

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Germany's Most Powerful Air Army Is Now Being Used to Crush England; Labor Peace in U. S. Is Not So Near; First Draft Evaders Sent to Prison

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.)



During the strike at the Vultee Aircraft plant in Downey, Calif., U. S. army defense orders for training planes became sidetracked but union heads allowed pilots to cross picket lines and take delivery on 17 planes completed. The planes were to be used at the army training field at Sunnyvale, Calif. Above, army officers are pictured running one of the planes out of the plant.

AIR BLITZ:

Over England

The fourth German air army contains the veteran and most expert of Nazi bombers. It never had been used over England, although it is the best equipped and largest of the German air forces. The fourth air army was trained in Spain, used to smash Poland in four days and dive-bombed the French army into submission and out of the Maginot line.

Now many believe it has been assigned a mission across the English channel. The mission would be to grind to debris the British industrial Midlands area. Two such attacks have been made.

The first was on ancient Coventry, historical cathedral city when Lady Godiva made her famous horseback ride. Coventry in modern times had become the "Detroit of England." Here was made the larger portion of British airplanes and thousands of her 180,000 people were employed in defense industries.

In a single 10 1/2-hour night raid, Coventry was turned into a shambles, hardly a single home being left unscathed. Berlin said all of the plane factories were in ruins from explosive and incendiary bombs. The British denied this but gave no details. It was admitted, however, that almost 1,000 civilians were killed, many air raid shelters which were thought bombproof being crushed like paper. The three-towered cathedral, almost a thousand years old, was left with hardly one stone atop another, except for a single spire.

After a lapse of a few days the raiders concentrated on Southampton, city of a million people, also in the Midlands. Berlin said the hometown of the late Neville Chamberlain, who appeased Hitler at Munich, was given the same treatment. Southampton is a textile town and also had been turning out a large cargo of automobiles and munitions.

Greeks Fight On

In the Italo-Greek war neutral observers shook their heads and admitted they could not understand how Greece was holding out. "Out-numbered, three to one, the bullet-skirted, pom-pom slithered Evzone troops cut the Italians to ribbons and pushed them back into Albania on all fronts.

These observers still believed the Greeks were putting up a valiant but futile battle. No one in authority considers the Italian army seriously, estimates running from derision to contempt. But the Greek's military supplies were known to be low. Also there is no opportunity to give them help, for all Greek guns, both rifles and artillery, are of a special Greek manufacture and no ammunition of foreign make will fit their weapons. Once spring rolls around and the Italian mechanical force can get into action, there may be a different story.

Mare Nostrum

One thing seemed certain. Mussolini in his attempt to carry on a war by himself was tangling up the plans of the entire Axis. Control of the Mediterranean which the Italians call Mare Nostrum (Our Sea) may come diplomatically rather than militarily.

Adolf Hitler came to the Danube river in his attempt, since it was

Who's Boss?



Two former secretaries to congressmen, Gordon Canfield (right), of New Jersey and Herbert Bonner (left), of North Carolina, are to take the places of their former bosses in Congress. Canfield replaces the late Rep. George N. Segar and Bonner replaces Lindsay C. Warren, who resigned to become U. S. Comptroller General.

ESPIONAGE:

Diplomats Accused

Chairman Dies of the house committee investigating un-American activities, called before him in secret session various officials of "German and Italian organizations." Dies charged that members of the German diplomatic corps have been engaging in a "quiet campaign" to raise funds in the United States to finance German rearmament. He also said German money was being sent here for investment in vital industries and to promote an "appeasement" group.

Emphasizing that his committee has moved cautiously to avoid a "strain" on international relations, Dies asked Secretary of State Cordell Hull if his department had any objection to exposure of diplomatic corps intrigues. The secretary disclaimed any responsibility, terming the investigation "purely a congressional affair."

Dies said he would ask the next congress for a million dollars to continue the investigations.

Two Theories

Three other departments of the government, however, were somewhat less than enthusiastic over the Dies hearings. The army and navy intelligence and the FBI were letting it be known discreetly that they consider Dies is doing more harm than good.

Everything uncovered by the special house committee, they said, has been known to them for a long time. For years these agencies have worked cautiously to get U. S. agents into alleged subversive groups. These U. S. agents have listed and catalogued a vast array of information which can be used at the proper time. In the meantime they have made it possible to keep a watch on all suspects and these suspects, not aware their identities are known, have exposed the whole network through which they work.

But the Dies committee, it is said, has by raids and publication of names, revealed the fact that the identity of these alleged foreign agents is known. This makes their work ineffectual, so they are recalled. Then new agents and new networks are set up by the foreign powers and the army and navy intelligence and the FBI must start all over again. Tracking down these new agents may take many months of effort, to cover a field which once was well protected.

MEXICAN MISSION:

In Spanish

Vice President-elect Henry A. Wallace went through the Southwest in his recent campaign speaking Spanish. A new assignment in that language was his first after-election duty. He attended the inauguration of Gen. Avila Camacho, president of Mexico, as the representative of President Roosevelt. It's an old Latin American custom for nations to send official representatives to each other's inaugurations. The U. S. has never indulged before. But now it's part of the Good Neighbor policy and is looked upon as effective. Several days after the decision was announced Mexico revealed it had granted the United States air and naval bases on the Mexican east coast.

MISCELLANY:

The oddest refugees cargo arrived in Florida from England. It was 1,000 rare orchid plants, the property of the duke of Westminster, who raises them as a hobby. The collection faced two threats in England, bombing and the fuel laws, which provide for heat only in food hot-

Washington Digest

Rearmament Program to Cause Farm Labor Shortage Problem

Lack of Migratory Workers Is Noted in Some States; Professor Denounces 'Disdain' for Politicians as Real Threat to Democracy.

By BAUKHAGE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON.—The battered old Ford with a tent tied on top and children protruding from every crevice didn't pull up at a lot of farm gates this fall. When the Okies and their ilk failed to call, rural America didn't feel socially slighted but it meant a labor problem had come up for a lot of farmers.

Who kept the Okies from keeping their date in the harvest field? Why Herr Hitler, of course.

Here in Washington we don't know just how many families making up the 3,000,000 migrants who are needed by agriculture to help out at harvest time didn't show up this year but we do know a number were deflected into work in connection with the defense program. Reports reaching the Federal Security administration indicate that in more than one section of the country farm labor has been at a premium. Real shortage of labor hasn't turned up in industry—at least as far as unskilled workers go, but there is a shortage in the skills that is bound to affect the surplus farm population in the long run.

I was in New England recently and although up there, the skilled workers are now being absorbed by the war industries faster than they can be trained, the New Englanders still want more industries. In the middle eastern states no farm labor shortage is noted as yet, although the cities are calling for the skills; Wisconsin has noted a lack of migrants, and in the southeast the big job of building army camps has taken a lot of skilled construction workers from other sections and also called a lot of unskilled labor away from the cotton and tobacco fields.

Migrant Workers More 'Choosy'
From Wyoming to New Mexico the farmers and ranchers have found the migrants a lot more choosy. When they don't get the money and the housing conditions they want they move on.

The migrant worker in the United States is what might be called a necessary evil, at least in one sense. He's necessary all right, for harvests couldn't be brought in and large-scale roadbuilding simply couldn't be attempted if it weren't for him. And he's an evil, too, when it comes to size him and his relatives up as members of the American family—he's a pretty bedraggled feather in the eagle's cap.

The rattle-trap car, the packing-box and tin-can shanty-town, the ditch camp and all that goes with the migrant laborer is a sad commentary on democracy. Strawberry shortcake, peaches and cream, the lettuce and tomato salad that is as much a part of the city meal as the knife and fork are taken for granted as necessary luxuries but if the rest of us didn't eat them, half a million families wouldn't eat at all. That's the estimate of the Farm Security administration. Their statisticians say 500,000 families, averaging three to a family mean at least a million and a half people, pick up their beds and trek from crop to crop, carrying a choice assortment of disease and discomfort with them—and leaving a little behind each time they move.

Here is the record shown in a study of migratory labor made by the Works Progress administration for two years: "Two and a half jobs a year; each job lasting eight weeks; median net earnings \$100 in 1933, and \$124 in 1934."

Other studies show median annual gross earnings for 1936 and 1937 ranging from \$154 to \$374—that only accounts for the ones who got jobs, the rest of course earn little more than nothing. And somebody has to pay the bill.

Children Suffer

Most From Plight

Since the children in these nomad units naturally suffer the most, each succeeding generation is a little worse than the preceding one. The children, as one observer expresses it, are "a lost tribe." They grow up without a stable home, without school or play and without health protection. The result of the last condition is 74 per cent more disabling diseases among migrants

than among settled families.

Naturally, since these nomads belong to no community, no community can give them the help that the needy ordinarily get. In some localities, of course, private funds have created facilities which improve living conditions. It's a measure of self-preservation as well as charity and the Farm Security administration has been trying for several years to carry on similar work. By July of last year government facilities had been provided for 18,000 families which brought their temporary living conditions up to normal standards of health and decency. It is planned to carry on these projects to provide for about 4,000 more families each year.

But it is still a tough problem, for the worker himself, the farmer who needs his services, and the nation which has to endure him.

Now industry steps into the picture and offers more work for migrant hands to do—which isn't so handy for the farmer.

Politicians Frequently

Regarded 'Disdainfully'

If the people and the politicians can get together with any kind of a disinterested motive it means that democracy is just so much better off. The great difficulty in the path, T. V. Smith, as former congressman-at-large from Illinois, says, is the fact that "democracy is government by politicians for citizens who too often regard them with disdain."

T. V. Smith had an interesting adventure in politics. He was a professor at the University of Chicago who had served successfully in his state legislature and might have had a more prominent career in congress if more of his colleagues had known him better. He was well liked and appreciated by a few, but simply not known to the many.

As some of his admirers said, Mr. Smith was not enough of a politician himself to stay in politics. But he was enough of one to have learned about this "disdain" he mentions. He calls it a dangerous disease.

"Politicians," he believes, "are the secular priests of our common faith in one another. Either they attend to our joint business or that joint business gets neglected. If it gets neglected, then democracy falls from inefficiency."

Mr. Smith has written a little 100-page book called "The Legislative Way of Life," the fruit of his long studies of government enriched by personal experiences in Springfield and Washington. It is particularly timely because although written by a Democrat its purpose is much the same as the one suggested by Mr. Willkie's "loyal opposition," in that it attempts to bring the people a closer understanding of the "legislative way," our way of running a government.

The author says he wants "to leave a heavy deposit of fear of any competing way of life" and also "to leave a deposit of joy from faith in the legislative enterprise." "Unless public matters are adjusted legislatively," he says, "private freedom disappears."

Understanding of our methods is the answer, he believes. His book will help that and it will entertain and amuse as well as instruct.

An active, disinterested, sincere opposition will, if it is to succeed, do that, too. At least it will instruct, it will provide a better understanding on the part of the people of the problems their representatives in the government must solve.

The one question which I think is most often asked me is this: What are the chances of a rebellion of the German people against the Nazi regime?

This is my answer:

We must remember the Nazis have perfected the most efficient counter-revolutionary machine in history. Regardless of how the people may feel, they are virtually helpless.

But there is a report being read by officials in Washington which contains these observations:

There are two conditions under which revolt might take place in Germany: First, a series of defeats of the German armies. Second, a winter as bad as last year.

Revolt in Germany would be followed, if not preceded, by revolt in the occupied countries.

Conditions in Italy are very bad.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

MEXICO RECOGNITION

BIG league baseball writers recently confirmed a fact long recognized around Detroit that Hank Greenberg was the player who put the Tigers out in front in 1940.

Greenberg, who risked his career last spring by shifting from first base to left field for the good of the Tigers, was named the most valuable player in the American league for the second time by a committee of 24 baseball writers, three from each of the eight cities in the circuit.

The Tigers' big slugger drove in 150 runs during the past season, hammering out 41 home runs. He led the junior league in both those departments. He batted .340, the highest mark of his career.

No one would have predicted last winter that Greenberg would be crowned the most valuable player in his league at the close of 1940. For seven years prior to the past season Hank had handled transactions at first base. Last spring he was switched to the outfield so that the valuable bat of Rudy York, as well as his own, could be kept in the lineup.

The Big Switch

Things were far from bright for the tall, lanky Bronx boy when the Tigers' front office called him to Detroit for a chat. It was then that the Detroit officials offered Greenberg his choice of taking a sizable salary slash or shifting from first base to the outfield in order to make a place for York, the misfit.

York hadn't proved satisfactory as an outfielder, a third baseman or a catcher and it was either one or two



HANK GREENBERG

things—trade him or play him at first. The decision was up to Greenberg and it wasn't a particularly tough one to make. In the first place, no man relishes a salary slash. Then, too, Greenberg knew that York's bat would give Detroit needed power and that to trade him would be unthinkable. Hank went to the outfield.

Even though operating in strange territory and in the face of predictions that he would prove a flop, Hank not only kept up his share of the defense, but assisted materially in the Tigers' pennant success with a large variety of plain and fancy hitting. As soon as the switch was made Hank put everything he had in learning how to play his new position. No man in the Florida training camps worked harder than Greenberg.

Feller's Chance

It is not unlikely that the loyalty and co-operation Hank exhibited in making the transfer was, to some degree, responsible for his being named the league's most valuable player. The belief is strengthened when one remembers that Bob Feller, who won 27 games for the Cleveland Indians, was second in line. Greenberg received 222 points, Feller received 222.

Ordinarily, a pitcher with 27 victories would have more than a fair chance of winning the award. The fact that Feller took part in the June rebellion against Manager Oscar Vitt didn't help his cause when the 24 baseball writers cast their ballots. It is not at all impossible that Feller's lack of sympathy with managerial authority swayed the ballots of some of the writers against him.

Feller has been stoutly defended by Cleveland writers as a "misunderstood" young man. Probably that is true. We are inclined to agree that his part in the revolution has been exaggerated. But it is equally true that the public's sympathies were with Vitt, and that a stigma attached itself to those players who were insurrectionists. Through his own acts Feller was included in that classification.

If the choice between Greenberg and Feller was so close that it depended on a question of team spirit, the Detroit slugger certainly would get the vote of most observers.

Washington, D. C.

This administration has just recognized the election and government of General Comacho in Mexico. It could not have properly done otherwise. A great many people believe that General Almazan had a majority in the election, but it isn't our business to judge the legality of a Mexican election, although for some time it was not our policy to recognize Latin-American elections, or at least changes of government "achieved through force."

It worked pretty well to decide the incumbency of Mexican presidents, but it did not work to cement good feeling across the border. It didn't fit with the President's Good Neighbor policy—which is among his best. It resulted in a lot of secret diplomacy, both here and abroad, the reasons and results of which have never yet been made clear. It also resulted in our engaging in two "undeclared wars" on a neighbor—Funston's expedition at Vera Cruz and Pershing's punitive expedition into Chihuahua. Both were fiascos.

Boiling it all down to a couple of ultimate results of which I do feel confident, I believe two things—that Mr. Roosevelt is right in keeping our nose out of there and that the Mexican situation is too different from ours and too complex to be judged by any American rule of thumb. It is probably true, as many say, that no Mexican government can live without American support, but it is also true that we cannot condition that support on interference with native institutions.

Mexicans are largely Indians. Their traditions go back not to thousands of years of Anglo-Saxon traditions, but to an Aztec tradition an aid and, in many ways, as well-proved and satisfactory to them. As Indians, they believe in common ownership of property. Not in the Russian sense—not personal property—but in the waters, minerals and even the land.

What is at the bottom of American opposition to the Hull policy today? Because he represents the Indian tradition, American dismay at the election of Comacho is partly because he represents the Indian tradition. Similar motives and misunderstandings were partly responsible for Wilson's two unfortunate forays—Funston's and Pershing's.

Hull's position admitted the right of expropriation of the oil properties, but insisted on compensation. Mexico admitted that duty. The great oil companies with Mexican wells split on the settlement offered. One great group opposed it, and tried to monopolize the negotiation for compensation. It appointed the negotiator, but being dissatisfied with the result, and believing that our government could be persuaded to interfere, broke off negotiations. The other group, learning of this, broke the so-called "united-front," sent its own negotiator and arrived at an amicable settlement satisfactory to it.

The other group's strategy, which came within a hair of success, introduced a bill in congress, embargoing Mexican oil. It almost passed. It apparently emanated from sources somewhere in the state department, but it was contrary to Mr. Hull's wishes and might have wrecked Mr. Roosevelt's Good Neighbor policy.

From both the angles of foreign and domestic policy this obscure situation needs a thorough airing.

POWER OF PRIORITIES

In war, and in the highest national interest, we cannot ration scant supply to the longest purse. It must go to the most necessary use, regardless of the highest bid. We are in a sort of siege. We are a wasteful people—we must ration what we have—and it is plenty—so that nobody hogs anything. That is a very simple process. Our World War system is a model. I am for immediately putting in the hands of the President a power of priorities.

That is an easy thing to do. It doesn't deprive anybody of anything. It merely says that whatever needs are greatest—whether in power, labor, materials, or finance—what the nation needs for defense shall come before what any of us needs for our pleasure, and no higher price offer will get anybody anything.

On the other angle—fear of the value of money—Mr. Morgenthau is right on one thing. The debt limit should be taken off the treasury immediately. We haven't even begun to spend. Total defense may cost us as much as \$3 billion more—but we've got to have it.