

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Seven Billion Dollars to Aid Britain Is First Step Under Lease-Lend Act; England Admits: 'Spring Blitz Is Here' Following Terrific Raids on London

(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.)



VICHY, FRANCE.—Frenchmen of a few years ago would never have dreamed that this scene might take place in their homeland. But here it is. Gen. Neubronn von Eisenburg, who, as Nazi inspector, keeps a sharp eye on what's left of the French army, salutes as he reviews a French honor guard on his arrival at Vichy.

BRITISH: Aid Into Law

Under the eyes of watchful photographers, President Roosevelt wielded six pens, made the British aid bill, called by its opponents the lend-lease-give bill, and then turned in his chair and told newsmen he would ask for \$7,000,000,000 as the initial appropriation under the measure.

While this announcement, struck with bomb-shell force as the greatest American peace-time appropriation request in history, the congress apparently was willing to go ahead and match the President's desire for speed with some action of its own. This was evident when the bill returned from senate to house with an even dozen amendments attached. Representative Martin of Massachusetts, minority leader, jumped to his feet, pleaded for unity and for action, and received a most unusual tribute from his colleagues.

He received what is known as a standing ovation from the entire house. The lower branch of the congress responded to this brief talk by voting 317 to 71 to accept the changes put in by the upper house. Then Vice President Wallace and Speaker Sam Rayburn put their panned signatures to the printed measure and off it went to the President.

Hardly had it become law and within an hour after the President had asked for the seven billions, statisticians were busy trying to tell the public what this amount meant in purchased goods and services.

One of these put it this way—it would equal a strip of \$10 bills reaching 2 1/2 times around the world; it would buy 120 Empire State buildings at 50 million each; or it would build 115 Triborough bridges at \$60,000,000; or 120 dreadnaughts at \$50,000,000; or 2,350 submarines, 2,000,000 light tanks; 28,000 four-motor bombers; also would pay the entire cost of public education in the U. S. for three years, or provide a \$50 U. S. bond for every man, woman and child.

Thus given a visual picture of what the sum meant, it was figured that the first job would be for the President to provide for England as much as possible under the law of the existing military and naval equipment, up to the \$1,300,000,000 limit set in the bill.

It was pointed out that this amount would come out of the seven billion total, for as soon as \$500,000,000, say, of aid had been sent from existing equipment, the army or navy would be reimbursed that amount, and would then be able to purchase replacements.

The rest of the \$7,000,000,000 will go into purchase contracts for eventual aid to Britain, Greece or other nations which are opposing Nazi aggression. These contractual obligations must be on the dotted line by 1943, but can be carried out through 1946.

LONDON: Hit Hard

Terrific series of air attacks on England, especially on London, plus tremendous losses at sea brought forth the frank statement in commons that the spring blitz promised by Hitler was now fully under way.

Government leaders expressed confidence in the outcome, balancing against ship losses unannounced and untold damage inflicted on

German naval and undersea strength, not to mention loss of planes.

More than 6,000 Italian and Nazi aircraft have been downed, with a loss of about 2,200 British airplanes, the air ministry said, since the beginning of the war.

This, it was claimed, is a significant and important inroad into the first-line strength of both air armadas, but a more severe blow to the Italians, with about 1,500 planes downed, than to Germany, with about 4,500 put out of action.

The naval chiefs in London emphasized the British need of ships, particularly naval vessels, paid a glowing tribute to the work of the 50 former U. S. destroyers obtained in swaps for bases, and one authority said:

"We have enough trained men to man the entire U. S. navy, if it could be turned over to us."

Not that he meant, he said, that the navy should be turned over, but he pointed the manpower that Britain has trained, as compared with the available ships.

As to the effects of air raids on London and other British cities, the loss of life again was becoming heavy. Guardedly it was disclosed that Buckingham palace again had been struck. Portsmouth was a special attack object, and there was heavy loss of life there.

STRIKES: Grow Apace

As labor troubles multiplied in the United States, in defense and non-defense projects, including the huge bus drivers' walkout in New York, it was reported that William S. Knudsen finally had been driven to considering the "draft industry" provision in the powers of his office as production manager to end the Allis-Chalmers affair, among others.

Increasing concern was shown by production chiefs in the national defense when figures showed a 27 per cent increase in strikes during the past 30 days. This gave a disquieting tone to the situation over and beyond any single disturbance or group of troubles.

Some of the danger spots were in the Midwest, some in the East. The Allis-Chalmers strike was past a month and a half and still deadlocked when Miss Perkins sent John R. Steelman, head of the conciliation service, personally to direct a last-minute effort to end the trouble before invoking the "draft" of industry, which would take over the plant, thus instantly outlawing the strike.

Several plants of the International Harvester company were down because of strikes, the vital coal and steel industries were in the midst of threatening conferences between worker and employer, the Brill plant in Philadelphia was down, holding up a big ammunition order for shell casings; there was an auto strike in Oakland.

Statistical review of the situation was headaché enough for production chiefs, the number of strikes in January as compared with December being 220 as against 160, and the 220 became more ominous when it was shown that the five-year average for January was only 170 and for December only 126.

Total man-days lost in January totaled 625,000 as against 400,000 lost in December, and here the figures on past years were more favorable, as the five-year average of man-days lost in January was 1,012,665.

To Parliament



Mrs. B. C. Rathbone, 30, becomes the second American-born woman member of the British house of commons by virtue of an unopposed nomination in her district. She takes the seat of her late husband, Flight Lieut. John Rathbone, killed last December in a flying mission over Germany. Born in Boston, Mass., U. S. A., she has two children now in America.

TURKEY: Scene of Bombing

Dramatic was the entrance of former Bulgarian ambassador from England, George W. Rendel, into Turkey after his flight from Sofia.

Rendel and his staff walked into the lobby of the Pera Palace hotel. There was a flash, a roar, and the cries of wounded and dying. The smoke cleared away to find Rendel still unhurt, several members of his staff wounded, and two men killed, one of them a Turkish secret service man assigned to guard the ambassador. Twenty-three, in all, were wounded by the blast, which badly wrecked the room in which the crowd was gathered.

But, as in the Munich bombing which Hitler escaped, the chief target of the Turkish bomb, Mr. Rendel, was unscratched. His aides said there was no doubt that it was a deliberate attempt at assassination, and its occurrence at the very time when Turkey was debating its position in the expected forthcoming invasion of Greece by the Nazis, served further to entrench Istanbul on the front pages of the press.

Rendel's attractive daughter, 20, who was standing near the blast in the hotel lobby, told the story in a few words when she said: "As far as I could tell, the floor just flew up." She is a calm soul, having driven her father through the streets of Sofia during the German occupation in an automobile flying the British flag.

It was later revealed that an attempt was made to blow up the train on which Rendel and his party were traveling to Istanbul. This was proven when it was found that the handbags which contained the explosive had traveled on the train with the Rendel party, but failed to go off.

JAPAN: Peace Move

Whether it was under the frowning menace of Axis guns, both in the West and in the Far East, or whether it was sincere, but noteworthy, at any rate, was the statement issued by the Indo-Chinese (French) government following the ratification of the peace treaty with Thailand (Siam).

In this peace treaty Japan was the peacemaker and mediator. Back of her mediation efforts, however, was a huge fleet which was moved into waters off French Indo-China during the height of the Thailand-Indo-Chinese war.

Reports from Saigon, when the peace was finally terminated, giving Thailand huge slices of Indo-Chinese territory along the borders, were that the peace was more satisfactory than the French government had hoped for.

It was stated that in Saigon it was expected that even larger cessions of territory would have had to have been made if Japan had not intervened.

Immediately Foreign Minister Matsuoka announced that he would shatter Japanese precedents by taking a trip to Europe to confer with his Axis partners.

Von Wiegand, writing from Shanghai, saw in this project a chance that Japan would seek Axis, particularly Nazi mediation in an effort to end the Japanese-Chinese war.

FBI: Cracks Down

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents went to New York and arrested two men, Dr. Manfred Zapp and Guenther Tonn, his assistant, under the law which requires agents of foreign governments to register.

The result was that, after a preliminary hearing, Zapp and Guenther were released on \$5,000 bail each for the court trial. The investigation had revealed that they were representatives of the Nazi news agency, Transocean News Service.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

WALLACE FINDS NAZI PROPAGANDA IN MEXICO

Behind the scenes, Henry Wallace played quite a part in the Mexican-U. S. agreement to work out joint plans for national defense.

It was Henry's job, during his trip to Mexico, as vice president-elect, to put across some quiet diplomacy with new President Avila Camacho aimed to smooth out all U. S.-Mexican problems. This he did, and became completely "simpatico" with high Mexican officials.

However, Henry also brought back a very worrisome picture of Nazi activity in Mexico.

Being a farm boy from Iowa, and skeptical about the Zimmerman affair during World War I when the German foreign office invited Mexico into an alliance against the United States, Henry went down to Mexico as an unbeliever as far as Nazi propaganda was concerned. But he came back, his skepticism gone.

The great mass of the Mexican people and the Mexican government are sincere believers in friendship with the United States, Henry found. But a small minority, plentifully supplied with Nazi-Fascist cash, has been doing its best to poison friendly relations.

In fact, there were some indications that the Nazis might even go to such lengths as outright sabotage or damage to the United States in such a way that Mexico would get the blame, thereby stirring up animosity between the countries.

Note—Last year \$2,000,000 in U. S. greenbacks was taken to Mexico from New Orleans by Count Roberti of the Italian legation, presumably for propaganda purposes. Count Roberti is the son-in-law of Ogden Hammond, ex-ambassador to Spain and a leader of the move to cooperate with Spanish Dictator Franco.

GUARDING THE CAPITOL

If you visit the United States Capitol in the near future don't carry an isolationist banner or anything more explosive than a cigarette lighter, or you may wind up in the brig. Tightest police restrictions since World War days are being put into effect at the Capitol building.

Under a plan devised by Speaker Sam Rayburn, Sen. Harry F. Byrd, chairman of the senate rules committee, and Arthur E. Cook of the Capitol police board, all visitors will be required to check packages before entering the building.

BRITISH DACHSHUND

Most unusual household pet in Washington is owned by the British ambassador, Lord Halifax. Believe it or not, he has a German dachshund.

The envoy bought the dog from a kennel in Virginia shortly after his arrival in the United States.

Note—The dachshund was widely used by American cartoonists during the last war as a sinister symbol of Germany, and some animals were mistreated by misguided zealots.

BOTTLE BOSSIES

The department of agriculture is completing plans to breed 2,500 cattle this spring by artificial insemination.

The cattle are the property of Indians, on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. Able Indian Commissioner John Collier asked agriculture to help build up the quality of the stock, and the problem was how to service the cows with a limited number of bulls. Through artificial insemination, one bull can be bred with any number of cows.

Most spectacular experiment of this kind was conducted recently by experts in the experimental farm at Beltsville, Md. They sent artificial insemination by air express one morning for a mare in Miles City, Mont. In vacuum bottles, it was delivered the same day, and the process was completed that evening.

Result was a healthy colt, from a mare in Montana, sired by a Belgian stallion in Maryland.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Swankiest newsman at the White House press conference is Robert Horton, press officer for the defense commission, who, while most of the others are hoofing to their offices after the conference, drives away in a limousine with a chauffeur.

Some of the electric light bulbs used in the White House are marked "Save," and can be redeemed for two cents after they burn out. But the White House, which buys at reduced government price, destroys the old bulbs regardless, without redemption.

The immigration bureau of the justice department soon will set up its own intelligence unit to watch fifth columnists in the U. S. A.

Allied Chemical is buying one of the swanky apartment houses along Sixteenth street, not far from the Soviet embassy. It should be all set to lobby in a big way.

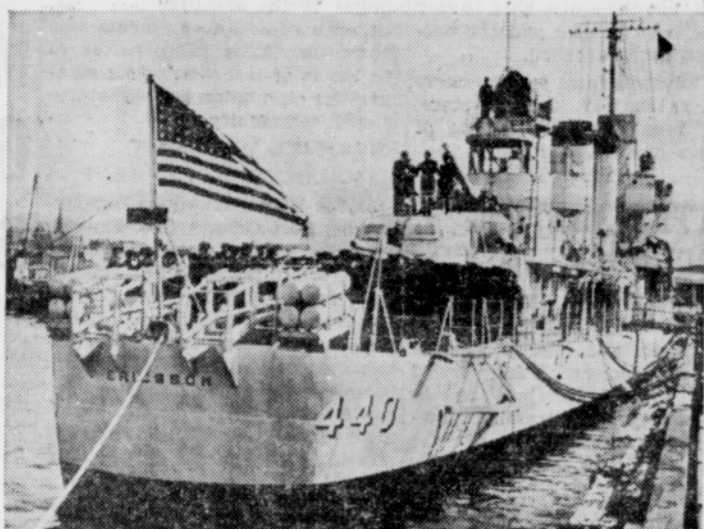
Harmodio Arias, former president of Panama, has four sons in school and college in the United States: Harmodio Jr. and Roberto at Columbia, Gilberto at Harvard, and Antonio at Peddie institute in New Jersey.

House Begins Work on Aid Bill Funds



President Roosevelt's request for \$7,000,000,000 to finance the lease-lead program starts its legislative journey before the house appropriations sub-committee. Photo shows, (L. to R.) Rep. Clifton A. Woodrum of Virginia, chairman of the sub-committee; Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the first witness heard; Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who also testified before the committee.

Destroyer U. S. S. Ericsson Commissioned



Soundphoto of officers and men of the destroyer Ericsson standing on after deck during commissioning ceremonies at the New York navy yard. The Ericsson is named in honor of the man who designed and built the famous Monitor during the Civil war. The ship's commander is Lieut. Comdr. G. E. Sage.

Joins Pickets



Mike Quill, president of the transport union, makes sure he's posted on the bus strike situation in New York by helping the pickets. Quill is shown, second from left, carrying sign in picket parade before one of the garages.

Strikes Hit U. S.



Testifying before the house judiciary committee, Chairman Carl Vinson of house naval affairs committee (above) discloses that strikes deprived the navy of 325 bombers in the last 13 1/2 months.

Los Angeles Called It a 'Heavy Dew'



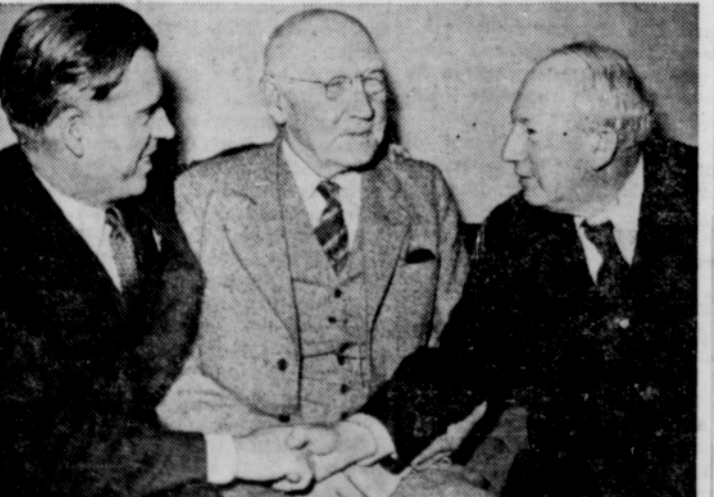
Lashing torrential rains have made this Los Angeles' wettest season in 48 years. The floods undermined and ripped off half of the Santa Fe railroad bridge (shown above) across the Los Angeles river, closing streets and highways with landslides. Hundreds of automobiles were stalled in floodwater.

End of Search!



Beverly Kirk, seven-year-old Wollaston, Mass., girl, safe in the arms of Charlie Rich, 18, who brought her from the woods in which she was lost for 16 hours during a blinding snowstorm. Beverly was lost when she wandered from the home of relatives. Her warm ski-suit saved her from freezing. She slept under a bush when darkness fell.

'Steady' Jobs—30 Years in Congress



Vice President Henry Wallace congratulates Rep. Robert Doughton of North Carolina, and Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi as they celebrated their thirtieth year in congress. Left to right, Vice President Wallace, Representative Doughton and Sen. Pat Harrison.

In Royal Navy



Britain's women help the navy in the less dangerous tasks. Here is Miss Mackenzie-Grieve, superintendent of the women's naval service, at her desk in London.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the news

PHILADELPHIA — Alarm clock sales are booming. Observers in the industry blame it on the draft. Most soldiers are taking alarm-clocks to camp—trying to beat the bugler to the "reveille" call.

LOS ANGELES—Fred B. Cody wanted a divorce. His complaints were that his wife put black widow spiders in his bed and tried to run over him with the family car.

PHILADELPHIA — Leopold Stokowski, for 29 years leader of the Philadelphia Symphony orchestra has resigned. The reason? He said he wanted to be free to serve his government and his country.

LONDON—Erland Echlén, Canadian citizen and former representative of two American magazines, Newsweek and Time, has been jailed under a defense regulation.