

## Weekly News Analysis

# Sharp Foreign Policy Shifts Follow Rome Parley Collapse

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.

### International

Why, they did not know, but from every nook and cranny of the world came statesmen bound for Geneva where under leaden skies opened the 104th session of the League of Nations. Spokesmen admitted the League was forgotten in a new era of "power politics" in which four nations (Britain, France, Italy and Germany) appeared destined to guide the world to war or peace. Geneva's convocation would have been dolorous anyway, but on its eve two great statesmen met in Rome and found they could not agree. Overnight, with lightning speed, the forces of democracy vs. dictatorship shifted to more positive, more threatening positions.

When British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain went to Rome for consultation with Premier Benito Mussolini, he knew his political future hung in the balance. For 18 months he had subscribed to the unpopular course of appeasing dictators. Munich's "peace" treaty had been followed by Italian territorial demands against Britain's ally, France. Invocation of the Anglo-Italian friendship pact had been followed by an even more aggressive Italian participation in the Spanish war. Obviously appeasement was a failure.

When, after two days of conversations, Mr. Chamberlain left for home without an announcement, the world knew what had happened. Appeasement as a peace weapon was abandoned. Britain had straightened up, deciding to lead with her chin instead of the palm of her hand. This news had hardly been flashed before news of resultant developments began flashing back from key world capitals:

### BUDAPEST

Almost unnoticed the day Mr. Chamberlain arrived in Rome was the announcement that Hungary had recognized Japan's puppet state of Manchukuo. The past few years have seen Hungary vainly attempting to straddle the fence, keeping peace with Germany and Italy, meanwhile maintaining cordial relations with Britain. But Count Stephen Csaky, foreign minister, has been squinting at new developments with an eye to changing his position. A week before the Rome-London conversations, Poland—Hungary's unofficial ally in eastern Europe—had abandoned her independent position and tightened her bonds with Germany. Count Csaky realized this left Hungary uncomfortably isolated. When news from Rome heralded a sharpened definition of policy between democracies and dictators, Count Csaky decided to cast his lot with dictatorships. Thus Hungary joined the Italian-German-Japanese pact against communism and made plans to leave the League of Nations. A safe prediction is that Poland will follow suit.

To strengthen the Rome-Berlin axis even more, Italian Count Galeazzo Ciano, Mussolini's foreign minister, is making a tour of the Balkans with special emphasis on Jugos-



HUNGARY'S CSAKY  
He chose to follow dictators.

slavia, Hungary and Poland. At the same time German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop left for Warsaw to talk with Polish Foreign Minister Joseph Beck.

### BARCELONA

French sympathies in the Spanish civil war lie with Loyalists; Italy's sympathies—and support—lie with Rebels. This animosity has widened the Rome-Paris breach over Italian territorial demands in Tunisia, Corsica, Djibouti and other French points. Just before Mr. Chamberlain left for Rome, Rebels began a well-timed offensive in northeastern Catalonia, aimed to show the prime minister that Loyalist Spain was weakening and should be sold down the river by democracies. But when Chamberlain refused to concede the point, Mussolini's controlled press announced it would be "absolutely useless to speak of arbitration and mediation"

in settling Europe's problems until the Insurgents won the Spanish war. As if to hasten this outcome, the "Chamberlain offensive" swept into Catalonia and drew near Barcelona. Obviously Mussolini wants to wind up the war, release his troops from Spain and consolidate his position in the Mediterranean in preparation for renewed demands against France. Meanwhile, in Paris Premier Edouard Daladier's Radical Socialist party demanded govern-



VISCOUNT HALIFAX  
England will come to the rescue.

ment intervention to prevent a Rebel victory in Spain, arguing that such an outcome would threaten France's Mediterranean communications.

### PARIS

There no longer remains doubt that the French-Italian argument will supply Europe with its next crisis. Prior to the Chamberlain-Mussolini conversations it looked like France might have to face this dictator threat alone, thanks to Britain's hesitancy over insulting Germany and Italy. But immediately after the conference British Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax left for Geneva where he met French Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet. It was authoritatively learned that Halifax would go to France's aid if she is attacked by any other country, including Italy.

Halifax and Bonnet obviously held their meeting in Geneva—just as the League sessions opened—to bolster League prestige and give some semblance of international support to the Anglo-French position.

### TOKYO

When London heard that Chamberlain had abandoned his appeasement policy, the foreign office immediately emboldened itself like a youngster with a new slingshot. Looking around for places to drain off a long pent-up wrath, it turned attention first to Japan. Tokyo's conquest of China has been tolerated by Britain simply because a stern position would incur the anger of Japan's anti-communist friends, Italy and Germany.

For some time there have been hints of U. S.-British "parallel action" against Japan for violation of the 1922 nine-power pact which guaranteed China's "open door." But this parallel action has heretofore been one-sided, as witness the huge U. S. credit grant to China compared with Britain's tiny credit allowance. But Washington's strong protest note to Tokyo last December 31 was velvet smooth compared with the protest British Ambassador Sir Robert L. Craigie was called upon to hand Japan after the Rome conversations. Excerpts: "His majesty's government is at a loss to understand how (former Japanese premier) Prince Konoe's assurance that Japan seeks no territory and respects the sovereignty of China can be reconciled with the declared intention of the Japanese government to compel the Chinese people . . . to accept conditions involving surrender of their political, economic and cultural life to Japanese control. . . . For their part, his majesty's government desires to make it clear that they are not prepared to accept or to recognize changes of the nature indicated which are brought about by force."

### SIGNIFICANCE

Behind the Mussolini-Chamberlain impasse which precipitated these events was the unseen hand of U. S. disgust over London's vacillating foreign policy. But just as important was London's assurance that the U. S. planned to build up its armed forces under President Roosevelt's two-year, \$552,000,000 emergency defense program. Regardless of the cause, regardless of the resultant consolidation moves by totalitarian states, both France and Britain are inclined to believe they have seen the last of democratic concessions to dictators. The greatest fear is that this new and sensible policy has been adopted too late, that Germany and Italy have attained an undisputed upper hand in the few short months since Munich.

### Religion

In prosperous years church membership and attendance remains even or shows a very slight increase. During depressions membership and attendance will rise through a return to religion. Foremost among U. S. religious statisticians is Rev. Dr. Herman C. Weber, whose report for 1937 has just been released.

Salient facts and figures: Total membership early in 1938 was 64,156,895; church members having increased 980,000 in 1937 (twice as fast as the population). Churches increased by 1,743. A trend to church unity was evident, since 97.3 of the total U. S. church population belongs to the 50 larger bodies. About 160 smaller bodies account for the remaining 2.7 per cent.

### Communication

An important weapon in the spread of Nazi economic-political influence is propaganda. So important has this weapon become that at December's Pan-American conference in Lima, Peru, delegates adopted a resolution condemning it. But for five years the government-subsidized Transoceanic News Service has operated via wireless from Berlin to Latin America, providing slyly propagandized world news coverage to newspapers at small cost. Its purpose: To win Latin American markets for the Reich, meanwhile spreading political doctrines. In answer to Pan-American conference resolutions, Transoceanic News Service is now being modernized and speeded to South America. Just opened is a new transmitter at Buenos Aires, while another is being built at Lima.

### Congress

President Roosevelt won little applause January 4 when his State of the Union speech referred to the unpopular governmental reorganization bill. Congress thought it best to leave well enough alone, but since the session got under way two reorganization schemes, one of them far more important than the administration's proposals, have been broached:

**Relief.** Reluctantly the average U. S. citizen admits unemployment and old age assistance have become permanent problems. Created by the New Deal, pioneering agencies to cope with these needs have worked too independently, often wastefully. Social security, WPA, PWA, CCC and NYA all have a common denominator, but not until this year has anyone bothered to suggest it. Headed by South Carolina's Sen. James F. Byrnes, a spe-



SENATOR BYRNES  
He found a common denominator.

cial senate committee on unemployment and relief has now proposed creation of a new department of public works to handle all such duties except social security. The three basic recommendations:

(1) Co-ordination of state unemployment compensation systems under federal law, with U. S. financial assistance, providing 13-week payments ranging from \$5 to \$15, depending on salary over the 26 weeks before an unemployed person lost his job; (2) increased federal participation in state-federal old age assistance, to provide minimum of \$15 a month compensation; (3) an anticipated, annual U. S. public works appropriation.

Should the proposal be adopted, relief and security would still hold plenty of headaches for congress. Left to be ironed out was President Roosevelt's proposal of "social security for all," under which old age and unemployment insurance protection would be given every U. S. worker as soon as possible. Other points in the administration's social security program: (1) increased protection to aged and dependent children; (2) establishment of merit system for state social security personnel; (3) advancing social security's pension starting date from 1942 to 1940.

**Defense.** Far less noteworthy than the Byrnes report but significant of the reorganization trend is the thus far anonymous proposal to pool army and navy under a single cabinet officer. Its aim: To co-ordinate defense. Though similar measures have reached congress before, most of them failed because of traditional, leather-necked rivalry between the two branches of defense. This session's bill has a better chance because the proposed special rearmament program needs a single guiding hand, not several.



## WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—Dr. Robert H. Goddard, experimenting with rockets for the last 24 years, and steadily making progress, has had as his

### Dr. Goddard Has Both Feet On This World

goal the penetration of the higher atmosphere, the possible catapulting of messages across the ocean, and sundry scientific inquiries to which he has thought his unique gunnery might supply the answer. Although much Jules Vernish stuff has been written about his "rockets to the moon" and about shooting people across the Atlantic in a few minutes, he has been an aloof and patient scientist, intent on seeing only what he sees and not making any handsome promises.

So far as this courier knows, the suggestion by Maj. James R. Randolph that rockets may replace heavy artillery, for long-range bombardment of cities, is the first official recognition of their possible use in warfare. He specifically cites the work of Doctor Goddard, at a time when Doctor Goddard is plying up new patents and getting some of his biggest sizlers under control. It is also the time when the tiny, motored plane, evolving from the toy, and controlled by radio, is absorbing the interest of the army experimenters as a possible bomb-dropper.

At Roswell, N. M., financed by the Daniel Guggenheim foundation, Doctor Goddard has a unique desert laboratory with plenty of elbow room and sky room. He now has a gyro steering mechanism on his rockets, by which they may be accurately aimed. He has gained 30 per cent in range over his best shots of two years ago, and is now forcing his rockets to a speed of 700 miles per hour.

His most valuable contribution to rocketeering, noted by Major Randolph, is his continuous flow of power, instead of the single initial explosion. Gasoline and oxygen, mixing and exploding as they issue from a tail nozzle, give steady propulsion.

Doctor Goddard, an amiable, unassuming, baldish man, began his rocket experiments at Clark university in 1914. He is a physicist, absorbed in pure science, admitting that we might hit the moon with a rocket if we wanted to spend that much power, but so far he keeps down to earth on immediate and specific problems—and makes progress.

IT DOES begin to look as though scientists will be the loudest of all when "Beulah Land" rings out at the next singfest. Once upon a time, religionists looked warily whenever a man of science opened his mouth, because so many of them were arguing against a hereafter. But Sir Richard Gregory, with his "It is just as permissible to assume that another world awaits habitation of an exalted type of humanity as it is to believe in the eternal existence of individuality," is only the latest of many to hit the sawdust trail.

Emeritus professor of astronomy, Queens college, London, is one of his present distinctions, and he is also a former editor of the magazine, Nature. The stars have been his chief guide for most of the years since he was born in 1864. How much their lessons helped him to his knighthood, 1919, and his baronetcy, 1931, is a question. But certainly, along with his acknowledged interest in heaven, they must take responsibility for his chief books, "The Vault of Heaven" and "Discovery, or the Spirit of Service of Science."

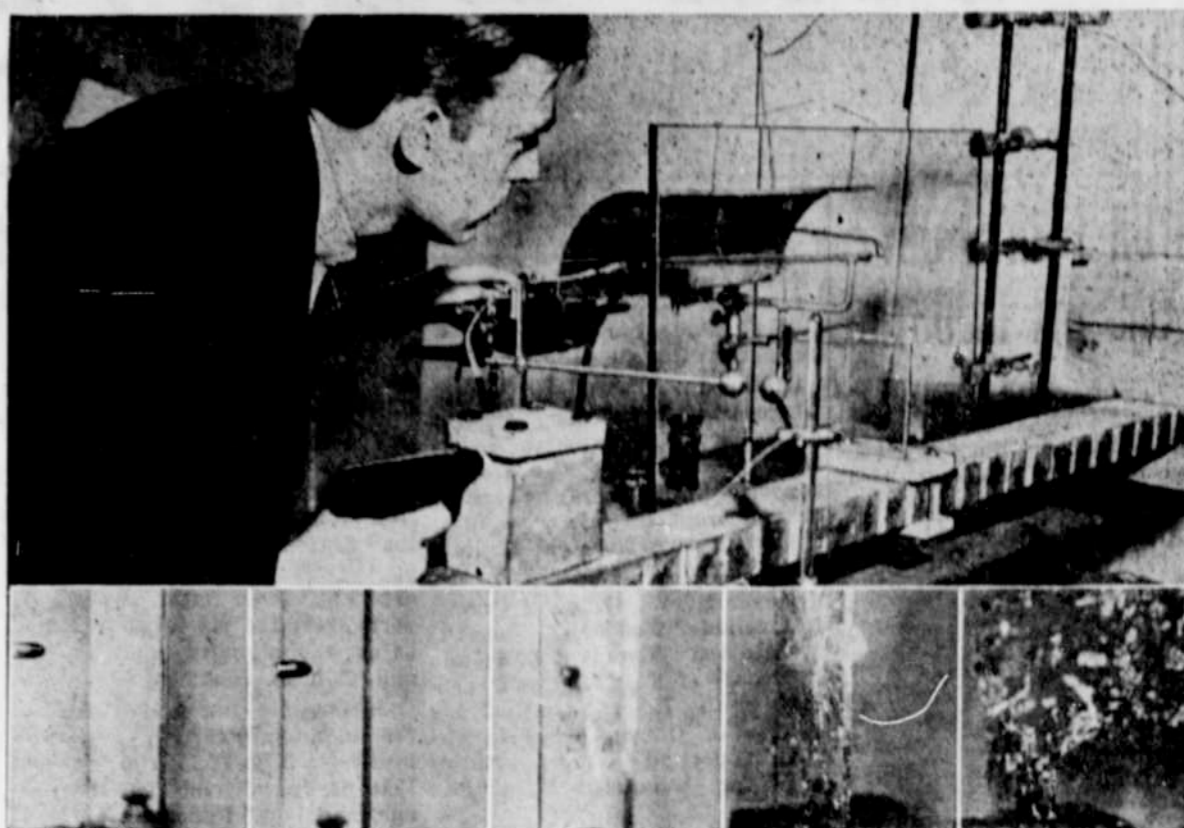
PROF. WALTER B. CANNON of Harvard avoided a mistake made by Howard Scott. When Mr. Scott appeared as the John the Baptist of technocracy, he started taking our measure for its immediate application.

When Professor Cannon put out "biocracy" several years ago, as a cure for the ills of the "body politic," he made it clear that we could take it or leave it. Hence, while biocracy is still in the suspense file, Professor Cannon finds honor and advancement as the newly-elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which body is driving for some grand scale rationalization of science and society. That's the main idea of biocracy—a society which is not at war with the life force.

He is one of the most distinguished physiologists in America, given to novel research. He is the discoverer of a method by which we may hear our brains ticking.

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## Super Speed Pictures Show Bullet in Flight



Extremely rapid photographs, taken at one-millionth of a second, were demonstrated recently by Dr. F. W. Godwin of the Armour Institute of Technology. The process of photographing a bullet in flight (inset) as it breaks through a pane of glass was accomplished by shooting the bullet so that it passes just below two poles of a spark gap; the gases from the firing of the bullet trail the missile, thus setting off the spark gap, which in turn causes a discharge of 38,000 volts in a partial vacuum, for the necessary illumination. An ordinary miniature camera was used in the experiment.

## Pooch Guides Donkey in Daily Jaunt



Sandy, canine pet of a Margate, England, contractor, is a firm friend of the seaside donkeys, three of which are kept at local stables during their winter vacation. Here he is taking one of his friends out for a walk about the neighboring streets. A dependable pooch, Sandy is much in demand for donkey constitutionals.

## ROYAL REUNION



Three-year-old Lance, who was the center of a marital dispute between his parents last summer, being greeted by Count Haugwitz-Reventlow in St. Moritz, Switzerland. Lance's mother is the former Barbara Hutton.

## WINTER SPORTS FAN



Premier Benito Mussolini, an ardent sportsman, both summer and winter, spins down a mountain slope on a pair of skis during a sojourn to Caminate, Italy.

## Peasant Boy 'Strikes' King Boris



As King Boris and Queen Joanna of Bulgaria stood on the steps of a Sofia cathedral, young boys paraded past and "struck" the king with thin staffs as a symbol of their wishes for the king's health and prosperity. Here the king is presenting silver coins to a young peasant boy.

## Mohammedans Prepare for Coming of New Year



Mohammedans will unite in sunset prayer services on February 20, to usher in their new year with picturesque religious observances. Shown here is a Moslem service at the Woking mosque in London, England. The slightly irreverent little girl in the left foreground pays little attention to the advent of the Mohammedan year 1358.