

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVII

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

No. 35

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

### Repeal of United States Neutrality Law And Arming of Merchant Shipping Cited as Administration Objectives In Battle to Keep Sea Lanes Open

(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.)

#### ARM SHIPS: Asks Roosevelt

The revision of the Neutrality act to permit the arming of U. S. merchant ships had followed in order of the presidential requests after the sinking of the Fink Star, another taken over Danish vessel, near the spot where the Sessa and the Montana went down.

This vessel, first actually to be sunk since the President's shoot first message, was taken as Hitler's reply to this country's attitude on freedom of the seas.

Shortly thereafter the White House campaign to get the neutrality law changed began, with many statements by members of congress that it was believed congressional consent would be given.

Observers in the national capital remembered that the arming of U. S. merchant vessels in World War I was followed by actual entry into the war in less than a month. It was deemed certain that anti-interventionists would fight to the last ditch against the proposal.

The immediate Berlin reaction to the new Washington move had been that the sinking of the Pink Star was entirely in accord with international law, that the vessel was armed, was convoyed by enemy craft and was carrying the flag of Panama, not of the United States.

But Rome had come forward with this statement: "Axis ships will defend themselves against any armed U. S. merchantmen they meet on their courses." That was written by Virginia Gayda, chief Fascist editor.

#### CUT PROFITS: Says Morgenthau

One step to insure an "all-out" American effort in behalf of the national defense, will be to cut all



Treasury Secretary Morgenthau is shown as he told congress that a tax law should be written to take away all business profits above six per cent of invested capital.

corporate profits to not more than 6 per cent of invested capital, declared Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau in a statement to congress.

This drastic recommendation had been made by the secretary before the house banking and currency committee, when he urged speedy approval of the price control bill.

Here was the way the secretary had expressed himself:

"The only way that can be done is through another tax bill. We feel that during this emergency a corporation should be satisfied to earn 6 per cent of its capital, and that everything above that should go to pay for defense expenditures."

Expressing his disapproval of a wage ceiling, Mr. Morgenthau had said:

"In free countries labor is not a commodity, human beings are not property, and they should not be treated as such."

This stand was opposed to that of Bernard Baruch, who regarded labor simply as an item of cost, and who declared it would be impossible to set ceilings on prices and not set ceilings on labor costs which went to make up those prices.

#### FARMERS: Asked to Produce

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard had called on the American farmer not only to produce more food to satisfy expanding demands in the United States, but also to provide enough for England to defeat Hitler.

He was urging farm workers to seek deferment from military service to that end, even if they had to appeal from the rulings of local draft boards.

#### RUSSIANS: Backs to Wall

Discounting any resistance the Russians might have put up in the center, and disregarding the Red estimates of the cost of German attacks, it had become evident that the Nazis, finally, were gaining two of their three major objectives—Kiev and Leningrad—and that the Red forces had their backs to the wall.

The Kiev disaster in the south was finally admitted by Moscow, which had issued statements declaring the leadership of Marshal Budenny to have been "incompetent." In the south the Russians had faced a heterogeneous opposition, troops from Hungary, Rumania and Italy joining with the Nazi blitzkriegers in the early battle.

There were many who believed, however, that the Russian severe reverses in the south did not occur until the Nazis removed some of their best troops from the central sector, giving back in that area, and bolstering up their drives in the Ukraine and on the north.

At Leningrad the Germans had reached the point of claiming that street-fighting had started, while the Finns, by no means admitting themselves out of the battle, told of the capture of an important power source for the Soviet's second city.

Actual support of the Russian war effort by members of the Royal Air Force finally had been reported, however, the R.A.F. fighters having managed to get their planes to the Russian front at an unannounced point, and going into action, reporting the destruction of seven Messerschmitts with the loss of only one British fighter plane.

This was the first actual fighting force placed at the Russian assistance since the start of the German invasion about 100 days previously.

#### WINDSORS: Visiting U. S.

On the way to Canada to see his 4,000-acre ranch he hadn't visited in 14 years was the duke of Windsor, former king of England, and his American wife, the former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore.

They came over from the Bahamas in a specially chartered airliner, and spent the first night at Miami, and then had gone to Washington to lunch with the President, and enjoy the hospitality of the capital, and 212 personal bodyguards while in Washington.

Their itinerary included Chicago, Alberta, back to New York, and



On his trip to the United States, the duke of Windsor visits the Pan-American Airways base near Miami, Fla., where a group of students of the R.A.F. get practical training. Here he examines a plane propeller in one of the shops at the base. With him is W. Overton Snyder, eastern division manager of Pan-American.

thence to Baltimore, the duchess' former home, and thence to York, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, before returning to the Bahamas.

#### HURRICANE: Season Here

The season of tropical storms arrived with a bang, a heavy storm striking Houston, Texas, head on, just three days after the equinox.

Millions of dollars' damage was done—the weather bureau, having charted many hurricanes correctly, making a mistake on this one, and informing the Texas metropolis of half a million souls that it was safe just 24 hours before the storm hit it right in the center.

#### SCHENCK: Entertainer



Nicholas Schenck (left) is pictured here with Harry L. Warner, president of Warner Bros., as the former appeared before the senate subcommittee investigating "war propaganda" in Hollywood moving pictures.

(See Below.)

The great movie probe in Washington took an amusing turn when Nicholas Schenck, MGM president, was called to the stand for two days of questioning, kept the spectators in stitches, and confused many of his inquisitors by his answers.

Schenck, maintaining that there was no "eight-company" trust in Hollywood, admitted several instances of family ties between rival companies—and then, just when the attorneys thought they had him—he blandly said that was just the trouble—that members of these families wouldn't do business with each other.

The film magnates had maintained that there was no "get into war" propaganda, but that pictures were made strictly with entertainment value in mind, and in accordance with the feelings of the majority of the nation about the dictatorships and aggressions.

The committee had tried to show that the big companies could assure the financial success of a picture, whatever its entertainment value might be, and that the entertaining picture brought in by an outsider could not succeed if the big companies didn't want it to.

This Schenck flatly denied. He said: "I might wish it were true—but it isn't."

#### JAPAN: Watching Reds

What Nippon finally would decide to do about the far eastern situation would finally be decided by the position of the Russo-German war after winter sets in, had been the view expressed by observers in India.

They had held that if Russia was to continue her defense and if there was nothing resembling a wholesale collapse, then the Japanese are not likely to risk an assault on Vladivostok.

The Japanese imperialists were pictured as bluffing, watching and waiting from week to week to see which way the war car would jump on the Russian front.

Japan already had been pictured as embarrassed to end by the lack of credit, and frightened at the prospect of a complete shut down on vital raw materials such as rubber and oil.

Also Japan, it had been held, was realizing that the British were growing stronger and stronger in the Pacific, that the United States was turning a stern face in that direction, both of these making Nippon's position more precarious.

#### ARGENTINE: Cracks Down

Argentina, following a long period of "cracking down" on Nazi infiltration, moved still more strongly in occupying all military airports of the country with regular detachments of army troops.

The congress was investigating Nazi activities in the country and it had been the feeling that the troop occupation might have been the result of revelations of a Nazi plot.

A lieutenant-colonel, a captain and a lieutenant, all in the army air corps, were arrested summarily, and the committee conducting the investigation admitted that they were held because of their alleged involvement in a gigantic air plot.

An attack by the German press on Argentina, it was believed, hastened the drastic action.

#### MISCELLANY:

Washington—Thousands of Americans have been stocking up so heavily on liquor that the new excises won't touch them for months to come, it was learned.

## Washington Digest

### Farm Land Speculation Is Threat to Agriculture

Government Warns Against Fever of Land Buying That Would Start Another 'Unhappy' Economic Cycle for U. S.

By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

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

Farm income—cash income—will be nearly \$11,000,000,000 this year. That is two billions greater than last year.

Money to burn! And the burning question in Washington is how to stop the conflagration before it starts. The chief danger is another prairie fire of farm land speculation such as started out in Iowa in World War I. First there were wash sales. They were publicized. Real sales began which sent farm prices up to the blue skies and which ended by making a farm mortgage the cheapest form of wall paper.

Two years after that World war started, the prices of farm land rose 5 per cent. Not much later they leaped a hundred per cent and more. The eventual collapse was forerunner of the depression.

Today, two years after the present war started, farm land prices are up 1 per cent. That isn't so bad but the government is already worried enough to consider it worth while trying to start a back fire in the hope of preventing a recurrence of the unhappy cycle which began 25 years ago.

When Governor Black of the Farm Credit administration called in the farm mortgage bankers, the insurance people, farm organization representatives and others in the rural real estate field he simply reminded them that when the government loaned the farmers the money to bail them (the mortgagors) out last time, it was done on appraisals based on normal values. Now it is up to the real estate people to make their appraisals on normal values, too. That means on figures based on the relationship between farm products prices and other prices established for the years of 1914-1918.

A million farmers who were loaned money by the Farm Credit administration during the depression have repaid their mortgages. Those farmers are keenly aware of the danger to agriculture and to the whole economy if a fever of mad land-buying starts again. They will help stop it, if they can. The government will do all in its power in the way of education—meetings will be held—the house organ of the Farm Credit administration which has a million circulation will carry the warning. The real estate operators have indicated that they will cooperate.

Whether money to burn will burn the farmer is still uncertain. In the end, stopping another drunken orgy of land speculation and the terrible headache afterward depends on the word-of-mouth message of the individual. The burned child fears the fire but there is always someone to urge him to risk a blister for the delicious chestnut he sees roasting on the coals.

#### Policy—Orders—Action—Silence—

"As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I order the following policy carried out at once: our patrolling vessels and planes will protect all merchant ships—not only American ships but ships of any flag—engaged in commerce in waters which we deem necessary for our defense. American naval vessels and American planes will strike the first blow against Axis submarines or Axis raiders on the surface of the sea."

This communication in substance was transmitted to the office of the secretary of the navy from the White House a few weeks ago.

There it was immediately translated, first into naval language and then into code. Over land wires to the wireless towers near Annapolis it was flashed to ships of the United States navy on the seven seas.

It is early morning. A thin steely light spreads across the horizon as the U. S. destroyer "Blank," a part of the Atlantic patrol, rides the easy swells. On board, the smooth routine goes on with its clock-work monotony. But there is the ghost of a grim smile exchanged between the captain and the executive officer—they have both read the coded message recorded by the wireless operator a little while before.

Three minutes later the ship is galvanized from galley to crow's-nest.



## Use Milk Can to Preserve Blood

Scientists Find Method to Refrigerate Liquid for Army Emergencies.

CHICAGO.—Two scientists have recommended the common milk can as an effective means of storing blood for army emergencies "under all military conditions."

The "milk can" bank was explained by Drs. Elmer L. De Gowin and Robert C. Hardin in War Medicine, published by the American Medical Association and the national research council's medical division. Termining the product of their investigation "a new, simple method for collecting, storing and transporting human blood plasma," the Iowa City, Iowa, physicians said they had developed and tested a bank which would have the following recommendations:

Practical usability under shell fire.

Ability to withstand long distance shipment in any vehicle.

Easy maintenance by a supply sergeant or other enlisted man.

Use limited only by accessibility of snow or cracked ice for repacking every 18 to 24 hours.

Make Many Tests. The doctors disclosed that the new preservation method was equally applicable to whole blood and blood plasma (fluid part without red cells) but stressed the significance of plasma.

Physicians consider plasma of vital military importance because it can be used for quick transfusions without matching the type of the patient.

De Gowin and Hardin made the principal unit of their bank by fitting large glass flasks, in common use in hospitals, with rubber stoppers allowing self-closing needle punctures.

Tests showed the flasks could be immersed in ice water for long periods without leakage, and the contents safely administered directly from the flasks.

They found that the red cells would precipitate in 24 to 48 hours so the plasma could be siphoned into another flask. This discovery eliminated separating of red cells from plasma by "centrifugation," an impractical method when applied to large scale production because it requires "many centrifuges of large capacity not now in existence."

Next, the scientists developed a delicate temperature indicator, simple enough for layman or soldier to read. A supply sergeant or someone else, the doctors said, could discard flasks whose indicators showed proper temperatures had not been maintained.

Find Milk Can Best. Searching for economical refrigeration containers, Hardin and De Gowin discovered after several experiments that "the commercial type of 10-gallon milk can" was most practical. Covered with insulated jackets, such cans accommodate 10 flasks and enough ice for 12 to 24 hours.

"The transportation of blood in these individual refrigeration units ought to be particularly practical under shell fire," the doctors said, "for the cans could be disbursed in many types of vehicles so that some would almost certainly arrive at their destination."

To test the banks, the physicians shipped two consignments of cans, one 720 miles by automobile and one 3,539 miles by airplane. The contents in both shipments were transfused to hospital patients requiring such treatment.

From 40 transfusions, there was only one unfavorable reaction, that of a patient suffering chills and fever.

#### Falcons Shot Down to Safeguard War Pigeons

LONDON.—The air ministry has declared war to the death on the peregrine falcon—the slayer of carrier-pigeons.

The predatory activities of these "fifth columnists" of the British air might well have led to secrets of vital national importance being found by the enemy in the nesting places of these birds in the cliffs of Solway.

Every day now in the Solway district of Dumfries and Cumberland raiding parties go out to destroy the birds.

Since the war began carrier-pigeons have been doing important work for the R.A.F. Lately men in authority were worried by the nonarrival of some of these birds and the loss of messages that might have played an important part in the air conflict.

Investigation showed that the birds were not shot down by Nazis, but were killed by falcons, which are numerous along certain shores of the British coast.

## U. S. Flour Sacks Clothe the French

Bags Become Garments for Children of Jobless.

VICHY, FRANCE.—Two hundred thousand sacks that contained the United States gift of flour to the people of unoccupied France have been transformed into sheets, aprons, bibs, dresses, shirts and underclothing for the children of French unemployed.

In an interview with the newspaper Journal a member of the unemployment bureau told how this had come about.

"One of our employees who was in Marseilles when the Red Cross was distributing the American flour happened to remark the flour sacks and to exclaim on the beautiful cotton material of which they were made," she said. "The Red Cross official present said that if they could be turned to useful purposes for the unemployed he would donate them gladly. The gift was arranged and thousands of French unemployed women received the task of preparing and making useful things from the sacks."

"By scraping and beating the sacks after they had been emptied by the Red Cross, these women were able to recover 30 kilograms of flour from each 5,000 sacks. This flour was distributed among the most needy of the unemployed."

"In the endeavor to remove the trade marks and designs stamped on the sacks the women found that part of the cloth turned to a pale pink. This part has been used in making underwear. The work on all the articles is fine, and they are serviceable."

The string that tied the sacks was sorted, combed and made into yarn, and with it the unemployed women have knitted more than 4,000 suits of rompers."

#### Dried Human Blood Used With Success in Clinic

HOUSTON, TEXAS.—Dried human blood plasma that can save life for as long as five years after being taken from the donor's veins was one of the chief chemical developments on display at the recent Texas Pharmaceutical association convention.

The product, perfected by a leading pharmaceutical firm, was released for general hospital use June 2 after more than 10 years' experimental work in clinics and laboratories under the supervision of leading scientists.

Its chief advantage is that it is usable after long periods whereas liquid blood is seldom kept more than four weeks.

The product is made by freezing plasma to over 100 degrees below zero. With less than 1 per cent moisture when it is dry, it is sealed in vacuum containers and distributed for hospital or other professional use.

Liquid blood must be kept and transported with refrigeration but the dried plasma can be handled under adverse conditions, it was pointed out. Too, its use is extremely simple.

#### Secrets Are Safe With Army Women of Britain

LONDON.—The recent disclosure of the new air defense system now known as radio-location has exploded one of the oldest fables about women—that they cannot keep a secret. Large numbers of women's auxiliary air force radio operators for months past have been doing their part in "radiolocating" enemy planes. Yet not a word of this most closely guarded of Britain's weapons has reached the outside world.

Just how well the W.A.A.F. kept silent was shown when the story of radiolocation was officially told. W.A.A.F. members not directly concerned in its operation were as surprised as the public.

In the past recruiting officers looking for likely radiolocation candidates were able to say only that the work would be "confidential and interesting." Now any young woman between 17½ and 35 can ask to be considered for radiolocation work. If she has a nice clear voice, perfect eyesight, integrity of character and an above-average education the job is hers.

#### Water Hyacinth Removal In Bayous Costly to U. S.

NEW ORLEANS.—Water hyacinths, spreading with the speed of tropical jungle growth, block more than 2,000 miles of Louisiana's swamps, bayous and inland waterways. Government appropriation for the job of clearing these floating flower fields from the water was \$180,000 for the year July 1, 1940, to July 1, 1941.

After 43 years of fighting this water traffic hazard, victory is in sight.