

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Is 'Real War' Coming at Last? Hitler's Speech Viewed as Signal For Bitter Drive Against Allies

(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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INTERNATIONAL: Charge and Answer

The comments of a Catholic primate in late January seemed destined to touch off a one-two-three sequence that would lead Europe to a real war.

At the Vatican, August Cardinal Hlond reported that his primacy of Poland was the scene of mass shooting, religious persecution and other atrocities by Nazi Germany. Adding its two-bits worth, Poland-in-exile charged from Paris that Germany had executed 18,000 Polish leaders.

These things, true or not, made Berlin downright mad, insulted and vengeful. Diego von Bergen, ambassador to the Holy See, protested



HLOND AND VON BERGEN
Did the Vatican start something?

in vain. German executives in Poland like Arthur Greiser, Arthur Seyss-Inquart and Hans Frank made speeches and gave interviews, the general theme being an admission of stern measures against "chauvinistic agitators" and sterner measures against Polish Jews. But atrocities were denied; all reprimands, they asserted, were designed to make everybody happy.

Adolf Hitler didn't bother to explain; he merely raved against his enemies. Occasion was the seventh anniversary of his rise to power. In his speech *Der Fuehrer*: (1) promised continued friendship with Italy and Russia; (2) tried to "pep up" Germany's war morale; (3) attacked Britain as usual; (4) attacked France, which was not usual; (5) announced the "real war" was about to start.

(London interpreted the speech as a surrender of hope that the allies might somehow be split. Italians heard Hitler with indifference, perturbed because he spent more time polishing apples with Russia than with Italy.)

Western War

In Britain, where a cold wave and fuel shortage had made bigger news than the war, Adolf Hitler's declaration suddenly struck home. Waves of Nazi bombers swept down the coasts for the second consecutive day, destroying (according to Berlin) 19 ships. Just as France's Premier Daladier had warned a few hours earlier that total warfare would start soon, so did Britain's Neville Chamberlain indirectly hint at the same thing when he made a speech containing strong overtures toward neutrals like Japan and the U. S.

(Japan was still protesting British seizure of 21 Nazi sailors from a Japanese ship. But she had more serious troubles closer home. Russo-Jap boundary discussions broke down, indicating the Manchukuo-Mongolian war may start again soon. Also broken down was electric power. Reason: Fuel shortage.)

Northern War

In the Soviet-Finnish war, Russia's manpower and resources were being drained by defeat on five fronts. Helsingfors estimated officially that 250,000 Red troops had been lost in

two months of fighting, in addition to unestimated tanks, horses, trucks and miscellaneous supplies. Finland's first major aerial offensive was assigned to Italian pilots flying Savoia-Merchetti bombers, who raided an unnamed Soviet naval base.

(In Moscow, Italy was warned against joining the Anglo-French war bloc. Likewise, Norway and Sweden were warned not to aid the Finns. Nevertheless every conceivable aid short of a declaration of war was being rushed from these countries. U. S. participation was evidenced by (1) assignment of American volunteers to a legionnaire unit, and (2) arrival in Norway of at least 11 American-made pursuit planes.)

The Balkans

In the Balkans where Rumania, Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia met to plan a mutual defense bloc, dissatisfied Hungary opened a bitter press campaign for the return of Transylvania, ceded to Rumania after the World war.

CONGRESS: Farm Fight

Sped through the house were drastic slashes in such items as postoffice, treasury, emergency defense and independent offices. Reason: Congress would tickle an economy-minded nation by avoiding new taxes or an increase in the national debt, thus safeguarding itself in an election year. In the senate appropriations committee there was mild balking at these economies, but they were destined to pass with minor adjustments.

But when congress struck the farm bill it found a hot potato. President Roosevelt asked \$788,929,519 in his budget, making no mention of the much-demanded \$225,000,000 for farm parity payments. Bluntly the house appropriations committee slashed \$154,530,000 from the budget (\$72,678,000 for surplus commodities,



WALLACE AND JONES
The patient was half dead.

\$49,975,000 for sugar benefits, \$25,000,000 for farm tenancy loans) and sent it to the floor.

In the ensuing argument 1940's entire economy drive seemed destined to rise or fall. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace was highly critical. He asked for a permanent scheme of subsidies, pointing his argument by suspending the cotton export program. Next he hinted the house could expect "political reprisals" if it dealt too severely with the farmers.

Most incensed was Texas' Rep. Marvin Jones, who argued all afternoon after the appropriations committee presented the revised bill unexpectedly, giving the farm bloc no chance to prepare its defense. Said he: "It's pretty bad to perform that big an operation without letting us see the patient until he is half dead."

Falling in the house, farm leaders planned a fight in the senate to restore the cuts.

Also in congress:
The senate foreign relations committee heard Jesse Jones express doubt that private investors would subscribe to a Finnish bond issue, as suggested by Mississippi's Sen. Pat Harrison. Probable outcome: An Export-Import bank loan for non-military supplies.

House hearings: (1) Labor board committee, which heard NLRB defended by its chairman, Warren Madden; (2) ways and means, which discussed the reciprocal trade act. G. O. P. opponents of Secretary Hull, who fathered the act, dug back 11 years to prove he has changed his mind about tariffs. (Michigan's Senator Vandenberg introduced a bill providing a foreign trade board to replace both congress and the administration in framing trade treaties.)

HEADLINERS



MERRY FAHRNEY (above), patent medicine heiress, was accused of love trysts with her first husband when she sought a divorce from her fourth, Count Oleg Cassini.

MRS. WILLIAM E. BORAH, thinking her late senator husband had been "poor," was surprised to find \$207,000 in his safety deposit box.

MARRINER S. ECCLES, spending-lending chairman of the federal reserve board, was reappointed by the President over opposition.

REP. JOSEPH MARTIN, G. O. P. house leader and dark horse presidential possibility, keynoted the Republican campaign at Topeka, Kan., by plumping for G. O. P.-sponsored neutrality.

ERNST VON STARHEMBERG, ex-vice chancellor of Austria, ex-leader of the Austrian heimwehr, was commissioned an infantry lieutenant in the French army.

FATHER CHARLES E. COUGHLIN, Detroit "radio priest," heard the justice department was not going to investigate him after all, despite a statement to that effect by the New York Jewish Peoples' committee, which charged him with anti-Semitism.

LAZARO CARDENAS, president of Mexico, announced flatly that further arbitration of expropriated British and American-owned oil lands is "impossible."

LABOR: Convention's End

Denounced were President Roosevelt, Vice President Garner, Democratic hopeful Paul McNutt, Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, the Republican party and Democratic majorities in both houses of congress. Played was the National Labor Relations board and the house committee now investigating it. Tabled were 47 resolutions endorsing President Roosevelt for a third term. Handed to the omnipotent union executive board (whose powers remained uncurbed) was the right to endorse whatever Democratic presidential candidate it chooses, and to support him with union funds.

This done, John Lewis sent his United Mine Workers home from Columbus. They had served him well: They had given him an audience for his startling speech denouncing the President; an opportunity to launch his presidential campaign for Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler; a carte blanche to ladle U. M. W. campaign funds into whatever coffer will best serve his purpose.

JUSTICE: Anti-Trust Restraint

Since last autumn Trust Buster Thurman Arnold has secured indictments against 519 persons, 124 corporations, five trade associations and 34 labor unions, carrying on a popular campaign against combinations in restraint of trade. Considerably enlarged over last year, Arnold's division is operating on a \$1,300,000 budget but is still too small to prosecute all cases now scheduled.

When budget estimates were prepared last autumn he asked for \$2,208,000 for the 1940-41 fiscal year. Instead the budget bureau granted \$1,209,000—or \$100,000 less than Arnold's current appropriation. All efforts to get the fund increased have met with opposition in the economy-minded house appropriations committee, despite the fact that Arnold's division will probably collect \$6,000,000 in fines during the current year. Unless his fund is increased, observers believe the anti-trust campaign is apt to bog down.

PEOPLE: 'Glub'

In New York John Barrymore celebrated the Broadway opening of his play, "My Dear Children," with a night club party. When he found awaiting him both his daughter, Diana, and his estranged fourth wife, Elaine Barrie, he chose the latter. Stomping out angrily, Diana shouted denunciations on "that woman. When reporters asked Miss Barrie if this was a reconciliation, she answered: "Ask John." Said the Great Lover, swallowing from his cocktail glass: "Glub." It was good publicity.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Democratic Political Pot Now at Boiling Point, but Lull Is Due

Attack on President by C. I. O. Lewis Is Followed by Exaggerated Claims for Roosevelt Delegates in Florida and Ohio; It Is All a Part of the Game.

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

WASHINGTON.—The Democratic political pot has come to the boiling point. High political temperatures have prevailed now for several weeks. The condition probably will continue for several weeks more before there is a lull. But a lull will come. Political strategists, presidential aspirants and wheelhorses will not be able to maintain the current pace until convention time. If they attempt it, there is only one end possible: The Democratic party will be split beyond any hope of repairing the damage.

There is one thing to be noted, even now: New Dealers, near-New Dealers and New Deal payrollers have put on one of the really great drives to insure the renomination of President Roosevelt for a third term. They have hit in every direction. Some blows appear to have been effective. The payrollers hope all of their efforts have brought favorable results, but that seems improbable.

In the period under discussion, there likewise has been a terrific attack upon the present New Deal leadership. This came originally from John L. Lewis and his C. I. O. labor organization. It dragged with it some others who might or might not have become so active at the moment—Sen. Burton Wheeler of Montana, for instance.

Lewis Support Like 'A Kiss of Death'

The Lewis attack was important solely because it represented the final stage of a break between himself and Mr. Roosevelt. I have heard many persons say it was a break of luck for the President. Mr. Lewis doesn't rate so much, any more. That is, his affirmative support is something like a "kiss of death."

It will be recalled how Mr. Lewis called Vice President Garner "a poker-playing, whiskey drinking, evil old man," last summer. That attack by Mr. Lewis surely did more to boost the Garner presidential candidacy than any other one thing that has happened. It convinced hundreds of thousands of voters that Mr. Garner must be a pretty good guy if he disagreed with sit-down strikes and attempted dictatorship of the government by the C. I. O.

The evidence is that Mr. Lewis gave Paul McNutt a boost, too, by his espousal of a declaration that the Democratic party had not kept faith with organized labor. Mr. McNutt, former governor of Indiana and present federal security administrator, is sticking right close by the New Deal; so close, indeed, that he is not going to seek the Democratic nomination unless Mr. Roosevelt gets out of the way. It is held, therefore, that when Mr. Lewis tried to pin back the Roosevelt ears, he inferentially helped Mr. McNutt for the reason that only a few political students here believe Mr. Roosevelt was damaged by desertion of the Lewis following from the New Deal to which they gave half a million dollars in the 1936 campaign.

As regards the Garner candidacy, observers seem to feel that the Lewis outburst was another feather in their cap. Mr. Garner, of course, has said he wants the nomination and wants to be elected and he made no mention at all of the possibility that Mr. Roosevelt may want to run for a third term. Thus, when Mr. Lewis said the Democratic party had broken faith with labor—he obviously meant with his own faction of organized labor—he could not have hit Mr. Garner as much as the out-and-out New Dealers. Mr. Garner certainly is not of that stripe.

Strange That Wheeler Should Encourage It

The demonstration of the United Mine Workers in favor of Senator Wheeler at their Columbus, Ohio, convention, obviously was staged, conceived and promoted by Lewis. The C. I. O. boss has been getting closer and closer to Senator Wheeler. He has given every indication of wanting to endorse the Montana senator, openly. I cannot help wondering why Senator Wheeler encourages it. It strikes me that Senator Wheeler must know how a C. I. O. endorsement will be taken out in the country—the small towns and among the farmers. Moreover, there is a growing belief among po-

Speaking of Sports

Conn Is Sure Of Ability to Defeat Louis

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

BILLY CONN, a slender, good looking Irish kid, only three or four years away from his pork and bean days, has done more to capture the fight-going public's fancy than any other boxer since Joe Louis' early days.

When Conn, present light-heavyweight champion of the world, defeated Melle Bettina for the 175-pound title, he weighed 170 pounds, five under the title limit. Old-timers immediately conjured up visions of Gentleman Jim Corbett who wrestled the world's heavyweight championship from John L. Sullivan when Jim weighed only 176 pounds—about four pounds more than Conn weighs today.

Corbett was looked upon as an impudent upstart when he challenged the mighty John L. According to gamblers, Jim lacked the weight, the punch and the intestinal fortitude to make even a dent on Sullivan, who held the same opinion. He



CONTENDER BILLY CONN

was ridiculed by those who knew him best. Even Patrick Corbett, his father, thought it was blasphemous for him to point at the great ring god.

The world was pop-eyed when Sullivan fell before Corbett's blinding speed. That was natural—no one knew that for three years, day and night, Corbett had been a slave to the thought of unseating the champ. He concentrated on it so much that defeat, to him, was absolutely unthinkable.

Points for Louis

In the same way Billy Conn has been pointing for Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis. He is obsessed with the idea that he has Joe Louis' number. He doesn't "sound off" for the press and call Louis a bum, a pushover and a setup. But he's quietly confident that he will be the next heavyweight king of the world.

There are a large number of Conn critics—ring-wise men who feel that Conn lacks the weight and punch to be a serious contender for the Louis throne. They feel that he hasn't got, and never will have—what it takes to beat the Brown Bomber.

Even more authorities, however, have confidence in Billy's ability to beat the champ. They know him to be a rangy, clever, fast boxer, who loves to fight. He is yearning for a crack at the title and is absolutely sure that the outcome of the hoped-for bout would see the coronation of a new heavyweight king.

When Louis won the heavyweight title, wise men of boxing were almost unanimous in their opinion that only a slagger would topple him from his position. Now they're not so sure of it. Sluggers have proved easy game for the champ. And after watching Louis take far too much time to dispose of Bicycle Bob Pastor, many of them feel that speed and not power will defeat Louis.

Speed Is Unquestioned

There's no argument about his speed. He delights in slapping his opponents around—particularly if they're big. His speed and accuracy have accounted for far more victories than any punch which he possesses.

Conn remembers that Jack Dempsey weighed only 185 pounds when he fought Jess Willard. Willard scaled at 260. Many fans thought it was criminal to send Dempsey against such a giant. If you remember, Jack the Giant Killer flattened Willard in three bloody rounds.

Billy isn't unduly cocky. He knows he must pick up 10 or 12 pounds. But when he has tucked away enough steaks he figures on brewing up a storm of trouble for Champion Joe Louis. Conn realizes that it isn't the easiest thing to gain weight. He is small boned and even now may be at his best possible fighting weight.

Sportlight

By Grantland Rice

Every Sport Claims Number of 'Magnificent Midgets,' Dave O'Brien Gets Rice's Laurel Wreath Award for Durability.
(NANA-WNU Service.)

LOS ANGELES.—Who were the little giants of sport, the smaller fellows who have outmatched brawn and bulk with brains and speed?

In football the first of the "little giants" was Frank Hinkey of Yale, "the disembodied spirit," who at 150 pounds was tearing 180 and 190-pound backs apart with his cyclonic tackles. Ask any survivor of Harvard's "faraway and long ago" team, around the early nineties.

Hinkey practically exploded when he hit you—and so did the party of the second part—the ball carrier.

The Hardest

In one way young Dave O'Brien of T. C. U. and the Philadelphia Eagles gets the main sprig of laurel.

I talked with Texas Davey just before the Packers-All Star game. Short in stature, and none too stocky, weighing around 160 or 150 pounds, he looked even smaller outlined against the two sets of mas-



TEXAS DAVEY O'BRIEN

soms and mammoths on each side—Musso at 260, Baby Ray at 245, and others at 240 or perhaps 230. He is a needle in football's haystack. Yet Dave O'Brien has never had time taken out in three hard years at T. C. U. and this last year, his first as a pro with the Eagles.

As a forward passer they have bounced his head and slender body off the ground more than 200 times, but he has always bounced back with a grin. He has been the rubber ball of the gridiron. And, don't forget, he can split a line as well as throw a pass.

Baseball's Share

Baseball has also known its share of these magnificent midgets.

What about Johnny Evers, the "Human Splinter?" Evers was a stout 118-pounder in his early Cub days, but Johnny was a 200-pound thorn in the side of John McGraw and his Giants.

And there was Rabbit Maranville of the Cubs and Braves, another chunk of guncotton, who was about the size of a baseball bat.

And there was Dicky Kerr of the White Sox, one of the few small pitchers who could make the grade.

To keep from being waylaid and assaulted I'll also give you Wee Willie Keeler from a lost decade, who was smart enough to "hit 'em where they ain't." I saw Keeler play 40 years ago and I still think he stands out as the most scientific hitter of all time. An old-timer by the name of Denton Tecumseh (Cy) Young agrees with me.

"Willie was one you couldn't fool," Cy says. And Cy fooled most of them.

In Boxing

Who was the all-time top of the little fellows in boxing?

There was Jimmy Wilde, "The Great Atom," a 185-pound flyweight who for years whipped men who were 15 to 25 pounds heavier. I saw Wilde near the sunset of his career when he, Bob Edgren, Jack Wheeler and I played golf together before his fatal battle with Fanchon Villa, the pounding Filipino, who mangled him after the bell had rung. Wilde's frail system was loaded with disaster for his opponents until Villa caught him on the downward trail.

And I'd like to give you Harry Greb, who at 160 was whipping Gene Tunney, and Tom Gibbons, and who mangled Jack Dempsey all over the ring in a workout. He almost wrecked 180-pound Jack Dillon. The Killer Greb thought nothing of giving away 30, 30 and 40 pounds. And he would still win in a common corner, going away. They began to beat Greb when he was blind in one eye and half blind in the other.