

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### War Clouds Gather in Balkans As Fleets Mass in Far East; British Troops Land in Norway

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

#### THE WAR: 1,900-Mile Front

Roughly, as the bomber flies, it is 1,900 miles from Narvik, Norway, to the Dardanelles of the Near East. World War II has spread itself across every mile of that great front. Nations not yet actually involved in military activity are bristling with preparation of defense, should the next bomb fall on their homeland.

#### Southern Exposure

Fleets of five nations—Turkey, France, Italy, England and Russia—all moving under strict secret orders, have taken up key positions along those strategic straits—the Dardanelles. When Italian warships moved out for what Mussolini called "customary spring maneuvers," British and French naval units assembled for "counter measures" by taking up more advantageous positions along the coast of Greece. In the Black sea, the Russian navy was reported to have laid hundreds of mines in "the right spots."

Neutral nations of southeastern Europe believed that such display of naval force foreshadowed the spread of war. Accordingly, Rumania placed her small navy in charge of all ports along the river Danube and the Black sea. With a threatened small crop of wheat, the Rumanians cut off grain supplies to Germany but the senate pro-



JONKHEER W. ROELL  
... No Trojan Horse.

visionally accepted a government bill giving Germany a 30-year lease on 100,000 acres of badly needed timber. It was evident that King Carol was trying desperately to retain the good graces of the great Nazi war machine.

Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Turkey, fearing a repetition of the fatal infiltration of Nazis into Norway, had special police launch wide-spread investigations of all resident Germans.

#### Northern Exposure

While Norwegians pondered the strange mystery, treason and conspiracy that made their native capital, Oslo, such easy mark for the cunning coup of the Germans, the British were blasting their way into the northern harbor of Narvik. The British and French claimed to have landed expeditionary forces at that point and 2,000 German troops were said to be retreating toward Sweden.

But if the allies were progressing satisfactorily in the north of Norway, the Nazis were being equally successful in the south. Positions around Oslo were solidified and

through use of a clever ruse it was reported that German troops had reached Storlien Heights, three miles from the Swedish border—thus succeeding in virtually cutting Norway in two.

British bombers were busy at two key points along the Norwegian coast. At Stavanger, held by the Germans, the English flyers made at least seven raids, attempting to destroy the air base there. It is considered to be the only efficient Norwegian field for large-scale attacks on the British Isles. Bombs were also rained on Trondheim, for here too, the Germans held a vital air base.

It looked like the big battle of the Norwegian campaign would come when German forces moving north from Oslo and Bergen would meet British and Norwegian forces moving south from Narvik.

#### NEUTRALS: Pony Boy

Invoking strictest censorship and policing every section of the nation, Netherlands officials were on the alert for any "Trojan horse" activity on the part of Germany. Rumor had it that the Nazis were planning a coup in Holland similar to the one which fooled the Norwegians. Former commander of the nation's army, Johnker W. Roell, told a national youth meeting that persons who had plans for a Nazi puppet government should be hanged—"The bullet," he said, "is too great an honor."

#### ASIA: Dutch Treat?

While Secretary of State Hull was warning the world to maintain the status quo in the Dutch East Indies (see below) British and French forces in the Far East were on the lookout for anything that might even resemble so much as an attempt on the part of Japan to seize those coveted islands. Earlier, Japan's government itself had expressed a desire that the islands be left alone even though the Netherlands were invaded by Nazis. Neutral observers in the Orient, however, foresaw the possibility of Japan allying itself with Germany, taking the islands as first share of the spoils should Hitler march toward The Hague.

#### POLITICS: Accent on Youth

Selection of 33-year-old Harold Stassen, governor of Minnesota, as the keynote speaker for the Republican National convention to be held in Philadelphia, June 24, was hailed by G. O. P. leaders everywhere as an accent on youth and "liberalism." Named permanent chairman (subject to the convention's approval) was Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. of Massachusetts.

Sometimes mentioned as a presidential possibility himself, Stassen is unable to consider making the bid for he is too young, the Constitution requiring a candidate to be 35.

Elected governor in 1938 he has been busily engaged at introducing "liberal reforms" into his native state. He is a candidate for re-election in next fall's contest.

Joe Martin is expected to provide the experience needed at the convention. He is completing his first term as Republican leader in the house and is serving his eighth term in congress.

#### HOME FRONT: Status Quo

Secretary of State Hull informed the world at large that the Netherlands East Indies in the south Pacific were to be left strictly alone, should the Dutch become a party to Europe's conflict. With respect to Japan to state the position of the United States with respect to the islands (which furnish America with vital supplies of rubber and tin) Hull stated: "Intervention in the domestic affairs of the Netherlands Indies... would be prejudicial to the cause of stability, peace and security... in the entire Pacific area."

#### Smile-of-the-Week



And "Thank-You-of-the-Week" were both presented to President Roosevelt at the White House, as Dr. K. P. Chen (above), Chinese purchasing agent, called to express the gratitude of his country for \$45,000,000 in credits made available to China by the United States since 1938.

#### NAVY: Boomlet

Senate support was growing for building a United States navy second to none after Admiral Harold R. Stark appeared before the committee on naval affairs to recommend a 25 per cent expansion of the fleet. The construction proposed by the admiral would cost some \$3,486,000,000.

Over a billion dollars per year would be necessary to keep up a fleet the size recommended. At present the senators are not worrying about where the money will come from as the current legislation merely authorizes construction, does not provide the funds.

Asked if he thought the United States faces a naval emergency, Admiral Stark replied, "In my opinion, an emergency exists when our relative position is continually growing weaker, as it is now."

#### BUSINESS: Cross Currents

Traditionally difficult to judge in presidential election year, business this year is following no specific pattern. While prominent business indices showed business to be a bit below last month and a bit above last year, financial reports of many major U. S. business firms were reported for the first quarter of 1940. In almost every case neat gains were evident.

Operating revenues of American Telephone & Telegraph company were up; Anaconda Copper tripled its net earnings as compared to the first three months of 1939; Shell Oil reported a sharply higher net profit and even the "problem-child" railroad companies showed gains. About 80 per cent of the leading railroad companies showed substantial increases in revenue.

Even creditors of one of the bankrupt Insull utilities firms learned that they would receive an additional "dividend" because of collections made from stock subscribers.

Carnegie Steel corporation announced a vast expansion program to increase tin plate production at the cost of "several millions of dollars." A. T. & T. (see above) also forecast a huge expansion in construction work.

#### CENSUS: 100,000,000th

Still ringing doorbells and ferretting out information, Uncle Sam's census enumerators counted the 100,000,000th American, with about 30,000,000 to go. Actual counting was expected to be completed within a week, but the bigger job of tabulating and compiling the information obtained will take months and in some cases years. Totals for states and the nations should be available during the summer. Near Zanesville, Ohio, one footcote enumerator claimed he had made 11 unsuccessful trips to the same house. Local wits suggested that possibly some of Mr. Tobey's (Rep. Charles Tobey of New Hampshire, arch-opponent of the income question in the census questionnaire) relatives lived in the district.

#### MISCELLANY: Batter Up

Play Ball—The great American game was off to a flying start as both major baseball leagues began the six-months season of official play. Opening days saw good crowds at all contests, despite unusually poor weather. Bob Feller, ex-Iowa farm boy, pitching for the Cleveland Indians, made baseball history in Chicago, when he twirled a no-hit no-run game against the Chicago White Sox. It was the first time this feat had ever been accomplished on opening day.

#### Bruckart's Washington Digest

### Keeping Out of Europe's War Is Order of Business for U. S.

#### Conflict's Spread to Norway and Denmark Brings Problem Of Neutrality to Attention of Nation's Statesmen.

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

WASHINGTON.—More and more people seem to be expressing doubt that the United States can stay out of the new world war. One hears the talk in many quarters, official and unofficial. It frightens me. It is disturbing because so many seem to feel that the war is growing closer to us and they are, therefore, taking the view that we cannot stay out of it.

To all of those who are saying that it appears we are doomed to get into the war which remains, as before, simply Europe's war, and to every one else I want to present this question:

Why is it necessary for us to get into it?

That is the question. It is not how can we stay out, but why should we get into it. There is no doubt, of course, that extension of the war, spread of the flames to Norway and Denmark touches more American hearts. It is sad, indeed. But it would sadden many more hearts in these United States if we get mixed up in the conflagration. Moreover, no one has presented so far as I know any reason why the United States or any of its people or any of its interests should be involved in a war that represents fundamentally nothing more than the thirst for power of a very few men in all of the people. Again, it is sad, but it is not a quarrel of our making and I fail to see any reason why or how the United States should shoulder any responsibility.

The American government is taking precautions. Some of them seem to be rather silly, rather an excitable reaction. For instance, Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, and Representative Vinson, of Georgia, chairmen of the senate and house naval committees, respectively, held a long conference with President Roosevelt the other day at which they discussed the proposition of an expanded navy.

#### President Has Extended Foreign Combat Zones

The President has extended the "combat zones" which no American ships or citizens may enter, legally. Very wisely, I believe, he did not delay in issuing a proclamation that the war zones of Europe included the waters of Norway, Sweden, and similar areas. That will go far towards preventing greedy, daring and chance-taking individuals from getting their ships shot to pieces. Some of them would take that chance, you know, because the profits are large. But always the rest of us must think of what our government is forced to do when citizens of the United States, on legal business, are slaughtered by a foreign navy or army. We have only to look back to 1915 and 1916 to see how such killings, step by step, took us into World War No. 1.

There is considerable doubt, however, about the wisdom shown by the President in sending Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles on that European junket. Mr. Welles has been home a month now. Some of the results can be appraised properly. The answer is that insofar as tangible results are concerned, the trip was a flop of the first water. That is, unless the trip may have aroused suspicions of our motives, it was a flop. If the suspicions were aroused—suspicions that America was planning on future entry—then, of course, the trip was a most dangerous thing.

#### European Rulers Might Misjudge Welles' Mission

Private expressions from some diplomats here have caused me to believe there is some suspicion about us in Europe now. It is natural, I suppose, that the dictators and even the French and the British would be looking for hidden reasons for such a mission as Mr. Welles executed. They are always double dealing themselves, so we can suppose that they look for similar traits among Americans. In any event, nothing of consequence came out of that tour of the European capitals, not even political prestige for the President.

Welles' appointment was announced, there was a good deal of undercurrent gossip in Washington that the whole plan was conceived and engineered by a little group of New Dealers. They thought the mission might lead to peace negotiations and Mr. Roosevelt would become a sureshot for a third term in the White House. As usual, the so-called "inner circle" had no knowledge of what the real fight was about overseas.

As against the things that might cause trouble and thereby endanger our neutrality—and more about our neutrality below—it surely is a commendable thing that the members of congress are keeping their tongues still for once in their collective lifetime. I do not mean that senators and representatives are quiet. I do not mean that the halls of the house and the senate are not ringing with the usual amount of demagoguery. Far from it. What I mean and what I am commending is that congress as a whole has exercised the finest caution in talking about the war. Whether they realize it or not, the members of the house and senate, by maintaining silence on the subject of the war, are inducing millions of other people to quit talking about the war.

#### Attitude in United States Is Not Really Neutral

About our neutrality: That is not a proper description of the position of the United States. We are not neutral. We are, as a nation, certainly favoring the cause of the British and the French. I am that



SUMNER WELLES AND WIFE  
... His mission misjudged?

way, myself. I really do not care who blows Hitler and all of his gang sky-high. Officially, however, the United States is still friendly with Germany and Russia. It is so ridiculous that one has to laugh.

Evidence of how our siding in with the allies obtains even in governmental affairs was given just the other day when the President proclaimed the new combat zones around Norway and Sweden. It was a proclamation that avoided saying the countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark were "at war."

Why? Well, if the United States government, acting through the President, had said those nations were at war, another law would have become operative and Mr. Roosevelt did not want that law to be operative. If those nations had been declared formally "at war," another law would have prevented any money being loaned to them. Mr. Roosevelt wanted to keep the door open so that help can be extended if it becomes necessary.

There, again, you can see the possibilities of danger. Also, the definite evidence of the American desire to help Germany's enemies is plain to see. If we think, however, that the lending of money to a foreign nation that is engaged in war does not lead to additional steps and additional dangers, then we have become an ostrich and are trying to hide our head in the sand.

The dangers of these various acts are apparent, it seems to me. I make no charge that Mr. Roosevelt is trying to lead us into war. I believe quite the contrary. But with conditions as they are—with a dozen nations with their backs to the wall—every move made here requires the greatest of care and the greatest of understanding before it is made. The examination, as I insisted at the beginning of this discussion, should be made from the standpoint: Why is it necessary to stick out our necks? We can find no valid reason to get into the war.

#### Speaking of Sports

### Death of Real Foes Ends Big Gates for Louis

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THOUGH the hue and cry to "break up the Yankees" seems to have diminished to a mere whisper, the active endeavor on the part of several pugilists to "break up Joe Louis" has sunk to even lower depths.

Joe refuses to be broken up. In fact, he appears to be shatter-proof. At least he's impervious to the attack launched by pretenders to the heavyweight throne. It is true that some of them had no attack, others were paralyzed by fright and the rest relied on a divine providence to protect them from the black scourge. But that wasn't Joe's fault—he fought them as they came, drawing no line and refusing no bouts.

The Brown Bomber's last two fights clearly indicate his standing in heavyweight ranks. He is miles ahead of the field, from which no one battler can be chosen as a serious threat. True enough, Arturo



FOELESS CHAMPION

Godoy managed to go the route, but in so doing he relied entirely upon a defense which was a weird combination of the bunny-hug and a reverse heel-and-toe. Joe couldn't knock him out—there wasn't enough room to get a fist between Arturo's chin and the canvas. His crouch seemed to defy all laws of gravity.

#### Frightened Warrior

The recent Johnny Paychek fiasco was a black mark against Promoter Mike Jacobs. Shirley Temple could have offered more competition to the champ than did the semi-bald, 25-year-old Iowa lad, who lasted until 44 seconds after the start of the second round. Jacobs knows now that he was wrong in matching Paychek against Louis. Paychek was frozen with fear. He didn't throw a single punch worthy of the name. His only consolation was that the crescendo of boos was split three ways. Most of them were directed at him, but the rest were meant for Promoter Jacobs and Louis for having anything to do with the legalized robbery.

The gross gate of \$62,481—smallest cash register total Louis has attracted since he won the title three years ago—proved one thing. The public no longer is interested in seeing Louis fight unless he is given a fist opponent.

That gives Mike Jacobs something to think about. Where can he find a fit opponent? He'll be forced to dig into boxing's bone yard and resurrect a former opponent or else take a chance on another unknown if Louis is to fight a September match. Of the two evils the former appears to be the less malignant.

#### Who's Next on List?

Shall the winner of the Tony Galento-Max Baer fight meet the champ? Remember that Baer quit to Louis, and that Galento, though courageous, is physically a travesty on the sport. Both of them were knocked out by Louis, so where is the interest in either again facing a superior foe?

Another Godoy match would be a financial washout. A contortionist doesn't draw sufficient box office for championship fights. Bob Pastor has a better reputation as a bicycle rider than as a fighter, one entirely to his speed in keeping out of Louis' reach.

There isn't even a remote possibility of a "natural" fight in the near future. Any present-day brawler would be a punching bag for Joe, and the public knows it, which makes the situation even more embarrassing. All in all, it's a problem that will tax Jacob's ingenuity.

The question is in Mike Jacobs' lap. No one can answer it for him. The day of Louis' big purse seems to have passed. Lacking adequate compensation and the stimulus of serious rivalry, it would not be surprising if Louis decided to quit the ring.



GENERAL  
HUGH S.  
JOHNSON  
Says:  
THE NEW WAR

It is too early to begin drawing either military or political conclusions from the sudden outburst of action in Scandinavia. It was not anticipated in the writings of the military experts that I saw, but that the action taken by both sides had been carefully planned and prepared for is obvious.

You can't block up the territorial waters of a neutral by mine fields in three separate areas, the extreme two of which are 500 miles apart, without plenty of preparation—or do it in a day. You can't launch such an assault as has been made on Denmark and Norway any more rapidly.

It is curious that the allies would have so clearly invaded Norway's neutrality on the exterior route when the disappearance of ice on the interior route will so soon make that



IN OSLO AIR RAID SHELTER  
—"The rights of neutrals are only what they have the strength to make them."

mine-sowing activity superfluous. There must have been another reason.

In other words, while both preparations were kept secret from the world, they were not kept secret from either belligerent to prevent the other from knowing and acting instantly upon their revelation.

It is too early to blame Denmark for not resisting Hitler's "protective" invasion. On the face of current reports, she could only have crucified her country—as Finland and Poland did.

"AMERICANISTS"  
The most cockeyed reaction to the outburst in Scandinavia is that it sets the "isolationists" back on their heels. It doesn't even bear on the question.

I hate sloganeering labels, yet I would rather be called an "Americanist" than an "isolationist"—although I sincerely believe that they are the same thing and, if they are, "what's in a name?" My suggestion is addressed to the amateur military kibitzers who insist on our taking partners in this dance of death and who call people of my opinion "isolationists" because they believe in arming our own dugout to whatever extent is necessary and staying in it.

My suggestion is that these people proudly label themselves "interventionists"—and, since they glory in their opinions, be proud of the descriptive title which far more aptly distinguishes them than the word "isolationist" describes our train of thought.

It is absolutely fair to label them as "interventionists," but maybe it isn't fair without distinguishing between two clear classes of them. One group presses for American intervention on purely idealistic grounds. They are the do-gooders. They want to send other people or other mother's sons or other people's money into this bloody shambles to maintain "decency" on earth.

Even that statement might, on the surface, seem to carry an element of unfairness. Some of them are willing to embark themselves and their own sons on such a crusade. But whatever unfairness springs from this is only superficial. There is ample opportunity for this kind to do this right now. All they have to do is to go across the Canadian border and enlist.

But most do-gooders and "great liberals" are not considering personal sacrifice. They get, if they do not seek, the crown of public approval of their bleeding hearts without bearing any cross or personal sacrifice to achieve it. They want to make "government" do it—which means to make everybody do it whether agreeable or not.

### NAMES in the news . . .

¶ In Louisiana, Sam Jones put the finishing touches to the political dynasty of the late Huey P. Long, as he was formally elected governor of that state. He takes office May 14.

¶ And, also in Louisiana, another successful political candidate, Guy Caire, made the headlines for he was the first Republican to defeat a Democrat for a local office in that state since shortly after the Civil War. He was elected to the St. James parish police jury—(county commission).