

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

## British-Soviet Tension Grows In Wake of Nazi-Red Treaty; British Expedite Aid to Finns

(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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### EUROPE: Showdown Ahead

Almost six months to the day after Germany and Russia shocked the world with their non-aggression pact, Berlin paused to hail a new phase of Nazi-Communist relations. Ratified with ceremony was a new and glistening trade treaty, which was but one part of a complex but vividly clear picture of what is happening in Europe today. Inevitably, it is believed in most chancelleries, a wedding of Russia and Germany, of Communism and Nazism, will stack these military juggernauts against the rest of Europe. Among the signs:

**Marxism.** Writing in *Der Angriff*, Nazi Party Chief Dr. Robert Ley showed how leftism has grown in Germany by using the Marxian



HITLER'S DE. LEY  
"Workers of the world, unite!"

Communist cry: "Workers of the world, unite! . . . This war is a war of the mastery of money against labor . . . Therefore the working men and women must draw together."

**Allies in Finland.** France and Britain were actively protesting against Scandinavia's reluctance to let allied volunteers pass through Sweden and Norway en route to the Finnish frontier, indicating a stiffening attitude toward Russian aggression. Even more pointed was parliament's decree permitting men over 27 to enter the Finnish campaign.

**Near East.** Arrival of 100,000 British colonial troops in the Near East coincided with an alarming growth of war talk. The Balkans, led by Turkey, were forming a strong mutual-defense frontier against Nazi-Russian penetration. Russian frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and India were strengthened, either for defense against the Reds or for a lightning allied stroke against Russian oil wells.

### The Wars

**In the West.** Quiet, as usual, but continued sea warfare.  
**In the North.** Finnish troops retreated on the Karelian isthmus, but Russia's gains were terribly costly. In mid-Finland, unreported for several weeks, a *United Press* correspondent found the Reds have suffered 50,000 casualties in the Pitkaeranta sector alone.

### CONGRESS: Six Weeks Gone

Either the President thought he had congress well in hand, or else he decided it was hopelessly rebellious. At any rate he left secretly on a 10-day fishing trip in Caribbean waters, his movements shrouded behind an army of secret service men. His last acts were to (1) okay the \$252,000,000 emergency defense bill

## NAMES in the news . . .

**JOHN D. M. HAMILTON**, G. O. P. national chairman, called his committee to order in Washington to name a place and date for the 1940 convention.

**HERBERT HOOVER JR.** helped discover a new method of detecting oil by analyzing surface earth. Meanwhile, **HERBERT HOOVER SR.** forecast that European war demands will soon eat up surplus U. S. foodstuffs.

**GEORGE KIOSSEIVANOFF**, Bulgarian premier, resigned because one of his cabinet members favored closer relations with Soviet Russia.

and (2) veto a bill to raise mail carriers' salaries.

Congress meanwhile began its sixth week with members of the American Youth Congress hissing from the house gallery at everything in sight. Still unsolved were such major problems as economy, foreign relations and the reciprocal trade act, indicating another long session. But plenty of legislation was in the mill:

**Neutrality.** Passed by the senate 49 to 27 was a bill to boost the Export-Import bank's working capital by \$100,000,000, paving the way for non-military loans to Finland and China. Interest on foreign policy thus shifted to the house, where the G. O. P. expected to fight against loans to belligerents. Meanwhile the senate foreign relations committee kept postponing action on the proposed embargo against Japan. Congress watched with interest while Secretary of State Cordell Hull laid at Britain's door the responsibility for a German threat to torpedo U. S. ships in the war zone. Reason: Britain has detained U. S. vessels and taken them to contraband ports in the war zone.

**Defense.** Less than 24 hours after it had okayed a \$986,772,878 navy supply bill (out \$111,700,000 under budget estimates), the house naval committee repented and approved a \$655,000,000 fleet expansion program. The latter bill would only authorize new construction; actual funds must come from separate legislation. Primarily concerned about the big supply bill, the house expected to re-store part of the cut.

**Agriculture.** The house agriculture committee okayed a \$350,000,000 bill to expand scope of the farm tenancy act, insuring mortgages of tenants who want to buy their own farms.

**Labor.** Chairman J. Warren Madden of NLRB told the house labor board committee that Reconstruction Finance corporation has agreed to withhold loans from firms found by NLRB to be violators of the Wagner act. This created a rumpus.

### WHITE HOUSE: "Missy" in Trouble

Several days after President Roosevelt appointed State Undersecretary Sumner Welles to make a European peace junket, arch-Republican papers like the *Chicago Tribune* published a juicy story. Its gist:

The peace mission was conceived by Welles himself, who slipped in through the White House back door one day and outlined his idea in glowing terms before Marguerite "Missy" LeHand, the presidential secretary, "who is rated to have more influence in the throne room than anyone else." Said the *Tribune* story: "Missy" thought it a grand



"MISSY"  
A favorite in the throne room.

idea and laid it before the President. Mr. Roosevelt, who was in a most receptive mood for a new peace drive, beamed and called in Mr. Welles and commissioned him on the spot to set out upon the great adventure.

Whatever the facts, the President's two ace diplomats showed up in Washington next day and were reportedly displeased. Up from Miami came Joe Kennedy, ambassador to Britain. Home from Paris came Bill Bullitt, ambassador to France. Why, they allegedly asked, did the President prefer Mr. Welles' unseasoned opinions on Europe to their own painstaking studies?

Apprised of the gossip, Secretary of State Cordell Hull and White House Secretary Steve Early took pains to deny any rift. Said Mr. Hull: "I do not think a more capable person could be sent upon the European mission."

### BUSINESS: Insurance Quiz

Under the temporary national economy committee's spotlight in Washington went U. S. insurance companies. When the examination was finished, this thriving enterprise had acquired a lot of unpleasant publicity.

First witness was Leon Henderson, securities and exchange commissioner, who charged that life insurance companies hold a first mortgage on U. S. business. He went on to prove it: SEC had studied 26 of the largest firms, finding (1) that they seem to be drifting from their original object of writing life insurance to handling investments, and (2) that their tremendous concentration of assets is probably robbing business enterprise of funds.

Facts were interesting. From 1929 to 1938, SEC found, 26 companies took in 42½ billions. Of this, 10½ billions was not disbursed but went into reserve, surplus and contingency funds. Still more interesting was the fact that SEC's 26 subjects increased their assets by 63 per cent from 1929 to 1935, yet life insurance in force went up only 10 per cent.

Next day John A. Stevenson, president of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance company, surprised TNEC and the nation by advocating a modernization of the 60-year-old mortality statistics, asserting that amounts collected for mortality have been too high in recent years. But, he added, it makes little difference in cost to the policyholder since excess income is returned in dividends.

**COURTS:  
3 Decisions**  
In Washington the U. S. Supreme court made news by three decisions: (1) On Lincoln's birthday, it saved four Florida Negroes from death, ruling that murder confessions were obtained by "secret, inquisitorial" police methods after five days of continuous grilling which violated the Negroes' constitutional rights. (2) It created a furore by ruling that federal courts have no right to change National Labor Relations Board decisions on questions of disputed facts in labor controversies. (3) It enjoined Arkansas from imposing a tax on gasoline (in excess of 20 gallons) carried in fuel tanks of interstate busses when the gasoline is intended for use in other states. Three justices (Frankfurter, Black and Douglas) dissented, claiming the trade barrier question is a matter for congressional action.

### AGRICULTURE: Parity for '40

While the farm bloc was busy trying to wheedle \$200,000,000 for 1941 parity payments out of an economy congress, the agriculture department began using the \$225,000,000 authorized (but not provided for) last year. Payments would be made this year, it was ruled by the last congress, if 1939 average farm prices were less than 75 per cent of parity—which is the 1909-14 average as related to farm purchasing power. Since prices were below parity, the agriculture department announced 1940 payments of 1.55 cents (\$96,000,000) per pound on cotton; 10 cents (\$57,100,000) a bushel on wheat; five cents (\$48,600,000) a bushel on corn, and 1.7 cents (\$300,000) a hundredweight on rice.

### AVIATION: Boom

When Europe went to war, and especially when cash-and-carry neutrality took effect, everyone knew the U. S. aviation industry was in for boom times. After six months of war the boom had surpassed expectations. In southern California alone there was a backlog of some \$200,000,000 in orders for the U. S. and foreign powers. But within 30 days, a survey indicated, mass delivery will begin on thousands of ships.

Already filled since the boom began last summer have been orders for 1,450 combat planes; still uncompleted are 7,700 more. Major foreign sales have been to France and Britain, which ordered 5,000 ships. But only about 350 craft have been delivered of the 4,450 ordered by the U. S. army and navy.

Meanwhile, however, the U. S. is profiting on more recent designs, hence will get the best of the new ships. Typical is the army's new four-motor bomber. Carrying four tons of bombs and a nine-man crew at 300 m. p. h., the ship will give any enemy a run for its money.

### Speaking of Sports

## Giant Chances Doubtful, Says Pilot Bill Terry

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

JUST about a year and a half ago Manager Bill Terry of the New York Giants was growing very exuberant over the abilities of the newly acquired Zeke Bonura, first baseman extraordinary and harbinger of better days.

Terry's enthusiasm wasn't limited to Bonura. It was reflected in the complete Giant roster. Memphis Bill declared that his 1939 Giants were the most adroit, talented, dynamic and astonishing baseball players that it had been his good fortune to manage.

The Giants did look that good when they were on the road during their western tour. It was their hottest streak, and one that saw them climb into second place. Bonura largely was responsible for the climb. His hitting was terrific. But he gradually cooled off after returning home. Truth of the matter was that Zeke couldn't hit at the spacious Polo Grounds, where his long drives to left-center and center were just out. But Terry had committed himself. The Giants were going to win the pennant.

That the Giants failed to stay in the first division is now history. And Prophet Terry is a sadder, though wiser, man. Today the Giant pilot is a less venturesome long range forecaster. In a recent statement he admitted that "I haven't the faintest idea where we'll finish."

### Problem Team

"The Cards," he drawled, "will be the toughest club in the league—tougher than the Reds. I'm not conceding any pennant to anyone. I don't like to pick any team to win the pennant unless it is the Giants and this year—well, I don't know."

The voice of Polo field also admits that the Giants are shot full of problems. Bonura is a dead issue in Terry's book. He wants to sell him, but can't find ready bidders. The Washington Senators are willing to take Zeke for the waiver price of \$7,500, and the Philadelphia Phillies have offered cash and one



CARL HUBBELL

player. But Terry insists that Zeke is worth that much to the Giants even if he "only sits on the bench." Bonura's better-than-average salary won't help him get a job on another major league club. Terry once hoped to send him to Pittsburgh, but the Pirates weren't interested.

Zeke has a big following in Chicago, and the Cubs might give him a chance, but when he came to the Giants there was an understanding between the White Sox, where he began his major league career, and Clark Griffith of Washington, that the big Italian would not be sold to the Cubs. The White Sox wanted this understood before they waived on him.

Terry expects Carl Hubbell to win 15 games this year, and has a large share of confidence in Pitchers Hal Schumacher, Cliff Melton, Harry Gumbert and Bill Lehrman.

### Giant Roster

Asked about Paul Dean, the one-time St. Louis star drafted by the Giants from Columbus of the American association, Terry said it was nothing more than a long shot.

"He pitched against us five innings last summer and had as much stuff as I ever saw. We got reports that he could go like a whirlwind in the association, too, for five or six innings. I figured he would make us a good relief man."

Terry counts on Babe Young to play first base in Zeke's place. Mickey Witek, purchased from Newark, is slated for second; Bill Jurgis will be back at short, and third base is wide open. Glen Stewart seems to be the favored candidate.

Other jobs are filled by Catcher Harry Danning and Outfielders Mel Ott, Frank Demaree and probably Joe Moore.



LOS ANGELES.—Frank Frisch will be headed this way soon, bringing the Pirates out here to train, making his comeback as a big-league manager after a year's absence from the lists.

Just before I left New York I sat around with Frank one night and among the things we talked about were the days he broke in with the Giants under John McGraw. It was 20 years ago that Frank first went to a training camp but he remembers it all clearly. This is a good break for the young players who will report to him at the Pirate camp—just as it was for the rookies who came up under him when he managed the Cardinals.

You see, with 20 years of success as a player and manager behind him he hasn't forgotten when he was a rookie and had to fight for a job. He remembers that he, too, was a prey to all the misgivings that assailed a kid when he finds himself tussling for a job with smarter, more experienced rivals.

### He Had Been Around

"To begin with, I was lucky," he said. "I joined the Giants in June of 1919 and spent the rest of the season with them. I broke into quite a few games as a pinch hitter or runner or as a replacement for Larry Doyle at second base and I was under fire in an important series. That was the six-game series—three successive double-headers—with the Reds at the Polo Grounds that really clinched the pennant for the



FRANK FRISCH

Reds. Doyle played the first two games, I played the next two and then he went back.

"So I had some experiences and had been around long enough to know McGraw and the ball club by the time I got to San Antonio in the spring of 1920. But I still didn't know what it was all about.

"No young ball player can learn much in less than one full season. Looking back now, it seems to me that it was a long time before I learned anything. All I had on my side at San Antonio that spring were speed and willingness. I didn't know how to play for hitters, but I usually could get in front of the ball and knock it down with my chest and pick it up and throw the hitter out. Somebody said about Pepper Martin a few years ago that if his chest held out he would make a good third baseman. That's what I said about myself long before that.

### Moved to Third Base

"You see, McGraw switched me to third base that spring. I had played shortstop at Fordham and broken in with the Giants as a substitute for Doyle at second, but during the winter Heinie Zimmerman, our third baseman, had been released, so Mac moved me to third.

"One of the first things he did was to tell me to throw away the glove I had and order a new one. My old glove wasn't much bigger than a kid glove—a little, thin thing with no pocket in it, but Mac got a glove for me with which I could at least knock the ball down, and that gave me some protection.

"Then he worked with me every day. He taught me how to make my moves—when to play in, back, or half way—how to break for a ball—how to get it away with the least possible delay. There were days when I couldn't seem to do anything right and I'd worry and fret, but he never lost patience with me. He not only gave me lessons in how to play third base but he also taught me how to work with a young ball player.

"What's the main difference in conditions as the rookies find them nowadays and as they were when you came up, Frank?" I asked.

"They're easier," he said. "Kids come up faster and, although they are better paid, managers don't seem to expect so much of them. In my time as a rookie, you were just a fellow looking for a job.

### Bruckart's Washington Digest

## 1940 Congress Sets the Stage For Executive-Legislative Battle

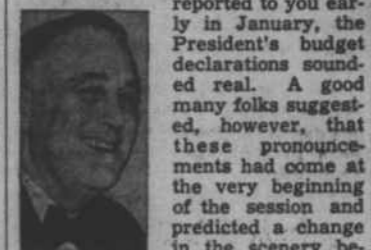
Both Republican and Democratic Congressional Members Are Ready for Tussle Over President Roosevelt's Budget and Spending Plans.

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

WASHINGTON.—Congress soon will have completed the second month of its 1940 meeting and the most significant thing to come out of the session is a situation containing all of the elements necessary for another good battle between the legislative and executive branches of the government.

It is much too early to enter a forecast that President Roosevelt and his opponents—Democrats and Republicans—will come to grips. But a slip of even small caliber on the President's part would throw him into the path of a substantial section of the congressional membership. That is exactly what some of the opponents hope will happen. It is, conceivably, a thing which Mr. Roosevelt and the New Dealers hope will be avoided.

The condition stems from Mr. Roosevelt's budget message. As I reported to you early in January, the President's budget declarations sounded real. A good many folks suggested, however, that these pronouncements had come at the very beginning of the session and predicted a change in the scenery before the end. Those observers appeared to feel that the



President Roosevelt

President was playing a bit of politics with the general subject of economy—spending.

But congress, generally, decided to take the President at his word. "If," they appeared to be saying, "the President really wants economy; if he wants to reduce government spending, boy, oh boy, we will be with him in a big way."

So it has come to pass that the President's own proposal conceivably can throw him into a place where plainly he does not wish to be, at least from a political standpoint. Heretofore, it will be recalled, there have been frequent declarations for reduction in government spending and each time it has been overcome by backdoor operations of New Dealers.

### Economy-Minded Legislators Dominate Scene

As far as the play has progressed on the open stage, the economy-minded members of the house and the senate appear to dominate the scene. They have cut deeply into several of the President's pet projects. They have cut, or have proposed to cut, deeply into the President's program for national defense for which Mr. Roosevelt had ideas costing billions as against former years when the cost of army and navy development was measured in hundreds of millions. Moreover, the legislators have shown courage in nipping agricultural spending for a good many millions, and that hurt Secretary Wallace and his crew.

Now all of this has been going on when the "inner circle" of New Dealers still are clamoring for continuation of the fun they have been having in spending taxpayers' money. There is some doubt, too, that Mr. Roosevelt has changed over completely.

Attention might be called in this connection to the fact that, in the national budget itself, Mr. Roosevelt left numerous avenues of escape from what appeared to be a definite commitment towards retrenchment as stated in the budget message. Secretary Wallace touched off the match on one of these. Mr. Roosevelt said the agriculture appropriations had been squeezed down by the budget bureau to the very limit. If the funds were sufficient, according to the President, there had to be a continuation of good business. A good many of the folks in the department of agriculture have been saying both publicly and privately that the volume of business is going to slide off during the late winter and spring. Thus, more money will be needed.

### Wallace Wants Share Of Government Spending

In the complaints by Secretary Wallace is another tipoff. The secretary feels that there is no logic in cutting the total expenses of the government completely out of his share of the swag. He fails to understand

why the cuts have not been made proportionately in amounts of estimates for other agencies of government. I think he has his teeth in



SECRETARY WALLACE

something, there; but why pass over this point to suggest that if and when the congressional enthusiasm for economy wanes it will be easier to vote money for the agriculture program than for any other. It is just plain good politics. I imagine many members of the house and the senate feel that way, too. They believe they can always find justification for voting money to farmers.

While none can say definitely what goes on in the President's mind, there are many who believe Mr. Roosevelt would have preferred to see congress raise the present debt limit from \$45,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000, rather than take him so seriously on the suggested reduction in spending. It seems logical. He offered three propositions in his message: retrenchment in expenditures, raising the debt limit, and laying new taxes.

Now, most anybody knows that congress will do very little about new taxes in an election year. That left a choice between the curtailment of spending and raising the debt limit. The debt limit is more than just a sore spot. It is practically a carbuncle on the neck of congress, because there are so many thousands of letters coming in as a warning against getting the nation further into debt. Nothing was left, therefore, but the program that would reduce available funds for the fun-loving spenders.

These things present a picture which seems to show that the President's strategy may have failed. That is to say, he may have expected that congress would take the proposition of raising the debt limit as the easiest way out of its dilemma. It is sheer conjecture, of course; yet it has a basis in any sound analysis of what has happened.

### President Is Missing Economy 'Sound Waves'

Undoubtedly, however, the President's advisors have failed to catch the sound waves that are reaching congress from "back home." There is a tremendously heavy mail on the subject of waste and spending and debt, arriving in congressional offices. This reaction is highly important. It reveals something more than just a desire on the part of many voters to see the government spending brought within bounds. It discloses, I believe, quite a definite trend away from New Deal ideals, because somehow, there is a growing conviction in many sections of the country that it is the reforms that are costing money.

This word from home has resulted thus far in offsetting the great pressure of various groups who are vociferous in their demands for more money. We had a flock of young voters—the American Youth Congress—around town ten days ago, and their leaders were unanimous in their calls for more money. They were as well trained as any college cheering section that I ever have seen. Of course, they may win out yet, but at the moment they are not winning much support for added money.

As of this time, then, congress surely has gone forward in a most determined fashion to cut off some of the excess spending. It has resisted pressure thus far. The battle lines are well formed—thus far.