

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

U. S.-Japan Relationship Is Strained; Americans in Far East Ordered Home; Naval Reserves Called Into Service As Army Makes Way for Conscripts

(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.)

CRISIS:

War Ahead?

Since Japan joined the Fascist Axis, attacks on America and Americans by the government-controlled Tokyo press have exceeded only by the belligerent mouthings of the Mussolini-controlled newspapers of Italy.

When Japan signed the treaty of Berlin, Washington was inclined at first to make little of it, even though it was openly stated to be aimed at the United States because of aid given to Britain. But Japan did not take it as lightly. Prince Fumimaro Konoye, Japanese premier, said openly that if the United States persists in "challenging" the Axis powers, a war will follow. Later there was an official statement that if England opened the Burma road, lone gateway to China for munitions, Japan would declare war.

Many in Washington now believe that a clash with Japan is bound to come sooner or later and that it might as well be sooner, because if Britain should fall, the United States would be faced with aggressors on both oceans at the same time.

Culmination was a state department order to all Americans in the Near East, to return home. Britain will open the Burma road October 17.

And in Shanghai, Japanese officials had another problem to worry them. For despite a heavy military guard placed around Fu Siao-en, their puppet ruler of that Chinese city, he was slashed to death by some unknown assailant.

Enraged Japanese authorities declared that the assassination was an "inside job." Shanghai police reported that they had been asked by the Japanese to aid in a search for the slain man's personal servant, one Zung Tsu-en, who was absent from his master's house after the killing.

Price of Peace

Several unofficial offers have been made to the United States. All aim at involving this nation with Japan or so crippling U. S. armed forces so as to make the nation ineffective. The head of the Japanese press association suggested the United States show its good will by abandoning the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; withdraw from Guam and Midway islands.

In Rome, Mussolini's newspaper held out another scheme. In polite terms it suggested that if America would stop giving help to England, the Axis powers would reward America by giving her Canada.

Object is, of course, to so involve the U. S. that it will stop sending supplies to Britain.

DEFENSE:

Navy Called

Comparable to the army's mobilization of the National Guard, the navy called out all men and officers and the naval reserve, boosting its



Here is Miss Agnes C. Roscoe, 24, graduate nurse of Washington, D. C., first Red Cross nurse called to active duty in the Army Nurse Corps in the expansion recently authorized to keep pace with increased manpower. She is the first of 4,619 nurses to be added to the corps by July of next year.

strength 27,591 to a peacetime peak of 239,281.

Navy Secretary Knox said the men were called to equip new fighting and auxiliary craft which were being launched six months ahead of schedule. He also warned that the nation was approaching "an hour of decision, an hour of test" with

the Axis powers and asserted "if a fight is forced on us, we shall be ready."

Meanwhile the army was preparing at reception centers for 700,000 of 16,500,000 men who were marching to their voting places to register for the draft. The whole 700,000 likely will enter the service November 15, but not all will go to camp at once.

Most reception centers are being designed to "process" only 1,000 to 1,500 men. The drafted men may be held in their home communities anywhere from a week to ten days. Each day a quota will be sent to the reception centers. There they will be equipped, their army records initiated and after a short stay most will be sent to regular army camps to fill out those units to full strength. Some new units will be created, of course.

Not all the new soldiers will be equipped with the army's modern woolen "elastique" trouser and blousing coats with sports-back. Many will be handed the old-style army woolen breeches with spiral leggings and the obsolete standing-collar blouse.

Out of storage also came 105 U. S. army tanks. These were loaded on flatcars en route to Canada for training of Canadian troops. It was only



Above soundphoto shows a row of tanks for Canada being unloaded from flat cars at Camp Borden, Canada, after their arrival from the United States.

a small part of equipment being turned over as a result of conferences of the joint U. S.-Canadian defense board.

Five hundred volunteers, the first parachute battalion, were getting their first training. War Secretary Stimson said other battalions will be trained in the same operations.

Visitors

Twenty heads of armies from nine Latin American nations—Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay—completed a two-week tour around American defenses. As they neared the end of their journey, officers from 11 other neighboring countries arrived to make the same inspection. All were shown the new American streamlined motor divisions in operation and ended up at the Panama canal.

TRAVELERS:

At Brenner Pass

At Brennero, pass in the Alps between Germany and Italy, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini held another of their strange conferences. The meeting was in a railroad car, with blinds pulled down, guarded with foot soldiers, artillery and anti-aircraft guns.

There was no announcement. Shortly afterward, however, Germany moved several divisions of troops into Rumania and seized the British owned oil fields there; Japan made more aggressive statements to the United States; and there were rumors that the Nazi legions, waiting in French channel ports, would start the invasion of England.

Air Struggle

The duel in the skies continued with greater vigor. Nazi airmen smashed the center of London with explosive and incendiary bombs. The house of lords was damaged, great department stores were destroyed and millions of people spent many nights in subways and air-raid shelters.

'Eagle Squadron'



An "Eagle Squadron" of 34 Americans who range from crop dusters to playboys of New York society, are ready to take the air for England. In active command of this group of volunteers will be William E. G. Taylor, 35, pictured above. Taylor is a first lieutenant in the U. S. Marine corps reserve.

POLITICS:

All Out

In the last month before election day, all candidates in the Presidential sweepstakes were out on the stump and dated to stay out until a few days before November 5.

Wendell L. Willkie, the Republican candidate, after a swing through the East and a week devoted to New England, headed back toward the Midwest, covering New York state, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri.

Defense and labor were the theme of his addresses in the East. He charged the New Deal had bungled America's defense during the seven years of Hitler's rise in Europe and cited speeches of the President to show that he was acquainted with the danger but did not press for a stronger army and navy.

President Roosevelt swung through western Pennsylvania and Ohio, inspecting steel plants and making the dedication address at Pittsburgh's Terrace Village, where the U. S. Housing authority's 100,000th unit was opened.

Before leaving the White House, the President cited a Rome dispatch in that day's newspaper as proving the contention that the Axis powers were seeking his defeat. The dispatch read:

"The Axis is out to defeat President Roosevelt not as a measure of interference in the internal policies of the United States but because of the President's foreign policy, and because of everything he stands for in the eyes of the Italians and Germans. The normal strategy of the Axis is to do something before November 5 that would have a great effect on the election campaign."

The vice presidential candidates also were on the stump. One day in Minnesota Henry A. Wallace's car was attached to the same train on which Charles A. McNary rode.

FREEDOM:

At Columbia U.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, 78-year-old president of Columbia university, whose politics seldom have been free from criticism, stirred up another hornet's nest when he spoke to the school's faculty on "The World Crisis." Discussing academic freedom—freedom of speech for teachers—he said that in this emergency the right should be confined to "accomplished scholars." He definitely ruled out students. He told the faculty members that "behind the war of conflicting doctrines, there is no doubt where Columbia stands." He invited all who did not agree to withdraw.

Some Columbia professors praised the stands, some were noncommittal and others considered a formal protest. The student newspaper voiced objection. In congress Sen. Rush Holt (D., W. Va.) and Sen. Bennett Clark (D., Mo.) denounced the statement.

MISCELLANY:

Not all the funniest things happen in Washington. But in one week: The Federal Works administration distributed an official's speech with a memorandum attached saying, "This speech was not delivered"; the navy submitted plans for a temporary building designed to be so ugly it would be replaced soon; congress amended a law which gave the king of England jurisdiction in the District of Columbia; the government reported officially that the Germans were not undermining the thumb tack industry, and a mother-in-law wrote the draft board asking that her son be sent "far, far away."

Washington Digest

Government Armament Program Presages Huge Business Boom

Federal Spending Is on Scale Unprecedented in History; Senator Johnson May Swing California Vote From Roosevelt to Willkie.

By CARTER FIELD

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON. — A tremendous boom in all lines of business is expected by many far-sighted manufacturers. One of the best statements of the situation as viewed by some economists, as a result of the tremendous government spending only partially under way, is set forth in the following letter Eugene F. McDonald Jr., president of Zenith Radio corporation, has sent to all his dealers.

"Never in history from Caesar to the present day has any nation prepared a program of armament and spending equal to that which exists right here in the United States today.

"Every dollar goes to labor and profit. Do not pass this statement off lightly. Iron ore, lumber, cotton, etc., is nothing but labor with a minor part to profit.

"Please keep this fundamental in mind: of our government armament spending—over 90 per cent will go to labor and less than 10 per cent to profit.

Half Billion Dollars

To Be Spent Monthly

"From July, 1940, to July, 1941, the government will spend 5,000,000,000 defense dollars in the United States.

"In August the government spent only \$180,000,000 on this program,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON

which means the program must rise from now on to \$500,000,000 per month to meet the year's total.

"Figure out what 500,000,000 ADDITIONAL dollars each month means to business. Business spurred ahead and looked upon the spending of the soldiers' bonus as a god-send at the time. Yet, this soldiers' bonus represented only two monthly installments of \$500,000,000 each and from now on that amount will be spent each month.

"The WPA in its heyday injected barely \$140,000,000 a month into business. The AAA put in less than \$75,000,000 a month on an average. "The farmers' income, independent of all the above this year, will be the second largest since 1930.

Chain Stores Show

Increased Retail Sales

"The present defense program anticipates over \$36,000,000,000 expenditure up to and including 1946, of which the \$5,000,000,000 to be spent this year is only a small part. In August this year, when only \$180,000,000 of the \$5,000,000,000 for this year was spent, the 30 leading store chains of the United States increased their business from 3.1 per cent to 33.3 per cent over August, 1939. Not one of these store chains showed a decrease. Every one of these 30 leading chains showed an increase in the eight months of 1940 over 1939 up to August, and mind you, the spending had hardly started then.

"In other words, all these defense billions that are to be spent this year are plus expenditures which come on top of the already splendid increasing business.

"The draft will increase business. The majority of men drafted will be single and certainly these men have not averaged \$30 per month, net, to spend in civilian life after they have paid for lodging, board, and clothing. The soldiers and the sailors spend their money."

Johnson May Swing California to Willkie

One of the most important personalities in this presidential campaign may turn out to be Hiram W.

Johnson, U. S. senator from California for these many years.

California has 22 electoral votes. When she had only 13, she decided the presidential election of 1916.

Most of the figuring on electoral votes this campaign—on the assumption that the election may be fairly close—has given California unquestionably to Roosevelt.

Folks began wondering about California when President Roosevelt went out of his way to slap Hiram Johnson, just on the eve of the California primaries. Everybody who knew anything about politics in the state was writing to friends in Washington that Johnson was almost certain to capture both the Republican and the Democratic nominations for re-election as senator.

Yet the President was so annoyed with Johnson for various reasons that he permitted himself to be quoted by the newspaper correspondents to the broad general effect that Johnson could no longer be considered a "liberal."

Johnson didn't like that a bit. He regards himself as having been an outstanding liberal since long before Roosevelt knew his way around in politics.

Most commentators on this slap of Roosevelt at Johnson have based it on Johnson's opposition to helping Britain. This is NOT the real reason.

Roosevelt's dislike of Johnson goes back to the time Roosevelt tried to pack the Supreme court. Johnson was one of the little group that fought this so bitterly that it was eventually defeated. Just as he was one of the group that fought President Wilson on the League of Nations and other features of the Versailles treaty.

It was not the failure of Johnson to change his policy on international questions that brought forth Roosevelt's ire. It was his battle against enlarging the Supreme court.

Defeat of Johnson

Is Now Impossible

Every man who fought the President on that issue has been marked in the White House black book ever since. That of course was admittedly the chief motive in the unsuccessful attempt to "purge" Democratic senators in 1938. This year the attempt to purge was renewed, and with more success. As a part of it, Sen. Edward R. Burke was defeated for re-nomination in Nebraska. Sen. William H. King of Utah was also defeated for re-nomination as a part of it.

Defeat of Johnson is now impossible. It was impossible when the President slapped him, but the feeling was so strong that the President would not be politic.

Several observers believe that if Johnson is mad enough to denounce F. D. R. and support Willkie in a few speeches before election, Willkie will carry the state.

But that does not mean that Johnson, though a Republican, is going to support Wendell Willkie. Nobody knows what he is going to do. All we know is that he is very bitter against Roosevelt.

Senator Johnson has been one of the outstanding isolationists in the senate. It is the act which bears his name that forbids any country in default to the United States on previous debts to borrow any more money in this country.

An interesting sidelight on the demoralizing bombardment of London has developed in Washington. Reports from Britain indicate that this constant bombing has tended to stiffen the resistance of the English people.

British sympathizers here are presenting another plan by which material aid can be extended to the defenders. This group has organized itself into the American Committee for Defense of British Homes. This committee was formed by a group of well-known sportsmen and explorers who, hearing of the British people's need for small arms, ammunition and binoculars, decided to do something about it. The decision has resulted in a nationwide drive for sporting rifles, shotguns, and pistols, ammunition and binoculars.

New York headquarters of the group report that the public has responded to their plea by sending in a considerable selection of their favorite guns. Although shotguns predominate, old Springfield rifles used by the U. S. Army a decade before the war, 1917 Springfields, and many pistols of varied calibers have been received.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union

IT COULDN'T have happened to a better guy.

That was the unanimous opinion expressed around Detroit not long ago when Walter O. Briggs' Detroit Tigers won the American league pennant.

For Walter Briggs is Mr. Baseball to the thousands of wild-eyed fans who assisted vocally in the scalping of the Cleveland Indians.

Briggs is unique in the annals of big league baseball. He has pledged his word that he does not want to make money out of the game. One of the nation's greatest sportsmen, he is not financially dependent upon his ball club. The customers that keep the turnstiles clicking in Briggs stadium are not paying for his groceries and rent. All the money that comes in the gate is turned back to the club treasury for the betterment of Detroit baseball.

Born into a family of no more than average circumstances, Walter played baseball in the sandlots from the time he was big enough to wrap his hands around a bat. Later on, when he was able to get away from work, he spent his afternoons in a 25-cent bleacher seat.

Becomes Part Owner

The acquisition of money didn't change Walter Briggs. His love for baseball never cooled. When Bill Yawkey and John Kelsey died, he took over their interest in the ball club. He didn't want to make money out of it—he didn't need it—he merely wanted to be a part of baseball.

Finally Briggs and Frank Navin were left as owners of the club. Navin depended on it for his livelihood. Then along came the 1933 season when Navin was so disgusted he was ready to fold—chances of ever getting together a winning combination seemed far too remote for all practical purposes. Briggs offered the solution. They would hire Mickey Cochrane to take over.

Navin vetoed the suggestion, declaring that it would be too expensive. Connie Mack wanted more than \$100,000 for him—and the club couldn't stand it. Then Walter gave Detroit baseball its biggest boost. He wrote a personal check for the full amount.

Pennant Winners

Cochrane came to the Tigers, and the smartness of Briggs' move was demonstrated when they won the American league pennant in '34 and '35 and the World Series in '35.

Navin's death a short time later left Briggs as president, sole owner and Number One fan of the Tigers.

But if Briggs doesn't care to make money out of the Tigers, he does want a winning team. There's a curious story behind his greater than ordinary desire for winners, and that story was related recently by "Ify," a veteran Detroit sports writer.

Tiger officials, that writer says, have been criticized because they have bought so many ball players with established records—players who are no longer improving. Not enough attention has been paid to up and coming youngsters—lads who need three or four years of seasoning.

The reason, according to "Ify," is that Walter Briggs is a sick man. He feels that he may not be around long enough to watch young, untried players develop into championship material. That's why Briggs wants Manager Del Baker to buy players who are established—men who can be depended on when the chips are down and who have been to the wars so often that the big league fight holds no terrors for them.

The Big Reason?

Maybe that's the reason why the Tigers came through this year. Certainly the early-season dopsters didn't pick the elderly gentlemen from Detroit as a team to watch.

Baker started the present season with no illusions. He expected no flip-flop in the flag race. The Yanks, in his book, were supreme. When the Tigers were in training at Lakeland, Fla., in March, Manager Baker was quoted as saying:

"The Yankees have a chance this year to prove they are an even greater club than they were last year. They may have been penalized a bit by the league for winning too many pennants, but they'll take a lot of beating in this one too."

To Detroit fans it was more than just another victory. A club figured no better than third or fourth place came through at the right time. It was a Frank Merriwell finish—just the kind that would delight the heart of Mr. Baseball.



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON

Says:

Washington, D. C.

WAR BASIS FOR INDUSTRY?

Some of my columnar war crying colleagues say that American industry ought to be put on a war basis right now. Their argument is that one reason why France fell was that, under a peace structure, she could not mobilize her industry for war production, had to declare war to pep up the nation and did it all leisurely and far too late. They say also that "business as usual" kept England from getting ready soon enough and, finally, they point to the snail-like slowness of our present rearmament program.

With all that about France, England and our slow progress, I agree. Perhaps I could agree also with the conclusion about putting our industry on a "war basis," if I knew what the words mean—or if they did. Of that I am in doubt.

If it means that American industry should now be put under industrial amateurs, I know of no more certain way to slow or even paralyze war production. If it means that we should get some dynamic and experienced leadership of the industrial war effort and give it appropriate authority, no comment was ever more significant—or more correct.

That kind of leadership and administration would not, however, as some of this comment suggests, be obliged just to set all peace-time production aside in a kind of adjournment to make way for our war needs. There is plenty of industrial capacity in this country for both needs.

Our industry needs an orchestra leader with a real baton who can keep it in harmony and rhythm for the new tune—but it doesn't need to be chained to the benches of any slave galley with a sort of romanized Simon Legree to increase the stroke with a cat-o'-nine-tails.

Our trivial World war experience may be informing. Our speedup of shipbuilding, both of merchant and warcraft, approached the miraculous. Charlie Schwab had charge of part of it. In a plant where all parts of a fabricated ship were assembled and the engine department was far ahead of the co-ordinated schedule for it and other departments, he took time out for a short picnic for the workers in the yards.

There were no speeches but, when the time for them came, Charlie pulled a surprise—the complete engine, mounted on truck wheels, gay with flags and preceded by a band came rolling out under a large transparency which read, "All dressed up and no place to go." That plant speeded up production immediately.

Of course, we can't do this job with ballyhoo, but ballyhoo is part of it. We need every incentive and pressure of "go-get-it" unified, experienced and inspired leadership to get speed without confusion and waste. We have one of this kind of leadership, only political leadership which insists on retaining personalized control of everything.

REARMAMENT

Is the rearmament program proceeding rapidly? Sidney Hillman of the national defense advisory commission "advises that no manufacturer who violates the labor laws can be 'awarded' a contract for work on the defense program and that the National Labor Relations board will decide, for this purpose, whether or not an employer is "violating."

There are now only two members of NLRB, Leiserson and Smith. The term of Chairman Madden has expired. Due to protests based on charges of his bias and unfairness the President has not reappointed him. The vacancy has existed for weeks. Some observers guess that the President wants to wait until after the election and then reappoint Madden. Smith and Leiserson agree on very few disputed points. Smith is an extreme left-winger—like Madden. Leiserson is middle-of-the-road. What they can't agree on is put on ice until appointment of a third member with the deciding vote.

Over in the selective service draft system, although the new organization is under way, no administrator has been appointed. Some mysterious inner pressures—probably the senile war-minded Stimson—prevented a solution of this problem which was perfection—the experienced and judicious veteran of the World war draft, Gullion, for administrator—the young, expert and vigorous Hershey as its chief executive. Either alone would have been satisfactory. The team couldn't have been bettered.