

# DUCE AND HITLER BLOCKADE SPAIN, THREATEN FORCE

### Italian Fleet Ordered to Halt Soviet Supply Ships — Rome and Berlin Confer

ROME, June 2.—(AP)—German and Italian war chiefs discussed military cooperation in Spain today as Italian men-of-war, acting independently of the neutrality committee and threatening force if necessary, established a virtual blockade of eastern Spain.

Two significant developments marked the joint policies of Rome and Berlin against what they deem the Communist influence of Soviet Russia over the Madrid-Valencia government of Spain's republic.

1. Marshal Werner von Blomberg, German minister of war, arrived by plane and immediately engaged in long conversations with Premier Benito Mussolini, who also heads Italy's armed forces. They were believed to have laid the foundations for close cooperation between their forces and to have strengthened their unity of purpose in Spain. A decision for direct Italo-German intervention however, was regarded as a distant possibility.

2. The Italian fleet was ordered to act independently to prevent Russian merchantmen from delivering war contraband to Spanish government-held ports. The Italian warships remained off the government-held stretches of the Spanish coast, they had patrolled in the international neutrality fleet until the Duce withdrew from that plan. Under it, they collaborated with other powers in supervising an international embargo and were enjoined from firing. Now, under strictly Italian orders, they are free to enforce the blockade with their guns.

A reinforced German battle fleet, meanwhile, was understood here to be cooperating in the Italian blockade against Soviet ships carrying armaments to Spanish government ports. (Berlin reports said four additional German submarines were sent today to reinforce the reich's fleet in Spanish waters.)

The erstwhile World War enemies had extremely cordial conversations, well-informed sources said, but they declared the military chieftains had reached no alliance.

II Duce and Von Blomberg were said to have gone into considerable detail on military tactics in Spain and to have approved a vigorous offensive against Bilbao, capital of the Basque province of Spain, against which Spanish insurgents have been driving.

## KITSALANO BAND AT PARK TONIGHT

A large crowd is expected to hear the world-famous Kitsalano boys' band of Vancouver, B. C., at a concert to be held tonight at 8 o'clock in the city park.

The 150-acre band, said to be the greatest junior band in the world, will stop here en route home after appearing at the San Francisco bridge fiesta. The organization is composed of young musicians and has attained world-wide attention.

## FIRES REPORTED SIUSLAW FOREST

EUOENE, June 2.—(AP)—Two forest fires, one of which nearly reached serious proportions, were reported in the Siuslaw national forest late Tuesday. R. S. Shelby, forest supervisor, said today.

One fire was on Vincent creek in the Smith river area and covered nearly three acres before it was controlled. The blaze was in dry fern and officials feared it would spread to much larger proportions.

The other blaze was on Upper Five Rivers and covered but an acre of land. They were the first serious fires of the area this summer.

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# Motor Cruising for Fun

### A Tour to the Recently Completed Owyhee Dam in Eastern Oregon

This newspaper is co-operating with the Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian in presenting a series of motor cruises under the title "Motor Cruising for Fun." It is hoped thereby to stimulate travel in the Pacific northwest. The following article has been condensed from a full-page article appearing in The Oregonian May 29.

BY J. LYNN WYKOFF  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

ALTHOUGH Owyhee dam was completed only last year, already many new settlers have moved onto the lands which will receive its waters; already many of these have grubbed out the sagebrush and given the desert soil its first taste of plow and harrow.

On these new lands, the first year or two, will be grown hay or grains to build the earth to its highest productivity. Then will come other and better paying crops—sugar beets, onions, potatoes, fruits, corn and a diversity of others.

Some farms already under irrigation, which have heretofore utilized water raised from Snake river by pumping, will soon be enjoying irrigation from the gravity-flow system made possible by the new dam.

Probably most Pacific northwest residents, except those in the immediate vicinity of Owyhee dam, little realize the magnitude of the dam and its project of land reclamation, Bonneville and Grand Coulee, with their huge cost and promise of great electric power for industry, have served to dwarf this master Oregon dam, which is great enough to rate among this country's best engineering feats.

421 Miles From Portland  
The dam has been seen by comparatively few and it must be seen to be appreciated. Four hundred and twenty-one miles—Portland to Ontario—plus the 40 miles or so from Ontario to the dam, seems quite a distance to travel just to look at a dam.

At least that's what I thought as I planned the trip and that's what Harold M. Finlay, manager of the La Grande Observer, remarked while we were en route to Ontario.

But those 421 miles of highway present the Columbia gorge, Umatilla wheat lands, the Blue mountains, Grand Ronde and Baker valleys, Burnt river canyon and the high plateau of the Snake river country in a never-ending scenic vista.

The route is paved and smooth the entire distance to Ontario, of course, with the exception of one or two short stretches where repairs of winter damage are under way. Wide curves through mountains and canyons and long, long miles of highway extending straight as an arrow, make it an easy road to drive.

Even in Burnt river canyon, where a narrow, sharply twisting road used to plague motorists, the state has almost entirely finished replacement with a wide, smooth and gently curving highway.

Left Town Friday  
The motorlog car left Portland early Friday morning and reached Ontario in time for dinner the same evening. Saturday was spent on Owyhee lake and at the dam, and Sunday evening found the car coming into Portland again.

After a quick breakfast Saturday, we headed south to Nyssa, and then southwest toward the dam, accompanied by Fred Schlapkohl, our host and guide.

As the car left Nyssa farther behind, well-kept fields and orchards disappeared, and rolling sagebrush-covered desert took their place. Soon, however, came an area where wide fields were cleared of the low-growing desert plant, where plows and harrows were working the soil amid small clouds of dust.

"This is some of the newly settled land," our guide explained. "Most of it is being worked this year for the first time, although in a few valley spots where there has been



An air view of the Owyhee dam and part of the lake

some water available from the Owyhee river, farms were established some years ago.

Land Was Appraised  
"Before the dam was started all this land was appraised and the owners agreed to sell it at the appraisal cost, so there's been no speculation and exorbitant pricing. After a few years come back again and I'll show you prosperous farms and nice homes where these plowed acres and little shacks are now."

Mr. Schlapkohl, bureau of reclamation engineer, explained that the land we were viewing constituted only a small portion of the total area slated to profit from the Owyhee project.

The water will be distributed, by a system of siphons, tunnels and open ditches, over a belt of land extending from a point southeast of Caldwell, in Idaho, to a point in Oregon just across the state line from Waiser. Of the 95,000 acres to be reclaimed, 65,000 will be "new" land, reclaimed from the desert, and 30,000 will be land previously irrigated by expensive pumping out of the Snake.

After a stop to inspect one of the embryo farms, the motorlog car wound its way over the bumpy, narrow road that leads to the dam itself. Down into a valley along the Owyhee river, to follow it upstream, around a bend, and there we were, standing before a gigantic man-made gate between two great rocky promontories on either side of a high canyon wall.

Headquarters Comfortable  
A few hundred feet downstream, shaded by trees planted when the project was first started, is the superintendent's permanent headquarters, a comfortable appearing group of buildings. A small garden



The motorlog car along the Owyhee river

led orderly rows of vegetables, considerably advanced for the season, due to the shelter afforded by rocky canyon walls and the towering dam.

A road up one side of the canyon led to the top of the 417-foot dam, and gave us our first view of the lake behind it, which contains 1,120,000 acre-feet of water.

Leaving inspection of the dam itself for later in the day, we decided to get started at once on the boat trip up the lake—main feature of the day. "Red" Kraeger, diamond drilling expert, wild life enthusiast, crack marksman and pilot, joined us to operate the boat.

With a gentle breeze at our backs we pushed away from the landing float and headed south into what is literally a no-man's land, for no road or trail leads into it, and the only way to reach it, except by just hiking over the rocky ridges, is by boat. Only an occasional sheepherder ever wanders into these hills. This became increasingly evident as we began to encounter wild life of many varieties.

Shoreline Ever Changing  
The shoreline presented an ever-changing panorama of rocky cliffs, great sagebrush-covered bluffs and high-piled basalt columns. In places coloring was vivid, with red and orange hues predominating.

When we stepped on shore to eat the lunch we had brought along, approximately 20 miles from the dam, we had been out about two hours, had seen no sign of humans or human habitation.

A slight breeze blew against our faces as we started back toward the dam. "Red" cocked an experienced weather eye at a few wisps of cloud and remarked it might be well to

get going—that breeze might blow up a wind. How right he was!

For about ten miles the homeward journey was much like the outward one. More scenery, more wild life—an antelope gazed at us curiously from the bank where he had been drinking, but loped quickly over the crest of a hill when we tried to approach closely enough for a picture.

The breeze began to get stronger. The water began to get a little rough, and that little tin boat began to bob up and down on the waves. Then the waves began to curl over with little whitecaps that hissed as they broke.

Wind Grew Stronger  
Minute by minute the wind grew to more nearly resemble a gale, the waves seemed more and more like ocean surf. "Red" Kraeger skillfully steered a quartering course, the motor throttled down to minimum speed.

Every point the boat rounded—and the lake meanders aimlessly among the hills—brought increasing fury to the wind, until the boat's motion seemed more up and down than forward, and until at least one member of the party was firmly convinced with each sickening rise, lurch and splash, that the next wave would swamp it.

Finally even "Red" and Mr. Schlapkohl conceded there was little chance of getting the boat back to the dam, and decided we'd better make for shore and hike the rest of the way.

Our battle against the wind had consumed nearly two hours more than we'd allowed for the boat trip; hence, our actual inspection of the dam itself was cut short.

Mr. Schlapkohl guided us to an elevator, larger than that usually encountered in department stores, pressed a button, and we began to descend into the interior of the dam. Owyhee was the first dam to have an elevator.

Down . . . down . . . down . . . passing four "floors" until we finally came to a stop, 295 feet below the top of the dam. With thousands of tons of concrete around it, and billions of gallons of cold water behind that, the year-round temperature of that gallery would make it an excellent storage room for perishable produce.

From one end of the dam to the other, and out to the north face, where surplus water—the dam is filled and "wasting"—was spouting through the valves provided for that purpose, runs this corridor. Similar ones traversed each of the other four levels.

Gauges and instruments providing constant check on the dam's condition are located in these. Skipping a detailed explanation of these, it is evident that the government builds its dams to endure, then takes every possible step to maintain a constant check on their enduring qualities.

# WAGE-HOUR BILL NOT REVIVED NRA, COMMITTEE TOLD

### New Deal Aide Denies 'Any Parallels' — Killer Pro- posal Meets Opposition

WASHINGTON, June 2.—(AP)—Robert H. Jackson, assistant attorney general, assured a joint congressional committee today the administration's proposed wage and hour bill was "distinctly not an NRA or anything like an NRA."

When Jackson finished his prepared statement, Representative Keller (D-Ill.) suggested there might be written into the bill a flat minimum wage to obtain until the administration board had fixed minimums for each section and industry.

Jackson agreed it would "take some time" to fix the various minimums, but said he believed the provision suggested by Keller would endanger constitutionality of the bill.

The NRA was brought up by Senator Holt (D-W. Va.)

He asked if the bill didn't "do in a mandatory way what the NRA tried to do in a voluntary way."

"I suppose we have tried to reach some of the same objectives as NRA but I don't see any parallel in the workings," Jackson replied.

He added that he was aware the bill was "popularly called a new NRA."

Chairman Black (D-Ill.) of the senate labor committee interposed, "you mean it's called a new NRA by those who don't want regulation of hours and wages."

Black said he had voted against NRA but had introduced the pending bill in the senate. He pointed out that it would "give the government the right to control labor practices and would not delegate it to any group of employers as the NRA did."

Jackson advised the committee that long established precedents were the basis for the bill.

Except for its child labor provision, he said, the bill was backed by previous definitions of federal power to regulate interstate commerce.

# WARM DAYS SPEED CROPS IN STATE

PORTLAND, June 2.—(AP)—Warm weather following upon a cool period speeded growth of Oregon crops in the past week, which saw extensive planting of corn, the U. S. department of agriculture weather summary said today.

Winter wheat in some eastern sec-

tions was reported as spotted and suffering from dry weather, while the spring crop, although late, is showing good growth.

The set of cherries and prunes was described as "quite spotted" with pears and apples more promising. Spittle bugs were damaging strawberries.

Pasture improvement also brought about a steady gain in livestock condition.

# DEMOCRATIC ROW HALTS TAX VOTE

WASHINGTON, June 2.—(AP)—A dispute among Democratic members over such items as gasoline and automobile levies blocked a vote in the house ways and means committee today on a measure to extend some \$500,000,000 in "nuisance" taxes for two years.

Representatives Dingell (D., Mich.) and Disney (D., Okla.) said they

were planning attempts to eliminate or reduce levies on automobiles and similar products and on gasoline and oil.

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