

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

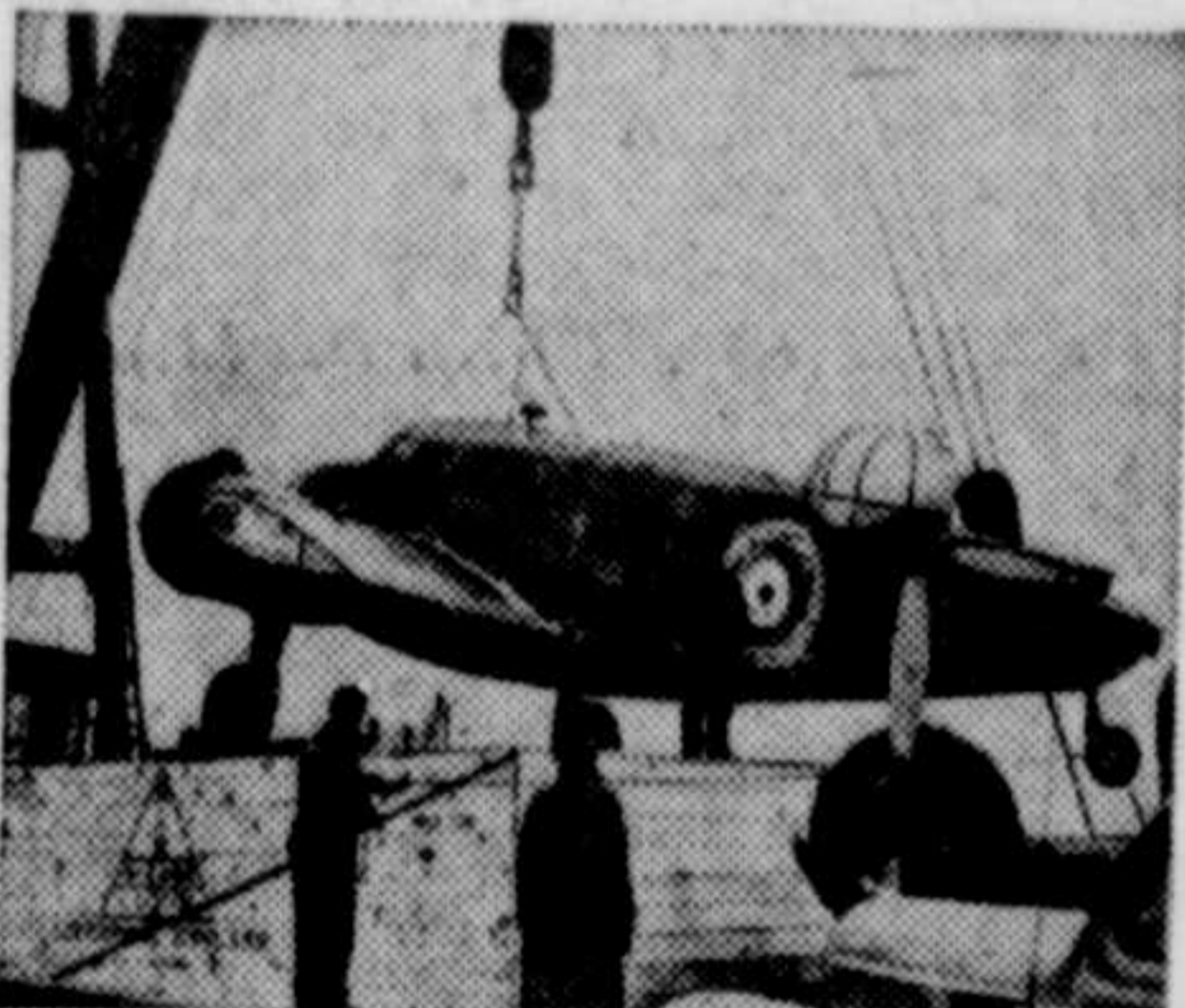
U. S. Reacts to European War As Shipments Crowd Wharves; Ickes Warns Against 'Raiding'

(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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DOMESTIC: U. S. & the War

Major fear of congressmen who opposed the neutrality act last October was that its practical effect was to favor Britain and France, who control the seas, meanwhile shutting off U. S. munitions supplies to Germany. Released by the state department at year's end were substantiating figures: In November, first month of neutrality's operation, France received export licenses covering \$95,579,000 in munitions exports; Britain, \$14,970,000; Germany, none.

Meanwhile New York port officials felt for the first time the press of war shipments. Bedded down in the foreign trade zone on Staten Island were bombers, trucks, trench



PLANE FOR BRITAIN
Trench diggers, too.

diggers, corned beef and miscellaneous war exports valued at \$18,500,000, all awaiting empty allied freighters to carry them across the submarine-infested Atlantic.

Items: 60 fast Lockheed reconnaissance bombers, their bodies painted a dark brown and camouflaged with weird stripings; 1,500 Studebaker trucks and 1,000 White trucks, the vanguard of 6,000 to be sent to the war zone within the next two months (wired to many of them were crates carrying machine gun mountings, and spare parts); 13 trench diggers costing \$3,000 each and destined for the Western front, to be followed soon by 270 more.

At Washington, the annual report of Interior Secretary Harold Ickes focused attention on America's need for conserving her natural resources which he said were threatened by efforts to break down conservation programs in an attempt to reap quick war profits. What specific attempts he had in mind Secretary Ickes did not say, but it is well known that army and navy departments have ordered strict conservation of domestic sources of certain strategic materials.

ESPIONAGE: Dies to Murphy

Much maligned during the two years his committee has investigated un-Americanism, Congressman Martin Dies of Texas has nevertheless managed to stir up trouble for Communist Earl Browder, Nazi Fritz Kuhn, Alien Harry Bridges, and many a lesser figure. For months the administration would not cooperate, but finally the justice department swooped down on Earl Browder, indicting him on false passport charges.

This month Attorney General Frank Murphy begins co-operating so completely that Martin Dies is shoved to the background. Opened in Washington was a special grand jury probe to study "direct evi-

FORECAST:

New Job:

Once U. S. ambassador to Italy, and an official of the state department since Woodrow Wilson's administration,

Breckinridge Long is considered the best bet to succeed Joseph E. Davies as ambassador to Belgium. Davies has already taken over most of Long's present duties as head of the special department for repatriation of Americans living abroad.

Goering Trouble: The London Daily Herald reports on good authority that Adolf Hitler's No. 1 aid, Field Marshal Hermann Goering, has fallen in disfavor and is living at his shooting chalet at Schorfheide, planning a comeback campaign "on his own terms."

Neutrality: Observers expect wholesale attempts to transfer U. S.-owned passenger and freight ships to registry of European neutrals, following the maritime commission's approval of a deal whereby eight U. S. Lines ships are sold to a Norwegian company for operation between New



LONG
To Brussels?

dence" of planned sabotage by representatives of foreign governments in U. S. auto, airplane and munitions factories. At the same time Frank Murphy began probing anti-Semitic activities, using the income tax, passport and foreign agent laws as his weapons.

THE WARS: In the West

Where Christmas left off, a violent blizzard began to top all operations on the western front. Sidelights: Britain, expecting "real war" in the spring, ordered 2,000,000 more men prepared for army service. In Paris *Le Petit Parisien* published a report from Italy that Adolf Hitler was ready to quit as chancellor and purge his more radical Nazis to "convince the allies to make peace."

Only sea activity was the decision of Germany's freighter *Tacoma* to accept internment at Montevideo harbor rather than face capture by British ships waiting outside the harbor.

In the North

Attack-and-repulsé tactics continued featuring the war between Finland and Russia, the Soviet suffering bitter losses on all fronts from Petsamo to the Karelian isthmus. Main reason, as usual, was cold weather, an ally of the skillful Finns. Most gruesome story:

Near Suomussalmi it was learned the outnumbered Finns had surrounded Russia's entire 163rd division, waited three weeks in bitter cold while the Soviet supply lines broke down, then attacked to find the Russians so weak and frozen they could hardly move. Trapped were most of the 18,000 men, thousands of them already dead.

Far from an optimist, Finland's President Kyosti Kallio knew such luck couldn't hold out. As new waves of Red troops were rushed to the front he appealed for foreign volunteers. Already on the way were 50,000 Scandinavians, with more to come.

WHITE HOUSE: Appointments

As congress opened, President Roosevelt asked confirmation of his two most recent appointees:

Charles Edison, assistant secretary of the navy since January, 1937, and acting head of the department since last summer, chosen for full secretaryship.

Daniel W. Bell, former acting budget director, named undersecretary of the treasury to succeed John Hanes, resigned.

TREND: Suppression

Freedom of speech and press suffered three times in two days:

At Cambridge, Mass., the city council voted to ban the words Lenin and Leningrad from all printed matter in the city, but the mayor refused to sign the measure.

At Chicago, President James C. Petrillo of the local federation of musicians demanded that two stage productions (*George White's Scandals* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*) delete references to John L. Lewis, head of A. F. of L.'s arch foe, the C. I. O.

At Mexico City, the chamber of deputies voted to exclude all religion and religious instruction from schools.

Rumors Behind World Headlines

York and Liverpool. Purpose of transfer: To escape ban imposed by U. S. neutrality law.

Quits:

Resignation of Dr. Alan Roy Dae as a guardian of the famous Dionne quintuplets may pave the way for their return to the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliva Dionne.

Strategy:

Both Republicans and Democrats (the latter in self-defense) will probably concentrate their major 1940 presidential campaign in the mid-western states, normally a G. O. P. stronghold. For this reason leaders of both parties are urging Chicago as convention city.

Tragedy:

University of Nebraska's Dr. J. E. Weaver predicts that the most ruinous drought in history will strike the middle-western "dust bowl" next year. Already dry, the dust bowl received only temporary relief from light snows.

Protest:

Agricultural business interests are planning a campaign to demand that the Farm Credit administration be removed from the hands of Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, on charges that his recently expropriated control over FCA will result in loosened credit restrictions, thus endangering the investments of FCA stockholders.

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? Perfect score is 100; deduct 20 points for each question you miss. Score of 80 is excellent; 60, average; 40, poor; 20, don't tell anyone!



1. Arrow points to section of Turkey very much in the news recently. Why?
2. The former Ethel duPont and her husband were injured in a Virginia auto crash. What's her married name?
3. Ex-President Herbert Hoover heads a relief agency which has sent more than \$300,000 to aid the citizens of what country?
4. Choice: Pope Pius XII set a modern precedent by visiting: (a) the Western front; (b) his birthplace; (c) the Italian king.
5. Name the former U. S. ambassador to Belgium who has just been named "special assistant" in the state department at Washington.

(Answers at bottom of column.)

CONGRESS: News Quiz

Two months ago only a few Americans realized that Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade act comes up for congressional renewal this year. Today that issue ranks No. 1 on the agenda, threatening to inject itself into the 1940's presidential campaign. The question: Should America subscribe to Hull low-tariff policies or G. O. P. high tariffs?

At least three opponents of the Hull idea (two of them Democrats) spoke their minds as congress unlocked its oratorical floodgates. New York's G. O. P. Rep. Daniel Reed charged Joseph Davies had been brought back from his Brussels ambassadorial post to serve as "super-lobbyist" for Cordell Hull. South Dakota's Sen. W. J. Bulow keynoted opinion in his chamber by indicating it wasn't so much the act itself he opposed; what counted was that the



NEBRASKA'S BURKE
A realistic view.

senate should ratify each treaty. Most realistic attitude was that of Nebraska's Sen. Edward R. Burke: He favored the "long-range view" that taking down tariff walls would eventually benefit all countries, but declared agriculture in some states is so depressed it would "require at least a few years to get it back on its feet."

What most senators want is a chance for some old-fashioned logrolling, hence observers thought the trade act would be renewed only if congressional ratification is included.

Other issues:

Pensions. Unexpectedly injected was a campaign (sponsored by "poorer" states) to make the U. S. take a bigger share of pension costs. Under law the U. S. matches states dollar for dollar up to \$20 per month.

Agriculture. Henry Wallace polished off his "certificate plan" to syphon \$300,000,000 annually from consumers to finance the farm program. Farmers would get income certificates valued at the differential between market price and "parity price," these to be purchased by processors.

Taxes. Henry Morgenthau not only opposed the certificate plan as a consumer tax in disguise, but pointed out the consumer already pays 61 per cent of the taxes. A bigger issue: Whether to raise taxes or hike the national debt limit, which reaches its ceiling next year.

Defense. While the President planned an enlarged defense program, two Republicans (Ohio's Sen. Robert A. Taft and Idaho's William Borah) warned against it.

PEOPLE:

No Communist

At Washington, Harvard law school's Dean James M. Landis reported he had found Harry Bridges, west coast C. I. O. leader, is not a Communist, thus closing the deportation hearing at which Dean Landis officiated.

News Quiz Answers

1. An earthquake, followed by a blizzard, killed at least 20,000 there.
2. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr.
3. Finland.
4. (C) is correct. It was the first visit of a pope to a temporal prince in more than 70 years.
5. Joseph E. Davies.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

'Pressure Groups' Already Are Worrying Members of Congress

New Deal Agencies, Seekers After Justice and Promoters Of Various Movements Active as Usual; Old Age Pensions, Unemployment Insurance Not Neglected.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—About the time congress reconvenes each year, the national capital is deluged with what have come to be known as "pressure groups." It is a poor description. I believe most of them can be called "selfish groups" for the reason that the self-righteous individuals who lead (or promote) movements or causes or demands for justice usually have jobs of their own at stake.

They want to keep their followers happy, especially the saps who contribute hard-earned dimes or dollars so that their representative or their delegation may put up a good front in the city of Washington.

Any way, it is the open season for them, again. They are busier than a hive of bees. They are engaged in the annual invasion upon senators and representatives and among the numerous New Deal agencies, seeking justice, urging help for those whose liberties are being trampled into the mud, appealing for this and that and the other.

There are the usual spokesmen for corporations and groups of corporations. They, too, are seekers after justice. They are no more selfish than the lesser racketeers. Those fellows, however, have a different kind of stake in the results. The seekers after individual justice,

'PRESSURE GROUPS' BUSY

Harass members of congress with various causes.

May be tuning up for the coming campaign.

Many movements will not get very far.

Union labor and the American Legion active.

Bruckart doesn't believe it is possible so many new injustices could have arisen.

Few are able to analyze the situation.

those who urge maintenance of "civil liberties," etc., usually are concerned with keeping themselves in their jobs, while the seekers after justice for the corporations and business interests are trying to preserve their own material futures.

May Be Just Tuning Up For the Election Campaigns

There is, however, something disturbing about this year's invasion. It seems to be utterly impossible that so many new injustices could have arisen within the last year. There always has been a considerable amount of this low form of high pressure around Washington, but the increased number of seekers after justice this year would seem to prove that the whole country has gone to pieces. It may be, of course, that they are tuning up for the election campaigns.

Seriously, however, few persons have been able to analyze the situation. Some suggest that the current trek of seekers after justice results from the fact that the national government has become the focal point for "relief" from everything since the depression fell upon us in 1930. Others feel that a sense of futility about life, itself, has crept into this country from the lands where dictators hold a human life to be nothing more than a chattel.

If either of these answers is correct, we have a dangerous condition on our hands. It is the defeatist attitude.

It represents a decaying civilization and national leaders had better wake up to what it means.

Now, lest someone charge me with having changed my tune from several years ago,

I want to recall that I once feebly attempted to pin a senator's ears back upon seeking legislation to make every-one register who visited a senator or a representative in behalf of legislation. He wanted to brand each one as a lobbyist. That senator was Hugo Black,



HUGO BLACK

who now writes binding legal opinions as a member of the Supreme court of the United States instead of blabbing for hours on the floor of the senate. I maintain that everyone has the right of petition to any government agency. What I am trying to do here, however, is to show that there are so many more "petitioners" now than heretofore and to find the reason for it.

Many Seekers After Justice in Washington

Of course, most of these movements will not get very far. They will not get as far, in fact, as when I used to crawl under the corner for eggs on the farm. But there are enough dissatisfied and discouraged folks throughout the country to pay the freight—and the hotel bills—for an extraordinarily large num-

ber of seekers after justice in Washington.

It is astonishing to see the lengths to which some of them will go. For example, there is one great church organization that sought to force the census bureau to include in the forthcoming census certain questions that would have given that church a powerful leverage in the future administration of government affairs, according to well-authenticated reports. The church representative tried for weeks to high pressure the census officials into inclusion of three questions. He made some threats to say "no" and that was the census bureau answer.

It was a despicable thing, however, and illustrates the dangers inherent in the conditions I have tried to describe.

The old age pension movement and the unemployment compensation movement and the other "welfare" movements are represented in full force.

Other Groups Are Working For Gifts From Government

There are half a dozen other groups around town, working for one thing or another in the shape of gifts from the government. Nearly all of them have found something wrong with the present social security law, but they do not agree on what is wrong with it. The whole circumstance rather convinces me that maybe the law ought to be tossed overboard. I doubt that the federal government can ever administer such law. There probably is little possibility that any such law ever can be made workable on a national basis. Some of the dreamy New Dealers who conceived it have faded out of Washington officialdom already and have left their baby for somebody else to nurse to maturity. The one service they performed was to the New Deal finances, because the original program has brought six or seven hundred million dollars into the federal treasury—and it has been spent.

Organized labor has its representatives on the scene in a big way. Both the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which is headed by John L. Lewis, and the American Federation of Labor, which is headed by William Green, have national headquarters here. What is a poor politician going to do, however, when Lewis and Green are fighting each other and seldom, if ever, agree upon what changes must be made in the national labor relations act.

The labor row may get more than just an ordinary airing during the session of congress now under way.

I have written heretofore about the special house committee investigation of the National Labor Relations board. Exposures by that committee already have brought demands for the ousting of Commissioner Smith and Chairman Madden. Commissioner Leiserson, appointed only a few months ago, apparently is seeking to clean up the stinking mess, but the Lewis faction of labor which has dominated the board thus far is making Mr. Leiserson's job pretty difficult. There will be little consideration for the Green faction if Lewis can prevent it.

American Legion Can Really Put on High Pressure

There is an offshoot of organized labor's setup here known as Labor's Non-Partisan league. I don't know what it is supposed to accomplish, but it has a press agent and a staff of "executives" and they all seem to get paid regularly.

The American Legion is getting active again. It wants more government money for the ex-soldiers, and make no mistake about it. The American Legion can really put on high pressure when it sets out to do the job.

I haven't scratched the surface in naming the pressure groups that are to be found here for the current session of congress. There are at least 50 business organizations and trade associations. The purposes of all are the same, namely, advantages for them. The advantages may be in the form of cash such as the pension petitioners and the Legion seek, or advantages that can be turned into cash after the methods of business. In any event, they are all headed down Washington-way. It seems to bode no good at all for the folks who are going to pay the bill, including a national debt that is now \$45,000,000,000 or more.

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1875-B

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