GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

United Features — WNU Service

Washington, D. C.

ITALY'S 'POWER'

Before his sudden foray by his right flank on western Europe and when there was still some speculation as to whether he would not team up with Italy and strike France by his left flank, Hitler is reported to have said that he didn't even want Mussolini to enter the war—that with Benito neutral he didn't need to worry about that sector, but if Il Duce came in he would have to detach 30 German divisions to protect him.

There was good sense in that. The French general staff had somewhat the same idea about Benito. The only offensive they had planned against Hitler was to strike Mussolini and they expected it to be a joyride. Before that could develop, Adolf had sideswiped them on the other side and Benito took what he thought was his opportunity.

The world knows the result. Hitler was right the first time. Reports make it clearer daily that he has simply had to appoint himself receiver in bankruptcy for busted Benito, with all the risks and responsibilities that the job implies. Italy has become a vassal state to Germany and, for however long it may last, it is a fact worth remark that Hitler has thereby restored approximately the boundaries of the Empire of Charlemagne in which the inclusion of Italy according to the great world historian Dupuy "lost thereby its independence for 10 centuries."

As a modern war power, Italy simply doesn't exist and, in comparison with the rest, hasn't existed in our time. No nation can really be formidable in modern war without owning or having access to three great industries—chemical, metallurgical and manufacturing. Italy has had none of these. She is just a long salient stuck out into the Mediterranean where she is as vulnerable and uncomfortable as a sore thumb.

Once, as a great sea power as well as a great land power, she ruled the world, but that was when it was principally a Mediterranean world and when armies meant little more than massed muscular man power. Even then she was dependent on the rest of the world for nearly all her metal and most of her food. Her principal value to Hitler was her threat to North Africa, a bottle neck in the Mediterranean, and such naval and military materials and munitions as she had accumulated through the years.

Her equipment has been proved obsolete, the threat to North Africa is over and, so far as she is concerned, the bottleneck has been broken. Benito was the worst bargain that Adolf ever bought. Now that bargain is his baby and the care and policing of it is going to take a considerable part of his military, naval and air power that he may need desperately elsewhere.

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PRIORITIES

There is a report in Washington that we are going to have to stop making electric washing machines and later electrical refrigerators because of the aluminum shortage.

This is said to be because of the priorities of delivery that will have to be given to certain munitions industries. O. K., they must not be held up for lack of anything, if, as, and when they need it. But in granting a priority the OPM or the priority board has a much greater obligation than just channeling the entire outflow of a strategic material to Factory A or Factory B at its demand—especially if the effect is to close up a normal industry employing many people.

A priority order should govern not only total quantity of delivery but time of delivery. It is up to the government control to get the strategic material to the user exactly as it is needed. But it is also up to that control in rationing a scant supply to see to it that there is no hoarding and no ordering far in advance of time of use.

The very first thing that should be done in the application of drastic rationing is to explore every stock pile in this country. Nothing of this sort has been done. It could be worked on a rough random check through the insurance companies. It could be done more thoroughly and accurately by a questionnaire dragnet. Leon Henderson would know how to do it better than anybody I know—and get the answer in the quickest way.

Another activity for which government control is responsible before it moves to unnecessary upsets and deprivations, is to set up a unit to explore the possibilities of conservation and substitution.

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Practically nothing has been done along these lines. Simple dogmatic priority is very effective but, without assuming full responsibility for these other safeguards, it is a sort of "easiest way" that may lead to some very unpleasant aftermaths of recrimination and bitter resentment. I have been so roundly criticized for even referring to World war experience on these matters that I am getting gun shy. I don't know to what I could better refer, but since it irritates the customers I am trying to restrain myself.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

Bulgarians Are Rebuked by Russia For 'Allowing' Nazi Troops to Enter; Turkey Closes Strategic Dardanelles As Crisis Looms in Mediterranean

(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.)

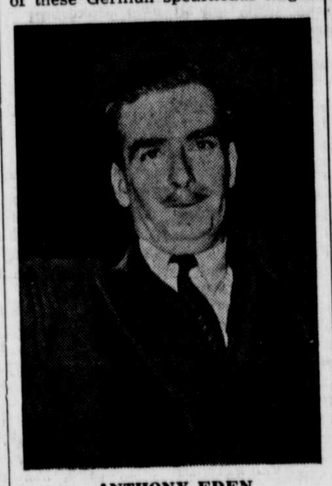
ENGLAND:
At Crossroads

The sending of Anthony Eden into Turkey was no empty gesture on the part of England, but a vital move in the war as the nation approached what appeared to be its most dangerous parting of the ways.

The Nazi move in the Balkans, plus the infiltration into Italy, plus the move into Spain, plus the appearance of German troops in Africa, plus the removal of French citizens from the invasion coast, all pointed in different directions and tended to place English war directors on the horns of a dilemma.

It appeared that the British must decide (1) whether to extend and continue their successful drive in Africa; (2) whether to concentrate on defense of the channel and fighting the submarine menace; (3) whether to lighten the African force by sending troops to strengthen the defense of Greece and to the aid of Turkey.

Most British leaders did not believe that all of these varied objectives could be accomplished at the same time. They viewed with dread the possibility that one or another of these German spearheads might



ANTHONY EDEN
The "prime fixer" went to Turkey.

just be a feinting move with the very purpose of causing the British to put their chief attraction at the wrong spot.

There was little chance that the British would do anything that would jeopardize their defense of the Island Kingdom itself. Robert G. Nixon, returning correspondent, described in detail the defense of the entire English coastal territory, north, south, east and west, giving a picture of a nation rather anxiously hoping for invasion than fearing it.

But Britain's Mediterranean and Middle East situation was causing tremendous concern, with the two vulnerable points at each end of the inland sea, Gibraltar and Suez, and with Greece to be aided, Turkey to be strengthened, and African gains to be held and consolidated.

The crucial move in this whole dilemma was the sending of Eden, the prime "fixer" to Turkey. The conference with Turkish leaders lasted only 2½ hours, and ended in a complete accord, it was reported.

First definite action resulting from Turkey's concern over the situation became known when it was announced that the Dardanelles had been closed. Those strategic straits, which separate the Mediterranean from the Black sea, are of vital concern to the axis powers for they form the outlet of German occupied territory to the Mediterranean.

BALKANS:
Lose a Piece

Bulgaria lost its autonomy to all practical purposes when Bogdan Philoff and Von Ribbentrop signed a dramatic treaty through which the Bulgars officially joined the Rome-Berlin Axis "for the duration."

This was widely viewed as an unwilling surrender, but a move which could hardly be criticized by fair-minded persons, as it was a surrender to a pistol held firmly to a nation's heart.

Russia, however, felt otherwise. Shortly after the pact was signed and the Nazi troops had entered Bulgaria, that nation was handed a message from the soviet foreign commissariat which in effect expressed displeasure with the Bulgar's attitude. According to the Russians, they disapproved of the Bulgarian action because it "does not lead to consolidation of peace."

Whether this meant Russia would take any action to prevent Nazi troops from penetrating too close to soviet borders was not immediately learned. London at first did not believe that Russia had any action in mind but looked upon the statement merely as "a mere verbal protest." One thing was sure: The signing of the Axis-Bulgar pact was to have far-reaching effect in the progress of war in the Balkans.

The signing had been prefaced by the infiltration of uncounted thousands of Nazi troops in civilian clothing, and two days before it all happened, Nazi generals, also in plain-clothes, practically took over the leading hotel in Sofia as their headquarters.

The day before the signatures were placed on the historic document Britain issued a warning that she would withdraw her embassy if the treaty were signed.

The next step was the cutting off of all telephonic communication between Bulgaria and the outside world. In all this, the blotting out of another autonomous country was carried out in the true Nazi method, the blueprint being followed in every detail with mathematical precision.

The following day the city of Sofia was in German hands, completely under German control, the British ambassador had asked for and demanded his passports, and Bulgaria's home rule was ended.

MARTIN DIES:
Steps Out Again

The Dies committee, quiescent for several weeks, stepped back onto Page One when Representative Dies charged that American Peace Mobilization, Inc., which in Washington is largely made up of government employees active in opposition to the lease-lend bill, receives its chief support from Communistic "front" organizations.

Public meetings against the lease-lend bill were being run by the "Keep America Out of War Committee," but the sponsors of the meetings, when asked what other groups were involved, would only answer "and other peace and labor groups."

Mr. Dies said chief among these was the Mobilization body, and he cited that one of its vice presidents is Vito Marcantonio of New York, the only American Labor party member in congress who has been voting against national defense and

MARTIN DIES
He stepped back to Page One.

appropriations measures ever since the congress convened.

The Dies committee, during previous investigations, pronounced to be a Communist Front organization the American League for Peace and Democracy. Mr. Dies said that from what he had learned so far, the Mobilization chapter in Washington appeared to be the successor of the League for Peace, which became defunct after getting the Red label from the Dies body.

Executive secretary of the Washington chapter of Mobilization, Inc., was Mrs. Sarah A. Montgomery, wife of the consumers' counsel for the AAA. Dies served a subpoena on Mrs. Montgomery to bring her records before the committee.

Subpoenas were served for several weeks on the chapter, Dies said, without avail in getting the records before him. He continued to demand them, and would continue to do so, he said.

COTTON:
For Shelters

Members of congress from the southern states were jubilant when a New York engineer, E. C. Wallace, declared that cotton was better than reinforced concrete as roofing material for air-raid shelters.

Wallace said that a seven-foot thickness of cotton would resist the penetration of a 6,000-pound bomb falling from 30,000 feet.

He said the cotton could easily be fireproofed, so that incendiary bombs would have little effect.

MISCELLANY:

Washington.—The CAA, examining into a plane crash at Fort Morgan, Colo., found that the pilot, Charles G. Pierce, deliberately flew his plane head-on into the hangar. The report quoted Pierce, who was badly hurt, as saying: "I intended to wreck ship, hangar and myself. I'm sorry I didn't do a better job."

A KING:
Takes a Trip

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND—This radiophoto shows King George of Britain (right) as he greeted John G. Winant, new U. S. ambassador to the court of St. James, upon the latter's arrival in Britain.

When Ambassador Lord Halifax arrived at Annapolis, President Roosevelt journeyed to Annapolis to greet him. Not to be outdone, King George went halfway across England to welcome American Ambassador John G. Winant with a hearty handshake at a railway station between London and Bristol.

Winant, ex-governor of New Hampshire, had made the trip to Lisbon by plane, and from Lisbon to Bristol by another plane. He was accompanied by President Conant of Harvard and by Benjamin Cohen, who is Winant's personal assistant.

London newspapers said they considered the King's gesture in breaking all precedent to go to a railway station to greet an ambassador was caused by the Roosevelt action in going to the shores of the Chesapeake to meet Lord Halifax.

King George kept up the parallel by taking Winant and his companions in his own automobile to tea with Queen Elizabeth. The place of the meeting was carefully guarded by the censors.

Winant was nervous at all this attention. He said, simply, biting his lip and shifting from foot to foot:

"I'm glad to be here. There's no place I'd rather be than in England."

ITALY:
Taken Over

There is little doubt that Italy actually has been taken over by Germany. This is a significant step which several observers have reported bit by bit from time to time, but it has scarcely received the attention it deserves.

This movement started with the sending of diverse commissions into Italy from the Reich, then it was followed by the sending of units of the Gestapo and the storm-troopers; more lately by large forces of armed and uniformed troops, planes, tanks and the like.

These moves have been "covered up" in press dispatches from time to time, and the latest step, the sending of huge numbers of troops, was diagnosed by such subterfuges as these:

(a) The Germans announced that Italy had given valuable aid in the bombing of England, and therefore Germany would send help to Italy in Africa and Greece.

(b) The Germans said that they would start operations in the Mediterranean to harass British bases there, and that they would have the consent of Italy to do this.

The actual case, according to competent observers, is that Italy, badly whipped in Greece and Africa, was bogging down in the sending of supplies to Germany, supplies that had come willingly enough before Italy entered the war, but which, since Italy's series of defeats, had been falling off appreciably.

Italy was in sad need of raw materials for her factories, particularly those producing munitions and materials for war.

Also, severe rioting against the war and the government was going on in several vital industrial areas of Italy, and Germany realized that she was in danger of losing an ally—not one that was helping much, but one which, if she lost, would make Germany "lose face" at home.

LEASE-LEND:
Filibuster

Senators opposing the lease-lend bill, H.R. 1776, refused to call it a filibuster, but the length and virulence of opposition speeches sounded very like one, and charges that filibuster methods were being used came freely from desks on the administration side.

Leaders in the fight against the bill were Senators Wheeler, Hiram Johnson and Gerald P. Nye, with considerable unexpected help from various others, including Senator Reynolds of North Carolina.

Many of these senators were taking radio time to carry their fight to the people, and there were indications that the bill was getting much more bitter opposition on the senate floor than had been expected.

Much of this battling took place on a very high plane, with little personal mud throwing and calling of names. Both opponents and proponents of the measure were setting themselves up as patriots, the opponents vigorously denying that they were pro-German, and all of them were very much anti-Hitler and anti-oppression.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

GUNPOWDER EMERGENCY

In the public mind America's National Defense Problem No. 1 is production of airplanes. Actually, however, it isn't.

War department chiefs haven't been advertising it, but their greatest worry is gunpowder. You can't fight a war without powder. And up until recently the annual powder production of all U. S. factories was only 12,000,000 pounds, which would last us a few short weeks in wartime.

In comparison, the United States produced 500,000,000 pounds of powder at the end of the last war, and had partially built factories which would have produced another 500,000,000 pounds a few months after the Armistice.

It happens that nitrate is the key to gunpowder production. Manufacture of powder is a simple and speedy process. But it is made from explosive nitrate, and nitrate production is far more difficult.

There are two kinds of nitrates, natural and synthetic. Major source of the natural is Chile. But it has two big drawbacks: (1) the desperate shipping shortage; (2) the product's inferiority to synthetic nitrate for powder purposes, although good enough for fertilizer. Use of synthetic nitrate for explosives is far more efficient, less expensive and militarily more desirable.

In the United States there are only two big producers of synthetic explosive nitrate—Allied Chemical and Dye corporation, at its giant Hopewell, Va., plant; and duPont.

First hitch was objection to the government's plan of importing Chilean nitrate, thus permitting Allied Chemical's Hopewell plant to stop making fertilizer and devote its entire capacity to explosive nitrates, if necessary.

The chemical industry fell on this plan like a ton of brick. Backed by certain army officials, it hotly denied that the nation faced a nitrate shortage. Hopewell's full facilities, it was argued, would not be needed for powder purposes.

The defense commission then turned to developing new plant facilities. Here good fortune seemed to smile. TVA still had its World war nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals.

When the defense commission moved to use this government-owned plant, it again ran into powerful opposition from big business, particularly from the duPonts, tactitly encouraged by the army. However, weeks later, the defense commission finally had its way and the plan was approved. Defeated, the duPonts did the sporting thing and offered to sell TVA latest types of oxidizers, thus expediting renovation of the Muscle Shoals plant.

TVA and defense commission heads were delighted. But their pleasure—and duPont's willingness—was short-lived. When it came to installing the machinery, duPont demanded a guarantee that it would be used **only to produce explosive nitrate and never fertilizer,** in which duPont is heavily interested.

This was rejected flatly by TVA, which pointed out that even if it wanted to, it couldn't accept such a restriction under the law. Furthermore, it didn't want to.

DuPont remained adamant, refused to lend its machinery without the guarantee. So TVA had to go into the market, order new machinery for the government.

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NO MORE HARDTACK

Hard tack, that celebrated butt of doughboy jibes, will be largely eliminated from army field rations if Donald M. Nelson, energetic coordinator of defense purchases, has his way.

Nelson has worked out a novel scheme to make U. S. army field rations the best in the world.

The defense purchasing chief and his aides have discovered a substitute — canned, irradiated bread. Large quantities of this have been ordered for the army. Hermetically sealed in small tins, suitable for carrying in a knapsack, the bread will remain fresh indefinitely.

In addition, every soldier in the field will carry a second tin of a meat and vegetable mixture containing all the essential vitamins. The two cans together will give him a balanced diet away from camp.

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EAST INDIES OIL

The Dutch Shell Oil company has secretely planted with "sleeper" mines, which can be detonated at a moment's notice if the Japanese set foot on the island. In that case millions of dollars worth of holdings will be blown up or fired.

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MERRY-GO-ROUND

The new TVA picture, "Power for Defense," will have a wider distribution than any film ever produced by the government. It will be shown in more theaters than "The Plow" and "The River" combined.

Brig. Gen. Raymond Lee, keen U. S. military attache in London, is now home on leave and jumps every time a plane zooms over Washington airport.

Tobacco-chewing Sen. Bill Bulow of South Dakota, sports the biggest hats on Capitol Hill.

Pot Holders to Make For Spring Bazaar

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

THESE moody young ladies with their sun-tanned faces, gay bandannas and sparkling button eyes will stand out among pot holders with less personality. Also, you can have fun making them. You won't need a stamping pattern. Just follow the directions in the sketch to change the faces from gloom to joy by easy stages.

Baste the tan piece for the face to a cotton flannel interlining with a line of basting exactly through

the center up and down and another crosswise through the center. The two pieces for the bandanna lap one inch below the top of the up-and-down line. Their lower ends come one-half inch below the ends of the crosswise line. Stitch these in place. The one-inch buttons for the eyes are spaced two inches apart and the tops are one-fourth inch above the crosswise line of basting. The top of each mouth is 1½ inches below this crosswise line. The lady becomes sad, speculative or gay according to the slant of the stitches for the eyes or the shape of her mouth.

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NOTE: There are many other illustrated ideas for gifts and bazaar items in numbers 2 and 4 of the series of 32-page booklets which Mrs. Spears has prepared for our readers. She will mail copies to readers who will send name and address with 10c in coin for each booklet ordered. Just address:

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Vices Become Manners

What once were vices, are now the manners of the day.—Seneca.

DON'T BE BOSSED
BY YOUR LAXATIVE—RELIEVE CONSTIPATION THIS MODERN WAY
• When you feel gassy, headachy, logy due to clogged-up bowels, do as *millions* do—take Feen-A-Mint at bedtime. Next morning—thorough, comfortable relief, helping you start the day full of your normal energy and pep, feeling like a million! Feen-A-Mint doesn't disturb your night's rest or interfere with work the next day. Try Feen-A-Mint, the chewing gum laxative, *yourself.* It tastes good, it's handy and economical . . . a family supply costs only
FEEN-A-MINT 10¢

Light for All

Those having lamps will pass them on to others.—Plato.

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

MERCHANTS
•Your Advertising Dollar
buys something more than space and circulation in the columns of this newspaper. It buys space and circulation plus the favorable consideration of our readers for this newspaper and its advertising patrons.
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