron Topnotchers

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

Northwestern university's candidate for All-American football honors this fall is John Haman, rugged 218-pound, 6-foot 2-inch center who for two years has been the key man in the Wildcat line.

While his offensive ability, as far as passing is concerned, is well high 100 per cent, it is on defense that Haman has attained recognition as the outstanding center in the Western conference. Used almost exclusively for backing up the line (sort of a second full-back) Haman's tackling has time and again gotten the Wildcats out of tough spots.

He possesses almost uncanny ability in diagnosing where the opposition is going to strike and being there. This is true whether the play is going to be a smash into the line or a forward pass. He dropped back to intercept passes in six of Northwestern's eight games last fall. His interception of a pass set the stage for the Wildcats' touchdown over Notre Dame.

Haman, whose home is in Naperville, Ill., a Chicago suburb, attained prominence almost overnight as a result of his brilliant performance in his first Big Ten game against Minnesota in his sophomore year. It was the first game in which he started and he played 60 minutes in time in what was regarded as the prime sophomore performance of the 1937 season. His sharp accurate tackling in that game tabbed him as a future great.

Haman, whose home is in Naperville, Ill., a Chicago suburb, attained prominence almost overnight as a result of his brilliant performance in his first Big Ten game against Minnesota in his sophomore year. It was the first game in which he started and he played 60 minutes in time in what was regarded as the prime sophomore performance of the 1937 season. His sharp accurate tackling in that game tabbed him as a future great.