

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Nazis Gain Ground in Norway As Allied Fleet Watches Italy; Balkan States Are Still Uneasy

(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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#### THE WAR: Shifting Scenes

Major stagehands in the theater of World War II are busy changing scenes for the next act in the current military drama. While the allies were admittedly doing a "fade-out" in southern Norway, attention was centered on the Mediterranean area where the French-Anglo fleet was concentrating.

Two important reasons for this shift in allied tactics seemed evident: (1) Britain and France figure on a swift German thrust into the Balkan countries and (2) to the allies the Italian question mark is looming larger than ever.

While Prime Minister Chamberlain was telling the house of commons that British forces were being removed from their central Norwegian base at Andalsnes, Germany was claiming that the allies were in "headlong flight" in that area.

German gains in central and southern Norway have been strength-



German coal for Italy is now shipped by railroad through Brenner pass.

ened but the battle is far from over. A long campaign is apparent and allied leaders are now attempting to cut off German supplies and troops from the homeland by intensifying attacks upon shipping and air bases.

Since the British sea blockade of Germany's coal shipments to Italy, Nazi officials have been transferring supplies of this important commodity by railroad, through historic Brenner pass. (See cut). But transportation problems in the war areas are getting even more complicated. Because of fears that Italy may align herself with Germany in the present war, Britain is discontinuing all through-shipping in the Mediterranean and is routing such cargo around the tip of Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. This, combined with the massing of the allied fleet in the eastern Mediterranean, appeared to point toward Italian war entrance.

But while this activity was taking place two counter moves were made which pointed toward continued Italian neutrality. William Phillips, U. S. ambassador to Italy, was reported to have learned from Premier Mussolini himself that Italy was not planning a war movement at present. The other favorable sign was the sailing of the great Italian trans-Atlantic steamship, Rex—out of Naples to New York. Foreign observers believed it unlikely that Italy would let this prized ship leave the country if war were near.

It appeared that the allies were attempting to force Italy into an official statement regarding her position in the present conflict.

## SIDELIGHTS

... of the war

In Canada the Department of National Defense issued posters which warned citizens to refrain from aimless or idle talk about military matters. Placed in conspicuous places throughout the country, the placards were released because the government feared the presence of enemy agents, according to the department.

France too, clamped down on gossip as the government warned citizens to be on guard against listening ears of the enemy. Even the slightest chance remark might reveal the clue to important information said the official statement. Indiscreet babblers of such information are liable to prosecution.

#### POLITICS:

##### Came the Spring

Month of blossoms and green grass, May, this year is watching leaders of both major political parties scamp for the grass roots to pluck choice blossoms in the form of convention delegates. There was plenty of wedding to do in the garden of presidential candidates, however, and while President Roosevelt could claim the greatest share of instructed Democratic delegates and Thomas Dewey was leading the Republican fold in that regard, May is definitely regarded as a vital month.

Republicans will choose 477 of their 1,000 delegates this month, almost completing their total. Democrats, who have already chosen 374, of their 1,094, will select about 400 more in May. With Roosevelt already having 305 pledged and semi-pledged delegates tucked away in his fold he looked like an odds-on favorite to enter the convention with a nice majority for himself or for his own "favorite-son"—whoever that might be.

While many of the lesser "buds" continued to hide their shy little heads at least one more Democrat blossomed out with the statement that he would make the race if the President didn't. And what's more, said he—none other than Burton K. Wheeler, senator from Montana—"I can't conceive of him (Roosevelt) being a candidate."

Republicans meanwhile gathered in Washington to do a little spading and cultivating with their convention and campaign problems. Keynote Harold Stassen of Minnesota held conferences with the designated choice for permanent chairman of the convention, Rep. Joe Martin of Massachusetts. He also contacted other party leaders as the party's platform began to take shape. Stassen said that party leaders were in "general agreement" over most



Joe Martin and Harold Stassen discuss plans for Republican national convention.

planks. Biggest stumbling plank was the "anti-war" attitude to be taken. All agreed that the party should promise to keep out of war, but a split was evident over the best manner in which to gain that end.

#### DOMESTIC:

##### Shipping

Despite restrictions placed upon it by the neutrality act, U. S. shipping has climbed to its highest point in 10 years. As this news was announced Attorney General Jackson was forming a special justice department unit to investigate and prosecute any violations related to neutrality sedition, espionage and similar offenses. Because so many ships are clearing U. S. ports for foreign destinations, law enforcement agencies have been hard pressed to keep track of all violations of the neutrality act.

#### Help Wanted

While Federal Security Administrator Paul McNutt was reporting that private industry was hiring about 18 per cent more persons last month than a year ago, another federal official, WPA Commissioner Harrington, was urging private employers to hire additional workers being released from WPA projects. Harrington stated that about 1,250,000 workers had left WPA in the past 12 months to take jobs in industry and on the nation's farms. Many of these, however, usually find it necessary to return to WPA after a few months of work.

## TREND

How the wind is blowing...

**Car Design**—From Detroit, world-center of the auto industry, comes word that 1941 models will present "changes . . . of a magnitude rarely before equaled in the automobile industry." Designs will be revised with a definite trend toward streamlined "torpedo" bodies.

**Construction**—At Miami, 600 architects saw a display showing how structural glass, large windows and plate glass mirrors may make tomorrow's home a "house of glass."

**Transportation**—Railroad companies have put into effect a plan whereby travelers in at least 30 states can rent automobiles for use in a community after having made their long trip by rail. Reservations are made at the time the train ticket is purchased and cars are ready when the traveler arrives. An association will cooperate with railroads in providing the cars and uniform national rates have been set up.

#### LABOR:

##### Ambitions

According to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, his arch-rival, John L. Lewis, desires to be President of the United States. Speaking before 1,500 delegates to the Pennsylvania A. F. of L. convention, Green charged that Lewis was trying to form a third party so that he could become its presidential candidate. Speaking in West Virginia last month, Lewis stated that unless the Democrats selected candidates acceptable to the common people and to labor he would advocate a convention for "every U. S. citizen."

In Green's Pennsylvania address he was cheered when he said: "He (Lewis) says the President is no good, nobody in the Democratic party is any good. He can't find anybody that measures up so he looks around and says, 'I'm the man.'" Green asserted that A. F. of L. would refuse to affiliate with any third party move.

#### MAY DAY:

##### Contrasts

Thousands of America's rural villages and towns regard May day as a time of traditional fun and frolic for U. S. children.

But in the major cities of the world the day takes on a varying hue. It is usually a day for the voice of labor to be heard. This year even that voice was quieted for laborers listened to still another voice—that of military might.

Around the world, May day, 1940 style, sounded like this:

**Stockholm**—Addressing a gathering of Swedish citizens, Premier Albin Hansson told the world that Sweden was determined to defend her neutrality "with all our power."

He pleaded for Swedish people to cooperate fully with the government in every way to meet the present international situation. Both the allies and Germany have assured Sweden that her neutrality will be respected but late in the nation has undertaken broad military precautions.

**Berlin**—Adolf Hitler's party deputy, Rudolf Hess, declared to a group of workers that the German people were engaged in this year's May day celebration "with the certainty of victory as never before." He ridiculed all allied hopes for Germany's internal collapse.

**Moscow**—Always impressive on May day, Russia's parade this year lived up to tradition as thousands of troops filed by the tomb of Lenin. Joseph Stalin stood for hours on the reviewing stand as his might was revealed before him in the never-ending line of soldiers. Members of the American diplomatic corps were among the thousands of spectators who watched the ceremonies and heard the speakers declare that capitalist governments and the Soviet were steadily growing further apart.

#### MISCELLANY:

Old Glory was lowered in Little America overnight. It will stay lowered for four months—until August 28, when the sun will reappear in the Antarctic regions.

A report from Manila, Philippine islands, indicated that a wave of head hunting was under way in the interior of the Nueva Ecija province. Three homesteaders were said to have been beheaded. The wild tribesmen are fighting encroachment upon their ancestral hunting grounds by farmers.

#### Bruckart's Washington Digest

### Congress Plans an Investigation Of Wallace's 'Must' Legislation

House Committee on Agriculture Will Check Secretary's Statement Regarding Loan Policies of Federal Land Banks.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
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WASHINGTON—Those folks who have been around Washington any length of time cannot fail to recognize the tremendous power exercised over congress, and throughout the country, by officials in the executive branch of the government. It always has been so. It appears to be on the increase, which is to say that it is growing very dangerous because through the last few years we have had a great deal of "must" legislation sent to congress from the executive branch of the government.

While, as I said, there always has been pressure of a tremendous sort from executive agencies, it reached a new peak lately. Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture headed the pack. He has set in motion a gigantic pressure machine to force through some legislation on farm loans. It is so far-reaching in its scope that if a private corporation or group of individuals had done it, they would have been characterized as "special interests" trying to smother congress; they would have been lobbyists of the first water, and they would have been denounced on the floors of the house and senate as brigands and highwaymen.

But Mr. Wallace seems to have stuck out his neck. He was too anxious. The house committee on agriculture has decided to look into the matter. You see, there is a statute that forbids officials or employees of the executive branch of the government disseminating, at public expense, documents designed to influence the views of congress. That is, in short, the statute forbids lobbying by officials of the government. The statement would not be complete, however, if the fact were not added that this statute has been violated so many times it is impossible to accurately make a report on them.

#### Secretary Wallace Disliked Land Bank's Loan Policies

I expect that the house committee on agriculture will not punish Mr. Wallace and his subordinates at all, politics being what it is and the necessity for face-saving always being present. But that does not prevent me from setting down here what Mr. Wallace has done. It ought to be noticed to all farmers to take the propaganda with a grain of salt, or several grains of salt.

Recently, Secretary Wallace issued a statement harshly criticizing the loan policies of the federal land banks as those policies were carried out under the banks' former management. In the language of the street, he kicked those policies higher than the well-known kite. Anybody who criticized the secretary's criticism at once became an agent of the special interests who are trying to enslave the farmer. In other words, all of the world's knowledge on the subject of farm credit was tucked away within the brain of the current United States secretary of agriculture.

But Mr. Wallace did not stop there. With the assistance of one Governor Black of the Farm Credit Administration, Mr. Wallace sent his statement about the terrible federal land bank policies through the mails to something like 600,000 farmers who are borrowers from the land banks. The letters, of course, went through the mails, free under the federal government's franking privilege.

#### Jones-Wheeler Bill Results Are Subject to Debate

To get back to the secretary's criticism of the former land bank management and the circular letter sent out at public expense: As I said, the secretary appears to have stuck out his neck. He included in that letter a thinly veiled appeal for the 600,000 farmer-borrowers to write to their representatives and senators in support of a piece of legislation known as the Jones-Wheeler bill. Mr. Wallace said this legislation would make it much easier for the farmers to borrow and it would make their debt burden easier to carry through a reduction in interest rates and through revision of other terms. It was, according to the department of

agriculture interpretation, legislation that would solve the farm debt problem that has confronted the American farmer over a period of very many difficult and trying cropping seasons.

It seems, however, that there are differing views as to what the Jones-Wheeler bill would do. Opponents of the measure insist that it is just another theory to supplant other theories that have failed. They charge it will make the borrowing of money so easy that presently an unsound basis will be established for all farm mortgages and that, ultimately, it will be almost impossible for farmers to borrow money anywhere. That is to say, the bill is another step in the direction that has ruined the farmers of land in the nations of dictators, for the reason that eventually the government will be telling the farmers when to eat and sleep. All of this is without reference to what I regard as the worst feature of the legislation, namely, the further use of federal money in controlling national, or even state, elections—because that end will surely result.

The secretary's action in sending the circular letters to 600,000 farmer-borrowers shows what can be done. Having been a farm boy myself, I think I can visualize the reaction of hundreds, if not thousands, of farmers to that letter. A good many of them will be afraid that if they do not support the Jones-Wheeler bill, they will not get fair consideration from the Farm Credit Administration. They will be afraid that some local representative of FCA will "tell on us." In other words, there is the danger of use of politics in the meanest way. And don't forget: when a politician is seeking office, he is seldom restrained.

#### Two Leading Farm Groups Are Opposed to Bill

The best proof that I have of the unsound character of the Jones-Wheeler bill lies in the fact that the National Grange and the Farm Bureau federation are opposed to it. Further evidence is that Mr. Wallace has been courting the Farmers alliance support of the bill. The Farmers alliance never has had a great following among those who seek sound farm policies. The National Grange and the Farm Bureau always have been respected and their views generally have been important with members of the house and senate. So, Mr. Wallace is found nursing the group that best fits his immediate purposes.

There is another thing to be mentioned. The Jones-Wheeler bill, with all its trick phrases, probably will not get through at this session of congress unless all available pressure is put behind it. It was to create this support that Mr. Wallace and Governor Black sent out their circulars in criticism of the land bank policies. Since there is no probability of congress being called into extra session and since adjournment of the current session is likely to occur sometime in June, the bill has to be pushed through now, or it will yield no political benefits at the election in November. I believe it is fairly clear from this what Mr. Wallace's suggested program contemplates.

The new drive for additional authority for the secretary of agriculture comes at a time when the cash farm income picture is not pretty. The last figures issued by the department of agriculture show that cash farm income for the months of January, February and March totaled \$1,896,000,000, whereas it was \$1,581,000,000 for the same three months of 1939. That looks like a gain, but wait!

According to the department of agriculture, farm subsidies for the first three months of this year were \$291,000,000 and for the same three months of 1939, the farm subsidies totaled \$192,000,000. The cash income reported for this year was, roughly, \$115,000,000 more than a year ago, and the subsidy paid to the farmers was almost \$100,000,000 larger than last year. Which, in my book, represents just no gain at all for the farm program.

I cannot enthuse, therefore, about the policies that have been called "best" by Secretary Wallace. He has tried too many "bests" and, after a lapse of time, they were displaced by another "best" and another that is certain to solve the farm problem. I am beginning to doubt whether the experts in the department of agriculture know what the word "best" means.

#### Speaking of Sports

### Fiction Pales Before Career Of Kid McCoy

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

NORMAN SELBY was the "real McCoy." And Norman Selby took his own life recently in a Detroit (Mich.) hotel.

It was under the name of "Kid McCoy" that Selby became one of the best and most glamorous boxing champions of half a century ago. The "real McCoy" was originated when the Kid billed himself that way in opposition to a rival who also called himself McCoy.

There were no tears shed at the Kid's funeral. He had caused too much trouble during his lifetime, had pulled too many mean tricks and was never too particular about how he fought as long as he was victorious.

But Kid McCoy was a great fighter. Boxing old timers remember him as a paralyzing puncher—one of the hardest hitters the fight game has ever known. His skill was so great he could pit successfully his 160 pounds against the best heavyweights of his day. His cunning was almost diabolical, and it was his cunning which made so many enemies for him.

#### Lesson in Cunning

McCoy reveled in victimizing his opponents. The old shoe lace gag was one of his best. In the midst of combat he would pause, point down, and tell his opponent to "hurry up, tie your shoe laces." When the victim looked, McCoy struck.

Sailor Tom Sharkey, now living in San Francisco, recalls the Kid with no fond memories. He tells about their fight in New York back in 1899. The Kid came into the ring that



KID (THE REAL) MCCOY

night with his gloves on. Sharkey's manager, Tommy Rourke, ordered the gloves removed. They were full of plaster. One good punch could have brought a permanent close to Sharkey's career.

That's a fight Sharkey will never forget. Odds were 10 to 6 McCoy would beat him. When the Kid knocked him down in the first round the ring-side odds went to 10 to 3. But the Sailor weathered the storm. He started working on his opponent's stomach; and the referee counted Sharkey couldn't forget the matter of the loaded gloves.

The most lurid section is tame when compared to McCoy's life story. At various stages in his career he was a millionaire and a hobo. He was a world's boxing champion and a jailbird. He married nine times—three times to the same woman. He served eight of a 20-year sentence for murder. Once he met Tommy Ryan, in 1896, after working as a jewelry store, and once he swamped out saloons.

It's almost impossible not to be melodramatic when writing of McCoy. He was a melodramatic person. His life was a series of fantastic adventures.

#### Unpleasant Memory

Tom Sharkey recalls another unpleasant incident in the Kid's life.

"I remember," Tom says, "how he met Tommy Ryan, in 1896, after working as Ryan's sparring partner and learning all his tricks, still hiding his own skill. He wrote Ryan he was dead broke and sick and wouldn't Ryan give him a chance to make some money? It would be just a workout for Ryan, but it meant a change for the Kid. He told Ryan he wouldn't even have to train. Ryan took him at his word and gave him the fight. McCoy beat him unmercifully—and laughed about it."

The tables were once turned on McCoy, however. He was the victim of an upset that ranks with the game's most inexplicable. Meeting Jack McCormick in 1899 in Chicago, the Kid was rated a 100 to 1 shot to win. One second after the bell the Kid was stretched on the floor senseless. McCormick had knocked him out with the first punch.



GENERAL  
HUGH S.  
JOHNSON  
Says:

#### MUZZLED BY NAVY

A retired naval officer has been ordered by the navy department to cease giving lectures on the war. An officer on the retired list is in a peculiar status. Having been disabled in service he is removed from active duty and not subject to orders in the usual sense. He gets, for life, what looks like three-quarters pay. Actually counting lost allowances, it is about half pay. Whether the navy department can legally muzzle him is a doubtful question.

Yet the navy doesn't shush up some retired officers who do not say acceptable things. The outstanding case is Smedley Butler. He has called his erstwhile marine employment the instrument of a racket.

The difference is that an obscure little lieutenant-commander (retired) could be sunk without a trace while a double medal of honor major-general super showman with a national reputation, a picturesque vocabulary and a voice like a foghorn—"old sugar-eye" or "old gimlet-nose" or whatever "old" it is—



REAR ADMIRAL TAUSSIG—His voice is being "shushed" by the navy.

couldn't be sunk at all without a splash that would raise the tides on all the seven seas.

In times of peace, I can't see why there should be any shushing at all. Nine-tenths of this military secrecy business is the bunk. I was glad to read of Admiral Taussig's testimony, that the reason for the navy's insistence on fortifying Guam and increasing naval estimates at a cost of more than a billion is that we've got to fight Japan.

For this purpose, he wants to establish an "impregnable base in the Philippines" (which is not possible) "fortify the island of Guam to make its capture impossible" (which is equally absurd) "and make an alliance with Great Britain, France and the Netherlands that will insure cooperation in the maintenance of the status quo in the area to the southward of Formosa."

The navy didn't attempt to shush Admiral Taussig. It merely said that his opinion was his own and contrary to its views.

But the navy is asking for exactly what Taussig is defending. It concedes that it wants to fortify Guam "to stabilize the political situation in the Far East."

Admiral Taussig was simply more explicit. He wants to check Japanese expansion in Asia and Malaysia which he says is "under way at present with the subjugation of China, the Philippines, Netherlands Indies, French Indo-China and Malaya are to be taken over in due course of time. Russia is to be driven westward of Lake Balkal."

It is a fair interpretation of the rest of the admiral's testimony that we have to fight a naval war with Japan to prevent all this and must get ready now.

I don't agree with Admiral Taussig. If we are to engage our strength and effort on distant and indefensible objectives half way across the world, we shall be duck soup for enemies much closer to our shores. We have no bones buried in Asia. But it is a wonderful thing to know that he could speak and did speak his mind.

It is unfair to the army, the navy and the country to tell them to prepare for war and not tell them what war—how, when and where. What is the foreign political, military and naval policy of the United States? That is our most important question. It needs to be debated and explored, and as to its military and naval aspects, professional military and naval men know the limitations. For the present at least, let's not shush any of them.