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France To Convoy Her Ships

Gayda Calls British Aid Bill "Open Intervention In War"

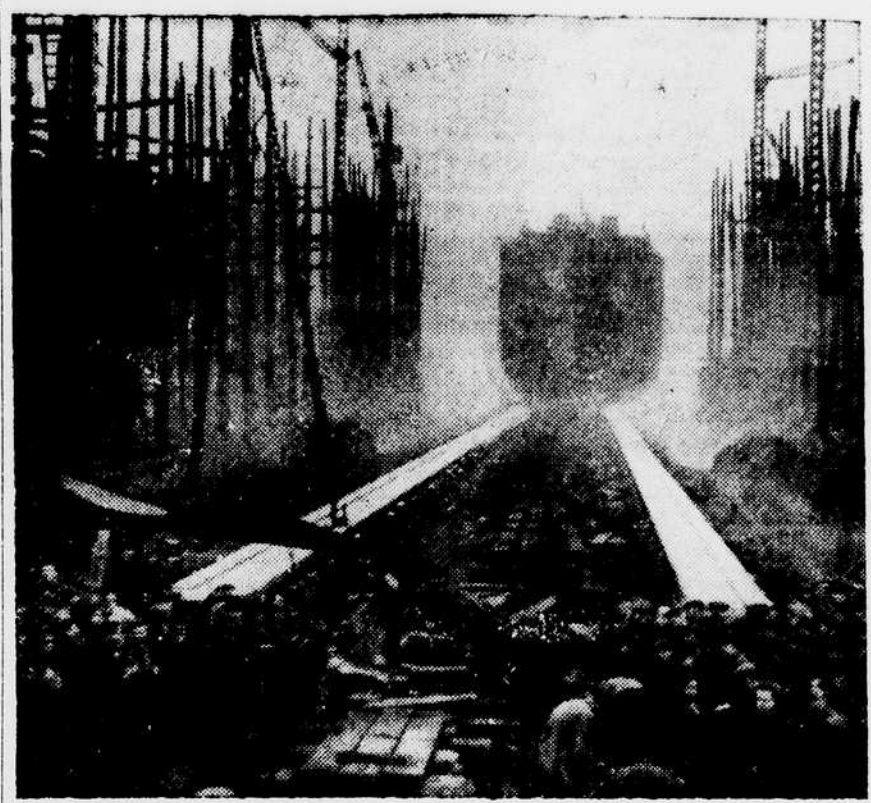
Trophy of Daring British Raid on Norway



C. P. Radiophoto

Back from a dashing raid on Nazi-held Norwegian Islands of Lofoten, off the coast of Norway, British sailors and marines display a Nazi flag seized in the raid. The British destroyed munition works on the island and took 215 German and 10 Norwegian anti-British prisoners. They also sank 11 German ships.

One Launched, Another Ship Begun for Britain



This photo gives an idea of how the British shipyards are working at feverish speed to produce the ships on which the very life of Great Britain depends. One freighter is shown hitting the water, and already the keel of another is being hoisted into place.

Darlan Says France Must Have Food

Vice Premier of Vichy Government Tells American Newsmen He Will Arm Ships If British Blockade of France Continues.

Vichy, France, March 10.—(AP)—Vice Premier Admiral Jean Darlan informed American press representatives today that French ships would be convoyed if the British blockade of France continued.

Darlan, who, with Chief of State Marshal Philippe Petain and Secretary of Food Supply Jean Achard, called the press conference, declared:

"If the British continue this blockade which I consider imbecile I will be obliged to ask permission to provide arms protection for our merchantmen. I will let nothing stand in the way of the French people's eating."

"The Germans are more generous and more comprehensive of the needs of humanity than the English."

Petaun said the Germans had released 220,400 tons of wheat which had been requisitioned for the German army.

Darlan said he considered the blockade against Germany useless and declared he had told that to U. S. Ambassador Admiral William Leahy last night.

A few boatloads of wheat will not affect the outcome of the war, he said.

In London, the British intimated they would continue to enforce their sea blockade regardless of any protection for French merchantmen.

No Comment On Passage From Berlin

"Roosevelt's Gesture Is Deliberate, Unprovoked Move Toward War," Fascist Editorial Spokesman Declares.

Rome, March 10.—(AP)—Virginio Gayda, fascist editorial spokesman, declared today that the British aid bill was "open intervention in the war against the axis" which eventually may bring into play the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo pact "with many disagreeable surprises to England and the United States in the Pacific."

"Isolated in its elementary reality," he declared, "Roosevelt's gesture is a deliberate, unprovoked move toward war."

He called it a violation of the Hague convention on the rights and duties of a neutral, and said:

"So President Roosevelt voluntarily and publicly takes the United States out of the neutrality which already has been much violated in the past months and renews Wilson's warlike policy afterwards disapproved by the Senate."

"No excuse may be claimed for the change to the figure of a new aggressor which Roosevelt is preparing to attribute to the United States, dragging their people into an adventure which they do not seek and on which they have not been called to express an opinion under the sacred principles of democracy."

In Berlin, authorized sources said the passage of the British aid bill by the United States Senate Saturday caused no surprise at the Wilhelmstrasse. There was no official German comment, however, and it was indicated there would be none until the bill becomes law.

In Washington, final congressional action on the British aid bill appeared to be but a matter of hours and informed persons considered it possible that the vast supply of war materials thereby made available to Britain would start moving across the Atlantic within a few days.

REPRIEVES GRANTED TO THREE CONVICTS

Raleigh, March 10.—(AP)—Governor Broughton granted reprieves today to three men sentenced to death for murder, but said the stays were no indication that further clemency would be extended.

The statement said the reprieves were given Dollie Lee Hudson, sentenced in Northampton county; Fleet Jack Wall, convicted in Anson, and Sylvester Woodard, sentenced in Wayne, because the press of official business had kept the governor from giving careful consideration to the cases.

Hudson had been set for execution Friday and his new death date is April 18. Wall and Woodard had their death dates changed from March 28 to May 2.

Red Troops Massed

Nazis Faced In Balkans

Troop Movements Said to Reflect Russian Fear of Nazi Invasion of Turkey.

Belgrade, March 10.—(AP)—Week-end advances to diplomatic quarters asserted that Soviet Russian troops were moving into position along Turkey's eastern frontier between the Black sea and the Caspian, as a German troop thrust into Greece and perhaps Turkey was feared imminent.

At the same time reports circulated that Yugoslavia would send its foreign minister to Berlin or to Berchtesgaden tomorrow to sign a friendship treaty with Germany.

This would mean Yugoslavia's definite alignment in the German sphere, but would not place the country in the same class with Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria as adherents to the military alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan.

The reports of Russian troop movements in the Caucasus, coinciding with the strengthening of Red army forces along the Prut river frontier of German-occupied Rumania, were said to reflect the Moscow government's desire to make sure of the Russian defenses if Germany should strike at Turkey.

PRIME MINISTER'S DAUGHTER ESCAPES

London, March 10.—(AP)—A report circulated in London today that Sarah Churchill Oliver, actress daughter of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, had been killed in a recent bombing, but her husband's secretary said later "she is quite all right."

She was reported en route to Bradford to appear at a concert. Mrs. Oliver, 27, was married to Vic Oliver, American comedian, in 1936 in New York, where she made her debut on the United States stage in that year.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Mostly cloudy and warmer, light scattered showers in west portion tonight; Tuesday partly cloudy in west and mostly cloudy with light scattered showers in east portion.

Five Killed On State's Highways

Charlotte, March 10.—(AP)—Five persons met death on North Carolina highways over the week-end and many others were taken to hospitals, some of them seriously hurt.

The worst accident occurred at an intersection 13 miles south of Concord. Raymond Joseph Pope, 39, and Mildred Hallock, 12, both of Page-land, S. C., were killed.

Leoney Lee Byrd, Jr., of Erwin was fatally injured in an accident near Erwin.

Nineteen-year old Troy Milton Moser of Clemmons was fatally injured in an automobile accident four miles south of Mocksville.

Mrs. Ralph Cook, 26, of Longview, was killed when an east bound Southern freight train and an auto crashed at a railroad crossing in Longview.

SENATE APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEFENSE BASES

Washington, March 10.—(AP)—The Senate approved today establishment of naval air bases on sites acquired from Britain in exchange for United States destroyers, an action which the Senate naval committee said would have the effect of "Congressional ratification" of the exchange.

The action came when the Senate passed a \$245,228,500 authorization for naval public works including, besides the work at the British bases, development of facilities at Guam and Samoa, in the Alaskan area, at various other Pacific locations, in the Canal Zone, in the Caribbean and in continental United States.

TRAFFIC FATALITY.

Annapolis, March 10.—(AP)—Miss Nina Belle Harrell, 19, of Oak City, N. C., a nurse at Crownsville state hospital, was struck and killed by an automobile as she walked along a highway with three hospital employees last night. Anne Arundel county police held Joseph Jewell, 20, of Parole, Md., for a hearing on manslaughter and reckless driving charges. Officer W. A. Stallings said.

"PROPOSALS"

London, March 10.—(AP)—A broadcast on the wave length of the Belgrade radio, heard here today, said the German minister to Athens had handed the Greek foreign minister "some proposals."

RAF Raids Boulogne

British Planes Bomb Nazi-Held Port Following Heavy German Raids on England.

Southeast Coast, England, March 10.—(AP)—A formation of bombers sweeping over the Dover Strait in brilliant sunshine indicated that the RAF was raiding the Nazi-held French port of Boulogne today.

Explosions were heard from the direction of Boulogne soon after the bombers spread across the water.

RAF fighters patrolled constantly overhead. The day followed heavy German air attacks during the night and early today on a section of the south coast.

Although they were driven back time after time by a terrific anti-aircraft barrage, the Germans returned persistently and dived low to reach their targets.

The raids caused an undisclosed number of civilian casualties. In secondary bombings rained down on three towns but quick work by fire fighters prevented serious damage.

The scream of sirens warned of air attacks over London in mid-morning after the heaviest weekend of air attacks since the fire bombs raids of last December 29. The all clear came in half an hour, however, without any reports of damage or casualties.

North Carolina Will Spend \$64,500,000 For Education In Next Two Fiscal Years

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL.

Raleigh, March 10.—Under the appropriations bill adopted last week without a dissenting vote in Senate or House and in record time for such a measure, North Carolina will spend on its educational system during the next two years the sum of \$64,507,998.

The amount, in the aggregate, is more than two-thirds of the total appropriations authorized from the general fund for all purposes, which reached \$94,329,387.

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General Assembly Facing Busy Week

Indo-China Peace Near

Tokyo, March 10.—(AP)—Formal initialing of the peace agreement settling the border dispute between French Indo-China and Thailand is scheduled to take place at Premier Fumimaro Koyama's official residence at 4 p. m. (2 a. m. c. s. t.) tomorrow, informed sources reported today.

French Ambassador Charles Arsane Henry conferred with Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka for 90 minutes today, after which some observers said some modifications in the phrasing of the agreement were likely. The exact nature of these remained undisclosed.

Axis Admits Reverses

Stewart Says Hitler and Mussolini Give Most Convincing Proof of Troubles.

By CHARLES P. STEWART

Central Press Columnist

Washington, March 10.—Berlin and Rome, as our state department interprets the news from these two supposedly strictly censored sources, are furnishing the most convincing of all proofs that things are going badly with the European axis.

From Berlin recently came the information that Herr Hitler has remorselessly squelched disorders in Holland. Oh, he doubtless has squelched 'em, but his announcement that he's done so is taken as an admission from a first-class authority that there were Dutch disorders that required squelching. And it was as good an authority as Signor Mussolini, who testified that the fascists were a lot worse licked in northern Africa than ever the British said they were.

Adolf and Benito ought to know, if anybody.

Benito's revelation was naive to the point of being funny. It evidently had leaked out in Italy itself that the duce's forces were on the run on the southern side of the Mediterranean, and it appears that the Italians, at home, were beginning to mutter that he'd neglected to send enough of 'em into that field of activity or to keep 'em supplied adequately. Seemingly Benito was stung by these criticisms; so he made that speech of a few days ago, to the effect that his African military outfit was, too, a great plenty more numerous and better equipped than Italy and the rest of the world had given it credit for being. Well, if it

Of the total, \$31,570,559 is authorized to be spent during the fiscal year 1941-42 and \$32,937,439 during the period 1942-43.

Operation of the eight-months public school system accounts for practically 90 percent of all educational expenditures to be undertaken, this operation being estimated to cost \$28,158,324 for the first year of the biennium and \$29,454,233 for the second.

If the division of funds spent continues the same as in past years (and

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Adjournment by Saturday Night is Barely Possible; Several Important Measures Remain to be Considered.

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By LYNN NISBET.

Raleigh, March 8.—Getting down to work early this afternoon, following a full day on the public calendar Saturday, legislative leaders are driving hard for sine die adjournment Saturday night. Attitude of the veterans toward this achievement might be called wishful rather than hopeful. Many of them see little probability of the session's ending before the middle of next week.

With revenue and appropriation bills out of the way, with reorganization disposed of, albeit not very satisfactorily, and with most of the governor's "must" reorganizations either accomplished or on the way to certain passage within a day or two, there is no absolute bar to adjournment any time.

On the other hand, there remain so many important public measures, and a whole flock of local bills of great importance to the several counties and communities in the state, that if these bills are given any sort of decent consideration the session will have to go over two or three days into next week.

On the program for this week are such matters as election of university trustees, House action on the board of education amendment, liquor referendum hearings before the finance committee of the House, and city extension bills—including the Vogler statewide act and a dozen or more local measures, among them one specifically enlarging Raleigh and another making a general rule for extension of all municipalities in Wake county.

Board of Education Reorganization.

Set for special order in the House of Representatives for tomorrow is consideration of the proposed constitutional amendment consolidating all of the public school control agencies into one board of education. After a hectic passage back and forth from committees, with amendments being amended and votes being reconsidered, the bill passed the Senate. It provides for a consolidated board with an appointive member from each congressional district, and the lieutenant governor, the state treasurer, and the superintendent of public instruction as ex-officio members. This board would be required to appoint a comptroller, responsible to the board, who would handle the fiscal affairs of the schools. Fight was made in the Senate, and in the House committee, with assurances that it will be carried to the floor, or the further provision that this comptroller when appointed must be approved by the state superintendent.

An amendment to strike out that provision was defeated in House committee by a sort of fluke, but it will be vigorously contested on the floor. Business men do not want to give professional school men too much control of the school money.

It is also apparent that considerable opposition is being engineered by other state officials who now con-

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12 Firemen Killed In Theatre Fire

Brockton, Mass., March 10.—(AP)—Twelve firemen were killed and 16 injured early today when the snow-laden roof of the 30-year old Strand theatre collapsed during a fire which destroyed the building.

Bodies were recovered from a smoldering mass of metal, wood and plaster.

Approximately 25 men were trapped when the roof over the theatre balcony caved in with a terrific roar.

Hundreds of Sunday night moviegoers had left the theatre less than two hours before the fire.

Trapped firemen screamed as flames licked at their hands and faces while they were caught in the debris.

A Catholic priest, the Rev. Lawrence Morrison, borrowed a fireman's helmet and rubber coat and went into the burning building to administer last rites to the dying and most seriously injured.

FDR To Ask Funds To Aid Britain

Washington, March 10.—(AP)—A prompt presidential request for funds to speed aid to Britain under the British aid program was expected in congressional circles today.

After conferring with President Roosevelt, Senator Barkley, the Democratic leader, and Vice President Wallace, Speaker Rayburn said: "The President, probably on Wednesday if the bill is signed tomorrow night, will send up some estimates. They will be for cash and contract authorizations."

Rayburn said that the amounts to be included were discussed with the President but that he could say nothing about them.

The congressional leaders said that the bill as passed by the Senate Saturday night would be called up in the house tomorrow for final approval and sent to the White House by nightfall.

Stephen Early, White House press secretary, told reporters that he thought Roosevelt would sign the bill "sometime Wednesday unless we hit a snag not now foreseen."