

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Political Campaign Opens Up as Ickes Replies to Willkie Acceptance Speech; Canada-U. S. Defense Board Formed; Fierce Nazi Bombing Raids Continue

(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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Special chairs were reserved for Hitler and Mussolini at the Empire tea party held recently in London by the Overseas League to celebrate the then "Non-Arrival of the Dictators." Highlight of the evening was the scene pictured above when a telegram was received by the marquis of Willingdon, purporting to have come from Hitler and Mussolini, apologizing for their absence on this day of days, which, incidentally, was "Victory Day," the first day Hitler said he would be in London.

## ACCEPTS:

### And Takes Stand

In flag-bedecked Elwood, Ind., Wendell Lewis Willkie accepted the Republican presidential nomination and gave "an outline of the political philosophy that is in my heart."

Mr. Willkie stated his belief in labor's right of collective bargaining, old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, regulation of security markets, banking and interstate utilities, rural electrification, minimum wages and maximum hours, and the existing farm program.

Of his foreign policy he said: "I would do everything to defend American democracy and I would refrain from doing anything that injured it. . . I trust I have made it plain that in defense of America and our liberties, I would not hesitate to stand for war. Our way of life is in competition with Hitler's way of life."

Of defense, he said: "Some form of selective service is the only democratic way in which to assure the trained and competent manpower we need. The first task of our country . . . is to become strong at home."

He challenged the President to meet him in face-to-face debate.

### Wild Harold

In what was declared before delivery to be the administration answer to the Willkie speech, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, original third term, said the President could not adjourn the battle of Britain, on which American traditions may depend, to ride the circuit with Mr. Willkie.

Said "Wild Harold": "If Mr. Willkie is so eager for a debate, I suggest he challenge his running mate, Senator McNary, with whom he is at greater variance on domestic and foreign issues than his speech of acceptance shows him to be with President Roosevelt."

## DEATH:

### In the Afternoon

Without a combat soldier being landed on her shores, England feels the threat of invasion for the first time since William the Conqueror. Thousands of German planes, in daring daylight raids, bomb British airfields and munitions factories. Germans bombed London in 1918-18 but never with invasion as the objective.

Whether England can keep the Nazi fliers from her industrial defenses is the real test, Maj. Alexander P. deSerovsky, American plane designer, believes. He says England will win or lose in the air. If

## NAMES

... in the news

Louis Johnson, who resigned as assistant secretary of war when Henry Stimson became secretary, may be given a higher job, joining the White House secretariat as co-ordinator of national defense.

## That's Not True!



James Cagney popular film star, strikes this political pose during an interview with the press in which he denied charges of affiliation with the Communist party. Cagney was among a group of Hollywood motion picture personalities against whom the accusation was made. In New York at the time, Cagney made his first plane flight to the coast to appear voluntarily before Congressman Dies and differ with his accuser, John Leech, emphasizing that he believes in the present form of U. S. government and has always upheld it.

## TREND

### How the Wind Is Blowing . . .

**Manufacture**—Electrical power for the week of August 3 reached second highest all-time peak, representing a gain of 12 per cent over same week last year.

**Building**—The Federal Reserve board announced that defense orders have pushed construction contracts to the highest level in 10 years.

**Agriculture**—Farm land sales are picking up, both to investors and to tenant-operators, a survey of farm realty sales organizations by the Northwestern National Life Insurance company indicates. Investors seem to be turning back to the land as a "good bet" in a war-conscious business world.

## BASES:

### Not at Home

Nazi Air Marshal Hermann Goering, writing in "Facts in Review," official and free publication of the German Library of Information, 17 Battery Place, New York, said:

"If American defenses are what they should be, particularly if American air force is properly developed, built up, organized and strategically based, America can defy any group of powers."

Less than a week after the publication was circulated, President Roosevelt announced he was holding conversations with Great Britain for acquisition of naval and air bases on British possessions in this hemisphere.

Later Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the house of commons that Britain had decided to offer "suitable sites" to the United States in Newfoundland and the West Indies on 99-year leases. He said England was not asking for any advantage in return. "Naturally," he said, "no transfer of sovereignty is involved."

## Faces North

Meanwhile President Roosevelt met Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada. In a joint announcement they revealed a permanent board of joint military defense had been set up. The board will survey problems by air, land and sea, as well as material and personnel. Personnel may mean a commander-in-chief already is being selected in case Canada is invaded and the armies of the two nations are called to act as one.

Agreement for a military link sets a definite departure from established policy for both nations. America never before has made such an agreement, even during the World War being only an "associate" of the Allies.

## MISCELLANY:

### It's a Pleasure

In Elizabeth, N. J., the city assessor got a letter from Philip Woolf, Jeweler. Woolf said that since the assessor's last visit his business had improved and he felt his personal estate now rated a higher valuation. "I will gladly pay the additional taxes," Woolf said. "It is a pleasure." The assessor said the 1940 taxes could not be raised but he will be glad to oblige in 1941.

## Washington Digest

### Congressional Attention Focused On National Preparedness Plan

#### Suggest Investigation of Progress Made; Roosevelt Takes Personal Charge of Defense Program; Army Leaders Prepare for Draft.

By G. F.  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON.—Congress is annoyed by slow motion in the national defense program.

The war department recently reported to a joint committee of the house and senate that although approximately \$400,000,000 had been appropriated in June for army airplanes, engines and accessories, actual contracts had been signed for only 33 planes.

The appropriation bills provided funds for 4,000 planes, but seven weeks later only 33 planes actually were under contract—and those will not be delivered before January or February, 1941.

In the same hearing, the national defense commission reported that the army would not have full equipment for 750,000 men before 1942.

Inasmuch as congress has appropriated and authorized \$14,000,000,000 for national defense since January, 1940, members of the house and senate are pressing for a thorough investigation of the preparedness slow-down.

Some leaders favor establishment of a joint committee of the house and senate to conduct a continuing "audit" of the defense contracts. Such an arrangement would keep congress fully abreast of new orders.

Capitol Hill has been grumbling sotto voce for several weeks over reports of confusion and conflict in the military departments. Whatever the cause, heavy defense equipment is not yet being produced in any considerable quantity. This applies particularly to long-range guns for the coast artillery, heavy naval guns, land tanks, and long-range bombing planes. Congress is determined to find the bottleneck.

One course of friction has been located in the procurement division of the treasury department, which long has been the general purchasing agency for the government. Secretary Morgenthau feels his department should continue to place the contracts. On the other hand, the army and the navy insist they should place their own orders for highly specialized equipment. Third, the new defense commission feel they should place all orders for equipment not heretofore purchased by the government.

In this scramble many orders are falling between the three contending authorities, or being delayed by departmental red-tape.

Secretary Morgenthau has informed congress that out of the \$14,000,000,000 now available for defense, not more than \$5,000,000,000 could be spent by July 1, 1941, under the present schedule of buying.

American industry has made every effort to get the preparedness wheels turning. Thousands of manufacturers have come to Washington at their own expense to offer their plants to the government. Some have returned home without having conferred with the official "ought. Confusion prevails in the purchasing agencies, due to conflicts of authority under the hastily written emergency legislation. The defense commission is now appealing to business managers not to come to Washington, but to wait until they receive inquiries by mail.

President Roosevelt has taken direct personal charge of the entire defense program. Although heavily burdened by acute problems in foreign relations, and a multitude of pressing domestic issues, Mr. Roosevelt wants to give personal approval of every major contract for defense equipment. His long experience as assistant secretary of the navy equipped him with special technical knowledge of fighting sea-craft. He is not equally familiar with modern airplanes and army equipment. The whole system of military aviation in the modern sense, has developed since Mr. Roosevelt left the navy department in 1921. Giant tanks and motorized army units likewise are a recent development. Delicate technical problems are involved in all this modern equipment. Some military experts have cautiously expressed the opinion that President Roosevelt should not undertake to deal personally with all these complex technical problems. But their sense of loyalty and patriotism restrains all public criticism of the commander-in-chief.

Opposition to compulsory military service in peace times is rising in many sections of the country. The congressional mail indicates that

anti-conscription sentiment is based largely on the general knowledge that supplies, material and equipment are not yet available for a conscript army.

Many critics insist that voluntary enlistments should be given a trial, at least to the point at which surplus military equipment will be available over and above that needed for the present standing army and National Guard.

The wave of anti-conscription mail is making a deep impression upon congressional sentiment. What purpose will be served by registering 12,000,000 young men for compulsory military service when there is no field equipment available for even 750,000 men? So runs the cloak-room discussion on Capitol Hill.

Much opposition to conscription is based upon the fact that compulsory military service has been a favored device of the European dictators.

In ordinary times this hardly would be a valid argument against conscription in the United States. But these are not ordinary times. During the last seven years vast discretionary powers have been delegated to the President by congress. For the most part these powers are all dormant for the time being. But they may be called to active use by a mere presidential proclamation.

## They Call It POLITICS

By CARTER FIELD  
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—The question is repeatedly asked: "Does the President know something he cannot tell?" Meaning, of course, whether Mr. Roosevelt knows of some specific threat to the United States which is responsible for the feverish activity to get this country "prepared."

Certainly the President has had a lot of reports which he has not stated publicly.

For instance, it was the conviction of the Military Intelligence of the U. S. army up to about a month ago that the Germans would win the "Battle of Britain" and would win it within "four weeks" from the time the Nazis started.

Since then Military Intelligence has revised its views sharply. The revision has been due to two factors. One is that the British air fighting has surprised the world. For a considerable period of time, AFTER the French collapse and carrying through to the last reports as this is written, the British had been losing only about one plane to four for the Germans.

This is not enough to whittle the Germans "down to size," or to give the British a sporting chance against the Nazi air armadas. But it has changed the picture tremendously so far as any opinions as to a "four-week conquest" are concerned.

Naturally this "information," at the time it was believed by Military Intelligence, was not made public. It was based on what the army officers regarded as the best reports available—from their own observers abroad—but after all it was merely opinion, convincing as it might be to the army. Naturally also, this prediction was reported to the President, and naturally it alarmed him, especially as it so happens that most of the predictions which Military Intelligence had made as to earlier features of the war were amazingly accurate.

The President has also heard some gloomy forecasts from a certain naval source. The real point of all this is that the President was more pessimistic, and hence more convinced of the necessity of SPEEDY preparedness on the part of this country, than he had the right to explain to the country.

Why, it might be asked, should a forecast of quick British defeat have worried the President so far as THIS country is concerned.

Because the President is much worried about what the Nazis will do if they conquer Britain. For instance, there is the Caribbean, where a victorious Germany might attempt to seize possessions of the conquered, possessions which would make magnificent air bases for eventual attack on the Panama canal or the U. S. itself. For instance, in some Latin American countries there are tremendous German and Italian populations.

## SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE  
Released by Western Newspaper Union



### GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Washington, D. C.

NICK ALTROCK, baseball's funny man who has delighted generations of fans, didn't become one of the game's supreme jesters strictly through choice.

Until a June day of 1912 in Cleveland, Nick was a mere pitcher—a good one, but nothing more. In the years that went before he had established himself as an idol of Chicago's South Side by his pitching feats for the "Hitless Wonders." During 1908 he led all the Sox pitchers in winning the pennant. He won 20 victories that year as compared with Doc White's 18 and Ed Walsh's 17. In the World Series with the Cubs he beat Mordecai Brown in the opening game, 2 to 1.

But back to that June day in 1912. Nick had been traded to Washington in 1909. Washington shipped him to Minneapolis, then to Kansas City. He was finally brought back to Washington as a relief hurler. It was during a game with Cleveland, when Washington was trailing 2 to 0, that Clark Griffith looked at Nick and asked: "What in the world did I ever hire you for?"

## The Fateful Answer

Nick figured the question wasn't at all unreasonable, but he yelled back at Griffith: "Just put me out on that third base coaching box and you'll find out."

Griffith followed Nick's suggestion. Gregg, the Cleveland pitcher, walked the first man, and that's when Altrock, The Clown, was born. He went into a phantom boxing act that convulsed fans and players of both teams. Even Gregg, the opposing moundsman, was getting a real belly laugh.

To make it short, the Washingtonians picked up four runs that inning and when Nick got back to the bench, Griffith decided that his early-game question had been answered. He had hired Altrock to be funny.

There were plenty of squawks when Nick first started his funny stuff. Hacks of protest were heard from managers. One sports writer



NICK ALTROCK

suggested that if Altrock intended to make a three-ring circus out of baseball he might well spread sawdust over the infield.

Ban Johnson was league president then. Enough protests came his way to make a command performance necessary. Ban, a big, slow-moving individual, laughed heartily at Altrock's clowning and told him to keep it up.

## No Regrets for Nick

Though it was one of those spur of the moment remarks that resulted in Nick's new profession, he never regretted it. He has found rich pickings in the comedy business. Though he hasn't pitched competitively since 1916, yet year after year he has held down a high-salaried big league job. He has clowning in tank towns and before world series customers. He has supplemented his income by vaudeville appearances and through writing a syndicated comedy column.

No, Nick hasn't any regrets. He started his career at Grand Rapids where, after winning 17 out of 19 games, he was sold to Louisville for \$500. From there he went to the National league where the highest salary was \$2,400.

Finally he got with the White Sox, strictly as a pitcher. His only frivolous moments came when he stepped in at first base to cut a few capers during infield practice. Then came that fateful day in June of 1912.

After clowning for the past 29 years Nick can afford to spend his winters in Florida, golfing and fishing. He probably would be spending his winters in an altogether different fashion if Clark Griffith hadn't grown a bit disgusted during that particular Washington-Cleveland encounter.

Why should Nick have any regrets?

## THIS MAN WILL KEE

Three days of observation of Wendell Willkie have been eye-openers to me—well as I thought I knew him. This column isn't going to make the mistake it made in 1936 and take a strong partisan position. But it feels a certain sense of responsibility for insisting on the availability of this man for almost two years and getting a good many raspberries for its alleged "goodness."

The "eye-opener" was this guy's sturdy independence. I think he is another, but a pleasanter, Grover Cleveland. I sensed, and sometimes saw, the strongest kinds of pulls and pressures applied to him in these few days. Some of them were from the mightiest of political leaders. Others were of the modern telegraph-barrage variety—"Speaking for 6,000,000 farmers, we urge"; "Speaking for 21,000,000 Catholics, we demand"; "As representative of 13,000,000 Negroes we ask"; "If you won't do so-and-so, you will lose New York state and the whole Atlantic seaboard."

The candidate answers genially and courteously. He checks facts from every source he can command. He continues to pursue the even tenor of his way and thought with a smiling urbanity that seems a miracle to me. I know only one other man who could take such pushing, pulling and pawing with as much good nature, as little disturbance of his convictions and as little loss of sleep. His name is Franklin Roosevelt.

I do not for a moment mean to suggest that Wendell Willkie is a stubborn dogmatist. He is just the reverse of that. He has the usual business habit of putting up an alert defensive to any professional sales talk. But he also uses the efficient business man's practice of overlooking no promising "proposition" and of getting every fact and expert opinion available before he decides. There has been a good deal of speculation about why I went to Colorado Springs. Mr. Willkie asked me to come to give my opinion on certain aspects of the farm, labor and defense problems, with all of which I have had some experience and have expressed strong views.

Well, he winnowed whatever brains I have with a fine-tooth comb, so far as I know accepted nothing, put up as able and well informed debate as I have yet encountered—and left me in complete ignorance as to his final judgment.

To me, all this seems a good sign. The greatest blunder in a recent government has been, I think, a sort of trout-like snapping at and swallowing whole of any attractive brainstorm, with little or no attempt to get an objective analysis or hear any worthwhile contrary opinion.

Of one thing I am sure. Nobody is going to shove this shaggy Hoosier around, sell him any gold bricks or push him off of any important moral position, for the sake of any expedient political advantage. The latter has, to my knowledge, been vainly attempted with dire threats of defeat if Willkie did not instantly knuckle. He just laughed.

He has another quality of Franklin Roosevelt. Nobody rejected ever goes away mad. But while the President accomplishes this by saying, "Yes, yes, yes—you are perfectly right," and then acts just as he pleases; Mr. Willkie somehow manages to keep them cheerful with something like: "Yours received and contents noted. I will study it carefully. Just now it looks lousy"—or "attractive," as the case may be.

I still say he would be a great President.

## THOSE 50 DESTROYERS

NEW YORK.—The fight to sell 50 of our destroyers to Britain is led by the two whirling dervishes of the third-term assault on American tradition—the glamorous Senators Josh Lee and Claude Pepper. Each has a right to be as fanatical as he pleases—as Pepper is for Old Doc Townsend's cruel death of the aged; as Josh is for the uncompensated confiscation of property.

Both schemes would wreck beyond repair the economic strength of this country in a time of great danger.

During our Civil War, Great Britain permitted swift Confederate commerce destroyers to be fitted out in British ports. They gave the final push to our once-supreme merchant marine—a blow from which it never recovered. Our protests continued for years. The British finally admitted that for this sort of illegal participation in undercover war, the offending country is responsible in damages for every loss its unlawful act has imposed.