GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

SELF CONTRADICTION

The proponents of the Morgenthau "lease-lend" bill are certainly talking themselves into a position of self-contradiction which it may take their lifetime to explain. The explanation required may not be merely lack of logic—it may be of why they helped to ruin their country by using their official positions to dignify statements that, from a private citizen, wouldn't stand two minutes cross-examination before a justice of the peace.

Secretary Morgenthau, who began by trying, without consulting public opinion at all, to divert our war supplies to France, where Hitler got them, says that if we do not pass that bill, Britain will have to stop fighting. Secretary Stimson, also urging this particular bill, says that it must pass at once, because if Britain stops fighting, we are subject to attack.

Mr. Morgenthau's argument is that "they haven't any dollars left." That may or may not be so, and probably isn't, but if the secretary means that they have nothing which they can pledge as collateral it certainly is not so—not by billions. There is considerable apprehension in Canada that, if we begin giving our manufactures away to Britain, Canada will lose a lot of business.

The British have to pay Canadian industry, also British industry, not to mention all the other nations of the British Commonwealth and the whole of the rest of the world. Only Uncle Sam is rushing out again to give away his—well, let's call them innards—when even the association of British nations give not theirs.

O. K., failing a franker and more credible statement of this financial problem, most of us are willing to give England money outright to buy our just share of aid to her and to the precise extent—and not one inch further—than it really contributes to American defense. We want congress to control these appropriations for the efense of Britain just as it must control appropriations for the defense of America. The "lease-lend" bill doesn't do that. It authorizes the President alone to make, buy and give Britain unlimited billions worth of our resources without consulting congress.

If, therefore, as Secretary Morgenthau has said, it is only a question of dollars for Britain, no argument is left for the much wider powers of the "lease-lend" bill.

Other official "opinions" that Great Britain can lick Germany on the continent with our aid, that if Great Britain doesn't, Germany will lick us etcet, etcet; aren't worth the paper on which they are written or the breath with which they are spoken. Modern war is too unpredictable. There is only one rule for us—a burning lesson of this terrible age. "Arm for impregnable American defense. Rely on no other nation—on nothing but the strength of our own resources and the courage, ingenuity, patriotism and devotion of our own people."

* * *

DEFENSE AUTHORITY

Secretary Stimson says that one reason for bum's-rushing the increasingly discredited "lease-lend" bill is that it will cure the "disorder which has existed for nearly two years in the manufacture of munitions."

His point is that the President must purchase all supplies for our several defense departments and also for any allies because, otherwise, they would compete with each other, raise prices and create confusion.

Whatever confusion has "existed" is not traceable to any lack of executive authority.

Up to the middle of last year, our government had no plans whatever for adequate defense and then, in a moment of panic, dumped indigestible billions of dollars of totally unco-ordinated orders into the lap of an unwarned industry. It is due also to the long and inexcusable lag in setting up any single authorized and intelligent control. That hasn't been done yet.

It was not because government had not been warned by the voice of intense and highly successful experience. B. M. Baruch warned it over and over again as to precisely what was wrong and what was necessary to cure it.

To use the excuse that Mr. Stimson thus advanced for the passage of this totalitarian bill—this gratuitous American assumption of responsibility for the world-wide conduct of this war—is either a confession of ignorance or it is an attempt to frighten this nation into such an abandonment of democratic and constitutional processes as is neither necessary nor desirable.

The second and only other point of Mr. Stimson's argument is that the barter process of "lease-lend" or "otherwise dispose of" our weapons is "more flexible" than the advancement of credit or cash.

"More flexible" for whom? Money and credit were invented and over the ages have proved to be the most flexible of all methods of exchange of goods between nations. One of our chief complaints against Hitler is his design to substitute barter in kind for money transactions. The secretary's testimony is self-contradictory and astonishingly absurd.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

Threat of German Invasion of Britain And Congressional Lease-Lend Debate Present Grim Picture of War Situation; Italians Continue to Fall Back in Africa

(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.)

CRISIS:
For Lease-Lend

The real crisis in the lease-lend legislation found a well-defined public response to the antagonistic efforts of the isolationists and the non-interventionists.

The result? The administration called big guns to the support of the measure, and predicted its passage during the week beginning March 3. The schedule called for unlimited debate in house and senate, but there were many indications that this limitation would bring forth tremendous opposition in Republican floor circles and in senate committees as well.

Generally speaking, the public attitude, as disclosed in numbers of polls of sentiment conducted by newspapers throughout the country, seemed to be that the all-out aid to Britain principle was favorably received.

The public, on the other hand, seemed to feel that there was at least a reasonable doubt whether the President should be given as much and as drastic power as the original lease-lend draft indicated.

This was reflected even in the sponsorship of the measure, because Representative Bloom (N. Y.) who was chairman of the house foreign relations committee, scarcely put up any opposition against three or four major amendments, limiting the time for which the presidential powers would be granted, declaring in principle against convoys and other items in which the opposition found fault with the bill.

This showed the administration forces to be in the unusual position of fostering legislation of which they do not approve themselves, at least in part.

Either that, or they were "shooting for the moon," and willing to

REP. SOL BLOOM
Scarcely any opposition.

give and take in order to reach their main objective—of the passage of a bill which would in effect repeal the Johnson act forbidding loans to belligerents who had not paid their World war debts.

INVASION:
Threat Near

As the lease-lend argument reached its zenith, predictions that England was nearing the critical period in the Battle For Britain were legion. Lindbergh had set the most gloomy picture, figuring that Britain could never withstand the onslaught.

One could figure which side of the lease-lend battle the predictor was on by the darkness of the picture he painted. Knox and Stimson predicted a crisis, but gave few details and little soothsaying as to what would be the outcome.

But those opposed to the lease-lend proposal varied widely in what they saw in the future's crystal ball. Most gloomy of all was Von Wiegand, who in a dispatch date-lined Shanghai, purported to report what German and Japanese authorities believed was about to occur.

Six weeks would tell the tale, said Von Wiegand. He envisioned 247 divisions of trained men, 15,000 parachutists, a score of tank divisions, descending on England, and Hearst papers printed an "artist's conception" of the "Blitz on Britain," which would tear London into shreds—long before American aid could swing the balance.

Every authority who discussed blitzkrieg on London talked of poison gas—new forms, lethal gas for which "no gas mask" has yet been provided.

LABOR:
Raises Its Head

The domestic labor situation became steadily worse during the weeks that the lease-lend bill was "on the tapis" in Washington.

Perhaps the Allis-Chalmers strike was the most serious, affecting as it did not only that single industry, but as Allis-Chalmers was making parts, it meant a serious hold-up all along the line, particularly in planes and tanks.

But the most striking labor development of the week was the statement issued by Henry Ford through one of his industrial lieutenants. Ford authorized this man to say in

SIDNEY HILLMAN
Mr. Ford refused to 'sit down' with him.

his name that the Ford enterprises would never yield to the government demand that defense products be manufactured under union labor conditions.

Ford's rejoinder was that he would never knuckle down to labor's demands, that instead he would lease his industries to the government at one dollar a year, and let the government run them.

Ford agreed in principle with the necessity of America arming in its own defense, and with the principle that in defense work patriotism was the primary urge, and profits had no part.

He therefore offered to give up his industries, and let the government operate them under a non-profit arrangement, producing whatever vital materials were wished for.

The only government answer to this was to refuse Ford a contract on which his organization had been low bidder.

Basis of the dispute had been Ford's refusal to sit down with Sidney Hillman, labor chief of the national defense, and to find some plan by which the Ford interests could operate in the defense scheme—settling the labor difficulty once and for all.

Labor, as personified by the C.I.O, had set as its major objective for 1941 the organization of the Ford plants.

This objective seemed to mean only one thing—abandonment of the Ford plants—of their complete divorcement from national defense contracts.

ITALY:
In Africa

The African campaign of the British forces against the troops of Mussolini continued to be a victorious one, despite the fact that it was reported that the Nazi air force had given considerable aid to the Fascist legions.

In succession one port on the Mediterranean after another had fallen to General Wavell's men—Salum, Bardia, Tobruk and Derna. In Libya, none but Bengasi remained to be conquered.

All the cities previously captured, some of them cities only by courtesy, for they were only a few huts huddled together and a small group of embryo wharfs, had been on flat land. In passing Derna the British were moving on the capital of Cyrenaica, and were stepping into a more mountainous territory, the so-called Green Mountains of Libya, where a force of 50,000 Italians were determined to hold out to the last.

The same combination of land attack, backed up by air force and navy shelling from naval craft at sea, was being used by General Wavell in the final phase of the Libyan campaign. There was every belief that with the capture of Bengasi the campaign would end.

HIGHLIGHTS . . *in the week's news*

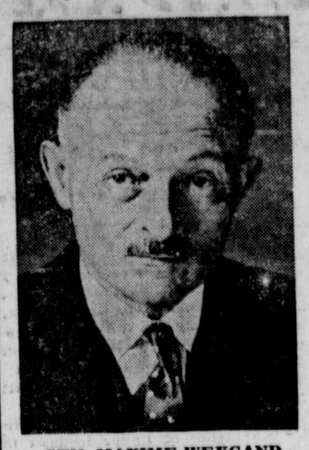
Rome—The practice of killing horses for meat was attacked by the newspaper La Tribuna, which said: "The horse is more useful when alive than when put in the form of beefsteaks and sausages."

Baltimore—A "sample" blitzkrieg started a near-panic in a movie house. Tanks and motortrucks vibrated the pavement, setting off the automatic fire alarm.

London—The RAF claims that 370 German and Italian planes were downed in January, as compared with only 33 British warcraft. The total for the war shows 3,069 German planes downed over Britain.

Lansing, Mich.—Wild deer, formerly forced to swim across the Au Sable river, this winter have a rustic footbridge. It was built for them by the conservation department.

WEYGAND:
Finally Unmasks



GEN. MAXIME WEYGAND
He'll 'track-along.'

Gen. Maxime Weygand went to Africa an enigma.

Much of this enigmatic quality was dispelled when he issued a statement in which he definitely refused to "throw in" his hand with DeGaulle, but said he would "track along" with the Petain regime in Vichy.

Yet it was not quite so clear as all that, although it was extremely important that Weygand should have finally unmasked himself.

For the Vichy situation was still, in its way, considerable of a mystery.

The Nazis were reportedly much disgusted with Vichy's failure to back up the Laval ideology, particularly in regard to the use of Tunisia for Nazi bases of operations in Africa.

So the stand, announced by Weygand, that he would continue to support the Vichy regime, could or could not be taken to mean that Weygand had fallen in with the Nazi party line.

Yet Great Britain had hoped that Weygand, in going to Africa, was "escaping" from Vichy, and would turn in the direction of DeGaulle.

That hope, at least, was completely dispelled by Weygand's statement, which unhesitatingly lined him up with the Vichy government. What that government would turn out to be, remained undecided.

G. O. P.:
On Two Sides

Oddest picture of the lease-lend bill fight in America was the sudden junket of Wendell L. Willkie, late G. O. P. standard-bearer, to England to take "his personal look" at the state of Britain.

Willkie's departure was speeded by a paternal pat on the head from his erstwhile opponent, President Roosevelt, and a note written by hand to Winston Churchill.

Willkie flew to Europe. He was greeted practically with presidential honor in the Azores, where the natives could not be convinced they were not greeting the President himself.

He landed at Lisbon, was ferried hastily to England, dined with Churchill, lunched with royalty, and hobnobbed with the plain and fancy in London.

He underwent air-raids, habitually roamed about the streets without helmet or gas-mask, (on three occasions he had to be handed both with a gentle reprimand from some higher-up), and generally inspected the state of Britain as he, Willkie, had intended to.

America was treated to the strange spectacle of the Democratic administration "needing" the testimony of the ex-Republican standard-bearer to help it over the hill on the lease-lend bill.

The whole situation was something of a shock to Republican leaders of the fight against the measure, especially when Hull let it be known that Willkie's sudden return had been demanded by Senator George, head of foreign relations in the senate, who wanted the Indianian to testify before the committee hearings on the bill.

In fact, the shock was so drastic in some quarters that Republican groups in various centers held meetings to "decide Willkie's status" in the party, with the evident intimation that if he should prove too good a friend to the administration, he might be "read out of the party."

JAPAN:
The 'Peacemaker'

With dramatic suddenness, peace came in the Indo-China war with the Siamese.

Japan, it developed, had been "invited" by the belligerents, when a strong Nipponese fleet had appeared in the offing, to sit down and settle the hostilities.

This settlement, as might have been expected, was that Thailand should keep what it had taken from Indo-China, together with some additional cessions of territory.

Keenest observers of the far-eastern scene foresaw in the Japanese intervention only one outcome.

They believed that Japan would become so dominant in southeastern Asia that Thailand and Indo-China would soon be mere puppet states similar to Manchukuo.

The state department in Washington viewed these events with a serious eye, seeing in them assured proof that sooner or later there would have to be a showdown of power in the Pacific between the United States and Japan.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Senator Vandenberg of Michigan droppped into the vice president's private office just before Henry Wallace was girding himself to make his debut as president of the senate. He found Wallace with the senate chaplain, Rev. ZeBarney T. Phillips.

Vandenberg looked at the two men, apparently trying to decide which was the more devout. Joshing Rev. Phillips, he said: "We won't need you any more. Henry Wallace can offer the prayer."

In senate circles it is generally agreed that Wallace will be everything that Garner wasn't. Garner used to make his appearance for the opening at noon, stay for 10 minutes, then disappear. Wallace will start at noon and stay on the job, really running the senate in a conscientious manner.

But what Garner did after he left the chamber, Wallace will fail to do. Garner was a mixer, a mixer of men and a mixer of drinks. His backstage work was enough to put any bill across—or to kill it.

As one senator put it, "Garner's office was the only place in the senate wing where we could always count on getting a drink. We know we can't count on Wallace for that."

* * *

HOPKINS' SURVEY

Harry Hopkins went to Britain as the personal emissary of the President, but he also had a private assignment from Mrs. Roosevelt.

She asked the ex-cabinet member to make a first-hand survey of the activities of English social welfare agencies, both private and public, under blitz conditions. Hopkins is particularly fitted to make such a study because of his many years as a New York social worker.

Note—Mrs. Roosevelt has decided to break her recent self-imposed plan to stick closer to Washington. Following the election last November, she made up her mind to abandon her speaking tours. But on the strong advice of friends she will resume her practice of getting out in the country, feeling the pulse of public sentiment, soon will visit the Midwest.

* * *

WILLKIE CLUBS

It wasn't made public, but that meeting of Willkie club chiefs in New York recently named a committee of 14 to draw up a plan for the future of the movement.

Actually no one could agree on a definite policy. Some state leaders reported that there was little hope of keeping the clubs alive in their particular bailiwicks. Others, particularly in Pennsylvania, disclosed that a plan already was afoot to set up a permanent organization of county units to be financed by sustaining membership, running all the way from 25 cents for rank-and-file members, to $100 for founders.

Members of the group are Robert G. Allen, ex-Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania who bolted to Willkie; Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, N. Y.; Henry A. Budd, Topeka, Kan.; Arthur Bunker, N. Y.; Mrs. Marie Jay Cady, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Russell Davenport, Willkie "discoverer" and campaign brain-truster; James H. Douglas Jr., Chicago; John W. Hanes, former Roosevelt undersecretary of the treasury; William H. Harman, Philadelphia; Richard D. Logan, Toledo, Ohio; Oren Root, head of the Willkie clubs; Howard M. Wall, Portland, Ore.; Cloud Wampler, Chicago; and James K. Watkins, Detroit.

* * *

INCOME TAX CONSCIENCES

With the arrival of open season for income taxes the public conscience begins to hurt. People send money to the treasury, with no name attached, to square old debts.

From San Francisco came a letter containing $193 and the words, "A mistake in 1935. Penalty and interest at 6 per cent."

From Norwich, Conn., an anonymous taxpayer sent in $15. From Morris, Ill., a blind contribution of $8. From Phoenix, Ariz., $1.80—this coming from a regular and frequent contributor.

All such money goes to the treasury's "conscience fund." Total receipts, since the time of President Madison, $647,563.98.

* * *

MAIL BAG

H.D.S., New York—The horoscope reading on John L. Lewis which was sent to us was to the effect that, "there is a good deal of conflict and discord in his life between January and June, 1941. After that, however, there are some very sudden changes, with the return of old contacts and associations, and very definite financial increase for this labor leader."

P.B.H., Milwaukee — The words used by TVA Director Lilienthal in warning Wisconsin against soil depletion were: "The same process of depletion of minerals in the soil that has brought the South to its present unhappy economic status is at work steadily and inexorably in Wisconsin and the Middle West."

J.S.H., Westport, Conn.—Thanks for your letter noting that the Continental Congress came within one vote of making German, rather than English, the official language of the Colonies.

Here's a Design for Rag Rug Enthusiasts

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

MAKE one rag rug and you will find yourself a member of an enthusiastic clan that gloats over any soft piece of old woolen goods and who count the days until they fall heir to a dress of a particular color that they want. These enthusiasts bleach materials to tone them down; they brighten others

with dye; they antique some with tea and they have a wonderful time.

The sketch gives all the directions you will need to copy this fascinating braided rag rug with a flower medallion in the center. Or you may make two of the medallions, sew them together and add a braided handle for a knitting bag. Braid the fabric strips tightly and keep the work flat while you sew the circles for the roses and the loops for leaves; then sew them together. Use carpet thread double for this and for sewing the braided rows around the edge of the rug.

* * *

NOTE: There are two other fascinating braided rug designs in Mrs. Spears' Book 3 and the new Book 6 contains directions for a hooked, a braided and a crocheted rag rug. "The Rug That Grew Up With the Family" is in Book 3. Each book has 32 pages of pictures and directions. Send order to:

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Cultivation of Genius

The richest genius, like the most fertile soil, when uncultivated, shoots up into the rankest weeds; and instead of vines and olives for the pleasure and use of man, produces to its slothful owner the most abundant crop of poisons.—Hume.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF COLDS quickly use
666 LIQUID TABLETS SALVE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

Tide Will Turn

When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you, till it seems as if you couldn't hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time the tide will turn. —Harriet Beecher Stowe.

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