WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

U. S. Speeds Defense Measures: Army Seeks Younger Personnel, New Highway Network Planned

(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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DEFENSE
Chin Up and Out

Best indication of U. S. reaction to Adolf Hitler's Reichstag speech has been Washington's rush to strengthen both military and economic defense, theoretically against any aggressor but obviously against the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo entente. Sample moves:

Economic. Nevada's Sen. Key Pittman boldly offered a bill permitting the President to block American shipments to Japan or any other violator of the nine-power treaty. Plainly designed to rush a decision on U. S. neutrality policy, the bill brought a quick answer that Japan would be "forced" to strengthen its bonds with Germany and Italy if congress passed the bill.

Army. Secretary of War Harry Woodring offered a bill to hasten retirement of over-age and unfit officers, because "we are the only power which has not recognized the need

WAR'S WOODRING
Youth to the fore.

for younger men in command." Next fall, it was announced, aging Gen. Malin Craig will be succeeded as chief of staff by 58-year-old Brig. Gen. George Catlett Marshall. Meanwhile a door closed behind the vast arms expansion program as orders were issued to keep secret the number of war planes ordered and delivered, and to discharge all aliens working in private plants which fill munitions orders.

Navy. Engineering, ordnance and construction - repair departments may be merged in one of several navy department streamlining moves. Other naval developments: (1) Maritime Commission Chairman Emory S. Land asked more power to requisition or purchase ships for national defense; (2) about $9,000,000 was asked to recondition five overage battleships; (3) agitation began for a $5,000,000 naval air research station at March field, Calif.

Transportation. President Roosevelt recommended 26,700 miles of new national highways to care for growing peacetime traffic and meet defense requirements. The plan's essence: Five east-west and seven north-south arterials would be built, free from the tolls proposed under an earlier super-highway plan.

EUROPE
Boomerang

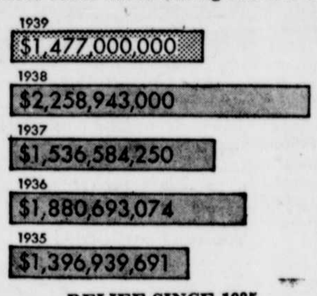
Viewed in retrospect, the biggest results of Adolf Hitler's infamous Reichstag speech took place before that speech was ever made. In that frantic week of anticipation when war seemed more imminent than any time in 20 years, jittery nations found courage to choose sides, commit themselves and forget traditional animosities. Sample: Democratic Britain and Communistic Russia discovered both their geese might be cooked unless they got together.

If Der Fuehrer's conciliatory refusal of President Roosevelt's peace plea broke the European tension, its stern reassertion of German determination did not allow lesser nations to forget that tension. Russia, Britain and France hastened their triple entente as the foundation for a continent-wide network of lesser pacts. The Soviet wooed Poland, Rumania and Turkey. Britain also wooed Turkey, hoping to cement Bulgaria, Rumania and Greece in a Balkan entente. In the Baltics, Poland reasserted its determination to stave off German demands on Danzig and pressed mutual defense negotiations with Finland, Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Members of the new triple entente would agree to protect Europe's four neutral states, Belgium, Switzerland, Holland and Denmark.

The biggest certainty in European diplomacy appears to be French-British military aid against Germany if the Reich presses its demands against Poland. The second biggest certainty is that Russia will also aid Poland, the latter nation being another that was jarred by Hitler's speech into such fright that animosity toward the Soviet is forgotten. Thus the Reichstag speech has served as a boomerang, hastening the "encirclement" which Herr Hitler fears and hates. History may therefore mark April 28 as the day Germany carried a good thing too far, and the day anti-Nazi Europe began barking back.

RELIEF
Election Coming Up

For three months an economy-minded congress has sought means of returning relief to the states, thereby destroying WPA, slashing federal appropriations and making the U. S. only a money allocator and general overseer. Until late April President Roosevelt had commented on the new program no more than to endorse a ban on politics-in-relief. Then, however, he asked congress for a $1,723,000,000 appropriation to meet relief needs during the 1939-40



RELIEF SINCE 1935
Chart shows appropriations since 1935 compared with the new request (at top). Pending appropriation represents only original budget request, while figures for previous three years represent original request plus monies voted later to meet emergencies.

fiscal year, of which $1,477,000,000 would go for WPA. Tacitly, therefore, he spanked reform measures proposed by South Carolina's Sen. James J. Byrnes and Virginia's Rep. Clifton Woodrum, making it plain that he wants WPA kept intact and moreover is opposed to Republican plans for decentralizing relief.

High points in the message: (1) continued high volume unemployment is due largely to a 500,000 annual influx of new workers; (2) relief needs will remain high until the U. S., like the rest of the world, has undergone "a process of readjustment, particularly in connection with production and distribution of goods;" (3) retainance of present formula on federal-state division of WPA costs (20-25 per cent by the states) is essential; (4) the new government reorganization plan will result in WPA economizing, whereas return of relief to the states would result in "inefficiency and confusion through lack of co-ordination and uniformity."

Though $1,477,000,000 for 1939-40 WPA relief is far from a high-water mark *(see chart)*, congressional historials recall that for the past three years deficiency appropriations have been needed to fill WPA's empty coffers before year's end. Carefully making no accusations, they nevertheless reflect that next year is election year, when smart politicians will know better than to slash relief rolls for economy's sake.

PEOPLE
In the Army Now

In 1915 handsome, 18-year-old **Anthony Eden** joined the British army, became its youngest captain and won the military cross for gallantry. Today, at 41, he is regarded as Britain's coming man of politics, a likely successor to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Deserting parliament for the moment, he has joined the London Rangers regiment for a "freshener" course, thus stimulating British military interest. Assigned to the rank of major, which he won in the war, Mr. Eden refused command of a battalion.

HEADLINERS
MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN

Born 57 years ago as plain Philip Henry Kerr, Lord Lothian takes Britain's No. 1 diplomatic job next summer when he becomes ambassador to the U. S. A charter member of Lady Astor's allegedly pro-Nazi "Cliveden set," he began advocating appeasement in 1934 by urging "elementary justice" for Hitler via negotiation. As wartime secretary to ex-Premier David Lloyd George, the marquess became a British "Colonel House" and has remained in close advisory positions under subsequent McDonald and Chamberlain regimes. He advocated "treaty politics" as against "power politics." Americans will find him an advocate of Britain's resuming token war debt payments. Bachelor, twice an earl, once a viscount and four times a baron, he gained his titles in 1930 by inheritance from a distant cousin.

AVIATION:
Success Story

Eighteen years ago a drug-store clerk named Jack Frye began spending part of his $25-a-week salary learning to fly. Handy at the throttle, he soon became a transport pilot and naval reserve officer. But Jack Frye yearned to try the business end of aviation. In 1930 he and Paul Richter, whom he had taught to fly, got their fingers in big-time aviation by merging Aero Corporation of California with fast-growing Transcontinental and Western airlines. By 1934 Jack Frye had become TWA's president, and by this spring his firm was flying 33 twin-motored ships over 6,236 route miles between New York and Los Angeles. Aided by Paul Richter and several unidentified associates, the one-time drug-store clerk bought an estimated 45,000 shares of TWA stock from New York's Lehman Brothers and Chicago Financier John D. Hertz, finding himself major owner of one of the nation's major airlines. Only parallel is the case of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, World war ace who last year bought Eastern airlines.

PHILIPPINES:
Problem Child

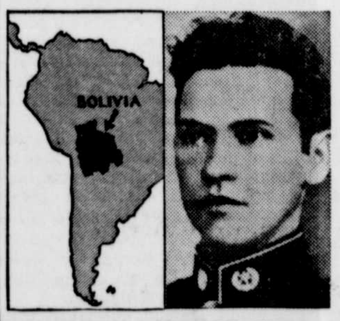
Less than a decade has passed since the U. S. fought Philippine independence demands, but tables have a way of turning. Given congressional assurance of early freedom, Philippine President Manuel Quezon hardly had time to exult before Japan turned imperialistic, swaggered into China and began grabbing off every piece of unprotected real estate within Asiatic waters. Since Japs already hold a strong commercial position in Manila, moreover since even a double-strength U. S. Pacific fleet might not be able to hold the islands against sudden attack, many Americans believe their nation should leave the Philippines before getting involved in war. Added impetus is given by U. S. agriculture's resentment over concessions to Filipino sugar.

Sensing that the U. S. was anxious to pull stakes, Manuel Quezon last year appealed to President Roosevelt and won an administration-sponsored proposal calling for political independence in 1946, the 25 per cent tariff being increased by 5 per cent a year until wholly effective in 1961. Since President Quezon will not be able to attend hearings this year, the bill is being tabled until next session. When he does arrive, Mr. Quezon will be offered an even stronger deal which members of the Senate committee on territories and insular possessions have already accepted unanimously, albeit secretly. The deal: If Filipinos will cut political ties with the U. S. in 1942, current 25 per cent tariff rates will continue until 1946 as under the administration bill. Then rates will jump 10 per cent annually until the U. S. washes its hands of the whole affair in 1953.

Still officially unannounced, the substitute bill (suggested by Maryland's Sen. Millard E. Tydings) has been hushed for fear Japan may sail into Manila immediately, confident the U. S. does not care to defend the harbor Admiral Dewey stormed so heroically in 1898.

BOLIVIA:
Democratic Dictator

Forbears of Bolivia's 35-year-old President German Busch came from the country which supplied his baptismal name, but for two generations Busches have been loyal Bolivians. In 1935 German Busch emerged from the Gran Chaco war with Paraguay to find his country's government in horrible shape. Friendly to labor and business, boasting strong Catholic support,



BOLIVIA AND BUSCH
His plan may work.

Youngster Busch became provisional president in July, 1937, when Col. David Toro's "socialistic" state was toppled. Last May he was constitutionally re-elected, beginning a task from which lesser men might have turned away.

Plagued by Naziism and Fascism, bankrupt and facing possible revolution if Bolivia's three Chaco war parties (Liberal, Republican, Socialist Republican) won the May legislative election, President Busch surprised the world by announcing a new type political animal, dictatorship to prepare for "a real democracy."

Observers give German Busch a good chance of succeeding. Having canceled the election, dissolved his congress and abolished constitutional guarantees on the plausible assumption that restive Bolivia does not deserve democracy at this moment, Colonel Busch is the world's first dictator to (1) invite "patriotic" criticism of his regime; (2) reject his cabinet's resignation; (3) view Fascism and Naziism "with pain," and (4) promise an election five to eight months hence to let Bolivia decide its own destiny.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Government Reorganization Plan Fails to Merge Similar Agencies

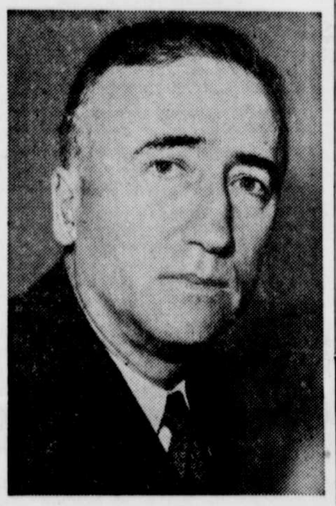
Presidential Plan Will Perpetuate All Agencies Created In Last Ten Years; Taxpayer Will Save Little From Proposed Consolidation Move.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—As I have often observed in these columns, our federal government is such a huge octopus that it is difficult for one individual to gain a correct perspective of the machinery. That is to say it is mighty hard to sit down, thumb through the list and say which agencies are worthwhile and which are just another set of jobs. The thing is incomprehensible.

And so it is that when Mr. Roosevelt, exercising powers for reorganization of the government given him by the last congress, submitted "plan No. 1" the other day, few there were who grasped the scope of the move. Equally, it is true that few persons were able, even after study, to point out all of the good points and all of the bad points, so complex is plan No. 1. I believe, however, after talking with many authorities, it should be said that there are both good and bad points, and nobody ought to be so silly as to deny the statement.

The President's executive order has established three new major units of government. They are the federal security agency, the federal works agency and the federal loan agency. Into these three groups it is proposed to bring some 20 boards, bureaus and commissions, some great, some unimportant, but most of which, in the last few years, have been dangling at loose ends.



South Carolina's Sen. James F. Byrnes, whose bill to place relief administration back in the states' hands is, according to Mr. Bruckart, jeopardized by President Roosevelt's governmental reorganization plan for unifying and strengthening federal relief agencies.

Nearly all of them have been responsible directly to the President, or to the President and congress. Many of them worked at cross purposes; many overlapped, and there was the attendant jealousy, conflicts of authority, foolish resentment at each other's attempts to function.

It was evident that Mr. Roosevelt hoped the corralling of these mavaerick agencies would add to the efficiency of the machinery. That must be accepted as the fact because he told congress there would be a saving of only about $20,000,000 annually. The anemic taxpayer, therefore, gets nothing out of the picture.

Faults Will Accompany Virtues in Mass Move

But what of those who previously headed the independent, dangling, wandering type of bureau or board or commission? The plan proposes to make them subject to a new boss —somebody in between them and the President. It does nothing more than that. Close examination of plan No. 1 seems, therefore, to amount to a bodily transfer of each of these setups, taking with them all of their faults as well as all of their good qualities. At the same time, it is possible that such a grouping will accomplish something not visible on its surface. When several agencies, now operating in their own spheres, are brought under one general head, there is a chance that some of the overlapping of work will be eliminated. I mentioned at the outset the difficulty of discovering these conflicts. If they are brought together, therefore, someone surely will find them and eliminate them. If that is done, as it should be, there is just a twinkling light of a possible saving to the taxpayer. One should always remember, however, that few government agencies once created have ever been abandoned. The jobholders are the best lobbyists in the world.

Which brings us to the one definite objection that I have heard about the President's plan No. 1. That objection is that nowhere in it is there any effort made to reduce the scope of government. Or, to express the same thought in an affirmative manner: Plan No. 1 will perpetuate without exception every agency created in the last 10 years under the guise of emergency legislation, relief for the destitute and business reform.

That is the one factor to which criticism ought to be applied. There is no doubt in my mind at all that the President's advisors, in drafting the consolidation plan, or the President himself, dodged responsibility. I suppose it may have been too much to expect, yet it does seem a better job could have been done in that direction. Why, for example, was the reorganization of this phase of government activities worked out with nothing to show in the way of abolition of some of these numerous agencies? It appears to me that if the eight or ten separate units that have been brought into the federal security agency were so closely related, then some of those units could have been disbanded and such functions as necessary could have been lodged in the jurisdiction of the remaining bureaus. The same observation applies to the federal works agency and the federal loan agency.

Federal Relief System Remains Sore Spot

I believe the creation of a federal works agency will accomplish a great deal of good, but it does not solve one of the festering sores, now and long since showing on the body politic. I refer to the federal relief system. While there will probably be no more of the fighting over the back-yard fence like tomcats, as did Secretary Ickes and Harry Hopkins, the plan No. 1 does nothing to wipe out the pernicious political racketeering that Hopkins permitted as head of WPA. Nor does it keep government money from being literally forced down the throats of towns for building public power plants or for other uses, only to create debt upon the shoulders of those taxpayers, as Harold Ickes did.

There is nothing in the program either that will eliminate the use of federal funds, either through PWA or WPA, in spreading the effect of federal policies into state governments. I have written before of how federal officials actually "govern" states or counties or municipalities by laying down rules which must be met before the money has been handed over.

It is certain, therefore, that as far as public works is concerned and as far as public relief from the federal treasury is concerned, Mr. Roosevelt has accomplished almost nothing at all—except to make the heads of the two units report to one administrator who, in turn, will report to the President. This makes it appear, moreover, that a real need exists for passage of the bill drafted by Senator Byrnes, South Carolina Democrat and one-time staunch New Dealer, that would place relief back in the hands of the states.

Concerning a federal loan agency, however, there ought to be praise. That is, there can be better administration, better co-ordination of policy, if the President selects a sound man to serve as its head.

Security Agency Is Plan's Hot Potato

The federal security agency, if we have to have such stuff, is the hot potato of the whole collection in plan No. 1. Into that group, there will be placed the social security board, the national youth administration, the Civilian Conservation corps, the United States employment service, the public health service and the office of education. Just why such things as the public health service and the office of education should be tossed into that madhouse, no one seems to know.

Under the reorganization act, congress has 60 days in which to examine the President's plan, and approve or disapprove. That is to say, congress must vote a resolution of disapproval within two months, or the plan becomes operative. There isn't the slightest chance that it will be rejected. One reason the proposal will not be rejected, if there was ever any chance of it, is that one of the Republican members of the house played dumb. Representative Taber of New York could not wait; he introduced a resolution of rejection on the day following submission of the plan No. 1, and he has just as much chance of accomplishing his purpose as a snowball has in the nether regions.

I do not infer that the President's proposal ought to be rejected. That might be the conclusion after experts have gone through it with a fine-toothed comb. On the surface, however, Mr. Taber provided no basis of prestige for the Republicans by his act, nor did he demonstrate his value as a national legislator. As for Republican tactics, especially on such matters as government reorganization, they ought to distinguish between issues and making noise. I have a suspicion that Mr. Taber's resolution was as much welcomed by Democratic Leader Rayburn as it was disliked by the Republican side of the house. Certainly, it will provide a measure of Democratic solidarity . . .

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QUICK QUOTES

Sentinel Features

IDOLATRY

"MAN was not made for the state. The state was made for man . . . It would indeed be the greatest irony in history if mankind were to allow all progress to be stifled by the setting up of a new form of idolatry, the worship of the state."—*Anthony Eden.*

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