

Washington, D. C.
F. D. R. VIEWS AID TO YOUTH
 During the week before his Caribbean cruise, the President held a series of private conferences which were of prime importance in connection with his plans for the new congress. In them he disclosed that he is doing a lot of thinking about domestic problems along two lines—

1. Youth.
2. Old-age pensions.

Democracy can resist subversive ideologies, the President held, only by convincing youth that it does have a stake and a future in the existing system.

The President indicated that he had no particular program in mind. In fact, he asked for suggestions and ideas.

On old-age pensions, Roosevelt disclosed that he has made up his mind as to what he wants. His idea is to change the existing system of widely divergent state contributions to one of uniform federal pensions, beginning at a lower age than the present 65.

Roosevelt also voiced sharp criticism of the moguls of the social security board who have so vigorously opposed liberalization of the law. He declared that they have been a big obstruction to reform and that the time had come to overrule them. It was significant that the President had not discussed his plans with them and was proceeding independently.

Note—Since January 1, when the amended law became operative, 190,000 applications for old-age pensions have been approved by the social security board for a total outlay of \$4,109,000 a month. With the \$7,048,000 paid out in lump sum claims to survivors, the total old-age pension outlay so far is around \$28,000,000. The average pension is \$23 a month. In his conferences, Roosevelt talked of placing 5,000,000 oldsters on federal pensions within a year.

NO MASS PRODUCTION

One of the big complaints of defense chiefs is lack of machine-tool facilities. Yet there are many small plants of this type around the country that have been literally begging for orders and not getting them. One company with 150 lathes has been advertising for business in trade journals for months.

Also there is strong evidence of a lack of vision or initiative or both in making the best use of mass production facilities. The blame for this goes right back to high defense quarters.

The gigantic resources of the auto industry, for example, have been practically untouched for defense output. New plants have been ordered that will take months to build, when by a co-ordination of the great auto factories, parts of planes, tanks, guns, etc., could be turned out in carload lots daily and assembled at central points.

William Reuther, young official of the United Auto Workers, long ago proposed such a plan for a daily output of 500 all-metal pursuit planes of the most powerful type in the world, and at one-third their present cost. But the matter is still "being discussed."

Other industries could be used in the same way for similar short-cuts on other armament needs, but they are not. Meanwhile, defense output drags along, and precious weeks and months flit by.

BRITISH DAMAGE

Confidential military estimates of Nazi bombing damage to Great Britain are that British industrial production has fallen off about 30 per cent.

While this is a very serious crimp in the output of British planes, anti-aircraft guns and shells, it is not as bad as the pictures of shattered Bristol, Coventry, and Southampton would indicate.

Reason damage to British industrial production has not been greater is (1) that the British more than a year ago began scattering their plants in small units throughout Scotland and northern England, which are hard to locate and hard to hit after they are located; (2) that those big plants which do remain are protected with a virtual forest of anti-aircraft guns.

Far more serious is the damage to British navy yards. These cannot be broken up into small units, and they have been so heavily damaged that the repair of British shipping is very materially retarded. In many cases, British warships have been repaired at sea.

This, plus the tremendous increase in the sinking of merchant vessels, is what makes the British shipping plight so desperate at present.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Irony of diplomatic fate is that when Mussolini marched into Albania, the U. S. state department actually condoned it. Instead of registering a protest as in the case of other occupied countries, the state department dropped the Albanian minister from its diplomatic list. Meanwhile, the diplomatic representatives of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, still are listed. But if the Greeks keep on going they will win back Albania for the Albanians.



Broadway Bystander

The Front Pages: Editorials expressed horror over the Hun atrocities in Poland, where the aim is to exterminate the people. Some of the same pages called Roger E. Sherwood "war-monger" when he pitied Poland in "There Shall Be No Night." The U. S. correspondents got lippy to the British censors. Raymond Daniell called them more damaging to the English cause than bombs. Drew Middleton departed from the AP's "impersonal" policy long enough to register his sassy say-so. The blast got results. Eugene Lyons explains why so many youngsters are covering the war fronts: Wages. The famous ones are cashing in via radio, lectures, etc. "That is how it happens," says Lyons in "Eye Witness" (news story anthology), "that there are more distinguished foreign correspondents at a luncheon of the Overseas Press club than in the world beyond, even when world-shaking events are taking place."

The Post's Jack Miley rates picking All-American footballers second to cutting out paper dolls. "Putting players the experts have never seen on teams that don't exist," he calls it. It looks like Virginio Gayda, who yells Mussolini's editorial "boos," hasn't got many Greek readers.

Typewriter Ribbons: Anon's: Fame is the refreshment that comes when wiping off the perspiration of a career's hard work. H. Hershfield's: The streets would be safer for pedestrians and motorists if all the cars that aren't paid for were removed. The Thomaston (Ga.) Times: It is rare that the gift is worth the obligation it involves. Wilson Mizner's: I respect faith—but doubt is what gets you an education. Jack Tarver's: A dollar-down-and-your-eyetooth-a-week automobile. L. A. Seaman's: The palms waved their limber fronds foolishly like an awkward chorus at the prima donna's cue to enter.

The Insult Terrible: Erika and Klaus Mann, daughter and son of Thomas Mann (exiled by Hitler), are introducing Hitler's nephew around town. He has written a book about Adolf and is going to lecture in Canada. He is English born and despises his kinsman, whose name he uses.

Tennyrate, nephew Hitler was first introduced at Dagmar Godowsky's, where Elsa Bois found it difficult to speak to anybody connected with Hitler. Elsa is a refugee actress from Germany, and her brother Curt is now in "Bitter Sweet," the film.

She was telling friends about meeting Hitler's relative. "I wanted," she said, "to make the young man do something—just for me. Something with the idea of humbling him!"

Words And Music: Lion Feuchtwanger has a sensayuma, although Louis Nizer's book, "Thinking on Your Feet," a best-seller, offers the same nifty. Feuchtwanger, they would have you believe, went to see Disney's "Fantasia," which has powerful orchestral tones. The music occasionally overpowered him. He told intimates about it. "Evidently," he said, "Stokowski believes that 'life begins at forte.'"

When his pals groaned at the broad pun, Feuchtwanger sighed disconsolately. "Oh, well. I guess nobody loves a fact man."

Form of Criticism: Prof. Nathan, of the N. Y. Drama Critics' Circle, met a playwright at the Algonquin hotel, a chap whose manuscript Nathan had promised to look over instead of overlook. The Regal One shook his head after reading three pages.

"You don't like it," sighed the writer sadly, "what do you think it needs?"

"First of all," Nathan replied, "I'd suggest perfume."

Woof-woof! Bob Benchley of the felms was visiting a Hollywood dog and cat hospital in search of a pooch. A pal of his trying frantically to locate Benchley (to deliver a message) learned where he was and rushed there. Approaching the girl at the desk, he asked: "Is Bob Benchley of Metro here?"

"Is he an airedale," was the retort, "or spitz?"

In Other Words: The headlines stated: "Italian Resistance Stiffening!" And Al H. observed: "That probably is Italian for rigor mortis."

Oop! At the Maison Louis a well-known radio singer button-holed an NBC executive and cooed: "Did you hear me do 'Blueberry Hill' last night?"

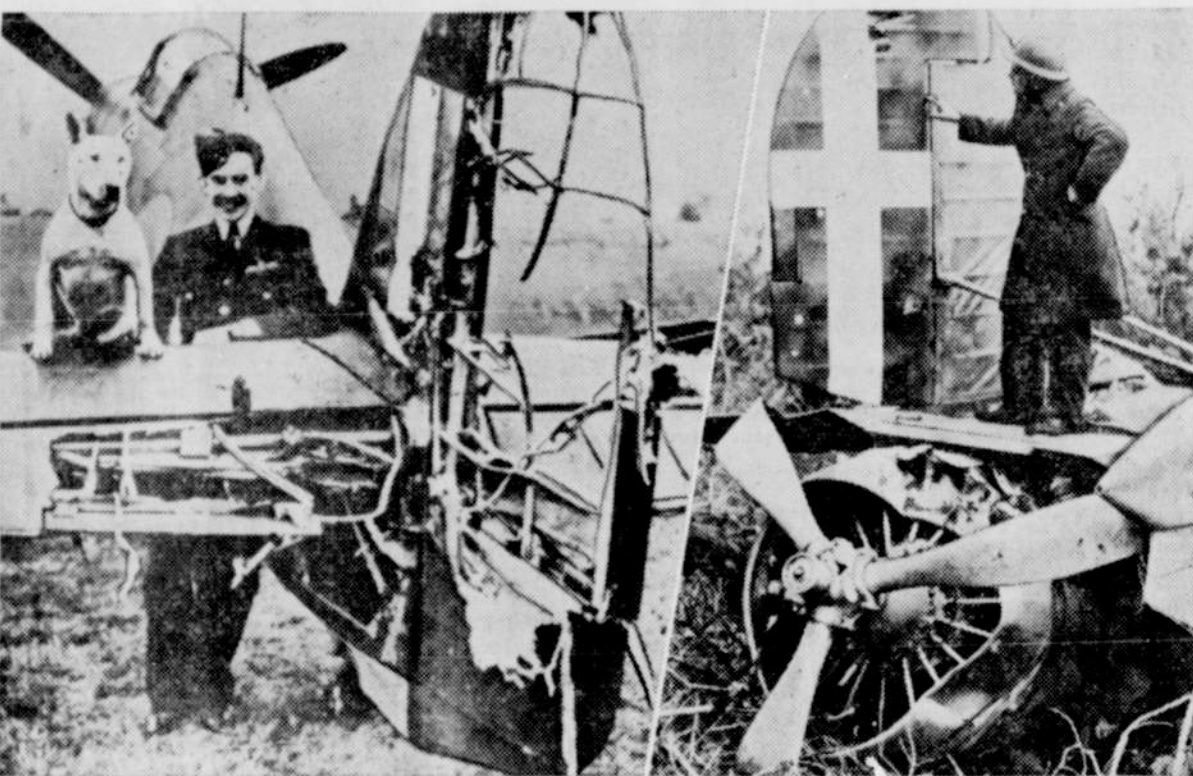
"Yes," was the answer. "You sounded as though it were too steep for you."

Kings and Queens of Health—And of Corn



Left: 4-H club members chosen as the nation's healthiest at the live-stock show held at Chicago. L. to R.: Veneta DeWitt, 15, Milford, Iowa; Tom Wiley, 17, Ashland, Ohio; Vernon Duncan, 16, Silver City, N. C.; Robert Bolen, 19, Lauren, Iowa; and Edith Reynolds, 17, Seminole, Okla. Right: Charles Fischer, 33, of Shelbyville, Ind., who won the title of corn king at the stock show. His land yielded 65 bushels to the acre.

Good Luck for Tommy—Bad Luck for Il Duce



Left: A British pilot with his mascot, beside his badly damaged plane, which he brought back to its base with most of the tail shot away. Right: A British soldier looking over the remains of one of Il Duce's bombers which was shot down in southeast England by British anti-aircraft. Fourteen Italian planes were brought down the same day, according to the British.

Another 'Sub' for Uncle Sam



The submarine Grenadier, costing \$3,500,000, and built in less than nine months, was launched recently at the Portsmouth, N. H., navy yard. The craft, shown above, was the fourth to slide down the ways at this navy yard this year. It was christened by Mrs. Walter S. Anderson, wife of the rear admiral directing naval intelligence.

'Mystery Man'



Gen. Maxim Weygand, "mystery man of Europe," chatting with Mohammedans at Fez, French Morocco. Rumors persist that Weygand may join forces with DeGaulle.

To Aid Infantile Paralysis Sufferers



President Roosevelt has authorized the use of his birthday, January 30, to raise funds for infantile paralysis sufferers. The committee for the celebration of the President's birthday is here shown. L. to R.: George Allen, of Washington; Eddie Cantor, noted radio, stage and screen star; and Keith Morgan, national campaign chairman.

Puerto Rico Draft



A Puerto Rican mountain man reads the sign telling him that men between 21 and 36 must sign up for military service. The Puerto Rican registry date was November 20.

Slow to Improve

Constantinople was 1,600 years old and had a million inhabitants before it named its streets and numbered its houses in 1916; Richmond, Va., long famed as a great cultural center, was 191 years old and had about 200,000 residents before it established its first public library in 1924; and the telephone was 51 years old before one was installed on the desk of the President of the United States in 1929.—Collier's.

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