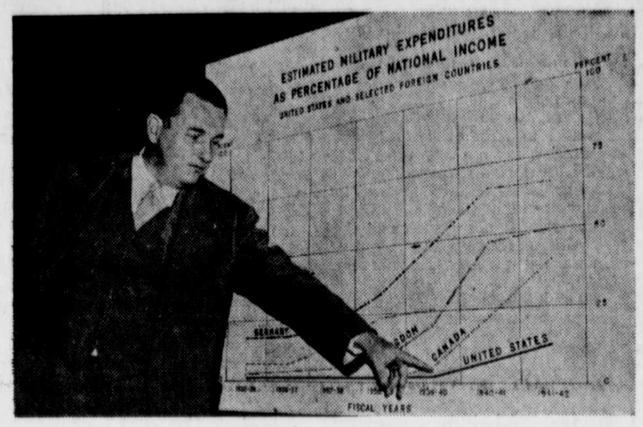
WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

# Washington Debates Use of Convoys As British Shipping Losses Mount; Stalin Becomes Premier of Russia, Openly Assumes National Leadership

(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.)




**A split in administration policy over the new tax program was indicated when Leon Henderson (above), government "price czar," testified before the house ways and means committee that he believed a large portion of the treasury revenue program to be "deflationary and unnecessary." It is indicated that while methods of raising taxes may cause disagreement one thing is sure: taxes must go up to meet defense program costs.**

## CONVOYS:
### *Battle of Atlantic*

Mounting British losses in the battle of the Atlantic put the issue of convoying strictly and squarely up to the administration in Washington, and the answer was seen to be forthcoming shortly, if it had not already been made secretly.

It had so far been largely a verbal discussion, with the non-interventionists pointing to convoying as outright war, and the administration forces sending up one trial balloon after another to test American sentiment as to whether it was ready and willing for this important step.

Briefly, the positions were these: Non-interventionists held that convoying meant shooting (quoting the President himself) and that shooting meant undeclared war.

The administration forces took the simple stand that congress had voted all-out aid to Britain, and that it was foolish to build billions of dollars' worth of war material for the British and then send it out on the high seas to be sent to the bottom.

The latter view was finally expressed in a long radio address by Secretary of War Stimson, who was reported to have consulted President Roosevelt about the address before delivering it.

Stimson was frank. He went further than the question of convoying, which he treated as a simple phase of the big issue—whether the American navy, ready and willing to "halt aggressors" on the high seas, should stand quietly by and let Britain be defeated through lack of control of the oceans, or should be turned to aid Britain and give Britain the mastery of the sea without which she could not hope to win.

Secretary Stimson, not having the authority to order out the fleet into active aid to Britain, was just making a speech, and could not answer his own questions with action. Neither could Senator Pepper of Florida, an outright and frank advocate of open war, who even went so far as to criticize the administration, with which he was entirely aligned, as not being bellicose enough in the present grave situation.

So the battle of the Atlantic, while it was claiming American lives and American goods, was still being fought, at least openly, by the British navy alone, though the big scene of the fight was in the American halls of congress and in the American newspapers.

Stimson's speech had one obvious effect, however, it served notice on the non-interventionists that the time was not far distant when talk would be replaced by action, one way or the other, and his talk had its effect, in rousing the anti-administration orators to a new frenzy of appeal to the great "mass of the people" to speak out.

Nobody spoke out, however, at least not in any mass that looked remotely like a majority. On the other hand, the administration seemed about ready to take action which would have far-reaching importance.

There was news from San Francisco shippers to their connections in Tokyo that the United States was planning to close the Panama canal in a short time to Japanese vessels.

This would have the effect of lifting a very practical bar to the trade of the Japanese with the eastern coast of South and Central America, as it would force these vessels to go around Cape Horn.

The announcement was without official backing, yet it was made at a time when certain Nipponese newspapers were urging repeatedly that Matsuoka, recent guest at Axis capitals, make a trip to the United States and try to improve Japan's relations with this country, perhaps reach a "perfect understanding" that would guarantee peace.

The closing of the canal, however, would be a blow to Japan that she would not take quietly or without reprisals, if possible. It was viewed as the sort of blunt act that might, with distinct intention, shut Japan off from any further diplomatic traffic with Washington.

## STALIN:
### *In Saddle*

One of the most interesting developments, yet one on which the analyst could almost "write his own ticket," was the assumption of Josef Stalin of the premiership of Soviet Russia.

The dictator of the Soviet has never before held political office, operating entirely behind the scenes, with others to wear such togas as may be passed around.

The commentators took every possible view of Stalin's assumption of personal office as head of the Russian state.

These views ranged all the way from an "about face" on the war, with Russia about to take an active role against Germany and Italy in the Near East, to the view of Kerensky, former Russian premier in 1917, who said he believed Stalin's taking of power might mean that Germany has a promise from the dictator of active aid on the German side.

It was a step down for Molotov, who went from premier back to foreign minister, a post he held before. Molotov was, perhaps, the finger pointing to the real reason for the change. He became foreign minister just before the dramatic signing of the Russo-German pact, a pact which hastened the actual start of the present war.

For it was the signing of this treaty that made Britain and France realize that their hope of encirclement of the Axis by land was vain, and that they were really in a fight for their existence.

The only official announcement came from Stalin, who said that Molotov was being relieved only after his own "repeated requests."

London was inclined to a somewhat more rosy view of the situation than that of Kerensky, saying:

"Soviet Russia has refused to sign a further German pact, and has openly taken the stand that Bulgaria was wrong in so doing, and that Jugoslavia was right to fight.

"Stalin now takes command of the Russian empire at a time when a German drive to the east threatens what Russia regards as her sphere of activity in Asia."

No positive statement there, but a general view that the whole move is inspired by Soviet disquiet over German advances toward the Black sea. The British believed the move meant a frank and active change in Russian policy.

Washington, while silent as to the real significance, if, indeed it was known at all, saw three possible outcomes:

1. That Russia would merge the Communist party and the State into one whole, with Stalin at the head.

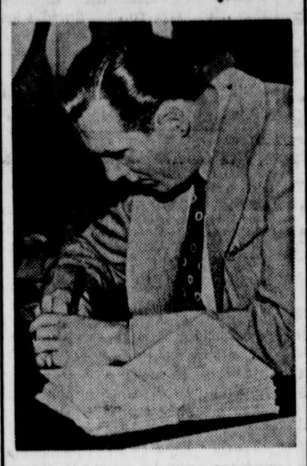
2. That Stalin would take over all power in the face of a German threat.

3. That Stalin would discard the old policy of Russia doing as she pleased, and surrender to complete collaboration with Germany.

## Highlights
*. . . in the news*

**LONDON:** The exploit of a boatswain of a sunken British destroyer was told. The man, swimming away from his sinking ship, encountered four German fliers in a rubber boat. He swam toward them, and when they threatened him with revolvers, he stabbed the boat with a clasp-knife, sinking it.

## Joins Army



*Hank Greenberg, brilliant Detroit outfielder, has been drafted into the army where he joins fellow Americans from every walk of life.*

## WAR:
### *Vital Phases*

It was evident that the war was entering several of its most vital phases, with Britain standing alone, though with constantly increasing American aid.

The big test which the Churchill government faced at the hands of the British commons was only a part of the picture.

The battle was three-fold—the air fight over England, with the channel crossing threat behind it; the pincers move on the Mediterranean, especially Suez; the Battle of the Atlantic.

### *Over England*

Hammer blows being struck at Britain by the Luftwaffe no longer were being shrugged off in dispatches as "some damage being done" or "some casualties feared," but dispatches from England told of most serious damage to Plymouth, which was practically ruined; to Liverpool, to Belfast, to the Clydeside, all of them much more vital to Britain's defense than the smashing attacks on London and the Thames estuary.

Apparently paying little attention to the industrial Midland section of England, Hitler thus was centering his attacks on ports, ports and more ports, apparently seeking to tie in the battle of England with the battle of the Atlantic, rather than to concentrate on a general air blitz against England's factories and her industrial production.

Another development was the constant increase of day fighting over the channel, regarded in many quarters as a trial balloon to an invasion attempt as soon as midsummer calmer weather should arrive.

As always, the defense of Britain found its echo in this country, and the change in the method of Luftwaffe attacks on England found President Roosevelt issuing an urgent appeal, practically a command, to the air industry to concentrate on the production of the largest possible bombing planes.

OPM said that America should produce 20,000 military planes in the 12 months to come, but Mr. Roosevelt seemed to feel that a change in type would be needed.

In fact, he conditioned the eventual mastery of the air by Britain on the American production of these very large bombers, and said that they must be built even if it means enlarging plants further.

## MEDITERRANEAN:
### *Also Important*

The battle of the Mediterranean was no less vital and no less active than the battle of England. For on the eastern front the British found themselves, after the withdrawal from Greece, with new problems on their hands.

The Iraq coup left them with the possible loss of the Mosul oil fields, and the all-important pipeline from Kirkuk to Haifa falling into the hands of the Nazi-inspired Iraq government of Gailani.

The British swiftly landed an expeditionary force, shot it inland, and sent reinforcements. Yet it was obvious that the trouble in Moslem Asia Minor was on the increase, with the French in Syria frankly throwing up their hands and saying that they were unable to quell disturbances on the part of Arabs there. Turkey offered her good offices, and so did Egypt, but though there was religious unity in those directions, there was little unity of purpose, and it looked as though Britain would have to fight for her oil or give up and get oil somewhere else.

The prospect also was dark because of the menace of German aid to the Iraqi, which might make the pipeline untenable even if the British get full control of it.

## SAILOR:
### *Round-Up*

Considerable excitement was occasioned by the immigration department's roundup of all German sailors on charges that they had "overstayed their leave."

The government never has been strict with them. But it was significant that the roundup followed a Washington release by many correspondents which stated at great length that there has been a systematic sabotage of regular shipping.

## Ask Me Another
*A General Quiz*

### *The Questions*

1. How far apart are North America and Asia at the narrowest point of Bering strait?
2. What is a thimblerigger?
3. Why does a polar bear never slip on glassy ice?
4. St. Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians were written to the inhabitants of the city now called what?
5. What is the smallest deer in the world?
6. What is the principal constituent of pewter?
7. Where are the Grand Banks?
8. How does Brazil compare in size with the United States?
9. Who was the founder of psycho-analysis?

### *The Answers*

1. Fifty-six miles.
2. One who swindles with the aid of three small cups, shaped like thimbles, and a small ball or pea.
3. The soles of the polar bear's feet are covered with thickly set hair which gives him perfect traction.
4. Salonika.
5. The mouse-deer of Indo-China. It weighs about four pounds.
6. Tin.
7. Off Newfoundland.
8. Larger by 250,000 square miles.
9. Sigmund Freud.

## NEW IDEAS for Home-makers
By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

SMALL windows and book shelves at the sides of a fireplace often create a monotonous series of rectangles. Watch out for them for they play an important part in decorating plans. You see them here in the small sketch—six of them—window; overmantel space; window; book shelves; mantel; book shelves—around and around they go.

The only architectural change shown in the large sketch was a mantel facing built of three boards and simple mouldings. This broke up one rectangle. Irregular lines for swag drapes over the windows softened the angles of two more. A large picture or mirror over the mantel just added still another rectangle, so small prints were hung with ribbons. The arrangement of vines, books and bibelots on the shelves took care of the rest.

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NOTE: Directions for cutting and making the swag draperies shown in today's sketch may be found on page 17 of Book 1, in the series of service booklets offered with these articles. Also book 7 is now ready for mailing. It contains more than 30 of these home-making ideas with step-by-step directions for each; as well as a description of the series. Booklets are 10 cents each and should be ordered direct from:

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### *Little Herbert Was There To Give the Game Away!*

On arriving home father found a foreign coin resembling a quarter in his small change, so he went out to do a little shopping, taking Herbert, aged five, along.

He went to the grocer's, and the grocer, looking at the coin, said with an air of surprise, "Why, this is not United States money!"

So the man went to the druggist's, and there tendered the coin. The druggist informed him that the coin was of foreign extraction.

"Good heavens, so it is!" exclaimed the father. "I wonder where I got that?"

"Don't you know, dad?" spoke up Herbert. "That's the one the grocer wouldn't take!"

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