

# Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW BEARDON & ROBERT ALLEN  
FINLAND'S SURRENDER

WASHINGTON.—Now that artillery fire has departed from the battlefields of Finland, the allies are getting an almost panic-stricken picture of what that defeat means to them.

For when the history of this world war is written, probably the letdown of Finland can be placed beside the British sabotage of the Spanish republic as the war's two major catastrophes.

The surrender of Finland means not so much a triumph for Soviet Russia as for Germany. It means that the remainder of Finland now will be welded together for self-protection in an economic alliance with Sweden and Norway. And most important of all it means that



As Finland sees it.

all Scandinavia will come under the direct domination, if not the control, of Germany.

In fact, Nazi Germany is working overtime to create a sort of United States of North Europe—Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, all co-operating in the closest manner economically, and perhaps politically, with the Reich. That is why Dr. Schacht, Germany's economic genius, arrived in Stockholm exactly one day after Finnish peace was signed.

This means that another vital area of Europe becomes alienated from the British, just as the downfall of the Spanish republic meant that British influence vanished from one vital area of the Mediterranean.

**WELLESIAN CODE**  
WASHINGTON.—There is a very good reason why newspaper cables regarding the peace mission of Undersecretary of State Welles are so meager. He isn't saying anything about his conversations to a soul except the President of the United States.

Not even Secretary of State Hull is in on all of the Welles reports, though he gets them second-hand from Roosevelt. Virtually no other member of the state department knows anything about the progress Welles is making.

Confidential facts is that before Welles departed, he worked out a private code with the President. This code consists of numbers, so that Welles wires back a number and only the President knows what that number means. Thus it is impossible for the Nazis, British or anyone else to break down the code.

Welles' code cables are sent to Secretary Hull, who, in turn, takes them to the President, who personally decodes them. After Welles' conversation with Hitler, he cabled back a single number, and Mr. Hull took the number over to the White House, gave it to the President.

The President did a little figuring, then said: "Doesn't look so good, does it?"

Note—The Welles reports are so brief that obviously he and the President are counting chiefly on personal conversations after his return.

**Mail Bag.**  
**E. C. S., San Rafael, Calif.**—The Rev. Gabriel Richard was the only Catholic priest ever to serve in the U. S. congress. He was a delegate from Michigan territory in 1823. Born in France, he came to this country as a mathematics professor, then went west as a missionary among the Indians.

**W. G. M., Chatfield, Minn.**—The senate pays the funeral expenses of deceased members, the average being about \$4,000. The Borah funeral was one of the most expensive, costing \$9,000. Reason for the high cost was that a large party of senators were designated to make the trip to Boise, Idaho. The funeral of Sen. Tom Walsh of Montana, at approximately the same distance, cost \$8,000. The funeral of Senator Overman of North Carolina cost \$5,000.

**Capital Chaff.**  
"John Paris" is in Washington to settle blockade disputes between the U. S. and British governments. "John Paris" is the pen name of Frank Ashton-Gwatkin, author of the novel on Japanese life titled "Kimono."

Robert E. Lynch, able new general counsel of the Dies committee, is one of the few Americans who saw Lenin. He accompanied Ambassador Bill Bullitt to Russia when Woodrow Wilson sent Bill to report on the Bolshevik revolution.

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

# Russ-German-Italian Coalition Arises to Plague Democracies; Welles Given 'Peace' Proposal

(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

### The Wars in Brief

**Western Front.** Severe localized fighting. Item: French artillery destroyed Nazi propaganda signs across no-man's land.

**Northern Front.** Finn troops evacuated land ceded to Russia (see below).

**In the Air.** Nazi planes bombed Scapa Flow, hitting one ship and inflicting first British civilian casualties. In a counterblow, R. A. F. planes bombed Nazi patrol boats off Heligoland light.

**In Asia.** Russian and Jap troops clashed on Sakhalin, jointly owned island. Both nations were reported reinforcing their Outer Mongolian-Manchukuoan frontiers.

the world waited expectantly, high Nazis in Berlin nodded knowingly and dropped strong hints that Italy was about to reaffirm emphatically her allegiance to the Rome-Berlin axis. Observers expected some announcement of German-Italo-Russian collaboration in the Balkans and elsewhere.

### For Mr. Welles

Better informed on this skull-duggery than any allied or neutral chancellor was Sumner Welles, U. S. undersecretary of state whom President Roosevelt sent to Europe in search of a meeting ground for peace. Far from gullible, Mr. Welles was nevertheless being played by the dictators for all he was worth. Observers recalled that he had no sooner ended his first visits to Rome and Berlin than Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop scurried down to Italy, scurried back to Berlin, then scurried to Brennero with Adolf Hitler just as Mr. Welles was ending his visits in Paris and London. This indicated that the dictators were hastening to patch up a peace plan which Mr. Welles could file in his brief case. Since the allies had refused to talk peace, a gesture from the dictators might woo the U. S.

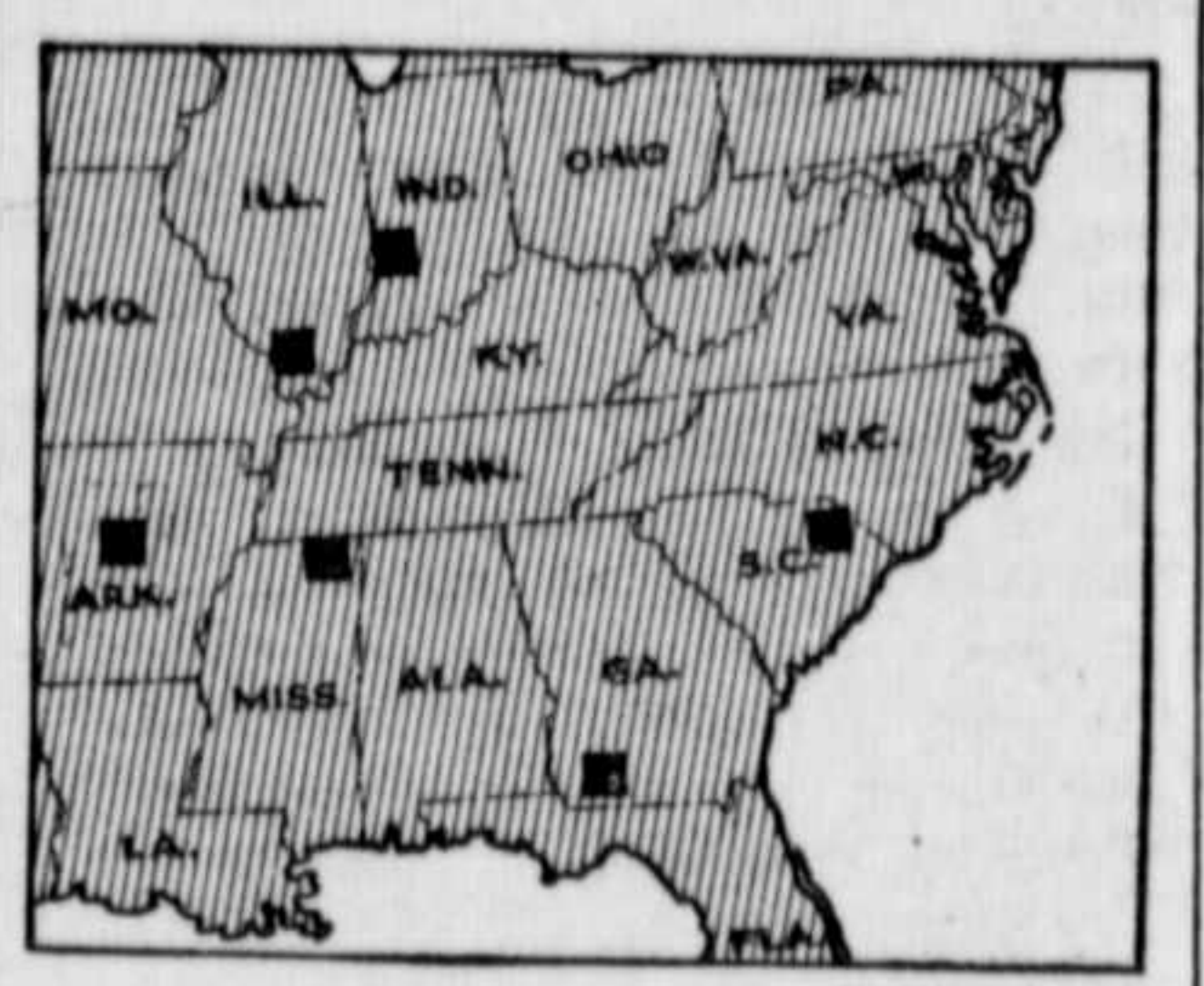
But if Mr. Welles got any such plan after Brennero, observers were pretty sure it featured a definitely victorious peace for the dictators. Probable alternative: A Moscow-Rome-Berlin triangle.

### HOUSING:

#### Farm Project

United States Housing authority now has a loan power of \$800,000,000 of which \$626,636 has been advanced for USHA's major activities, slum clearance and urban low rent housing projects. Now before congress is the Wagner-Stegall bill (passed by the senate) which would double USHA's loan power and include \$200,000,000 for one phase of housing thus far ignored by the U. S., namely, the farm.

Whether or not the Wagner-Stegall bill passes, Franklin Roosevelt decided recently to get his rural housing program started. USHA was authorized to lend \$2,522,000 for financing 1,300 new farm houses in



**RURAL HOUSING TEST AREAS**  
New houses: Lonoke, Ark., 300; Thomsville, Ga., 200; Cairo, Ill., 150; Terre Haute, Ind., 150; Tupelo, Miss., 300; Florence, S. C., 200.

six states. (Location of projects shown on map). The plan:

Owner-operators, tenants, share-croppers and farm hands will be eligible, leasing new homes through a county housing authority. (The Wagner-Stegall act would let them buy the homes, paying like rent.) Average cost: \$1,682, including wiring, kitchen sink, outside sealed well and sanitary privy. Average size: Living room, dining space, kitchen and from three to five bedrooms.

### BUSINESS:

#### Tax Time Indices

In mid-March John Q. Public could procrastinate no longer. To meet the first quarter U. S. income tax deadline he filed some 8,000,000 individual and corporation returns, mostly at the last minute.

Though treasury officials could only guess, they figured March collections from this source would be \$805,000,000 compared with \$505,000,000 last year. Watched even closer, however, were results from three changes in the law:

(1) State and local government employees are paying this year for the first time. Early estimates placed this "take" at \$16,000,000 from 2,600,000 persons; the treasury expects much more.

(2) For the first time since 1936 corporations are free of the controversial undistributed profits tax, but—

(3) Large corporations, formerly assessed 16 1/2 to 19 per cent, depending on amount of profits distributed to stockholders, are paying a flat 18 per cent this year.

Though bigger income taxes looked like business was improving, Cleveland's Col. Leonard P. Ayres picked this time to wonder if the opposite weren't true. Said he, in his monthly business review: There are two reasons for thinking another depression may be on the way. First: We have never had a decline like the present, following peak production, that did not continue downward to depression. Second: "Perhaps the soundest reason for arguing that this decline will go a good deal further is the fact that it has already gone so far."

## NEWS QUIZ

Can you identify the states in which each of the following news events took place? Name all five and your score is 100; four, 80; three, 60; two, 40. Score of 60 or more is good.

1. In what state was Gov. E. D. Rivers arrested for ignoring a federal injunction, issued after he ousted State Highway Commissioner W. L. Miller?
2. In what state have U. S. engineers purchased 6,300 goats simply to eat grass on a 3,000-acre tract? The land is used to divert Mississippi flood waters and is too bumpy for lawn mowers.
3. In what state were 71 men killed by the St. Clairsville mine disaster, from which 115 others escaped?
4. In what state did the governor call out national guardsmen to block completion of a \$20,000,000 U. S. power project, charging state property would be damaged in the flooded area?
5. In what state did the death of F. Lynde Smith, political campaign fund manager, precipitate an investigation into "slush" funds?

### News Quiz Answers

1. Georgia.
2. Louisiana.
3. Ohio.
4. Oklahoma.
5. Illinois.

### FINLAND:

#### Exodus

While Der Fuehrer and Il Duce were settling Europe's hash at Brennero (See INTERNATIONAL) world attention shifted suddenly and permanently away from brave little Finland. Gone were the Karelian isthmus, Viipuri, Hango and a big slice of her northern frontier. This meant that 450,000 Finns had to be evacuated almost overnight, for the steamroller of Soviet occupation was a steamroller indeed.

Some idea of how it worked was given by Leland Stowe, Chicago Daily News correspondent whose dispatches from the Finnish front have made journalistic history. Thoroughly bitter over the Soviet terms and incensed by Finland's stoicism over them, Correspondent Stowe cabled:

"The inhumanity of the Moscow peace terms is equalled only by the stupidity of the telephonic censors. These terms . . . will unfortunately never be portrayed to the world in anything approaching their enormity."

On evacuation of wounded from hospitals in new Russian territory: "In many cases these men have had to lie in open lorries or trucks for 12, 15 or even 24 hours, exposed to temperatures ranging 10 to 20 degrees below zero . . . A large number . . . have died from exposure."

### CONGRESS

#### Clean Politics

It is not judicious to urge, in a presidential election year, that political activity of appointive office holders be curbed. Last year New Mexico's Sen. Carl Hatch had little trouble winning passage of his "clean politics" act. One alleged reason: Garnerites thought Franklin Roosevelt's third term ambitions would be curbed if federal employees were kept out of politics.

This year Carl Hatch wants his act extended to bar activity on the



**CARL HATCH**  
His bill bottled up?

part of state employees whose salaries are paid in whole or part by the U. S. Though he got his bill through the senate (which lacked enthusiasm), there promised to be a different story in the house. With representatives convinced the original Hatch act has helped them politically not one whit, it seemed destined to get bottled up in the judiciary committee.

Next on the senate's agenda was the farm appropriation, boosted in committee from the house's \$713,000,000 to a high mark of \$923,000,000. Major addition: \$212,000,000 for parity payments. If it passes, a virtual certainty, new taxes or a boost in the debt limit will be in order.

### INDIA:

#### Radical Upheaval

Just as Sir Michael O'Dwyer fell with an Indian assassin's bullet in his breast, so did Mohandas Gandhi's nationalist campaign for India take a fop. A moderate Gandhi has tried to restrain Indian radicals who demand immediate action now that Britain is at war. When Sir Michael (former Indian administrator) was assassinated, the radicals tried to seize Gandhi's nationalist congress.

**GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:**

### ARMY ILL EQUIPPED

There is a smell in the Washington air of something like a complete disembowelment of the army defense program by a congressional refusal to provide funds to carry it out.

The navy will get by partly because the President regards himself as a navy man and doesn't pay much attention to the army, and partly because Jimmy Byrnes is in charge of the navy's needs in the senate and is man enough to see that they don't go by default.

But the army has never been any too adept at handling congressional committees. Its topside isn't altogether out of the doghouse with the administration and with congress and it hasn't any outstanding congressional champion to present and insist upon its case. Even the presentation of the case to the country has been bad. There have been too many administration Pollyanna speeches assuring us that the army is coming along satisfactorily in its modernization program and that there is nothing to fear.

The fact is that it isn't coming along at more than a snail's pace and that if the Caspar Milquetoast requests it has made for money to make it come a little faster are slashed, it could be a major catastrophe.

It is reorganizing in modern streamlined divisions to be entirely motorized with new rapid-fire equipment and with many of the men behind steel shields. The war in Europe is proving that, with this kind of organization and equipment, far fewer men are needed, those who are used are much better protected from death or injury, and the great speed, range and mobility will enable a few men to defend a far greater area than was ever before thought possible.

This is a vital consideration in our military problem. Our principal danger is swift and unexpected raids. From an expense angle alone, we could not defend our vast stretches of coast and territory with fixed or slow forces. We couldn't do it with what we have. We can only be sure of doing it by what we propose to get. One other problem is to be able by an expeditionary force to repel or break up any hostile lodgment in Latin America. In view of the armament of other countries, both of these problems absolutely require such an army as I have described. Until we get it, our defenses will be woefully weak. We don't need a big army, but we need a small one that can move fast and hit hard over the widest area that any nation has to defend.

Now you can't do a half-way job on this. A motorized army has to be motorized all the way. It is tied to the speed of its slowest unit. It is an integrated whole and if part of it isn't high speed, the rest of it might as well not be. Furthermore, if you streamline your divisions for the loss of men by armor and automatic weapons of vastly increased power and then don't provide the weapons, you have cut your defensive power in half—or worse.

It seems to me that we are making exactly this mistake right now even with the program as it is. If the appropriations are cut, I am absolutely certain that we shall make it.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we have no usable army now. With the world at its most dangerous worst, we may be caught changing our clothes and so—very literally—with our pants down.

I don't like the air of secrecy that covers hearings on our military committees. They do not make sense. Foreign nations know all about this condition. The people who have the best right to know about it—precisely and exactly—are the people of the United States. They know precious little and what they know is largely wrong. Perhaps if they knew more, we might get some action.

### HOW MANY ARE IDLE?

There is a big tirade in the columnists parade. Are there 10,000,000 unemployed—or only about 2,000,000?

It isn't necessarily a case of "figures don't lie—liars figure," but of assumption which you apply to get your result. That is a question of judgment, and here the wish is often father to the thought and difference in wish and thought can make differences of millions in result.

Federal figures on the shifting and infinitely intricate problem of unemployment are practically as worthless as a Gallup poll on a third term for Mr. Roosevelt.

Why does the federal government want to know? Principally to measure the problem of relief.

That is both an intricate and an intimate problem. It is far too large and too much affected by local complexities to be approached or administered on a national scale.

But there isn't a town or community in this country that cannot gauge its problem of adequate local relief with far more equity, humanity and accuracy than these shotgun and partly self-serving estimates of Washington pump prim-

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### Strange Facts

Music in Silence Rowed the Atlantic High-Cost Injuries

Many Shinto festivals in Japan include a religious orchestra whose members only go through the motions of playing on their instruments and, consequently, do not make a sound. This "music," which is directed toward the gods, is played silently because it is too sacred to be heard by human ears.

Since 1876, nine men have been known to cross the Atlantic ocean in rowboats. Six were in pairs, while the other three succeeded alone. The last one was Joseph Lawlor, who rowed from Boston to a small port in Spain in 1911.

The largest settlement ever made on an automobile liability policy for a single accident was \$225,000, which was paid a few months ago to a group of persons who were injured in a wreck of a station wagon on Long Island. Settlement was made without litigation.—Collier's.

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**Facing Evils**  
If evils come not, then our fears are vain; and if they do, fear but augments the pain.

### The Pleasant Way to Correct Constipation

Why let yourself in for all the discomfort of constipation—and then have to take an emergency medicine—if you can avoid both by getting at the cause of the trouble?

If your difficulty, like that of millions, is due to lack of "bulk" in the diet, the "better way" is to eat Kellogg's All-Bran. This crunchy toasted cereal—a natural food, not a medicine—has just the "bulk" you need. If you eat it every day, it will help you not only to get regular but to keep regular, month after month, by the pleasantest means you ever knew! Eat All-Bran often, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." Made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. Sold by every grocer. If your condition is chronic, it is wise to consult a physician.

### Half of the Tale

He hears but half who hears one party only.—Aeschylus.

### THE AWFUL PRICE YOU PAY FOR BEING NERVOUS

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