

# Call for Action Finds Allies Set For Offense Soon

By DEWITT MacKENZIE

Insistence on more action in the war gave the allied governments a rather rough passage Wednesday.

Both were subjected to pointed demands by critical members of parliament for a more vigorous policy, but while British Prime Minister Chamberlain came through the ordeal ruffled though sound, Premier Daladier presented the resignation of his cabinet because of lack of sufficient direct support in a vote of confidence.

The debate in the house of commons was searching. It brought from Premier Chamberlain the declaration that Britain intends to fight to a finish for just such a moral peace as President Roosevelt outlined last Saturday.

But the English statesman failed to indicate to anxious inquirers what action would be taken, or when.

Maybe he was depending for his answer on the sensational British air-raid on the German air-base at Sylt, in retaliation for the Nazi bombing of Scapa Flow the day before. However, while this was an encouraging demonstration of air might for allied peoples, it scarcely served to answer their burning question — what does the Anglo-French brotherhood intend to do about assuming the initiative, and when.

There have been many indications that the British government has hoped up to this point, at least, that the blockade would indeed prove to be the only offensive weapon necessary. The idea has been, of course, to

crack the morale of the German people and cause a revolt against Hitler by cutting off food and war supplies, and a heavy propaganda campaign has been conducted in Germany by the allies to supplement the blockade.

The blockade has been tremendously effective, so much that it has driven all German commerce from the seas, excepting such as finds its way between Germany and Scandinavian ports. In order to increase this pressure the allies in recent weeks have conducted a heavy trade and economic drive in the Balkans, to cut Hitler off from supplies in this important region.

The present agitation in England and France may bring an answer as to whether the allies intend to continue dependence on the blockade to the exclusion of military offensives. It is only fair to say that, while Mr. Chamberlain was able to declare that Britain is ready to meet anything which may grow out of the Brenner Pass conference, still the allies only now are rounding out the preparations for a war of action.

England and France haven't yet reached their peak of preparedness. However, they seem pretty well set for action.

Observers have looked upon the big allied concentration of troops in the near east as providing a logical opportunity for a strategic move against Germany from the rear through the Balkans. There have been increasing indications that this move was under serious consideration. It might come with spring.

# U. S. RELATIONS HANDLED WITH CARE IN EUROPE

By ANDRUE BERDING

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP) — If there is such a thing as a ten-foot pole in diplomacy, the United States government is using it to keep away from even the appearance of taking the slightest part in any peace moves which may be going on in Europe.

Under Secretary Welles, President Roosevelt's fact-finding envoy who sailed Wednesday for the United States, has proved a magnet for all varieties of peace and mediation suggestions.

However, on the eve of his departure, Welles said emphatically that he had not received any peace plan or proposals from any belligerent or other government, nor had he conveyed any such proposals to any government.

As if to buttress what Welles said, the White House chose the same day to caution the country against too great optimism in announcements by both Stephen Early, a presidential secretary, and the president, who said the government lacked any information on the Hitler-Mussolini meeting Monday.

Behind this generally negative attitude lies the following explanation, according to most reliable sources:

To act as an intermediary in the presentation of peace proposals entails a tremendous responsibility. In the first place, the intermediary invariably creates the impression that the proposals are worth while in conveying from one enemy to another.

Besides throwing the prestige of the American government behind a set of peace terms, any such overture confronts a belligerent nation with the gravest of choices.

The belligerent may not feel inclined to accept the offer. If he rejects it, he rejects not only the enemy's terms but also the good offices of the United States, possibly his friend.

There is another reason for the 10-foot pole. There is no definite information that President Roosevelt will not make a peace move of great weight and formality at some future time.

Officials do not look for it to come soon after Welles' return. But it is not at all excluded for some time later, depending on whether a great military offensive has been launched.

# Gandhi 'Takes a Walk'



Mohandas K. Gandhi (above) is shown leaving Birla house at New Delhi, India, for a conference with India's viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, from which Gandhi "took a walk" when the viceroy's "oft-repeated assurance to consider India's demands for independence" failed to satisfy Gandhi.

who have been bombed and machine-gunned without being able to repay.

"I hope I get another chance to bomb Sylt. It is greater fun than dropping leaflets which is a bore."

Richard Taylor, 21, of Melbourne, Australia, had only two hours sleep the night before, and three hours the previous night, when he took off for the German base.

"We could see a blaze for 15 miles after we left the scene," he said.

There never was more than one plane over the island at a time, according to Sergeant Pilot Edward Farrands, 22.

"The first planes found their bearings," he said, "and stayed only five minutes, dropping their loads of bombs which were five or six."

# CANADIAN STAND IN WAR OPPOSED

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 21 (UP)—Canada entered the war without a mandate from its people, the executive committee of the British Columbia district council of the International Woodworkers of America (CIO) asserted today in supporting candidates in the March 28 general election who favor withdrawal from the conflict.

The union complained that "profiteering and increased taxation have resulted in increased living costs, repressive measures have been used to take away our trade union rights and hold down wages, and Canada's participation in the war can under any party of whatever political stripe only mean continued and ever-greater suffering and hardship for the laboring people."

# British Gunner Drops Pair Of Boots Marked for Adolf Hitler During Sylt Attack

By JAN YINDRICH

United Press Correspondent

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Thursday, March 21 (UP)—A 22-year-old red haired air gunner today told how he dropped a pair of boots marked "For Adolf, your fuhrer" on the island of Sylt as royal air force bombers attacked the German air base.

The note attached to the boots added:

"He will wear them out getting away from us."

William Bell, who said he has an uncle in Chicago, told about the boots. He said he "got frozen up and was unable to make a log during the flight."

Bell was one of 40 royal air force crew members who returned unharmed yesterday to their base after the raid on Sylt in which they bombed a German land objective for the first time.

Air-gunner Christopher Stanley, 22, who said he had an uncle in Camden, N. J., said: "We went up to get revenge for the Scapa Flow and fishing smacks attacks. It was darned exhilarating."

But John Lewis, 21, pilot officer from Toronto, Canada, said he was on the flight for another mission — to avenge the death of his pal, John Musgrave, who came with him from Canada and was killed in a dog fight over the North sea.

"We were the first plane over Sylt," Lewis said. "We flew about 15 minutes at about 4000 feet to make sure of our bearings. Searchlights flicked past us but they never pinned us."

"We dropped four 500-pound bombs and it was not until then that anti-aircraft batteries began firing, but the nearest the shells came was 200 yards away."

"We were delighted to get the chance to avenge the deaths of the poor fishermen and seamen

# Last Minute Rush for 1940 Political Filings Forecast By Salem Election Officers

SALEM, Ore., March 21 (UP) — Prospects for the 1940 political crop are still good, but candidates have been unusually slow in filing for political office.

Out of the 450 or 500 that are expected to file by the deadline, April 1, only 150 have declared their intentions so far.

That means, says David O'Hara, secretary of elections in the state department, a last minute rush that will probably bring in 100 or more filings on the last day.

Initiative petitions, especially for old age pensions, have not been so slow coming in. There are several on file now and several more are expected to be filed.

Two of the pension initiatives, that of the Oregon Commonwealth federation and that of the Oregon Pension federation, are almost identical. Both of them would match federal grants of \$20 a month for persons over 65 years of age with a like contribution from the state.

The pension federation, which leaves the problem of raising the funds to finance the state's share of the pension up to the legislature, at first endorsed the federal-state matching plan, then rejected it in favor of pure

ly legislative action and finally pushed aside its objections to file one of its own.

The proposals are bound to split the pension vote. Whatever semblance of a united front they may have had from organization this year will be split into a half dozen groups and the final tally will probably find them with still no more of a pension than they already have.

Another big item on the primary ballot will be the several people's utility district proposals that have cropped up in the past two years.

From records of recent elections it can be seen that the puds are beginning to get more support from the voters than they did in the first disastrous attempts.

The lodestone of cheap power is a particularly powerful one to the people, who are beginning to see from the reductions which have come in power rates lately that they could have been paying less for electricity for the past several years.

The power reductions have lightened the pressure for public ownership in some cases but in others the issue is still flaring.

# DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UPPED BY EARLY EASTER DATE

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21 (UP)—Aided by Easter's falling two weeks earlier this year, department store sales in the twelfth federal reserve district for the week ending March 16 increased 6 per cent over the corresponding 1939 week, the federal reserve bank reported today.

Portland and Seattle stores led with increases of 14 per cent. Los Angeles business fell off 1 per cent. Oakland reported an increase of 13 per cent; San Francisco, 8, and Salt Lake City, 3.

Sales in the district increased 3 per cent for the four weeks ending March 16, as compared with the same period last year. The seven-week period showed an increase of 2 per cent, and the 11-week period, 1 per cent.

# BOOKS OPENED FOR VOTE REGISTRATION

SALEM, March 21 (AP) — Registration books for persons eligible to vote in the May 17 primary were opened March 18 and will remain open until April 18, Secretary of State Earl Snel said today.

Persons who become of age between April 16 and May 17 will be permitted to register, as will those who complete their residence requirements during

that period.

Those who voted in the 1938 elections do not have to register. Candidates must file by April 1.

Looking for Bargains? Turn to the Classified page.

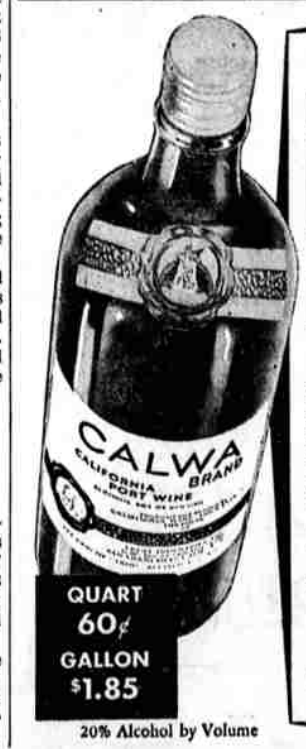
# PRODUCE INTERCEPTED

SALEM, March 21 (UP) — Frank McKennon, chief of the plant division of the state department of agriculture, announced that more than 2,250,000 pounds of produce were intercepted last month because shipments did not meet state grades and standard requirements. Division checkers made 3939 other inspections, including 898 horticultural inspections, McKennon reported.

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# Paul Reynaud, New French Chief, Has Strong Backing

By DEWITT MacKENZIE

Paul Reynaud, who has been commissioned to form a new French government to succeed the Daladier cabinet in which he has served as finance minister, is one of the strongest men in the public life of France.

Reynaud has the confidence of parliament and of the French public, including labor, which is no easy bloc to handle in France. He also has the confidence of Britain, a vital factor in view of the alliance.

He possesses great vitality, is wholly fearless and is a man of action. He has the additional quality of steadiness and sound thinking.

Reynaud is credited with being one of the world's greatest economists and it is the brilliant work he has done for his country in this line which perhaps provides the greatest recommendation for his selection to head the government. Two years ago he took on his own shoulders the task of inaugurating measures to achieve economic recovery and meet the terrific rearmament costs.

This involved the clamping on of measures calling for a great deal of additional sacrifice on the part of the general public. Labor had to give up temporarily some of its cherished prerogatives, won after a long struggle.

But Reynaud not only carried out his program but won the willing cooperation of the nation. It was a result speaking loudly of personality and leadership.

In the past 10 years Reynaud has served in the cabinets of Andre Tardieu, Pierre Laval and Edouard Daladier, his retiring chief.

Only five feet five, Reynaud is 62, widely travelled, an accomplished linguist, member of the chamber of deputies since 1919 and backer of many unpopular causes. Those causes frequently have been won eventually, bringing Reynaud back to popularity.

One cause was currency devaluation. He insisted on it after the pound sterling dropped in 1931. When the franc finally was devalued in 1936 Reynaud had won, but he said, "too late."

In the '20's he supported Edouard Herriot in demanding the French war debt to the United States be paid.

**LABELED SAWDUST**

SALEM, March 21 (UP) — Unless manure mixed with sawdust is so labeled it may not be offered for sale, the state department of agriculture announced here. Adulterated fertilizers must be registered or only the straight product may be sold, the department said.

A new kind of geography must be taught—the combining of our human resources with our natural—Charles W. Elliot II, director, national resources planning board.

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