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After White House Conference



Administration leaders called to the White House for a conference with the President on future legislation pertaining to the lease-lend bill are shown after their party. Left to right are Rep. Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House, Vice President Henry Wallace and Senator Alben W. Barkley, majority leader of the senate.

German Planes Begin Bombing Greek Towns

Roosevelt Asks Seven Billions For War Aid To Democracies

500,000 Nazi Troops Mass On Frontier

Immediate Enactment Is Urged

Largest Item in Appropriation Measure is \$2,054,000,000 For "Aircraft and Aeronautical Material."

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—President Roosevelt today asked Congress to appropriate today a request for a \$7,000,000,000 appropriation to carry out a "total policy of the government to make the democracies every gun, plane and munition of war that we possibly can."

In a letter to Speaker Rayburn, transmitting detailed estimates of the budget director for the \$7,000,000,000 expenditures, Mr. Roosevelt asserted: "I strongly urge the immediate enactment of this appropriation."

The Chief Executive declared that America has felt that "it was imperative to the security of America that we encourage the democracies' resistance to aggression by not only maintaining but also increasing the flow of material assistance from this country."

The President's request for the biggest peacetime appropriation bill in the nation's history went to Congress less than 24 hours after the bill went into law and the first war materials sent to Britain and Greece.

The appropriation estimate broke

(Continued on Page Two)

On Florida Vacation



Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Vacationing in Golden Beach, Fla., Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt enjoys the garden of the home she has rented. She told reporters, "I'm not going to do one single thing."

Churchill Thanks U. S. For Passage Of British Aid Bill

Nazis "Not Surprised" By Aid Bill

Berlin, March 12.—(AP)—The official German attitude toward the United States' aid to Britain bill, a Nazi spokesman said today, may be summed up with these words:

"We are not surprised but are prepared for anything."

More solemn than usual, the spokesman declared: "Mr. Roosevelt is an unpredictable man. Let him send one convoy and x x x."

The sentence was left hanging. "We are determined to torpedo everything that approaches England," the spokesman went on after a pause. "We will see. We are ready for anything, come what may x x x."

"As a matter of fact, the law's aims have been in operation a long time. They (the British) got 59 destroyers but the fact remains that needed materials have not arrived in desired volume and we will see they do not do so hereafter."

The German radio declared the lease-lend bill was rushed through the congress merely to make a showing of honesty.

"In reality the United States government is intent only upon the speediest acquisition of a maximum number of British possessions."

Turks Hunt Bomb Ring

Balkan Assassins Believed Behind Attempt to Kill Rendel in Istanbul.

Istanbul, March 12.—(AP)—Turkish police and military authorities declared today they were searching for a "Balkan bomb ring" they believed behind an attempt to assassinate George W. Rendel, British minister who left German-occupied Bulgaria.

At least four persons were killed and upwards of 25 injured last night, but Rendel escaped by a narrow margin when a bomb wrecked the lobby of the luxurious Pera Plaza hotel where the British diplomat had brought his party from Sofia by train only a few minutes before.

Investigators who indicated they were possible "serious diplomatic repercussions" from the bombing examined passengers on all trains, searched baggage compartments and closely questioned all persons wishing to leave Istanbul for Bulgaria.

Survivors declared they believed the bomb had been placed aboard Rendel's train in Sofia—perhaps timed to explode in Turkey.

Aluminum Workers Go Out On Strike

CIO Unionists Charge Violation of Overtime Pay Agreement; Federal Councillors Labor To End Other Strikes.

(By The Associated Press) CIO union employees at the Edge-water, N. J., plant of the Aluminum Company of America struck today, claiming that the company had violated overtime pay provisions of the union contract.

The plant employs about 3,000 workers and manufactures aluminum used in many defense articles.

Labor Secretary Perkins said that John R. Steelman, chief of the U. S. conciliation service, would confer with management of the Alcoa-Chalmers Manufacturing Company and CIO United Automobile Workers officials in an attempt to end a strike which for seven weeks has delayed production on \$45,000,000 worth of national defense orders.

Thomas Finn, another representative of the conciliation service, was assigned to try to settle a fresh dispute between the CIO Steel Workers Organizing Committee and the Bethlehem Steel Corporation at Lackawanna, N. Y., which was the site of a general strike last month. The union, which claims 10,000 of the 14,000 employees as members, declared the company refused to discuss grievances.

Labor men attached wide significance to negotiations at New York between the CIO United Mine Workers of America and the nation's major bituminous coal operators concerning a new two-year contract for 450,000 miners.

John L. Lewis, president of the mine workers union, presented the union's demands yesterday: a wage increase of \$1 a day; no change in the existing five-day 35-hour week. Terming the demands "rather formidable," the mine operators prepared to present their counter proposal tomorrow.

Britain Needs Concentrated Food Products

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—Administration farm officials said today Great Britain probably would ask this country for considerable quantities of concentrated food products to be furnished on a lease-lend basis.

Commodities expected to be brought included lard, pork products, cheese, evaporated milk, fruits and eggs.

Officials said they thought it unlikely that the British would require, at least at present, any of the farm products of which this country now has unusually large surpluses, such as cotton, wheat, corn and tobacco.

Britain's need to conserve shipping space could be expected to limit supplies from this country to concentrated foods, it was said.

The surplus marketing administration of the Agriculture department was considered the federal agency most likely to be chosen by President Roosevelt to handle lease-lend food matters.

Congressman Dies Suddenly

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—Death struck for the fourth time this year at the membership of the 77th Congress when Representative Pius L. Schwert, Buffalo, N. Y., Democrat, suffered a fatal heart attack last night at a dinner party. He was 48 years old.

Schwert collapsed at a dinner table shortly after making a speech at the party, and died before reaching a hospital.

A former catcher for the New York Yankees, Schwert was serving his second term in Congress.

Yugoslavia Capitulates

Balkan Country Said to Have Agreed "In Principle" to Sign Axis Alliance.

Belgrade, March 12.—(AP)—Yugoslavia was reported in usually reliable government circles tonight to have agreed "in principle" to sign the three-part military pact of Berlin, Rome and Tokyo.

The quarters said the premier and foreign minister would go to Berlin within a few days to discuss the formula they now have devised in a session of the crown council to meet Germany's demands.

"They will ask, it is said, that Germany grant a 'transition period' in which to prepare pro-British public opinion in Yugoslavia for the signing, but there be internal trouble."

The crown council was understood to have decided to present for German approval the following proposals:

1. Yugoslavia to sign some sort of friendship declaration with Germany before signing the axis pact.

2. Then the two governments would discuss demobilization of the Yugoslav army as demanded by Germany as a "guarantee that this country will not make any military moves," and Germany's demand for passage of troops through Yugoslavia.

STRIKE CONFERENCE. New York, March 12.—(AP)—Hopes for possible settlement of a three-day old bus strike which immobilized 95 percent of Manhattan's surface transportation grew today when Mayor La Guardia announced that the opposing factions had agreed to meet with him at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

STRIKE ENDED. St. Louis, March 12.—(AP)—Finding a strike after one day, American Federation of Labor building workers returned to their jobs today on construction of a \$12,000,000 small arms ammunition plant. Contractors' officials said a demand by business agents for permanent passes to the construction site, cause of the strike, was not granted.

Fortified Wine Measure May Delay Adjournment

FORTIFIED. Raleigh, March 12.—(AP)—The Senate voted 26 to 6 today in favor of allowing sale of port, sherry and muscatel wines with up to 20 percent alcoholic content by grocery stores and grade A hotels, putting the House-passed bill to regulate fortified wines back on its first legislative reading.

The House version of the measure limited sale of fortified wines to ABC stores in the 26 counties having them.

There was bitter debate before the vote and Senator Cherry of Gaston said the amendment would kill the bill and make it impossible to enact into law before Tuesday.

Legislative leaders are pressing for sine die adjournment by Saturday night, but members insist work will not be finished by then.

The Senate refused, 19 to 18, to accept House amendments to a bill reappportioning representation in the

State Senate and the measure will go to conference. The House struck out a Senate provision for rotation of senatorial representation in the new third district, Northampton, Vance and Warren counties.

The Senate calendar committee killed a bill proposing to substitute a flat 2 percent sales tax for the present levy of 3 percent with foods exempted.

The House ordered ratified a measure to exempt for taxation for one year farm produce stored to be held for a favorable market. It also ordered ratified the proposal to establish a state trademark for agricultural products.

The senate calendar group rejected the House-passed measure introduced by Representative Darden of Washington to strike out of a 1941 law sponsored by Representative Senter

(Continued on Page Two)

Much Debate Defended

Freedom of Congressional Speech-Making Is Part of Democracy, Stewart Says.

By CHARLES P. STEWART, Central Press Columnist

Washington, March 12.—Robert T. Stewart, Ohio congressman, wasn't recovering to the aid Britain bill when he said, "Too much speech-making is better than none."

Answering a critic's complaint that our national legislators are overly addicted to oratory, he dropped that remark last December, before the lease-lend measure was under discussion on Capitol Hill.

Nevertheless, quite a few of our lawmakers, a few quoting the Ohionian in response to attacks, by some of the bill's proponents, upon its opponents, on the ground that the latter have talked against it excessively. In part, too, the quoting's being done by solons who favored the lease-lend plan all along. They wanted it to get a majority, but they don't think it would have been right to gag its opposition spokesmen.

Defenders of the principle of a

(Continued on Page Two)

Measure is Termed "A New Magna Carta" by British Prime Minister in Address Before House of Commons.

London, March 12.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill formally thanked the United States today for passage of the British aid bill, which he termed "a new Magna Carta x x x an inspiring act of faith."

With a United States military mission in the gallery—he later received the Americans in a private room—Churchill solemnly read the following statement to the house of commons:

"The lease and lend bill, as the house is aware, became law yesterday when it received immediately the signature of the President (Cheers)."

"I am sure the house would wish me to express their belief and on behalf of the nation our deep and respectful appreciation of this monument of generous and far seeing statesmanship, (Loud cheers)."

"The most powerful democracy has in effect declared in solemn statute that they will devote their overwhelming industrial and financial strength to insuring the defeat of nazism in order that nations, great and small may live in security, tolerance and freedom. (Cheers)."

"By so doing the government and the people of the United States have in fact written a new Magna Carta which not only has regard to the rights and laws upon which a healthy and advancing civilization can alone be erected, but also proclaims by precept and example the duty of free men and free nations wherever they may be to share the responsibility and burden of enforcing them."

Incendiary In Brockton Fire

Brockton, Mass., March 12.—(AP)—The Strand theatre fire in which twelve firemen perished on Monday was declared today by Assistant State Fire Marshal Edward H. Murtagh to have been of incendiary origin.

This statement was made to newspapermen before Murtagh testified at a private inquest.

The victims were killed when a section of the snow-laden roof collapsed.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE DAMAGED BY BOMBS

London, March 12.—(AP)—The government permitted disclosure today that Buckingham Palace, official residence of the king and queen, had been damaged in recent air raids.

The palace was hit by bombs in raids last fall, but none of the royal household was injured.

Two of the bombs dropped recently landed in a courtyard at the palace, a third hit a lodgehouse, killing a policeman and knocking down part of a wall.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Mostly cloudy followed by light rain over southeast portion and light rain mixed with snow flurries over north and west portions Thursday, probably beginning in mountains tonight; colder Thursday in north and central portions.

Yugoslavia Expected to Join Axis Alliance, Opening New Avenue for Invasion of Greece; Turkey Gets Russian Promise.

(By The Associated Press) German airplanes have already begun bombing Greek towns from bases in Bulgaria, it was reported today, as Adolf Hitler massed 500,000 troops on the frontiers of Greece and Turkey and signs pointed to an imminent showdown.

Yugoslav leaders gathered in Belgrade amid forecasts that she would capitulate quickly to Nazi demands that she join the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance.

In yielding, Yugoslavia presumably would open a new avenue for an expected German invasion of Greece.

British sources at Istanbul quoted a Greek army officer as saying German planes had raided a town in Grecian Thrace, likely striking point of a German attack.

Belgrade dispatches said Russia had promised Turkey she had nothing to fear from Soviet red armies, massed along the Danube if she decides to fight on Greece's side.

Greek military dispatches said Italians using the biggest force they have thus far employed attacked at six different points in Albania yesterday after careful artillery preparation, but all thrusts were repulsed.

Hitler's high command asserted that naval and aerial attacks on British supply lines from November through February had destroyed 2,037,000 tons of shipping. Only a few days ago the British asserted ax-mines on sea losses were exaggerated 100 percent.

In overnight raids royal air force bombers attacked Germany's big Kiel naval base, the London air ministry announced and blasted the docks of Bremerhaven.

Night raiding Nazi bombers subjected a city in northwest England to its heaviest sustained assault in months, leveling at least 150 persons from their homes and burying others killed and wounded in the wreckage.

NAVY BOMBER CRASH KILLS TWO AIRMEN

San Diego, Cal., March 12.—(AP)—Two Navy men died in the crash of a torpedo bombing plane last night, raising to 18 the number of airmen killed since January 1 in tragedies befalling Navy planes based in San Diego.

The bomber spun out of a thundercloud 65 miles northeast of here, struck the ground and burst into flames.

The pilot bailed out shortly before his plane struck the ground, suffering only minor injuries.

Mediation Board Given Consideration

Washington, March 12.—(AP)—Sidney Hillman said today that the Office of Production Management was giving "close consideration" to the establishment of a national mediation board to deal with strikes affecting defense industries.

Hillman, associate director of the OPM, said that he and William S. Knudsen, director, were "exploring many proposals" for such a board.

If a plan is decided upon, Hillman added, it will be submitted to President Roosevelt and could be put into effect by executive order without legislation.

Hillman declined at a press conference.

(Continued on page two)