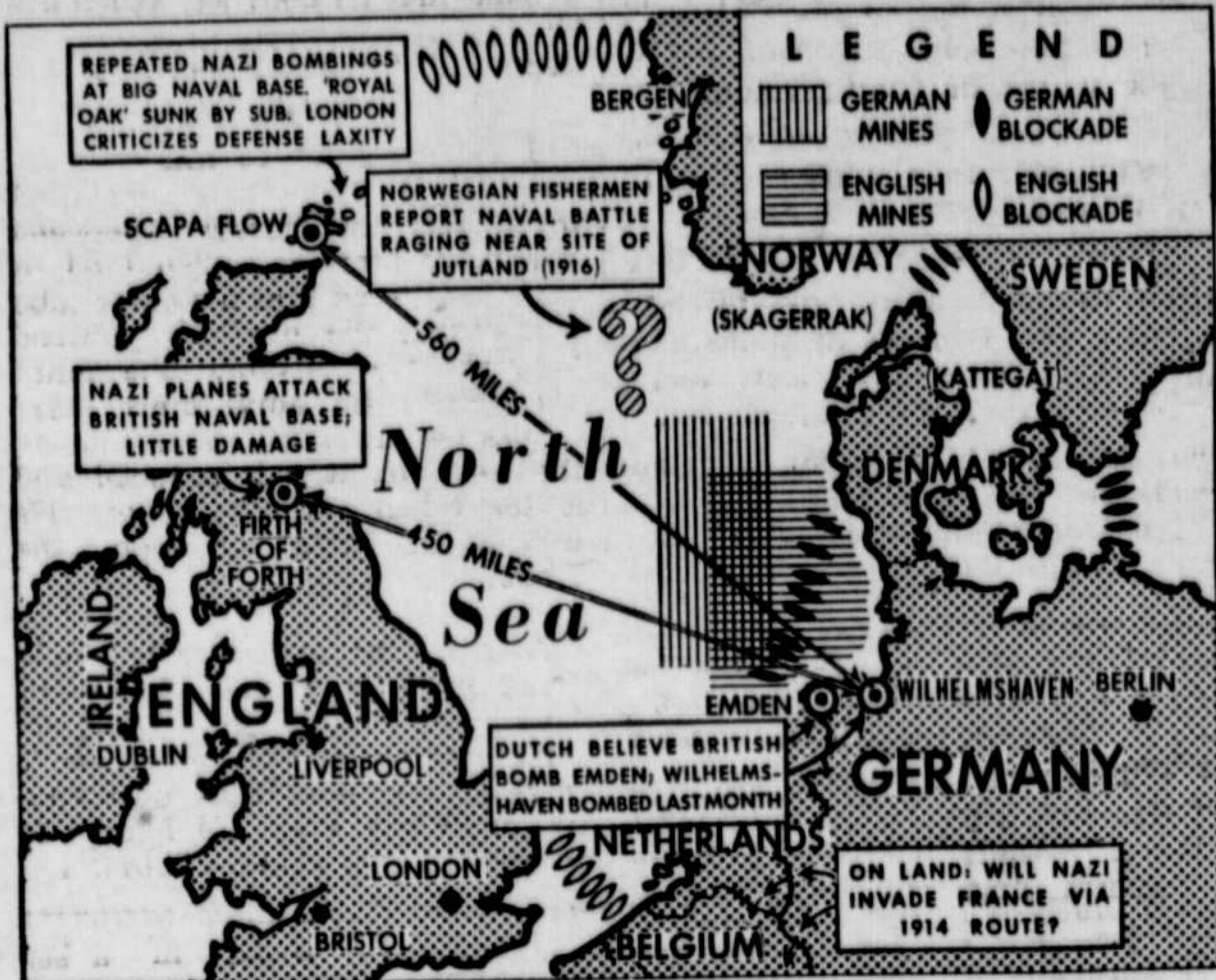


WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Allies Counter Nazi Air Might With Turkish Diplomatic Coup; Italy Seeks Balkan Supremacy

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



Will Nazi air might outpoint Britain's battlewagons?

THE WAR: Diplomacy

In early 1938 Germany's conservative Field Marshal Werner von Blomberg married blonde Erika Gruhn, a carpenter's daughter whom other Nazi officers termed "socially impossible."

"I drew your lordship's attention (in 1938) to the far-reaching and unfortunate results of the Blomberg marriage. I am more than ever convinced of the major disaster which that—in itself—minor incident involved, owing to the consequent elimination from Herr Hitler's entourage of the more moderate of his advisers, such as von Blomberg."

Recalled by diplomats was the general army shakeup that followed, in which Baron Konstantin von Neurath lost control of German foreign policy, and pro-war advisors fastened themselves to Hitler. It made a pretty news story: Is a woman the cause of Europe's war?

At Sea

In 1919 the proud but beaten German navy scuttled 72 warships in Scapa Flow (see map) rather than lose them to the allies. In the war of 1939, Germany remembered Scapa Flow. Day after day Nazi raiders had bombed the Firth of Forth naval yard at Edinburgh, long-range airships again set out (probably from Wilhelmshaven) and unleashed the full fury of Herr Hitler's air might against Scapa Flow. Five times in four hours they struck, damaging the old Iron Duke and giving Britishers a bad case of jitters. Next day press and parliament railed at Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain for sloppy defense work. The cries grew stronger when Chamberlain revealed the Royal Oak had also been sunk at Scapa Flow by a daring U-boat.

But Britain was not idle in this battle of airship vs. warship; she was merely less communicative than the Nazis, who boasted of their conquests. Next day Hollanders reported the Emden naval base had been bombed, and possibly Wilhelmshaven. Both Danish and Norwegian fishermen scurried for cover when the foe clashed somewhere west of Skagerrak. But the sum total of war at sea, which far overshadows the western front, is that Nazi air might is humbling the supposedly invincible British navy.

(U. S. ships got tangled in the war zone. The liner President Harding was buffeted by stormy weather off the Irish coast and had to seek help from home. The freighter Independence Hall picked up 300 torpedo victims from the City of Mandalay.)

Western Front

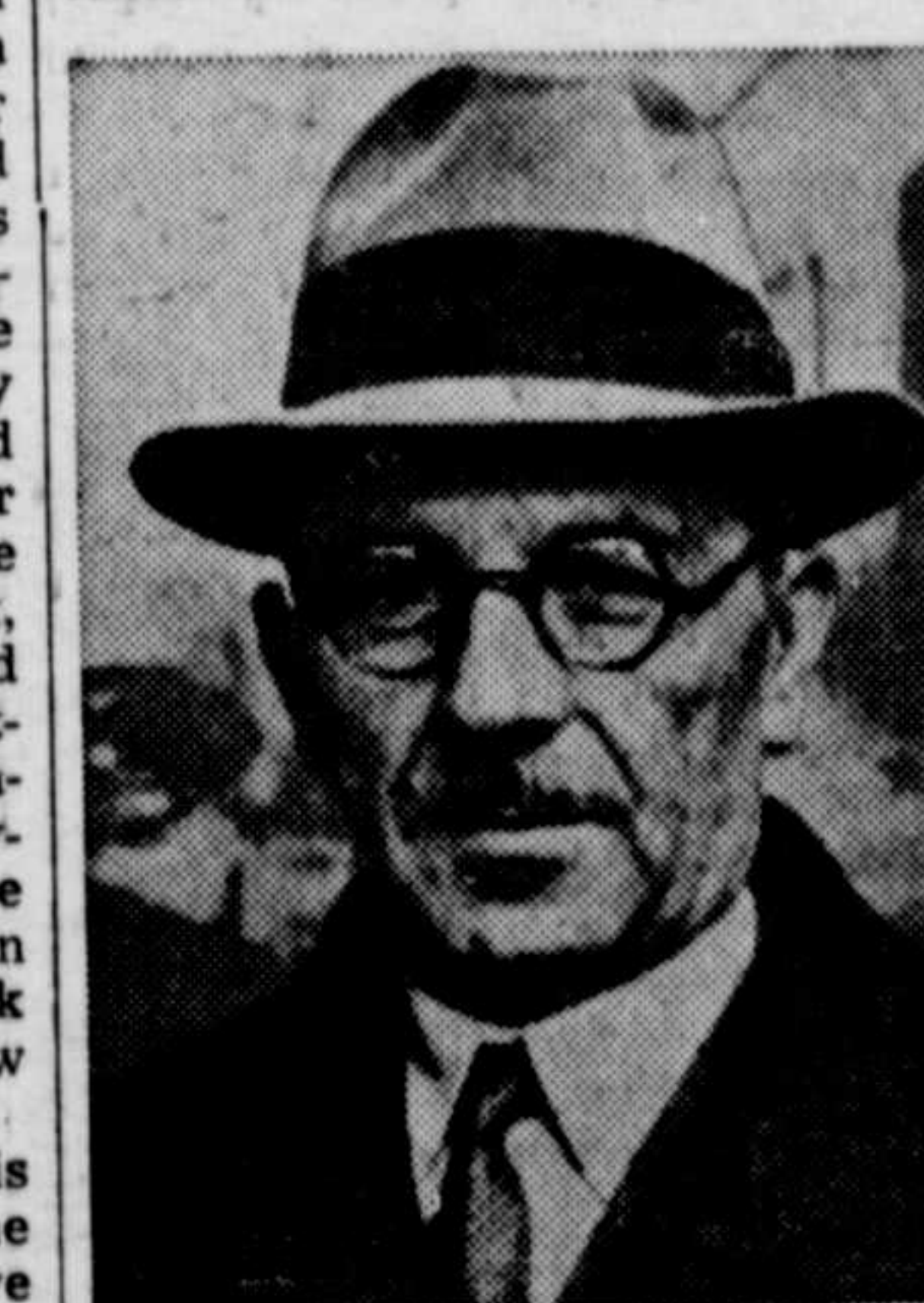
Whether by choice or convenience, French-British troops began fighting a defensive war whose principal feature was "strategic retreat." On the 100-mile northern flank of the western front, Nazidom's fighting men opened a vicious offensive which drove allied troops back to their main line. Paris reported one part of this drive, on the Moselle and before Saarbrücken, had cost the Germans 5,000 casualties in two days. The French were apparently content to dig in, letting Germany pay the cost of offensive warfare. But they were also waiting for a clearer definition of Russia's intentions (see THE NEUTRALS). Meanwhile reports persisted that the 20 German divisions massed on the

Belgian-Netherlands frontier were not there to enjoy the scenery. The burning question: Will 1914's route of invasion be used again?

THE NEUTRALS: Search for Security

From Scandinavia down through the Balkans to Turkey, diplomats scurried madly after an elusive quantity called security. The reason was Russia, whose grisly head had been shoved into eastern Europe the moment Adolf Hitler opened the door. Although Moscow shipped 17½ tons of gold to Berlin (presumably Polish gold), and although German engineers were busy supervising the Soviet's new five-year plan, the happy wedding of Communism and Nazism seemed to have cost both principals a lot of friends.

Balkans. Russian-Turkish talks in Moscow broke down and Foreign Minister Sukru Saracoglu left for Istanbul, presumably refusing (1) to close the strategic Dardanelles to all but Russian warships and thus imperil the allies' chances to aid Rumania; (2) to permit Russo-German domination of a Balkan neutral bloc; (3) to recognize the Polish partition, and (4) to permit expansion of Bulgaria and Russia at Rumania's expense. Next day Turkish friendship with the allies was cemented by mutual assistance pacts whereby France, Britain and Turkey agreed to protect the eastern Mediterranean. Meanwhile Turkish troops rushed to northern frontiers. Commented irked Germany, which promptly smuggled closer to Russia: "It can be taken for certain that other states of the Balkan entente will see in Turkey's attitude a



SUKRU SARACOGLU Italy also watched his work.

renunciation of the preservation of neutrality which is one of the most important aims of the Balkan states."

But Berlin could not be sure. There was every indication that Italy, which fears a Russian-inspired pan-Slavic movement in the Balkans, would start collaborating with Turkey to preserve the Balkan status quo. Moreover the Italians knew their valued Dodecanese islands off Turkey's coast would be gone the instant Il Duce teamed up with Hitler against the allies.

More than ever, little Turkey held the balance of European power. Baltic. Fearing that Finland might meet the fate of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, all victims of Russia's westward drive, the four Scandinavian powers (Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) met at Stockholm to declare their solidarity. President Roosevelt sent his best wishes, having received the day before an answer to his note to Soviet President Michael Kalinin. Said the answer: "The sole aim (of Finnish-Russian negotiations) is the consolidation of reciprocal relations between the Soviet Union and Finland." There was still no official announcement of Russian "demands," but everyone knew Russia wanted naval and air bases on Finnish Baltic islands.

NEWS QUIZ

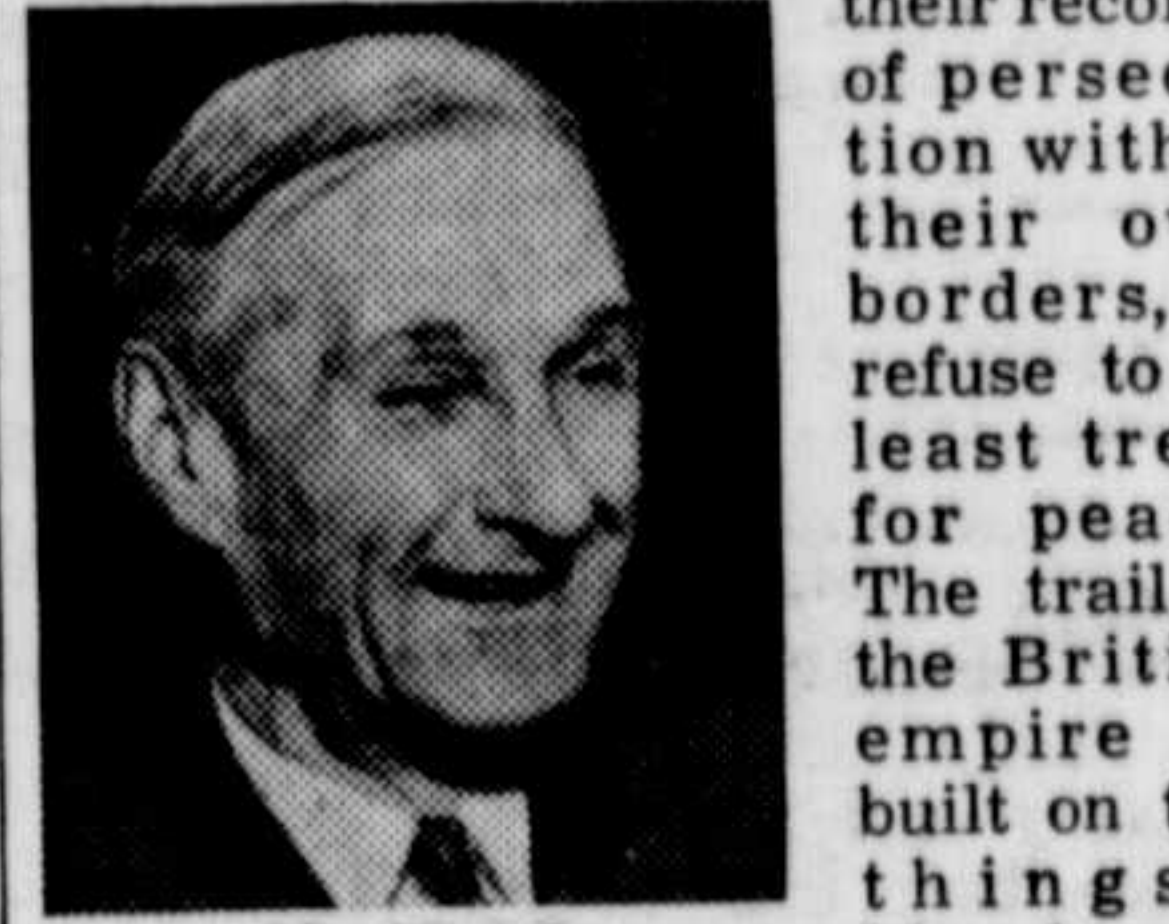
Know you news? One hundred is perfect score. Deduct 20 for each question you miss. Grades: 100, excellent; 80, good; 60, average; 40, poor; 20—!!



- 1. Above photo shows New York's Al Smith with his son. Why is the son, Al Jr., in the news?
2. What proposed U. S. trade pact are western senators fighting? Why?
3. What Latin-American nation, having been given the use of \$3,000,000 in U. S. gold, has ordered \$5,870,000 worth of railroad equipment here?
4. True or false: Under an unprecedented ruling, President Roosevelt opened U. S. harbors to all belligerent submarines.
5. What American automobile manufacturer has excluded Russian engineers who have been studying in his plant?
(Answers at bottom of column.)

CONGRESS: Budding Friendship

Three weeks of neutrality debate had passed before the word "fillibuster" was mentioned on the senate floor. Yet isolationists were making a fillibuster in everything but name. West Virginia's Rush D. Holt began vying with North Dakota's Gerald Nye as No. 1 speaker. Idaho's D. Worth Clark offered the best oratory: "If Germany is destroyed, her people will be driven into the arms of Stalin."



McADOO A good lobbyist.

But behind scenes there was compromise on the two most debatable points. Repeal of the arms embargo was certain, but isolationists demanded "cash-on-the-barrelhead" instead of 90-day credits to belligerents. Shippers and seaboard states demanded that proposed restrictions on U. S. shipping be relaxed. One of the latter lobbyists whose word carried weight was former Sen. William Gibbs McAdoo, now a west coast shipping executive, whose call at the White House was followed quickly by modification proposals.

Key Pittman, administration leader, called his foreign affairs benches into council and observers were pretty sure they'd win most isolationists with these concessions:

- 1. Designating areas where U. S. ships could carry all materials except armaments, i. e., lands like Australia and New Zealand.
2. If a U. S. vessel is destroyed with loss of life, the President would automatically stop trade in that vicinity.
3. The U. S. would not support a shipper's claim against a foreign government if a cargo is destroyed.
4. Vessel masters would be required to give the U. S. a statement of their cargo, detailing consignees and scheduled ports-of-call.
5. The entire western hemisphere would be opened to commercial air traffic.
6. "Cash-on-the-barrelhead" would be imposed not only against foreign governments, but upon residents of those countries.

From such compromise, Democratic wheelwheers saw hope for 1940. If the President disowns third-term ambitions before congress opens next January, and if he avoids any new reform or spending program, observers were pretty certain the once-disheveled Democratic party would hang together until election time.

MISCELLANY: Jews

Meeting at Washington, the international executive committee on refugees received an appeal from U. S. Jews to consider the plight of 5,000,000 Jews in eastern and central Europe, including those made homeless by the Polish partition. Meanwhile, President Roosevelt was handed a petition bearing 238,000 names, urging steps to make Palestine a Jewish haven. Next day, the committee recessed for two weeks to query member governments.

News Quiz Answers

- 1. Al Smith Jr. is running for alderman in New York.
2. Pact with Argentina. Because U. S. manufactured products would be exchanged for Argentine farm products, allegedly working a hardship on American farmers.
3. Brazil.
4. False—definitely! The ruling was unprecedented, however, and it bans all belligerent submarines except those forced to seek haven by force majeure—an emergency due to natural or "act of God" causes.
5. Henry Ford.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Public Sentiment Grows Insistent To Keep Out of European Muddle

Unmistakable Change Is Going on Throughout the Country; People Make Known Their Feelings and Their Thought Is Thoroughly Reflected in Congress.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—While the Roosevelt administration continues to subordinate everything to the general subject of the European war, there has been an unmistakable change in sentiment going on throughout the country and in the capital city. It is inescapable to the merest tyro of an observer. It represents a crystallization of that foggy thing called public sentiment.

The senate has debated the issue of repeal of the arms embargo to the fullest, but the debate has fallen short of telling the whole truth. There was an entire lack of any truly great speeches. Much additional light has been thrown on the whole question of a neutrality policy, yes; but I believe the senate failed to do the job in a way that history will measure as statesmanlike. The amazing fact is, therefore, that public sentiment should have solidified so definitely in such a short time, with a verdict that says: "We will stay out of that European mess; it is not ours, and we will not play their game."

It is always difficult to describe what takes place in the matter of public sentiment, powerful as it is in the United States. But it is easy to describe the condition, the status, of national thought as represented by an overwhelming majority of the citizens. In the current case, it can be told in two sentences. A few weeks ago, the big shots of government were saying: "possibly" we can keep out of war; the present statement is that "probably" we can keep out of the war. It is a vital difference.

The reason for this is obvious. People have made known their feelings. They have made clear that whatever else they may differ about, they are determined and united on the one proposition, namely, that we must not get tangled up with Europe's power politics. Further, existence of this sentiment has been thoroughly reflected in congress and those who would willingly toss our armies into the flame have begun to get scared about their own hides.

Clark Takes Wallop at Assistant Secretary of War

I must qualify that statement that all of the big shots have toned down their remarks. Several continue to shout in an inflammatory way. The best known of these is Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war. It is unnecessary for me to discuss Johnson's unwise statements. I can quote a real authority, for Senator Bennett Clark, the Missouri Democrat, dealt quite fully with the assistant secretary's utterances—especially that in which Mr. Johnson said that "if the United States were not fully prepared for war, it would be overrun like Poland." Of that remark, Senator Clark had this to say, during the arms embargo debate in the senate:

"In my judgment, no more idiotic, moronic or unpatriotic remark ever has been made by a man in high public office . . ."

"This is the same Louis Johnson who has been flying around the country in an army airplane for the last several years, preaching the inevitability of war and the certainty of our being drawn in and drawing horrific pictures with grisly prophecies of our shores being invaded and our own land being laid waste."

But after Senator Clark had streamlined the assistant secretary of war, he proceeded to fall off into the deepest water of demagoguery by attacking President Roosevelt's selection of members of the war resources board. To make that eagle scream in its shrillest notes, Senator Clark described it as a "Morgan-duPont board," which, to anyone who knows the facts, is a rather silly statement.

With respect to the attack on Mr. Johnson, I only wish that Senator Clark had gone ahead with disclosures so that the long-continued row in the war department could have had an airing.

Johnson Reported Seeking Job of Secretary of War

It is no longer a secret in Washington that Mr. Johnson has been trying for months to get the job of secretary of war. He and Mr. Woodring do not get along, and have not for much of the time the assistant secretary has been on the job. The result has been continual friction, a handicapping of department policies and a general fear among army officers. They are afraid they will get tangled up in departmental politics and every officer knows if he guesses wrong, the chances of getting top flight assignments are nil.

As can readily be seen, such a situation in a policy-making agency of government certainly does the nation no good. It is said that President Roosevelt sees Assistant Secretary Johnson more frequently than he confers with Mr. Woodring, the head of the department. Whether that is true or not, it is a fact that the President has done nothing at all to settle the long-standing row.

Getting back to the senate debate, attention ought to be turned momentarily to the defeat of the motion to separate the arms embargo question from that involved in the "cash and carry" sections of the bill. Senator Tobey, New Hampshire Republican, proposed that the bill be split up, because there was virtually an unanimous vote in prospect for a law that would let American business sell ordinary supplies to both sides of the European struggle, provided the buyers came here in their own ships, paid cash for their purchases and hauled them away in their own vessels.

Short shrift was made of that motion. It was licked by more than two to one. The reason: if the "cash and carry" section were disposed of, there would be so much less interest in the arms embargo repeal that its eventual defeat would be entirely possible.

Old Party Whip Is Used To Keep Followers in Line

Which brings us back to the subject of politics. It will be remembered that President Roosevelt called for an "adjournment of politics" during the dangerous period. No one made the open charge in debate, but there were plenty of senators who felt that the President exerted pressure to keep his own followers in line. The administration's leaders were quite well aware that a titanic struggle confronted them to obtain repeal of the arms embargo if it were cut loose from the "cash and carry" section. So the old party whip was brought into play.

But all of the changes that have taken place in the country's thought have had one reaction in Washington that is not obvious to those living outside of the capital city. I have reported to you before how the little clique that surrounds the President—extreme radicals and men with dreams who know how they will disappear if Democrats instead of New Dealers are in control—saw in the possibility of war an assurance of President Roosevelt's election to a third term. They were rubbing their hands and licking their chops because they saw themselves certain to continue in their jobs, exercising great power. The lack of enthusiasm for their plans has left them with nothing to do but mope and sulk. Their strategy has been blown up under their own noses. They do not know what to do about it.

The question that now confronts the country, from a political standpoint, is whether the European war will run six months or a year or six years. The answer to the question is vital to the politicians.

It is especially important to those who would "draft" Mr. Roosevelt to run for a third term, and I think it is being studied with great care by such men as Postmaster General Farley and Vice President Garner. It is being studied with equal care by Senators Taft of Ohio, and Vandenberg of Michigan, each of whom has a whole flock of Presidential bees swarming inside of his Republican bonnet.

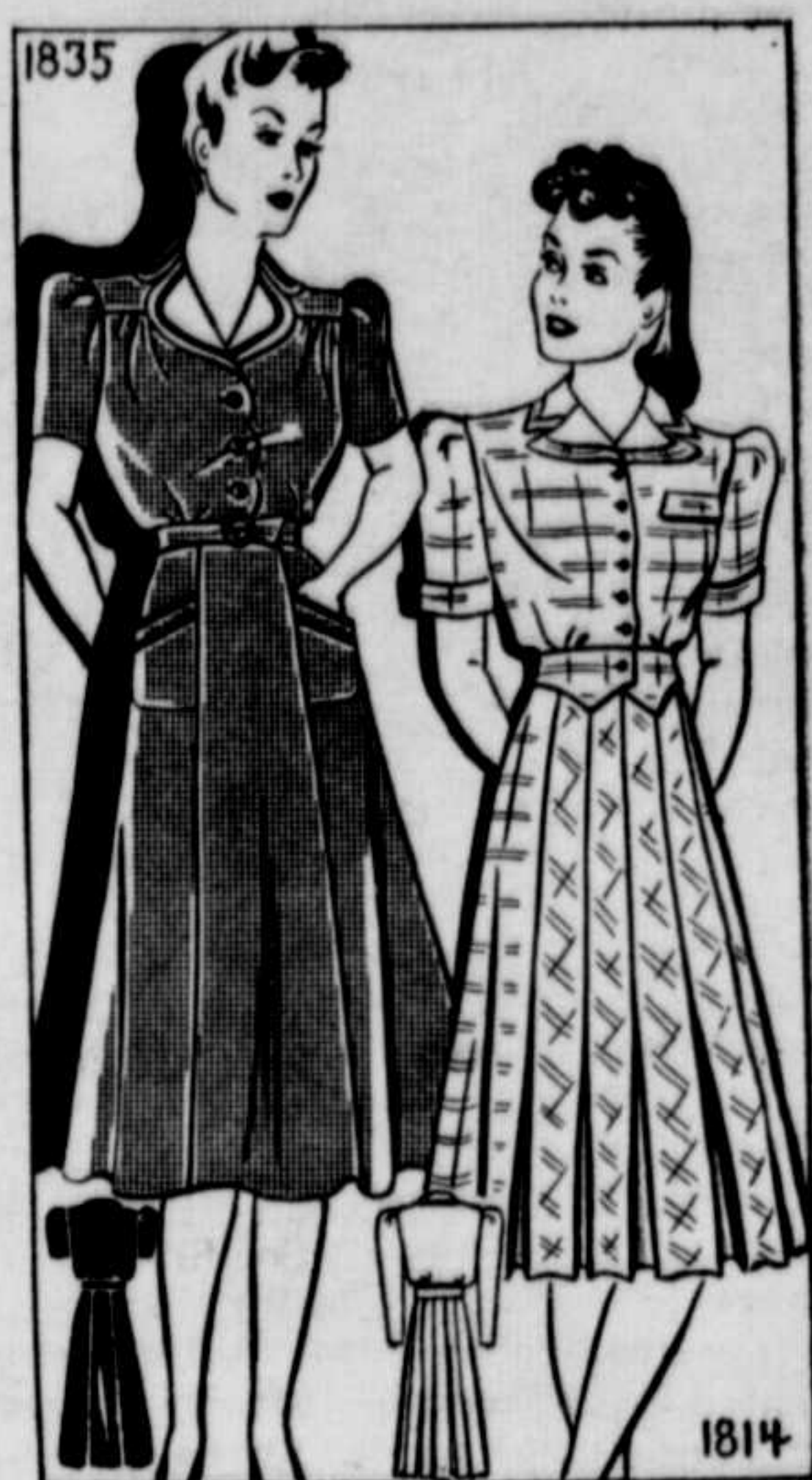
Farley Has Party Control Locked Up in His Own Safe

It has been noted, repeatedly, how the arms embargo debate has found many of the anti-administration Democrats aligned with the President, favoring repeal. Most of the senators whom President Roosevelt sought to "purge" from the Democratic party believe with the Chief Executive that the embargo ought to be repealed. Some few of the ardent Roosevelt supporters are standing against repeal. The interesting fact is that the intra-party row, among the Democrats, has had no effect upon the stand taken by the party members in the embargo controversy. And, thus, there has been considerable speculation whether there is to be a healing of the wounds. I think there will not be. The differences seem too deeply seated.

However, that may be, it can be said now that "Big Jim" Farley, who is chairman of the New York State Democratic committee in addition to being chairman of the National Democratic committee, has control of the party locked up in his own safe. If he chooses to align himself with the Garner-Harrison group, Mr. Roosevelt and his followers are through, washed up. If he decides to support Mr. Roosevelt again, the anti-Roosevelt Democrats will be tossed about like a straw in a whirlwind. It appears to this observer as of this time that the swing of public sentiment definitely against anything in the nature of American participation in the European war probably will mean a Farley swing to the Garner-Harrison side of the line.

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According to Kind

Each thing lives according to its kind; the heart by love, the intellect by truth, the higher nature of man by intimate communion with God.—Chapin.



WNW-4 43-39

From Trivial Causes

In war events of importance are the result of trivial causes.—Caesar.

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