Weekly News Analysis

Isolation vs. Internationalism: Senate Debates Foreign Policy

By Joseph W. La Bine

THE PRESIDENT'S VISITING FIREMEN*
The conference was secret, but someone spoke.

EDITOR'S NOTE—*When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.*

Defense.

In dealing with today's international situation the U. S. government has its choice of two methods. Any citizen may hold to one or the other method with equal righteousness:

(1) Strict neutrality and isolation. Europe's affairs are no business of ours. We should have no arms secrets, no secret alliances; all U. S. activities should be strictly aboveboard because secrets are undemocratic and tend to create public doubt about the government.

(2) The antithesis. In 1939 one hemisphere's problems are another's. If the institution of democracy is worth saving we must join other nations in aggressive combat against dictators. This need not mean war, but constitutes economic and military favoritism to one group of nations, with sanctions against others.

In post-World war history, not until the current winter have these two contrasting foreign policies found such ardent champions as to cause a marked rift in Washington. Champions of the latter (favoritism) are President Roosevelt and administration leaders. Opposed is practically every Republican senator and congressman, plus a formidable bloc of insurgent Democrats. That this difference of opinion is partly a reflection of political animosity is a foregone conclusion. Administration forces favor internationalism as expressed in Secretary of State Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade treaties; contrariwise is the traditional Republican tenet of high tariff walls and the isolation that inevitably accompanies them.

This winter's foreign policy battle got its real start when a bombing plane crashed in California, bouncing out a representative of the French air ministry whose presence in the U. S. had previously been kept secret. The subsequent revelations: That President Roosevelt had approved sale of U. S.-made warplanes to France, though army secrets were being carefully guarded from all foreigners. A few days later the senate's military affairs committee constituted itself a body of visiting firemen *(see photo)* to call on the President and get the real facts about a rumored U. S.-French military alliance.

The secret President Roosevelt reputedly told his visitors was so choice that some anonymous committeeman blurted to the press the minute the conference ended, which bespeaks the futility of any administration attempt at sharing its military secrets with congress. The alleged secret: That the U. S. is following a policy of selling arms to "independent states" as opposed to dictators; that the U. S. will give Britain and France every assistance but troops in case of war; that the "frontiers of the United States are in France."

If a vote were taken, most people would sympathize with the President's foreign policy, i.e., to help Britain, France and China against Japan, Italy and Germany; to improve trade and political relations with South America, where dictator states are attempting to gain sway. But for the President to speak openly of his purpose brings the situation into a shockingly sharp focus for the first time.

The net result will probably be open congressional revolt against secret alliances, against favoritism in military exports and even against the President's emergency defense program, which many legislators think is unjustified in view of the tax burden it would create. Tossed in along with other subjects of resentment will be a broadside against the treasury's highly-secret stabilization fund, which congress fears is being used to further monetary agreements with Britain and France.

In the end a cumbersome, loud-voiced and highly opinionated congress may find itself incapable of taking a constructive hand in foreign policy. Though rightfully indignant over a Pan-Democracy alliance because future Anglo-French friendship is problematical, Massachusetts' Sen. David I. Walsh summed up the entire exasperating situation quite well: "In God's name, who are we (the U. S.) to determine where truth and justice exist? When we attempt it, we will find ourselves in trouble."

Treasury

Depressions hatch pension plans and this winter's congress is deluged with panaceas to make the U. S. safe for old people. Believing most such plans (like Townsendism) to be impractical, the administration has offered congress its own ideas via proposed amendments to the social security law.

Biggest amendment is that calling for a start on old-age benefit payments in 1940 instead of 1942, annuities to be based not on payroll taxes actually paid out on wage rates. Hence the social security board would simply make believe that benefit recipients had been paying taxes throughout their adult lives instead of a mere four years. Other proposals would (1) provide supplementary pensions for aged wives, (2) help widows and orphans of social security's insurees, and (3) enlarge the program to include farm laborers, seamen, servants, domestics and self-employers.

TREASURY'S MORGENTHAU
Social security is costly.

Starting hearings on this program, the house ways and means committee was startled to learn that more social security would cost tremendously more money, so much in fact, that Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. was reported stroking his chin perplexedly. Morgenthau figures:

(1) It would cost $1,000,000,000 a year more than at present.

(2) Social security's hoped - for 1980 reserve of $47,000,000,000 would be cut to $7,000,000,000, meaning that the U. S. must find from $1,250,000,000 to $1,500,000,000 new annual taxes to continue financing the program.

If the above details bother the committee, still more trouble will hatch when California's Rep. Bertrand W. Gearhart asks abolition of the present payroll tax and substitution of general revenue levies for a pay-as-you-go social security. Since the government must already levy extra taxes to pay interest on funds it is borrowing from social security's reserve fund, Mr. Gearhart's plan has attracted many congressmen who think it is fallacious to tax the public for borrowing funds the public has already been taxed for via social security. If the Gearhart plan is adopted, general revenue taxes must be hiked $1,000,000,000 a year at present (under the unamended social security act), twice as much in 1950, four times as much in 1980.

Europe

After a nation wins so many victories as Nazi Germany has won in the past 12 months (Austria, Czechoslovakia, Spain) it can practicably adopt a "peace" policy and continue to win concessions from weaker powers, who thereby gain the privilege of sighing with relief. In Germany's case a "peace" policy is the more practicable because the Reich must consolidate the past year's gains and pay temporary attention to repairing its internal structure.

How permanent Europe's "peace" will be is conjectural. But following Chancellor Hitler's half-threatening, half-conciliating speech before the Reichstag, most of the continent was able to settle back while the wiseacres drew a prediction from the hat. The prediction: That a peace era is dawning with Hitler at the reins, during which Italy will win territorial concessions from France, and Germany will regain her war-lost colonies. Moreover the Reich will probably wheedle a trade treaty out of Britain and—most dangerous of all to permanent peace—a military-economic peace with Russia. Point-by-point:

Russia. Thoroughly scared by the chance that Germany will dominate a Pan-Ukrainian movement in south Russia, the Soviet is ready to come to terms with Hitler. In exchange for surrendering his Ukrainian plans Der Fuehrer could tap Russia's endless supply of foodstuffs. The possibility is confirmed by Izvestia, Moscow Communist organ: "Should Germany extend a hand to Russia, it will not remain floating in the air." The gravest consequences might result from such an alliance, for Russian resources and manpower, coupled with German ingenuity, could throw a dictator scare into the entire world.

Colonies. Most of Germany's former colonies are mandated to Britain. Hitler's speech demanded their return and the next day Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told the house of commons he would not discuss colonies with Germany without "an agreed and ample measure of disarmament." This showed Mr. Chamberlain is nevertheless willing to return the colonies, and since the Reich's conquest is already almost complete Hitler should have no objection to a temporary arms reduction.

Trade. Hitler's speech declared the Reich "must export or die." Next day Robert Spear Hudson of the British overseas trade department said he believed "there is plenty of export trade to go around." More important was the announcement that German and British industrial representatives will soon meet at Duesseldorf to consider "mutual trade and economic problems."

Italy vs. France. Hitler promised to aid Italy in case of war, obviously referring to Mussolini's territorial claims against France. Since German-British relations are reaching an amicable stage, Britain would therefore not be prone to aid France against a German-Italian combination. Hence it can be predicted that Italy may get her share in the Suez canal, plus ownership of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad.

Trend. Having boxed its way into a position of dominant European power, the Reich is now ready to press its pants and assume a role of respectability.

Public Works

Created in 1933, the public works administration pays 55 per cent of local-sponsored construction projects. Scheduled to expire in 1940, PWA still has $1,500,000,000 in projects on file and would like to become a permanent agency to combat unemployment and centralize federal relief projects. Soon to be offered is an administration bill embodying this program. No special annual appropriation will be asked but congress will get data to show the necessity of creating a "permanent financial reservoir" of $1,000,000,000 a year.

Transportation

With fairs on both east and west coasts this summer, U. S. railroads figured most vacationists would take in one or the other, might even take in both with a little incentive. Just announced by the Association of American Railroads is a "grand circle" fare plan which bids fair to boom 1939 passenger travel. The scheme: Beginning April 28, a person in any point in the country can travel to both New York and San Francisco expositions and back home at a total coach fare of $90. First class fare is $135, plus space charges.

*Front row, left to right: Illinois' J. Hamilton Lewis, North Carolina's Robert R. Reynolds, Oklahoma's Josh Lee, New Hampshire's H. Styles Bridges, Vermont's Warren R. Austin, South Dakota's Chandler Gurney, Texas' Morris Sheppard (committee chairman), Colorado's Edwin C. Johnson, Utah's Elbert D. Thomas. Back row, left to right: Minnesota's Ernest Lundeen, Oregon's Rufus C. Holman, North Dakota's Gerald P. Nye, Missouri's Bennett Champ Clark, Alabama's Lister Hill, Indiana's Sherman Minton, Kentucky's M. M. Logan, and Wyoming's H. H. Schwartz.

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

TEMPTATION—To lure 4,000 hunger strikers "back home" from their protest against corn beef hash, California's San Quentin prison set out coffee—with cream and sugar.

REFUGEES—New York's Rep. Samuel Dickstein is drafting legislation to open Alaska to European refugees, a move recently suggested by German Jew-baiters.

MANGANESE—The price of Arkansas manganese, "starch for steel," has reached its highest point in years, thanks to European rearmament.

DRILL—"Squads right" is being omitted tentatively from new U. S. army drill regulations.

Be Practical in Furnishing New Sewing Corner

By BETTY WELLS

"EVER since my doll dressing days, I've loved to sew," writes Evelyn A., "and I'm pretty good if I may be so bold. I make most of the family clothes. I've always dreamed of a really well-equipped sewing room but so far I've had to be content with using a make-shift corner of any room that could be spared. Now we've just added an addition to our house, and my husband has a den for his carpenter bench and I have a sewing room. Both of us are thrilled.

"But all of a sudden I've got stage-fright because I want this room to look attractive and be useful and I'm not quite sure just how to achieve that. Can you help? I'll need some kind of a big cutting table but the room is really too small to have this out on the floor all the time. Besides I'd rather like to have this room as a sort of a little sitting room to use between sewing sprees and a big cutting table would rather spoil that effect. What would you suggest in the way of furnishing and decoration, keeping in mind that this must be first of all a utility room. I want it cheery and pleasant to work in."

First off, why not inveigle your husband into building in a set of cabinets and shelves across one wall of the room. You know you can't have enough for sewing oddments. Then in one section of this he can have a cutting table that will drop down out of the wall when needed, or swing up out of the way between times. You might like to have an ironing board swing down out of your cabinet too because you'll certainly need one.

"I'm fixing a sewing room for myself."

How would the idea of pink walls and woodwork strike you? Yes, I mean a definite pink, though not too deep. Then curtains and slip covers of navy calico with a tiny white sprig in it . . . finished with white ric-rac, perhaps. By all means have at least one comfortable chair here, preferably two if you expect to use it as a sitting room on "beau" nights when your daughter wants the living room. And if you have room for a studio couch, what a good solution of the extra guestroom space! For the walls, collect botany prints and frame them in white painted frames. For working, you know how much easier sewing is—or rather the clean-up—if the floor is either bare or covered in linoleum. So have your floor plain, then add some flowered hooked rugs, scatter size, that can easily be swooped up out of the way when you're going to sew.

© By Betty Wells.—WNU Service.

IN THE 1939 MANNER

About the only place straps are used for support today are on street cars. Not, at least, on milady's bathing suit. Strapless swim garments made their advent in Los Angeles during market week recently.

Fewer Hoppers Predicted For Corn Belt in 1939

WASHINGTON.—The agriculture department predicts that grasshopper infestations in states west of the Mississippi will be less severe next summer than in the last growing season.

A survey by the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine showed that grasshopper eggs in Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma are from one-third to two-thirds fewer than at this time last year.

In southern states, however, conditions have been such as to offer a "potential infestation which may rival that of the last years," the bureau said. Although from 70 to 90 per cent of the adults of a particular migratory species were poisoned last year, weather conditions have been favorable for laying eggs. About 36,471 tons of poison bait will be needed to control the pest in eastern Colorado, parts of the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma and in northeastern New Mexico, the department said.

Norse Investigator Finds Traces of 'Lost Colony'

Unearthed Evidence Shows That Norwegians Settled In New York in 986.

PENN YAN, N. Y.—Traces of the Norwegian "lost colony," which nearly six centuries ago left 280 homesteads mysteriously deserted on the west coast of Greenland, have been found in America, according to Gil Brewer, early Norse investigator of Canandaigua, N. Y.

Evidence of the "lost colony," which he believes numbered between 3,000 and 4,000 men, women and children, is "plainly discernible" throughout the length of the St. Lawrence river, Lake Ontario, northern and western New York.

"In our early search for traces of the Greenlanders in America," Brewer said, "we have been misled through our expectation of finding Fourteenth century Scandinavian examples of metal and ceramic work rather than the cruder Eskimo-like culture."

Founding Set as 986.

Brewer said the Norse colony was founded on the west coast of Greenland by Eric the Red in 986 and was visited by ships from Iceland and Scandinavian ports for a considerable period thereafter.

"At first Greenland was an independent country," he said, "but was taken over by Norway in 1261. At that time the king of Norway promised to send a vessel to Greenland each year. This practice, however, soon lapsed and many years passed through which the colony was entirely neglected.

"It was not until 1341 that Ivar Bardson, a capable Norwegian priest, was sent westward to learn the condition of the Greenlanders. He found the eastern Greenland settlement flourishing under the direction of Bishop Arne," Brewer went on to say, "but a year later he found the great western settlement completely deserted. Here he reported finding cattle and sheep in the fields which could not have wintered in the open, giving rise to the assumption that the Norse-Greenlander had vanished shortly before his arrival."

The key to the mystery, which Brewer said has been one of the most baffling encountered by historians, was discovered through his study of the ancient national emblem of the Iroquois nation.

The Mohawk emblem, he pointed out, is in the form of a firesteel, which is used to strike sparks from flint, and is of a type which experts agree is not only Scandinavian in design, but typically Norwegian of the Viking age.

Easier for Blind Man to Find His Way in a Town

PARIS.—Professors at an institute for blind boys and girls have been telling the public how the blind get about.

It is easy for the blind man to find his way in town, but he is wholly at a loss in the country, for there is nothing to guide him.

In town he can hear the shoemaker's hammer, a butcher at his chopping block, the tap of a typewriter, an automobile with the engine left running, a horse pawing the pavement, or the call of a newsboy. He knows his bearings by the smell of a bakery, a drug store or perhaps by the perfumes of a hairdressing parlor.

He never wears gloves, for they take away from his keenness of touch. He touches someone and says "Pardon, Madame," to her surprise. He has felt her fur and judged accordingly.

Farmer Brown's Boy Promises To Help Nanny Meadow Mouse

By THORNTON BURGESS

OF COURSE when Farmer Brown's boy lifted off the upper half of the pile of old cornstalks in the middle of which Danny and Nanny Meadow Mouse had built their home he had no idea that anyone was living there. It is a question if Danny and Nanny were any more surprised than he was. Of course they ran—ran as fast as ever they could. They did it to save their lives. At least that is what they thought. You see it was all so sudden that they were just terribly frightened and when people are terribly frightened they run away from the thing that has frightened them. At least that is what most people do.

"Ha!" said he. "You will have to build a house somewhere else, Danny Meadow Mouse."

With frightened squeaks they ran along the secret little galleries Danny had made for just such a need. And then quite suddenly Nanny stopped. She had thought of the four babies left in that dear little house. She had remembered Teeny, Weeny, Midget, and Mite left to the mercy of Farmer Brown's boy. She couldn't run another step.

"Hurry!" squeaked Danny, scampering on ahead. But Nanny didn't. Instead she began to go back. Danny looked back over his shoulder and saw her. "What are—" he began, and then he, too, remembered the helpless babies and a feeling of great shame swept over him at the thought of how he was running away and leaving those babies with no one to even try to protect them. He turned back and hurried to catch up with Nanny

He was stooping over looking at the little house they had been so proud of when they had built it. "Ha!" said he, "I'm afraid you will have to build a new house somewhere else, Danny Meadow Mouse, for I have got to clean up around here and take away all the old cornstalks. I wonder what the inside of your house is like."

With that he picked up the house in his great hands and began to tear it open to see what it was like inside. Poor Danny and Nanny Meadow Mouse! It was more than they could stand. Danny shut his eyes so as not to see what was going to happen, but Nanny, because her mother love was so great, actually ran out in plain sight. She didn't dare go quite to her babies, but she went just as near as she did dare to.

When Farmer Brown's boy had torn open the roof of the little house so that he could see inside he gave a long whistle of surprise. Then very gently he lifted out Teeny and Weeny and Midget and Mite and held them in the hollow of one hand while he looked at them closely. Of course they were too little to be much afraid, but they didn't like the bright light, for you know that ever since they were born they had been in the dark and now the light hurt their eyes.

Just then Farmer Brown's boy happened to look down straight into the terribly anxious eyes of Nanny. Slowly a smile lighted up his freckled face. "Don't you worry, Mrs. Meadow Mouse," said he. "I wouldn't hurt your babies for the world. I guess I've spoiled your house and I'm sorry. I wouldn't have done it if I thought there might be babies there."

Very gently he put the four babies back in their bed of grass and as well as he could, which, of course was not very well, he pulled the broken roof together over them. Then he put the house back where he had found it and stepped back a few steps.

"You brave little mother," said Farmer Brown's boy softly, and began to put back the cornstalks he had taken from the pile. When at last the little house was once more in the middle of the pile he started on. "I'll wait until you have that family off your hands before I clean up here," said he softly as he saw Nanny's bright eyes anxiously peeping at him.

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135 on Half Shell? A Mere Appetizer!

CLEVELAND, OHIO. — Sansome, who repairs shoes for a living and eats oysters prodigiously, swallowed 135 of the mollusks for the Cleveland title.

"Shoemakers often win oyster-eating contests where I was born in Termine, Italy," he said, finishing off the last of the oysters and his second bottle of chili sauce, "and I hold numerous titles there."

Sansome's nearest rival was Marino Grico, who quit at 118 oysters.

THRIFTY TRAVELER

Sergt. James "Jock" Scott has walked 31,300 miles in the past five years on doctor's orders. He started from London, England, and recently arrived in Seattle, Wash. His doctor told him he needed plenty of fresh air after getting his lungs filled with gas in the war.

Counterfeit Coin Elusive

KINGFISHER, OKLA.—The Kingfisher firemen burned off the lawn of the First Christian church here to find a counterfeit half-dollar. The search was futile.

Navigation Students Shoot the Sun

These three are students in the navigation class at the University of Southern California. They are shooting the sun with sextants aboard the 90-foot schooner Ethel Mae, used by the class for practical instruction.

CRIPPLE CREEK STILL YIELDS UNTOLD GOLD WEALTH

CRIPPLE CREEK, COLO.—Cripple Creek's gold "diggin's"—the site of one of the first gold strikes in Colorado's mining history—still is one of the state and nation's richest gold producing areas.

Rumors that the ore veins of the pioneer mining region's hundreds of mines were fading out were disproved with the estimate that nearly $5,500,000 in gold ore was taken from the veins in 1938. Production estimates of 1938 coincided almost exactly with the 1937 production, showing no decrease in activity and no sign of a slowup in 1939.

New developments during the last year indicate a strong possibility that the region will increase rather than decrease production this year New shafts are being dug and improvements carried on in the old mines, giving the entire region the appearance of the "boom days" of the eighties, when Colorado came into its own as a gold-mining state.

The average depth of the major Cripple Creek shafts is between 2,000 and 2,600 feet into the rocky sides of the mountains. Most important of the 1938 improvements was the sinking of the main shaft of the Ajax mine to the 2,600-foot mark. Officials of the Golden Cycle corporation, operators of the mine, said a promising series of small veins had been opened in the lower diggings, indicating a long working period for the shaft.

In addition to the large enterprises now under way, many smaller mines have undertaken improvements which are designed to increase their capacity. "Watered" or flooded mines are being pumped out and reconditioned. Several shafts, long abandoned because of a slump in metal prices, are being cleared.

Italian Employment Agencies Replaced by State 'Syndicate'

ROME.—All private employment agencies have been abolished in Italy as part of the government's program toward stricter control over business and industry. In the future employers must engage new help through a state workers' agency.

Placed in effect the first of the year, the law was a complete surprise to most industrialists and businessmen. As justification the government said that "giving of jobs to workers is a public function in the interests of national production and of the state." Only in emergencies are employers allowed to hire workers without going through the syndicate.

Preference in engaging workers must be given to members of needy families; those who have been out of work for the longest period; syndicate members; Fascist party members; war veterans; emigrants who recently returned to Italy.

'Busiest Director' Slipping

NEW YORK.—Arthur L. Rae, who was registered in last year's Poor's directory of executives as holding directorate positions with 101 organizations, is slipping. The new Poor's directory gives him credit for serving on only 99 different companies. Harold B. Franklin, president and director of Radio-Keith Orpheum corporation, is second with 92; Frederick Godber, managing director of the Shell Transport & Trading company, London, is third with 90.

Tribe in Bengal Under Despotic Sway of Women

RANGPUR, BENGAL.—In the hill tribe of the Sahirs in Bengal the women rule.

Women have the right to marry anyone they like and to marry as many times as they like. If they don't like marriages they just dissolve them.

Children of such marriages do not recognize their fathers—only their mothers.

When one of the tribe advocated "faith in falsehood" as the basis of tribal life other members of the tribe were so shocked at this attack on their customs that they speared him to death.

Three of the murderers were sentenced to death by the sessions judge here.

The fact that a meeting of the tribe's elders decreed the death and that the murderers only carried it out made no difference, said the judge. The law could not recognize customs which permitted such crimes, he added.

British Bombing Plane Speeds 295 Miles an Hour

LONDON.—Details of the fastest bomber yet in service with the royal air force are revealed in a bulletin of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors.

The bomber is the latest modified version of the Bristol-Blenheim monoplane, which is in large production in three factories. Hundreds of these formidable planes have been delivered to the squadrons.

Ingenious changes in design give the new Blenheim a top speed of 295 miles an hour, a speed which would be noteworthy in a modern fighter but outstanding in a bomber. This performance is said to have been obtained without sacrifice of essential and basic bombing requirements. Carrying full military load, the modified Blenheim will fly non-stop 1,900 miles.

Power is supplied by two Bristol-Mercury VIII air-cooled engines merged into the wing contour which drive controllable-pitch airscrews.