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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Farnham F. Dudgeon

Congressional Attention Centers On Plan for 'Peacetime Draft'; Air Battles Rage Over England

(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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Now that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have ended their 22-year independence by voting themselves into the Soviet Union the influence of Russia turns in a new direction. Reports indicate that Moscow is interested in seeing a "popular government" set up in Rumania and some sources claim that King Carol is said to be preparing a shift away from the Nazi-like cabinet of Ion Gligu. Is the bear's paw reaching out for another "grab"?

U. S. DEFENSE: Fall In

With legislation still pending before congress for the first United States military draft since World War days, the army has announced its preliminary plans for a citizens' training program, should the Burke-Wadsworth compulsory military training bill become a law.

Testifying before the house military affairs committee, Brig. Gen. William E. Shedd, assistant to the army chief of staff, declared that if the conscription legislation passed, training for 400,000 men would begin on October 1, this year, and for 400,000 more next April 1 and an additional 600,000 October 1, 1941.

Registration of all U. S. male citizens between the ages of 18 and 64 would take place September 1, this year but only those between 21 and 45 would be liable for active service. The other age groups would be used for home defense purposes. First draft would probably call to the colors men without dependents between the ages of 21 and 31. General Shedd said flatly in part of his testimony that "never in time of peace" would legislation require men with dependents to enter military training.

While the senate military committee started the compulsory training legislation on the road with a decided majority for the approval of the measure a real legislative fight looms on the floor of both house and senate. Typical of the opposition faced by the measure is the attitude of Senator Norris (Ind.-Neb.) who has raised his voice against the legislation with the statement it would gradually transform the United States into an "international bully" bent on the destruction of other nations.

Only present member of the senate who voted against U. S. entrance into the World War, Norris claims that the effect of military training on American youths would have a tendency to make them eventually recognize no ideal "except that of military force."

NAMES in the news

¶ Hailé Selassie, long a name-in-the-news while his native Ethiopia was under invasion by Italy's Benito Mussolini, popped back into the spotlight with the announcement that he was returning to Africa from London to direct his nation's fight for freedom.

¶ When told that an Italian had quoted him as saying that Britain would lose the war, George Bernard Shaw, world-famous author, bristled, branded the story as untrue, burst out with the statement that "I don't know whether Britain is going to lose the war, even with the help of God."

Pulpit or Bullet



News from London reports that members of the House of Lords and Commons, doctors, lawyers and ministers are being put through their paces as members of the local defense volunteers. Dr. Jocklyn Perkins, socialist to Westminster Abbey, is shown here being instructed in rifle drill by a member of the local defense volunteers.

PAN-AMERICA: Hull in Havana

As representatives of the 21 American republics gathered at the Havana, Cuba, conference were threshing out their problems of (1) European colonies in the Western hemisphere, (2) fifth column activities and (3) relief for disrupted economic systems resulting from Europe's war, principle challenge to United States leadership in a program of unified activity came from the Argentine delegation.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull outlined the program advocated by the United States which calls for immediate financial aid to any country in need of it (congress was speeding work on a \$500,000,000 fund to aid Latin-American countries whose markets had been lost because of the war), diplomatic and consular planning aimed at suppression of subversive and fifth column activity and a joint trusteeship of foreign-owned possessions in this hemisphere by all of the American republics.

Argentina particularly objected to the latter suggestion for that country has some very definite ideas about the British Falkland islands, and in case of England's defeat by Germany would prefer actual possession of them rather than a joint rule with 20 other nations. Venezuela would like the Netherlands East Indies and Guatemala is reported to have designs on British Honduras.

Main reason that the Argentine delegation was hesitant to immediately fall in line with any proposal that might be construed as a slap at the dictators was because of the effect upon her future trade relations with Europe.

BUSINESS: Pile Up

As numerous mills and factories continue to run at the highest levels since 1929, orders for defense goods are piling up much additional business for U. S. industry.

Since the beginning of the government's preparedness program, over one billion dollars in army and navy contracts have been awarded and while little cash has actually been expended these orders and those placed by the British government in this country are directly responsible for the current climb in business indices.

Defense projects, including shipways, ammunition and fuel storage facilities, barracks, explosive plants, machine shop extensions, addition to orders for airplanes constitute the major factors in the general rise of business activity.

Other business firms of a non-military nature seem to be following the general trend of the "war-babies." For example, as the motor car industry reported that sales are unusually high for this season of the year, Schenley Distillers corporation (liquor) announced that net earnings for the first half of 1940 were up almost 50 per cent over the comparable period of 1939—returning \$1.44 per share on common stock as compared to 78 cents last year, and Brunswick-Balke-Collender company, maker of billiard and bowling equipment, reported a very similar increase in business by showing a net profit of 87 cents a share for the first six months of this year as compared with 48 cents in 1939.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Unusual Strike Shows Fallacy Of Broad Government Rulings

Dispute Over Proper Classification of Workers Results in Stopping All Construction Work in City and Ties Up Supplies for Public Buildings.

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

WASHINGTON. — Probably, not one of the readers of this column ever have heard the name of the Smoot Sand & Gravel company. There is no reason for anyone outside of the city of Washington having any knowledge of the concern. It operates within the national capital community, serves its clients satisfactorily, as far as I know, and goes on its way much as any legitimate business enterprise—or did represent that principle to most of us.

Lately, however, the Smoot Sand & Gravel company has been much in the public prints of the city of Washington. It was in the news because its 250 workers went on strike. When those workers quit, the cessation practically stopped construction in the city, which is to say that the strike suddenly choked off the supply of materials for all new federal government buildings.

This was no ordinary strike, not the usual walk-out. That's why the name of the Smoot Sand & Gravel company gained a place in the sun, small as is the business when compared with other great corporations. This strike was, in effect, a strike against a federal law—the wage-hour law—the fair labor standards act as it is most inappropriately named.

The details substantially are as follows: employees of the concern have been classified as maritime workers, because they operate barges and tugs and cranes and such like in connection with the movement of the sand and gravel. This movement begins in the Potomac river and, of course, carries through to the site of the building construction.

Busybody Decides It's Improper Classification

Having been classified as maritime workers, these employees were able to work as many hours a day or a week as they desired. They had a union contract with the company to that effect. It is a matter of record that the employees did work sometimes twelve hours a day and seven days a week—and they were reaping the harvest of busy time because the demand for their product was extraordinary while the government building program was continuing. The workers had no quarrel with their employer, yet they went on strike.

Why? Some busybody in the wage-hour administration decided that the works of the Smoot Sand & Gravel company were improperly classified. They were not maritime workers—not entitled to work all of the time they desired—and they had to be reclassified. The result was that most of the workers found themselves restricted to 42 hours per week. The net effect of this, of course, was to cut their wages, and the men had no hankering for that.

As these lines are written, the conclusion is not yet in sight. It is always difficult to get a bureaucrat to rescind an order. To do so, of course, is admission that the bureaucrat was wrong. That is not an admission which any one in government office is in a hurry to make. In the meantime, thousands of other workers are unable to work and earn, because a union leader filed a complaint with the wage-hour administration.

I have gone into this case in detail because it so thoroughly exemplifies the fallacy of broad governmental rulings. It demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt what can and usually does happen when a national government horns into fields where it does not belong—where government attempts to regulate the private lives of individuals.

Strike Directs Attention To A Serious Problem

This particular case is of more than ordinary importance in another way. Doubtless you have heard of the defense program, that great hysterical drive to defend ourselves from something that is due to strike us on next Tuesday—or maybe it is on November 3. Anyway, about \$15,000,000,000 has been appropriated for building up our national defense, and

somebody has to do the work.

The Smoot strike, therefore, directs attention at one of the problems that confronts this country. It is a serious problem. It has got to be faced, and government must face it if this country is to carry out the policies of expanding the army and the navy, of developing an air force second to none and of equipping these forces to shoo unseen enemies back to the foreign shores from which they are expected to come.

No better illustration is possible than what happened in France and England. Their war preparation was limited to lip service for months, because the government leaders were unwilling to bear down and tell racketeering labor leaders that the time had come for co-operation. Had French government leaders adopted a firm policy with the communistic labor leaders and had those leaders been told to keep their men at work, France would have lasted longer against the Hitler "blitzkrieg." Instead, France refused to abandon the 40-hour week and its governmental officials chose to coddle labor leaders because of politics.

We have something of the same basic situation in this country, right now. It is well known, of course, that Mr. Roosevelt has favored the labor leaders who could control votes. He was not alone. Others have done the same thing—Republican as well as Democrat.

Policy on Shorter Hours Will Not Be Modified

Only lately, Mr. Roosevelt said at the White House that, come war or peace, there would be no modification of the New Deal policy respecting shorter and shorter hours of work. This New Deal reform was to stand, he said, and he is evidently going to stand on that declaration, just as the French did some months ago. Since the President is so firmly committed to this policy, I am wondering when this nation is going to draw its belt tighter and get down to war preparation.

I think, too, that attention might be called to the recent appointment of Sydney Hillman as a part of the national defense council and his designation as head of the agency which will have charge of training American boys and girls for war work. It was Mr. Hillman who broke through and organized the textile workers of this country into a strong, well-knit union. He deserves commendation for that job, since most of the textile manufacturers were about as rotten in their treatment of workers as the record of this country can disclose. But, according to reports, Mr. Hillman has lost none of his antagonism for the "employer class" and that does not bode well for a preparedness program.

There are some stories floating around now to the effect that Mr. Hillman has been smuggling up to some labor leaders whose penchant for stirring up trouble is well known. Indeed, if one may believe the reports here in Washington, Mr. Hillman has given some indications that he believes the federal government should clamp down further on the employers, war preparation or no preparation.

Cause for Fear in War And Navy Departments

Around the war and navy departments these conditions are creating considerable fear. Army and navy officers, charged with the job of expanding the services, are saying privately that there will not be supplies in anything like sufficient quantity unless the labor that is willing to work is allowed to produce as far as it desires. This means, of course, elimination of the racketeers whose salary as labor leaders depends upon how much trouble can be created among the workers. Unless they can find conditions upon which to base a strike call, every now and then, labor officials are deemed not to be doing their job. Thus, as a rail fence guess, I am looking forward to quite a few strikes.

And thus, again, the business of the country is in the middle between the upper and nether millstones. All of the war contracts are being awarded in a manner that amounts to a command from the federal government. The owners of the plants are not being hurt; don't get that idea. They will make a profit. But the owners are being told what to do while the workers are being assured that this is a land of the free.

Speaking of Sports

Grove's Record Stands as Top Southpaw Mark

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

PICKING the five greatest left-handed pitchers of all time is a fascinating indoor sport. Our own list would be headed by the one and only Robert Moses Grove. We wouldn't fight about the numerical order of the next four—Herb Pennock, Babe Waddell, Carl Hubbell and Eddie Plank. They were all great ball players.

Grove rates as the outstanding winner of all time. In his 15 years—up to the 1940 season—he won 286 games and lost 123 for a grand average of .695. No one else has approached that figure.

Christy Mathewson finished his long career with an average of .663. Grover Cleveland Alexander compiled .642. Both of these gentlemen are sure of undying fame, having been chosen for baseball's Hall of Fame. Eddie Plank's mark was .632, Cy Young's .619 and Big Ed Walsh's .606.

As brilliant a pitcher as Waddell was, his lifetime average was .583. Connie Mack, who never did throw his money around, paid the Baltimore Orioles \$105,000 for Lefty—the most expensive player he had ever bought. Grove proved to be a bargain, though. After using him his best nine years, Connie passed him on to Tom Yawkey's Red Sox with Max Bishop and George Walberg for \$125,000 and two players.

Grove was thought to be all through then. He was in poor physical condition, though not from lack of training. Every pitch pained him that first year in Boston, and he won and lost eight games. The critics told Yawkey that he had wound up on the short end of the deal.

But in the last five years with Boston prior to 1940, Grove pitched 83 winning games—working at a .670 clip. In the last two years he won 29 games and dropped only 8.

American League Champ

That's enough current history. Let's go back to Lefty's prime. In 1929 Grove won 26 and lost 6 for an average of .769. In 1930 he won 28 and dropped 5 for an average of .845. In 1931 he balanced 31 wins against 4 losses for the terrific average of .886. For those three consecutive years he was champion of the American league pitchers. Then, in 1933, after giving way to Johnny



Washington, D. C.
ESTIMATE OF WALLACE

As was painfully evident at the convention, a lot of people actively dislike Henry Wallace and a lot more dislike the way he was rammed down the throat of the Democratic party by the President.

On the first point—not liking Mr. Wallace—you've got to know a man to make that choice and Henry isn't easy to know. He is shy, not very articulate, and has as little political oomph as anybody in the Fourth New Deal. But if, as has been my privilege, you get really close to Mr. Wallace, you will discover a very fine specimen of what John L. Lewis oratorically calls the "genus homo."

He is simple, honest, studious and kindly. There is no side or pretense in his make-up. He has a good mind, if not a brilliant one. He is incapable of the clever little schemes that have so characterized and discredited many acts of the Fourth New Deal.

I disagree with almost every angle of his philosophy and program and I doubt if he has the qualities of leadership appropriate to a great crisis, but I would trust his sincerity of purpose as far as that of any man I know in government.

The spectacle of a President so openly forcing his own choice for vice president on his party, especially in such dangerous times as these, is highly distasteful, but the effect if not the particular methods here used, seems to have become



HENRY A. WALLACE
... "No Superman but Honest."

a custom. Mr. Garner was Mr. Roosevelt's choice in 1932 and 1936. It is true that the first time it was by reason of a trade, without which Mr. Roosevelt himself could not possibly have been nominated, but it is also true that Mr. Roosevelt's delegates, at his bidding, made good that bargain.

It is no secret that Mr. Wilkie was consulted about his choice for a running mate, that he selected Charlie McNary, and that the senator didn't want the job and could not have been nominated without Mr. Wilkie's backing. Thus, however hateful the method used to put Mr. Wallace across, it can hardly be used to attack this nomination, unless pots are to be permitted to call kettles black.

After all, there was an element of courage and an avoidance of the usual skulduggery in nominating Mr. Wallace. He is Doctor Newt Nevee New of all the New Dealers. Not all Democrats are New Dealers by a long shot. That rift was not never more apparent than at Chicago. Great rips and wounds in party solidarity were made.

An obvious strategy for the healing of these fissures would have been to nominate at least one Democrat on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Roosevelt certainly is not one. Mr. Wallace is even farther away. His nomination puts the whole New Deal theory of spending ourselves rich right in the spotlight as the unfuzzed issue in this fight.

Adding it all up, while I can't applaud either the candidacy or the method that made it, I can respect or at least understand both.

Even if the fatefully unexpected should happen, and Mr. Wallace should one day become President of the United States, we can be assured of a Chief Executive who would be honest, straightforward and wholly unaddicted to political cleverness and devious two-way thought and action. That would be something new and refreshing. Considering everything, I am not sure that it is not the number one requirement in the choice of a President. There simply are no supermen.