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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Balkans Draw Russ Attention Following Conquest in Finland; Allies Retreat From Near East

(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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Congress: What Both Houses Are Doing

In house and senate, U. S. legislators busied themselves during mid-March with the following subjects:

POLITICS. Debate and a threatened filibuster delayed a senate vote on amendments to the Hatch "clean politics" act. Aim: To prohibit state employees, who are paid in whole or in part with U. S. funds, from engaging in political activity. No. 1 opponent was Sen. Sherman Minton (D., Ind.) Passed was one amendment limiting political contributions to \$5,000.

CENSUS. Okayed 9 to 7 by the senate commerce committee was a resolution to strike personal income questions from the 1940 census. Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins ruled that income questions may be answered in sealed, unsigned letters.

CIVIL LIBERTIES. J. Edgar Hoover's G-men were accused in the senate commerce committee of "disgraceful..." using wire-tapping and voice recorders to snoop into peoples affairs. Meanwhile Sen. George Norris (Ind., Neb.) com-

plained about FBI's "disgraceful and indefensible third term degree methods" in arresting Detroiters charged with recruiting soldiers for the Spanish loyalist army.

DEFENSE. Passed by the house was a measure authorizing \$654,000,000 in the next two years for 21 warships, 22 auxiliary vessels and 1,011 fighting planes. Meanwhile, the senate weighed a resolution to probe U. S. plane sales abroad.

AGRICULTURE. Certain to pass the senate and very likely to pass the house were boosts which brought the farm appropriation to more than one billion dollars. Major boosts: \$212,000,000 for parity payments. But there were growing fears that next year's congress will be left to worry about where the money is coming from. Meanwhile, its economy program shattered, congress heard Franklin Roosevelt suggest once more that new taxes may be needed.

LABOR. Of 17 amendments to the Wagner act suggested by a special house committee, at least one seemed destined to pass: Enlargement of the labor board from three to five members.

PAN AMERICA:

Blues Song

Ever since Europe went to war last autumn, U. S. business men have hoped to capture the profitable South American trade which heretofore belonged mostly to Germany and Britain. Loans and credits were arranged, American solidarity was preached and good neighborliness became the order of the day. More realistic, the U. S. department of commerce sent its experts to dig out the facts.

Six months later the experts reached a conclusion: "Until... definite action is taken on the defaulted obligations of South American countries, until... the U. S. investing public will have confidence in South American political conditions... and until... the fear of expropriation and nationalistic legislation is overcome, a large increase in our exports to and imports from South America cannot be expected..."

Major difficulty was that South American imports from the U. S. far outweigh U. S. imports from the south, a situation which is robbing the little countries of their gold and silver.

AGRICULTURE:

Weather and Crops

In Texas, farmers were planting cotton. Up in the Dakotas they were limbering up for spring seeding. At Washington, the U. S. weather bureau decided the time was ripe for a report and forecast. Points:

Because soil moisture stands at low ebb, spring wheat producing states will yield under-normal supplies this year unless heavy rains or snows fall within the next few weeks.

Drouth also plagues the winter wheat belt from Nebraska south into Texas and from Colorado east into the Ohio valley. Although some sections had heavy midwinter precipitation, poor moisture conditions during the autumn germination months will cut even deeper into already small plantings.

Below-normal precipitation was also recorded along the Atlantic seaboard, but it was too early to base crop forecasts on it.

Out west, where northern California was just draining off flood waters, the bureau reported unusually heavy precipitation during the winter.

CHINA:

Thin Ice

Primary topic of Far Eastern interest right now is the Russo-Finnish peace (See EUROPE), which may turn the Soviet beemoth's attention eastward once more. None could tell whether the Reds would reopen their dormant war against Japan in Outer Mongolia, meanwhile aiding Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, or whether they would work alone.

Either development seemed possible, an uncertainty which made inconsequential the manifesto issued at Shanghai by Japanese Puppet Wang Ching-wei. Said he: A new pro-Japanese government will be established in China almost immediately. Although he regretted that "now is not the time" to reveal his plans for readjusted Sino-Jap relations, Puppet Wang appealed for a renunciation of General Chiang.

At Tokyo, Premier Mitsumasa Yonai issued an abstract and high-sounding statement promising Japanese support of the Wang government. But abstractions from Tokyo and Shanghai only emphasized Japan's helplessness. Since Premier Yonai was vague, and since Puppet Wang could tell China nothing about his new government's plans, it was a safe guess that the entire peace structure was skating on thin ice.

POLITICS:

Third Term in England

Most Britishers are keenly interested in a third term for Franklin Roosevelt, for they feel his foreign policy works in their favor. In mid-March readers of the London Daily Mail smacked their lips over a story by the well-informed diplomatic correspondent, Wilson Broadbent. Said he:

"It is now established beyond any doubt that the report of (Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles) on his tour of European capitals will directly affect Mr. Roosevelt's decision regarding a third term... Should no peace loophole be revealed... and the war develops into a fierce European struggle, then President Roosevelt certainly will run for a third term."

Where Mr. Broadbent got his "beyond doubt" information, Americans in London could not discover. What mystified them still more but suddenly seemed more logical was the very antithesis of this conclusion, namely, that President Roosevelt would be a cinch for re-election if he succeeded in bringing peace to Europe.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Report on Labor Relations Act Is of Vital National Importance

Special Congressional Committee Recommends Reorganization of Board and Amendment of 'Wagner Law.'

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

WASHINGTON.—The house of representatives has in its collective hands one of the most far-reaching and vital documents that has been presented to it in many years. I refer to the partial report of the investigation into the National Labor Relations act and its creature, the National Labor Relations board. The report is vital because it exposes some of the most damning evidence that has come to light since the famed senate investigation into the oil scandals and proposes means for correcting the conditions which the committee of inquiry found to be wrong.

The special committee, headed by Rep. Howard Smith, Virginia Democrat, has spent months delving into the labor board record, analyzing cases, obtaining the "other side" of board rulings, reports of coercion, intimidation, labor union racketeering and such. It has done so with the minimum flare for sensational news publicity, and it recognizes, moreover, that it has just scratched the surface. The inquiry will continue, and there is very little doubt but that the New Deal attempt to put labor in a strait jacket under domination of the C. I. O. is at last going to be fully of record for the voters.

The committee majority vigorously assailed the labor board and the law under which the board acts for setting up an agency that serves as judge, prosecutor and jury. Separation of these functions was recommended and amendments to the law were offered for the consideration of congress.

Government Housecleaning Should Be Undertaken

That course is fine. But it affects only the National Labor Relations board. True, the committee has no jurisdiction over any other questions than those connected with the act and the board. But the point that I seek to make is that the government woods are full of such setups as the National Labor Relations board, and they are dangerous to the future of America. I hope that the congress will see fit to do something about the odd mixture of justice and personal government that is represented by the National La-



SENATOR WAGNER

bor Relations act (which is sometimes called the Wagner act, after its father, Senator Wagner of New York) and the National Labor Relations board, but I hope the attempted cure will not stop there. There can, and ought to, be a thorough job of housecleaning, because no government is going to remain really the servant of the people where such agencies operate with the law in its own hands. There are few political appointees within the realm of my knowledge who could be so completely unbiased as to administer their jobs without favoritism.

The National Labor Relations board, as at present constituted, was recommended for a good firing, in the committee's report. It did this on the basis of facts that showed a strange cocktail of judicial action, conferences with board attorneys who handle prosecutions, biased statements and actions and peculiar conditions of investigation by board agents. It arrived at the only conclusion possible, namely, that the present structure for dealing with labor disputes must be likened to stomach ulcers. They continually eat away at the lining of the stomach. The board's policies strike me as likely to eat away the digestive system of American liberty if con-

gress does not prescribe some medicine to cure the illness.

The minority of the committee, two New Dealers—Representatives Murdock of Utah and Healey of Massachusetts—were highly angered by the majority recommendations made by Chairman Smith and Representatives Halleck of Indiana and Rutzahn of Ohio. The three-man majority was accused of seeking to "emasculate" the law and destroy the board. With respect to the present board, I gather that the charge against the board is true, for there are thousands of people who would be happier if Chairman J. Warren Madden and Edwin S. Smith were out of those jobs. Complaints seldom have come concerning Dr. William M. Lelerson, but the others have been targets. So, perhaps, the minority charge is correct in that one instance.

Committee Recommended Abolition of Present Board

The committee majority recommended abolition of the present board and the establishment of a structure which would make certain that violators of the law would be prosecuted without direction from the body that was to sit as judge. It did not place any inhibitions against reappointment of the present membership to the new judicial posts. I suspect the committee thought such measures were not necessary. There are many who doubt that either Mr. Madden or Mr. Smith could be confirmed by the senate again since the house committee disclosures of some of their unusual activities.

One of the other outstanding recommendations by the committee concerned freedom of speech. As the law now stands, it is nothing short of an abridgment of that freedom of speech of which our nation always has been so proud. The law prohibits an employer from talking or giving advice in any way to any of his employees wherever the question of union organization is concerned. And there, in my opinion, you have censorship, a censorship just as flagrant, just as far-reaching and just as complete as is exercised by the bloody-handed Stalin over the press of so-called free Russia! It is one of the steps that leads to other and more dangerous acts by government—that leads eventually to the point where citizens are just numbers of men and women who make good peons or equally good cannon fodder if needed.

The committee voted for elimination of the board's division of research. Here is another cancerous sore. No one knows why the division is in existence, unless it be for purposes of subversive activity. The chief of the division is one David Saposs.

The Saposs books and other writings have been quite vigorously criticized at various times. His favorite subjects are labor and political movements, and he always treats them from the extreme left-wing radical view. Mr. Saposs contends that his writings are "objective." But apparently the committee saw no need for the division of research in such an agency.

It's a Little Embarrassing For Congressional Members

And so a congress, especially a house of representatives, has something in the nature of an unwanted baby in its lap. You see, there are 435 members of the house of representatives who soon are to confront their constituencies, again. Just a plain old-fashioned campaign. And among these are many who are really suffering. They do not know whether the factional split between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations has left sufficient strength on either side of the dividing line to permit a bold position.

I believe the chances are that congress will take no action on the report at this session. There are two reasons for this conclusion. First, the committee is continuing its investigation and, second, there are a great many members who want to use the Roosevelt administration's labor policies as campaign issues. If the weaknesses are corrected before the dog days begin on the hustings, that issue is gone. But strangely, the 100-per-cent New Dealers are struggling to keep anything from happening to the National Labor Relations act. This looks to be stupid politics.



Grantland Rice

CHICAGO.—The circle narrows about Joe Louis and the contenders come into clearer view. Young fighters

already has been considered as opponent for him are ranging themselves against him. Johnny Paycheck has been matched with him. Lee Savold is being readied for a shot at him. Only a week or so ago Louis faltered through 15 rounds with the rough and clownish Arturo

Godoy, the South American threat.

This doesn't mean that Louis is ready to be taken and that the time is at hand for some strong young fellow to rush in, belt him out from under his crown and rush off to gather in a million dollars or so. He still can hold these young fellows off—he should be able to, since he still is a young fellow himself. But it means that he has entered on a new phase of his career.

He is just the heavyweight champion now—and not a bogy man. The lightning still crackles in his fists and he still ranks as one of the greatest fighters the ring ever has known. But he no longer frightens his opponents out of their wits. There are no more Paulinos dying in the training camp or Levinsky's dying in the dressing room.

A Terrifying Appearance

Once nobody—save Max Schmeling—thought of getting Louis off



JOE LOUIS

that single track on which he travels so fearfully. That was in the time when to be matched with him meant certain destruction.

Men took matches with him for the money alone—and then almost immediately began to regret their greed. There was something mysterious and inscrutable and terrible about his very appearance. He was, it seemed, greater than any of the fighters who had gone before him. He was invincible and the utter lack of emotion that he showed made him terrifying. Most of his fights were won before he laid a glove on his opponent. The psychological advantage was tremendous.

Schmeling, in their first fight, demonstrated that Louis had no defense against a cunningly launched right hand and knocked him out. Louis came back from that knockout a better fighter because it fired him with a new determination and taught him a valuable lesson. He was a magnificent fighter the night he knocked out Jim Braddock to win the title and again the night he took his revenge on Schmeling.

The Scene Changes

But the scene in which he moves has been changed. None of those pressing closer about him now is capable of beating him—but they know that he can be beaten. They know that in his last two fights he was hit often enough to have been knocked out but actually didn't come even close to a knockout because neither Bob Pastor nor Godoy can punch.

Naturally, this is stimulating to the young heavyweights around the country. Two years or so ago there was no real inducement to any young heavyweight, beginning to throw his punches in some remote corner, to hit the trail for a title match because there was a bogy man at the end of the trail. Now every young heavyweight is rushing to join the circle that has been formed about the champion.

Speaking of Sports

Same Old Plot, But Seabiscuit Modernizes It

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

READERS of pulp magazine fiction will recognize the plot.

It's a story of a racehorse and a jockey. Both of them were said to be through, all washed up. They had been at the top of the heap but time had taken its toll and both were spoken of in the past tense.

Then came the last desperate effort. The big race. The one the horse had lost by a nose the two previous years. This time fortune smiled and the valiant pair was victorious. The horse and jockey are again topnotchers in the struggle for turfdom's gold and glory.

You've doubtlessly recognized the main characters by now. They're Seabiscuit and his jockey, Johnny Pollard. The latest chapter in their combined careers was written at California's Santa Anita racetrack recently when the Biscuit won the \$100,000 handicap and established himself as the world's all-time leading money winner.

It wasn't so very long ago that the end of the glory road seemed just ahead for both the Biscuit and Johnny Pollard. Their comebacks are closely related. Two years ago Pollard was rated one of the top riders of the country. He rode Seabiscuit to many of his early triumphs.

Double Trouble

Then things started to go wrong. Pollard suffered a broken leg in New England. He spent several months in a hospital and then went to the California ranch of Seabiscuit's owner, C. S. Howard. He was joined there by his old pal, Seabiscuit, who had broken down in a cheap race testing himself for the 1939 Santa Anita handicap.

From then on the horse was Pollard's special charge. As horse and jockey recuperated, Pollard helped Trainer Tom Smith bring the Bis-



JOE LOUIS

cuit back into shape. He exercised the horse and saw to it that he had the best of care.

Then, last fall, Pollard was ready to go back to the racing wars and Seabiscuit was taken to Tanforan to resume training. They worked hard, but their first two races at Santa Anita were disappointing. So disappointing, in fact, that onlookers suggested that the horse be returned to the pasture and that Pollard forget about riding.

The recent San Antonio handicap changed the complexion of things. In this "test race" for the Santa Anita handicap Pollard made a perfectly judged ride on the Biscuit, and the seven-year-old horse galloped to victory in record time.

Kayak Finishes Strong

The rest is history. It's doubtful if the turf will ever produce a race that can match, for sheer drama, the one in which old Seabiscuit went thundering under the wire at Santa Anita. A crowd of 75,000 fans cheered their overwhelming favorite as he led his stable-mate, Kayak II, across the finish line.

The claim has been made repeatedly by those who saw the race that it was "rigged" for Seabiscuit—that Howard's other entry, Kayak II, could have nosed out the winner if he hadn't been held back.

It is true, of course, that the Howard stable had publicly "declared to win" with Seabiscuit if the luck of the race gave him a chance. By "declaring to win" with any specific horse in its entry, a stable records its intentions of using the other horse, or horses, as a sort of policeman, to be there to rescue the victory in case something happens to the chosen one.

EUROPE:

Peace in the North

"Finland stood alone against a huge opponent. We could not win the war alone. The inevitable end would have been the destruction of our country."

Thus spoke Foreign Minister Vaino Tanner as a peace delegation winged its way homeward from Moscow. The war was over and Finland would "soon regain her vitality." Field Marshal Baron Karl Gustav Mannerheim figured Finland had lost 15,000 men to Russia's 200,000, which was proof enough that the vanquished army was far superior, man for man. But the war had left Finland a shambles, its best men dead, some of its best land lost to the invader (see map.) Ahead lay a tough job, but the kind to which generations of Finns have become inured.

Gradually the true story leaked out. First peace overtures had



VAINO TANNER

Tough job ahead.

come from Finland two weeks earlier, via Sweden. Major factor had been a Scandinavian defensive alliance which Finland agreed to sign with Sweden and Norway once the war was over. And as the Finns busied themselves moving refugees from ceded areas, their foreign ministry made haste to weld that alliance. "Peace... will not again be broken," promised Vaino Tanner.

(From Paris, Chicago Daily News Edgar Ansel Mower reported he knew why Finland never appealed directly for allied aid. Reason: The German minister at Helsinki informed Finland that issuance of such an appeal would bring German troops to assist the Russians.)

Reaction in the West

That Russia's victory in Finland was a defeat for France and Britain, no observer could deny. In

NAMES

in the news...

GOV. LEON C. PHILLIPS of Oklahoma called national guardsmen to block completion of the \$20,000,000 Grand River PWA dam. Reason: He claimed the U. S. owed Oklahoma \$850,000 for land, roads and bridges to be inundated by the reservoir. Result: He got a temporary injunction.

JUAN TRIPPE, president of Pan-American Airways, told a Chicago audience that PAA plans daily "local" flights from San Francisco to Hawaii, cruising 2,400 miles in nine hours.

SEN. GERALD P. NYE (R., N. D.), was divorced by his wife at Fargo, N. D. Grounds: Cruelty.



WHAT RUSSIA GETS

"Finland stood alone..."

Scandinavia, where Russo-German pressure had helped bring peace, the allies had lost considerable prestige.

In the Balkans and Near East, where combined Russo-German pressure has been kept to a minimum because of the Finnish war, there sprang up overnight signs that the dictator nations had reached a working agreement. Italy, long fearful of Russian aggression in the Balkans, was reported negotiating a trade pact with Moscow under Nazi auspices. Meanwhile, Germany also worked on a Soviet-Rumanian non-aggression pact. These things left Turkey out on a limb; soon she will be forced to surrender her friendship with the allies and play ball with the Moscow-Rome-Berlin triangle.

For Germany, the biggest immediate gain was a chance to beat the British blockade. With Russia at peace, the Nazis could now expect oil, munitions and foodstuffs from Joe Stalin.

Reaction in the East

No sooner had Russia ended one war than she started another one. At least advices reaching Shanghai reported a resumption of hostilities on the Outer Mongolian frontier, where a truce ended the fighting last September. Since then border demarcation conversations have bogged down. Though Tokyo angrily denied new fighting, she also lodged a strong protest with Moscow against Russian airplane flights over Jap territory in the southern half of Sakhalin island.

MISCELLANY:

Niblets in the News

At Washington, the National Broadcasting company applied for permits to build television transmitting stations at Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington.

At Hollywood, Walt Disney Productions, progenitor of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, became a big business enterprise by filing intention to raise \$4,000,000 new capital.