

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

BILLIONS FOR DEFENSE CONGRESS WAKES UP PREPARING FOR WAR LOSING TRADE ABROAD ECONOMIC WARFARE AGGRESSORS ENCOURAGED U. S. ABANDONS RIGHTS MISTAKES FOR "PEACE" PUBLIC OPINION CHANGES

When President Roosevelt, on January 4th last, sent his budget message to Congress, there was surprise in some quarters at his proposal to spend \$1,800,000,000 for national defense. How fast events have moved since that day, a little more than six months ago, is seen by the fact that Congress has not only voted this expenditure, but on May 16, added another \$1,182,000,000 for national defense and two weeks later provided an additional \$1,277,000,000. Together with increases provided by Congress itself, something like \$5,000,000,000 have been voted for national defense.

This week, upon its return to work, after the recess for members to attend the Democratic National Convention, the Congress finds before it a proposal from the President which virtually doubles the amount already voted. Under the program, the nation is expected to have a two-ocean navy, seventy per cent larger than that hitherto contemplated; a combined army and navy air force of 50,000 and complete equipment for a land force of 1,200,000 men in time of war, with reserve stocks to equip 800,000 additional soldiers.

The fact that these huge appropriations for national defense have been voted, almost without objection on the part of Republican, as well as Democratic, members of Congress, indicates a sudden realization on the part of legislators that something is happening in the world.

The position of the United States, cut off from Europe and Asia by two oceans, is not as safe as we have believed it to be. The striking success of German arms in Europe and the steady encroachment of Japan in the Far East has caused congressmen to do a lot of thinking. Even the belief of the most pronounced isolationist that "the United States is immune from attack" has vanished in the light of actual events across the waters.

Thus we find the United States today, while at peace with the world and announcing an intention of keeping out of the wars of other nations, spending more money in preparation for war than for an unusually high budgetary expense for domestic affairs. Americans might as well realize that the huge expenditures made for military and naval purposes are being made because of the danger of war. No one believes that the United States will begin a policy of aggression against any nation, but practically no one believes that all other nations will hesitate to attack the United States in the future.

While the United States continues to have domestic problems, it begins to be apparent that the great issues of the coming years will relate to foreign affairs. With Germany rapidly organizing Europe into an economic bloc, directed and controlled by Berlin for the benefit of Germany alone, it appears certain that this country will lose valuable markets in Europe.

In the Far East, where Japan is steadily attempting to duplicate German achievements by establishing exclusive economic control of that immense area, the probability is that this country will likewise lose important markets.

In this hemisphere, in South America, there is the prospect of a titanic economic conflict between the totalitarian states, operating under the barter system of controlled economy, and the United States, practically the last important advocate of normal commercial intercourse between the nations of the world.

The importance of defending our economic interests cannot be over estimated. The world is now familiar with the tactics of Hitler, whose economic blitzkrieg proceeded his military attacks, and it is generally understood that an economic clash in South America will eventually determine the political control of the republics in this hemisphere. In this battle, the United States operates at some disadvantage, due to the competition of similar products, but the great handicap that we face is that a free economic system is utterly unable to cope with a controlled economic system, operated on the basis that Germany has adopted, and is now putting into effect in most of Europe.

The stupendous rearmament program of the United States may give effectual notice to the totalitarian powers that they have been mistaken when they assumed that the people of the United States will, under no circumstances, fight for their rights. While the United States has protested vigorously against the various aggressions in different sections of the world, this country has done nothing effectual to prevent successive aggressions elsewhere. Naturally, the dictator powers are not con-

cerned with verbal protests so long as they are permitted to continue along their way to aggrandizement.

The fatal tip-off as to the intentions of the United States, however, was given to the world at large, when Congress, under the influence of pacifists and isolationists in this country, passed the Neutrality Act which practically abandoned our historic support of the doctrine of the freedom of the seas and willingly gave up the right of our ships to trade with all nations. By prohibiting all American ships from operating in war zones, the United States, "in the interest of peace," drastically altered its foreign policy and served notice upon the aggressors that they could proceed with their war-like program without fear of complications from the United States. We would prevent "incidents" by the simple expedient of keeping out of the way.

Following the abandonment of historic American principles, the United States, as a nation, adopted a policy of strict neutrality, again in the belief that it was a measure of peace, making no official difference whatever in our attitude toward peace-loving nations with democratic institutions and war-worshipping regimes that denounced democracy and glorified the use of force in the hands of dictators. This attitude played into the hands of the aggressors who saw clearly that they could proceed against the divided and unprepared democracies without taking thought of the power of the United States.

The sentiment of the people of the United States for peace has been based upon a conviction that civilization makes progress only through the peaceful development of nations and individuals. Now that the institutions of civilization, to make any peril from militaristic aggression, the people of the United States are beginning to perceive that the institutions of civilization, to mark any progress, must be protected from their foes. Consequently, there is no longer any considerable body of citizens in this country adhering to the view that if we leave the aggressor nations alone, they will respect our rights. Almost every sensible American is now convinced that the only protection for the rights of Americans is to be found in the Army, Navy and air forces of this country.

In fact, public sentiment has moved so rapidly in this country, within the past few months that there is widespread apprehension that a German triumph over Great Britain will place this country in grave peril and that, in spite of all our defense program, the nation will not be prepared to defend itself from the joint attacks of aggressor-nations. It is readily understood, at this time, that Germany, Italy and Japan will not hesitate to act in concert to apply pressure to the United States and to use war as an instrument to attain their aims in South America.

Because of this realization, there has been organized a nation-wide movement for the "defense of America through aid to the Allies." While the organization has some very eminent members, its present influence is problematical. At least the movement indicates a growing realization that it is to the interest of this country to assist in the defeat of aggression, which, at present, is being blocked only by Great Britain in Europe, and China in the Far East. How strong this sentiment may become and what steps our Government will take are unanswered questions at this time.

County Farmers To Save About \$4,000 By Act Of Congress

Interest Rates on Federal Land Bank Loans Effected as Result of Legislation

Farmers in Perquimans County will save about \$4,000 a year as a result of legislation just enacted by Congress affecting interest rates on Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans.

The temporary rate of 8 1/2 percent on first mortgage land bank loans will be continued for two years ending June 30, 1942. During this period the interest rate on first and second mortgage Land Bank Commissioner loans will be reduced from 4 to 3 1/2 percent. Land bank and Commissioner loans were originally written at contract rates averaging about 5 percent.

At present about 84 Perquimans County farmers have land bank and Commissioner loans outstanding aggregating \$249,000. The difference between the contract rate and the temporary rate thus effects a substantial saving for farmers.

In a statement from Washington, A. G. Black, Governor of the Farm

Auto Quiz No. 6



Travelers Safety Service

1. You'll save your fenders and earn the thanks of the driver back of you if, when making a right turn, you will "jockey" into position by first — (a) swinging wide to the left. (b) getting as close as possible to the center of the road. (c) getting as close as possible to the right curb or edge of the road.
2. When it's "ceiling zero, visibility zero" in the parlance of aviation, flyers stay on the ground. Expert drivers, if they must travel in heavy fog at night, always use their — (a) high beam. (b) low beam. (c) parking lights. (d) no lights.
3. Carbon monoxide gas smells like burning leaves. True (—) or False (—).

(Answers on Page Seven)

Every Driver Should Know Driving Arm Signals Says Hocutt

Safety Division Head Says 160 Accidents Last Year From Failure to Give Signals

"Every driver in North Carolina is supposed to know the various arm signals and their meanings, yet hardly a day goes by but that an accident occurs somewhere in the State as a result of some driver disregarding a signal, failing to give a signal, or giving a wrong signal."

In connection with the above statement, Ronald Hocutt, director of the Highway Safety Division, reported this week that 160 accidents occurred in North Carolina last year as a result of drivers failing to give a signal before coming to a stop or making a turn. Another 341 accidents, 23 of which were fatal, resulted from disregard of signals.

"Entirely too many North Carolina drivers take the attitude that arm signals are unimportant," Hocutt said. "The average driver generally gives no signal at all, or gives the wrong signal, before stopping or turning. And some drivers seem to think they have given an adequate signal if they simply flutter their hands out the window of the car. Others stick their hands out and down regardless of whether they plan to make a left turn, make a right turn, or come to a stop."

"Remember," the safety director cautioned, "the driver behind you and the one approaching you are not mind readers. The purpose of arm signals is to let the other fellow know what you are about to do. Courtesy, caution and commonsense demand that you give signals—the proper signals—and that you pay attention to the signals given by the other driver. And if you do give proper signals when driving, be sure that you give them in ample time for the other fellow to act upon them. Giving a signal too late is virtually as bad as giving no signal at all."

Credit Administration, said that the saving to farmers through the reduced interest rate will have the same effect as an addition to the farmers' net income.

"The ultimate purpose of the reduced interest rate on land bank and Commissioner loans is to help farmers keep down their fixed charges and thus leave more income for the retirement of debt principal, or to meet necessary operating and living expenses," Governor Black said.

"Money saved on interest charges will thus be reflected in increased purchasing power, benefitting both industry and agriculture, and also will help in a measure to raise farm living standards and safeguard farm ownership."

Close Call

The midday whistle had blown when Murphy shouted: "Has any one seen my vest?"

"Sure, Murphy," said Pat, "and ye've got it on."

"Right and I have," replied Murphy, gazing solemnly at his bosom, "and it's a good thing ye seen it or I'd have gone home without it."

The stingiest man was lecturing the hired man for his extravagance in wanting to carry a lantern in going to call on his best girl.

"The idea," he scoffed. "When I was courtin' I never carried a lantern; I went in the dark."

The hired man proceeded to fill the lantern.

"Yes," he said sadly, "and look what you got."

Slight Change Made In N. C. Hunting Laws

At its semi-annual meeting last week the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development adopted two minor changes in hunting regulations. In order to allow hunting on Thanksgiving day, the season for quail, wild turkey, grouse and rabbits will open November 28 instead of December 1. Two more eastern counties, Beaufort and Hyde, were added to the list of those in which quail hunting will be allowed but three days a week. The board also recommended to federal authorities that the opening of the dove season be delayed.

FORESTS DEFENSE

While the forests of the United States are making large contributions to national defense, the nation has not provided adequately for the defense of the forests, says Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

KEEPING COOL IN HOT WEATHER

A timely article chockful of advice for summer comfort by an eminent authority on household efficiency. Don't miss this helpful feature in the August 4th issue of

The American Weekly
the big magazine distributed with the **Baltimore American**
On Sale at All Newsstands

Albuquerque, N. M.—Going to the Arise, that he wanted it to be clean cemetery to clean up the family lot, when he died. The next day he died James Murphy told his friend, Polo of a heart attack.

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