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ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Practically all of the men who have testified in favor of the President's lease-lend bill have offered the opinion that a crisis in the war will occur within the next three months, and that it will probably take the form of an all-out Nazi blow against England, beginning with air raids of unprecedented intensity and winding up with the long anticipated attempt at invasion. Secretary of the Navy Knox for example, testified that according to his information the German strategists were now watching the long-range weather report and waiting for a time when an extended period of good weather can be anticipated.

There are many good reasons for believing that Germany will make her great effort before many more moons wax and wane. Primary reason is the obvious one that Hitler has a far better chance of winning if he makes his gamble before this country can send materials abroad in significant amounts.

Second, Hitler many think, must move before Italy collapses entirely. She has become a drain on the Reich instead of an asset. Her reverses in Africa have almost reached the comic opera stage.

Third, according to some experts English and American warplane production is now catching up with Germany. But it will be a long time before Britain can obtain enough ships to equal the strength of the sky fleet commanded by Marshal Goering. So it is logical for Germany to make her bid for victory while she has a decisive edge in the skies.

Fourth, there are reports which can not be substantiated in the light of rigorous German censorship to the effect that morale of Hitler's Reich is slipping. Hitler promised victory before 1940 and now seems farther from it than when the war began. There have been no signal German successes of late.

Evidence of a more material nature is also available. For the most part the Luftwaffe has lately been bombing industrial centers and has done less indiscriminate bombing of cities. It now seems to be trying to knock out important British factories rather than to break the people's morale, an endeavor which completely failed. And air observers have seen frenzied activity along the German-occupied coast of the Continent and in the ports which Hitler must use as the starting points for invasion.

It is obvious where the U. S. enters this picture. If England is to be really helped there must be a tremendous speed-up in our shipments of war materials. And, despite claims of Administration spokesmen to the contrary the feeling persists that it will not be long before we are convoying British shipping. Germany's greatest damage to England has been in sinking merchant ships and equally serious from the British point of view, destroying or disabling numbers of the convoying destroyers.

Hitler himself has said that any American ship, merchant or naval, which is put to the service of England in European waters will be sunk. There can be no question but what use of our navy for convoy purposes would be an act of war, complete and unmistakable. Yet Germany has shown no desire to formally break relations with us. Hitler has taken a great deal and done little in retaliation. Fear of the American navy is considered by many experts to be the answer to that. Furthermore Hitler's record shows that he never increases opposition if he can avoid it.

In the meantime debate on the lease-lend bill swings into high gear. Few members of the Congress are opposed to all-out aid to England, the opposition to the current bill is principally based on the belief that it delegates dictatorial powers to the Executive and that England can be helped to the limit without doing that. There is the real issue underlying the fight.

BELLIGERENA NEUTRALITY

Joseph P. Kennedy succeeded in hitting the middle of the line in the race at Washington between war and neutrality. Kennedy proved to be an outstanding witness before the Foreign Relations committee of Congress. He defended and upheld the President while at the same time he warned Congress that it must keep the power to prevent war in its own hands. He backed up national defense and every aid to England.

Once in awhile a strong man shows up which is able to make belligerent and neutrals quit quarrelling and get down to brass tacks. Kennedy proved to be such a man. He has represented the American government in London since the outbreak of the war and he related his own experiences and impressions before the Congressmen. He refused to surrender his New Eng-

land judgment and convictions to support any of the existing political programs.

It is quite impossible for your correspondent to tell just what is going to be the final outcome of the issues in Congress where many proposals of President Roosevelt are being challenged. Nevertheless there seems to be less excitement and more common sense than before election which everybody must agree is an improvement in Democratic government.

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO. MAKES ANNUAL REPORT

This newspaper is in receipt of the annual report of the Caterpillar Tractor company of Peoria, Ill. which contains the following interesting information. We quote:

"Caterpillar" built tractors pushing bulldozers and pulling scrapers have been used in France and Great Britain to build trenches and tank traps, to widen and straighten military roads, to clear debris left by bombing raids, to build and maintain airports and to repair damage done by shells and bombs. Caterpillar tractors are considered a necessity for deeper plowing, to raise increased crops in Britain's "grow more food campaign," thereby concentrating more power in fewer men for soil preparation and planting, speedier cultivation, harvesting and transportation of crops. "Caterpillar" portable Diesel-electric generating sets can be used for providing electricity for high powered searchlights which are a part of air raid defense units, also for powering and lighting small establishments deprived of electricity by bombing raids or other causes for a wide variety of other purposes requiring electricity.

"Caterpillar" machines in large fleets are working under the direction of the British Royal Engineers in building and improving the Haifa-Bagdad highway an important link between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. Caterpillar tractors are also working on military roads in India, in Australia, in Egypt and in South Africa.

"Caterpillar" tractors are now being used by thousands of farmers in this section of the state and in this territory are sold by the Hessel Implement company, the old reliable farm implement house of Gresham. —Adv.

The insurance on the Clackamas county court house has been divided into 27 policies representing 23 different insurance companies. The total of these policies amounts to \$222,000.00 while the actual cost of the court house and all equipment amounts to \$263,057.97 which figures about 90 percent coverage.

With the new photostat machine installed by Guy Pace, county clerk, it costs approximately 11 cents per page to copy the records. This is a saving of over \$2,500 a year while the budget for that office for 1940 was \$12,630 leaving a balance of \$10,130 to be paid by the taxpayers.

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AMERICANS COME THROUGH EACH CRISIS WITH A SMILE.

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— PROFESSOR FREDERICK J. TURNER,
"THE FRONTIER IN AMERICAN HISTORY."

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| <input type="checkbox"/> American Boy — 1 Yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Road (Boys) — 1 Yr. |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry Tribune — 1 Yr. |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> American Fruit Grower — 1.75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Grower — 2.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' Magazine — 2.45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Girl — 2.25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Flying Aces — 2.25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder (Weekly) — 2.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Magazine — 2.95 | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Arts — 1.75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Popular Mechanics — 2.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Poultry Jnl. — 1.65 | <input type="checkbox"/> Needlecraft — 1.75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Redbook Magazine — 2.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeder's Gazette — 1.65 | <input type="checkbox"/> Household Magazine — 1.75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Science and Discovery — 2.95 |
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