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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Russia's Ouster From League Is Empty Victory for Finland Because Geneva Is Powerless

(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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They Figured in the Battle of Nations



JOSEPH AVENOL

Secretary-General of the League, he called the special session at Finland's behest after the little Baltic nation was invaded by Russia. Purpose: To win League condemnation of Russia, possibly her expulsion, and the support of other League nations for Finland's cause. When the assembly agreed unanimously to offer Russia its mediation services, Avenol extended the bid to Moscow.



VIACHESLAV MOLOTOV

Premier of Russia, he replied bluntly by referring Avenol to an earlier Soviet message which said Russia considered Finland's appeal "unfounded"; that Russia did not consider herself at war with Finland; that Moscow was maintaining "peaceful relations" with the Soviet sponsored Finnish "peoples" government; that the regular Helsinki government no longer had authority.



KARL HAMBRO

League assembly president and representative of Norway, he was among leading pro-Finnish workers who urged for Russia's expulsion following receipt of Molotov's message. Rudolph Freyre, Argentine delegate, threatened to leave the League unless this action was taken. Finally such a resolution was passed and the council adopted it. Avenol was ordered to give the Soviet its walking papers.



JAKOB SURITS

Russian ambassador to France and delegate to the League, he packed his bags and left Geneva silently while the forces of democracy cheered. But observers wondered about the wisdom of this gesture. Would not Russia's ouster draw the Kremlin closer to Berlin and Tokyo, thereby cementing the pro-war forces and spreading the conflict? Moreover, had the defunct League gained anything?

THE WARS: Western Front

"Strangers are present," said Prime Minister Chamberlain, and 15 reporters were ousted from the gallery. A few minutes later the house of commons began its first secret session since the World war. Subject: "Organization of supplies for the persecution of war."

There was probably a lot of explaining to do. First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill was probably asked why Germany's \$20,000,000 Bremen was allowed to slip through the blockade and reach

fight. Same day, however, this gain was offset when the British destroyer *Duchess* collided with another warship and went down with 122 men.

Intensified warfare was also seen on the Western front, where Nazi raiders provided a mysterious touch by attacking at night wearing black hoods and cloaks.

Northern Front

Russia could not blame little Finland for the loss of her steamer *Indigirka*, which went down off the coast of far-away Japan with a loss of probably 700 lives. But the Kremlin did put that Finland's white-clad ski units were "using bandit tactics in sudden attacks."

Wrote one war correspondent to his Moscow paper: "The enemy does not engage in open battle. Hidden under white robes, they suddenly dart from the woods to shoot at our advancing units. Then in all haste they run, frequently taking off their boots to ski into their stockings."

Finally, after 14 days of ignominious defeat, the Russians reportedly rushed up 1,500,000 men and 1,000 airplanes to bisect little Finland, whose troops were slaughtering hundreds of Reds each day, disabling tanks and capturing light artillery pieces. Britain announced she would send war materials to aid the Helsinki government, while Italy continued sending planes and pilots.

BUSINESS: Asphyxiation

Ever since its passage the 1935 public utility holding company act has been fought tooth and nail by America's No. 1 holding company, Associated Gas and Electric company. Last year a senate investigating committee was outsmarted in its sensational search for mysterious H. C. Hopson, Associated Gas' guiding spirit.

Crux of the holding company act is a "death sentence" clause providing for integration of all utility systems geographically and economically. This month, its long argument apparently lost, Associated Gas asphyxiated itself. Resigned "because of ill health" was President J. I. Mange, replaced by Roger J. Whiteford. Said the new chief: "It is my purpose to give my attention at once to simplification of the corporate system . . . integration or consolidation of its properties . . . and adjustment of the voting power . . ."



SIR JOHN SIMON

Hamburg, homeward bound from Murmansk.

(The admiralty had announced a British submarine had sighted the Bremen but did not attack because it would have broken international law. Germany scoffed at this report, but failed to tell why the Bremen was called home so suddenly from the alleged safety of a Russian port.)

Sir John Simon probably had to explain why Britain and France had merged their economic structure into what English financiers called an "unbreakable combination of financial power." But aside from these matters, the allies could be fairly well pleased with the war's progress.

Day after Germany had announced her war aim was "military destruction of the enemy," three British cruisers sent the Nazi raider *Admiral Graf Spee* limping into the harbor of Montevideo, Uruguay, with 36 dead after a 14-hour running

TREND

SLASHED—Cotton export subsidy rate, for second time in a week, from four-tenths of a cent to two-tenths of a cent.

MODIFIED—To pacify Nazis, Sweden formed a new government under Premier Albin Hansson, retiring Foreign Minister Richard Sandler who had drawn German wrath.

EXCLUDED—Mexican participation in the new low tariff on U. S. crude oil imports, as provided in the new trade pact with Venezuela. Reason: Mexico has expropriated U. S.-owned oil wells.

RAISED—U. S. tariffs on imports from Danzig and Poland, now controlled by Germany, which pays a higher duty on exports to the U. S. than any other nation.

WHITE HOUSE: Trade Pact

At his press conference President Roosevelt nosed his ship of state smack into a brewing storm that will break soon after congress convenes. He agreed with Secretary Cordell Hull that the reciprocal trade treaty act should be renewed in 1940. Though the act has been attacked by most Republicans, many Democrats and a growing body of farmers, Mr. Roosevelt said it has resulted in many American export gains. The President also:

Received a message from Finnish President Kyosti Kallio thanking him for his sympathy toward Finland. (The President announced the Red Cross is sending \$500,000 for Finnish aid; meanwhile the Finns were negotiating to buy gas masks here.)

Attended the White House diplomatic reception where assembled the Washington envoys of warring Finland and Russia, Germany and France, Japan and China.

THE NEUTRALS: Flight From Rome

In non-warring European nations, news was made by:

Russia's Ambassador to Italy Nicolai Gorelchin, who arrived in Rome just as Soviet troops reached the Finnish frontier, and left abruptly for home without waiting to present his credentials. Reason: Unformed young Fascists have stormed Rome's Russian embassy daily, protesting the Finnish invasion.

Italy's Editor Virginio Gayda, who hinted how Britain might woo and win his nation's support. Said he: Italy must have "certain few exits," all of which (Dardanelles, Suez and Gibraltar) are now controlled by Britain.

An explosion in Rumania's cellulose plant at Zarnesti, killing 80, injuring 200. Following quick on the heels of train wrecks and oil plant fires, the incident was blamed on "foreign agents."

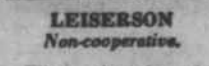
LABOR: NLRB Probe

Introduced before the house committee investigating the national labor relations board was evidence designed to show NLRB is badly in need of a housecleaning. Chief pro-tem was the board's Dr. William Leiserson, whose charges of bias on the part of fellow board members (Edwin L. Smith and Warren Madden) were interspersed with revelations from the board's correspondence files. Conservative, probably favoring the American Federation of Labor against C. I. O., Dr. Leiserson has been a minority, non-cooperative member on this and other points:

Dr. Leiserson tried to force removal of the board secretary, Nathan Witt, charging he lacked "impartiality." Unsuccessful, he occasionally declined to participate in board decisions, whereupon the other members recommended disciplinary action.

One such case involved the President's son-in-law, Seattle Publisher John Boettiger, who complained of a board ruling but expressed the hope that Leiserson's failure to participate indicated "a change of policy."

Elinore Herrick, regional NLRB director for New York, protested that two of Witt's assistants had conducted an investigation in her office in a manner "one might expect from the (Russian) O. G. P. U., but not from fellow administrators of an agency of the American government."



LEISENBERG

Non-cooperative.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Some Good May Come to America Out of Awful Finnish Catastrophe

Mask Pulled Off Communism in United States and Left It Thoroughly Damned; Ways of Helping Finland Freely Discussed in Washington.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—Press and radio have been filled for days with news of the cowardly and ruthless attack by Russia upon the defenseless and harmless Finns. So sickening has this assault been that millions of Americans have all but forgotten the movements of that predatory animal called Hitler. Indeed, the brutality of the drive upon the Finns has practically forced news about Hitler's war with Britain and France to disappear from the front pages. The "sit-down" war still goes on but it has failed to create interest in America.

But I believe that, for us, there is some good coming out of that awful Finnish catastrophe. It is a paradox that anything good could come from such a stench as Russia, but I am certain of the results in that regard.

For one thing, the latest sor-did page in Soviet history has pulled the mask off of communism. It has left communism standing before Americans, nude and thoroughly damned, with its hands dripping with human blood, with gory filth oozing from every pore, and its true rapacious character exposed to the last grimy detail.

Moreover, the Soviet destruction, or near-destruction of the helpless Finns has posed questions to be answered in this country by a good many thousands who have held up communism as the acme in government theory. Those folks now are called upon to attempt a justification of the great "liberalism" which has used miserable excuses to invade and bomb and mutilate. It is time for the parlor pinks, the so-called "intelligentsia" of the colleges and universities, and the "movements for freedom," as well as the real scheming, lynx-eyed foreigners to try to explain away what has happened.

May Compel Everyone to Unite for American Way

Thus, when I observed above that I believe some good will come out of the hellhole of Russia, I was thinking how the situation abroad is going to compel most everyone to unite for the American way. These latest vengeful acts of the Russian bear "that walks like a man" bring into bold relief again certain things that happened back about November 16, 1933. They remind us of the various glowing statements that were forthcoming as to the value, in a material way, of diplomatic recognition of Russia.

Maxim Litvinov was here, you will remember. He bargained for American recognition of his nation, and got it upon a promise that Russia would quit her attempts to spread the doctrine of communism in this country. There were bombastic statements of millions of dollars in trade that would flow from the agreement worked out between President Roosevelt and the Russian commissar. As I remember it, Senator Borah, the Idaho Republican, had conducted practically a one-man campaign for Russian recognition long before Litvinov arrived. Predictions were glowing, but neither Mr. Roosevelt nor Senator Borah ever suggested that the "glowing" was going to be the sheen of flowing blood of helpless women and children and their men.

A lot of things are happening as regards this new situation. For example, the Reconstruction Finance corporation has agreed to extend a credit of \$10,000,000 to the Finnish government "for the purchase of agricultural surpluses in the United States." There is talk also of using the recently remitted Finnish debt payment in some way for the aid of the stricken peoples of the only nation that has made good on repayment of money borrowed during and after the World war. We are likely to hear a great deal more about active help from this side of the Atlantic ocean because American hearts are tender but there is dan-

ger in the action that has just been taken.

Pushed Soviet Buyers Out And Told Them to Stay Out

There is danger in that proposal, however our hearts may desire that we help the Finns. As I have so often said in these columns: It is Europe's war, and we can and must stay out of it. If we, as a nation, start helping Finland, it strikes me that somebody's face is liable to get slapped, and immediately, of course, there will be the kind of hatred arise that will drag us into the flaming cauldron.

Mr. Roosevelt did an admirable job, I believe, when he placed an unofficial, but very effective, embargo on the further purchase of airplanes in this country by the Soviet. It is generally understood that a Soviet mission was wandering around this country at the time, seeking to buy hundreds of airplanes.

There is a difference in helping Finland in that manner than by extending a helping hand affirmatively. Mr. Roosevelt's action, simply stated, pushed the Soviet buyers out and told them to stay away—to go ahead, if they must, and use their army of approximately 13,000,000 against the meager 400,000 of Finns.

Another thing that is happening and it is taking on quite a bit of steam is the demand that the United States recall our ambassador, cut loose the diplomatic ties to the extent that withdrawing an ambassador shows disgust and disapproval.

Might Be Unwise to Recall Our Ambassador to Russia

Recall of the ambassador has been strongly advocated by Sen. Arthur Vandenberg, Michigan Republican, who is out looking around for delegates to the Republican national convention next year. A dozen or so other Republicans have taken the same position, and the department of state and the President have been urged by numerous Democrats to show the American position in that manner. It seems unlikely that such a thing will happen, nor am I convinced that it is the wise thing to do.

Soviet officials, if they desired, could interpret such an action as amounting to a declaration of war on our part.

We have seen enough of their operations to suspect that they will do most anything which will further their own ends—things just as ridiculous as announcing to their ignorant and illiterate millions that Finland was planning to "capture" Leningrad, a great industrial city. I doubt that Mr. Roosevelt ought to recall the ambassador, but I do not see how Constantine Uamsky, the Soviet ambassador to Washington, can remain in the great and lavishly furnished embassy here with any feeling that his presence is desired by the bulk of the Americans.

But what is this Russian "defense" against Finnish "attacks" leading to? What brought it about? The answer is that the Reds have started west.

Many Believe That Stalin Double Crossed Hitler

There are many persons in official life here who believe that Stalin has double crossed Hitler, and most of us add that there is little to choose between the two. It is plain to see that Hitler's plan to seize Poland was approved by Stalin who was bought with a share. But the inside rumor is that Hitler never approved of the westward march upon which Stalin is now engaged, nor is there any ground for belief that Hitler welcomes the threats at Rumania and some of the areas to the east that are being made from the den of the Russian bear. Just as a thought, then, we hear it suggested that perhaps Stalin trapped Hitler by letting him enter Poland—that Stalin knows Hitler's hands are occupied on the French front—that the Soviet eventually may be in a position to crowd Germany by the type of persuasion given off from bombs and bayonets. I do not outline this as a fact; I toss it in here because it is the subject of military discussions and it certainly is a possibility.

Speaking of Sports

Champs Pass in Review as 1939 Draws to Close

By ROBERT McSHANE

COMEDY, tragedy and pathos—sometimes a combination of all three—are written in the nation's sports records for the past 12 months. As the old year wanes the sports fan glances back over performances of individuals and teams for outstanding achievements. Some of those performances are great, some are funny, and a few are pathetic.

In heavyweight boxing it's a simple thing to name the greatest performer. Who else can compare with Champion Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber? He has punched his way through all opposition to become one of the "fightingest" kings in the history of boxing. Many ring followers consider him the greatest heavyweight of all time.



Joe Louis

One man's outstanding football performer is another man's dud. But Nile Kinnick, University of Iowa halfback, gets the call in most books. Kinnick was awarded the 1939 Heisman Memorial trophy, given each year by the New York Downtown Athletic club to the nation's outstanding college football player. The selection was made from the votes of sports writers and sports broadcasters throughout the United States. Tom Harmon of Michigan was second. Paul Christman of Missouri third and George Cafego of Tennessee fourth.

Horse of the Year

The horse of the year was Chaldean. He failed in the Kentucky Derby, but went on to win all other stakes. He proved his greatness when he outran Kayak at Pimlico.

Bob Feller of Cleveland, Joe DiMaggio and Charlie Keller of the Yanks, and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox were outstanding choices for baseball player of the year. DiMaggio and Feller finished in front. DiMaggio is classed with the all-time greats, and Feller, only 20 years old, managed to win 24 games for Cleveland. Keller and Williams, two 1939 rookies, are the main challengers for next year's laurels.

Byron Nelson's two-way victory in the National Open and the Western Open rates as one of the year's best performances, as was Dick Metz's powerful stroking to win the St. Paul Open.

As for teams, the Yankees left little or nothing to be desired. They had little to fear from American league teams, and won the series in four straight. Though the question is open to debate, many baseball enthusiasts hail them as the greatest team of all time.

Tony Galento's flattening of Joe Louis for a short count might well come under the head of comedy. Roly-poly Tony was considered nothing more than a clown. He amazed the fisticuff world by really jolting the champ, and then further disrupted affairs by whipping decisively Lou Nova, most promising of the heavyweight hopefuls.

Diamond Tragedy

Under the head of pure tragedy comes Ernie Lombardi's amazing antic during the World series. Ernie, Cincinnati Reds' backstop, conducted a phenomenal one-man sit-down strike while the Yanks scored the three winning runs in the last game of the series. It was by far the most unusual performance in the annals of 1939 sports history.

Top performances for women must include Alice Marble's rise to her position as queen of the tennis courts. She met and disposed of good opposition to reach her present status. Then, too, there's the record made by Betty Jameson of Texas, who replaced Patty Berg as National Amateur golf champion. Elizabeth Hicks deserves an orchid for her play in winning the Women's Western derby.

Sports, in general, have been more prosperous than they were a year ago. Increase of interest in all events has been marked. Which is a good sign for 1940, and for America, the greatest sports nation in the world.

Sport Shorts

A TURK played center for Duke university's soccer team . . . Seven field goals were kicked in a game between Columbus and the Chicago Cardinals in 1935 . . . which is a pro football record . . . Al Simmons has rejected several offers to manage Class AA league clubs. He wants to be a big league coach . . . Carl Hubbell, playing right-handed, breaks 60 regularly over a Fort Worth, Texas, golf course . . . Football critics say Penn's freshman team this year was the best in the school's history . . . Dr. Eddie Anderson, coach at Iowa, had one of the finest scholastic records in Notre Dame's history. He averaged 98 per cent for four years . . . Andy Varipapa rolled his forty-sixth 300 score while bowling in Los Angeles recently . . . Walter Matuszczak, Cornell quarterback, is the youngest of 10 brothers . . . Billy McCarney, veteran boxing handler, says Billy Conn could acquire a punch if he were willing to sacrifice some speed. He cites Benny Leonard as a parallel case.



Carl Hubbell

Happy Minors

MINOR leagues of baseball are viewing 1940 with optimism born of record-breaking 1939 figures. According to William G. Bramham, president of the National association, baseball's centennial year produced 15,500,000 paid admissions in the minor leagues. This total does not include attendance at the many Shaughnessy playoffs, the popularity of which suffered this year, nor does it include inter-league championship series.

The increase of 3,000,000 paid admissions over the previous season was chalked up with the help of four new leagues. Perhaps the most gratifying feature was the prosperous season enjoyed by Class D teams.

New attendance marks were set in many cities, with Seattle at the top of the list.

BOWLING Made Easy

By NED DAY
National Match Game Champion

(This is the sixth of a series of bowling lessons by Ned Day of Milwaukee, Wis., national match game champion and recognized as an outstanding bowling authority.)



VARIOUS DELIVERIES. Just as a baseball pitcher can resort to curves, changes of pace, screw balls and fast ones, so, too, does a bowler have an assortment of "stuff." There are four distinct pitches in bowling. Named in order of their importance, they are: the hook, the curve, the straight and the backup.

The hook ball is thrown out of the side of the hand, with a counter-clockwise twist to impart spin to the ball. The thumb comes out first and the fingers then apply the spin to the ball. The hook ball is placed on the alley about eight to twelve boards from the right hand gutter. It travels in a straight line toward the No. 3 pin. Just before it reaches the pin, it hooks sharply into the 1-3 pocket.

The hook ball is used by practically all of the world's outstanding bowlers because of its high strike percentage.

The curve ball is used by bowlers who throw a slow ball and it is very effective on highly polished alleys. The straight ball is the easiest to master, and for that reason it is sometimes recommended for beginners until they perfect their approach and delivery.

The backup ball is used only by a few bowlers (as its strike percentage is very low) and for that reason it is not recommended. For further instruction in the development of bowling "pitches" write Ned Day, 43 E. Ohio St., Chicago, Ill. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)