WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY HENRY W. PORTER

New Crisis Looms as Germany And Poland Mobilize Troops; Chamberlain Summons Aides

(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

World attention was focused early this week on the little town of Zilina (shown above), strategic railway center of Slovakia where 50,000 German troops were reported to be concentrated after the Reich had taken military possession of the Slovak republic which was already under German "protection." From Zilina more than a quarter of a million were deploying along a 100-mile front facing the Polish border.

EUROPE:
Week of Crisis

Peace or war?

Renewed activity, both military and diplomatic, indicated that this question may be answered one way or the other before this week of crisis ends.

Concentration of more than a quarter of million German troops, fully equipped for war, along Slovakia's border with Poland followed closely upon a conference between Hitler and Count Stephen Csaky, Hungarian foreign minister, after which it was announced that Hungary and the Reich had become firmly allied. Both of these moves were regarded as a part of the German plan to "encircle" Poland and as a buildup for Hitler's making a "final offer" to Poland on his demands for Danzig and a link with East Prussia through Pomorze (the Polish Corridor).

To meet this armed threat, Poland began sending troop reinforcements toward her frontiers facing Germany and Slovakia as a "precautionary measure against any eventuality." However, there were indications that Poland, feeling this military pressure, might advance some plan for settlement of the Danzig question by negotiation.

There were equally strong indications that she would resist armed force with armed force and count upon Great Britain to back her up. Whether or not her confidence in that backing is well-placed will become apparent if Prime Minister Chamberlain, who interrupted a vacation in Scotland to return to London, issues a statement after his conference with Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax, War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha, Sir John Simon, chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Samuel Hoare, home secretary, and Malcolm MacDonald, colonial secretary. Significant was an editorial in the London Times, which often reflects the views of the British government. It said that Great Britain had given Poland "a specific pledge from which it will not and can not recede. It had given no such pledge to Czecho-Slovakia."

Meanwhile, if negotiation, rather than armed force, is used to solve the Danzig question, the impetus for it may come from Rome. After his conference with Hitler, Count Csaky flew to the Italian capital for conversations with Mussolini and his foreign minister, Count Ciano, after which he returned to Budapest. No official announcement of the result of this conference was forthcoming but it is considered likely that the axis powers hope to make Csaky a go-between for negotiations between Berlin and Warsaw. Since Hungary has been on friendly terms with Poland and with the axis powers, especially Italy, the Hungarian foreign minister would fit well into this role.

COUNT CSAKY
A go-between?

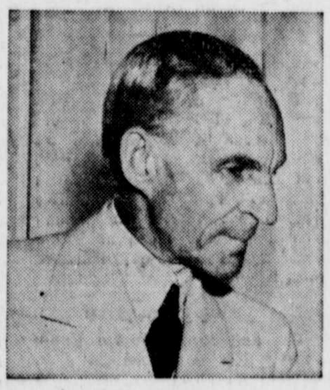
What effect the recently proclaimed trade agreement between Germany and Russia will have upon the resumption of negotiations for a three-power mutual asistance agreement between Great Britain, France and the Soviet is still undetermined. This agreement, which will probably give Germany access to much-needed raw materials, may so strengthen her hand in Europe's power politics that it may have a very decisive effect upon negotiations over Danzig, if that problem is to be settled by negotiation.

The latest move toward maintaining peace by negotiation was made by Belgium. King Leopold's government has invited the ministers of six small powers to rush to Brussels by airplane and join with Belgium in a peace plea to the larger nations. Those who were invited and who are said to have accepted the invitation were the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

LABOR:
'Gag' on Ford?

The Ford Motor company has notified the National Labor Relations board that it would not comply with an order which the board had issued against it reaffirming its earlier ruling that the company was guilty of violating the Wagner act by refusing to reinstate 24 men, said to have been discharged for union activity.

The new labor board decision retained the disputed section of the earlier ruling which required the firm to "cease and desist from . . . interfering with . . . its employees in the exercise of rights guaranteed in Section 7 of the act by circulating, distributing, or otherwise disseminating among its employees statement of propaganda which disparages or criticizes labor organization . . ."



HENRY FORD
Denied "free speech"?

The board referred mainly to the famous "Fordisms" as written by Henry Ford. The quotations contained anti-union sentiments.

In replying to the labor board, P. E. Martin, Ford vice president, denied that the company had discharged members of the United Automobile Workers of America or otherwise intimidated them and charged that the right of free speech was being denied Ford.

AGRICULTURE:
Milk Parley

As the result of renewed violence in upstate New York, marked by more milk-dumping and some skull-cracking when police and state troopers clashed with milk plant pickets, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York city this week called farmer and distributor representatives into a conference to seek a peaceful solution of their dispute. The mayor's action came after the dairymen's strike had cut the usual supply available to the metropolitan area from 4,400,000 quarts to 2,300,000 quarts, although both sides had given assurance that hospitals, public institutions and other needy customers would receive an adequate supply.

The Farmers' Dairy union, which claims a membership of 15,000 dairy farmers and which is supported by the C. I. O., called the strike in an effort to force distributors to pay them $2.35 a hundredweight (or 47 quarts) for all classes of milk. The present price for such "blended" milk, which is used for manufacturing as well as drinking purposes—is $1.60 a hundredweight.

Hearings in Syracuse and New York city to discuss the price structure have been ordered for this week by the United States department of agriculture.

POLITICS:
'Stop Spending!'

Calling upon the Roosevelt administration to take the lead in a cooperative effort by business, labor, farmers and others to stimulate production, the American Federation of Labor in its monthly survey of business declared that an expansion of industry is necessary to forestall "a further demand for government spending, with its danger of inflation and consequent losses to wage earners."

It said experts contended that production increases could be planned for the country as a whole, but that businessmen were not likely to lead in the expansion because business risks were greater and profits smaller than in predepression years.

Defeat of the administration's lending bill was cited as evidence that congress had rejected the "pump-priming" theory of stimulating recovery and by so doing had placed the responsibility on business.

This suggestion of a farmer-labor-business-government get-together, following close upon the heels of a similar suggestion by Philip Murray, C. I. O. vice president, is regarded as evidence that the A. F. of L. is not only trying to bring a labor peace but will probably side with business in the 1940 campaign against a Roosevelt-backed candidate, unless he discards his philosophy of spending as a method of recovery.

DOMESTIC:
Bund 'Immorality'

Back from Washington, where she had told the Dies committee that she had quit as a German-American Bund Youth leader because of "immorality" in their camps, went 19-year-old Helen Vooros to her home in Brooklyn. As she sat in a restaurant an eight-year-old boy handed her an iodine bottle label, on the back of which was penciled, in shorthand, "Goodbye, life." The boy who delivered this death threat is said to have identified a photograph of a prominent Bund member as the one who handed the label to him with instructions to give it to "the girl in the black dress."

HELEN VOOROS
"Goodbye, life."

Most important witness thus far has been Bundmaster Fritz Kuhn. After hearing his life story, Representative Starnes of the committee asked Kuhn if his organization wasn't intended to establish a Nazi government in the United States.

"That's an absolute lie—a flat lie!" shouted Kuhn.

Flaming with anger, Joe Starnes jumped to his feet. Shoving reporters and photographers aside he strode toward the witness crying: "Don't call me a liar!"

When capitol policemen had put an end to these fighting words, the committee got down to more serious work. With calm deliberation, Illinois Rep. Noah Mason drew enough information from the witness to make German-American bundism distasteful. When faced with the accusation that his bund is "a money-making racket based on the credulity of the American people," Kuhn countered by listing these strange objectives: (1) To unite the German-American element, (2) to fight communism, (3) to give the German element "political background."

ARMY:
'Iron Horses' to Front!

While a group of foreign observers, including military attaches from Germany, France, Great Britain and half a dozen other European countries looked on, the crack mechanized Seventh Cavalry from Fort Knox, Ky., swung into action for the first time in two "battles" in which 52,000 regular soldiers and National Guardsmen were engaged this week in the war games near Plattsburg, N. Y. A day of rain that soaked fields and highways gave Uncle Sam's "iron horses" a real test of their usefulness in modern war.

Before the second phase of the games began, Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commander-in-chief, assembled 3,000 officers on the parade ground to present a few facts. Publicly scorned was the suggestion that his troops fight at "paper strength," *i. e.*, with imaginary armament the army hopes some day to secure. The general demanded a campaign of reality, "to bring home the actualities of our state of preparedness." Only in tanks, he said, is the army up to strength. Other deficiencies: manpower, 77 per cent; machine guns, 67 per cent; trucks, 83; automatic rifles, 57.

Said he: "I do not intend to belittle the advantages of speed. But mobility off the battlefield cannot compensate for inefficiency in the conduct of a fight. What we need to learn is how to fight."

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Hits Top in Precedent Breaking in Thanksgiving Change

Stirs Up More Comment Than Any Statement Ever Emanating From a Chief Executive; Element of Uncertainty Injected Is What Makes It Harmful.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt's ability to keep things stirred up has been demonstrated numerous times since his accession to the White House. He seems to have a highly developed penchant for doing the unexpected. He calls it "precedent breaking." The results have been varied, although it strikes me that more of the "breaks" have been against him in recent months than when he first began to break precedents as President in 1933.

It appears, however, that Mr. Roosevelt reached a new peak in precedent breaking when he changed the date of our annual Thanksgiving day. Probably no statement ever forthcoming from a Chief Executive stirred up as much comment—unless perhaps it was the famous statement by Calvin Coolidge that "I do not choose to run." True, Mr. Roosevelt moved the date only one week, making this year's Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 23, instead of November 30. The effect was the same, however, whether the change was one week or one month. Next year, he proposes that the date should be moved forward another week so that thereafter the date upon which we pay homage to God, as a nation, will be the second Thursday in November, instead of the last Thursday of the month.

In announcing his plan, the President said he was desirous of rearranging the November holiday so that "holidays will be more evenly spaced." There is Labor day on the first Monday in September; there are no national holidays in October; Thanksgiving day in November and Christmas day near the end of December. So, Mr. Roosevelt said it seemed better to move Thanksgiving day a bit forward. His action, he explained, was taken after many business men had urged it as a means of giving more time for Christmas shopping. It is well known that shoppers do not really get going in their Christmas buying until after Thanksgiving day, and Mr. Roosevelt said the change might spread out the usual rush.

Thanksgiving Day Change Stirs Up Unusual Comment

Whatever the reason for the change, the announcement broke out all of the hissing steam that was pent up. Business interests here and there tried vainly to show a united front. But that was impossible because retailers disagreed as to its possible benefits. There was no disclosure by the President of the identity of those business interests he had consulted. Some lines of trade felt that terrific damage had been done them and their shouts were angry. Religious groups have remained silent, as organizations, but their individual members have had unpleasant things to say about the change. Altogether, the picture seems to show a bad reaction throughout the nation.

Let us look at the thing, however, from a practical standpoint:

Mr. Roosevelt made his announcement without consulting the state department. If he had sought advice there, he would have learned that a presidential proclamation can be enforced only in the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States. No state needs pay any attention to a White House proclamation unless it desires to do so. Hence, the declaration that Thanksgiving day shall be November 23, 1939, is binding only upon us folks here in Washington, and those in Alaska, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

There are 11 states that have laws fixing Thanksgiving day for the last Thursday in November of each year. Their legislatures are not in session. They will not be called into session again before the forthcoming Thanksgiving day. Which day will they celebrate and praise God for the blessings He has given them?

There is no national statute fixing the date. It is a traditional ceremonial day, a day which, to Americans, means actually the connection between our economic life and the Almighty Power that guided our nation from its inception, the link between material things and religion.

For the reasons of its establishment, it strikes me that there ought not be a national law on the subject. It is a sacred thing. But my guess is there will be a law and that law will say that the last Thursday in November shall be set aside as a national holiday for expression of our gratitude. I think such a law will be passed at the next session of congress.

Arouses Fear That All Our People Are Being Regimented

Mr. Roosevelt surely could not have guessed the repercussions, the backfire, that has greeted his announcement and that has continued in unabated fury. The politicians seized upon it for some of the dirtiest wisecracks I ever have heard. I heard one that really warrants repetition here. The remark recalled that King George, on his recent visit to North America, reset his birthday so that it could be celebrated while he was in Canada—that being a prerogative of a king and emperor. The question was then propounded whether our President contemplated a flexible holiday schedule that would permit celebration of events whenever the White House thought national morale was low.

There is more to that remark than just a laugh. Behind the thought is an indication of a fear that all of our people are being regimented, told when to shout or when to weep, when to work and when to play, what to eat and what to wear and not to think, but to obey. Of course, it is an exaggerated viewpoint; it is not so exaggerated, however, that it is not possible of attainment. It is to be remembered that the people of Russia, and then of Italy and then of Germany have gone through that very stage. It was a step which they took, and disregarded as unimportant. It led directly to the conditions under which those people now live and have their being, regimented all, controlled, beaten down, living a life of fear.

Now, lest I be misunderstood, I hasten to say that I believe there was no such thoughts as those in Mr. Roosevelt's mind. I believe his action was taken because of his ever-present urge to make changes. There are many persons who hold that it was another move by the President designed to keep people from thinking of their troubles, to help them forget the terrible struggles through which we have been, and are, passing.

Take a Look at Practical Side of the Situation

Again, as to the practical side and the results flowing from the breaking of another precedent:

Let us consider first the lithographing and printing industry of the country. There are thousands upon thousands of other businesses that use the product of the lithographer and the printer. Consider the calendar that hangs on your wall. It will show November 30 as the Day of Thanksgiving. The annual bill for calendars, paid for by industry and by each of us who buys a calendar, exceeds $100,000,000. The calendars are not useless, of course, but the fact that the "calendar is wrong" has some indescribable effect upon me.

Take the transportation industry. Officials begin planning many months ahead for tours, special rates, excursions. Public events and ceremonies have been scheduled. Each ties in with some other—scheduled for Thanksgiving day when Thanksgiving day was to be November 30. The printing industry has done its job for most of those things ahead even of today. What a mess that is going to be!

Many editorials have been written, many interviews given out, concerning the effect of the new Thanksgiving date on the college football "industry," for college football receipts run into millions of dollars every year. Through all of the years, traditional games—the big games—the peak of the season—has been the Thanksgiving day game for hundreds of colleges. But if Thursday, November 30, is just another Thursday, what about the "gate" of those games?

Element of Uncertainty Is What Makes Change Harmful

And that brings us to the crux of this situation. It is the element of uncertainty that Mr. Roosevelt injected into our national life by the change in one holiday date that is harmful. Instead of promoting a feeling of security, my hunch is that the President has spread uncertainty and has caused confidence to crash in many a spot of which he never dreamed. Instead of creating a net increase in business by making a longer Christmas shopping period, I believe a cold analysis will show that the change will cost the country, as a whole, many millions of dollars in net losses.

Our nation has grown up, not in one piece, but in many pieces, each one fitted to another as smooth working as the gears of your automobile. When the engine turns over, it exerts pressure on the clutch, then on the drive shaft, then on the gears and then on the wheels, and the car moves. When any one unit of industry in America—any one phase of life—is changed suddenly, the clutch and the drive shaft and the gears and the wheels of others are affected. More than any other one thing that has happened in recent years, I believe, the President's announcement proves how closely knitted our lives are. It shows, too, that government can wreck national life as well as preserve and protect it.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

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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.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

All Fares, Please

The street car conductor took up his duty of taking the collection at church for the first time. There were several children in the first pew, and each put in a penny. The people in the next pew also contributed. A big, glum man was in the third pew. The collector passed the plate, but the man shook his head and stuck his hands deep in his pockets.

The conductor stopped, put up his hand as if to pull the bell cord, and, amid the muffled titters of surrounding worshipers, said, "Well, you'll have to get off!"—Montreal Star.

NERVOUS?

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Esteemed Self

A man must be excessively stupid, as well as uncharitable, who believes there is no virtue but on his own side.—Addison.

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