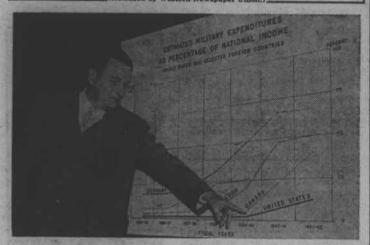
By Edward C. Wayne

Washington Debates Use of Convoys As British Shipping Losses Mount; Stalin Becomes Premier of Russia. Openly Assumes National Leadership

(EDITOR'S NOTE-When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



A split in administration policy over the new tax program was indicated when Leon Henderson (above), government "price czar," testified before the house ways and means committee that he believed a large portion of the treasury revenue program to be "deflationary and unnecessary." It is indicated that while methods of raising taxes may cause disagreement one thing is sure: taxes must go up to meet defense program costs.

CONVOYS:

Battle of Atlantic

Mounting British losses in the bat-tie of the Atlantic put the issue of convoying strictly and squarely up to the administration in Washing-ton, and the answer was seen to be forthcoming shortly, if it had not already been made secretly.

It had so far been largely a verbal discussion, with the non-interventionists pointing to convoying as outright war, and the administration forces sending up one trial balloon after another to test American sentiment as to whether it was ready and willing for this important step.

Briefly, the positions were these.

and willing for this important step.

Briefly, the positions were these:
Non-interventionists held that convoying meant shooting (quoting the President himself) and that shooting meant undeclared way.

The administration forces took the simple stand that congress had voted all-out aid to Britain, and that it was foolish to build billions of dollars' worth of war material for the British and then send it out on the high seas to be sent to the bottom.

The latter view was finally expressed in a long radio address by Secretary of War Stimson, who was reported to have consulted President Roosevelt about the address before delivering it.

Stimson was frank. He went fur-

fore delivering it.

Stimson was frank. He went further than the question of convoying, which he treated as a simple phase of the big issue—whether the American navy, ready and willing to "halt aggressors" on the high seas, should stand quietly by and let Britain be defeated through lack of control of the oceans, or should be turned to aid Britain and give Britain the mastery of the sea without which

mastery of the sea without which she could not hope to win. Secretary Stimson, not having the authority to order out the fleet into authority to order out the neet into active aid to Britain, was just making a speech, and could not answer his own questions with action. Neither could Senator Pepper of Florida, an outright and frank advocate of open war, who even went so far as to criticize the administra-tion, with which he was entirely aligned, as not being bellicose enough in the present grave situa-

So the battle of the Atlantic, while American goods, was still being fought, at least openly, by the British navy alone, though the big scene of the fight was in the American halls of congress and in the American newspapers.

can newspapers.
Stimson's speech had one obvious Stimson's speech had one obvious effect, however, it served notice on the non-interventionists that the time was not far distant when talk would be replaced by action, one way or the other, and his talk had its effect, in rousing the anti-administration orators to a new frenzy of appeal to the great "mass of the neople" to speak out.

of appeal to the great "mass of the people" to speak out.

Nobody spoke out, however, at least not in any mass that looked remotely like a majority. On the other hand, the administration seemed about ready to take action which would have far-reaching im-

There was news from San Francisco shippers to their connections in Tokyo that the United States was

planning to close the Panama canal in a short time to Japanese vessels. This would have the effect of lift-ing a very practical bar to the trade

of the Japanese with the eastern coast of South and Central Ameri-ca, as it would force these vessels to go around Cape Horn.

The announcement was without official backing, yet it was made at a
time when certain Nipponese newspapers were urging repeatedly that
Matsuoka, recent guest at Axis capitals, make a trip to the United
States and try to improve Japan's
relations with this country, perhaps
reach a "perfect understanding"
that would guarantee peace.

The closing of the canal, however.

The closing of the canal, however, would be a blow to Japan that she would not take quietly or without reprisals, if possible. It was viewed as the sort of blunt act that might, with distinct intention, shut Japan off from any further diplomatic traffic with Washington.

STALIN:

One of the most interesting developments, yet one on which the analyst could almost "write his own ticket," was the assumption of Josef Stalin of the premiership of Soviet

The dictator of the Soviet has never before held political office, operating entirely behind the scenes, with others to wear such togas as may be passed around.

The commentators took every possible view of Stalin's assumption of personal office as head of the Russian state.

These views ranged all the way from an "about face" on the war, with Russia about to take an active role against Germany and Italy in the Near East, to the view of Kerenof power might mean that Germany has a promise from the dictator of active aid on the German side.

It was a step down for Molotov It was a step down for Molotov, who went from premier back to foreign minister, a post he held before. Molotov was, perhaps, the finger pointing to the real reason for the change. He became foreign minister just before the dramatic signing of the Russo-German pact, a pact which hastened the actual start of the present way. of the present war.

For it was the signing of this treaty that made Britain and France realize that their hope of encircle-ment of the Axis by land was vain, and that they were really in a fight for their existence.

The only official announcement came from Stalin, who said that Molotov was being relieved only after his own "repeated requests."

London was inclined to a some-what more rosy view of the situation than that of Kerensky, saying:

"Soviet Russia has refused to sign a further German pact, and has openly taken the stand that Bulgaria was wrong in so doing, and that Jugoslavia was right to fight.

"Stalin now takes command of the Russian empire at a time when a German drive to the east threatens what Russia regards as her sphere of activity in Asla."

No positive statement there, but a general view that the whole move is inspired by Soviet disquiet over German advances toward the Black sea. The British believed the move meant a frank and active change in Russian policy. Joins Army



Hank Greenberg, brilliant De-troit outfielder, has been drafted into the army where he joins fellow Americans from every walk of life.

WAR: Vital Phases

It was evident that the war was entering several of its most vital phases, with Britain standing alone, though with constantly increasing

American aid.

The big test which the Churchill government faced at the hands of the British commons was only a part

of the picture.

The battle was three-fold—the air fight over England, with the chan-nel crossing threat behind it; the pincers move on the Mediterran-ean, especially Suez; the Battle of the Atlantic.

Over England

Hammer blows being struck at Britain by the Luftwaffe no longer Britain by the Luftwaffe no longer were being shrugged off in dispatches as "some damage being done" or "some casualties feared," but dispatches from England told of most serious damage to Plymouth, which was practically ruined; to Liverpool, to Belfast, to the Clydeside, all of them much more vital to Britain's defense than the smashing attacks on London and the Thames estuary.

Apparently paying little attention to the industrial Midland section of England, Hitler thus was centering his attacks on ports, ports and more ports, apparently seeking to tie in the battle of England with the battle of the Atlantic, rather than to concentrate on a general air bility. centrate on a general air blitz against England's factories and her

industrial production.

Another development was the constant increase of day fighting over the channel, regarded in many quar-ters as a trial balloon to an invasion

attempt as soon as midsummer calmer weather should arrive.

As always, the defense of Britain found its echo in this country, and the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found the change in the method of the change in the method of the change in the c President Roosevelt issuing an urgent appeal, practically a command, to the air industry to concentrate on the production of the largest possible bombing planes.

OPM said that America should

produce 20,000 military planes in the 12 months to come, but Mr. Roosevelt seemed to feel that a change in

type would be needed.

In fact, he conditioned the eventual mastery of the air by Britain on the American production of these very large bombers, and said that they must be built even if it means enlarging plants further.

MEDITERRANEAN:

Also Important

The battle of the Mediterranean was no less vital and no less active than the battle of England. For on the eastern front the British found themselves, after the withdrawal from Greece, with new problems on their hands.

their hands.

The Iraq coup left them with the possible loss of the Mosul oil fields, and the all-important pipeline from Kirkuk to Haifa falling into the hands of the Nazi-inspired Iraq government of Gailani.

peditionary force, shot it inland, and peditionary force, shot it inland, and sent reinforcements. Yet it was obvious that the trouble in Moslem Asia Minor was on the increase, with the French in Syria frankly throwing up their hands and saying that they were unable to quell disturbances on the part of Arabs there. Turkey offered her good offices, and so did Egypt, but though there was religious unity in those there was religious unity in those directions, there was little unity of purpose, and it looked as though Britain would have to fight for her oil or give up and get oil somewhere

The prospect also was dark be-cause of the menace of German aid to the Iraqi, which might make the pipeline untenable even if the British get full control of it.

Whaling Men See Big Season

Larger School Is Reported Off Coast of British

VICTORIA, B. C .- School is open, and from advance reports the at-tendance is much better than it has

been for several years.

The school is the school of whales at the southerly tip of the Queen Charlotte islands, off the coast of

Whaling men may drift to softer-billets between seasons—but few of them can resist the call when the fleet prepares to sail again. Some of the oldest among them resent modern changes which have taken much of the hazard out of whaling, but the first call for whalers brings them back just the same.

It was good news for whaling men that all six ships of the Victoria fleet would go north this year. Last year only three of the ships were worked. The Victoria boats should get an increased haul this year, as American ships that usually engage in the annual hunt will not put to sea.

Many Veterans Return. After an enforced lay-off, many eterans returned to the trade they love when the six ships—the mother, S. S. William Grant, and the brood, White, Blue, Black, Green and Brown — pointed their prows

northward. northward.

To these men, the cry "Thar she blows" from the lookout man in the crow's nest is the sweetest music in the world. It whips the little party of seamen into activity with greater effect than the king of swing at a jitterbug's convention.

"Thar she blows" brings tension to the 10 or 12 men aboard the little 200-foot boats. To the green hand it is an eventful experience. To the old hands it's always a thrill—even though they miss the harpooning from a rowboat of the old days.

from a rowboat of the old days.

The modern method is to fire the harpoon from a gun. The whalers of the Victoria fleet are expert marksmen. Lately many of them have been speculating on what would happen if they sighted a U-boat. The general consensus is that they could harpoon it easily. The U-boat certainly would not put up such a fight as a 60-foot sperm whale or an even larger hammerhead. Sperm whales fight like a battling salmon, and the hammerhead can charge a boat like a battering ram.

Whales Left to Float.

When a whale has been subdued, it is towed to the side of the boat and pumped to bloated proportions with compressed air, so it cannot sink. A pole, similar to a surveyors' pole with the flag of the ship that caught the whale, is stuck into the carcass, and the whaling ship leaves it drifting.

A whaling tender spots the kill

A whaling tender spots the kill and takes it to the whalery at Rose harbor, in the Queen Charlotte. There the whale oil is extracted, the whale cut up and packed to Vic-toria. Virtually every part of the

Whaling business has been slack the past few seasons, partly because the school of whales seemed to be playing hookey for a time, and part-ly because the price of whale oil

Whale oil is not yet up to the prices whalers recall during the World war, when it went as high as \$60 a barrel. Now it runs around \$14 or \$15, but may go higher. It is useful in making margarine, so valuable in Britain today as a substitute for but-

All whalers have a vision of Eldorado—the chance that they may find some ambergris. It is worth its weight in gold.

Rookie Represents 'Make

Believe' in Easier Way
CAMP ROBINSON, ARK. — The
new army will have plenty of reserve energy if all recruits are like
one at the big training center here.
A tough sergeant was putting a
group of green infantrymen through
a "make-believe" air raid drill.
When he shouted that enemy planes
were strafing the troops, the soldiers
were supposed to dive into the brush
and lie there until the "all-clear"
signal was sounded.
In the mind's eye of the sergeant
there was plenty of strafing, and one
soldier, after falling on his face a
dozen or more times, grew a little
tired. When the next order came,
he calmly sat in the center of the Believe' in Easier Way

he calmly sat in the center of the

"What are you doing?" the sergeant bellowed, wondering what to expect next.
"It's all make-believe anyway."

the unruffled recruit announced, "so I'm pretending I'm sitting under a culvert."

Too Young for Car, Youth Owns Plane

High School Student Wins Junior's License.

MEDINA, N. Y.—Not old enough to own an automobile, but he owns his own airplane—that's John Barber Jr., a 17-year-old Medina high school student.

Young Barber, an aviation enthusiast ever since he began constructing airplane models as a sixth-grade student, always had dreamed of the day when he could have an airplane of his own. His seventeenth birth-day marked the realization of that dream, when he landed his own Piper Cub training plane at the Albion airport near here after a flight from Buffalo.

The young pilot purchased the

Buffalo.

The young pilot purchased the plane, as a birthday gift for himself, from money left in trust for him by an uncle. Although the estate was not to be turned over to Barber until he was 21, Orleans County Judge William H. Munson made it possible for the youth to buy the plane.

John learned to fly last year during his summer vacation. Working seven days a week as a mechanic's helper at the Syracuse airport, he earned enough money to pay for flying lessons.

After only eight hours of dual instruction he was allowed to solo and came through with flying colors. He received his junior's license last summer.

ammer.
Asked what was the most important thing for a young pilot to keep in mind, Barber said, "No stunting!—The pilot who tries to show off by stunting is taking too great a risk. This brings trouble, not only to the pilot, but to his family and to the cause of aviation."

The 17-year-old high school sopho-more is marking time until gradua-tion when he will enroll in the twoyear course at Parks Air college.

Air Gun Tested Firing 10,000 Shots a Minute

LOS ANGELES .- A compressedair gun which the inventors say will shoot 10,000 times a minute—and possibly much faster—was demon-strated with half-inch ball bearings as bullets.
At 100 feet, the missiles pierced

airplane armor plate and cut a three-inch oak plank in two.

The gun emitted only a gentle hissing noise. The steel balls shot out so quickly they struck brilliant sparks from each other at the tar-

The gun muzzle was colder after the firing than before. Instrument dials indicated the air pressure was 150 pounds a square inch. The inventors said 2,000 pounds pressure would be feasible.

would be reasible.

The inventors are William B. Hale and Durand Beam, associated with Roger J. Adams, Hollywood engineering research technician.

Anyone who can spray plants with a hose could knock down a diving plane with this gun," Mr. Hale said.

Total War Doesn't Put

Any Fear in U. S. Ants

dently wouldn't bother American ants. They always are among the first forms of life to appear after an area has been swept by fire or flood or held in the frigid grip of winter, says Dr. J. E. Eckert, University of California entomologist.

During forest fires they simply go underground and stay until the surface cools off. They can stand freezing temperatures or submergence in water for several days, Dr. Eckert reports.

reports.

They are long-lived. Workers live five or six years and queens nine to ten years. Dr. Eckert once had a queen ant that lived to the ripe old

Jail Attached to Hotel;

Both Get the Same Food NEWFANE, VT.—Charles Whit-ney manages Windham county's combination jail and hotel but has no trouble with his two classes of

The jail accommodates 25 and is attached to the 2½ story wooden hotel which Whitney leases from the county. Food cooked in the hotel kitchen supplies both prisoners and

Hen Is Trying to Get

In Right With Her Boss MORETOWN, VT.—One of Clem To 'Chaperon' Budget
Joslyn's hens is trying to get in A little own a decade as right with the boss.

red the eggs from her roost, he found one with the letter "J" raised in bold relief upon the shell.

Clem gave the event due notice throughout the surrounding country-side.

Washington Digest

Wickard's Policies Studied By Farmers, Consumers

Both Groups Decry Price Fixing Program; Wayne Coy Appointed to 'Chaperon' Federal Defense Budget.

By BAUKHAGE

WNU Service, 1343 H Street, N. W., | Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. Secretary Wickard's case the

Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. Secretary Wickard's case the

Washington, D. C.

just and middle course.

In Secretary Wickard's case the farm group leaders say he is forcing down prices. They say he has deserted his own and gone consumer-minded. They say this because he announced on April 3 that the government would support prices of hogs and poultry and eggs in the open markets at certain prices. These prices are somewhat below the level of the so-called "parity prices" and that is one reason why he is a devil to farmers. Parity prices, as all farmers know, were established in the twenties and were written into the agricultural adjustment acts in 1933 and 1938.

These prices were established in

were written into the agricultural adjustment acts in 1933 and 1938.

These prices were established in this way: The prices the farmer had to pay for the things he bought and the prices which he got for the things he sold in the years 1910 to 1914 were averaged. That ratio thus established was accepted by farm leaders as a goal to shoot at in the long fight in the twenties when agriculture tried to obtain legislation which would give it an equitable share in the national wealth. Later the parity figures were recognized by congress in the drafting of the agricultural acts, the purpose of which was to obtain for the farmer a decent return for his efforts by adjusting supply and consuming power as a part of the recovery program following the depression.

Now Secretary Wickard wants prices to go up. He does not say how far. All he says is that the government will support a price up to a figure which, admittedly is below the parity prices but higher than they were when he made the announcement and as high as his advisors felt the present situation required.

He has received plenty of com-plaints and what is more he has DAVIS, CALIF.—Total war evi-ently wouldn't bother American that he would take full responsibil-

Now we know that one man's meat is another man's poison. Prices that are not high enough for the farm leaders are too high for the consumer group leaders. It gives them a fine opportunity to get together and chant: "In a crisis you mustn't boost prices."

The dead cats from both camps fill the air and all Secretary Wickard has to do is duck with a quick eye and a clear conscience.

And, incidentally, he is getting a few moribund felines that are really for Leon Henderson whose job is price fixing under the OEM. Mr. Henderson announced that farm machinery should not sell for any more than it did in the first quarter of this year. And immediately the department of agriculture received a of this year. And immediately the department of agriculture received a flood of letters which, instead of saying "hurray for our side," said that Mr. Wickard was letting his colleague, Mr. Henderson, get away with murder by fixing the cost of farm machinery at what the writers say is already exorbitant.

And so nobody is exactly happy but the unhappiness, according to Wickard (including his own) is fairly equitably distributed!

President Appoints Coy

A little over a decade ago a young Hoosier from the town of Franklin moved to Delphi, Ind., not with the idea of becoming a Delphic oracle but to run a newspaper. He bought the Citizen and met a lot of other citizens around the court house and over at the post office.

Today, former assistant Federal Security Administrator Wayne Coy is executive assistant to the President of the United States with the job of chaperoning the biggest peacetime defense budget in history. He was recently made liaison officer for the Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Coy has just moved from his office in the Federal Security administration building into a corner of the bureau of the budget office in the state department, with one end of the hall screened off for a secretary. But his quarters do not concern him. He is used to making himself at home where he can hang his hat.

Just what a President's executive assistant does in not easy to describe the improved to have "exception".

Just what a President's executive assistant does is not easy to describe. He is supposed to have "a passion for anonymity" and likewise a passion for keeping quiet. His function is to take as many details off the President's mind as possible, to carry messages and give other officials as many right answers as possible. In other words, help them settle problems about which otherwise they would insist on talking to the President.

Before a budget is accepted there must first be hearings before the bureau of the budget where the various departments present their needs. Then there are the congressional committee hearings. Today,

needs. Then there are the congressional committee hearings. Today, with a whole new layer of defense agencies spread over the regular departments and divisions and sections it is easy to see that Mr. Coy, as liaison man for the whole Office of Emergency Management which is the over-all holding company for defense has plenty on his hands. He knows his budgets for he worked in the bureau of the budget himself and he had already had plenty of administrative experience before he reached Washington.

Supported McNutt.

Everybody in Indiana knows that
Wayne Coy was the man behind
McNutt. He left the Delphi Citizen
to become McNutt's secretary when
"handsome Paul" was governor of
Indiana in 1933.
When the recovery because high

Indiana in 1933.

When the governor became high commissioner of the Philippines, Coywent along. He returned to run the presidential campaign for his boss. Earlier, when he was state relief administrator, he had met Harry Hopkins. At the Democratic convention in Chicago last summer he met him again. This time Harry was engineering the third-term nomination and Coy and his boss had to step back. But Coy and Hopkins are still close friends. That helps in the present job with Hopkins, virtual first assistant to the President. Harry can answer a lot of Wayne's questions without bothering the

Wayne Coy started out when he was in high school to be a newspaper man. He was a reporter on the local paper in Franklin before

the local paper in Franklin before he became a publisher in his own right in Delphi.

I talked with him as he sat in his temporary office in the stately Federal Reserve building with its marble panels and its indirect lighting—quite a contrast to the office of a weekly newspaper. Naturally I asked him if his editorial experience had been any help in his present had been any help in his present

He paused a moment and then said, "I know this sounds like orating, but there is nothing more valuable than having to live with people. That's what you do on a weekly newspaper. You live the lives of your subscribers.

newspaper. You live the lives of your subscribers.
"Here in Washington too many people forget the people in the country seats. My experience has helped me to visualize programs in terms of people. That helped me especially when I was in the Social Security administration. It helps you to see that your administration. especially when I was in the Social Security administration. It helps you to see that your administration is carried on the county level. The tendency in the federal government is to carry on at the state level." At this point a secretary popped in.

in.

"Brigadier General Watson on the phone," she said.

"Hello, Pop," said Coy.

I knew this was going to be a very private conversation. Presidential Assistant Coy was going to talk with Presidential aide Watson (known to his intimates as "pop") about affairs of state. I left the ex-editor to his new job.