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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Seven Billion Dollars to Aid Britain Is First Step Under Lease-Lend Act; England Admits: 'Spring Blitz Is Here' Following Terrific Raids on London

(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.)



VICHY, FRANCE.—Frenchmen of a few years ago would never have dreamed that this scene might take place in their homeland. But here it is. Gen. Neubronn von Eisenburg, who, as Nazi inspector, keeps a sharp eye on what's left of the French army, salutes as he reviews a French honor guard on his arrival at Vichy.

BRITISH: Aid Into Law

Under the eyes of watchful photographers, President Roosevelt wielded six pens, made the British aid bill, called by its opponents the lend-lease-give bill, and then turned in his chair and told newsmen he would ask for \$7,000,000,000 as the initial appropriation under the measure.

While this announcement struck with bomb-shell force as the greatest American peace-time appropriation request in history, the congress apparently was willing to go ahead and match the President's desire for speed with some action of its own.

This was evident when the bill returned from senate to house with an even dozen amendments attached. Representative Martin of Massachusetts, minority leader, jumped to his feet, pleaded for unity and for action, and received a most unusual tribute from his colleagues.

He received what is known as a standing ovation from the entire house. The lower branch of the congress responded to this brief talk by voting 317 to 71 to accept the changes put in by the upper house. Then Vice President Wallace and Speaker Sam Rayburn put their panned signatures to the printed measure and off it went to the President.

Hardly had it become law and within an hour after the President had asked for the seven billions, statisticians were busy trying to tell the public what this amount meant in purchased goods and services.

One of these put it this way—it would equal a strip of \$10 bills reaching 2 1/2 times around the world; it would buy 120 Empire State buildings at 50 million each; or it would build 115 Triborough bridges at \$60,000,000; or 120 dreadnaughts at \$50,000,000; or 2,350 submarines, 2,000,000 light tanks; 28,000 four-motor bombers; also would pay the entire cost of public education in the U. S. for three years, or provide a \$50 U. S. bond for every man, woman and child.

Thus given a visual picture of what the sum meant, it was figured that the first job would be for the President to provide for England as much as possible under the law of the existing military and naval equipment, up to the \$1,300,000,000 limit set in the bill.

It was pointed out that this amount would come out of the seven billion total, for as soon as \$500,000,000, say, of aid had been sent from existing equipment, the army or navy would be reimbursed that amount, and would then be able to purchase replacements.

The rest of the \$7,000,000,000 will go into purchase contracts for eventual aid to Britain, Greece or other nations which are opposing Nazi aggression. These contractual obligations must be on the dotted line by 1943, but can be carried out through 1946.

LONDON: Hit Hard
Terrific series of air attacks on England, especially on London, plus tremendous losses at sea brought forth the frank statement in commons that the spring blitz promised by Hitler was now fully under way.

Government leaders expressed confidence in the outcome, balancing against ship losses unannounced and untold damage inflicted on

German naval and undersea strength, not to mention loss of planes.

More than 6,000 Italian and Nazi aircraft have been downed, with a loss of about 2,200 British airplanes, the air ministry said, since the beginning of the war.

This, it was claimed, is a significant and important inroad into the first-line strength of both air armadas, but a more severe blow to the Italians, with about 1,500 planes downed, than to Germany, with about 4,500 put out of action.

The naval chiefs in London emphasized the British need of ships, particularly naval vessels, paid a glowing tribute to the work of the 50 former U. S. destroyers obtained in swaps for bases, and one authority said:

"We have enough trained men to man the entire U. S. navy, if it could be turned over to us."

Not that he meant, he said, that the navy should be turned over, but he pointed the manpower that Britain has trained, as compared with the available ships.

As to the effects of air raids on London and other British cities, the loss of life again was becoming heavy. Guardedly it was disclosed that Buckingham palace again had been struck. Portsmouth was a special attack object, and there was heavy loss of life there.

STRIKES: Grow Apace

As labor troubles multiplied in the United States, in defense and non-defense projects, including the huge bus drivers' walkout in New York, it was reported that William S. Knudsen finally has been driven to considering the "draft industry" provision in the powers of his office as production manager to end the Allis-Chalmers affair, among others.

Increasing concern was shown by production chiefs in the national defense when figures showed a 27 per cent increase in strikes during the past 30 days. This gave a disquieting tone to the situation over and beyond any single disturbance or group of troubles.

Some of the danger spots were in the Midwest, some in the East. The Allis-Chalmers strike was past a month and a half and still deadlocked when Miss Perkins sent John R. Steelman, head of the conciliation service, personally to direct a last-minute effort to end the trouble before invoking the "draft" of industry, which would take over the plant, thus instantly outlawing the strike.

Several plants of the International Harvester company were down because of strikes, the vital coal and steel industries were in the midst of threatening conferences between worker and employer, the Brill plant in Philadelphia was down, holding up a big ammunition order for shell casings; there was an auto strike in Oakland.

Statistical review of the situation was headache enough for production chiefs, the number of strikes in January as compared with December being 220 as against 160, and the 220 became more ominous when it was shown that the five-year average for January was only 170 and for December only 126.

Total man-days lost in January totaled 625,000 as against 400,000 lost in December, and here the figures on past years were more favorable, as the five-year average of man-days lost in January was 1,012,005.

To Parliament



Mrs. B. C. Rathbone, 30, becomes the second American-born woman member of the British house of commons by virtue of an unopposed nomination in her district. She takes the seat of her late husband, Flight Lieut. John Rathbone, killed last December in a flying mission over Germany. Born in Boston, Mass., U. S. A., she has two children now in America.

TURKEY: Scene of Bombing

Dramatic was the entrance of former Bulgarian ambassador from England, George W. Rendel, into Turkey after his flight from Sofia.

Rendel and his staff walked into the lobby of the Pera Palace hotel. There was a flash, a roar, and the cries of wounded and dying. The smoke cleared away to find Rendel still unhurt, several members of his staff wounded, and two men killed, one of them a Turkish secret service man assigned to guard the ambassador. Twenty-three, in all, were wounded by the blast, which badly wrecked the room in which the crowd was gathered.

But, as in the Munich bombing which Hitler escaped, the chief target of the Turkish bomb, Mr. Rendel, was unscratched. His aides said there was no doubt that it was a deliberate attempt at assassination, and its occurrence at the very time when Turkey was debating its position in the expected forthcoming invasion of Greece by the Nazis, served further to entrench Istanbul on the front pages of the press.

Rendel's attractive daughter, 20, who was standing near the blast in the hotel lobby, told the story in a few words when she said: "As far as I could tell, the floor just flew up." She is a calm soul, having driven her father through the streets of Sofia during the German occupation in an automobile flying the British flag.

It was later revealed that an attempt was made to blow up the train on which Rendel and his party were traveling to Istanbul. This was proven when it was found that the handbags which contained the explosive had traveled on the train with the Rendel party, but failed to go off.

The Nazis denied that the bombs had been planted on the train, saying the Rendel baggage had been loaded under the eyes of scores of Gestapo agents. However, British sources later replied that another unexploded bomb had been found in baggage unloaded from the train.

JAPAN: Peace Move

Whether it was under the frowning menace of Axis guns, both in the West and in the Far East, or whether it was sincere, but noteworthy, at any rate, was the statement issued by the Indo-Chinese (French) government following the ratification of the peace treaty with Thailand (Siam).

In this peace treaty Japan was the peacemaker and mediator. Back of her mediation efforts, however, was a huge fleet which was moved into waters off French Indo-China during the height of the Thailand-Indo Chinese war.

Reports from Saigon, when the peace was finally terminated, giving Thailand huge slices of Indo-Chinese territory along the borders, were that the peace was more satisfactory than the French government had hoped for.

It was stated that in Saigon it was expected that even larger cessions of territory would have had to have been made if Japan had not intervened.

Immediately Foreign Minister Matsuoka announced that he would shatter Japanese precedents by taking a trip to Europe to confer with his Axis partners.

Von Wiegand, writing from Shanghai, saw in this project a chance that Japan would seek Axis, particularly Nazi mediation in an effort to end the Japanese-Chinese war.

Washington Digest

U. S. Official Denies Plan For Censorship of Press

Presidential Assistant Mellett Opposed to Any Type of Central News Bureau or Propaganda Drive.

By BAUKHAGE

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WASHINGTON.—If you want to start a heated argument among the members of that Washington institution which is often called "the third house of congress," but whose official name is the National Press club, just mention "government censorship."

Those are fighting words to the men of press and radio and—well, did you ever try to put a muzzle on a real healthy airdale?

Just to keep the fun going, I dropped in the other day to have a chat with the man whose name has been more closely associated with censorship of late than any other in the capital—and how he hates it!

He is soft-spoken, gray-haired Lowell Mellett, a keen-minded, middle-aged newspaper acquaintance of mine over many years and one of the best-liked and most highly respected of all of those who have now deserted the fourth estate to work for the New Deal.

Mellett left the Washington Daily News to become head of the National Emergency council in 1938. (The "emergency" in this sense refers to the 1933 variety and not the "limited" one we are enjoying at present.) The NEC, as the council appeared in the New Deal "alphabet" in those days, has since become the office of Government Reports, a less pretentious institution. Mr. Mellett is its head and is also one of the President's administrative assistants. These latter are the men who, according to official pronouncement, must have a "passion for anonymity." The functions of these assistants differ widely as does the degree of their intimacy with the President, but all of his advisers, Lowell Mellett is one of those in whom the President places his deepest confidence.

There is a reason why this former newspaper man's name has been associated with a possible censorship of news. When the President asked congress recently for funds to make the office on government reports permanent, the house of representatives committee on appropriations called Mellett before it to ask him, among other things, what, if any, plans the administration has for curtailing or regulating what should and should not be printed about defense or other matters, according to the government's way of thinking. Mellett told the congressmen that the administration has no such plan at all.

The word "plan" is used in the concrete sense for it is well known that several specific programs for regulating what would or would not be permitted to be made public by press and radio have been drawn up by various officials, who would like to tie a muzzle on the news hounds in case of war or even in case of a full emergency is officially proclaimed, or perhaps even before.

Mellett's answer satisfied the committee and the lower house agreed to the measure.

Nevertheless, the rumor lingers on that a man with scissors is lurking behind the White House hedge ready to clip the reporters' wings the moment they spread their too widely.

I called upon Mr. Mellett in his businesslike office in a building in "downtown" Washington. Although he had no official statement for me (which I didn't want anyhow) we had a frank, friendly, informal chat. As a result, I can confirm what he has told me before concerning his sentiments on censorship, sentiments which I believe it is safe to say are those of the President, too, at this writing. This is the way Mr. Mellett expresses himself on the subject:

"Even in case of war I don't believe in a propaganda drive," he said to me, referring to any artificial effort to mold public opinion in favor of government policy. "I have constantly opposed a central press bureau when I have heard it discussed, because it is impractical. It is impossible to get the news of government through one bottleneck."

"My idea," he went on, "is simply to see to it that the press information bureau of the army and the navy and possibly the defense agencies, which now exist, are made as efficient as possible."

To the newsmen, this means that these bureaus would have at their

fingertips information which the press ordinarily obtains from individual officials. In an emergency, war and navy chiefs feel these individuals might inadvertently reveal information which should be kept confidential.

"If this method doesn't work," Mr. Mellett declared, "my idea would be to have representatives of the press and radio come here to Washington and offer their own plan for handling emergency news. They wouldn't offer a plan which the government could refuse. They want the news and the government wants to get it out."

He explained that what he meant was that he believed the newsmen would agree on what was sheer good sense and patriotism to print. Such facts would be given out which did not injure national defense or give aid and comfort to the enemy, and the papers would be left perfectly free, as he put it, to raise the devil with the way things were being done and to criticize the government.

Finally, I reminded Mr. Mellett that in the last war there was criticism of the Creel committee on public information because it not only withheld much news that the public had a right to have, but also it gave out information that was pure propaganda. Therefore, I asked, wasn't it natural to expect that any restriction on government news might be looked upon with suspicion by the press, radio and public?

Mr. Mellett came back to his original thesis. He reiterated that he did not believe in a propaganda drive—such a drive as the Creel committee indulged in. Secondly, he said, if the information bureaus of the various government agencies were efficient, the facts would be available. It was because the Creel committee was a central news bureau (which he opposes) that it became a bottleneck, holding back facts that could have been made available to the press and radio even in war time.

Status Troubles In Nation's Capitol

It is easier to revise a statute in Washington than to move a statue. That is why Sixteenth street, the avenue that runs almost up to the front door of the White House, is torn up these days. The excavating is taking place at Scott circle.

Washington is full of circles, most of them with their historic statues. They make for beauty and also traffic jams. Recently certain newcomers to the city suggested removing the statues instead of building million dollar underpasses such as the one now being constructed under the proud figure of General Winfield Scott. But these newcomers just didn't know Washington tradition.

One man who tried to break that tradition got into a terrific mess. It was John Russell Young, then a newspaper reporter, now District Commissioner Young, one of the three "mayors" of the city. It was in Harding's administration when public buildings and grounds were in charge of the engineer aide to the President, Colonel Sherrill.

Mr. Young conceived the idea that the statue of George Washington, located in a somewhat shabby neighborhood several blocks from the White House, ought to be in front of it where General Jackson sits astride his famous rearing charger in Lafayette park. He persuaded Colonel Sherrill to switch the two figures and proceeded to write a story of what was to happen.

Then came the deluge. President Harding was almost drowned in an avalanche of angry telegrams from ardent Jacksonians all over the country. The state of Tennessee not only legislated its fury over this insult to its famous son but announced it was sending a delegation to the President. It was reported that the Old Hickory Marching club, once a historically potent political organization, was to be brought to life to descend on the capital, possibly with their old long rifles loaded for more than bear.

Only a speedy denial of his intention to force General Jackson to trade places with General Washington saved Mr. Harding's scalp.

No, we don't disturb our sculptured great in Washington. If we can't get around them we go under them.

Test Television As Battle Help

Army Figures Possibilities For Directing Soldiers In Warfare.

PHILADELPHIA.—The magic of television soon may be harnessed to flash running picture stories of troop movements and actual battles from observation planes to general staff headquarters, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was told here.

"We do not have to let the imagination run wild to picture the possibility of an airplane equipped with television flying over the battlefields while the troop commander and his general staff gather about the viewing screen at general headquarters and have instantaneous and accurate information of events in the front line," said Dean Joseph W. Barker of Columbia university school of engineering.

"That is all I can say, because the war and navy departments forbid me to discuss the possibilities in any detail," he concluded.

It was learned from authoritative sources among the 2,000 electrical engineers, who convened here for their annual five-day meeting, that the nation's foremost authorities on television were developing the system for America's armed forces.

Experimental television broadcasts from airplanes to land stations have been made successfully, they said, although the screen pictures are not as clear as those produced in studio broadcasts.

Dr. Barker discussed the new development in television at a round-table forum. He explained that he was not free to say more about it because he had been enlisted in national defense research and training projects.

Leading engineers attending the session pointed out that with the aid of television, the commanding general would know instantly not only what his own troops were doing, but also what the enemy was doing. He could flash orders to the front to strike at weaknesses developing in the enemy's lines or rush reinforcements to points in his own lines which were cracking.

Electric Power Cited.
During the same forum, N. E. Funk, vice president of the Philadelphia electric company, said that the nation's electric generating capacity was 42,000,000 kilowatts, while the nation was using only 28,000,000 kilowatts. By 1942, he said, the capacity will have been increased to 47,000,000 kilowatts to provide a huge reserve for any defense emergency which may develop.

At another meeting, delegates were told of a new invention which would protect America's power supply if high voltage lines were destroyed by lightning or bombing. It is a new type of circuit breaker, and it not only automatically switches off power in the damaged lines, but also blows out fires that often break out.

The breaker can store air for years until such an emergency arises and then blast out the flames with a 1,000-mile-an-hour puff of wind. The speakers were Robert C. Dickinson and P. H. Nau of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, who have worked 10 years on the invention.

Paris Gowns Now Made Of Wood and Vegetables

PARIS.—Paris gowns, which once set the world's fashions, now are being made of ersatz cloth, much of it produced in Normandy and containing 40 per cent vegetable matter and 60 per cent wood.

Commenting on the new material, the newspaper Le Matin said, "Our forests clothe us." It is claimed that the ersatz tissues "look exactly like pure wool—they are soft and steady."

Clothes are not yet rationed but it is predicted that they will be soon, starting with shoes. "National shoes," partly of wood, are being made in large quantities.

Policemen on Beat Now Carry Portable Radios

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Atlantic City, casting about for additional means to combat criminals, has equipped patrolmen with portable radio sets.

Twelve scout cars and twelve motorcycles have the usual police radio equipment, while the men on the beats have sets designed by Lawrence Smith, police radio supervisor.

Each set is packed in a small leather case and is carried on the policeman's belt. The aerial—a three-foot piece of wire—is worn over the cop's shoulder. An ear-phone is worn constantly.

'Flying Fortresses' Made Every 2 Days

Aircraft Company Increases Number of Workers.

SEATTLE.—The Boeing Aircraft company, builders of the world's first four-motored bombing planes, the army air corps' famous "flying fortresses," has entered its most significant year in the quarter-century history of the company.

With employment at a record level of 9,000 men, the company is preparing space for more than 15,000 workers who will be on the job by summer. Boeing employed less than 3,000 men two years ago.

The plant operates 24 hours a day and turns out one "flying fortress" every two days. The production rate was one every four days a year ago. By the latter part of the year Boeing hopes to be delivering five or six bombers a day.

The plant soon will start delivering smaller twin-engine bombers for under a license agreement with the Douglas Aircraft company of Los Angeles.

To effect the production increase plant expansion has been under way almost continually the last seven months. A year ago plant 2 had a total floor space of 166,000 square feet. Early last fall this was increased to 332,000. Still too small, it will be increased to more than 1,000,000 square feet this spring. The total floor space of three plants will then comprise nearly 2,500,000 square feet.

The enlarged plant 2 will be a continuous structure approximately one-fourth of a mile long and one-fifth of a mile wide, making it one of the most impressive production layouts of any manufacturing industry in the United States.

Reveal Precise Method Of Forecasting a Fog

NEW YORK.—The development of a new method of forecasting fog, a greatest foe of air travel, many hours in advance was disclosed by J. J. George, Eastern Air Lines meteorologist. The method is based on discovery of exact mathematical relationships between factors entering into fog creation, such as the amount of sunshine, moisture and wind velocity.

Mr. George said that use of precise quantitative calculations was making possible forecasts of fog at a specific time in a specific place from 15 to 18 hours in advance. Previously, he explained, forecasts of fog made by meteorologists looking at weather maps and predicting probable conditions on the basis of long experience were seldom possible for greater than eight hours in advance, and were apt to be less accurate.

Comdr. Francis W. Reichelderfer, head of the United States weather bureau, who heard Mr. George's description of his new forecasting method, praised it as "an outstanding contribution to greater air safety and regularity of schedules."

U. S. Will Build Two Air Bases Near Martinique

WASHINGTON.—Strengthening its outposts for defense of the Panama Canal, the United States will establish two air bases on the strategically located British island of St. Lucia. The state department disclosed that a land plane base will be established at Vieuxfort and a seaplane base at Gros Islet bay.

St. Lucia is in the Windward Islands in the Caribbean close to the French-owned island of Martinique, where French warships and planes are based. These islands have caused some concern to the United States because of the possibility that French colonies might be taken over by a victorious Germany.

Leakproof Gas Tanks of U. S. Planes Held Best

WASHINGTON.—The leakproof gasoline tanks of America's warplanes are superior to German and British types.

Legislators said the soft rubber substance perfected by the United States army was so much more efficient than types used abroad that thinner layers can be used, taking up less room inside the metal tanks, thus displacing less fuel and giving the planes a greater range.

Students Quiz Selves And 8 Per Cent Flunk

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—The Rev. Paul C. Perrotta, O. P., professor of logic at Providence college, can hardly be criticized by those pupils who flunked their mid-year exams. Father Perrotta permitted the students to make up their own questions as well as the answers.

Many of the students must have given themselves "the works," because 8 per cent failed to pass.