

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Britain Loses World Sympathy Through Harsh War Measures; U. S., Japan Protest Sea Action

(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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LINLITHGOW CRAIGIE LOTHIAN
There is trouble in the Lowlands and Rumania, too.

GREAT BRITAIN: U. S. Trouble

IF U. S. public opinion once favored the British against Germany, it had shifted by late January until most Americans looked with equal disdain on both sides. Reason: British interference with American shipping, seizure of mail and refusal to recognize the 300-mile neutrality zone thrown around the Western hemisphere. To make it worse, all protests by Secretary of State Cordell Hull had been rejected peremptorily, until finally Mr. Hull slapped back with an *aide memoire*. Its gist: That U. S. vessels were being held up by the contraband control three times as long as Italian ships, therefore the U. S. could charge discrimination. There was every sign that this protest, like others, would be rejected. In Washington British Ambassador Lord Lothian saw unhappy times ahead.

Indian Trouble

MOHANDAS K. GANDHI'S independence demands for India broke into print when Britain began demanding war assistance from the empire. Lord Linlithgow, viceroy, thought after the war would be time enough to talk about Indian independence. This provoked a storm of protest, but Gandhi cautiously urged a non-violence campaign. Lord Linlithgow, relieved, was willing to discuss terms. But he was still playing with dynamite.

Japanese Trouble

ALREADY irked because Britain has been friendly with China's "rebel" Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, Japan's ire was heightened when a British warship stopped a Jap passenger vessel in the Pacific, removing 21 German merchant sailors being returned to the Reich via Russia. Next day Tokyo gave British Am-

bassador Sir Robert L. Craigie a note demanding amends, calling the incident an "unfriendly act" and warning that repetition would aggravate Japan's anti-British sentiment. Next day, when a British vessel halted Japan's *Tatsumaru*, Ambassador Craigie found thousands of Japs milling around his embassy, while the press bleated against his country.

Lowland Trouble

WHEN Winston Churchill made a speech demanding that Netherlands and Belgium join the allies in fighting Germany, the press and government of these countries shouted angrily. To placate them without losing Britain's point, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain next spoke, saying Britain was ready to help Belgium, but would reserve the right to decide when help was needed. Far from placating the neutrals, this speech only irritated them more. In The Netherlands all parties joined in telling Britain to keep quiet. In Belgium it was loudly proclaimed that the government can decide for itself when and if it needs help.

Rumanian Trouble

KING CAROL of Rumania has remained cautiously neutral despite British wooing. But in mid-January, when German troops were reported occupying the southern part of Russian Poland the British struck again, confident Carol would accept their aid gratefully. Instead they got the shock of their lives: Pressed by Germany to fulfill oil contracts, Rumania clung to neutrality and barked at British-French oil firms operating there. She insisted they provide their share of petroleum to help Rumania fulfill her contracts with Germany, thus providing oil to run Nazi planes to bomb English-French territory!

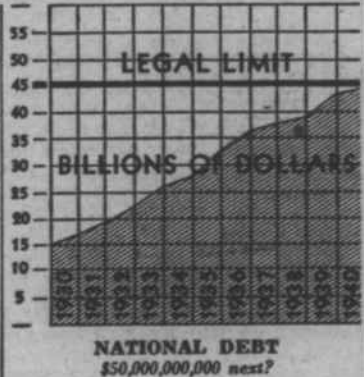
CONGRESS:

Yes, but—

"Do I think the budget should be balanced? Yes. Do I think expenditures should be cut down? Yes. Do I think taxes should be increased? Yes. Do I think you say, 'Morgenthau, what kind of taxes should there be?' I cannot answer that because I do not know."

This apparently frank recitation from the secretary of the treasury was no more than he had promised several months earlier, yet it made big headlines. On budget-balancing and decreased expenditures he probably was more outspoken than the President, but not on new taxes. Never has any administration spokesman suggested what kind of levies congress should enact this session, and Henry Morgenthau's statement before the house appropriations committee failed to clarify matters.

Biggest news was Mr. Morgenthau's contention that the federal debt limit should be hiked five billion dollars above the present \$45,000,000,000 mark with which it is now flirting dangerously (see graph). He remarked that there was "no particular danger involved" in this act, but his audience apparently thought otherwise. Trimming desperately, congress lopped \$11,491,000 from the treasury-postoffice supply bill, bringing to \$128,143,300 the re-



NATIONAL DEBT
\$50,000,000,000 next?

ductions from administration estimates already in the mill. With enough such reductions congress hopes to avoid both new taxes and a boost in the debt limit. Also in congress: To aid Finland without taking responsibility, the senate banking and currency committee rigged up a "finesse formula" to increase the Export-Import bank's revolving fund by \$100,000,000. Still to be adopted by congress, the measure would let Jesse Jones give Finland an extra \$20,000,000 for non-military purchases. However, since only a third of the present \$10,000,000 loan has been used, Banker Jones doubted whether Finland would be interested. Reason: The Finns want munitions, not food and clothing.

In the house ways and means committee, pros and cons continued fighting over the reciprocal trade act, which expires June 1. A breach in agricultural opinion was evidenced when Farm Bureau President Edward O'Neal testified for the trade program while National Grange Master L. J. Taber spoke against it.

The house voted Rep. Martin Dies of Texas \$75,000 for his committee investigating un-Americanism.

NEWS QUIZ

Can you answer the following questions about the following people? Perfect score is 100. Deduct 20 points for each question missed. Score of 80 is excellent; 60, good; 40, average; 20 or less, poor.

1. Giuseppe Motta, five times president of a mountainous European country, just died. What country?
2. Edwin Carewe became famous as a movie director. Why was he in the news recently?
3. Ignace Paderewski, world-famous pianist, has just been named president of what government-in-exile?
4. Earl Russell Browder, U. S. Communist leader, was tried on a federal charge of passport fraud. What was the trial's outcome?
5. Wang Ching-wei, an Oriental, is about to become head of what government?

News Quiz Answers

1. Switzerland.
2. He died.
3. Poland-in-exile; government located in France.
4. Browder was sentenced to four years in prison. He appealed.
5. Japan's puppet government in China.

POLITICS:

Break

"I am convinced that, with the conditions now confronting the nation and dissatisfaction now permeating the minds of the people, his candidacy would result in ignominious defeat."

Thus, before his United Mine Workers convention at Columbus, did C. I. O. President John L. Lewis score Franklin Roosevelt. Since Mr. Lewis had already blasted at Candidates Garner and McNutt, this latest attack only heightened suspicions that C. I. O. will favor the Democratic candidacy of Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler.

Next day he explained his speech. "I intended (it) to be a distinct jar to professional politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties. I intended it to serve notice that labor was not to be taken for granted."

But though John Lewis thought the New Deal had broken faith with labor, his mine workers did not necessarily agree. Introduced at the convention were at least 45 resolutions urging a third term for the President. Observers wondered whether this indicated a coming break in the strangle hold Mr. Lewis has held over his unionists.

JAPAN:

Treaty Lapses

In a single week the Tokyo government found its relations with two major nations approaching the crisis point. The English were persons non grata for having searched Jap ships (see GREAT BRITAIN). The Americans were regarded disdainfully because abrogation of the 1911 trade pact went into effect, placing commercial relations between the two nations on a day-to-day basis.

Peace talks between U. S. Ambassador Joseph Drew and the Japanese foreign office were ended abruptly while Tokyo sat on its hands, hoping for the best. Obviously there was no chance for a new treaty in the near future, because state department had Japan right where it wanted her. If the present riprand proved insufficient to make Nippon quit interfering with U. S. rights in the Orient, there still remained the highly potent embargo weapon.

Although the senate foreign relations committee indicated there was little chance for an embargo (which would hamstring Japan's war in China), there was plenty of pressure forthcoming from U. S. church groups. Why, they demanded righteously, should American scrap iron be used to kill Chinese?

THE WARS:

Russo-Finnish

Helsinki claimed 20,000 Soviet troops fell when the Finns repulsed Russia's strongest invasion of the war northeast of Lake Ladoga. Estimated Red casualties to date: 100,000. While foreign legionnaires swarmed into Finland from Scandinavia, the Baltic states, Hungary, the U. S. and elsewhere, the defenders still had no adequate defense against Soviet bombers, who enjoyed a field day strafing civilians in small mid-Finland towns.

Allied-German

Only four days after Britain's destroyer *Grenville* was torpedoed with a loss of 81 men, the destroyer *Essex* went down in the North sea carrying 175 crewmen to the bottom. It was her twenty-third acknowledged naval loss since the war began five months ago. On the western front, meanwhile, all was peaceful.

Last Newsmen to See Borah Recalls How 'Lion of Idaho' Kept Mum in 1936 Campaign

Didn't Favor Landon, So He Played Ball With Home State Dems.

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
(Co-author, with Drew Pearson, of "The Washington Merry-Go-Round.")
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON.—The Senate just doesn't seem the same without Senator Borah. He was the first leader I came to know intimately as a cub Washington reporter 15 years ago, and I saw him last the day before his fatal accident. I think I am the last newsmen he talked to.

It was late in the afternoon. I knew that the President's message on the Finnish loan was due the next day, and I dropped into Borah's office to get his views. Wrapped in an army blanket, he was lying on a couch, reading an article on trade treaties. He motioned me to a chair, which I pulled up near him. On the marble mantle directly over him was a striking new photograph of himself which he liked very much.

Duty Came First.

Borah looked well, but frail, and recalling that during the Christmas holiday he had told me he was thinking of taking Mrs. Borah south, I said, "What about your trip?"

"I guess that's off, Robert," he replied. "Mrs. Borah won't stay if I don't, and I can't."

"Why not? Things aren't so active now. A few weeks of warm weather and sunshine would do you a lot of good."

"Yes, but I can't leave. Those trade treaties are up and I've got to be on hand to keep an eye on developments. It's a close fight and we can't take any chances. I would like a little rest, but I feel it's my duty to stay on the job and oppose this act."

"What about the Finnish loan?" I asked.

"That's a very distressing dilemma for me, Robert," he said. "My heart goes out to those gallant people, but at the same time I have grave misgivings about lending money to anyone in Europe. Once we let down the bars we can't foresee what it may lead to. We must keep out of that mess regardless of our personal sympathies."

Dilemma of 1936.

I remember another time when he was in a dilemma. It was in 1936.

That spring, at the age of 71 and for the first time in his long career, he decided to make a serious try for the presidency. There was considerable popular response, but the machine politicians were against him. He went to the Cleveland convention empty-handed—and he knew it.

The night Herbert Hoover made



HE WATCHED LANDON—Senator Borah waited for Alf Landon's campaign before "prejudging" him, but he later confided: "I am not for him."

his speech—which he secretly hoped would stampede the delegates—I countered Borah leaving his hotel. It was past midnight, hot and sticky.

"Come along, Robert, and walk with me," he said. "It's cooler out here."

So we walked about the deserted streets and he talked about Hoover, the convention, and Alf Landon.

Doubted Landon's Ability.

"They'll nominate Landon tomorrow," he said. "The stage is all set. Hoover tried to run away with the convention tonight, but they don't want any of him. It will be Landon and Knox, you mark my word."

"And then what are you going to do, Senator?"

"I don't know. I'll wait and see what Landon says. But what I'm wondering is what can he say. He knows nothing about national or foreign affairs. I am told he is a nice gentleman, but the country needs more than that in the White House in these times. I don't want to prejudge Landon. I shall hear him out, but I have a strong hunch I will not support him."

He Didn't, Either!

Borah's premonition was right. Three months later I spent a day with him in Boise as he campaigned for his sixth senatorial term. We had a long talk that night in his room before he retired. I remarked that I hadn't heard him say a word during the day about Landon.

"And I don't intend to say anything about him," Borah replied quietly. "I am not for him."

"Are you for Roosevelt?"

"Well, Robert," he said, "I've got a lot of Democratic friends in Idaho and I think they know where I stand." And then with a gentle smile he added, "That's a pretty good news story, isn't it?"

It certainly was. It was the big scoop of the campaign.

Patent Office Kept Busy by Gadgets

WASHINGTON.—Seven hundred human problems, most of them inconsequential, are solved every week at the United States patent office.

Inventions ranging from thumbless boxing gloves to fluorescent theater aisles continue pouring in to prove how wrong was the patent director who resigned 100 years ago because there wasn't anything left to invent.

If nothing else, it proves there's no slump in enterprise these days. The past year, for example, brought forth this collection:

At the University of California botanists discovered in the juice of milkweed an active substance that can tenderize meat.

A Philadelphian solved the problem of that first cigarette in the package with a strip of transparent film that tears off the seal, destroys the revenue stamps, opens the flaps and pulls out two cigarettes.

No Double Exposures.

An amateur photography fan perfected a device making it impossible for the camera enthusiast to



ZIPPER HOT DOG—The scientist has a perforated casing which operates on the zipper principle.

take a second picture without winding the film—thus preventing a double exposure.

Peter J. Gaylor of Elizabeth, N. J., developed a synthetic rubber invaluable for elastic threads in clothing because it does not deteriorate rapidly.

Many inventions, here and abroad, have made it easier and cheaper to wage war. Germany, for example, is treating mineral, vegetable and animal oils with an electrical discharge process that increases their viscosity. American chemists have discovered a less expensive—but just as deadly—way to make more poison gas.

Another Invention Needed.

Some inventions are designed to soothe the ruffled nerves. There's a new spring cap for tooth paste tubes, but nothing to make father squeeze it out from the bottom instead of the top. A drip-catching device has been invented for umbrellas, and somebody perfected a helical coil of wire which, as part of a cigarette holder, keeps ashes from falling on the rug.

There are two important developments in photography. One camera can expose standard film at a speed of 2,500 frames per second, enabling you to study the wing structure of houseflies or the action of a golf stick against a ball. On the more massive side, Prof. E. Newton Harvey of Princeton university has a



REMOTE CONTROL SMOKING—It keeps smoke out of your eyes, but you'll break your arm lighting a cigarette!

camera which snaps pictures two miles under the ocean. This gadget is a steel ball which resists terrific water pressure. It has two windows, one for the camera and the other for projecting a beam of light.

X-Rays 'Blown Up.'

Closely akin is the giant new X-ray projector which enlarges a standard chest plate up to the size of a regulation motion picture screen, thus allowing several hundred people to consult over the medical problem at hand.

Sportlight

By Grantland Rice

Yanks Conceded Fifth Straight Pennant Win Despite American League's Recent 'No Trailing' Legislation.

(NANA—WNU Service.)

LOS ANGELES.—No major league club ever has won five pennants in a row—but if the Yankees do not hang up their fifth in a row this year, the American league race result will be an upset. That, at least, is the way it looks as 1940 gets under way.

The fact that the percentage will be running against them again holds no terrors for the Yanks. One of these days, of course, the percentage is going to catch up with the Yankees and flatten them because that is one foe nobody can outlast.

No club in the American league—and only one major league club in the modern history of the game—ever had won four pennants in a row. The Yankees ran their string to that number in 1939. No club ever had won four world series in a row. The Yankees did that, too. Having won the 1938 series from the Cubs in four straight games, and



DICKEY AND GORDON

They'll help the Yanks hang up their fifth in a row.

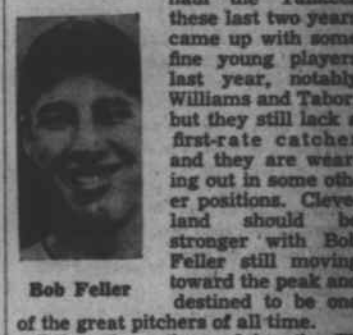
being faced by a supposedly stronger opponent in 1939, it didn't seem likely the Yankees—granted that they would be victorious—would win again in four straight. But they did.

With Red Kuffing pitching, Bill Dickey catching, Joe DiMaggio in center field and fellows like Joe Gordon, Frankie Crosetti, Red Rolfe, George Selkirk and Charlie Keller spotted through the lineup, it looks as though the Yankees can continue for a while longer.

In an effort to hobble the Yanks, the rest of the league made a rule preventing them from trading with the other clubs. The Yanks didn't mind that, either. Just by way of co-operating, Ed Barrow voted for the rule. With Newark, Kansas City and other clubs in the chain sending up players faster than the Yankees can absorb them, Barrow and Joe McCarthy aren't interested in the other A. L. talent.

No Threat in Sight

The Red Sox, who have made the best showing in the attempt to over-



Bob Feller

destined to be one of the great pitchers of all time.

haul the Yankees these last two years came up with some fine young players last year, notably Williams and Tabor, but they still lack a first-rate catcher and they are wearing out in some other positions. Cleveland should be stronger with Bob Feller still moving toward the peak and

Below those three clubs, the Tigers, White Sox and Senators are bunched pretty closely. Below them, the Browns and Athletics still are stumbling along.

As usual, the race in the National league should be close. The Reds, new to the sweat and fire and tumult of a close tussle in 1938, failed where, with a little more experience, they might have won. Last year, hardened by the 1938 campaign, they broke through—but they broke through just ahead of the Cardinals, whose lot was similar to that which the Reds had drawn in '38.

This year the Cardinals may be ready. With better pitching than they had in 1939 and better luck, they can win. It took them quite a while to realize that they had a chance last year and then, just about as the realization came to them, they were ruined by injuries. Swinging along behind these two clubs are the Dodgers. They need more power and thought they were going to get it from Joe Medwick but with pennant chances gleaming bright again in St. Louis, it doesn't look now as though Branch Rickey is of a mind to sell Medwick. If Larry McPhail can come up with a power hitter from somewhere else, watch out for the Dodgers. From these three teams the winner will be decided.

Mannerisms Mark the Man—They All 'Perform' Off Guard

NEW YORK.—Al Smith jingles coins in his left pocket and the duke of Windsor straightens his necktie. Franklin D. Roosevelt jerks his head sideways.

Call them habits, mannerisms or just plain nervousness, but they're among the distinguishing features you've noticed when famous men make speeches or appear before the newsreel camera. Most of us, great or little, are thumb twiddlers, button twisters, arm swingers or fist clenchers in our forgetful moments.

This Is the Point.

A widely known Boston professor used to enter his classroom holding a short, well-sharpened pencil which he twirled as he talked.

"Now this," he would say at intervals, "is the point." Each time he would jab the pencil at the class, until his amused students finally made up sweepstakes on how many times he'd do it each hour.

would occasionally step to the front of the platform, weaving back and forth while the audience gasped for fear he would topple into the front row.

A Monocle Swinger.

Bertha Wells of Boston, who was formerly in Chautauqua work with Bryan, recalls the platform gestures of many other speakers. Dudley Crafts Watson, director of music at the Chicago art museum, went through a repeated routine of taking off his monocle, swinging it around in his hand and replacing it to the eye.

"One woman speaker asked me for a handkerchief just before she went on," Miss Wells remembers. "All through her lecture she stood twisting it in her hands. When she returned it, the handkerchief looked like a cruller."

Sen. James Reed of Missouri used to have a habit of chewing tobacco in the courtroom, while Sen. David I. Walsh of Massachusetts can never speak without thrusting his left thumb into the corner of his trousers' pocket.

Psychologists who have watched such carryings-on from the spectator's seat don't believe it's necessarily a matter of nervousness. Sometimes the speakers are merely throwing off excess energy. Or, as one psychologist suggested, it may not be so much the energy or the audience as what the speaker had for dinner.