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Two American Envoys Think Europe Headed Toward Early Warfare

Kennedy and Bullitt tell Congress New World War Is Inevitable.

Washington, Jan. 10. — General European war before summer over Italy's demand for French colonies was predicted today by the American ambassadors to France and Great Britain in secret testimony before Congressional committees which will weigh President Roosevelt's \$2,000,000,000 national defense program.

It was learned from an unimpeachable source that Joseph P. Kennedy, ambassador to the Court of St. James, and William C. Bullitt, ambassador to France, informed a joint executive session of the House and Senate Military Affairs Committees that they believed a general conflagration inevitable.

They pictured France as unwilling to go further in the appeasement policy formulated jointly with Great Britain at the Munich meeting with Germany and Italy, the source said, and believed that despite the current British doctrine of "peace at any price," the Chamberlain government will be drawn into the war as the natural ally of France.

The extraordinary joint session of the committees was held as Mr. Roosevelt prepared to write his national defense program message which he said he will not send to Congress before Thursday. The message will outline naval and shore facilities and the urgent necessity of increasing the nation's military air strength.

The appearance of Bullitt and Kennedy before military affairs committees was unusual. Ordinarily, diplomatic reports by American envoys on international politics are made before the Congressional committees on foreign affairs. In view of the President's rearmament plans, however, their testimony was especially significant, since it lent weight to the Chief Executive's recent warning that the Munich conference had not assured peace.

After discussing general aspects of European politics before the committees, the envoys were said to have detailed events leading to the Munich conference, at which France and Great Britain agreed to the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia as proposed by German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. It was then they emphasized that the "appeasement" policy is doomed to failure.

'Sleeping Death' Proposed As Execution Solution

Raleigh, Jan. 11. — The possibility that capital felons may be "put to sleep" before they are executed at North Carolina's central prison appeared yesterday as legislators prepared to consider a bill which would substitute electrocution for asphyxiation.

Governor Hoey disclosed that the possibility had been proposed, and that he believed "it is worth looking into."

The Governor's statement was made shortly after he had conferred with Warden Hugh Wilson and Chaplain E. C. Cooper of central prison on the pending electrocution bill.

In a message to the General Assembly last week, the Governor suggested that the law-makers consider whether the State should return to electricity as an agent of capital punishment. The 1935 Assembly substituted lethal gas for electricity.

Both Warden Wilson and Chaplain Cooper believe that asphyxiation is more humane than electrocution, the Governor said.

"It was their opinion," he said, "that the procedure which precedes electrocution—the shaving of a man's head and the clamping of the electrodes to his skull—is more horrible than anything which takes place in the gas chamber."

On the other hand, the Governor added, "most witnesses of executions seem to be of the opinion that electrocution is more humane."

The "sleeping death" proposal, if adopted, could be used in connection with either electrocution or asphyxiation, the Governor said. Capital felons would receive an injection which would "put them to sleep" instantaneously before they were executed.

The Governor made it clear that he was taking no definite stand on the return to electrocution or on the sleep-producing injection.

They are matters which the legislative committee will consider," he said.

House Body Cuts WPA Relief Fund To 725 Millions

Seven Democrats and Four Republicans Vote Reduction of 150 Millions.

Washington, Jan. 10. — The first committee of Congress to act upon any part of President Roosevelt's new spending program today slashed \$150,000,000 from the fund he requested for WPA and revolted against his order placing WPA administrative employes under the civil service.

An appropriations sub-committee composed of seven Democrats and four Republicans recommended to the House that it appropriate \$752,000,000, instead of the \$902,000,000 which Mr. Roosevelt had requested, to operate the WPA until June 30.

Whether the administration would make an active fight on the House floor to restore the slash was not disclosed immediately. Such a course would risk an initial test of strength there which, if it went against the President, might be more damaging to his prestige than the sub-committee's action.

Mr. Roosevelt made plain at a press conference, however, that he still favored the larger sum.

He asked a questioner to try to figure out how many persons would be thrown off WPA rolls as a result of the reduction; and when a reporter suggested 50,000, he contended that was probably all wrong. He suggested that the reporter check again.

In Human Terms In his position, the President declared, he had to think not only in terms of dollars, but in terms of individual men, women and children—and he felt this was an important factor.

The WPA appropriation which the sub-committee sent to the full committee contained a provision designed to nullify an executive order which members of Congress said would otherwise blanket 31,800 administrative employes of the work relief organization into the civil service c. February 1.

It provided simply that the appropriation should not be available to compensate the incumbent of any position placed in the civil service after January 10.

The civil service order had aroused furious controversy. Citing charges of politics in relief, Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) had declared that instead of throwing the gangsters out, the administration was rewarding them "by life tenure in their rocking chairs." Administration supporters on the other hand, declared that the order was designed to end politics in relief by making any one who abused his post subject to civil service penalties.

Besides voting to block the civil service order, the sub-committee wrote into the bill a requirement that the \$725,000,000 be made to last the full period to June 30.

The sub-committee members refused to say afterward how they had voted.

Republican View Representative Taber, the ranking Republican member, announced, however, that when the bill came up for consideration in the House, he would propose that only enough money be appropriated to operate the WPA until April 7.

"I propose to suggest," he told reporters, "that in the meantime a complete and careful study be made of the situation and a definite program be laid out for the government to follow in providing honest and efficient non-political relief."

Taber declared he always had opposed WPA money "because I have known always that it has been spent in an incompetent, reckless and inefficient manner."

The full appropriations committee probably will make a recommendation on the bill to the House Thursday. House leaders hope to begin debate on the floor the same day and to pass the measure by Friday night. They are urging haste because WPA officials have said that existing funds will be exhausted February 7, and the Senate will have yet to act on the appropriation after the House votes.

More Tobacco

Many Wilson farmers, though concerned about the prospects for tobacco this season are joining in the plan to plant more. There will be exceptionally early seedlings of plant tobacco...

Last Rites Are Held For Highly Esteemed Woman

Mrs. Ida Wooten May Passes At Age of 81 Years.

Mrs. Ida Wooten May, 81, widow of the late Alfred May, a highly esteemed woman of this section and one of the oldest citizens of Pitt County, died in a Greenville hospital, Monday afternoon, at one fifteen o'clock following an illness of several weeks.

Funeral services were conducted from the ancestral homestead of the Mays near Farmville, Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock, by Rev. C. B. Mashburn, Christian minister, and Rev. Jack R. Rountree, Episcopal rector. Interment was made in Holywood cemetery beneath a handsome floral tribute. A choir, composed of Mrs. C. R. Townsend, Mrs. Alton W. Bobbitt, Mrs. J. L. Shackelford, C. F. Baucum and E. C. Holmes sang "Abide With Me" and "Nearer My God To Thee."

In his tribute to Mrs. May as a personal friend of many years, the Rev. Mr. Mashburn referred to her mental alertness and remarkable activity, her sagacity, strong convictions and Christian faith, which were marked characteristics and attributes by which she was sustained throughout her long and useful life.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. W. A. B. Hearne, of Greenville, Mrs. D. S. Arnoys, of Newark, N. J.; two sons, A. A. and E. W. May, of Farmville; nineteen grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and a brother, Spencer Wooten, of Durant, Okla.

Mrs. May, born August 12, 1857, was the daughter of the late Shaderrick and Mary Murphey Wooten, a descendant of prominent pioneer families of this section. She was married to her late husband on October 12, 1875 at the age of eighteen. She was a faithful member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, having been confirmed in early girlhood.

Active pallbearers were: L. W. Godwin, J. M. Stanfill, Luby Bundy, Sam Tugwell, William Beaman and Sam Hogwood. Honorary: Dr. W. M. Willis, John T. Thorne, Charlie Walston, W. A. Pollard, Jr., B. S. Smith, John T. Bynum, Walter Hogwood, Sam Lewis, Ben Weaver, E. L. Barrett, J. H. Harris, Dr. Paul E. Jones, J. L. Shackelford, W. J. Rasberry, T. W. and R. O. Lang, C. L. Cates, Blaney Strickland, Mr. Stocks, Siney Carr, Harold Sugg Askew, John B. Lewis, Dr. W. I. Wooten and Dr. Armistead, of Greenville.

WPA In State Cuts Off 7,000

Rolls Fall From Record High of 58,000 in First Week In December.

Raleigh, Jan. 10. — North Carolina's WPA rolls have been cut from the all-time peak of 58,000 the first week in December to approximately 51,000 State Administrator George W. Coan, Jr., said yesterday.

Coan said he did not expect much change in the rolls before April. There is no indication yet as to what course will be followed after that time.

The reductions were carried out in the various areas of the State at the rate of approximately two per cent a week for the weeks beginning the first of this month.

Before the peak of 58,000 was reached, North Carolina's previous high had been approximately 48,000, reached during the first quarter of 1936.

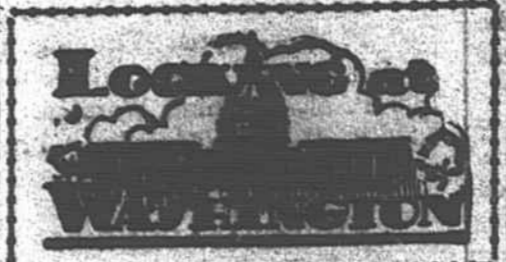
U. S. Navy Is Seeking Men For Air Training

In an effort to build up a strong Naval reserve aviation force, the U. S. Navy has issued a call for young college-trained men who desire flight training at various air stations in this country.

Five qualifications are required of applicants: He must be an American citizen, unmarried and between 20 and 28, of sound physical condition, including a minimum height of five feet, six inches and a minimum weight of 132 pounds and must have perfect vision without aid of glasses. He must have a college education, but those who dropped out short of obtaining a degree will be considered. Applications will be received at the Navy Recruiting Station, Post Office Building, Raleigh.

Plentiful Record

World wheat supplies for the 1938-39 crop year will be the largest on record, it is the Argentine crop—now being harvested—turns out as indicated.



(Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent.)

DIPLOMATIC IMPASSE WAR NOT INEVITABLE. OUR INTEREST IN CHINA. TRADE PACT IN FRANCE. MUST BUY IF WE SELL. GERMANY'S AIR FORCE.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan have reached the point where war is inevitable if both of these powers insist upon what they consider their rights. The Japanese proclaim a "New Order" in the Far East, under which Japanese have superior rights to other powers, regardless of their treaties with China and Japan. The United States rejects this thesis and reserves all rights, refusing assent to any impairment of them. So far as the exchange of notes is concerned, the clash could not be more complete.

This does not mean, of course, that war is about to break out between the United States and Japan. It does mean very emphatically, that if the United States attempts to uphold its rights in China by force that warfare will result unless Japan abandons the present course of conquest.

If the United States, in support of her diplomatic position, resorts to other measures, such as extending financial aid to China, putting an embargo on the shipment of goods to Japan, or prohibiting the sale of Japanese goods in this country, war might be averted, but only if the Japanese accept the conditions without resort to force. It may be taken for granted, we think, that if any measure of the United States becomes effective enough to impair the Japanese campaign in China, the danger of a conflict will be great.

While the United States has not the commercial investment in China that Great Britain has, it is a mistake to assume that our interests in the Far East are less than that of the British. For generations, the United States and China have been on extremely friendly terms and missionary activity in China has given the people of this country great interest in the Chinese. Transcending the material interests is the concern of the United States over the continued successes of aggressor nations, which flout treaties and the rights of other powers; thus leading the world to a day when force, and force alone, will become the arbiter of national developments.

It is possible, of course, that the United States may follow the course adopted in 1932, when Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson reserved American rights in Manchuria after Japan had completed her conquest of that area. Diplomatically, we have refused to recognize the new status in Manchukuo and while Japan has systematically interfered with the commercial rights of Americans in the new state, the American Government has permitted the matter to rest. If this course is followed in regard to the other parts of China, the Japanese will not be concerned with the American attitude nor care.

Doctor Held Up On 'Mercy' Call

Dr. D. W. Ruffin of Pink Hill Robbed of Car and \$300.00 in Cash and Checks.

Kinston, Jan. 11. — Dr. D. W. Ruffin of Pink Hill was robbed of his automobile and \$300 in cash and checks by a man who held him up last night. Kinston and State police joined Lenoir and Duplin County authorities in a search for the robber today.

The physician said a stranger asked him to go with him "to his home in upper Duplin County to treat his sick baby." They set out in the doctor's car. En route, the stranger said the infant was very ill. At a point below the line between Lenoir and Duplin counties, he stuck a pistol in the physician's ribs and demanded money. Ruffin was forced to get out of the car, after which the man drove away.

The car was found today in woods some miles from Liddell.

Dr. Ruffin was conveyed back to Pink Hill by a farmer near whose home the hold-up occurred. The physician came to Pink Hill from Abotie last year.

What has become of the old-fashioned citizens who, when they wanted something for the good of the community, reached down in their pockets and paid for it?

Paris and London United on Mediterranean Issues

Paris, Jan. 10. — Prime Minister Chamberlain today pledged Great Britain to support France in her firm refusal to give in to Italian clamor for part of France's Mediterranean empire.

The two democracies strengthened their cooperation to counter the Italian-German menace to their common life-line—the ship route through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal.

British and French statesmen, however, were understood to have left a way open to prevent tension in the Mediterranean between France and Italy from reaching a deadlock—unless Italy is determined to force the issue.

Some well-informed political leaders said the French government would be willing to meet Italy at a Mediterranean conference table with all other countries bordering on the great inland sea for complete settlement of all Mediterranean problems.

Chamberlain and Viscount Halifax, British Foreign Secretary, conferred with Premier Daladier and Foreign Minister Bonnet, then left Paris for formal appeasement conversations with Mussolini in Rome.

After the brief conference—sandwiched between the arrival of the British statesmen's train and their departure for Rome—the situation appeared to be:

France will not give an inch to Fascist agitation, which Daladier has described as "blackmail," and will refuse to let her personal quarrel with Italy be brought before a conference where Germany or Britain would act as mediators.

In this she has Britain's absolute support and Chamberlain will tell Mussolini so. If Italy is willing, however, to threaten the entire Mediterranean situation, France will be willing to join a conference of Mediterranean nations which would include Spain, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Egypt.

The Paris conference in effect served notice on Mussolini that the two democracies stood firmly together.

Britain's position was announced earlier by Bonnet. The meeting between the Premiers and their foreign ministers merely confirmed it. The outcome of the talks was so certain that the communique telling of the closeness of British and French viewpoints was inadvertently marked: "To be issued after tea."

It had been written by the British on the train before they reached Paris.

To Hold Mission Week of Jan. 29

Rev. Jack R. Rountree, rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, has announced a preaching mission to be held here for a week beginning Sunday evening, January 29, at 7:30 o'clock, with Dr. Mortimer Glover, rector of St. James, Wilmington, as the evangelistic speaker.

The rector and congregation join in extending a cordial invitation to the entire community to attend the services, which will be held daily at 2:30 in the afternoon and at 7:30 at night.

The purpose of the mission, as stated by the Rev. Mr. Rountree, is not to be held in the interest of the Episcopal church alone, but through prayerful preparation and coordinated effort is meant to serve as a medium through which the voice of God may speak to the entire community, and is to be a season for the quickening of faith and of inspiration to a fuller and more joyous Christian service on the part of all people here.

Four Persons Fined On Whiskey Charges

Wilson, Jan. 10. — Four of five persons arrested over the week end on liquor violation charges were convicted in Recorder's Court yesterday and fined by Recorder McLean. Each received a suspended road sentence also.

Detective P. R. Hartis, one of the raiders, said that the places raided chiefly were little "nip joints" where liquor was sold by the drink and where there never was a very large amount of it on hand. Several gallons of liquor were captured in the raids.

Those arrested and convicted were Etsa Huggins, Julius Moss, Hazel Oliver and Myrah Easler. A fifth defendant, Eddie Dail, was acquitted.

Fines ranged from \$25 and costs to \$10 and costs. Road sentences ranged from six months to 90 days.

What has become of the old-fashioned citizens who, when they wanted something for the good of the community, reached down in their pockets and paid for it?

Pitt County Plans Big Celebration Of President's Birthday

Chamberlain Opens Talks With Mussolini

Conversations Begin as Responsible Fascists Declare That Italy's Natural Aspirations Can be Satisfied Without Territorial Claims.

Rome, Jan. 11. — Authoritative indications that Italy may accept satisfaction of her "natural aspirations" without claiming any French territory appeared tonight after a one-hour and 40 minute appeasement talk by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Great Britain and Premier Benito Mussolini.

Responsible Fascists, including Virginio Gayda, whose Giornale d'Italia usually serves as Il Duce's mouthpiece, said that Italy's revisionist claims in their final form contain no menace to any European or African power.

The 69 year old Chamberlain, striving to push forward with his badly-buffed program of European appeasement, made an open plea tonight for "a just and peaceful solution" of Italy's demands and all other European issues by means of negotiation rather than threats of force.

Chamberlain revealed in a banquet speech that Britain and Italy yesterday began an exchange of military information, here and in London, under the terms of the two-month-old Anglo-Italian pact of friendship.

Military Clauses. It was the first disclosure that military clauses were contained in the pact.

"I have come here in pursuit of the policy for which I stand—a policy of friendship with all and enmity with none—and that policy is directed to a just and peaceful solution of international difficulties by the method of negotiations," Chamberlain said.

His statement was made at an extravagant banquet given at Venice Palace by Mussolini in honor of his British guests, Chamberlain and British Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax.

During the banquet, Chamberlain placed a final seal upon the reconciliation of Britain and Italy and British recognition of Il Duce's Ethiopian conquest by raising a glass of wine in a toast to King Victor Emmanuel as "Emperor of Ethiopia."

In the summer of 1935, Britain and Italy were close to war because of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict and the British massed their fleet in the Mediterranean.

"I raise my glass to His Majesty, the King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia, and to the continued welfare and prosperity of the people over whom he rules," Chamberlain said eloquently.

Nearly 1,000 guests joined Chamberlain in his toast.

Previously, the Prime Minister had paid tribute in his speech to "the powerful and progressive new Italy" risen under Mussolini.

Editor Attributes Cure To Faith Healer's Work

Kinston, Jan. 10. — George Albert Jones' sinus trouble has been cured, he said today.

Jones is editor of the Snow Hill Square Deal, a weekly which "shoots" at devilry from the pulpit to the penitentiary. He is not religious. His neighbors used to call him "the Irrev. Mr. Jones." He studied the Bible for years searching for "inconsistencies."

"Recently the sinus trouble 'gave him fits,' he said. He had a constant headache. He took 'a keg of anti-pain tablets.'"

In the home of Jones' sister there was casual mention of a faith healer in the neighborhood, "one Sims Hamed, from Syria or Egypt or some place." Miraculous cures were attributed to Hamed.

Jones was skeptical but went to see Hamed. "He said he could stop the pain," the editor said, "and stop it he did. There has been no suggestion of a headache since Hamed went to work on me. He used only faith I am beginning to believe he effected a permanent cure. Mind you, before I called on him I was in pain practically all the time."

Better

In contrast with 1938 when the farm family felt the effects of the general decline in business activity, 1939 gives promise of being a better year, believes Dean I. O. Schaub, director of the State College Extension Service.

Eli Joyner, Jr., To Serve As Farmville Chairman; Committee Met Tuesday To Lay Plans.

The Pitt County committee in charge of the annual celebration of President Roosevelt's Birthday, met at the Proctor Hotel in Greenville, on Tuesday evening at seven o'clock to make plans for the observance of the event in Pitt County, which will again be in the form of a dance to be held on Monday evening, January 30, in the campus building of East Carolina Teachers College.

Hoover Taft, chairman of the Pitt committee, presided and introduced the following chairmen, who were in attendance and represented their respective towns: David W. Mosier and Marion O. Blount, Greenville; J. R. Taylor, Ayden; George Jefferson, Fountain; Eli Joyner, Jr., Farmville.

The committee decided to hold an informal dance at the College with music by the College orchestra. The entertaining program will include a floor show and one of the many features will be the personal appearance of a new movie star.

A revue by beautiful girls, under the direction of Miss Ramona Staples and specialty numbers will enliven the evening, and a high spot of the floor show will be the Jitterbug and Little Apple contests. Other features assure an evening of fun and entertainment for those in attendance.

As is the custom, proceeds from the celebration of the President's Birthday Ball will be used in the fight against infantile paralysis, with fifty per cent being retained at national headquarters for research work and the other half returned to the respective counties for local work.

Young Greenville Boy Jailed For Threatening Letter

Failure to Get Note Until Past Deadline Kept Intended Victim From Acting.

Greenville, Jan. 10. — Paul Hill, Jr., 16, of Greenville, was lodged in the city jail today on a charge of attempting to extort \$500 from Graham Flanagan, well-known business man and member of a prominent local family.

Hill will be given a preliminary hearing Wednesday before United States Commissioner Nellie A. Paul at Washington, N. C.

Chief of Police George Clark tonight revealed how he and members of the Charlotte division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation "broke" the case, following a secret investigation that began early in August.

A letter was sent to Flanagan's business establishment while he was away on a vacation in August. When Flanagan returned and found the letter, it was turned over to the Greenville police chief, in that the date had expired for him to act in accordance with the instructions.

Flanagan was instructed to leave \$500 at a home which was being renovated on East Tenth Street. The house is situated directly behind Hill's home. The note said: "I want no marked money and no police interference." It demanded that the money be left at the home at midnight.

In the letter to Flanagan, son of former Senator E. G. Flanagan, it was asked: "How would you like for something to happen to your children? How would you like for your place of business to be blown up?" Chief Clark said the note declared: "I would hate to instruct my men to proceed with these threats."

After being taken into custody by the local police chief and federal agents, Hill was instructed to make a duplicate of the original letter, which was printed in capitals. Chief Clark said that words misspelled in the photostatic copy were also spelled incorrectly in the duplicate.

Before doing additional writing, Hill confessed: "There's no need for me writing any more. I sent the letter to Flanagan. I didn't mean to harm anyone. I just wanted to make some easy money."

The youth was convicted recently of breaking and entering. Sentence was suspended upon condition that the defendant remain of good behavior for two years. This was the only previous case against the youth.

Flanagan said that he would have visited the house at the appointed hour if he had not been away. After the letter was placed in the hands of Chief Clark, federal agents were called in on the case. Those assisting in the case were Officers Stewart and Munyon.