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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

### German Airforce Aids Italy in Attacks Upon British Forces in Mediterranean; Munitions Production and Shipbuilding Are Vital Spots in U. S. Defense Work

(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.)

#### INVASION:

##### England Cautious

In contrast to the cheerful, bombless Christmas holiday, London was grim the first days of the New Year. The Nazi airforce had "Coven-trized" the City of London, that district in the central section of the metropolis where financial houses are located.

Thousands of incendiary bombs were dropped. Hundreds of roaring fires were out of control at the same time. The losses were estimated in millions of pounds and the dead could not be counted. Three days later a man wandering into the section asked a policeman the way to Paternoster Row, famous for centuries for its bookshops. The bobby replied: "There is no Paternoster Row, sir."

Mostly the British feared an attack through Ireland. Earlier warnings that the Axis thrust into the Balkans might only be a winter sortie and not a full-dress attack, were being taken seriously.

The actions there were being watched with interest. Germany moved 300,000 troops through Hungary and into Rumania. The Germans were posted along the border of Bulgaria where it was freely announced that as soon as they were in position and the time was ripe, an advance would be made on Salonika, Greece.

Bulgaria was belligerent in talk, but made no move to mobilize for defense or call upon Turkey and Russia for aid. Russia, however, countered the action by lining the border of Rumania with Soviet divisions. The Germans abruptly shifted a part of their force to sit opposite them.

It looked like the real thing. But experts didn't believe it. They believed Hitler was merely protecting his rear in the Balkans in preparation for the attack on England, much as he had protected his flanks when

of angry words when he went calling on dictators in Europe in the summer of 1939, while an official delegate of congress to the Inter-parliamentary Congress in Norway.

But Fish's warning on ship building has not been taken lightly. If a successful Axis would take advantage of such ship-building capacities, they could control the high seas within a short time, even if the American two-ocean navy already were sailing the briny deep.

#### 500 Planes a Day?

Another plan which will not be cast aside lightly, was presented by pint-sized Walter Reuther, manager of the General Motors division of the C. I. O.'s United Automobile Workers. Presentation to President Roosevelt actually was by Philip Murray, C. I. O. chieftain, but the plan was Reuther's.

The proposal calls for activating 554,000 feet of existing automobile plants space in the Detroit area, which once belonged to such forgotten firms as Hupmobile and Graham-Paige. Reuther and Murray also maintained that there are thousands of skilled workers in the same area still waiting for jobs. Cited were layoffs recently by Fisher Body, Chevrolet and Terstedt.

Blue prints and tables submitted with the proposal were based on production of 150,000 planes a year, six months after it was put into effect. Only light craft and training planes would be made. The manufacture of heavy craft and bombers would be retained by the present aircraft industry.

The President handed the data to his Big Four. But even before that it had been examined privately by Undersecretary of War Patterson, who is charged with mobilization of industry. He was much impressed. It will be opposed by the aircraft industry.

There were indications too that the drive soon will be put in force to speed up defense by compelling plants manufacturing "non-essentials" to forego their schedules and "accept" war department orders.

#### THE ARMY:

##### More Men Called

During the latter half of January more thousands of young men will be called for a year's army training, under the selective service law. The first call was in December and in virtually every one of the nation's 6,500 draft boards the quota was filled by youths who volunteered. In most local areas, however, the January call will, for the first time, take men who do not volunteer.

#### DEFENSE:

##### Full Speed Ahead

As soon as President Roosevelt's "Big Four"—Knudsen, Hillmah, Stimson and Knox—can get industrial plants working at capacity turning out munitions, look for an acceleration of ship building in cargo carrier classes. Washington is beginning to be alarmed at a quiet survey which showed that if Britain should fall, the Axis powers would have ship building capacities in conquered nations six times larger than U. S. capacity.

First note on this line was sounded by Republican Rep. Hamilton Fish, from the President's own N. Y. district. Representative Fish has been a critic of the administration since 1932. In turn he has plenty of critics of his own and ran into a fury



WILLIAM RHODES DAVIS, international oil operator who, according to Verne Marshall, head of the recently organized "No Foreign War" committee, was bearer of a Nazi peace plan naming President Roosevelt as arbiter in 1939.

of angry words when he went calling on dictators in Europe in the summer of 1939, while an official delegate of congress to the Inter-parliamentary Congress in Norway.

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#### Reaction

Throughout the United States the speech was received with pledges of support on all sides, even from personal and political enemies of Mr. Roosevelt like former Gov. Alfred Smith, former Gov. Alf Landon, Senator Vandenberg (R., Mich.); Senator Austin (R., Maine).

But there was no enthusiasm among the totalitarian powers. Berlin was silent for 48 hours during which time Adolf Hitler went into seclusion and studied the document. Der Fuehrer then replied indirectly. He spoke to his army, not mentioning the name Roosevelt. But he promised his army a victory in 1941.

He said God was on the side of Germany and "would not abandon those who were determined with courageous heart to help themselves."

Premier Mussolini was blunter. His mouthpiece, Virginia Gayda, said America already was in the war.

Ousted—The Overseas Press Club in New York consists of newsmen who are or have been foreign correspondents for U. S. newspapers in the past. There are few active members abroad now, most are back home. The club dropped from its rolls George Sylvester Viereck, saying it objected to his bringing "bundists and gestapo agents" to its meetings. Viereck, an American, is registered with the state department as the \$500-a-month correspondent for a Munich newspaper.

Death—Daniel Frohman, 89, one of America's greatest theatrical producers, died in New York. Agnes Ayres, 42, star of the silent movies and leading lady to Rudolph Valentino, died in Hollywood.

## Changing Hands



CLEVELAND, OHIO.—In a ceremony at City Hall, Harold H. Burton (right) ended his five years as mayor of Cleveland and Edward Blythin (left) was sworn in to succeed him. Burton now becomes Ohio's junior U. S. senator.

## FATEFUL YEAR:

### President Warns

The seventeenth month of the war opened against a sombre background. The year 1941 dawned with a general admission that before its close may come the decisive test, not only of the war, but also the American economic system.

America was given a grave report by President Roosevelt in a speech that took the joy out of New Year's celebrations. He said that the danger to the nation is the greatest since Jamestown and Plymouth Rock. He said if Great Britain was defeated the Axis powers would control Europe, Africa, Australasia and the high seas. He said that a victorious Axis would not hesitate to occupy South America and the United States would be living at the point of a gun. He said that already secret agents of these powers are operating in the Americas.

Before the President spoke, he had received uninvited advice from two sources. German and Italian dispatches said that if the President promised aid to Britain by permitting use of Irish ports by American merchantmen or giving Britain stranded German merchantships in U. S. harbors it would be viewed as intervention in the war. From a bloc of U. S. senators, among them Senator Wheeler (D., Mont.), came urgings that the President originate a movement for a "negotiated" peace.

He pledged that he would do everything in his power to keep the United States out of the war, declared there was not even the remotest thought of sending troops to Europe, called for defense production to the utmost, hinted it may be necessary to use machinery now engaged in manufacture of luxury goods to turn out armament, and forecast that the Axis powers would not win the war.

Eventually that may apply to milk, too, but right now there are thousands of potential customers of dairy farmers who would buy, if milk and milk products were cheaper.

Efforts of the department to breed better cows is illustrated in the accompanying photograph. I wouldn't want to go on record as saying that the fine old Aberdeen-Angus that flourishes in my home state of Illinois would be flattered to learn that mixing promiscuously with the strange-looking critter in the picture with the enlarged collar button on the back of its neck, would improve their family tree—but it's a fact. At least the Brahman cow has certain points which help an Aberdeen-Angus if it has to live down Texas way. It's cool in Scotland where the Aberdeen-Angus came from. It's hot in tropical Asia where hump-backed beauty originated. The Brahman has sweat glands in their skin which acts as a refrigerating system. And a little of that goes pretty well in the Gulf states of this country.

News Correspondents Discuss War Jitters  
This is a story of chin-beards and war.

We have been going through some jittery moments in Washington lately with war and rumors of war all about us. In the midst of the confusion, little things, unimportant things which we remember years afterward but which never get into the papers or the history books stand out clear and sharp in our memories

like a lantern swinging on a dark night, like the eerie, night-mare sound of the first coyote call you ever heard on a lonely ride home, with the moon half hidden under the moving clouds.

I was sitting in the Press club on a recent Sunday evening. There were a couple of correspondents there but the place was almost deserted. A heavy set fellow carrying a walking-stick came in.

Of course we began heckling him a little. But he's equal to it. Leon Henderson is one of the New Dealers who has managed to hold his ground, winning hate from some, respect from others who disagree with him all down the line. I'll never forget one occasion in which he figured. I can't mention the names of the men present but they were all legitimate contenders for nomination of the presidency of the United States. And Henderson offered a 10 to 1 bet that one of them would be candidates. One, only, got furious and when it was his turn to speak, launched into one of his famous invectives against Henderson and all his works. It was a good show but Henderson proved right in the end. He won the bet.

TALK ABOUT CRANKS  
Well, what we said to Henderson that Sunday night and what he said in reply wasn't particularly important until we got to talking about the cranks trying to see government officials with plans for saving the world.

Then somebody said to Henderson: "Have you met the man who is communicating with Mars?" Before he could answer, one of the cynical listeners who insisted that the administration was trying to get us into war, piped up: "I thought you folks were already in communication with Mars."

"No," Henderson answered, quick as a whistle, "we aren't trying to communicate with the god of war, we are trying to keep away from him."

Mr. Henderson left. Representative Tinkham of Massachusetts came in. We greeted him. He said he'd been away.

Naturally the talk turned to beards. For Representative Tinkham has a famous beard. A fine wavy hirsute decoration that makes him look as friendly as some of the kindly animals you've seen with similar appendages. Beards are no longer the style. I often regret it and I have always believed that their absence was due to one of two things: moral cowardice on the part of those who fear to be different or, as in my own case, an inability to raise a crop of whiskers that would look like anything but a wheatfield in the dust bowl.

TINKHAM WELL KNOWN  
But Representative Tinkham is more than a beard. He is a Washington institution. When the government purchased a well-known apartment house in the capital, in which he has his bachelor quarters for years, and turned the building into one of the alphabetical agencies, Mr. Tinkham stood on his legal rights and refused to move out.

There he remained among his trophies—heads of wild water-buffalo which he had outfaced in the jungles—lions that he had not only outbearded but beaded; tigers, elephants, tusks and all—and of course, his own much-photographed beard.

However, it is not merely the fact that Representative Tinkham has faced beasts in the jungle that has made him famous. He has faced opposition for his seat in congress since 1915 and has never been defeated. And he does it without making a speech. Perhaps he is successful because he has never made a speech. Like the growing of a beard, that method is different.

And Representative Tinkham has another distinction. He is a member of the opposition, if not the "joyal opposition" an opposition which he considers is based on loyalty—loyalty to his state and his nation.

## Washington Digest

### Drop in Spring Pig Crop Predicted by Government

Rise in Pork Prices Considered Likely; Washington Correspondents Discuss 'Jitters' of War Rumors.



Nat'l Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—"Pigs is Pigs"—that was the name of one of the funniest short stories ever written. Of course pigs "isn't" pigs. They "is" shoats and hogs and a number of other things including sausage and pork chops.

Not long ago the mail carrier probably stopped at your gate and asked a lot of impertinent questions about your plans for your porkers and the other day the department of agriculture finished reporting what the mail carriers reported to them. The result was the semi-annual Pig Crop report which said that there would be 10 per cent less little pigs going to market next spring than last.

Officially the Agricultural Marketing Service said this:

"The downswing in hog production which began in the spring of 1940 continued through the fall and will continue at least through the spring season of 1941, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported today. The decline apparently has been at an increasing rate. The percentage decrease in the 1940 fall pig crop was greater than that of last spring, and the indicated percentage decrease for the spring of 1941 is a little greater than that for the fall of 1940.

"The fall pig crop of 1940 is estimated at 12.5 per cent smaller than that of 1939. The decrease in the 1940 spring pig crop was 9 per cent. The combined pig crop of 1940 is down 10 per cent from last year but the crop is the second largest since 1933.

"The indicated number of sows to farrow in the spring season of 1941 is 14 per cent smaller than the number farrowed in the spring of 1940.

"This information, from the December Pig Crop survey, is based upon returns from 160,000 farmers obtained in co-operation with the post office department through the rural mail carriers."

EXPECT PRICE RISE  
Now according to past experience these estimates have proved to be pretty accurate and so the city folks can expect to have to pay more for their pork chops and the demand will probably exceed the supply.

Eventually that may apply to milk, too, but right now there are thousands of potential customers of

dairy farmers who would buy, if milk and milk products were cheaper.

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## Speaking of SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE  
Released by Western Newspaper Union

BILLY CONN of Pittsburgh, light-heavyweight champion, has been awarded a crack at the heavy-weight crown of Joe Louis in a bout to be promoted by Mike Jacobs next June.

This fact has done little to dispel the fear that Louis' reign will continue indefinitely. There is no foundation for such an idea. Old age will creep up on Joe sooner or later. But the ranking of Conn as No. 1 contender for the heavy-weight title seems to indicate that no challenger will tumble champion Louis off his throne during the new year.

It is strange that so many fistic customers are enthusiastic about Conn's chances. Some of the most calloused boxing experts regard Louis as one of the greatest champions of all time. Indeed, many of them ran out of adjectives in describing his killer instinct, his calm, cruel workmanship, his terrific power. Such a rating classes Louis with Jack Dempsey, John L. Sullivan, Jim Corbett, Gene Tunney, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson.

#### Past Failures

It's hard to imagine Billy Conn, a fancy boxer, plastering the ten count on any of these gentlemen of a past era. Why, then, is it likely that he can do any better with Louis, who is generally acclaimed as being their equal?

The record shows that few light-heavyweights have had much success when they tried to crash the heavyweight field.

Fitzsimmons, of course, went from the light-heavyweight ranks to become champion. But Fitzsimmons was more or less a pugilistic freak. There hasn't been a terrific hitter like him in the 175-pound class since his day. Bob had the waist and legs of a featherweight and the shoulders of a big heavyweight. He had as much power in his arms as any man in the ring.

Fitz was at his best when he weighed about 170 pounds. On St. Patrick's day, 1897, he won the title from Jim Corbett in Carson City, Nev. On that occasion he had all the qualifications of a heavyweight but the poundage. He lost the title two years later to Jim Jeffries when his hands weren't able to stand up under the power of his arms.

#### Another Attempt

Quite a few modern fighters have given away too many pounds for their own good. Tommy Gibbons, who was little more than a light-heavyweight, though a very good fighter, tried to take the title from Dempsey in the famous Shelby, Mont., bout. He failed.

The light-heavyweights didn't try again until Max Schmeling weaseled his way into the heavyweight title by virtue of a foul claimed against Jack Sharkey, the Boston gob. When Der Max was installed as champ, Jack Kearns, who had piloted Dempsey to the title, was managing Mickey Walker. Kearns thought Mickey could whip Schmeling and attempted to prove it. Walker had knocked over bigger men than Schmeling and packed a killing punch in either hand. But Mickey proved no match for the German and Kearns' hopes were dashed in the eighth round.

#### Conn's Chances

Conn hasn't the punch of the above-named. He's no Fitzsimmons, Ketchel or Gibbons. His most fervent admirers admit that. He is a fast, clever boxer and he may be able to tag Louis occasionally, then leap out of the way. Remember that Bob Pastor adopted a similar strategy with the Brown Bomber. He ran away from him for 10 rounds. And Conn is speedier than Pastor. But remember, too, that Louis got the decision. Though you may not believe it, judges are quick to recognize the difference between a track meet and a prize fight.

Conn's chances rest with his ability to outpoint the champ. He can't run away from him for 15 rounds, inflict no damage, and hope to win the title. Nor can he stand toe-toe and slug it out with the septuagenarian gladiator. That would be an invitation to quick disaster. Rather, the Pittsburgher must adopt an in-between course. He must reach the champ often enough to roll up a few points, then must protect those points with the boxing skill he possesses to such a high degree.

A victory for Conn would be popular. But it is extremely unlikely that Joe Louis will lose his title to a light-heavyweight—particularly a light-heavyweight whose punch is somewhat less than dangerous.



Washington, D. C.

## GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

Phil Murray's plan for increased plane production may be wrong in places, but it has at least a germ of the right idea in it. Billed down to its bones, what he proposes is to make a single great production unit out of the whole automobile industry, instead of a cluster of competing companies.

That idea was also at the center of his earlier plan to speed production by creating a control board for each industry. That also is the idea of treating such industry as a unit and so mobilizing each separately and then marshalling all these great units in one combined economic regiment for defense production.

That is exactly the essence of what was done in the war industries board in 1918. It is exactly what is not being done in the Knudsen four-man production office.

What the war industries board did was to request each great industry to appoint a "war service" committee, which could speak and receive the government's instructions for the whole industry. Then there were organized in the board "commodity committees" one for each or more industries. It never became necessary to make this alignment and method too formal or sticky, but it was an arrangement that enabled the organization of the government overhead to mesh with the overhead control within each industry, like the interlined fingers of your two clasped hands.

Every production problem was broken down by industries and considered in joint meeting of these committees or their representatives. It is the only quick way to explore the productive facilities of each industry, to prevent overlapping, confusion and waste, to determine the merits of vexed questions of priority, relative effort and bottlenecks.

It created a kind of piano keyboard upon which federal industrial control can produce, or try to produce, all the harmonies and effects of which our economic music box is capable. Indeed if you don't have that, in view of the immense volume of material and the vast complex of American industry, you are simply floundering in a jungle of obscurities, cross purposes and divided interests, with never enough facts to decide wisely or well and with not enough controls to act with full effect, even if you could decide.

#### TOOL BOTTLE-NECK

There is a tremendous reservoir of machine tool capacity and skilled tool and pattern makers idle in this country at a time when mass production is our greatest need, and it isn't coming.

In talking with a considerable variety of people I find much confusion about what machine tools really are. In my varied career of jack-of-all-trades-and-master-of-none, I was once responsible for a forge shop, a machine shop, an engine and an automobile factory—such as they were.

Many people seem to have an idea that machine tools are like a carpenter's box of tools—saws, planers, chisels, square and maybe, plumb-bob and a ball of blue chalk. They aren't like that at all. Volumes have been written on what they are like and it is not my purpose to try to reproduce those volumes here, further than to say that machine tools are the instruments of American mass production. They have enabled us to produce an automobile for, say, \$700, that in another country, with other methods, would cost \$7,000—and to produce them by thousands a day where, in another method, we should do well to produce 10 a day.

They are giant stamping machines that produce a whole automobile frame, for example, in one operation. They are batteries of machines that receive raw iron at one end of the production line and turn out completed, butt-welded and painted steel pipe at the other on a flat car, with scarcely a human hand intervening. They are forging machines that will do on a single trip what it would take a battery of blacksmiths three months to do. There are drill-presses, lathes and automatic screw machines that, set to the proper gauges, will turn out in a few motions hundreds of perfected parts of this or that complicated piece of machinery of instruments of modern mechanized warfare, with more accuracy than all the ancients ever dreamed.

But these things do go in batteries. Their operations have to be planned months, if necessary, in advance.