WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Ironside Visit, Credit Offer Clinch British Aid to Poland If Germany Moves on Danzig

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

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EUROPE:
Stifled Rumor

At midnight 40 military supply trucks from East Prussia rumbled into the Free City of Danzig, their heavy gray doors locked tight. Next day Nazi Leader Albert Forster returned from a conference with Adolf Hitler in Berchtesgaden. On Danzig's outskirts a Polish customs official was shot dead by a Free City officer. Both Warsaw and Danzig jails held a prisoner from the enemy camp. To top it off, the Danzig senate was reported planning to elect Adolf Hitler its president and thereby effect nominal annexation to Germany.

SIR IRONSIDE
He reiterated.

This background of hatred suddenly and mysteriously gave way to a rumor of peace which newspaper correspondents traced from Warsaw to London and finally back to their birthplace at Berlin. The rumor: That Danzig's problem is now subject to peaceful negotiation.

Both Poland and Britain denied it, and their explanations made sense. The rumor began spreading just as Maj. Gen. Sir Edmund Ironside, inspector general of British overseas forces, arrived in Warsaw for Polish-British staff consultations. Germany obviously hoped the peace rumor would split the consultants, Poland thinking Britain had sold out for a German-sponsored peace.

Nothing like that happened. To the contrary, General Ironside's visit offered the most firm reiteration to date that Britain is ready to fight for Poland's cause. It came sharp on the heels of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's guarantee to protect Danzig as well as Poland, plus offers of British credit to bolster Warsaw's rearmament.

But even this British stiffness has not deadened Prime Minister Chamberlain's yen for appeasement. Sir Nevile Henderson, ambassador to Berlin, was cautiously reported under instructions to "contact Hitler and find out just what his terms are for world peace." At the same time rumors floated through Fleet street about a huge British loan to Germany and return of the Reich's war-lost colonies in exchange for peace. If this was true, Poland may yet split with her faithless friends in London.

RELIEF:
More Trouble

A big enough headache for one man was WPA's wage strike, which hit Administrator F. C. Harrington smack between the eyes. But no sooner was the strike settled than Colonel Harrington faced an even bigger headache:

Under the "anti-career" provision in this year's relief measure, WPA must discharge 650,000 (one-third of all employees) by September 1. Although the law specifically states employees who have worked 18 months must take a 30-day "vacation," the holiday will probably be much longer. Reason: WPA's $1,750,600 for 1939-40 will carry only 2,000,000 workers contrasted with 3,000,000 in 1938-39.

One good reason why congress may lose its adjournment enthusiasm is that dismissals and new wage scales will take effect just about the time weary solons would reach their home stamping grounds—a pretty situation with an election brewing. Since new pay schedules provide no differential between north and south, northern reliefers will have their salaries cut and southerners will be raised.

MICHIGAN:
Sin

Eighty-year-old Gov. Luren D. Dickinson came to office last winter when Republican Gov. Frank Fitzgerald died. A Godly man, Governor Dickinson amused veteran politicians, yet many a constituent found him refreshingly different. In June he attended the National Conference of Governors in New York, returning home to deliver a sermon warning mothers and daughters of high life evils: "There is more danger than in the old saloon days."

New York's Mayor LaGuardia called him "a senile old fool." Nebraska's Gov. R. L. Cochran thought the convention's only dull feature was Governor Dickinson's speech.

A week later the governor's sermon made bigger news. New York newsmen cornered 23-year-old Willo Sheridan who came east as "Miss Mchigan Aviation" by the governor's own appointment. Willo made a good story. While shutters snapped Willo sampled Manhattan champagne and said: "I'm having a wonderful time here. I respect Governor Dickinson and think he's a very fine man. But I don't think New York's a very wicked city."

'MISS MICHIGAN AVIATION'
New York wasn't wicked

Back home in Lansing, Republican John B. Corliss Jr. started a recall petition against the governor because of his "recent sounding off about the evil he thinks he found in high places." While Corliss' fellow thinkers rushed to sign, the governor took them by surprise. Said he: "I'll sign the petition myself. I never wanted to be governor anyway."

LOUISIANA:
Both Feet

A whisper of scandal started when Louisiana State university's President James Monroe Smith fled to Canada after allegedly bilking three banks out of $500,000. The whisper grew to common gossip when Smith, LSU's Construction Superintendent George Caldwell, LSU's Business Manager E. N. Jackson and Dr. Clarence A. Lorio, president of the state medical society, were indicted on a total of 29 counts. This was only the beginning:

By mid-July federal probes were underway regarding (1) Louisiana's administration of the 1937 sugar act; (2) violations of U. S. oil regulations; (3) misuse of WPA materials and labor; (4) an unannounced subject under scrutiny by the U. S. treasury's department of revenues. Meanwhile five men made great by the late Huey Long were arraigned on charges of using the mails to defraud the state of $75,000. The five: Dr. Smith; Seymour Weiss, political bigwig and millionaire; J. Emory Adams, nephew of Dr. Smith's wife; Monte E. Hart, electric company official who has received many state contracts; and Louis Lesage, "contact" man for an oil company.

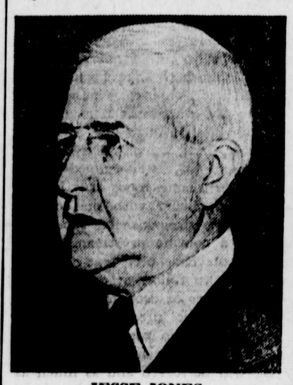
Accumulated events offered a signal for Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, New Deal hater, foe of Communism and close associate of Huey Long, to charge indictees are "bone and tissue of the Roosevelt machine."

CONGRESS:
Prayer

"I am certain that from the time of adjournment until congress meets again, the President will pray as never before that there will be no new crisis in Europe."

Thus did White House Secretary Stephen Early help Franklin Roosevelt swallow his most bitter pill of the year, an agreement with congress to table neutrality legislation until next session. This agreement seemed premature, however, for the next day Secretary of State Cordell Hull received two resolutions from the senate foreign relations committee asking consideration of: (1) an embargo on all U. S. war material shipments to Japan; (2) renunciation of the U. S.-Jap trade treaty of 1911.

This done, only the President's $3,460,000,000 lend-spend bill barred adjournment. While carriers themselves remained silent, Federal Lending Administrator Jesse Jones endorsed the scheme to let railroads lease $500,000,000 worth of new equipment. He also suggested they could offer bondholders RFC cash and preferred stock in exchange for outstanding bonds. Meanwhile Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., praised the lending bill as a "realistic approach to our economic problem" which would "put 500,000 people to work without adding to the tax burden or public debt." New York's Sen. James Mead agreed to drop his bill for loans to small business and have the idea included in lend-spend legislation. As battle lines formed, Senate Minority Leader Charles McNary conceded the bill would probably pass.



JESSE JONES
Railroads remained silent.

Also in congress:

¶ House conferees sought compromise between wage-hour amendments offered by New Jersey's Mary Norton and North Carolina's Graham Barden. Argument: Farming interests want processors of farm products eliminated from wage-hour supervision.

¶ The senate passed the Logan bill, embarrassingly discovering in next morning's Congressional Record that it had subjected decisions of the labor board and all other quasi-judicial or quasi-legislative agencies to review by the circuit court of appeals.

¶ The house passed the bill of New Mexico's Rep. John J. Dempsey and Sen. Carl Hatch, banning use of official authority to influence elections.

¶ The senate approved a resolution authorizing investigation of the labor board's administration of the Wagner act.

¶ The senate approved and gave the house a bill extending federal crop insurance to cotton farmers.

ENGLAND:
Wheat Armament

Even in 1931's crisis British wheat prices hit no lower than 3 shillings, 8 pence. But in mid-July of this year came a new low of 3 shillings 6½ pence (about 49¾ cents per bushel). At this juncture a "preparedness" parliament considered a step which would at once relieve price pressure, eliminate surpluses and bolster defense. The move, suggested by Economist John Waynard Keynes: Appropriation of 100,000,000 pounds ($468,000,000) for accumulation of war reserves in four categories of England's vital imports. About 234,000,000 bushels of wheat would thereby be purchased. Only catch was that British Isles storage facilities can accommodate only one-fourth that amount. Observers thought parliament would compromise and buy only 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 bushels now.

BRIEFLY...

IN NEW YORK, Gossiper Walter Winchell let it be known a reliable informant had told a secret: That 1940's Democratic ticket will be Roosevelt and McNutt.

IN WASHINGTON, Treasury figures showed the U. S. had an average deficit of $22,300,000 per day during the new fiscal year's first 15 days.

IN MID-PACIFIC, an American ship helped rescue 209 from the flaming Bokuyo Maru, Jap passenger and freight liner.

IN TOKYO, British-Jap talks concerning British rights in China reached a hopeless deadlock and collapsed.

IN JERUSALEM, Arabs kidnaped Dr. Jacob Goldner, Cleveland minister, and his son, Gerould. Later they released Dr. Goldner to dig up $5,000 ransom for his son.

Pictorialized

LITTLE WAR—Austrian German-speaking farmers in the Italian Tyrol refuse to be Italianized, yet refuse to be returned to Germany. A profitable tourist trade has been killed by Mussolini's order evicting foreigners from the Tyrol while he and Hitler "strong-arm" the Tyrolians into some sort of submission. Meanwhile Italy denies rumors that the area will be leased or ceded to Germany.

BIGGER WAR — Soviet-Japanese disputes in Manchukuo's Lake Bor region are minimized by a new dispute on Sakhalin island involving Japanese leases on Soviet coal and oil concessions. Sakhalin is owned half by Russia and half by Japan. When Soviet officials fined Jap concessionaires $112,000 for failure to fulfill obligations to Russian workers, Tokyo claimed its prestige had been insulted and demanded that fines be rescinded. Both nations stood their ground.

Inland Anglers Find Huge Gar Lusty Fighter

Fishermen Get All Thrills of Deep-Sea Sport in Rivers and Lakes.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—Lovers of deep sea fishing in Arkansas are finding that they don't have to travel hundreds of miles to the gulf coast or to Florida to find the thrill that comes with the shock of hundreds of pounds of fish hitting high-test line.

Following the lead of Tom Mull—who for years has hunted game fish with a bow and arrow—fishermen are turning to the muddy rivers and lakes of the Mississippi valley in search of the huge alligator gar which wax fat on a diet of young bass and other light fish.

Mull uses 90-pound test deep sea line with a heavy tarpon hook to troll in the deep eddies near fish docks on the White, Red and Arkansas rivers where the gar lazily drift with the current. He says alligator gar strike with all the swiftness of tarpon, and under the sting of the hook always put up a two or three hour battle.

Record 200 Pounds.

Several times Mull has landed gar weighing more than 100 pounds, but a Little Rock physician—formerly an ardent deep sea fisherman—has the record so far with a 200-pound, 10-foot giant.

He hooked it in the White river drifting near a fish market. The battling gar towed his boat upstream nearly a mile and overturned it against the shoulder of a sand spit. The doctor waded to shore without losing control of his tackle and played the huge gar into the shallows after a four-hour struggle.

More and more seasoned fishermen who have landed tarpon, sea bass and other fish native to southern waters are turning to the rivers for a less costly means of gratifying their love for the sport.

Mull told the story of a retired lawyer to whom he taught the art of gar fishing. Converted, the sportsman outfitted a shanty boat and moored it a mile or so below a small river town where fish docks lined the water front. He sits comfortably on the rear veranda of his floating home and dozes while his line slowly reels out with the current. With the strike of a gar he hops into a dinghy which floats beside the shanty boat and lets the big fish tow the boat while he fights it into submission.

Uses Bow and Arrow.

Mull, an ex-officio member of the Arkansas game and fish commission, is widely known as an originator of new kinds of sport. With an especially constructed bow and arrow he has landed bass, trout and sizable gar.

Drifting silently in the shadows near the bank of some stream, Mull kneels in the bow of his boat—arrow ready and with a short rod and reel lying at his side. The line leads from the rod to the head of his keenly barbed arrow.

When he sights a big fish lying quietly near the surface within range he sinks the arrow into its back. The shaft immediately drops away, leaving the head imbedded in the fish. Mull then picks up the rod and plays the fish just as he would if he had hooked it.

Paris, Fashion Center, Previews New Style Trend

Paris, long a world fashion center, now sets the style for a new kind of apparel. The new mode, protective clothing designed for air raid safety, is more practical than fashionable. The above costumes were displayed in a recent Paris exhibit of air raid precaution clothing. Left: What the safely dressed child between four and six years old will wear if the city is bombed. Center: A specially designed gas mask for mother and child. Right: A mask suit and protected bag for carrying provisions during a time of emergency.

Mr. Blacksnake Changes Suit In Green Forest Brush Pile

By THORNTON BURGESS

NOW that Mr. Blacksnake had made up his mind to have a new suit he was in a hurry to get it. So he hurried about looking for a retired place in which to take off his old suit, but all the time he took the utmost pains not to be seen. Ordinarily, he does not care who sees him, but getting rid of an old suit for a new one is a very serious matter with Mr. Blacksnake. In the first place he feels very uncomfortable while he is getting the old suit off, and his temper, never of the best, is very, very short then. Also he has rather a helpless feeling. You see, he cannot slip his suit off easily in the way a boy can. He is like the little girl who has a dress with a great many hooks and eyes where she cannot get at them easily, and so must take considerable time, and sometimes lose both temper and patience.

You see, his old suit had caught between those two logs and he was peeling himself right out of it.

At last he found just the place he was looking for. It was on the edge of the Green Forest, where the brush grew thick around a little pile of old logs. There was room to crawl under these. You know, Mr. Blacksnake does not require very much room, and here he found plenty for his purpose. He felt sure that no one would disturb him there, and that was a very important matter. Still more important was the fact that two of those logs were just far enough apart to make it a tight squeeze for him to wriggle between them. He smiled when he saw this. It was going to make it much easier to get that old suit off. You see, he has no hands with which to pull it off as Old Mr. Toad pulls his suit off, and so he has to try some other way.

He glided all around under and between the logs to make sure that no one else was there, and then he glided this way and that way through the brush to make sure that no one was hiding there. At last he was satisfied that he would not be disturbed, and he hurried back to the pile of logs to begin the task of getting off his old suit. Now, you know Old Mother Nature has queer ways of giving her children new clothes. All this time Mr. Blacksnake really had his new suit on underneath the old suit. He had to get the old suit off, but he wouldn't have to put the new one on because it was already on. Old Mother Nature had attended to that.

He went straight to the two logs that were so close together, and then he began to push and wriggle and squirm as he tried to pass between them. He puffed and he blew, and I suspect that if he had been anybody but a snake he would have grunted. It was easy enough to get his neck through after he had got his head through, but the thickest part of his body was a terribly tight squeeze. Little by little he managed to get through. When enough of him was through to allow him to lift his head and look back he gave a little sigh of relief. You see, his old suit had caught between those two logs and he was pulling himself right out of it just the same way in which you pull your hand out of a glove.

When he saw this he went to work again and pulled harder than ever. He was afraid that that old suit might pull loose from the logs; but it didn't, and presently as he got the thickest part of his body through the old suit came off easier. A few more wriggles and pulls and he was out of it altogether. There it lay, turned wrong side out complete, clear to the tip of his slender tail. And the funny thing was that instead of being black it was white. Yes, sir, it was white, and so thin that you could almost look through it! But his new suit was black, oh, so black! And it was very handsome. Right away Mr. Blacksnake was in a hurry to show it off, and he didn't even give his old suit another look as he rushed away.

Now, what do you think—all the time he had supposed no one was about a certain thrifty little person of the Green Forest had been watching him!

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Informal Parties Are Best Way to Introduce Friends

By PHYLLIS BELMONT

I WANT to give a little "at home" in honor of a friend who is planning to visit me shortly. Just how do I invite the guests and what kind of refreshments should I serve?

MRS. E. D. S.

Answer—An "at home" may take the form of a cocktail party or a tea and is a grand way to have your friends and neighbors meet your out-of-town friend. This kind of a party is usually very informal and the invitations may be given by telephone, or they may be written on your personal cards and read like this: "To meet Miss Edith Ellsworth—Saturday, May 20, 4 to 6 o'clock." If you are serving cocktails, don't forget the cocktail napkins and pass various shapes and styles of hors d'oeuvres and tiny sandwiches on a tray. If coffee and tea are served, see that your dining-room table looks its loveliest with flowers and your nicest cloth, and invite several of your friends to assist in pouring. Place sandwiches and small cakes on the table so the guests may help themselves.

(Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.)

Sight for Semi-Blind

The myriad pleasures of sight have been regained for the semi-blind through use of the teloptic-magnifier, a new type spectacle lens, members of the American Academy of Optometry were informed recently. Representing the largest spectacle magnification yet achieved for distant vision, 300 per cent, the new device has already returned children in blind institutions to public schools.

Hoess Housing Plan May Be U. S. Model

The four Hoess brothers of Hammond, Ind., who devised a low cost homestead and housing plan to fit the average working man's small income, may have started a nationwide movement. Frank Hoess, (third left) oldest of the brothers, was subpenaed to appear before Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney's so-called monopolies investigating committee. This committee is considering amendments to the 1937 housing act, and the Hoess plan has been suggested as the basis for a national program. Left to right, the brothers are William, John, Frank and Joseph.

Sow Grass on School Lawn But Potato Vines Grow

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—Young scientists at the Case school of applied science and their professors thought it would be a cinch to predict what would grow on the lawn of their new $300,000 laboratory.

Grass had been planted.

But the grass, when it grew, was dotted thickly with new potatoes.

The question now: Whether to take out the grass and grow potatoes, or to pick the potato seedlings out of the topsoil.

ANCIENT ROMAN PETS IMMORTALIZED BY FOOTPRINTS

LONDON.—A goat, a calf, several dogs and a barnyard fowl are immortalized in exhibits at the new Verulamium museum, built by the Corporation of St. Albans and opened by Lord Harewood.

They stepped on some unfired roof tiles fresh from a Roman workshop nearly 2,000 years ago, and left their footprints behind.

One large red tile 18 inches long tells an unmistakable story. At one end are the shallow pawmarks of a dog standing, and beside them, imbedded in the clay, a big flint pebble which must have scored a hit. At the other end are the deep pawmarks of the dog in full flight.

The museum houses all the finds that lay hidden since the end of Roman days in Britain until the five-year excavation begun in 1930 by Dr. E. R. Mortimer Wheeler and his late wife.

Three almost perfect mosaic floors from rich men's villas, between 12 and 14 feet wide, are set like pictures against one of the museum walls.

"We had to bring Italian workmen to lift them intact from their position underground," explained the curator, Philip Corder.

The process, known only in Italy, included drying the mosaics out for weeks with stoves, covering them with sticky material and then canvas, and chipping away the cement underneath.

Then they were rolled up like carpets and reset in new cement without disturbing, even by the fraction of an inch, the position of a single tessera.

The collection of household objects is remarkable. There are tumbler locks with keys of all sizes, lamp chimney, jugs, dishes, cups.

College Enrollment Rise Of 22% in Decade Found

CINCINNATI.—Despite depressed business conditions, American college and university attendance in the last decade has shown a gain of 22 per cent, Dr. Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati, reports in a paper on "Recent Trends in Student Enrollment" prepared for the University of Chicago's Institute for Administrative Officers of Higher Institutions.

Factors contributing to the maintenance of college and university attendance from 1930 through 1938, according to Dr. Walters, included "the sheer circumstance of a lack of jobs"; financial help in the form of more than $38,000,000 in a typical year given by the institutions themselves to 330,000 students as scholarships, grants-in-aid, loans, and similar assistance, and $16,000,000 the same year from the National Youth administration to 180,000 students, and the students' own desires.

Ersatz for Tobacco.

BERLIN.—In a decree regulating the taxation of tobacco issued by the Reichsminister of finances it is revealed that Germans, to save on imports, must smoke tobacco mixed with dried stinging nettles, lemon skins, lavender, cherry leaves, salted rose leaves, thyme, valerian roots, woodruff and violets-root-powder. Every package of cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco must indicate the kind and quantity of ersatz material it contains.

Nature Controls Swing Of Bridge in California

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—A bridge on hinges that swings up and down with the whims of Mother Nature is the pride of the California state highway department, following completion of a three-span bridge on the scenic new San Simeon highway skirting the coast line 40 miles south of Carmel, Calif.

Great engineering problems were confronted when the bridge was being planned. Heavy fogs, salt spray laden winds, torrential rains and constantly settling abutment foundations were encountered during the course of construction.

Two main spans in the middle connect with the two 34-foot swing abutments.

These swing spans are fitted at the base with hinges so they may be jacked up to the level of the road when the ground settles.

Boy, Four, Rapidly Losing Weight Despite Year's Growth

DES MOINES, IOWA.—When a four-year-old boy loses weight, most mothers would head frantically for the family doctor.

Not so with Mrs. Ford R. Vogel, of Des Moines, whose young Billie dropped from 82 pounds on his third birthday to 79 pounds on his fourth birthday.

Examined by doctors, who found nothing organically responsible for the abnormal weight, Billie has checked his rapid growth and is lengthening out. He weighed 39 pounds on his first birthday and 54 on his second.

"During the last 12 months he has stopped his rapid gain," Mrs. Vogel said. "Since then he has stayed about the same except last fall when he had the whooping cough and lost weight. I agree with several doctors who believe he will outgrow his tendency to put on weight."