WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

See Hope for League Rebirth Under New Russ-British Pact; Must Get Rid of Avenol First

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

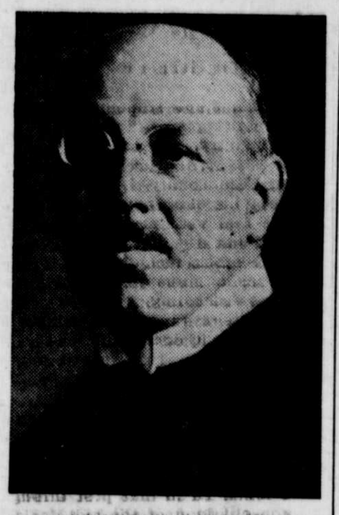
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

INTERNATIONAL:
Rebirth?

Once the white hope of world peace, Geneva's League of Nations buildings are today what one correspondent calls "a stately mausoleum haunted by the ghosts of braver men." In its heyday the League stood for collective security, later watching Japan, Italy and Germany drift away without enforcing the covenant's spirit because such action might "divide Europe into ideological blocs."

Chief reason for League doldrums is its management. A carbon copy of Great Britain's current appeasement cabinet is Secretary-General Joseph A. C. Avenol, who in recent years has filed the machinery of collective security under lock and key.

Black marks on the League's record include Manchuria, Ethiopia, Spain and China. Each succumbed amid ineffectual, insincere League sanctions which were enforced against aggressor nations only if individual signatories found it "convenient." By this spring Mr. Avenol's back-tracking generalship



LEAGUE'S AVENOL
He "forgot" Albania's plea.

reached a new low. When Albania protested its seizure by Italy, the secretary "forgot" to circulate its SOS among signatories. There was no reprimand, and at its May meeting Mr. Avenol prevented Russia's ambassador to Great Britain, Ivan Maisky, from reading a letter of protest against Czecho-Slovakia's seizure. At the same time he got the council to postpone any discussion of Albania until next September.

However, even as the League grows more decadent under Avenol leadership, hope rises for a rebirth of its collaboration machinery. Never a word-mincer, Soviet Russia has enough dislike for powder-puff diplomacy to force Britain and France—the League's other two leaders—into rejuvenating Geneva's halls under the new British-French-Russian mutual aid pact. First hopeful sign is the new treaty's goal of preserving European peace. Second sign: It has been communicated to the League and will possibly operate under the League covenant. But a prerequisite to any such rebirth would be the retirement of Mr. Avenol, whose job rests secure so long as the Chamberlain-Halifax-Hoare-Simon quartet rules Britain.

BUSINESS:
Middleman

Favorite butt of pro-chain store and pro-co-operative movements has been the wholesaler, who in popular notion is excess baggage in the U. S. distribution system. If the middleman could be eliminated, many believe, a bar of soap or pound of coffee would cost John Public substantially less.

To test this theory, New York's Twentieth Century Fund broke down the $38,500,000,000 which U. S. consumers paid in distribution costs for their merchandise during the peak year of 1929. Individual figures and percentages of the *distribution* cost:

Wholesalers	(18%)	$ 7,000,000,000
Retailers	(33%)	12,600,000,000
Manufacturers	(24%)	9,100,000,000
Transportation	(23%)	8,800,000,000
Miscellaneous	(2%)	1,000,000,000

Basic conclusions were that wholesalers did not earn excessive profits in 1929 (groceries, 1.3 per cent; confectioneries, 2.2 per cent; dry goods, 2.7 per cent), and that they remain an essential link in the distribution machine.

DOMESTIC:
Un-Americanism

To freedom-loving but undemonstrative U. S. patriots, the trouble with anti-Communist organizations is that they are pro-Fascist. Conversely, anti-Fascist groups (like the American League for Peace and Democracy) are more interested in promoting Communism than fighting Fascism.

When he began investigating un-Americanism last year, Texas' sincere Rep. Martin Dies won deserved criticism for letting his committee listen indiscriminately to anyone with an ax to grind. But thanks to Martin Dies the U. S. has become acutely aware of "isms" pounding on its doors.

Biggest threat, inspired by Italo-German success and fostered by depression-made malcontents, are the U. S. Fascists. This spring Fascism reared its head when Mr. Dies revealed a strong anti-Jewish movement led by Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley retired anti-New Deal army officer; Dudley P. Gilbert, New York financier, and such Ku Klux Klannish groups as Knights of the White Camellias, led by George Deatherage of St. Albens, W. Va. Blandly admitting his anti-Semitic sentiments, General Moseley has promised shocking revelations concerning Jews in high places before the summer is over.

Greatest handicap to an impartial investigation of un-Americanism is the very stumbling block Mr. Dies encountered last autumn, namely, ax-grinding. Best example, though in this case probably popular with Mr. Dies, was the arrest of Fritz Kuhn, "Fuehrer" of the violently Nazi - German - American Bund, charged with grand larceny and forgery in shortages of $15,000 from Bund funds. Overlooking the fact

FUEHRER KUHN
". . . a lot of nonsense."

that Kuhn participated in Hitler's Munich putsch in 1923, has organized 94 active Bund branches and has done nothing to merit confidence of the U. S., critics looked suspiciously (though probably unfairly) at the two men responsible for his arrest. New York's Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia might have realized his many Jewish constituents would relish any anti-Nazi move. New York's District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, a potential G. O. P. presidential candidate, could expect excellent publicity from the case.

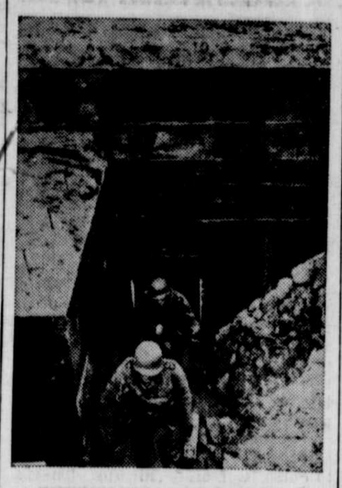
Said Mr. Dewey: "The indictment shows Kuhn is just a common thief." Answered Fuehrer Kuhn: "It's a lot of nonsense."

SCIENCE:
Probing Atlanta

Long before the Revolutionary war St. James was a thriving capital of St. Kitts island, sometimes called Nevis, located in the Lesser Antilles southeast of Puerto Rico. In 1680 an earthquake dropped St. Kitts and its St. James 300 feet below the sea. This summer an expedition led by Detroit's Capt. Robert Hall plans to walk along St. James' submerged streets in one of science's most unusual expeditions. Connected with the surface only by a small telephone wire, divers will wear new helium-equipped suits which need no lifeline to compressed air machines on deck. Last year Captain Hall made similar experiments in the Lesser Antilles, examining submerged shipwrecks in crystal-clear tropical waters.

GERMANY:
Ole Man River

Prussian army men are notoriously scrupulous about detail and lax about fundamental principles. In 1914 they made certain that every soldier's equipment was precise, yet overlooked French stubbornness. In 1938 they built amazingly perfect fortifications along the Rhine river, yet forgot that every 10 to 15 years the stream is subject to abnormal floods. Result: Unexpectedly one night a few days after Adolf Hitler visited the Limes lines, German soldiers fled their fortifications in the



GERMANY'S LIMES LINES
Water did what weapons couldn't.

face of rising flood waters. A few days later news leaked out that a great stock of ammunition was lost and that the forts must be entirely rebuilt.

More fortunate were Frenchmen on the Rhine's other bank, who discovered their fortress engineers had anticipated the seven-foot rise.

Results of the inundation: (1) Germany will probably be stalemated against aggression until next fall, knowing the world knows of her vital weakness along the Rhine; (2) France began pondering how to produce artificial floods in the Rhine, paralyzing the Reich's first line of defense in case of war.

CHILE:
Next?

If the U. S. wants solidarity among Pan-American nations, she must pay for it. Such is the view of South and Central American countries who could get all the trade concessions they want from bartering Italy and Germany if Washington did not play ball. Last November, Cuba's Dictator Fulgencio Batista visited President Roosevelt. A few days later handsome concessions were announced. This spring Brazil's Foreign Minister Oswaldo Arahna came a-visiting, also winning concessions. Next came Nicaragua's President-Dictator Anastasio Somoza, who went away with $2,000,000 in credits. A few days later from far-away Santiago came the announcement that a Chilean economic commission will visit Washington in July seeking a loan and commercial credits. Far from being gifts, however, U. S. financial arrangements with Pan-American nations decrease American dependency on European and Asiatic nations and often provide new outlets for domestic surpluses.

NAVY:
Statistics

Significant and fearsome is a U. S. peacetime naval construction program bigger than any in history. With a $773,000,000 building appropriation on its hands, with 74 vessels already underway, and with 23 new contracts about to be let, the fleet's current status is something like this:

Type of Vessel	In commission	Under construction	Appropriated for
Battleships	15	6	2
Heavy Cruisers	17	1	0
Light Cruisers	17	6	2
Aircraft Carriers	5	2	0
Destroyers	218	35	8
Submarines	87	12	8
Auxiliary	107	12	3

Primary emphasis in the new program will be on capital ships, 15 such battlewagons already being in service. On the way are two more, the 35,000-ton North Carolina and Washington. About to be started are the South Dakota, Indiana, Massachusetts and Alabama. Two more, 45,000-tonners and larger than anything afloat, will be started under current appropriations. None of the eight battleships will be ready before 1945 or 1946.

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

ARMAMENT — Soviet Russia has ordered a 50 per cent increase in her 1939 national defense budget to keep abreast of Germany and Italy. Approximate additional cost: $8,000,000,000.

RUBBER—J. M. Slattery, Fisk tire executive, predicts 50 per cent increase in world rubber consumption during next 10 years. Items: Sponge cushions and mattresses, cushions for railroad tracks, traffic markers, flooring, furniture, packaging materials, plastics and latex garments.

GASOLINE—In 1938, U. S. gasoline consumption was 1 per cent above the previous year, although motor vehicle registrations were 1 per cent less than 1937.

JEWS—A new Berlin ghetto decree places still more drastic restrictions on areas to be inhabited by "non-Aryans."

COMING UP

JUNE 15—Justice Edgar J. Lauer of New York Supreme court, whose wife was convicted and sentenced for smuggling, to resign.

JUNE 15 — Semi-annual war debt payments due. Last December 14, of 13 governments owing $2,051,707,241 (of which $1,891,489,906 was in arrears), only Finland paid in full as usual, $232,935. Hungary made part payment of $9,828.16.

JUNE 17—Commander Donald B. MacMillan to sail from Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on eighteenth scientific expedition into arctic.

JUNE 23—Paul V. McNutt, U. S. high commissioner to Philippines and former Indiana governor, to arrive at San Francisco and open campaign for Democratic presidential nomination.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Restates All New Deal Theories and Convictions

Retail Federation Speech Seen as His Political Philosophy For 1940 Campaign; Insists on Continued Spending; Would Hold Down Business Profits.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—As the days go by, it appears more and more that President Roosevelt's speech before the American Retail federation here, May 22, amounts to a declaration of greatest political importance. It may be, indeed, that the Chief Executive's pronouncements before the retail merchants that night will eventuate as the cornerstone of his political philosophy for the campaign of 1940.

In Mr. Roosevelt's speech before the retail businessmen, it will be recalled upon examination that he restated virtually all of the New Deal theories and convictions. That was important. But more important was the emphasis with which he offered, in new language, the general assertion that there will be no backtracking. More important to the country, as a whole, was his determined adherence to the principle of virtually unlimited government spending, because his renewed insistence in that direction came at a time when there is considerable fear that the country faces further inflation of its currency.

There seems to be quite a general agreement that the retail speech should be examined in the light of 1940. As far as I can learn, that is the view taken by New Dealers, by old line Democrats, who are antagonistic to spending policies of the last five years, and by cautious Republican observers who are anxiously looking for signs indicating whether Mr. Roosevelt, himself, will seek a third term in the office of President. While the views of the three segments converge, their reasons differ. The New Dealers who want Mr. Roosevelt to run for a third term desire to consider the speech as a preliminary statement, a charting of the future course; the old line Democrats who desire to get the party back in Democratic hands, rather than in the hands of the radical wing, entertain fears which force consideration of 1940, and the Republicans secretly are hoping that Mr. Roosevelt will try to break the third term precedent.

Speech Sought to Court Favor With Retailers

There is another reason, apparent to some observers, why the speech that sought to court favor with the retail dealers should be thought of in terms of a year hence. It will be remembered that the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States was held here only two weeks in advance of the speech which is the subject of so much discussion. Now, I never have thought that the Chamber of Commerce represents very much of the country's sentiment. It is made up, of course, of business interests that are representative, but as a matter of cold fact it is dominated and managed and directed by the really big business of the nation. Thus, it speaks the big business viewpoint to the extreme, and likewise in these columns before that the Chamber of Commerce usually can kill off projected legislation by the simple expedient of supporting it.

But the recent chamber meeting took no notice of Mr. Roosevelt beyond damning his program and policies lock, stock and barrel. The President, it seems, took advantage of the opportunity to tell the retailers about his innermost thoughts as an offset to the vials of poison scattered about by the big business representatives. He reasserted his views on every point to which the chamber had taken opposition and about which there had been fighting speeches made. I suppose if one's sense of humor could be sufficiently detached from the gravity of the situation, they could describe the circumstance as similar to two small boys who were sticking out their tongues at each other as proof of their anger.

A third factor might be brought into the picture. You will recall that it was only a week or so prior to Mr. Roosevelt's speech that he spent an afternoon in conference with some of the legislative leaders. Among them was Senator Pat Harrison, the old-line Mississippi Democrat, who occupies the post of chairman of the powerful senate committee on finance. That is the committee which handles tax legislation in the senate. Included in the conference also was Chairman Doughton, of the house committee on ways and means, also a tax committee.

Harrison Tells President Tax Revision Is Necessary

No further review of that conference is necessary than to relate how Mr. Harrison told the President there must be tax revision in order to lift and readjust some of the unfair taxes on business, and he said there would be tax legislation in this session of congress. Chairman Doughton appeared to join in rather timidly, but I believe it is not going to be important whether the Doughton heart is with Harrison or with Roosevelt. The fighting Pat Harrison is going to obtain some tax legislation if it is possible, and Mr. Roosevelt will have an opportunity to veto the bill if he likes.

So, in his speech, Mr. Roosevelt took a sideswipe at the proponents of tax changes. Their reasons for demanding tax revision, you see, are based upon a belief that business will not go ahead until government gives more consideration to the burden that is on business. Senator Harrison, along with many other old line Democrats, feels that business can not re-employ workers as long as taxes are unevenly distributed. That is to say, the Mississippi senator is seeking ways by which business will take on workers and the federal treasury will be free from the enormous appropriations for relief spending.

With reference to the Harrison position, however, it should be said here that congress has shown a dozen yellow streaks about cutting down in spending. It started out talking economy in a big way. It acted, however, by way of voting money out of the treasury wherever a new method for spending it was proposed. The individual representative and senator, excepting those boldly aligned with Senator Harrison, displayed the usual cowardice of a political more interested in holding his ten-thousand dollar job than in serving his country.

Determined Business Profits Must Be Held to Minimum

When Mr. Roosevelt said in his speech, therefore, that he would demand only that the present distribution of tax levies and rates should remain the same, he was answering Senator Harrison's group. In other words, the President has budged from the position and viewpoint he long has held only to the extent that he now says he will not quibble about details; he wants corporations to bear as much tax as heretofore and he will insist upon it. He is determined that business profits must be held to the minimum and there are indications that he will carry such a fight "to the country."

Regardless of the tax question and the over regulation to which so many government agencies are addicted in dealing with business, Mr. Roosevelt expressed his whole thought in one sentence:

"You can not expect this administration to alter the principles and the objectives for which we have struggled the last six years."

That declaration encompasses in one sentence germs of great trouble for the Democratic party. Some observers here described it as stubborn statement. It is known, of course, that Mr. Roosevelt can be positively bull-headed in his determination when he wishes. Because of this trait, therefore, some of the old line Democrats again are fearful of a wide open split in the party.

The President laid the greatest stress on federal spending, and he made the rather startling statement that there can be no balanced budget either this year or next. Which can mean only that there must be more borrowing by the government which now is paying an annual interest charge of more than $1,000,000,000 on the public debt that is well over $40,000,000,000. In defense of this condition—there has been an increase of more than $20,000,000,000 since Mr. Roosevelt took office—the President asserted there should be no particular concern about the debt or the interest. What of it, he said, in effect; if there is that interest to be paid by our children, it will be paid to our children.

Smacks Much of Old Argument for Pump Priming

In pooh-poohing the public debt and the great interest charge to be met every year, Mr. Roosevelt said the government had to continue spending and creating debt because, otherwise, there would be no business for the retailers or any other type of commercial endeavor. It smacked very much of the old argument for pump priming and certainly bore out many reports that Marriner S. Eccles, head of the federal reserve banking system, has great influence with the President, who used to get his advice on financial matters from Secretary Morgenthau, of the treasury. Mr. Eccles may be regarded, I believe, as one of the most visionary of all of the inner circle of New Dealers. In any event, he has preached spending, spending and more spending by the government as the means of lifting the country out of the depression by its own bootstraps.

It is on this public debt matter that attention is likely to center more earnestly later on. The debt has been growing and growing and the general condition of the country may be said fairly to have advanced not one bit in the last several years.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Home Sewn Aids To Summer Beauty

ADD variety and color, as well as smartness, to your summer wardrobe by making the charming accessory set in gay printed cottons like linen, pique or gingham. It's very easy to do—even the gloves, which have the new, roomy, blunt fingers. Your pattern (1643), includes a step-by-step sew chart that tells you exactly what to do.

This princess dress for afternoons is exactly what you want for hot summer days. This style (1752) is refreshingly simple, and it has a beautifully smooth, slim figure-line, upped sleeves, and a square neckline dipped in the front to make it more becoming.

The frills at the neckline, sleeve edges and foot of the skirt, make this dress very feminine and flower-like. And it's so easy! The dress itself practically puts itself together, and the frills can be sewn in, in no time! Linen, voile, silk print organdy or flat crepe are pretty materials for this.

The Patterns.

No. 1643 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20, 40 and 42. Size 16 requires 2⅓ yards of 36-inch material for jacket; ⅓ yard for gloves, and ⅛ yard contrast; 1⅛ yards for scarf; ⅝ yard for bag.

No. 1752 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14 takes 4¾ yards of 39-inch material; 4¾ yards of pleating or ruffling.

New Spring-Summer Pattern Book

Send 15 cents for Barbara Bell's Spring - Summer Pattern Book! Make smart new frocks for street, daytime and afternoon, with these simple, carefully planned designs! It's chic, it's easy, it's economical, to sew your own. Each pattern includes a step-by-step sew chart to guide beginners.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

NERVOUS?

Do you feel so nervous you want to scream? Are you cross and irritable? Do you scold those dearest to you?

If your nerves are on edge and you feel you need a good general system tonic, try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made *especially for women*.

For over 60 years one woman has told another how to go "smiling thru" with reliable Pinkham's Compound. It helps nature build up more physical resistance and thus helps calm quivering nerves and lessen discomforts from annoying symptoms which often accompany female functional disorders.

Why not give it a chance to help YOU?

Over one million women have written in reporting wonderful benefits from Pinkham's Compound.

Impressive Thorn

One thorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warning.—Lowell.

RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE

How Do You Feel?

Tired? Irritable? No ambition? Look at your watch—note the time. The same time tomorrow, compare how you feel then with the way you do right now! In the meantime, stop at your drugstore and, tonight, drink a cup of Garfield Tea.

Tonight—"Clean Up Inside"—Feel Different Tomorrow!

Lose that let-down feeling. Let Garfield Tea clean away undigested wastes, intestinal "left-overs." Acts gently, promptly, thoroughly. Drink like ordinary tea. 10c — 25c.

FREE! Write for FREE SAMPLE of Garfield Headache Powder—also Garfield Tea, used for constipation, acid indigestion, and to "keep clean inside." *Write* Garfield Tea Co., Dept. 41, B'klyn, N.Y.

Harm in Flattery

Flattery corrupts both the receiver and the giver.

FOR BOILS

A wonderful aid for boils where a drawing agent is indicated. Soothing and comforting. Fine for children and grown-ups. Practical. Economical.

GRAY'S OINTMENT 25¢

MODERNIZE

Whether you're planning a party or remodeling a room you should *follow the advertisements* . . . to learn what's new . . . and cheaper . . . and better. And the place to find out about new things is right here in this newspaper. Its columns are filled with important messages which you should read regularly.