## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. Labine

# Scandinavia Works With Nazis To End Russo-Finnish Conflict; Feel Allies Aren't Dependable

(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

#### **EUROPE:** The Wars

Northern Front. Soviet troops captured the entire porthern tip of Finland, placing the Arctic sea outlet in Soviet hands. Finns still held Viipuri, western anchor of the Mannerheim lines, repulsing furious Soviet attacks. Civilian bombings con-

Western Front. Reconnaissance flights and patrol clashes.

#### Finnish Finish?

Off to Berlin one day went 79-year-old Per Evind Svinhufvud, former president of Finland. He made a brief flurry in the news, obviously Then he disapa peace envoy. peared, but Per Svinhufvud had



PER SVINHUFVUD ... started something in Berlin.

done his work well. Within 24 hours Moscow had invited Finnish Premier Risto Ryti and three aides to visit the Kremlin and talk peace. That Germany's hand was behind all this none doubted, for Naziland would like to have Russia at peace, thereby making Soviet war materials available to the Reich.

Up north, Scandinavia cheered; a Russo-Finnish peace would relieve the terrific pressure Sweden and Norway have felt from France and Britain on the one side, and Russia and Germany on the other. The allies had sent Finland only a smattering of help, leaving friendly Scandinavia exposed should Russia win. But if Scandinavia worked for peace via the dictator nations, an early and safe peace might be

After several days a truce was reported near, leaving frontiers substantially where they have been pushed by fighting thus far. But there was still a good chance that it would bog down.

## British Gesture

Off to Rome went Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop to capitalize on an Italian peeve. Several days earlier Britain had clamped a blockade on Italian coal imports from Germany, hailing 16 of Il Duce's freighters into port. Angered, Rome dispatched threatening notes.

Obviously von Ribbentrop hoped to win Italian sympathy against Britain, but the Englishmen acted too fast. Without warning, London suddenly released all 16 Italian freighters and won an Italian promise to ship no more German coal by

Herr von Ribbentrop, the wind taken out of his sails, eased back home after visits with Mussolini, King Victor Emmanuel and-unexpectedly-Pope Pius XII. Observers guessed that von Ribbentrop heard plenty from both Mussolini and Pope Pius about alleged German atrocities in Poland. They also guessed, but could not be certain, that he had urged Mussolini's mediation to help end the Russo-Finnish

## NAMES

in the news . . .

HAROLD L. ICKES, secretary of the interior, and enthusiastic thirdtermite, sounded off in Look magazine on G. O. P. Hopeful Tom Dewey. Said Ickes: Dewey is a "clamor boy;" he is "photogenic, radiogenic

F. LYNDEN SMITH, Illinois public works director and ousted state Democratic fund collector who was "banished" for criticizing Gov. Henry Horner, suicided at a Springfield,

FATHER DIVINE, Negro spiritualist, was ordered by New York Supreme court to repay a follower \$3,937 which she had placed in his

DOROTHY LAMOUR, movie song-

stress, lost her tonsils. ADOLF HITLER, speaking at Germany's "memorial day," pledged

"Victory or my life." JOHN D. M. HAMILTON, national G. O. P. chairman, announced his party will issue no 1940 convention book (for which industrialists are asked to contribute) and asked the Democrats to do likewise.

war. Still a third report: That he sought Italian co-operation to form an economic bloc of all eastern Europe, eventually including Russia and the Baltics.

### DOMESTIC:

#### Farmers' Congress

"It is more than ever important to have a government . . . that can act to protect the interests of our farmers as well as our business men when foreign trade conditions are upset."

Thus did Franklin Roosevelt address 500,000 farmers in 24 states assembled at 50 and 75-cent dinners to celebrate AAA's seventh anniversary. For the President and the farmer, things were looking up. A few hours before Mr. Roosevelt spoke, the senate finance committee approved a three-year extension of the reciprocal trade program, already okayed by the house. Chairman Pat Harrison of that committee was pretty sure the measure would pass.

Meanwhile another senate committee was even out-doing the President to help farmers. An appropriations sub-committee upped the house-approved \$749,561,000 agricultural appropriations bill to \$958,000,-000 (the President had recommended only \$788,929,519). Chief boost was a \$212,000,000 fund for parity payments. · In addition, the subcommittee directed that RFC should lend \$100,000,000 additional to farm agencies (thus avoiding new appro-priations) and that \$60,000,000 of benefit payments be shifted to this year's funds from next year. This brought the total to more than a billion dollars.

Gloom fell over the house, which had previously clipped some \$300,-000,000 from budget estimates on 10 different appropriations in the hope of saving enough to prevent new taxes or a boost in the national debt. When the senate appropria-tions committee okayed its subcommittee's action, and when senate leaders expressed certainty that the big farm bill would pass, the gloom became thicker. One salvation might be to make big cuts in relief and defense appropriations. Another, which President Roosevelt reportedly discussed with congressional leaders, was a revival of the new tax program.

Also in congress: Hatch Bill. Not sidetracked for the farm bill, as everyone expected, amendments to the Hatch "clean politics" act were pushed through the senate. Aim: Curb political activity of 500,000 state employees.

Wagner Act. Chairman Mary Norton (Dem., N. J.) of the house lacommittee charged that 21



WELLES AND LEBRUN A baptism of fire.

amendments to the Wagner act, as proposed by a special house com-mittee, would practically repeal the law." It was a good bet that the house would kill all the amendments.

## Welles Junket

Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles continued marching through the chancellories of Europe in an attempt to dig out "the present phase of the European situation.' Neither he nor anyone else could really dig it out, because the European situation was more perplexing than anything the world has seen in 20 years (see EUROPE).

Arriving in Paris after visits at Rome and Berlin, Mr. Welles lunched and dined with President Albert Lebrun, Premier Edouard Daladier and many a lesser statesman, receiving his baptism of fire when anti-aircraft batteries sounded off against a Nazi reconnaissance plane. He heard the same old terms: (1) No peace so long as Hitlerism reigns in Germany; (2) liberation of Poland and Czechoslovakia; (3) "guarantees for the security of peoples and the integrity . . . of all nations."

Next stop was London, where he was closeted with Foreign Minister Viscount Halifax. Expecting to discover nothing there, Mr. Welles nevertheless had important business: (1) to caution British leaders that war measures such as interference with U.S. mails and shipping were having an adverse effect U. S. sympathy for the allies; (2) to buy six suits of clothes from a Hanover street tailor. In view of the utter confusion in which diplomacy found itself overnight, observers guessed Mr. Welles would have to visit Paris and Rome again.

## TREND

POLAND-Forty thousand German artisans have been sent to conquered Poland to take over small businesses and "purify" libraries, according to authentic

AVIATION-It was revealed in Washington that the war department will soon release for Anglo-French purchase one of its newest and fastest fighting ships, the Curtiss P-40. Meanwhile an allied purchasing ministry an-nounced it was ready to order a billion dollars' worth of U. S. air-

**DEFENSE**—Removed from the list of 17 "strategic" materials essential for U. S. defense were aluminum (because the U.S. aluminum industry has conserved its Arkansas bauxite); optical glass (because U. S. optical glass is now as good as the world's best) and wool (because substitutes and supplies are being found here).

#### MARINE:

#### Contraption

planes and U-boats have sprinkled the sea with dangerous magnetic him, because he knows more about mines. When a ship approaches, its steel hull attracts the mine, which explodes. In early March, cere and intellectually honest a man when Britain's stupendous, 85,000- as there is in this administration. I ton, \$28,750,000 Queen Elizabeth am so convinced of this that, if I reached New York on her secret maiden voyage, she wore a girdle of 10 to 12 heavily-insulated cables strung on metal fixtures riveted into

Elizabeth's crew was tight-lipped, but naval experts were pretty sure her girdle was an effective antimine device which may make Brit-



ELIZABETH AND GIRDLE Her crew was tight-lipped.

ain's shipping invulnerable to the latest Nazi weapon. One opinion: That the girdle sets up a field that neutralizes the magnetic mechanism of the mine. Another: That the cables form a loop antennae for transmission of powerful radio beams sufficient to explode mines.

# MEXICO:

Oil Settlement companies themselves and their didn't want any more cheese. governments have tried in vain to

#### settlement was near. INTERNATIONAL:

Bloodshed and violence, which made headlines in Europe, also made news elsewhere:

## Argentina

Alleged vote frauds in Buenos ers say: "bohee!" Aires province caused President Roforce in favor of political action.

## Palestine

To stave off Arab-Jewish violence during the European war, Britain's this action reached Palestine the isn't true, but if it were true, what? Jerusalem Jewish national institutions declared a general stoppage of the streets, giving British police a tough battle.

## China

Mid-March found Japan's army driving against Chungshan, birthplace of China's famed Sun Yat-Sen, located south of Canton.

Meanwhile, as Japan completed in hock for it. her thirty-second month of a fruitless war, a new enemy appeared for both Nipponese and Chinese Chinese Communists in forces. northwestern provinces, formerly fighting for the Chinese government, were reported drawing closer to Moscow, leaving Gen. Chiang Kai-'hek out on a limb.



WHAT FARMERS NEED.

Tom Dewey's farm speech was lifted largely from Glenn Frank's background for a Republican platform. Both were temperately, beautifally written.

In their critical aspects both were masterpieces of understatement. The net result of all that Mr. Wallace has done for agriculture is absolutely zero-which is considerably less than 32 degrees below freezing. So Mr. Dewey and Mr. Frank made a fairly spectacular and unanswerable case on that point.

All authorities agree that the problem is largely surplus production. Mr. Wallace started out to reduce the surplus. He has not decreased it. He has greatly increased it and his and other administration policies have vastly decreased the possibility of consuming it. In doing For several months German air- what he has done, Mr. Wallace has spent billions. I hate to criticize farming than anybody who attempts to discuss the subject. He is as sin-



TOM DEWEY GLENN FRANK

"Beautiful," but . . . Old Confucius, he say: "bohee."

were a Democrat President, on the theory of the best brains and experience for the job, Mr. Wallace would be my candidate for the job he now holds. But I wouldn't let him have his way and I would tactfully suggest that we find other places for many of his associates or advisers - possibly poking smoke through holes in doughnuts.

Both Glenn Frank and Tom Dewey disclosed that they don't know anything about the farm problem. After careful study of their offerings, I am inclined to believe that they don't even suspect anything about it. What they have given out could have been said by Herbert Hoover and much of it was said by him in 1932 and earlier-with disastrous results. They suggest to the farmer that he ought to return to the fostering care that the Republicans gave him in the seven years before Oil Settlement
In March, 1938, Mexico incurred the Civil war." If they knew the the ill will of many a government by expropriating the oil properties held by 17 U. S., British and Netherlands companies. Since then the in a cheese baited trap. That mouse

The burden of both their songs is reach a settlement. Mid-March that all that is needed to help the brought first indication that Mexico, farmer is to help industry, and that whose oil has been unwelcome on the world market, was ready to We have got to help industry—or go come to terms. From Mexico City the way of Hitler and Mussolini. But came reports of a settlement with tariffs do not and can not protect the Sinclair Oil company, whereby the farmer on his surplus crops. Mexico would pay for expropriated They are a subsidy paid to industry property with 9,000,000 barrels of oil by an impoverished agriculture (market value is about \$7,000,000). which simply cannot and will not With the impasse broken, 16 other unhappy companies also hoped a vailing subsidy.

Why a man who is considered at all solely because he is a New York gang-busting district attorney, has to try to sell himself in Nebraska as a hired farmhand is beyond me. Both Confucius and regular farm-

What farmers need is free and unberto Ortiz to supplant Gov. Manuel restricted production and sale of Fresco by a federal administrator. their products and an outright sub-When the ousted National Demo- sidy to bring their prices for what cratic party threatened to recoup we consume in this country up to its position with force, President Or- absolute "parity." I have no brief tiz declared martial law. Tear gas in logic for the "parity" formula was used to disperse a crowd out- although I invented it in 1921 for side the provincial capitol at La sheer lack of anything better. But Plata. After several days' experi- if the whole country accepts the ence indicated the government had justice and fairness of it-as seems a strangle hold, the ousted government apparently decided to abandon be so much obfuscating conversation and so little direct and forthright promise or action?

## SHARING POVERTY

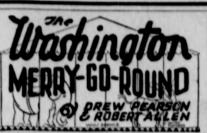
WASHINGTON .- Suppose it were cabinet announced restrictions true, as this administration says, against purchase of Palestine land that, as all governmental debt has by Jews. Though Jews protested, gone up by an indefinite amountthe parliament in London backed up above 20 billions-private debt has the cabinet's action. When word of gone down by an equal amount. It

It means a more equal distribution of poverty, a sharing of our work. Ten thousand paraded through debits rather than our credits, a greater burden on the have-nots and a restriction of abundance in everybody's life.

The whole nation, rich and poor alike, is responsible for the public debt-every wage, income, pension and piece of property of any kind is

It can be retired only by taxes or default. The former is a burden on every family budget in the nation -including the unfortunates on relief or on the dole. The latter is catastrophe bearing with equal disaster on the whole population.

The poisonous doctrine that only the rich pay has been exposed over and over again.



WASHINGTON .- Senator Vanden berg privately is very uneasy over the unfavorable effect upon his pres idential campaign of his clamor for aggressive action against Japan.

He is so concerned that he summoned his regional managers to Washington for a secret pow-wow. Their advice was that he should softpedal the issue for two reasons:

(1) The inconsistency, to the public, of his denouncing Roosevelt's repeal of the arms embargo as a war move, and at the same time demanding a war-like policy toward Japan; and (2) complaints by G. O. P. leaders that Vandenberg played into the hands of the Democrats by diverting public attention away from domestic affairs and focusing it on international problems.

Republican strategists have pointed out that the one thing the Democrats want is to wage the campaign on the administration's international policies, and a G. O. P. candidate who allows them to do that would be



Discouraging to Romeos.

licked from the start because the party is split on these questions. Many prominent Republicans and big contributors have publicly supported New Deal foreign measures.

The managers also reported that in the coastal states, where Vandenberg is weakest, there is much public opposition to his "let's go get 'em' stand on the Japanese. No final conclusion was reached at the conference, but it is significant that since then Vandenberg has been silent about Far Eastern affairs.

Note-The consensus of opinion at the meeting was in favor of entering Vandenberg in more state primaries in opposition to Dewey. Most of the managers reported that the New Yorker, despite his lead in popular polls, was losing ground with local G. O. P. leaders and newspaper men, with whom he had a number of personal clashes during his recent Western sorties.

## SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN

One of the most effective speakers in the house is Rep. Wirt Courtney, Tennessee war veteran, who his seat only last fall in a special election. Three weeks later he startled the chamber by making the best speech of the neutrality debate.

During his whirlwind election campaign Courtney amply demonstrated his gifts as a silver-tongued orator. His opponent was Mrs. Clarence Turner, widow of his predecessor. It was a tough spot for a Southern

gentleman. To get elected Courtney had to challenge Mrs. Turner's qualifications for the office. At the same time, he couldn't assail a woman. This was the way he met the problem: "Ladies and gentlemen: I find

myself in a very embarrassing position running against this beautiful and gracious lady. My family came from Virginia; my father served under Lee; but, friends, have you been in congress when it was in session? "Sometimes there is bedlam

there. Sometimes the lie is passed and sometimes fists fly. Imagine, my friends, if you can, placing in such a situation this beautiful and gracious lady whose heart is in the skies with one who has gone beyond the last horizon."

The voters' imaginations broke down, for Courtney won with a twoto-one majority.

## NO GUN-RUNNER.

The protocol office of the state department ran into a novel war-born problem the other day when David Gray, new minister to Ireland, came in to make plans for his departure.

Gray is a tall, slender gentleman, with a taste for hunting. He told the protocol office that he couldn't be happy on the other side without his sportsman's shotgun.

"But I am going to Dublin by way of Europe," said Gray. "I wonder what they will think of a U. S. diplomat if he shows up in the war areas with a shotgun?"

Gray was assured that, enjoying diplomatic immunity, he would not be jailed as a gun-runner.

## MERRY-GO-ROUND.

When Venezuelan Minister of War Medina visited Washington he did three things: first, placed a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier; next, called on Secretary of State Hull; third, visited the Federal Bureau of Investigation to scan the death mask of John Dillinger and other G-man trophies.

In one afternoon recently, Uncle Sam bought no less than 8,000,000 yards of cotton piece goods. It was used to supply WPA sewing room

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### Strange Facts Continuous Growth Versatile Products Mail Must Go On!

Although most creatures have a definite growth limit, others continue to increase in size as long as they live, among them being trees, fish, oysters, shrimps, crabs and lobsters.

Products of the farm have more than 400 nonfood uses in industry. For example, corn is used in making adhesives, potatoes in laundry starch, soybeans in plastics, cattle grease in antifreeze mixtures, grape-seed oil in soaps, buttermilk in paints, and eggs in leatherdressing processes.

In many Japanese bedrooms the compass points are painted on the Few Japanese will sleep with the head pointing north, the position in which they are buried.

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At Palace and Cottage With equal pace, impartial Fate knocks at the palace, as the cottage gate .- Horace.

# CONSTIPATED!

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