GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

'OPPOSITION' THINKING

A favorite lawyer's trick is to give his own version of what his worthy opponent "thinks" and then tear his self-constructed straw man to pieces. That is being done daily in the current debate on foreign policy. Those opposing our rapid approach to a virtual war alliance with Great Britain, are said to "think" that no combination of powers will ever attack us and, no matter who wins, we can do business with them, so why risk offending Hitler and provoking him to fight us. What duck soup that is to argue down.

These truths are self evident: that it is to our great interest to see Britain win; that the hateful destruction of England embitters every American heart; that force rather than honor and good will now rule the world and that we hate that as we hate Hitler who has been foremost in advancing that hellish condition; that we are in great danger and that our only course is swift preparation for invincible defense; that we are not so defended now and that the preparation is lagging shamefully. Any advocate of what is rushing us to a war alliance—who denies the sincerity of these opinions of others as a basis for his argument, is beclouding the real issue—the dreadful question of peace or war for America.

There can be only one question in the troubled heart of every true American—what is it best for us to do to safeguard the present and the future of our own country? Is it best to engage now in a two ocean war with a one ocean navy? Is it best for us to send, or threaten to send, our armed forces to seize the Azores, the Irish harbors, the tip of West Africa and Singapore—to plunge into warlike operations all the way from the Straits of Dover to the Straits of Malacca and, conceivably even further—through the Mediterranean and Red seas to Greece, Egypt, the Dardanelles, Calcutta and Colombo?

Short of this, is it best to take the intermediate step leading straight and inevitably to this course by putting our overseas shipments into American bottoms and, with a convoy of cruisers, attempt to buck the line of a legitimate blockade? Is it best now to undertake to finance another nation in a new world war, when we are already staggering under a mountainous burden of debt and confronting a near necessity of doubling it as a necessity in our own defense?

These are real and basic issues and not at all the ill-considered or emotional conscious or deliberate obstruction of them by attacking the patriotic integrity or plain sanity of the people who raise them.

Furthermore, let this be faced: If our defense is so wholly dependent on Great Britain as we are now told—if she is now fighting our decisive battle which, if lost, loses our freedom—then the course advocated by those who say we should contribute unlimited material resources, but no blood, without regard to any of the considerations raised here—if these things we are told are true—then that advocated course is the most futile and pusillanimous ever followed by an honorable nation. If they are true, we should have been in this war a year ago with everything we have. Surely there is a question of truth here that deserves debate. The whole of our future is at stake on the wisdom of our answer.

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OVERNIGHT OFFICERS

The army is not making the best use of its trained officer personnel.

The war department quite properly and necessarily encourage tens of thousands of civilians to take appointments as reserve officers. Naturally, some of them were rank amateurs as soldiers and the bulk of them held lieutenant's commissions. Now we are calling thousands of them to active duty. When they join for duty with troops they have to earn their advancement, but when they come in on staff assignments, it is becoming a very different matter.

A little personality plus, sometimes, a political drag, works for many of these neophytes what many years of service don't work for a regular. New captains, majors and lieutenant-colonels are being created out of reserve subalterns who haven't a year of active duty.

At the same time, men with complete military experience and education, who have resigned or retired or are World war veterans returned to civil life, get a deaf ear when they volunteer to be recommissioned and recalled to active duty.

It is demoralizing to officers on the active list of the regular army.

We should as readily condemn the selection of an amateur officer to look after their welfare as an amateur doctor to look after their health, especially if there is a reputable specialist available.

Exactly the same thing happened at the beginning of the World war, until General Pershing got his independent command in France and began to send the misfits wholesale to the reclassification center at Blois—or "Blooey" as the soldiers called it.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

President Calls for Armaments Drive With Increased Aid for Democracies; Irish Investigate Bombings of Dublin; New Congress Tackles Vital Problems

(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.)

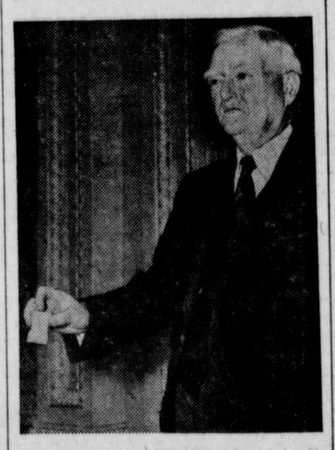
CONGRESS:
State of the Nation

Calling upon all U. S. citizens to "make the sacrifices that the emergency—as serious as war itself—demands," President Roosevelt in his personally delivered message to the new Seventy-seventh congress pledged full defense and help for those ". . . people who are keeping war away from our hemisphere."

He pointed out that he believed the United States to be facing an unprecedented foreign peril and he asked for a "swift and driving increase" in armament production. Both the United States and the "democracies" would reap the benefits of such increased production, according to the President.

"I also ask this congress," said the President, "for authority and for funds sufficient to manufacture additional munitions and war supplies of many kinds, to be turned over to those nations which are now in actual war with aggressor nations." While he did not actually list the nations to which such aid would go it is generally believed that he meant Britain, China and Greece.

President Roosevelt then proceeded to make clear that he did not consider such aid an "act of war even if a dictator should unilaterally



Here is retiring Vice President John N. Garner, as he rapped his gavel calling to order the 77th congress. He will wield the gavel until the new Vice President, Henry Wallace, becomes the senate's presiding officer after his inauguration, January 20.

proclaim it so to be." He stated further that "When the dictators are ready to make war upon us they will not wait for an act of war on our part. They did not wait for Norway or Belgium or the Netherlands to commit an act of war."

He also said that the American people would never "acquiesce in a peace dictated by aggressors and sponsored by appeasers."

NEW BROOM:
Gets Sweeping Material

The "old broom," namely the Seventy-sixth congress of the United States, 366 days old, having closed down, its successor found itself with a lot of "sweeping" to be done, and the evidence was plain that it was scheduled to be a stormy and epochal session.

Swearing in of new and re-elected congressmen accomplished, the senate and house hoppers, emptied of all unfinished business, rapidly began filling with the new, and it was plain that the bills would come under three general classes.

There would be bills aimed to test the strength of President Roosevelt's administration, most of them in the form of curbs upon his powers; there would be administration-inspired bills seeking wider aid to Britain and broader powers to rush forward the lagging American national defense; there would be something done about labor, unemployment and relief, what one might call the social relations field.

Rapidly, as the session rushed into its full stride, various figures of importance raised their voices in one or another of these outstanding issues, some expectedly, others to the considerable surprise of their constituents and the general public.

Back of it all the various polls, especially the Gallup Poll, which Ickes sought to stifle, kept sounding public opinion on moot questions. Eighty per cent of Americans wanted national defense industry speeded up; 54 per cent wanted all aid to England, even if it put the country into war; and so on.

It looked like a race to see whether congress would wag the polls, or if the polls would do the wagging. Outstanding among the early measures was one aimed to curb the President's financial powers, dubbed the anti-inflation bill; one aimed to change the national labor picture through revamping the labor board and creating an appeals "court" for labor; still another urging repeal of the neutrality act and a substitute permitting loans to England; and one that would set old age pensions at $30 the month.

IRELAND:
On War's Brink

Aerial war reports were featured by a small but continued bombing of neutral Ireland, and George Bernard Shaw rushed an interview over the cables saying that either Britain or Hitler would get Ireland into the war somehow before long.

Hitler, said Shaw, wants Ireland in on the Axis side, to give him a possible landing site for aerial invaders. England wants Ireland actively in on the British side to give her good naval bases and a better defense against submarine activities in the eastern Atlantic.

Investigation of the bombs that dropped at first seemed to indicate that the Germans were attempting to line the Irish coast with magnetic mines and that some of them had inadvertently landed inshore.

This, however, was not borne out, for later bombs were not of the marine type, and then came a full daylight raider, with no excuse for missing, and popped one or two right into the streets of Dublin.

Examination of the bombs showed them to be of German manufacture. The Axis, both Rome and Berlin, immediately leaped into print claiming that the bombs had been taken from downed planes by the British, who had been calmly bombing her neighbor, trying to get the Irish mad enough to declare war on Germany.

GREEKS:
Still on Move

Despite the rumbling thunder of Germans about to swoop through Bulgaria toward Salonika, the Greek armies, facing worst blizzards in Albanian history, continued to move forward, but more slowly in the face of stiffening Fascist resistance.

Chief gains were made on the southwestern front, but gains were reported in all sectors. Interesting were the dispatches telling of how Italians were taking to skis with disastrous results, and how Italian mechanized forces were bogging down.

Picture editors in this country continued to get dozens of photos of Italians surrendering, one of the captions even saying that when a cameraman happened not to be present at one "surrender scene," the Fascist troops obligingly posed for the picture when one finally showed up.

"Tirana by Christmas" did not materialize, and the Italian stiffer resistance did—but there was continued evidence that if the Greeks were to be beaten back and Italy kept in the war, German planes and German troops would have it to do.

Hitler's statement, made when he was "mad" with Italy before her entrance into the war on the eve of the fall of France, that it would take 10 to 15 divisions to keep Italy going if she did come in, seemed to have been conservative.

Estimates of German troops already available for an invasion of Greece through the Bulgarian door had risen to half a million, or four times the maximum of Hitler's estimate.

'Listening Post'

NEW YORK.—John G. Paine (standing), general manager of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, is shown with Dave Stamper, well-known composer, at one of the machines used to record all radio broadcasts so that any infringement of ASCAP copyrights may be detected. In the midst of a bitter fight with radio broadcasters over royalty payments ASCAP officials are taking no chances on missing tunes on the air.

FOREIGN BRIEFS:

LONDON. — British report that since October 15, more than a dozen German infantrymen, representing eight different units of the German army, have been captured on British soil. They called them the "first men of the invasion army" to reach England alive.

ROME.—The Axis will knock England out of the war before U. S. aid can arrive for Britain, the Lavoro Fascista prophesied.

Quiet, Please!

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Counterpart of the "Don't tell war secrets" placards so widely used in England is this new poster which has made its appearance throughout the United States war department. The war department poster uses cartoons to bring home its "Button up your lip" message.

SOLDIERS:
Spoil for Fight

The old saying "spoiling for a fight" was borne out in the fall of Bardia, Libyan port besieged for several days by the British forces in northern Africa.

The British blitz mowed down Italians and rushed them back from the Egyptian border into their own territory, almost to Tobruk, with the result that an estimated 20,000 Italians were surrounded and cut off at Bardia.

General Wavell, wishing to conserve lives of his soldiers, decided to put on a siege, to "take things easy" and bomb and shell the Fascists into surrender.

But his command included fresh, vigorous Australian troops (much like Americans in makeup, physique and morale), and they howled for a chance to charge in.

Finally Wavell surrendered to desire of his own men for attack, and "let 'em go." They smashed through the Italian defenses, captured 5,000 prisoners the first day, and within three days had captured the town.

Capable authorities estimate now that Graziani's forces have been cut about one-third, and that British probably outnumber their enemy now on the Egyptian front.

HOPKINS:
Hops to Europe

Announcement that President Roosevlt was sending Harry Hopkins at once to Britain as his "personal representative," caused considerable speculation as to the reason for delay in naming an ambassador to fill the shoes of the recalcitrant Kennedy.

Washington observers were inclined to the view that Hopkins' hop to London meant that a "career man" would finally be sent, probably one at a considerable distance, who could not leave right away.

Eyes turned to Norman Armour at Buenos Aires as a possibility. He is a career man—he is far away—it would take him time to get ready to go.

That seemed all the basis for the report, as the White House was silent. The former commerce secretary, however, was a fact, not a rumor.

LAG:
Leads the News

Usually it takes something more than a lag to make a headline. But the continually lagging national defense program continued to lead the news pages.

Mark Watson wrote that an aluminum shortage was menacing plane production right at a vital stage. And this story came out just after the public had been informed that there was plenty of this important material.

Watson said his information was being flatly denied by defense commission men, yet revealed that production men were finding the shortages of aluminum alloy castings, forgings and "extrusions" (shapes which are pressed cold) were giving them more headaches than any one thing.

There are two bottlenecks, says Watson,—one of them the fact that several new aluminum plants will not be in full production until mid-1942, and one of the main ones not until June, 1941; and the other bottleneck is the dependence of the country mainly on Guiana and Brazil for supplies of bauxite, the raw material from which huge electric plants make aluminum ingots.

FIRE:
New Angle to Bombing

Germans, having found that fire bombs are more effective in ruination of civilized dwelling places than high explosives, have changed their tactics and now are dropping about 1,000 incendiaries to 100 TNT's.

They nearly wiped London off the map, only determined and brave work by fire fighters saving the city. The people, raging against the Nazis, roamed the streets, roaring to Churchill to give the Germans reprisals.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

HITLER REPORTED TO FEAR U. S. INTERVENTION

In talks with his close advisers recently, the President has revealed a much more confident opinion of the outcome of the war in Europe.

This conference rests partly upon the belief that Hitler, and Nazi officials generally, are greatly worried over the possible entry of the United States into the war, and are acquiring a genuine respect for what the United States is accomplishing in the way of national defense.

Hitler, Roosevelt has told his friends, had the greatest scorn for Britain under Chamberlain, and for France. For some time, also, Hitler had the same idea about the United States. The President confides that as far as he has been able to ascertain, Hitler regarded him just as another Chamberlain.

But now intelligence reports from Germany indicate that Hitler's opinion of the United States has changed to one of respect and even fear. Roosevelt plans to make the most of this psychological factor, and believes that sending every possible aid to Britain, short of war, will help to do it. He believes this can be done without getting into war, though he acknowledges privately that it carries risks.

Most risky American project would be to convoy merchant ships across the Atlantic, and so far Roosevelt has refused to commit himself, though this is what the British need most desperately. However, some of his advisers continue to be strongly for it, and believe they have made a dent on the President.

What they argue is this: The United States cannot be attacked as long as the war continues to rage in Europe and the British fleet remains afloat. Therefore, since we cannot be attacked, we can get into the war to any degree we like—without sending an expeditionary force.

Should Germany declare war on the United States, these Roosevelt advisers urge, we can merely continue with our present support to Britain. Business would proceed about as usual, since the Nazis would be powerless to cross the Atlantic to attack the United States—at least until Great Britain fails. Up until that time, they figure that declaring war on the United States would be about the last thing the Nazis could do.

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GUARDING THE PRESIDENT

No public appearance of the President receives more elaborate advance precautions than when he makes a speech or attends a dinner in a hotel. Secret Service men virtually turn the place inside out.

If you should happen to be registered at the hotel, the Secret Service men will find out all about you, your business in the city, where you came from and where you are going. Here is the procedure for guarding the President when he arrives:

The day before he is to appear, White House Secret Service Chief Edmund W. Starling carefully inspects every foot of the route through the hotel and the chamber used for the meeting. Next the guest register is inspected. All guests whom hotel officials can't vouch for personally are quietly checked up by Starling's men. In addition, the management must submit complete information about all employees.

If the President is attending a dinner, and extra waiters are needed, Secret Service agents get a "line" on the ones employed. Sleuths, dressed as guests, are strategically posted all over the banquet hall. When the President enters and leaves an "invisible" cordon of guards surrounds him. Nothing is left to chance.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

It may be news to isolationist leaders in and out of congress, but Kathryn Lewis, daughter of John L. Lewis, is telling friends that her father is "the one man" responsible for keeping the United States out of war.

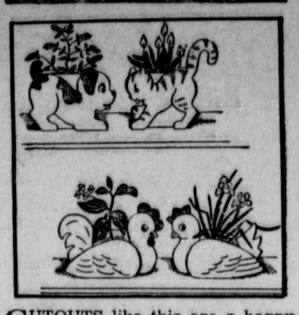
Confidential reports from U. S. trade agents in Mexico are that Nazi Germany is not only underselling American-made surgical instruments but the money is being used to finance propaganda operations in the United States. Several big checks received by Dr. Manfred Zapp, head of the Nazi Trans-Ocean News Service, were drawn on "propaganda credits" in Mexican banks.

Among his colleagues in the G.O.P cloakroom, Rep. Clare Hoffman, Michigan anti-laborite, is jestingly referred to as "Will" because of his fond fancy that he resembles the late Will Rogers both facially and in wit.

When ex-heavyweight champion Gene Tunney was being sworn in as a lieutenant commander of the Naval Reserve, Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, Marine Corps commandant, wisecracked, "Once a marine, always a marine." Tunney was a "leatherneck" in France, later a captain in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Roosevelt's second Supreme court appointee, courtly Justice Stanley Reed, has caused a lot of eyebrow raising in inner New Deal circles by lining up with the anti-New Deal bloc in four major decisions recently.

Things to Make



CUTOUTS like this are a happy idea to be used for plants you grow indoors. You can add interest to the flowers you keep in the house and to the attractiveness of your rooms as well if you use boxes in clever designs like these. Bits of plywood are cut out with jig or coping saw, painted and nailed together to make the boxes.

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Pattern Z9207, 15c, brings the kitten, pup and hen and rooster motifs together with the needed directions. Send order to:

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Enclose 15 cents for each pattern desired. Pattern No.....
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At Close Speaker's Remarks Had Become a Nightmare

The dinner came to an end, and the chairman called for silence.

"Gentlemen," he began, "I will now call upon Mr. Long, our distinguished guest, to speak."

The guest rose and was greeted with polite applause.

At the end of ten minutes he was still speaking, but when at the end of half an hour he had not finished the patience of his listeners began to get exhausted.

In the end the speaker wound up with: "Speaking is nothing to me. As a boy I used frequently to talk in my sleep."

"And now," a drowsy voice was heard to exclaim, "you talk in ours."

Vatican Currency

Under the terms of a financial convention ratified between the Vatican and Italy in January, 1931, the Vatican state issues currency. Recently, new coins bearing the head and armorial markings of Pope Pius XII were put into circulation. The Vatican coins are of the same value, material and dimensions as the Italian coins, the only difference being in the minting.

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Try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to help relieve monthly pain, headaches, backache and ALSO calm irritable nerves due to monthly functional disturbances.
Pinkham's Compound is simply marvelous to help build up resistance against distress of "difficult days." Famous for over 60 years! Hundreds of thousands of girls and women report remarkable benefits. WORTH TRYING!

Nothing for Nothing

Set it down as a fact to which there are no exceptions, that we must labor for all that we have, and that nothing is worth possessing, or offering to others, which costs us nothing.—John Todd.

MOTHERS . . .
For over 40 years have been using this mild laxative and carminative to relieve Headache and Stomach Discomforts . . . to lessen the distress of these symptoms when they accompany a cold. Equally good for adults. At all druggists. For Free Sample and Walking Doll write Mother Gray Co., LeRoy, N.Y.
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Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.—Washington.

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