

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

# Special Congressional Session Expected to Halt War Profits; Housewife Feels Price Boost

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)  
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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE ON RAMPAGE  
The President's "moral" obligation was forgotten.

## BUSINESS:

### War Babies

"No American has the moral right to profiteer at the expense of either his fellow citizens or of the men, women and children who are living and dying in the midst of war in Europe."

The U. S. had two days to ponder this Presidential warning before the markets opened after a Labor day week-end. If pondering means forgetting, the nation did it well. Tickers ran three minutes behind as "war babies" zoomed 5 to 15 or more points. When it was over, 5,930,000 shares had changed hands and the value of listings at New York alone had upped some \$3,000,000,000. Next day the market straightened out.

Grains were no exception, jumping to their pegged limits each day. So stagnated was the futures market that milling business practically came to a stop when processors refused to sell flour without being able to buy in their hedges against the cash wheat they needed. Finally the Chicago board of trade doubled the daily price limits and upped initial margin requirements. Meat followed the trend. Hogs soared from 50 to 75 cents as the market opened, jumping another \$1 the next day.

The net result soon sifted down to Mrs. Housewife, whose meat, butter, eggs and flour went skyrocketing despite government-held surpluses of most commodities. News to the White House with this off went Attorney-General Frank Murphy, gunning for the well-remembered devil of World war days, "High Costa Living." He went back to his office with the President's blessing and an order to find ways of outsmarting the speculators, but Frank Murphy's job was not easy. A search of his statutes would show the attorney-general he had few laws to fall back on. Hence the wise acres thought Mr. Murphy would spend the next few weeks drafting legislation which the President could offer a special congressional session. That would be smart politics, because Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace is doing his best to keep farmers from speculating with larger crops next year. If the glove fits agriculture, it also fits business.

Though ambitious profiteers thought the President had left a loophole in neutrality by exempting Canada (which has not gone to war), Secretary of State Cordell Hull soon bashed this hope in the head. The U. S. might sell arms to Canada for transshipment to the allies, except for one sentence in the neutrality act: "It shall be unlawful to export . . . arms, ammunition or implements of war . . . to any neutral state for transshipment to, or for the use of, any . . . belligerent nation." Next question: How can this ruling be enforced?

THE WAR: Speculation  
As the War of 1939 got well underway, censorship's lid clamped itself over everything save the vague official communiques from London, Paris, Berlin and Warsaw. Conversely, the propaganda mills ground faster than ever. By adding to communiques and subtracting from propaganda, observers could ascertain a few things. The gist: France, Britain and Poland were in a tough spot.

The key to this problem lay somewhere in Poland. Defending troops rushed back to the Vistula and Bug rivers (See Map) where they hoped

to dig in permanently. Though Generalissimo Smigly-Rydz called the retreat "strategic," there was every indication Poland's position was desperate. Off to London seeking aid went Foreign Minister Josef Beck, knowing full well there was no way Britain and France could send it.

To a certain point Der Fuehrer's scheme was obvious. The Reich



POLAND'S WAR

Heavy shaded area shows German territory. Light shade shows territory Poles say they are willing to surrender to establish permanent front lines along the Vistula and Bug rivers, in strategic areas shown with dots.

made no offensive on the western front, where British-French forces found the lightly manned Siegfried line a stone wall. But when he has mopped up in Poland, Herr Hitler can decide on one of two courses, war or peace. If he makes war, the combined armies of Britain and France will have tough sledding against a Nazi juggernaut which has no problem of back-door vulnerability. From over its new common border with Russia could come all the economic help Germany needs.

But observers saw another possible reason for Hitler's apparent lack of interest in the western front. Having no military objectives there, having failed to declare war against Britain and France, he might turn about and sue for immediate peace on the stipulation that Poland shall be incorporated into the Reich.

## Actuality

Aside from Poland's retreat, aside from German apathy on the western front, the War of 1939 followed tradition. On the propaganda front, Berlin issued a "white book" replying to Britain's "white paper," recounting pre-war Anglo-German relations and placing responsibility on England. Faced with continued merchant marine warfare, both France and Britain established import control systems to conserve foreign exchange and provide shipping space for war necessities.

Most vital, however, was the time-tested plan whereby the United Kingdom hopes to starve Germany into submission. Thrown around western exits of the Baltic sea was the impregnable naval blockade which only Britain could muster. Meanwhile the unique ministry of economic warfare hoped to make British pounds, shillings and pence an equally potent weapon.

## Question Mark

Most observers agree that Italy's current non-participation resulted not because Hitler waived his treaty, but from deliberate intention. Though Rome declared its neutrality, removed air raid shelters and resumed oceanic shipping, there was method in this madness for both Hitler and Mussolini. For Hitler, Italy was not only a threat against democracies, but also a potent source of supplies should all other paths be cut off. For Mussolini, it was smart to watch developments: Seeing in Der Fuehrer a potential threat to his Mediterranean domination, Il Duce is willing to join whichever side he thinks will win.

## ASIDE FROM WAR

While war and its repercussions held U. S. interest 100 per cent, the following newsworthy events drew little attention:

**IN BALTIMORE**—Twenty-six-year-old Mrs. Harold Ickes, wife of the 65-year-old interior secretary, presented her husband with a baby boy.

**IN CLEVELAND**—Col. Roscoe Turner, veteran aviator, sped 282 miles per hour to win the Thompson trophy the third successive time, thus winning \$16,000. Then he announced retirement from the air racing business.

**IN NEWARK**—Elisha Waterman, executive vice president of the fountain pen company, was beaten by C. I. O. pickets as he tried to enter the plant.

**IN NEW YORK**—Willys-Overland claimed it was dropping a "bombshell" into the automobile field with an unprecedented new low price car for 1940.

## PAN AMERICA: Solidarity

Hemispherically, the Americas constitute an economic unity which can operate independently of war-crazy Europe. But in peacetime the Old world's rich nations dangle tempting trade offers before the tiny lands of Central and South America, wooing them away from the more logical north-and-south commercial channels. When war again engulfs Europe, the rich suitors forget their temporary New world friends, who invariably turn once more to the U. S. for leadership.

No exception to this rule is the War of 1939, which finds Argentina cut off from her German-Italian trade sources by a British blockade, and finds Mexico's expropriated oil program at a standstill because Germany can no longer cross the sea.

Not unexpected, therefore, was the call which went forth from tiny Panama republic a few days after war was declared. Would the 21 American nations attend a conference to preserve western hemisphere peace?

Plainly visible behind scenes was the fast-moving hand of the U. S., which could use Pan-American solidarity to good advantage. Europe can no longer supply the needs of South America, nor can America supply the needs of Europe under neutrality restrictions. But everyone—including newly handcuffed American exporters—would be happy to open up new markets in the other Americas and thus keep U. S. production at normal.

## DOMESTIC: Un-Americanism

Fully stolen by Europe's war is the news spotlight which Washington's election-bound investigation committees hoped to enjoy this summer. But early September brought one witness before Rep. Martin Dies' un-Americanism committee who broke through the barrage from abroad to win prominent place in the week's press. The witness: Earl Browder, general secretary of the U. S. Communist party and its presidential candidate in 1936.

Interesting to committeemen were the revelations that (1) Communist Browder has traveled abroad the past two years on a false passport; (2) his assertion that Communists work with every group seeking to improve U. S. economic conditions; (3) his apparently contradictory admission that if the present economic system worked ef-



COMMUNIST BROWDER  
"I only indorsed his policies."

fectively there would be no place for the Communist party.

Biggest news, however, was something which might—if substantiated—make the Republican party blush. In 1936, said the witness, a man named "Davidson" had approached him as representing seven wealthy Republicans who were willing to give the Communist party \$250,000 to nominate President Roosevelt as its presidential candidate. When "Davidson" heard that information about the offer had been passed on to the Democratic national committee, the offer was withdrawn and "Davidson" disappeared.

If this embarrassed Republicans, their Democratic opponents were also reddened. Communist Browder denied he had endorsed President Roosevelt in 1936. Then he explained why: "I carefully refrained because I knew the Republicans wanted me to do it. I only indorsed his (Roosevelt's) policies."

## AMAZONS

# Women Employed in New Role As Men March to Battlefield



War is no longer a man's business exclusively. The United States is almost the only major power which has not drafted women to perform some military duty formerly left to men. Women now fly, drive ambulances and carry rifles, ready to take their places on the battlefield. Above: Two members of England's women's ambulance corps are shown in uniform as they canvassed for recruits during London's first national defense display. Later, when war actually came, Britain's women took over many men's jobs. At right: One of the many women Soviet Russia is training for air defense work. The Soviet has the world's best women aviators.



During celebration of patriotic days in Paris (above), French women showed what the women of the world favor in the way of attire now that war is here again. These women are members of a home defense unit. At the left: Two Turkish girl fliers who took part in the flight of a squadron of bombing planes from Istanbul to the capitals of Europe a few months ago. Commanding the group is Lieut. Sabiha Guektchen, adopted daughter of the late President Kemal Ataturk.



Picture Parade



ABOVE—Amazons in Europe and Asia. At left, unsmiling young Italian women, uniformed and carrying bayoneted muskets, prepare for their coming life in the Italian colonies. At right, a Chinese woman soldier camouflages herself.



Women troops of Albania—now subjects of Mussolini.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

**Furniture White Spots.**—To remove white spots on furniture made by hot dishes, use powdered pumice and linseed oil, applied with a soft cloth, rubbed dry and polished with the grain.

**Cleaning Dust Mops.**—Use your vacuum cleaner to clean the dust mops with.

**Mildew on Leather.**—Petroleum ointment will remove mildew from leather furniture.

**Soak Dried Fruits.**—Raisins, dates, currants and figs blend better with other ingredients if they are soaked for five minutes in a little boiling water.

**Substitute for Butter.**—Chicken fat may be used as a butter substitute in cooking. Consequently it is a good plan to save the fat from boiled, stewed or fried chicken.

**Patchwork Quilts.**—When making patchwork quilts baste patches onto brown paper and stitch on machine. Tear off paper when stitching is done.

## Whistler Couldn't Pass Up Opportunity to Use Bailiffs

Mrs. A. M. Moncrieff, who has just celebrated her eighty-eighth birthday, knew many of the great Victorians in the days when, as Nita Gaetano, she was a celebrated singer—and tells some good stories about them.

Once she dined with Whistler, the famous artist, whose pictures now sell for fabulous sums. Two maidservants were waiting at table.

"You must be doing well, selling a lot of paintings," she remarked, a little surprised that Whistler should "splash" in this way.

"No," whispered her host. "They're bailiffs. I thought they might as well be doing something useful."

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