The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

CRISIS MARCH 15?

Secretaries Stimson and Knox did not go into details when they told congress they expected an international crisis in 60 to 90 days, but actually their war department experts have gone so far as to fix the approximate date of March 15 for the crisis to break.

This estimate is based not only upon the already known fact that British shipping and its convoys soon must be reinforced, but also on secret negotiations to establish an Eastern Front, thus make Hitler fight two wars instead of one.

This was one of the big reasons for the pilgrimage of Col. "Wild Bill" Donovan to North Africa, also for visits of officials from the American embassy in France to Algiers. Their reports are extremely significant—asserting that Marshal Weygand, commander of the French forces in Africa, has become vigorously pro-British.

Furthermore, he has stated quite bluntly to American representatives that if he were sure of getting sufficient tanks, airplanes and ammunition, he would undertake a campaign against the Italians immediately.

These supplies would come to Casablanca, on the coast of French Morocco, and what is more important, they would come from the United States.

Next move in this strategy, after crushing the Italians between British-French pincers, would be to transport French troops to Greece and further north in order to bolster the Jugoslavs along the German border. Conversations between the British and Jugoslavs already have progressed to the point where London believes that country is ready to resist Hitler. However, the Jugoslavs are most insistent on one thing—ample munitions.

Furthermore, the Turks have moved three divisions from Anatolia, in Asiatic Turkey, to Thrace in European Turkey, in order to be ready for Hitler.

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ROY HOWARD AND WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie's decision to go to London to gather first-hand information to support the lend-lease armament bill brought him a grateful bow from the White House, but it cost him a hot verbal battle with one of the most potent press backers of his presidential candidacy.

Roy Howard, of the Scripps-Howard group of newspapers and an ardent "negotiated peace" advocate, spent the better part of one night trying to persuade Willkie to drop the trip plan.

Back-stopping Howard in his arguments was Bruce Barton, former New York congressman and defeated G. O. P. aspirant for the seat of New Dealer Sen. Jim Mead. Like Howard, Barton was one of Willkie's earliest and staunchest boosters and played a leading role in putting him over at Philadelphia.

Howard and Barton strove mightily in their effort to win Willkie over to their views. But the former G. O. P. standard-bearer stood firmly by his guns.

He contended that aiding Britain to beat back the Axis aggressors was crucial to U. S. security; that he had always advocated this and did not propose to change his position. Also, that while he didn't pretend to be a friend of Roosevelt, Roosevelt was elected and if he was to function as President he had to have authority to do so. He (Willkie) would have demanded this had he been elected, so he was not going to permit personal feeling or partisanship to prevent him from urging such a policy for his successful rival.

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CELEBRATE INAUGURAL ON JACKSON DAY

President Roosevelt's inauguration took place on January 20, but the formal Democratic celebration of the history-making third-term victory will not take place until March 29.

That is the date that has been fixed for the Jackson Day dinner, the annual affair when all good Democrats come to the aid of their party with checks. In the past the dinner usually has been held late in January, but this year, because of the inaugural and a reorganization within the national committee, it has quietly been decided to hold it in March.

National Chairman Ed Flynn and his lieutenants hope to make the affair bigger and more profitable than ever before.

One plan is to stage dinners in a lot more cities. Another, suggested by Richard Reynolds, new national treasurer, is to combine the victory celebration with a reunion of all factions; that is, the return to the fold of "absent" leaders.

Among those Reynolds has in mind are men like Al Smith and one-time Budget Director Lewis Douglas. They now see eye-to-eye with Roosevelt on foreign policy, and Reynolds believes this opens the way for a big party rapprochement by expanding the Jackson Day celebration into a unity affair.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

The reason you seldom see a picture of Secretary of War Stimson is that he is camera-shy. The flash bulbs hurt his eyes.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

President's Third Inaugural Address Emphasizes Faith in U. S. Democracy; Lease-Lend Act Fight Rips Party Lines As Cabinet Supports Roosevelt's Plan

(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.)

THIRD TERM:
Inaugural

After taking the oath of office as President of the United States for a precedent breaking third term, Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered to a waiting nation a high tribute to his faith in democracy. In the inaugural address which was marked with constant references to the "spirit of America" and the "spirit of democracy" the President declared that the purpose in his next four years of office would be to: "protect and perpetuate the integrity of democracy."

"For this," he said, "we muster the spirit of America and the faith of America. We do not retreat. We are not content to stand still. As Americans, we go forward, in the service of our country, by the will of God."

While some of the pomp of other Inaugural days was missing because of the solemn pall of foreign affairs that hung over Washington, the thousands that lined Pennsylvania avenue to watch the President pass cheered loudly as they saw his party. The day was bright but a raw wind chilled the onlookers.

High point of the day's historic rituals came when the President standing below the Capitol's white dome, placed his hand upon a 200-year-old family Bible and swore for the third time to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution." The oath was administered by Chief Justice Hughes of the Supreme court.

CHURCHILL:
Looks Ahead

Winston Churchill, following his conferences with Harry Hopkins, Roosevelt's personal ambassador, looked into the future of the war during 1941.

He said that Britain would not find the war less terrible this year than last, would have to face continued destruction of British towns and cities without being able to make adequate reply.

He admitted Hitler's great advantage in being able to move his armies about Europe at will.

Churchill said Britain wanted no armies from overseas in 1941, but would need a constant stream of

HARRY HOPKINS
'Roosevelt's personal ambassador.'

munitions, "far more than we can pay for."

Britain, however, is not in "extremis" if such aid comes, said Churchill. He said:

"We have enough men on the fighting line to hold the front line of civilization if we get American aid and American credits."

This unheralded address before a Glasgow audience was widely quoted in the lend-lease fight in Washington.

BITTERNESS:
And Unity

President Roosevelt's inauguration day came at a time when the fever of the country was away above normal in a bitter fight over the lease-lend bill—No. 1776.

Not since the Supreme court fight had the press of the nation printed stories of such vitriolic attacks by one group upon another, with counter charges and charges flinging themselves across committee tables with apparent utter abandon.

Party lines were smashed to smithereens, with Willkie claiming the Republican party would kill itself forevermore if it failed to recognize the principle of "blank-check" aid to Britain, and allow Roosevelt all the power he desires.

Republican Tinkham countered with the charge that Willkie was "incompetent" on foreign policy questions. Ambassador Kennedy was being welcomed with open arms by isolationist editors and hailed as a comrade and then said he considered the isolationists the worst "defeatists" of all.

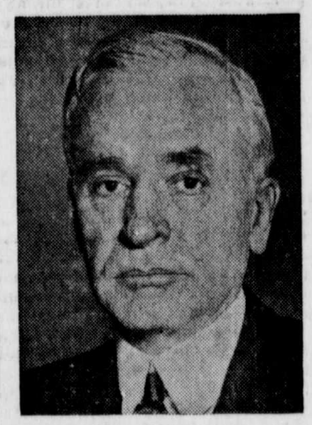
American unity, supposedly the nation's greatest safeguard during the stress of national defense preparedness, appeared jeopardized. National leaders differed in their prescriptions for the critical moment as far as the poles.

They ranged from Carter Glass, Virginia, who wanted the U. S. to declare war at once, to the outright isolationist and non-interventionist of the type of Montana's Senator Wheeler, who opposed No. 1776 from opening word to finish.

While this was the temper of official Washington, a couple of U. S. sailors fanned the flame by tearing down a Nazi banner from a German consulate celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the German Reich. They clambered up to a ninth-story flagpole in San Francisco to cause a national crisis to become that much more critical, while thousands cheered on the sidewalk below.

CABINET:
Rolls Sleeves

For once in a national issue, apparently that entire part of the President's cabinet which could conceivably have anything to do with the situation rolled up its sleeves and went to bat for No. 1776, the lease-



CORDELL HULL
With others, he 'went to bat.'

lend bill, calling for all-out aid to Britain.

Morgenthau, treasury secretary, stepped into the arena, declaring that Britain was right then at the end of her dollar rope, and that some form of unpaid-for aid must be found if Britain was to continue to get supplies.

Hull, in a most powerful session with the committee which left the nation stunned, excoriated the totalitarians, and called for the nation to realize that the crisis was real and immediate.

Stimson, war secretary, declared in a two-day bout with the committee that he favored sending American warships "anywhere," and that Britain's complete crisis was a matter of 60 to 90 days.

Navy Secretary Knox hinted that the real crisis might be the wresting of Britain's navy from her control by the Nazis, who then would be able to establish themselves in South America.

ASIATIC:
Turmoil Grows

All Europe and all the Western hemisphere was watching the diplomatic battle between the United States and Japan before a backdrop of Asiatic warfare that was becoming daily more sanguinary and gloomy.

Even the Battle of Siam was assuming more headline proportions, with conflicting reports from French Indo-China and from Siam itself as to the success of the counter moves.

Most positive claims were made by little Siam, which claimed that important Indo-Chinese border points had fallen to their arms. And while the French did not deny these facts, they did claim that any such advances had been purchased at an enormous loss in manpower.

European diplomats of the Axis powers were striving to keep Japan and the U. S. at odds, thus hoping to cement Japan more firmly to the Axis.

U. S. DEFENSE . . . . . *in the news*

¶ Federal Loan Administrator Jones announced that defense commitments of the RFC now aggregate more than $1,000,000,000, including approximately $550,000,000 in loans for the construction of defense plants; $125,000,000 in loans to manufacturers; $260,000,000 for the purchase of strategic metals; and $140,000,000 for the acquisition of stocks of rubber

¶ The war department announced its plans to maintain the army at 1,418,000 enlisted men and 97,371 officers during the coming fiscal year. This would include selectees and National Guardsmen.

¶ A long stream of American-made planes was being flown from Botwood, Newfoundland to England, the record being from "breakfast to teatime."

Tag Day

Inaugural day was really "Tag" day for news photographers who covered the event as the above picture clearly shows. Here Charles Knell, news photo agency cameraman displays a few of the passes necessary to wear and keep in plain view throughout the day's events.

FORWARD:
Go the Greeks

As Germany still continued to withhold aid to Italy in Albania, the Greeks moved steadily forward in their effort to drive Italian forces from the western shore of the Adriatic.

A thousand "crack" troops were reported captured in one engagement, and all along the southern and eastern battle lines, the advance was steady, but slow.

Many American Greeks, most favorable to their countrymen's cause, were most cautious about the situation, however, informed sources holding that the Germans were holding back only because of the difficulties of fighting over mountainous Balkan terrain in the wintertime.

They believed that the Nazis would move in force, perhaps not through Bulgaria (which would bring Turkey, perhaps Russia into the war) but through Jugoslavia.

While admitting that many things may happen in the next two months to change the situation, these sources felt anything but confident that the Grecian forces, in the long run, could drive out the Italians.

Particularly on the northern front was the advance slow, though in central Albania Klisura had fallen and Tepelini was apparently a certainty, and Greeks in the north, it was felt, might be particularly vulnerable to a sudden attack from either the Bulgarian or the Jugoslavian border.

German aid on the Albanian front to that point, however, had confined itself to the entrance of a few Stukas and bombers from the forces quartered (reportedyl) on Italian soil.

EGYPT:
Quiets Down

In the African campaign, the Germans began the groundwork of more vigorous aid to Italy, while the land attacks of the British colonial army continued favorably, though not quite so sensationally as in previous weeks.

The fall of Tobruk, another important Mediterranean port, was regarded as a foregone conclusion, and the British armies, in command of Libya's important coastal roads, moved at will toward other objectives like Derna and Bengasi, the country's capital.

Yet there was a feeling, almost like an "aura" of standstill in the land campaign, possibly attributable to a rearrangement of forces for a new offensive.

That the Italians were anything but satisfied with the situation was the most favorable reaction evident in press dispatches. The Fascist army in Africa was regarded as having been rendered impotent, and without German aid in considerable numbers, Britain was favored to make its victory in Africa complete.

Yet events seemed to be pointing to the fact that the Nazis were planning such a move in force, and watchers anxiously awaited the unfolding of such a plan.

PLANE:
Versus Warship

Loss of the 9,000-ton cruiser Southampton in the Mediterranean after an attack entirely by Stukas finally settled the question of whether a first-class warship could withstand a first-class plane attack.

The planes won the verdict. Yet the Illustrious, 26,000-ton new British aircraft carrier was more fortunate, and escaped, though apparently with tremendous damage inflicted upon her.

The official British phrase stating that she "made port under her own power" hints that she was limping, if not crawling back to Malta.

The Illustrious carried plenty of planes, yet dispatches failed to tell why more of them did not get into the fight to protect the carrier and save the Southampton, which was sunk by her own crew to guard her secrets after she caught fire.

Official communiques about the Illustrious-Southampton incident did say that 12 Nazi bombers were shot down into the sea, but gave no figures about British planes.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

WILLKIE'S NEW ROLE

The Bill of Rights in our Constitution doesn't use these words but what part of it means is, that it is every American's sacred privilege to say what he pleases, think what he pleases and change his mind as often as he desires. That goes for Wendell Willkie.

But with such privileges go obligations, moral if not legal. Mr. Willkie, after a considerable period of hesitation as to just what it was all about, during which his stock slumped from the remarkable high of the Philadelphia convention to a very low point in August, finally began to attract followers again. He announced that he was leading a crusade to return America to the Americans. He stood against any further delegation and concentration of power in the President.

He was for aiding Britain "within our own and international law," but he felt that if Mr. Roosevelt were re-elected it would be construed as a mandate for an immediate, headlong rush toward war. He, Willkie, stood for caution and discretion and the building of an impregnable American defense.

In private conversations, he was even more explicit on this and revealed that his only reason for not being explicit openly was that he feared that he would lose the support of certain great New York publications.

The impression that he tried to leave was that he stood against the war-minded and those who had been careless of American defense as the apostle of all-out hemisphere defense and the traditional American policy of a minimum of meddling with the interminable European conflict.

On this basis, millions of people left their party moorings, some of them at great sacrifice of personal friendship and prestige, to follow him. Some gave him more help than the leading members of his own new-found party. It was not a question with them of partisanship. It was a question of patriotism.

Nothing has happened since to impair the apparent soundness of that doctrine. If anything, what has happened since has strengthened it. But it would have been impossible for Mr. Willkie to have gone further than he has now gone to repudiate it and those ardent followers of it and him.

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AIDING 'EVERYBODY'?

One thing should be made and kept clear about the fight on the "lease-lend" bill in its present form. It is that the issue here is not whether we shall send aid to Britain. There are, on either side of the "lease-lend" argument, men of several shades of opinion on both sides of that question—from those who believe in all aid Britain may ask, to other men who insist only so much be sent as will not slow up or make impossible our own defense.

The debate here is whether on the plea of aiding Britain—by methods "short of war" principally by selling or giving supplies, with or without credit—whether on that plea, one man, the President, should be given unlimited authority to dispose of as much as he pleases of the material resources of the United States and its armament in ships, guns, planes and ammunition, not merely to Britain but to any nation anywhere.

Those who want to aid Britain say they wish to do so to defend America. By this most of them mean that they want to keep the ocean approaches to our country open by supporting the British navy and the British bases in the Atlantic and elsewhere. But the "lease-lend" bill intends something much more than that. Taken with the President's fireside chat and annual message, his war aims are no longer merely to defend America in this sense.

They are no longer "short of war." They are to "defend America" by insuring freedom of speech and worship and from want "everywhere on earth," and to secure all nations from attack "anywhere on earth." Under the terms of the bill, all that is necessary for him to do to be free to send our military and naval substance to any country whether it is at war now or not, is to "find" that to do so would help American defense. That is power to declare and fight economic war for anybody anywhere.

Furthermore, some of the language in this bill is so generalized (for example the appropriation clause) that it is not clear that it does not deliver to the President power to give away the financial resources of the country as certainly it grants him power to give away all the ships of our whole navy.

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There is talk about guarding against any such designs by limiting this all-out economic war dictatorship and partial military and naval dictatorship to two years.

Many of the "emergency" powers granted since '33 have been so limited. All have been extended. Why? Because the granting of such massive powers with a time limit is also a grant of power to force the extension of that time limit. It has proved so with us over and over again during eight years of grants of emergency powers with a time limit.

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By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

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paper of the room in which the chairs were to be used. The bold stripes of the putty tan, green and wine red material gave just the right contrast with the flowered pattern on the wall. Narrow green fringe was used for edging and the sketch shows how the two pieces of the slip cover were made.

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