

THE ALABAMA GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1941

No. 48

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

'More Aid to Great Britain' Problem Faces Opening Sessions of Congress; Tempo of Attacks on Italy Stepped Up; Report 'Heavy' British Shipping Losses

(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.)

77TH CONGRESS: Washington Gloomy

As the new congress comes into being, it meets in a Washington that is marked by a mood far from optimism. There is public talk, which may be nothing more, that Britain has only a 90-day grace period before Hitler strikes hard—and that Britain is far from well prepared and American "aid" has fallen down.

The first job of the new congress will be to stir the public, industry and labor out of that lethargy. Efforts already have begun in speeches by Defense Chief William Knudsen, and Secretaries Stimson and Hull.

The topic of all is the same: It is much later than you think. They hope by painting the defense picture in its true colors to convince workers, employees and the general public that there must be an immediate all-out arms production and all other considerations—labor's right and profits—must step aside until the job is done.

New Board

One step in this direction was appointment by President Roosevelt of a new super-production board on defense. It has been given complete executive authority—all the constitution allows, according to the President—to act in the name of the government. The national advisory defense council which has been carrying on the work up until this time has been pure that, advisory. It lacked authority.

The new board will have authority, probably more than most people expect, and will crack down. Knudsen has been named chairman and Sidney Hillman, C. I. O. vice president and enemy of John L. Lewis, is vice chairman. War Secretary Stimson and Navy Secretary Knox are the other members.

Job Ahead

The job is monumental. Army housing is 80 per cent behind schedule with only 300,000 soldiers on active duty, out of a contemplated 1,400,000. Not a single airplane ordered since congress voted money last July has been delivered. If any tanks have been delivered it is a secret. When it was decided to build one munitions plant and work on construction more than 40 hours a week, that was "news."

Most startling of all was the lack of realization on the part of too many that in this war those nations which sensed their danger too late have reached their war potentialities too late—or not at all.

CHANGED MAN: New U. S. Envoy

In 1936, British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden asked the League of Nations to vote an embargo against Italy because the Duce invaded Ethiopia. The man who led the fight against such a proposal was a Frenchman, Pierre Laval, at the



ANTHONY EDEN
Personal and patriotic delight.

moment French premier. Laval supported Italy and kept the League's action from being unanimous.

Eden's battle at Geneva aroused the enmity of Mussolini and so bitter was the exchange that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, then in the beginning of his appeasement drive, forced Eden to resign. In Eden's place came Lord Halifax, a member of the Cliveden set and sup-

porter of appeasement. He laid the groundwork for the pact of Munich, where Czechoslovakia was sold down the river and Hitler gained the idea all Europe would bow to his whim.

But times change and sometimes men change too. Lord Halifax now is described as one of the most determined men in England in support of the war effort. The death of Lord Lothian, British ambassador to the United States, gives Lord Halifax a new task. He steps down from the foreign ministry, where he directed ambassadors, to become an ambassador himself, being assigned to Washington.

Back into the foreign ministry in London goes Anthony Eden, who would take personal as well as patriotic delight in knocking out Mussolini.

Pierre Laval? He's out of the French cabinet at this time, but German influence is seeking to have him replaced. Until such can be brought to pass, he will live in Paris, under protection of the Nazi invaders.

WAR ON ITALY: Tempo Increases

Fearful of being too optimistic, but still hopefully, the eyes of the democratic nations were turned on Italy. Reverses for the Fascist legions were reported by the Greeks in Albania and by the British in Egypt. There were continued reports of falling morale on the home front.

If Italy should crack it would be a serious blow to the Axis. Even an



BENITO MUSSOLINI
He heard a few excuses.

Axis is no stronger than its weakest spoke.

The forward march of the killed Greek Evzones in Albania appeared to be slowed down. There were desperate counter-attacks by the Italians and some towns were retaken. But the Greeks were certain it was just a momentary halt and the march north could be resumed.

From Africa, Field Marshal Rodolfo Graziani reported to the Duce on why his Egyptian campaign had been such a dismal failure; and why after making a 75-mile advance into British territory he halted for three months and then suffered a serious defeat.

He said he had not received mechanical equipment from home which had been promised to him. Even before the British attacked and drove him far back into Libya, he reported, he knew of their plans. He denied the campaign against him was a surprise and said that so many Italians, reportedly as high as 80,000, were lost because they chose to fight into the "last spasm" rather than retreat.

But excuses don't win battles, and good reason or no, the Libyan forces had lost all their gains and were in a desperate plight to save the remnants of their army. The British indicated that an even more extensive blow was being aimed and hinted much of Libya may be in their hands by spring.

Even the British navy mocked the Italians. In broad daylight, with flags flying and openly inviting attack, a squadron of the royal navy swept through the Straits of Otranto and into the Adriatic, Mussolini's private lake. It was an open dare to the Italians to come out and fight, but no Fascist man-o'-war appeared. So the British crossed over to Valona, Albanian port used by Mussolini's forces, and turned their guns on the harbors. Then they sailed out into the Mediterranean again.

NAMES

... in the news



WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE
An award for "better understanding."

Honor—William Allen White, Emporia, Kan., editor, was given the annual Churchman's award by the journal of the Protestant Episcopal church. The award was "for promotion of good-will and better understanding among all people."

Cruise—Adm. William D. Leahy, appointed U. S. ambassador to France, spent the holidays on the high seas. The U. S. S. Tuscaloosa, used by the President for his vacation cruises, carried the envoy to Lisbon; Spain, en route to his new job.

Fighter—Gene Tunney, retired undefeated heavyweight boxing champion, is wearing a naval uniform. The former marine buck private was commissioned a lieutenant commander and assigned as physical instructor to three naval aviation training stations.

Tragedy—Great crowds lined the streets of Helsinki and in a torch-light ceremony waved farewell to Kyosti Kallio, retiring president who carried the nation through crisis in peace and war. The 67-year-old statesman was bound to his ancestral home after seeing his successor take the reins of government. At the railway station he turned and waved to the crowds. Then he slumped to the ground and died in the arms of Gen. Baron Mannerheim, Finland's military hero.

ANGER IN BERLIN: Sharp Words to U. S.

The official Nazi spokesman turned a wrathful tongue loose on the United States. The American policy of giving all aid to Britain "short of war" appeared heading toward a critical stage.

The spokesman said American foreign policy was one of "pinpricks, injury, challenge and moral aggression" against Germany. On the other hand, he said, the Reich had "exercised restraint to the point of self-effacement." He talked of "warlike acts."

Crux of the irritation was a statement by British Minister of Shipping Ronald Cross who told reporters England "looks with a covetous eye" on every ton of shipping in American ports. The transfer of "a certain number of enemy ships," plus United States ships was seen by him as the only way for "replenishments of any consequences."

The British shipping situation was admittedly serious. In the past several weeks U-boats have accounted for an average of three British vessels each day. The losses in tonnage are not as severe as during the World War, but the British have fewer ships, and cannot rely on Allies as they could in 1917.

The American merchant marine is now estimated at 1,600,000 tons. Also there are about 470,000 tons of German ships in American ports, waiting out the war.

"The Reich," said the Berlin spokesman, "is therefore centering its entire attention upon America's reaction."

Mussolini jumped into the argument the following day. Through his editorial spokesman, Virginia Gadda, he called attention to the Berlin policy and said, "Me, too."

CROP NEWS: Wheat and Hogs

The department of agriculture made two announcements of interest to farmers and food buyers.

The first was that the 1941 wheat crop again would be above the 10-year average which is 571,067,000 bushels. The estimate of the 1941 yield was 633,000,000 bushels. In 1940 the crop gave 589,151,000 bushels and in 1939 569,741,000 bushels.

Economists also predicted an increase of between 16 and 32 per cent in hog prices by March and an even larger increase in the retail figure for pork. They said it was quite probable that hogs, now averaging about \$6.25 per hundred pounds in Chicago, would be selling \$1 to \$2 higher before winter is over.

Washington Digest

New AAA 'Alabama Plan' Promotes Soil Betterment

Crop Payments Based on Land Improvement; Roosevelt Suggests U. S. 'Loan' War Material to England.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WASHINGTON.—You may have heard about the "Alabama plan" of the Triple A which some have said is an attempt of reversing the policy of paying farmers for "not doing" and rewarding them for "doing." I find that the department of agriculture doesn't go that far. Officials there describe it rather, as paying farmers less for "not doing" but assuring them benefits for taking part in a constructive program.

This is the way one member of the Triple A tells the story:

Down in Alabama they're trying, on a state-wide basis, an experiment in balanced farming that may eventually be a pattern for farm programs in other areas. It's known as the "Alabama Plan" and it's simply a plan based on good farming practices, which over a five-year period, provides for building up the soil and otherwise improving the individual farm to the point where it becomes a productive unit.

The Alabama plan is not complicated. It is part of the AAA farm program. It carries further than ever before the conservation work done under the AAA program. As under previous AAA programs, farmers will receive conservation payments for planting within their acreage allotments of special crops, such as cotton, tobacco, peanuts, wheat, and potatoes. However, under the so-called Alabama Plan, in operation for the first time in 1941, full payments made to Alabama farmers will be contingent upon carrying out of certain good farming practices.

Planned Conservation.

The difference between the Alabama Plan and the general conservation program is about the difference between going into a cafeteria and picking out a dish or two that you especially like and sitting down to a well-balanced meal. Heretofore, farmers in Alabama and other states have had available to them certain practices which they could use to earn the payments available under the farm program. They have used many of these but naturally they have not always picked out the best combination of practices for the land. That was the cafeteria method of soil conservation. Under the Alabama Plan, the conservation program worked out for each farm represents a balanced type of farming. That's the well-planned meal type of conservation.

Not only is the conservation well planned for each year, but it is worked out for five years in advance.

The Alabama Plan, like most parts of the farm program, came from suggestions from farmers themselves who have observed the operation of the farm program and made suggestions on it from time to time. Alabama farmers have felt the need for more planning and more balance in their conservation work and the AAA program has been adapted to make it possible for this state-wide experiment in conservation to be undertaken beginning in 1941.

The Alabama farmers who want this type of program believe that a farmer who does not take care of his soil should not receive the full benefits under the farm program.

Requirements of Plan.

Here's what the Alabama farmer has to do to avoid deductions in his conservation payments for 1941:

1. Grow erosion-resisting crops each year on an acreage equal to at least 25 per cent of his cropland.
2. Properly terrace all cropland in the farm having a slope in excess of 2 per cent.
3. Establish or maintain perennial soil-conserving crops on at least one acre for each 15 acres of cropland.
4. Establish or maintain permanent pasture on at least one acre for each 15 acres of cropland.

Requirement No. 1 has to be carried out each year, of course, but numbers 2, 3, and 4 are to be done over a five-year period. One-fifth of the requirements under points 2, 3, and 4 must be carried out each year. Deductions in the farmer's conservation payments will be made on the basis of 5 per cent of the payment for each 10 per cent by which he fails to carry out the 1941 requirements.

The Alabama Plan is resulting in more co-operation among farmers in many cases. For example, operators of small farms are not able to

maintain heavy equipment required in terracing. However, groups of farmers can form an association to buy this equipment, and can pay their share on the basis of the amount of time they use it.

That is the story—told from the standpoint of the Triple A. You are better able to judge its merits than I am. Of course, if you have any views you would like to express, I would be only too glad to hear them.

President Announces 'Loaned' Aid to Britain

It was late as I hurried across the paved space in front of the executive offices. The waiting room was jammed. Overcoats were piled high on the huge mahogany table presented to the President by the Philippine General Aguinaldo.

We were soon crowding through the inner waiting room and across the hall and into the President's oval office. The moment I had wormed my way forward and looked at the President, I was sure he had something important to say. He wasn't laughing and chatting with the men pushed close around his desk. He looked very serious.

Finally the last reporter had come in. The President began to speak. He spoke slowly, deliberately; informally but seriously, announcing his long-awaited plan for lending or leasing implements of war to Great Britain.

Because I had to broadcast almost immediately afterward I was kept busy taking notes, but as I wrote down the words that would be history some day, I suddenly felt that nothing was real around me.

Roosevelt Tells Story.

It couldn't be that the other side of the world was burning up—that a proud nation which claimed to rule the Seven Seas was begging for help—that I was actually writing down on a piece of copy paper a gigantic plan to bring that help. It was simply too big to grasp. How could any one human being hope to sit down and draw up a scheme that involved these millions of people, that must answer the criss-cross, conflicting hopes, beliefs, demands and desires of half the globe? . . . my pencil kept on forming words and suddenly I saw they were writing down a simple little anecdote about a lot of men in a smoking car making bets.

This seemed still more unreal but it is the President's way of trying to illustrate frightfully complicated things with very simple, everyday experiences. He told how, when he was the young assistant secretary of the navy back in 1914, war in Europe was suddenly declared and he was hurrying back to Washington.

In the smoking car with him were a number of brokers and bankers—"the best economic brains of the country" the President called them. They were saying that no war could last long. The bankers could stop it in two and a half months for no nation could fight long without money in the bank.

Money Not Essential.

This, the President said, showed how wrong the accepted beliefs were. History shows, he said, that no country ever lost a war because of lack of money.

And then he went on describing his plan for lending or leasing implements of war to Great Britain instead of lending money. He had no notes before him but it was plain he had spent plenty of thought on his plan, that it was the result of study and thought.

Whatever the merits of the plan may be, its one merit seemed to be this: It stilled for a while at least, something that came very near hysteria in Washington and what might have been hysteria in England, too. For while it did not increase by one machine gun bullet, immediate aid to Britain, it promised them "economic co-operation" and restored their morale.

And it stilled, too, the angry demands of the pressure groups in this country which would push us right up to the very verge of war. They could hardly complain if London was satisfied. And yet, on the other side of the picture, it did not even imply a single immediate act which would bring us any nearer the war than we were at the moment for the President made it clear that congress would have to pass upon it.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union

WHAT promises to be one of the most interesting winter golf campaigns ever known is well under way with most of last year's professional favorites still ensconced in the golden seat, managing to hold their own against all comers.

With approximately \$80,000 in prize money to shoot at, the pros have unlimbered their biggest guns. The quest for gold and glory started in Miami recently, and continues some 10,000 miles up and down the West coast, then to Arizona and Texas, then to New Orleans, and finally, back to Florida.

First successful searcher was "Lord" Byron Nelson, he of the poetic golf swing, who headed westward with \$2,500 Miami Open money in his pocket. Nelson, conceded by many fellow professionals to be the world's greatest golfer, won the affair with a 271, nine strokes under par for the 72 holes. He won by a single stroke from Clayton Heafner of Linville, N. C.

Money Winner

Little Ben Hogan of White Plains, N. Y., the year's leading money winner, finished with a 275 total and third place. Sam Snead of Hot Springs, and Willie Goggin of Miami, tied for fourth with 277.

No one was particularly surprised to see Nelson walk off with top honors in the initial tournament of the winter circuit. Not even his closest competitor begrudged him the \$2,500, for Lord Byron was on his game—and that means golf near perfection. By the same token, however, no one would have been surprised if the victory had gone to Hogan, Snead, Demaret, Smith or any one of a dozen other 1939-40 favorites.

It is only natural that a lot of questions remain unanswered as yet. The winter campaign is too young to be used as the basis for any prognostications.

For instance, can Slammin' Sammy Snead finally hit his true stride and start winning tournaments with that beautiful swing? Remember that he finished the fall meets in good shape. And he opened the winter wars with a good showing. Dub golfers don't place fourth against competition like the Miami Open offered. For a while things were looking dark for the West Virginian. He had blown the National Opens of Philadelphia and Cleveland in 1939 and 1940. He lost his poise in the pinches and his mental attitude went haywire when the chips were down. Later on Sammy regained his courage. He won three of his last four big tournaments and gave Nelson a real battle for the professional golfers' crown.

A Man to Watch

Snead is one of the country's best golfers. Almost any pro golfer will insist that Sammy's is the finest swing in the game—that he can't be beat from drive to pitch. His big weakness has been his mental attitude, which has let him down all too often. Once he gains full control of himself, he will win considerably more than his share of tournaments.

Ralph Guidahl is another player to watch. He hasn't been playing the kind of golf that he's capable of playing. Guidahl plays as cool a game as any man in the pro ranks. His failure to win more tournaments baffles even the experts. He is the kind of a player one would expect to be consistent. He plays as though his veins were filled with ice water. This may be his year. He used to wreck the field, and may start in all over again.

You may remember that Jimmy Demaret was a regular ball of fire along the winter circuit last year. He grabbed all the headlines in California, Texas and Florida. He didn't open with a bang this year—winning exactly \$31.25 in Miami—but he may come back to surprise the galleries.

Ben Hogan is likely to pick up where he left off last year. The \$1,000 he won in Florida ran his total earnings for the year to \$10,655. This gave him possession of the Vardon trophy, awarded annually by the Professional Golfers association to its most consistent member. Nelson, winner of last year's Vardon trophy, was second with a total of \$9,653, and Snead was third with \$9,206.

Hogan, who weighs in the neighborhood of 132 pounds, continues to astound his contemporaries with his tremendous drives. Despite his small frame, he lays them off the tee with the longest drives in the game. It wouldn't be at all surprising if he continued the pace he set in California a year ago.



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON
Says:

Washington, D. C.
ARMS PRODUCTION
Our small's pace arms production doesn't need any declaration of an emergency or new legislation to speed it up. It needs just one thing, authorized and responsible management and leadership in the government itself. That seems so plain as not to need argument. Even a very small industrial effort needs that. Nobody would dream of starting one without that.

Mr. Knudsen says that the public is "sold" to the necessity for speed and production, but that industry and labor are asleep. Almost at the moment he was saying that, another member of the rearmament advisory board, Mr. Nelson, was telling us that the trouble is that the public is apathetic, asleep.

This is not to criticize these gentlemen. They have done marvelous jobs of making without straw such bricks as we have manufactured. The "straw" that management of a great effort needs is authority. They haven't got it. But did anybody ever hear of any determined effort on their part to get it?

It is well known that there has been none. In the absence of such an effort, perhaps we should look twice at these indictments of the public, of labor and of industry—especially when one of these authorities says that the public is to blame while the other feels that the public attitude is satisfactory but that industry and labor are the goats.

Whenever a man, or a group of men, step into the driver's seat, there is only one goat when the bus doesn't run. It is the man at the controls. If he didn't get the right gasoline or has accepted a faulty accelerator, it doesn't lie in his mouth to blame either the passengers or the rest of the crew.

Mr. Knudsen is right about the public attitude. The public has been far ahead of government for defense from the very start, ahead of both congress and the executive department. It balked at nothing. It is ready for any sacrifice.

As for labor and industry, they are the public. Their response at such a time depends entirely upon government leadership of them. They are the lead, swing and heel horses of this team. They can haul the load and put every ounce of their weight on the traces. But they can't set the pace and direction without a guiding intelligence and inspiration to spark the effort. There is no hanging back on the industrial side. It has never been more willing and eager since World War I.

The solution of our problem doesn't reside in words and gestures and laws and new, strange and un-American devices. It resides in work and common sense and competent leadership.

TERRIBLE URGENCY

Just now, in the highly successful sheep-herding process of forming more or less panicky public opinion, there are three principal shibboleths or sloganized conclusions floating about Washington.

The first is a sort of hushed whisper that the next 120 days will decide the fate of the world, including ours. This is the "terrible urgency" mystery and out of it grows a second—that we should begin financing the British Empire over this short crisis by gift or loan, secured or otherwise to the extent of about \$2,000,000,000. A third, somewhat inconsistently, is that this is a struggle to an absolute knockout between Hitlerism and democracy, that we must get into it with force of arms, and that it must go on until one or the other is wiped completely off the slate.

No matter which of these conclusions or any variation or opposition of them is held, there seems to be no difference of opinion whatever that we must get our industry into an all-out, high speed war production immediately and that we are not doing it. So let's skip that.

We ought to take a long look, however, at this proposal to finance the British Empire. We can't reach a decision on the basis of any 120-day crisis or any \$2,000,000,000 estimate. Britain has plenty of resources here to get all that we shall have to give for many times 120 days. If this is to be a long war to the destruction of Hitler on the continent and we now concede the amount of interest or obligation necessary to warrant financing this phase of it up to \$2,000,000,000, we are hooked—inevitably involved. There is and there can be no limit on the billions we must spend. When you get into a war, you don't count costs.