WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Expanding Soviet Domination Presents Threat to Germany; Afghanistan Drive Predicted

(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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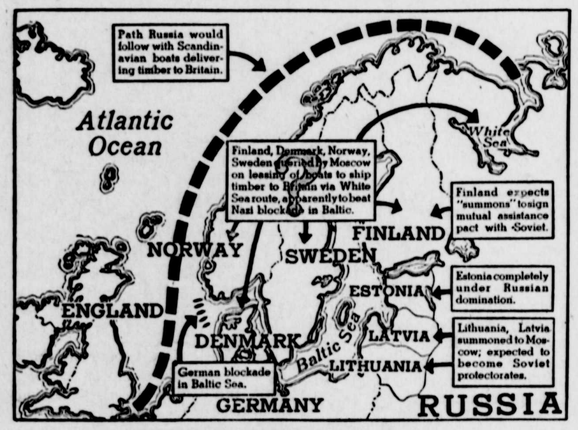

RUSSIAN ACTIVITY IN THE BALTIC
Why, if not to stalemate German ambitions?

RUSSIA:
Kiss of Death?

A welter of confused comment came sharp on the heels of Russo-German partition of Poland, trade agreement and promise to co-operate for European peace. Even Japan, long friendly to Germany, attacked the Reich in its press. Sum total of comment was that Russia's Dictator Josef Stalin is interested only in himself, and that Germany must eventually discover it has kissed death.

Baltic. Heavy was the activity here *(See map)*. The Russian bear's big red paw reached into Estonia and made it a virtual protectorate harboring Soviet naval and air bases. Next it reached into Latvia for the same purpose, so unexpectedly that Foreign Minister Vilhelms Munters scooted off to Moscow and signed a treaty. Next it sideswiped Lithuania, nominally within Germany's sphere of influence, appropriating transit privileges from the Baltic seacoast to inner Russia. No commentator needed to stretch his imagination to see the reason: Russia, not trusting her Nazi accomplice, is merely strengthening her Baltic position.

VILHELMS MUNTERS

Two Balkan question marks were left. First, Finland wondered whether she would be called to Moscow, like her Baltic neighbors. Second, the Soviet made arrangements to rent Finnish, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish boats to haul timber from the White sea to Britain in defiance of the Nazi blockade.

Balkans. Having intended to stay in Moscow only three days, the Turkish delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sukru Saracoglu remained two weeks, apparently representing all Balkan states. Anybody could guess what was in the air, but many observers believed Russia sought to neutralize the Black sea, control the strategic Dardanelles and thus assure herself a free hand to move against Afghanistan and thence to India, both within Britain's sphere of influence.

THE WAR:
No Peace

Consigned to the inside pages of U. S. newspapers were reports of actual knife-to-knife combat in Europe's war. Germany laughed over a British claim that bombers had "raided" Berlin with propaganda leaflets. German troops were beaten back a bit in the Saar, one engagement featuring point-blank shelling between tanks. The long-missing pocket cruiser Admiral Scheer popped up off Brazil to sink a British freighter; a German sub sank a Finnish boat; a British mine outpointed a Norwegian steamer off Singapore.

But this was merely one side of war. As customary in the war of 1939, most news came from state council chambers or from the speakers' rostrum.

Armed with his "kiss of death" pact with Russia *(see above)*, Adolf Hitler proposed to force peace upon the allies, proposed further that the mediation should come through his erstwhile friend to the south, Benito Mussolini.

To Berlin went Italy's Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano for what was reputed to be a stormy conference in which the Reich was charged with introducing the Soviet threat into Europe and thereby causing Italy to lose faith in the axis.

Meanwhile, Der Fuehrer got the answer to his speech in advance. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told the house of commons the war must go on until Hitlerism is crushed.

No one expected anything new in the reichstag speech. Word got around that Hitler would end the war on terms including: (1) removal of international trade restrictions; (2) creation of some form of Polish state under German supervision, and readjustment of the Czechs' status; (3) general disarmament.

But the speech itself was far less specific. There was a plea for armistice and a conference: "Since this problem must be solved it would be reasonable to start . . . before millions . . . have sacrificed their lives."

There was no capitulation over Poland. In substance: Poland's future will be determined by Germany and Soviet Russia alone. A Polish state may be created, also a separate regime for Jews.

In toto, the 90-minute harrangue offered nothing new. On the western front, French soldiers merely tightened their belts and sighed. There would be no peace.

At Sea

Never has Germany accepted responsibility for sinking the Athenia, British vessel sunk mysteriously off Ireland's coast the day Britain declared war on Germany. The German charge: That Britain herself sank the boat, hoping to drown its American passengers, pin the blame on Germany and thus draw the U. S. into Europe's war.

A month later Germany's Grand Admiral Raeder did a strange thing. Through the U. S. naval attache at Berlin he sent word that the Iroquois, Caribbean vessel chartered to bring refugees home from Britain, would be sunk with her 584 American passengers in the same manner as the Athenia.

PAN AMERICA:
Insulation?

This month, for the first time in its century-old existence, the Monroe doctrine grows water wings. Biggest accomplishment of Panama City's recent conference of 21 American nations was the 300-mile "safety belt" around both northern and southern continents, inside which Europe's belligerents are denied activity on land, sea or in the air *(See Map)*.

Immediate reaction of wizened seamen and diplomats was to brand the "safety belt" impractical. First,

'NO TRESPASSING' ZONE
Insulation is expensive stuff.

each American nation may decide for itself whether to refuel belligerent submarines. (Argentina will, thus inviting violation.) Second, most of the patrol responsibility fell on generous Uncle Sam, who thereby found himself minus ships to safeguard his own waters. Third, shippers decided the safety zone would permit German ships now havened in American ports to continue their inter-American trade.

Meanwhile, the U. S. planned to make hay in South America. For more than a month business men have waxed enthusiastic over new trade possibilities below the equator now that European factories are busy making cannon. To his press conference, President Roosevelt indicated he will ask congress to increase the Export-Import bank's credit authorization from $100,000,000 to $500,000,000 next January.

CONGRESS:
Oratory

Minus the strength of his convictions is the man who can be swayed by oratory. This purpose, however, stood as a ghost beside every man who shouted in the U. S. senate chamber, which, in the first days of October's bright blue weather, was over-run with oratory. The issue: Neutrality; whether to keep the arms embargo now enforced against Europe's belligerents, or to substitute "cash-and-carry," in which belligerents could buy what they pleased, taking it away in their own ships.

One by one the flower of the senate's far-famed oratory club rose and pleaded that the one sure way of getting the U. S. into war is to (1) repeal the arms embargo, (2) retain the arms embargo. Idaho's Borah, Nevada's Pittman, Michigan's Vandenberg, Texas' Connally, Washington's Schwellenbach, North Dakota's Nye and Louisiana's Overton led the parade.

Sample repeal talk (by Connally): "Unless the act is changed the United States will be brought to the brink of war, perhaps plunged into its dark and cruel depths."

Sample anti-repeal talk (by Vandenberg): "I do not say that repeal precipitates us into the war . . . in the long view, I do not believe we can become an arsenal for one belligerent without becoming a target for another."

After a week of this sort of thing some trends. amazingly, were apparent. Majority Leader Alben Barkley claimed repealists had picked up "one or two votes."

More important, however, the once vague issue was sifting down and its rough spots were becoming apparent. Among them: Should 90 days' credit be allowed? Shouldn't

TEXAS' CONNALLY
". . . into its dark and cruel depths."

credit restrictions be applied against residents of belligerent nations as well as the nations themselves? How were "belligerent waters" to be defined; would they include ports of Canada, Australia, Hongkong and other Franco-British possessions?

The credit issue evoked most debate. Thoroughly disgusted with extending any credit after the way European nations have failed to repay war debts, Missouri's Sen. Bennett Champ Clark and Minnesota's Sen. Ernest Lundeen dragged out a weather-beaten suggestion: That France and Britain surrender their western Atlantic insular possessions (Bahamas, Jamaica, Newfoundland, Trinidad, etc.) to the U. S.

WHITE HOUSE:
Statecraft

In Paris, U. S. Ambassador to Poland Anthony Drexel Biddle paid his first official call on the new president of Poland-on-wheels, Wladislaw Rackiewicz. In Washington, Secretary of State Cordell Hull issued a statement that the U. S. will continue to recognize Count Jerzy Potocki as Polish ambassador, and refusing to recognize that nation's seizure by Germany and Russia: "Poland is the victim of force used as an instrument of territory . . . Mere seizure of territory, however, does not extinguish the legal existence of a government."

By the same token, the U. S. said nothing about Poland's $179,000,000 war debt, which Germany and Russia wouldn't pay anyway. When Austria was seized by the Reich, the U. S. promptly blundered by handing Austria's war debt bill to Herr Hitler, not realizing this constituted tacit U. S. recognition of the seizure. When Czecho-Slovakia was captured, the U. S. said nothing. Poland, likewise.

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

RADIO—Banned, all broadcasts by spokesmen of controversial issues except in the public forum manner, by action of the National Association of Broadcasters. Reason: Too many religious attacks and counter attacks. Hurt by order: Detroit's outspoken Rev. Father Charles E. Coughlin, New York's Judge Joseph J. Rutherford and Toledo's Rev. Walter Cole.

LABOR—At Washington, the U. S. circuit court of appeals held the department of labor had "illegally and arbitrarily" exceeded authority in determining minimum wages for the iron and steel industry.

RELIEF—Of $250,000 appropriated for European war relief by the American Red Cross, $50,000 has been sent direct to Germany, and $25,000 to Switzerland, to care for Polish refugees.

1,000,000 Men in 90 Days—That's U. S. War-Time Plan

26,000,000 Men Are Between 18 and 45, 'Normal' Military Age.

WASHINGTON.—An army of almost 1,000,000 men could be drafted within 90 days if a war developed involving the United States under plans developed by military authorities in connection with the national defense program.

The plan was drafted by the joint army and navy selective service committee, which estimates that there are about 41,000,000 males between 18 and 64 years old of whom about 26,000,000 are between 18 and 45 years, the "normal" military age.

The older men would be fitted into industry, agriculture and other major jobs.

Draft by Age Groups.

Under the plan, the first draft would include those between 21 and 30, then those between 18 and 21 and those between 31 and 40.

Under the program those between 18 and 45 would be required to register within three days after a war begins. The order in which they would be chosen for duty would be determined by a national lottery, similar to the draft drawings in the old World war. Those drawn would then report to 6,400 local draft boards which would be established throughout the country. These would then pass upon their acceptance or deferment for active service.

Under the plan, single men without dependents would be those first mustered into service. Deferments would be based upon such factors as physical disability, number of dependents and positions held in industry, agriculture or elective offices.

The committee has been working on the problem of balancing the number of men to be called into active service against those who would be left behind to prevent demoralization of the nation's economic and industrial setup.

In this connection the army and navy asked the census bureau to include questions in its 1940 census to show the present or regular occupational pursuits of all individuals. By this authorities hope to have an accurate picture on the number of skilled and other workers available in all branches of industry for future planning of national defense measures.

Australia's Surplus of Food to Go to Britain

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.—Britain's food supply for the new war was bolstered under an arrangement announced by Prime Minister Robert Menzies.

The arrangement calls for British purchase of Australia's surplus production of butter, cheese, meat and eggs and canned and dried fruit.

Meanwhile, the government, acting upon advice of defense experts, decided to call up the entire militia of 78,000 for training.

Bearded Explorers Demand Tonsorial Aid

When Commander Donald B. MacMillan arrived from an Arctic expedition with his crew of college boys at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, the first demand was for shaves—and not "once over lightly!" Here Mrs. MacMillan shaves Dr. Wayne Moulton of Massachusetts general hospital, ship's doctor. Left to right, Harold Evans of Waltham, Mass.; Mrs. MacMillan, Dr. Wayne Moulton and James Wiles of Norway, Maine.

Scientists Find Navajo Shrine in Arizona Cave

ROUND ROCK, ARIZ.—Scientists from Columbia university have just reviewed evidence presented by Dr. William A. Gardner that he had found a giant grotto which he believed to be an ancient Navajo Indian shrine and the legendary council chamber of the tribal gods.

The cave was discovered in a remote section of the rugged canyon country near here in a region seldom traversed by white men.

Gardner was led to the cave by San Day, an Indian guide, who accidentally discovered the "council chamber of the gods."

Inside they found a 200-foot mural of Navajo ceremonial figures and symbols. Lying before four clay images were piles of turquoise beads, corn and pollen, which indicated the Indians used the cave as a holy shrine, Day said.

The paintings were six feet high and were done in bright colors—red, blue, green, lilac, yellow, black and brown.

The images, perforated with holes which formerly held painted sticks imitating the sun's rays, were of the Navajo sun god, Johannai, Day said.

Ancient Navajo legends tell of a secret rendezvous where tribal gods assembled. The gods, so the legends go, left paintings of themselves to guide the tribe in its ritual.

Gardner is believed to be the first white man to see the holy shrine.

Prickly Porky Nearly Chokes Thinking of Something Funny

By THORNTON BURGESS

HARDLY was Jimmy Skunk beyond sight and hearing after having made his call on Prickly the Porcupine than Redeye the Vireo, whose home is in a tree just at the foot of the hill where Prickly Porky lives, heard a very strange noise. He was very busy, was Redeye, telling all who would listen how happy he was, and what a beautiful world this is. Redeye seems to think that this is his special mission in life, that he was put in the Green

"Come closer, so that I can whisper, Unc' Billy," said he.

Forest for this one special purpose—to sing all day long, even in the hottest weather, when other birds forget to sing, his little song of gladness and happiness. It never seems to enter his head that he is making other people happy just by being happy himself and saying so.

At first he hardly noticed the strange noise, but when he stopped singing for a bit of rest he heard it very plainly, and it sounded so very queer that he flew up the hill toward the place from which it seemed to come, and there his bright eyes soon discovered Prickly Porky. Right away he saw that Prickly Porky was in some kind of trouble, and that it was he who was making the queer noise. Prickly Porky was on the ground at the foot of a tree, and he was rolling over and kicking and clawing at his mouth, from which a little piece of bark was hanging. It was such a strange performance that Redeye simply stared for a minute. Then in a flash it came to him what it meant. Prickly Porky was choking, and if something wasn't done to help him he might choke to death!

Now there was nothing that Redeye himself could do to help, for he was too small. He must get help somewhere else, and he must do it quickly. Anxiously he looked this way and that way, but there was no one in sight. Then he remembered that Unc' Billy Possum's hollow tree was not far away. Perhaps Unc' Billy could help. He hoped that Unc' was at home, and he wasted no time in finding out. Unc' Billy was at home, and when he heard that his old friend Prickly Porky was in trouble he hurried up the hill as fast as ever he could. He saw right away what the trouble was.

"Yo' keep still just a minute, Br'er Porky!" he commanded, for he did not dare go very near while Prickly Porky was rolling and kicking around so for fear that he would get against some of the thousand little spears Prickly Porky carries hidden in his coat. Indeed, he was so weak from his long struggle that he was glad to. Unc' Billy caught hold of the pieces of bark hanging from Prickly Porky's mouth. Then he braced himself and pulled with all his might. For a minute the piece of bark held. Then it gave way so suddenly that Unc' Billy fell over flat on his back. Unc' Billy scrambled to his feet and looked reprovingly at Prickly Porky who lay panting for breath and with big tears rolling down his face.

"Ah cert'nly am surprised, Br'er Porky, Ah cert'nly am surprised that yo' should be so greedy that yo' choke yo'self," said Unc' Billy, shaking his head.

Prickly Porky grinned weakly and rather foolishly. "It wasn't greed, Unc' Billy. It wasn't greed at all," he replied.

"Then what was it, may Ah ask?" demanded Unc' Billy, severely.

"I thought of something funny right in the middle of my meal, and I laughed just as I started to swallow, and the piece of bark went down the wrong way," explained Prickly Porky, and then as if the mere thought of the thing that had made him laugh before was too much for him, he began to laugh again. He laughed and laughed and laughed, until finally Unc' Billy quite lost patience.

"Yo' cert'nly have lost your manners, Br'er Porky!" he snapped.

Prickly Porky wiped the tears from his eyes. "Come closer so that I can whisper, Unc' Billy," said he.

A little bit suspiciously, Unc' Billy came near enough for Prickly Porky to whisper, and when he had finished Unc' Billy was wiping tears of laughter from his own eyes.

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Luck Runs Out at 84

LONDON.—After fighting in four wars, surviving a shipwreck in which 100 men were drowned, and living through a famine in Russia, John Bell Findlay, an 84-year-old sea captain, was knocked down and killed by a motor car in a London suburban street.

Explain Presence Of Guest Before Accepting Dates

By PHYLLIS BELMONT

Here are a number of things I've wanted to know for a long time. I'll appreciate your answers very much. (1) I understand that a piece of meat is taken from the plate with fork prongs down, and put into the mouth with the fork prongs up. Is that right? (2) When a girl and her date are leaving for a movie or other "pay" function, and a third party (either girl or boy) arrives unexpectedly, is it the girl's or the boy's place to invite the third party to go also? (3) I know that I may ask an invitation for an out-of-town guest anywhere but a dinner. If a friend should invite me to dinner, not knowing my guest is here, do I decline without giving any reason? Thank you. MISS J. McG.

Answer—(1) The tines of the fork should be up both when the piece of meat is taken from the plate and when it is placed in the mouth. (2) When a girl has an engagement with a boy to go to the movies and a chance visitor happens to come in before you get started, it is up to the boy to invite the third party to join you. (3) If a friend invites you to dinner when you have a guest, you simply say: "I would be delighted to come, but Mary Smith is visiting me for a few days." This leaves it up to the hostess to invite Mary Smith, too, if an extra guest fits in with her plans.

Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.

Gunny Sack Tarzana

Wearing a gunny sack garment, and carrying a bow and arrow and knife, Miss Wilma Jacobson, 19-year-old Wyoming girl, recently spent three nights in the wilds of southeastern Wyoming. Here she lights a fire preparing to cook the one rabbit she killed. The trip was merely a vacation.

Rays Turned on Meat

TOLEDO, OHIO.—Bacteria control in several meat markets here now is being supplied by ultraviolet ray equipment.

Poilus in Action Near Siegfried Line

French infantry and machine gunners are shown in action under covering fire of their tanks during recent encounters in the German territory near Saarbrucken, adjacent to Germany's west wall, or Siegfried line.

WESTERN GHOST TOWNS SHOW SIGNS OF REVIVAL

Out in the West a few years ago you could drive off the beaten path and go exploring into the last century. Behind the shoulder of some hill or in a desert valley you would discover a full-sized town where no one lived, says Popular Mechanics. Along the sagebrush-covered main street would be weather-beaten stores, post office, banks and saloons of a small city, flanked by blocks of unoccupied houses. In the eerie silence the flapping of old wallpaper behind a broken window or the creaking of a door would be the only sounds.

These ghost towns of the mining country were left intact when the gold fever died or when bonanza strikes in other districts caused the inhabitants to move away overnight. Towns like Rhyolite with a pretentious railway station and office buildings, or Bodie, built with tremendous hardship high in the mountains, were left complete right down to stacks of dishes still in the kitchens and files of records still in the banks, much as they were before the inhabitants moved away.

Today the ghost towns are coming back to life. Towns that have been asleep for 75 years are stirring again under the excitement of high-priced gold. Modern air-conditioned stores are springing up next to the tottering ruins of old buildings. Lively stables where harness still rots on the walls are being torn down for gasoline stations. From Cripple Creek in Colorado to the Mother Lode in California long-abandoned mines are being worked again. A survey by the Automobile Club of Southern California shows that practically every old gold camp in the West is active at present.

Hydrogenation of Coal Held Important Stride

NEW YORK.—Although it is not yet possible to fill the family car from the cellar coal bin, the hydrogenation of coal, affording a possible source of motor fuel when petroleum production begins to decrease, is an important development of recent years, it is pointed out by Dr. John W. Finch, director of the bureau of mines.

The importance to industry and to the national defense of an assured supply of motor fuel is impossible of overestimation, and the practicability of the hydrogenation of coal has been demonstrated in Germany and England.

When pulverized coal and hydrogen are heated in suitable equipment under great pressure and at high temperature, it is possible to force the carbon in the coal to combine with the hydrogen and form a liquid that is practically the same chemical makeup as petroleum.

Depth Hampers U-Boat Radio

CHICAGO. — Radio messages can be sent from within a submerged or sunken submarine, but only if it is fairly close to the surface, states Dr. J. Barton Hoag of the University of Chicago. Dr. Hoag made careful physical examinations of radio waves sent out from a transmitting apparatus submerged in Lake Michigan and found that while the waves could get through the water they lost most of their power through absorption.

World Traveler Terms Tibet Land Rich in Gold Ore

CINCINNATI. — Far-off Tibet where the lowest altitude is higher than Pikes peak, will be the scene of the world's next major gold rush, in the opinion of Harrison Forman, 35-year-old traveler.

"There is a great deal of gold in Tibet," the young explorer said while visiting here.

"I have seen tons of it on the roofs of Tibetan monasteries and there is more in the ground and [illegible]s However, it's of no value to anyone because it's impossible at present to get it to the outside world.

"The country has no railroads, no highways. There isn't a wheel in all of Tibet, and the metal is too heavy to be hauled by animals."

Forman believed the development of an airplane motor powerful enough to fly heavy freight will be the ultimate solution for transporting the precious metal. He recently visited Tibet and the interior of China.

Foolish Requests Annoy California Police Chief

CORONADO, CALIF. — Police Chief Jordan thinks he has the wrong kind of a job—all because people ask him to do foolish things.

Without waiting for a reply a feminine voice on the telephone asked him if he kept stamps on hand and then went on ordering one to be delivered immediately to her home.

Still another feminine voice on the telephone queried:

"Who won the horse race at Hollywood today?"

And while Jordan and the boys tried to figure that one out she continued with:

"Well, I'd like to know whether Los Angeles won the baseball game with San Diego this afternoon or not and what was the score?"

Chief Jordan says he is thinking about asking the chamber of commerce and a messenger service to merge forces with the police department.