

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Farnham F. Dudgeon

## President Asks Billion Dollars For National Defense Program; Nazis Smash at Maginot Line

(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 above map graphically reveals how close German bombing wings are to England's coast should the Nazi war machine continue to hold The Hague, capital of the Netherlands. As indicated, it is only 125 airline miles from this point to Harwich, England, and London is only 100 miles southwest of Harwich. Lower arrow points to Sedan, where Germans launched their first attack on France's famed Maginot line.

### THE WAR: On Schedule

Since the outbreak of war last year, the prediction that with the coming of spring fighting would "open up," has been on the lips of observers everywhere. As Adolf Hitler's military machine thrust itself across The Netherlands, into Belgium and France, these predictions were at last coming true. For the world was witnessing what was hailed as "the greatest battle in history."

As in 1914 the German forces were making the most impressive showing in the first few days of the fighting. This time fortifications are believed to be stronger and less open to attack but the Nazi army and air force has developed offensive war to the point where no defense appears to be impregnable.

In The Netherlands, the Dutch army was ordered to cease firing, thus ending resistance to Germany's swarms of bombing planes and motorized-troops.

### Scope

This intensive fighting along the 200-mile front from the North sea to Saarbruecken was of utmost importance to the allies and Germany alike. This was indicated by the staggering amount of force each side whipped into the fray. Some experts claimed that this first great battle might be the most decisive of the war. It appeared that Adolf Hitler, firmly believing that "the Hour" had come, or forced through Germany's internal situation, had decided to stake all in one gigantic gamble.

As thousands of Nazi planes rained bombs upon military objectives and communication lines, England's royal air force flung back the challenge by losing ton after ton of high explosives in areas near important munitions plants along the Rhine and upon large German troop concentrations.

### Objectives

What the aims of the German high command in the great land offensive actually are, of course remain a closely guarded military secret. But in general it appeared that with The Netherlands at their mercy and with key airports in that country available to the Nazi air force, intensive bombing of the British Isles was an ever-present threat.

### QUOTATIONS

... on the war

Robert Ley, Nazi Labor Front leader, speaking of Adolf Hitler said that he is waging war, "in God-given natural mission" to "bring Europe and the world to reason and thereby make Europe and the world happy."

Visecont Gort, commander of the British expeditionary forces in France, "We are now on the eve of one of the great moments in the history of our empire. The struggle will be hard and long but we can be confident of final victory."

### TREND

... How the wind is blowing

**NYLON**—Heralded for several months as the answer to milady's plea for a superior stocking, hose made of Nylon, a synthetic fabric developed by duPont chemists, went on sale throughout the country. Nylon, a tough yet sheer product, is spun from air, water and coal.

**POLITICS**—In Atlantic City, supporters of a woman candidate for city commissioner, armed themselves with 200 candid cameras in efforts to keep "repeating" voters from the polls. "Every person" whose right to vote was in doubt was due for a snapshot and subsequent check-up.

**BUILDING**—In the 37 states east of the Rocky mountains, residential building contracts, last month, were highest since 1929. Eighty-eight per cent of the total \$135,420,000 in contracts so awarded, was in private ownership construction as distinct from projects financed from public funds.

### BUSINESS: Confusion

"When business is good with us, it indicates an upswing in business conditions throughout the country." So said none other than Postmaster General James A. Farley as he announced that postal revenues reached an all-time high at the close of the last fiscal year. He also ventured the prediction that the current year would see an even larger increase in postal returns. In such increased revenue he observed a general improvement in business conditions.



James A. Farley

For some time business analysts have been in accord with Mr. Farley in his thought that business was fairly good and getting better. Now the pattern of war is beginning to stamp itself in the industrial and agricultural fields and these impressions are sure to be felt.

Foreign markets for farm goods will probably be lost for the time being at least, but there will be a shift in the demand for manufactured goods from the warring nations. In particular the allies will no doubt be forced to speed up their purchases of war supplies, mainly fighting planes and equipment.

Whether the ultimate result will be a loss or gain for industry in this country is still uncertain. One thing was certain, however, confusion was the byword on the stock market. Up went some stocks, down went others.

Best guess was that the war would tend to accelerate U. S. trade with our neighbors in the Western hemisphere. And if demands for large U. S. home-defense supplies materialize, war equipment manufacturing firms should register neat gains.

**POLITICS: Inside Track**  
For a long time New Dealers have been claiming that their champion, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, could have the Democratic nomination for the presidency for the third time if he wanted it. Fact now is that with 499 delegates solidly pledged for him and with New York's 94, practically his for the asking, he will have enough votes to be nominated on the first ballot come convention time.

And the third term tide was rising with the war. Many Washington politicians have felt for months that the President's decision to become a candidate hinged largely upon the development of Europe's conflict. With the outbreak of the "big battle" it appeared to them that he would decide to make the race. Other observers felt he would withhold accepting or rejecting the nomination until it has actually been tendered.

Cordell Hull, secretary of state, appears to have the inside track for the nomination if President Roosevelt refuses it. Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler seems to be running second only to Mr. Hull in the Democratic "I-HE-doesn't-want-it" club.

**MISCELLANY:**  
Fire destroyed \$1,500,000 in war goods stored in the National Guard arsenal at Montgomery, Ala. An investigation was ordered as Adj. Gen. Ben M. Smith reported he saw flames break out at the front and near the back of the building at about the same time.

Back to the United States from the Antarctic came Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd. He said he was back because he had been ordered to return, being under navy orders. His expedition has already charted about 900 miles of unknown coastline in Little America, according to Byrd.

### Bruckart's Washington Digest

## Intelligent Political Opposition Results in Better Government

Republican Party Is Beginning to Realize This Fact and Has Started a Move to Put Its 'House' in Order.

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

WASHINGTON.—Early in Mr. Roosevelt's first term as President, Democratic Chairman Farley voiced a thought that his party, then preponderantly in control of the machinery of government, would be much better off if the opposition was stronger. Later, he amplified that thought with a statement to the general effect that intelligent opposition always made for good government.

The thing that Mr. Farley feared was that the overwhelming Democratic strength in the house and senate would run away with itself—would get out of hand. That happened. Not exactly in the way, perhaps, that Mr. Farley had suggested, but the majority did get out of hand to the extent that congress became known for at least six years as a rubber stamp. Almost any sort of legislation that was conceived within the administration became "must" legislation. The result was, of course, that there has been a pile of laws passed and a good many of them are so impossible and so unsound that they will rise to haunt the political party that sponsored them as time goes on.

Paradoxically, this discussion about Mr. Farley's views and the developments that followed is only a prelude to some observations and reports of what is going on within the Republican party these days. The facts that have come from the situation of the last six or eight years



REP. JOSEPH MARTIN—He is getting credit for a job well done.

shows what things are engendered by success or prospects of success.

Republican wheelhorses tell me with great enthusiasm that this is certain to be a "Republican year." The voters will determine the answer next November, of course, but it is only a reporting job to repeat that the Republican leadership is expected to control the house of representatives after January 1, 1941. It is only a job of reporting to say also that within the Republican party there are some factions that are snarling and baring their teeth at each other because each side thinks their party will run the show for the next four years.

### House Committee Lists Are Being Renovated

One of the things that is happening within the Republican leadership, however, displays none of the signs of the scrap for nominations or places of control. It reflects probably as nearly the true type of political intelligence as Mr. Farley had in mind.

In the house of representatives these days, plans are going forward for renovation of Republican lists on house committees. There have been many changes, usually made singly and without apparent relation to each other. But the shifts have been going on for several months and they have attracted little attention, generally. Yet, they make a pattern. The pattern obviously is predicated upon a desire of the mainstays of the house Republicans to see the best men they have placed where they will serve to guide their party policies.

Now, it may be that that represents the peak of optimism. The explanation given me, however, was that whether the Republicans control the house or whether, after next January, there still will be a Dem-

ocratic majority, the program of revived party activity will work. If, for example, the Democrats should control the house, there will be that "intelligent opposition" which Mr. Farley suggested as necessary to good government; if, on the other hand, Republicans win control of the house, there will be well-trained men in the posts of leadership that are represented by chairmanships of important committees.

This job, of course, is attributable directly to the brains and the political capacity of one man. He is Representative "Joe" Martin of Massachusetts, Republican leader of the house. It has taken him quite awhile to accomplish the end that is now visible, because for some months there were not enough Republicans in the house to form a bucket brigade. But the fact remains that Mr. Martin has laid his plans well, and I think the Washington writers almost without exception give him credit for a job well done.

### Veteran Party Workers Should Get Preference

Back of these efforts of Mr. Martin, however—"way back in the hinterland, the prospects of Republican victory, or partial victory, this fall, have brought out the usual number of seekers after the spoils when the sense of small tells of possible pie counter membership. Now, I don't care whom voters may select but, being a believer in party responsibility for governmental administration, I always have felt those fellows who have done the work in bad times, politically, should be allowed to have more voice in party affairs than the Johnny-come-lately type when the harvest is to be reaped.

To state a specific case as an illustration of many such instances that have been reported in primaries, let me refer to an Indiana contest. Rep. Charles Halleck of Indiana's second district had opposition for renomination. It is to be assumed that his rival was a capable young man, but the thing struck me as rather sour because Halleck had fought through the days when a Republican member in the house could count on being nothing more than a piping voice in the wilderness. But when the prospects were such that many looked upon a house seat as a plum, up jumps opposition to a man who has learned much about handling legislation and who stands in a position that will give him a strong say-so about national politics in event the house is controlled by his party after election.

To have upset Halleck in the primary would have gone entirely contrary to good politics. Mr. Halleck's assertion applies again. In event of victory for Republicans, a man that is capable and informed is available to help in party leadership; in event of continued control by the Democrats, the needed "intelligent opposition" is provided. Mr. Halleck won his primary battle and it is a tribute to his district's voters as well as to him that he was victorious.

### G.O.P. Presidential Aspirants Are Using Wrong Tactics

On the other hand, it begins to appear that supporters of some of the candidates for the Republican presidential nomination are not to be commended in the same fashion. Supporters of the three best known candidates—Taft, Dewey and Vandenberg—are using some tactics that do not make for sound government. That is to say, there are some things going on within the ranks of each candidate's backers that likely will rise up one of these days and smear somebody with a beautiful coat of tar.

As these lines are written, it is scarcely a month until the Republicans hold their convention at Philadelphia. Chairman Hamilton of the national committee has called for the delegates from the several states who are to serve as members of the convention committee on resolutions to get together ahead of time. He has asked them to start work so that the party platform will not be a clipboard house through which the winds of opposition charges can sift snow. But there has been objection to that. I regard it as a good move. On the other hand, there are those politicians who are shooting at Mr. Hamilton about it and they are stirring up quite a stink. Their attitude simply reflects a greedy desire to get in on the backbones at hog-killing-time when there had been no hog killing to speak of for several years.

### Speaking of Sports

## Dean Through? No One Knows Final Sentence

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WHEN the one and only Dizzy Dean pitches his last game of baseball for the Chicago Cubs—and that can well happen in the not too distant future—it will furnish a field day for every sports scribe in the nation.

For the incomparable Diz is the sole individual cast from that particular mold. He is "Mr. Baseball" to hundreds of thousands of fans who can recite pitching records as readily as Junior can fear through the multiplication tables. Other men are more important to baseball. Even the most ardent Dean rooter would hesitate before calling him an elevating influence in the baseball world. But none of them captured the public fancy as did Diz.

It was only six years ago that Dean won 30 games as St. Louis captured the National League pennant and the World Series. Today, the pitcher for whom the Chicago Cubs paid \$185,000 in cash probably will be relegated to the permanent role of relief pitcher.

### 'One More Chance'

P. K. Wrigley, owner of the Cubs, has given Dizzy a square deal. So has Manager Gabby Hartnett. They've been willing, so far, to give "just one more chance" to a spectacular, up-and-down, headline-making pitching career.

When Cub officials first discussed the role of reserve moundman for their great one, he had started in every fourth game since the opening of the 1940 campaign—a program planned to answer once and for all whether he could be depended



DIZZY DEAN

on this season. In his first start, against St. Louis, he was knocked out in the fifth inning, after yielding five runs and seven hits. The next game saw him beat Cincinnati on five hits.

His next start, against St. Louis, saw him head for the showers in the fifth, after allowing five runs and eight hits. In his last game as a regular, every fourth game starter, the Phillies got to him for eight hits and four runs in less than five full innings.

That record is a far cry from St. Louis Cardinal days. With that team he won 134 games during his stay of seven years.

### The Vagaries of Diz

Dizzy and Manager Hartnett seemingly operate on a day-to-day basis. When things are going right with the great one, Gabby is the salt of the earth and a joy forever. When no silver lining can be seen peeping through the dark clouds, then Gabby, in Dean's opinion, is a second rate manager of a third rate team. For the most part, however, Gabby has looked with philosophical resignation on the outbursts of his moundman.

Dean's escapades, adventures and holdout sieges have furnished startling sports (and even front) page copy for many a year. Diz is the only player in existence who has enjoyed the unforgettable experience of being bitten by a telephone.

His early-season tirades against Hartnett were superb. Even Gabby must have been proud of his pitcher's originality and forthrightness when he felt he wasn't being given a fair chance to demonstrate his comeback.

Now Dizzy is close to the twilight of his career in the big leagues. Owner Wrigley has not indicated what disposition he will make of Dean. In fact, he hasn't even indicated that he will get rid of him. But chances are that Diz won't grow old with the Chicago Cubs.



GENERAL JOHNSON Says:

DANGERS PARADED

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A digest of those "thousands of telegrams" drawn by the President's Pan-American speech on Hitler's latest blitzkrieg would be valuable.

Ninety per cent of them were reported by Secretary Early to approve and the other 10 per cent to be from "peace-at-any-prices." An analysis would be valuable because I can't see how you can approve a speech when you don't know what it means. I have discussed this speech with several informed people. They don't know what it means—and I don't.

From its condemnation of treacherous brutality of Hitler the approval should have been 100 per cent and also for its plea for pan-American unity in defense. This unity the President called "our solution." But then he said: "Is this solution—our solution—permanent or safe if it is solved for us alone? . . . I think not!"

What does that mean? It may seem a slight phrase to be quibbling about, but no utterance by a President of the United States on our future course in a world at war is a "slight" phrase. This one wasn't intended to be slight. It was coupled with an assertion that too many of us have been deceived by the "false teaching of geography" into feeling safe, "physically, economically and socially," from the impacts of attacks on civilization elsewhere. Then followed statements that, from the point of view of conquest, Santiago, Chile, is closer to Europe than Alexander found Macedonia to be from Persia or than the distance Caesar traveled from Rome to Spain—that is, four or five hours from Africa to South America as compared with four or five weeks it took the armies of Napoleon to go from Paris to Rome or Poland.

I don't know what that means but it sounds like "our frontier is in France." The statement identifying airplane timetables with the pace of conquering armies or from the point of view of conquest is utterly misleading—almost as misleading as it would be to say that the speed of a race horse compares with that of a telegram. An airplane can go from Africa to South America in a few hours. But an army can't. It can't go at all if our navy and air force are efficient and afloat and not chasing boogey-men in the east Pacific. This aspect of the speech was cryptic obscuration coupled with sensational and misleading terrorism.

It creates an occasion to repeat the quotation from Lloyd George's speech that upset Chamberlain. "The nation is ready as long as its leadership is right, as long as you say clearly what you are aiming at, as long as you give confidence to them that their leaders are doing their best for them."

The President does the deliberate reverse of "saying clearly what he is aiming at." His carefully guarded exterior seems to be full to the bursting point with some kind of interior content he doesn't often reveal but every time a new pressure comes, a little of it squirts out—like "frontiers in France" and "quarantine the aggressors." The whole country is behind him at any cost or effort to prepare this country for defense of this continent. It is 90 per cent against any attempt at "defending" America by attacking in Europe or Asia—with either men, money or materials. It would be a political—as well as naval and military—catastrophe.

For, even for the relative strategic ease of continental defense, Mr. Roosevelt has not prepared the military and naval weapons to make good his position and the whole of recent history proves that bluffing on a bobtail is suicide.

**FAT'S IN THE FIRE**  
The fat's in the fire and our navy is in Hawaii. Our miniature army is relatively equipped with bows and arrows. It is a pitiful Falstaffian insufficiency. We are quibbling about the design of a rifle already adopted and in production after years of experiment. It appears now that the navy has known the facts of its weakness against bombs from above, mines from below and secret foreign building programs for some time—without admission before the crisis.

Surely there was no ignorance in this government about the absolutely inefficient equipment of our army in almost everything needful for modern war and its own grotesque inadequacy.