

**WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS** By Edward C. Wayne

## 64 Killed in Rumanian 'Blood Purge'; Hitler Forms New League of Nations Until Soviet Russia Scowls at Bulgaria; U. S. Food Industry Faces Investigation

(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.)

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS: New Memberships

Adolf Hitler was lining up states for what Berlin termed a modern League of Nations when he met up with Bulgaria.

He had signed three nations to the Axis alliance, although it must be admitted all of these long had been in the Axis sphere of influence and their formal initiation could not be expected to occasion any great surprise.

First came Japan, which for more than four years was allied by treaty with Germany and Italy. Japan enrolled anew. Then came Rumania, which two months before was taken over by Iron Guard Gen. Ion Antonescu. Antonescu signed up formally, but the signature gave Germany no more oil than it had been getting since the war began. Then Slovakia attached its signature to the dotted line. Slovakia is the splinter state left after the Nazis hacked away the Czechs and the Bohemians.

Then came King Boris of Bulgaria. He listened, went home and said he would send a delegation to carry



**KING BORIS OF BULGARIA**  
His 'Red Brother' scowled.

out the arduous duties of treaty signing. But no delegation arrived in Berlin. It was intimated in Sofia that Bulgaria had received covert advice from Russia that the Big Red Brother wouldn't be pleased at all to have German troops in Bulgaria, 250 miles from the Dardanelles. The German ministry of propaganda and public enlightenment said Germany hadn't wanted Bulgaria anyhow.

There was some whispering that all the fuss and feathers on the diplomatic front was just a means of covering up Hitler's lack of activity on the military front. Experts guessed that perhaps Hitler had heard some segments of the German people were not at all impressed with his failure to invade England and the spanking being taken by Mussolini in Albania. Diplomatic "victories" might fill the bill for a time and cover up the situation until spring, when a more determined attack on England is generally expected.

### Blitzgreek

"Have you heard of Mussolini's new secret weapon?" one diplomat in Switzerland asks another.

"No," said the man addressed. Then leaning forward and cupping his ear, "What is it?"

The first diplomat places a hand at the side of his mouth to simulate a whisper, and replies, "It's the German army."

At the end of the third week of Benito Mussolini's invasion of Greece, the Italians found themselves halfway back through Albania on their way home. The progress being made by the Fascist legions produced more humor in neutral sources than respect.

Outnumbered and outequipped, the Greeks fought a type of war that seemed to have the Italian version of the blitzkrieg dazzled. The Greeks refused to come out in the open and give battle in force. Instead they maneuvered through the Macedonian peaks catching the Fascists on their flanks and from the rear.

Losses were not high on either side, but the Fascists were forced to retreat from Koritz to Pogradec to Argiostaro, surmounting base after base and leaving behind tanks, combat cars, automobiles, motorcycles and even bicycles.

### RUMANIA: Blood Purge

Anarchy stalked the Balkan nation of Rumania, as members of the fascist Iron Guard party executed at least 64 political enemies. Without benefit of official sanction from their leader, Premier Gen. Ion Antonescu, self-appointed execution squads raided a jail where political prisoners were held and led them before the tomb of the founder of their party, Corneliu Codreanu, and there put them to death.

A Rumanian communique admitted the killings and stated that the government "disapproves." It is understood that the section of the Iron Guard party which has taken the law into its own hands, believes their founder, Codreanu, to be a martyr, and their action has been taken to avenge his killing during King Carol's regime.

Admittedly they are paying off their chief political score by this method, now that they have driven the king from his country.

### STRIKE: In Defense Plants

At opposite ends of the nation, strikes in two factories engaged in airplane manufacture for the army attracted national attention. At Downey, Calif., production was halted for 12 days in the Vultee Aircraft factory when the aircraft division of the C. I. O. automobile workers demanded higher pay.

Chief trouble seemed not to be over the higher wages, which were granted, but to an insistence on the part of the corporation that an agreement be reached guaranteeing there would be no strike for two years and that in the meantime all disputes be settled by arbitration.

The strike came in for debate in congress when demands were heard in the house that a law be enacted forbidding labor to strike in any plants where defense contracts were being filled. Attorney General Jackson also referred to the strike in a dispute with Representative Dies (D., Texas) over methods of procedure in handling subversive influences. The attorney general said the FBI was aware that the Vultee strike was "being prolonged" due to Communistic influence.

The strike was finally settled after Dr. John R. Steelman, chief of the department of labor's conciliation service, and R. J. Thomas, national



**REP. MARTIN DIES**  
A dispute with the Attorney General.

president of the union, made hurried trips by plane to the scene.

Eastward, at the New Kensington, Pa., plant of the Aluminum Corporation of America, a dispute between the firm and the Aluminum Workers union, C. I. O., shut down production. The issue was refusal of one man to pay \$12 back dues and an alleged threat passed by the dues-ower against a union official who tried to collect it. The union demands the man be discharged. The company refused to comply. C. I. O. chieftain Philip Murray gave the situation his personal attention, his first real job as national leader.

### WOMEN . . . in the news

Guest—Princess Juliana of the Netherlands will be a White House visitor December 18. The Dutch minister in Washington said the visit would be "strictly personal and private in character."

### AID TO BRITAIN: Money Needed



**AMBASSADOR LOTHIAN**  
He had a frank statement.

Lord Lothian, British ambassador to Washington, returned from London with a frank statement that his government has spent almost all the American money it can lay its hands on. He intimated that if the United States is to continue to give aid in the form of supplies, some method soon must be found to finance further orders. He said virtually all the gold and American securities of British ownership had been sold in the U. S. markets to obtain the American dollars already used.

The Johnson act forbids American credits to any nation which defaulted on its 1918 war debts. Pro-British groups here have urged the act be repealed but Lord Lothian refused to comment on this.

President Roosevelt also made it known that no administration source had advocated the Johnson act be abolished. In reply to some criticism that the United States was not giving sufficient aid to Britain, the President declared that such assistance had about reached the maximum possible under present industrial capacity. He told reporters if any way to make airplanes faster could be found, he would like to know it. "You can't give orders one day and have planes the next," he said.

In London there was talk in semi-official circles that eventually it might be well to offer the United States possessions of British crown colonies in the Caribbean in exchange for munitions.

### INVESTIGATION: Food Prices

Following up the inquiry into home building several months ago, the department of justice has decided to inquire into what it believes is monopolistic tendencies in the nation's food markets.

The home-building investigation ended in 99 indictments against 1,538 contractors, manufacturer's association and labor union executives. The objectives of the food-price inquiry will be two-fold, said the department: To lower the price of living and to protect the farmer who buys retail and sells wholesale.

Processors and distributors, the department says, receive about 50 to 60 per cent of the consumers' dollar. In the fish, cheese, poultry and retail grocery markets, it is charged, prices are fixed by fictitious auctions. The canning and bread industry are declared to engage in price-fixing.

### CONGRESS MOVES: No Adjournment

When house and senate refused to quit and go home, architects of the Capitol served notice to get out before the roof came down on their heads. The architects were not thinking in the terms of heated wrath. Rather they were concerned with cold snow.

The roof of the Capitol long has been regarded as too weak for safety. Plans had been made to strengthen it during the recess of the seventy-sixth congress. But congress refused to recess. It did move, however, to give workmen a chance to get struts in place before snows arrived in Washington.

### MISCELLANY:

The Pan-American Airways Clipper plane set out for Honolulu on the Pacific crossing the other day, the 442nd such trip. There was no special ceremony, but that trip was an anniversary flight—the fifth year that passenger air service has been in existence on the largest ocean route.

England and Germany continued to swap air raids. The British paid nightly visits to ports along the coast from Trondheim to Lorient and smashed at electrical power plants, munitions factories, airplane fields and rail lines in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France. The Germans invented a new word, "Coventrated," for towns given concentrated assaults like was given Coventry, Southampton, Bristol and Birmingham, they said, were "Coventrated."

### Washington Digest

## Wallace, Capitol Spanish Club, Improve Pan-American Relations

Work to Remove Language Barrier Between Countries; Continued Aid to England May Soon Require Large U. S. War Loans.

By BAUKHAGE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)  
WASHINGTON.—It was midday in the Department of Agriculture building.

The goldfish in the marble basin in the patio were wiggling hopeful tails in the prospect of a few crumbs that might be dropped by clerks hurrying back to their desks from the cafeteria. At a table in a little luncheon room upstairs a man with touselled hair, a somewhat self-conscious smile on his face, pulled some manuscript from his pocket and began to read:

"Me es sumamente grato y honoroso . . ."  
It was not a visiting Spanish dignitary saying in his native tongue, "it is indeed a great honor to be asked to make introductory remarks on the occasion of this distinguished gathering." It was the then secretary of agriculture, Henry Wallace, rehearsing before his fellow executives, the speech in Spanish that he was to deliver before the Pan American Scientific congress last May. And he knew what he was saying and so did his audience.



**HENRY A. WALLACE**

That informal Spanish club was only a little over two years old then but it is symbolic of a movement which has had a powerful influence in Washington—a movement the result of which is considered in Latin America as one of the real, practical steps toward Western hemisphere solidarity.

The story of that luncheon group and the man who started it is one of the fascinating stories of American diplomacy that doesn't get into the text books. It is largely the story of Secretary Wallace himself, and the story of a side of him that few people know.

Except for the scholarly interest which a man who is an inveterate reader might have, Henry Wallace knew little more about South America than you or I when he came to Washington. Today his name is one of the best known of all of our officials to the Latin American newspaper reader. And they know it as the name of a man who understands them and their problems as few North Americans do.

### Wallace Symbolized Friendship With Mexico

When Vice President-elect Wallace shook hands with the President-elect of Mexico before the recent inauguration in Mexico City, he did so as a person who was far more than the mere official representative of the President of the United States—he came as a symbol of practical friendship between this country and the republics to the south.

To grasp the reasons back of this achievement you have to watch Henry Wallace at work.

Wallace wasn't satisfied to read about South America, he wanted to read what South Americans said in their own tongue; he wasn't satisfied with talking about South Americans, he had to talk to them. So he learned the language and immediately the bars went down. For language is a barrier. That is typical of his methods.

American Republics, which studied the financial needs for activity in cultivating relations with South America.

Now money makes the mare go and this interdepartment committee's efforts helped secure the appropriation which put the teeth into the secretary's own practical efforts. Last July he saw one practical achievement of a step which he had been fighting for years. It will make possible actual experimentation in the development of rubber in South America which may some day make us independent of the foreign rubber markets and bolster one of the greatest defense needs.

I mention rubber because it is typical of the practical work which Mr. Wallace has done. This step has won the gratitude of Latin America. But what is more important to the American farmer is that it stimulates growth of a product which complements but does not compete with his product.

### Valuable Products Grown In Latin America

There are many other similar fields in which his efforts are bearing fruit. The department of agriculture, through study, through experimentation, through co-operation of representatives of the department attached to our diplomatic missions in Colombia and Argentina and our traveling representatives in South America, has made valuable studies which will aid the production of products the United States needs from South America which we can't raise here.

Here are some of them: First, rubber, which I mentioned; second, hemp; third, insecticidal roots (rotenone) so valuable to farmers who grow products like vegetables, for while this poison kills the bugs it is non-poisonous to man. Then there are the various hard woods we can't grow in our latitudes. A soil book, the result of Puerto Rican experiments, printed in Spanish has proved a gold mine to the folks of the Caribbean.

That rotenone is a story in itself. The secretary had read about how certain South American natives used these roots to kill fish. He followed it up. Had the department investigated it. Found how it could be processed in South America. Today seven million pounds are imported into the United States and when you realize that for use the solution is diluted five to one, you can see what a quantity our market can absorb.

And for every dollar of these complementary products sold here, the Latin American has just that many more dollars to spend in this country.

### Britain's Resources Dwindling Rapidly

Washington is beginning to feel the weight of pressure groups which are demanding short cuts in our efforts to aid Britain.

There are a number of committees like the one headed by William Allen White to defend America by aiding the allies—formed when France was still an ally—which keep hammering on the White House door. They have various specific aims but the general purpose is help for Great Britain, with which most people agree heartily in principle.

The administration has taken no official recognition of these various propaganda movements. Of some it approves. Of others it disapproves. But it is becoming clear that some leaders in congress will not oppose certain specific demands when they become more pressing.

One is an amendment to the Johnson act which prohibits loans to foreign nations which haven't paid their war debts. There is no official confirmation of this step but it is taken for granted by those who are supposed to know, that administration support will not be lacking if and when such an amendment is proposed as it probably will be by the time the new congress has settled down early in the new year.

## SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE  
Released by Western Newspaper Union

CHICAGO'S great North Side won't be the same next summer—not with Charles Leo Hartnett absent from his old haunts in Wrigley field.

Gabby's honorable 19-year career with the Chicago Cubs drew to a close a couple of weeks ago. It wasn't just the kind of a finish that thousands of friends wanted for old Tomato Face but it was just as definite as owner P. K. Wrigley's soft words could make it. Gabby, player-manager of the Cubs since July, 1938, and member of the team since 1922, was fired with a few well-chosen remarks. In giving Gabby the bounce, Wrigley said, among other things:

"We are not blaming Hartnett—he has done everything he could, but we feel it is up to us to try and keep on trying to get the best possible combination of personnel to produce the best possible results."

### A Fine Phrase

Even Gabby will admit that is a mouth-filling, tonsil-tickling phrase. It doesn't mean a great deal. It has the sound but not the fury. Mr. Wrigley, not unlike other major and minor league club owners, would like very much to have a competent manager at the helm of a pennant winning team. The "best possible combination of personnel" means, of course, a winning ball club.

The news of Gabby's discharge came as a surprise to everyone—at least to everyone outside Mr. Wrigley's circle of intimate friends. On



**GABBY HARTNETT**

August 27 the owner of the Cubs stated that Hartnett was going to stay on as manager. Then, 78 days later, he dropped his employee like a hot potato.

One thing in Mr. Wrigley's favor—he personally conducted the firing of Gabby. It couldn't have been an easy thing for him to do since Gabby had spent his entire big league career with the Cubs. He stepped up from Worcester of the Eastern league in 1922.

### The Hard Way

Wrigley could have turned the very unpleasant task over to Jim Gallagher, former Chicago sports writer whom he named general manager, or president, of the Cubs at the same time he fired Gabby. In other words, Wrigley could have hired Gallagher with instructions to fire Gabby as his first duty. However, that would have placed Gallagher on the spot.

Hartnett's admirers claim, seemingly with justification, that Wrigley has reversed his field since August 27, when he said that no change in managers was contemplated. Club officials have a different story. What Wrigley really said, according to them, was that "a change is not contemplated at this time."

The subsequent firing supposedly resulted because the Cubs finished in the second division for the first time in 15 years and attendance took a sharp turn downward.

Gabby always was one of Chicago's most popular players. But late dealt him a poor hand when he succeeded Charlie Grimm as manager. Not once did he ever manage a full squad of active players. He went through the 1940 wars with only 23 men, two of whom had bum legs, one had his appendix removed and one who was a dead-arm pitcher.

The 1939 campaign was even worse. At one time he was so short handed he had only three outfielders and was on the sick list.

Hartnett admitted that he was "quite surprised" when informed of his dismissal. Thousands of Cub fans also were quite surprised. But at least they have something with which to occupy their minds during the long winter months ahead.

They can riddle out Mr. Wrigley's statement concerning the "best possible combination of personnel."

**GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON**  
*Says:*

Washington, D. C.  
CURRENT TRADE FIGURE

As all current trade statistics show, due largely to the defense program, the gigantic American economic system is swinging into an upward surge of consumption, production and employment. As those statistics do not show, we ain't seen nothin' yet. Neither the mere appropriation of federal money, nor even the letting of contracts produces these results. They come from the actual out-pouring of money in payment by the government for goods delivered, or by contractors in preparing to produce those goods. This process has scarcely started. Yet it has already resulted in a vast re-employment, not merely in the war industries, but in all industries to which the increased payrolls trickle down to supply all those human wants so long deferred.

As this column has tried to show from studies of our experience in the World War and the experience in other countries, this is a snowball-rolling-downhill process. We have started it. There are ways—not of stopping it—but of regulating and controlling it. If it isn't regulated and controlled it could create complete and explosive disaster.

Let's skip that for a moment. The point to make just now is that, judging from results of meager spending to date, by next summer, American business—all of it—will be running at the highest rate it has ever known. Beyond that, and depending on the course of war, which no man can foresee, the sky is the limit. So what?

Let me quote from a UP dispatch, a recent colloquy between Robert Garner, a banker, and Rex Tugwell, the administration "spend" enthusiast, who was dropped into a fox-hole until after election, and who now emerges unscathed.

"Garner—If the administration knows how to create employment, why hasn't it done so in the past eight years?"

"Tugwell—It always required from 12 to 15 billion dollars of government spending a year to do the job, not two or three billions."

"Interruption by Thurman Arnold—Do you mean that, from an economic point of view, it's a grand war?"

"Tugwell—Yes, if we don't get into it."

In other words, this necessary but hectic war extravagance was our only way out. It was Hitler's way out—absorb his unemployed by the forced draft of vast industrial rearmament, labor battalions and into the army, navy and air force. It worked to the point where it could work no longer without war—"export or die, conquer or die."

For a century it was truly said: "The principle business of Prussia is war." But modern war is no longer good business. It costs too much in capital investment to leave any room for revenue. It destroys too much of the conquest to make the game worth the candle.

A people prosper when their labors create production for their use and the instruments of greater production. War production is not for use but for destruction and for creating instruments of still more destruction. It may bring momentary industrial activity and employment, but that blows a bubble the very existence of which depends wholly on greater wars or the threat of them.

If peace came tomorrow and his industrial war bubble blew up in Hitler's face, the whole economy of Germany would collapse in greater unemployment, bankruptcy and desperation than her people have ever known. If, without proper wisdom in controls and regulation of our war effort, we gear up our industrial machine in complete dependence on the continuance of war, we shall be in exactly the same position.

### PRICE AND PRODUCTION

At times I have discussed war inflation and its cures. Now I want to talk about a kindred subject upon which I have merely touched—taxation. It is the fashion now to say: "Pile on the taxes. What we need now is confiscatory taxes, especially on profits." For excess and profiteering gains, yes. But on ordinary profits, new investments for increasing production or on living costs, it would be a blunder amounting to a crime. Our authorities must see and act on this principle. It is the first and truest one in the book.

What we need is not merely more taxes, but more revenue and more production. Revenue is mostly a sum in multiplication—total production, profits and sales multiplied by whatever percentage of taxes you assess on them.