

Weekly News Review

Four-Power European Treaty
May Avert General Warfare

By Joseph W. La Bine

Foreign

Until he spoke at Nuremberg a fortnight ago, Adolf Hitler had never given open, out-and-out promise of assistance to Czechoslovakia's Sudeten Germans. If his purpose was to brew trouble, it was not long in coming. By promising his exiled fellow Germans the right of "self determination," Der Fuehrer gave overnight rise to demands for a plebiscite, demands which were not long in bringing bloodshed.

Confident that frightened Prague would tolerate anything, the henchmen of little Fuehrer Konrad Henlein organized demonstrations that ended in riots which took six lives. By this time the Czech government was forced to show its hand. Tight martial law was clamped on five Sudeten towns, then on three more. While a jittery world held its breath, Fuehrer Henlein shot back an ultimatum that martial law be lifted in six hours or his party would "decline responsibility for all further developments."

In the next 24 hours Prague rejected the ultimatum, rushed troops

soaked roads, found his car mired, stopped to chat 20 minutes with a farmer about crop prices. Outcome: The President promised he would try to raise them.

From his special train, which served as hotel, the President watched the outcome of his "purge" (See *POLITICS*), also watched nervous Europe (See *FOREIGN*). Finally, interview-hungry correspondents were told: "At this time, Minnesota is not a news source for events in Europe, Maryland and Maine."

Mr. Roosevelt's worries about Europe were obvious. To a nine-year-old visitor who found him studying Czechoslovakia's map, he advised: "Just now, more than ever, it is necessary to remember my geography lessons. So keep up your interest in geography."

That night the presidential special left for Washington where Secretary of State Cordell Hull waited to talk diplomacy, where Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. waited to discuss U. S. money and stock market action in the event of war.

Politics

Until August 11, the word "purge" had little application in American politics. On that date Franklin Roosevelt asked Georgians to defeat their Sen. Walter F. George because: "He is out of touch with the broad objectives of the party . . . On most questions we don't speak the same language."

Subsequently, "purge" went after South Carolina's Sen. Ellison D. Smith and Maryland's Sen. Millard E. Tydings. Both won anyway. Adding to the President's consternation was Maine's historically prophetic election in which all Republicans won, all Democrats lost. Only two days later, Georgians voted to give "purge" a final shellacking, to bury with vengeance the gravest political error Franklin Roosevelt has ever made, to send Walter George back to Washington.

Business

No target of New Deal dislike has been U. S. small business, though a leading small town business man is often regarded by his fellow townsmen as the counterpart of big business. Last spring, Franklin Roosevelt called a meeting of little business men at Washington, was later shocked to see his conference turn into a near riot.

Not the outgrowth, rather a reaction from this meeting is the National Small Business Men's association, founded by a letter-writing letterhead manufacturer from Akron, Ohio, Dewitt M. Emery. Jokingly called "little in everything but stature," 6½-foot President Emery solicited members by mail from business firms not employing more than 500 persons, not capitalized at more than \$1,000,000. Presumably too inarticulate for membership are the butcher, baker and



LITTLE MAN EMERY
How little is little business?

grocer who fit into Franklin Roosevelt's more logical definition of a small business man.

To Pittsburgh last week for their first convention went Dewitt Emery's little business men. Though Pittsburgh's C. W. Elton hopefully predicted 2,500 delegates, the first day found a scant 200 whose restraint held discussion to a minimum. Next day, with their number increased to 300, little business men talked more freely. Drawn up were resolutions which lashed fiercely at administration policies in relation to business.

Their demands: Free enterprise, less waste, removal of excess bureaus and employees, balanced budget, lower taxes, sound money.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Government Must Be Kept Liberal,
Cry of President and Spokesmen

Roosevelt's Definition of Term Means He Has Cast Die
For Realignment of Political Parties; Time May
Prove Fallacy of Today's Liberal Doctrines.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There is a great to-do being made these days about "liberalism." We are told in the press, through the radio, in personal conversations that "liberalism," liberal thinking, is vitally necessary; it is urgent that our government be kept liberal, and that our daily lives be moulded along liberal lines. President Roosevelt says so, and sought in a recent speech to define liberalism; his spokesmen repeat and emphasize what he has said; the vast army of ballyhoo artists on the government payroll is saying it after the manner of a stooge for a ventriloquist. A lot of Republicans, trying to ape the New Dealers, are saying it, too, and making just as much of a mess of the proposition as the less slick-tongued among the New Dealers.

Well, any way, at any cost, there must be liberalism. If we don't be liberal, we are warned, the devil will get us. The nation, its 130,000,000 inhabitants and all of their works will sink to the depth of perdition. It's a very sorry situation, indeed.

Recognizing the need, the urgent necessity for liberalism, Mr. Roosevelt undertook recently to define it. I quote his words from a recent speech in Maryland where he had gone to try to bring about the defeat of Sen. Millard Tydings in a race for the Democratic senatorial nomination:

"For example, Mr. A is a composite conservative. He admitted that in 1933, interest rates charged by private bankers to ordinary citizens who wanted to finance a farm were altogether too high; he admitted that there were sharp practices, excesses and abuses in issuing securities and buying and selling stocks and bonds; he admitted that the hours of work in his factory were too long; he admitted that old people, who became destitute through no fault of their own, were a problem; he admitted that national and international economics and speculation made farming and fishing extremely hazardous occupations; and he even admitted that the buying power of farmers and fishermen had not kept pace with the buying power of other kinds of workers."

"But conservative Mr. A not only declined to take any lead in solving these problems in co-operation with the government. He even found fault with and opposed, openly or secretly, almost every suggestion that was put forward by those who belonged to the liberal school of thought."

Would Force Realignment
Of Politics of Country

Mr. Roosevelt's pronouncement on what constitutes a liberal followed very closely a statement he had issued in a meeting with the newspaper correspondents at the White House, saying that he had no objection to election of "liberal Republicans." Said he: "If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election. The good of the country rises above party."

The importance of these two declarations?

Mr. Roosevelt has cast the die for a new alignment of political parties. He has swept aside all previous bonds that held men and women within the Democratic party or the Republican party or the lesser political groups and has said, in effect, "Come with me into a new fusion of forces and action." Of course, no one who has studied Mr. Roosevelt's course since his political ears were first pinned back in defeat of his malodorous plan to add six justices of his own choosing to the United States Supreme court could have failed to recognize this eventuality. He was planning to force realignment in politics in this country for some months; but now the thing is out in the open, and the Democrats and Republicans, alike, know what confronts them if it is their desire to maintain the present political party setup.

What will happen is quite another question. Undoubtedly, the Democratic party will be the greater sufferer. It has to be so, because Mr. Roosevelt became titular head of the Democratic party by virtue of election to the presidency in 1932 and again in 1936 as the candidate of that party. So many of the former Democrats have become wedded to the New Deal either by con-

viction or as a result of having won office on New Deal coat tails that there is no turning back for them. Thus, there is a split, with those who subscribe to the New Deal theory of liberalism on the one hand and the Democrats who adhere to the hundred-year-old principles of the Democratic party on the other. There will be some Republicans drawn into the new alignment, but they will be fewer than the wing formed from Democrats. The Republicans who will go over to any new alignment will be of the type of Harold Ickes, now secretary of the interior, Senator Norris of Nebraska (who once wore a Republican label) and others of the here-today-gone-tomorrow category.

Ideas Subject to Quick
Change; Try Something Else

Then, too, their ideas are subject to such quick change that few of them are retained very long. They are cast aside for something else that has more glamor. A case in point is an incident of recent history. After New Dealer Senator Pope had been licked for the Idaho Democratic nomination for senator by the youthful Worth Clark, there was talk among the New Dealers about having Senator Pope seek reelection independently; it was proposed and discussed with Mr. Roosevelt whether Senator Pope should embrace the faith of the LaFollette's progressive ticket in Idaho. It was found, however, that the LaFollette had a candidate for the senate on their ticket. To the suggestion that he withdraw and let Senator Pope be their candidate, the LaFollette spokesman said: no sir—Senator Pope isn't progressive enough for us—and Senator Pope had campaigned as a 100 per cent New Dealer.

One can walk around the halls of congress any day when the session is on and find hundred-per-centers arguing how far "reform" must be carried; what "liberalism" means. And, in downtown Washington, where the really important headmen of liberalism are to be found, they are constantly fuming and fretting at each other. Instances are on record where two rabid liberals actually have sought to get each other discredited in the eyes of the President because of their differences over what liberalism means.

The only thing about which they seem to agree is that anyone who insists on sanity in governmental thinking—anyone who takes heed of lessons of experiences and traditions of the past—must, of necessity be a tory, a bloodsucker, a tramp of the poor, an obstructionist, a "republican," or some other animal in human form who is overcome with personal greed. On that point, the liberals that we see in the government these days present a united front.

Time May Prove Fallacy
Of Today's Liberal Ideas

That is the story of the self-appointed liberals. To them has been given the right—in their own minds, at least—to guide the destinies of the nation. I assume that if they regard me at all they classify me as coming from across the railroad tracks, question my mental balance. But I shall continue to study their methods, commend what is good, criticize that which is obviously unsound. More important, I shall continue to cling to the doctrine of the ages that human nature is going to be changed by some Power that is considerably above the level of human intelligence; I shall hold to a conviction that real progress comes by that method and not from the crackpots who look upon the human race as a fresh litter of guinea-pigs.

But, anyway, we have liberalism defined at last by a man who is qualified to define it, and we find that it differs from what liberalism formerly meant. It was only a few generations ago that liberalism meant restricting, not increasing, the powers of government. Neither Mr. Roosevelt's definition nor his record in office coincides with the former understanding of the word. It seems to me likely, therefore, that we will go on for quite some years with this quarrel, and that may be—and this is just a hunch—time will prove the fallacy of some of the so-called liberal doctrines of this day.

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PILES



Poor Ma

Mother (from next room): Tommy, for goodness' sake switch off that loudspeaker. That woman's voice goes through me!
Tommy—That isn't the loudspeaker, Ma. It's Mrs. Brown come to see you!

Future Professions

Ambitious—I'm going to be an aviator. I've been air-minded for years.

Rambunctious—I guess I'll be a garage man. I've been toe-headed all my life.—Houston Post.

Hidden

"Esmeralda, you really ought to wear a hat when you are going out at night."

"But mamma, I am wearing a hat! It is at the other side."—Houston Post.

So Romantic

He (nervously)—Elizabeth, darling, there is something that has been trembling on my lips for months and months.

She—Yes, so I see; why don't you have it off?—Providence Journal.

Oh, Sad Awakening!

Ginny—Grandma has just had a terrible accident. All her teeth got smashed.

Vinnie—Was she hurt bad?
Ginny—She doesn't know yet that I stepped on 'em. She's still asleep.

A Family Trait

Dorothy—Mother, what did you do when a boy first kissed you?

Mother—Never mind.
Dorothy—That's funny. I did the same thing.—Stray Stories Magazine.

Had the Equipment

Angry Driver (having to stop traction engine for a little boy)—Well, what do you want?

Mummie said could you steam open this letter, please? It's one of dad's.—Stray Stories Magazine.



NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN
In a crisis, he took to the air.

to the frontier and won a brief series of skirmishes that took on the temporary aspect of a civil war.

Since further trouble would certainly bring Germany to the rescue, since France and Russia are bound by treaty to aid Czechoslovakia, since Great Britain must aid France, this overnight turn of events assumed international importance. In Berlin, the press cried out at "terrors of the Czech police." France maintained her high-pitched military machine and looked, as usual, to London.

Next afternoon came the most precedent-setting move yet made. A thoroughly frightened Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced he would take his first airplane ride, crossing the channel to Berchtesgaden for a conference with Adolf Hitler. Said he: "I am going to see the German chancellor because . . . discussions between him and me may have useful consequences."

Later the same day he landed at Munich, sped to Berchtesgaden, where Der Fuehrer was waiting. For three hours Britain's strong man talked to Germany's strong man, then Neville Chamberlain emerged to tell the world he was returning to London, would come back to see Hitler in a few days.

What happened at Berchtesgaden was mere conjecture. Best guesses said London and Paris seek a four-power pact with Germany and Italy, since Prime Minister Chamberlain's visit was suggested by French Premier Edouard Daladier. No one could figure how the source of this trouble, Czechoslovakia, fit into the picture, but it was clear Der Fuehrer would accept little short of outright autonomy for his Sudeten friends.

The Chamberlain flight brought little but gloom in Prague, where resistance stiffened and an angry cabinet ordered Konrad Henlein's arrest. But Fuehrer Henlein, who had just broadcast a proclamation demanding Sudeten union with Germany, was already fleeing to Munich. In the mood she was in, Czechoslovakia was ripe for loud broadcasts that came from Moscow that night, assailing Neville Chamberlain's "sellout" to Fascism, urging Prague to "fight to the last" against Germany.

White House

Like any other hospital visitor with time on his hands, Franklin Roosevelt waited impatiently at Rochester, Minn., watching Son James on the mend from his gastric ulcer operation. Finally he went riding on Minnesota's rain-