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LEAD

Great Britain has conscription-- that's the late news. (The house of commons has just passed the bill for compulsory military service in peace time. The Chamberlain government demanded conscription yesterday and got it today. It's a drastic change in the traditional policy of London, something that ^{NO} Britisher thought would ever come to pass.) But now conscription is a law-- by a vote of parliament.

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Grave words were uttered by Chamberlain in a stormy conscription debate. He faced bitter labor opposition, British workers opposed to the innovation in British policy. Chamberlain said with measured words: "I don't want to give the idea that war is imminent. I do not think so. I do think," he warned, "I think that we are in a position in which every little one way or another may decide whether war is going to come or not." (The issue of peace or war in the balance-- and very little one way or another might decide.)

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The prime minister then argued that with things in such a precarious condition, it would be mad for Britain to neglect any measure of ~~defence~~ defense, such a measure as conscription. And then he went on to a ticklish point. He said that a sneering remark was being made,

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an ancient bit of mockery. "The old jibe was repeated," said Chamberlain, if that Britain was prepared to fight to the last French soldier." To escape that jibe-- they must have compulsory training of British soldiers.

Chamberlain let parliament know that he was in dead earnest about conscription. He said that if the opposition made too much of a quarrel on the issue, his government would call a general election and let the British public decide.

8 Labor poked savage fun at Chamberlain-- mostly on the score of the broken promise. It was n't so long ago that the prime minister assured Parliament that his government did not intend to resort to compulsory peace - time military service. But he has changed his mind. He admitted that today. And labor taunted him with it.

All opposition was in vain. Earlier in the day, the conscription bill was passed by the house of Lords -- no fight against it there. Then the Commons voted, and the conservative majority swept the bill through-- compulsory military training for all men of twenty.

~~End~~

Ireland.

In Ireland the cancellation of the DeValera trip to the United States is provoking plenty of speculation. The Irish President is supposed to have appeared in official capacity at New York's World's Fair, but he called it off suddenly. To the Dublin parliament he gave a rather enigmatic explanation - - saying that the cancellation was because of certain : - - "grave offenses." He did'nt say what those offenses might be.

Today the report is that President DeValera was greatly concerned about the latest action of the North Irish government. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ulster ^{to} ~~will~~ accept conscription as decreed by the London government.

It is assumed that compulsory military training will include the Northern Irish counties. Today Viscount Craigavon, the Ulster Prime Minister, said that Ulster will automatically obey. "We as part of the United Kingdom, said he, "would fall in line with the rest of the country. No special legislation will be required" he added. It is significant the way he used the words -- rest of the country, not the rest of Ireland, but the rest of Britain.

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And here's the latest: the Ulster premier has sent a request to London-- asking the British Government to include Ulster in the compulsory military service act.

British conscription in Ulster would naturally include ^{a considerable} ~~the large~~ element of the population that is nationalist Irish, and wants to join up with the rest of Ireland. How those northern nationalists will take conscription is a question. A question that has caused president DeValera to cancel his trip to the New York ~~Exhibit~~ World's Fair-- that's the supposition.

PEACE.

In England there's a movement for peace, which today was joined by three strangely contrasting individuals. The anti-war campaign is being conducted by a Catholic newspaper of London, which is calling for a World conference to preserve peace. The three contrasting personalities that joined today are - - the Duke of Windsor, Sir Oswald Mosley, chief of the British Fascists, and William Gallagher, the Communist member of Parliament who is exceedingly red. These three would seem to represent what was is often called - - "all elements of the population."

PRINCE.

TP The American visit of Crown Prince Olaf and Princess Martha of Norway began in eventful fashion today. They arrived at New York harbor aboard a Norwegian liner, which called for a pilot to guide the liner into port. A pilot boat put out to deliver a pilot to the liner, and the liner ran smack into the pilot boat and sank it.

TP The mishap occurred in a heavy fog. The pilot was just getting ready to climb down into a small boat and row to the liner, when out of the white mist suddenly appeared the tall towering bow of the great passenger steamer and on it came, clipping the pilot boat, just about cutting it in two and sending it to the bottom.

TP No casualties, The pilot boat crew, including the pilot, were quickly picked up by the liner. A rather unusual way of taking aboard a pilot. The liner then proceeded on to the harbor, ^{with} ~~the~~ the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway.

TP The royal guests got a cordial reception with New York ceremony, while President Roosevelt at Hyde Park was getting things ready to receive them. The President said today that the royal Norwegian stay at the

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Dutchess County Summer White House will be -- just an old fashioned country visit. And it will be the same when the Danish crown Prince and Princess arrive at Hyde Park. Two royal visits, one after another, first Norwegian and then Danish.

Stahelman,
Apr. 27, 1939

WT in
Cincinnati.
Apr. 27,
1939.

INTRODUCTION TO MR. STAHLMAN.

TP Today in New York the American Newspaper Publishers Association completed its fifty third annual convention--the last act ^{of their conclave at the} being the election of a new president. For the past year the A N P A presidency has been held by James G. Stahlman, publisher of the ^{Nashville} ~~National~~ Tennessee Banner. He is succeeded by John S. McCarrens, general manager and vice president of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

62 / TP Well, I wish I were in New York to talk things over with some of the publishers as they close their convention. But I'm not, I'm ^{down at} ~~in the~~ the Ohio River, at Cincinnati. ~~middle west~~ So best thing I can do is to ~~switch this broadcast~~ to

New York for a moment and ask retiring president Stahlman to tell us a few things about the past year in the newspaper world. Jimmy Stahlman, the Tennessee journalist, is one of the dynamic figures in the American Newspaper Profession. He always has things to say about publishing and editorial matters. So let's ask him - - how about it

^{Are you there - and are you}
Jimmy Stahlman. Ready to talk to us ^{from New York ?}

^{for a moment}

Jimmy

ROOSEVELT RELIEF.

(The President today gave congress the relief figures for the next fiscal year, nineteen forty. He told Congress how much money the Administration wants to take care of unemployment. The figure is one billion and seven hundred and fifty million, ¹a billion and three quarters. Of this nearly a billion and half would go to the W P A.) All this relief money would provide Federal Employment for little more than two million people -- said the president.

7 For the present fiscal year the figure for relief money is two billion and a quarter. So the billion and three quarters for the next fiscal year represents a considerable reduction.

(Right now there are three million persons on the relief roll. Today's appropriation calls for reducing that figure to two million, a cut of one third.) The President's proposal to Congress explained that business conditions seem likely to improve, ~~which~~ with increased employment-- hence the possibility of relief reduction.

HIGHWAYS--FOLLOW RELIEF

77 The President had something else to say to Congress today, - - he talked about roads. He presented a highway program drafted by the Bureau of Public Roads, the idea being to create a National network for country-wide traffic. The purpose? ~~is~~ To meet increasing transportation need in peace time, and ^{also} ~~so~~ - - national defense. In case of emergency we should have roads across which traffic for national defense could buzz from one end of the country to another.

77 Today's project calls for a huge highway system comprising twenty six thousand seven hundred miles of roads. It specifies five east to west traffic lines and seven from north to south. One of these from north to south would be a Maine to Miami highway -- Maine, Boston, ^{New}York, Washington, Savannah, Georgia and Miami. At present many a highway avoids large cities. Under the presidential highway program these would be routed right through the cities by the construction of what they call "depressed" thoroughfares, roads down below level. In addition to the main traffic lines, secondary highways would be constructed, whole mazes of them-- acting as feeders to the main thoroughfare.

CHIEF OF STAFF.

Here's news - - a new chief of staff of the United States Army. And it's decidedly unusual news - - because the new chief of staff is not a West Pointer. General Malin Craig is retiring because of the age limit, and today President Roosevelt nominated his successor, Brigadier General George Catlett Marshall. General Marshall is a fifty eight year old Pennsylvanian. He didn't go to Westpoint - - he graduated from the Virginia Military Academy and joined the Army at the time of the Phillipine Insurrection. He rose in rank from one grade to another -- a first - rate military career. And now he becomes - - number one Army man.

Defense.

The army today told of huge orders it has placed - - orders for warplanes. (This⁴ beginning the program of raising American Air power to a total of six thousand planes. How many planes is the Army buying to begin with? Five hundred and seventy one. Here's the way the orders are itemized:~)

Two million eight hundred thousand dollars worth of flying fortresses - those huge four motored bombers. Nearly thirteen million dollars worth of small speedy fighters - - a single motored pursuit type, one of the fastest in the world. Two million dollars worth of pursuit interceptor planes - - these are fighters of a larger kind, twin motors. A million dollars worth of another sort of pursuit interceptor. And half a million dollars worth of photographic planes - - to be used for observation, mapping, camera work. ^{TR}In addition to the orders announced today, assistant secretary of war Johnson revealed that additional contracts for nineteen million dollars will soon be placed for a new type for attack bomber, recently developed and tested. This list of airplane purchases is designed to give us a balanced air force, proper proportions of various kinds of sky-fighting craft: - planes for bombing, planes to shoot down bombers, planes to assist military operations on the ground.

EMBARGO.

A congressional move was made today to put an embargo on Japan. The proposal was made by Senator Key Pittman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who introduced legislation that would permit the President to cut off trade with the Far Eastern Empire.

Our present neutrality legislation, now in force, forbids the selling of war material to any country at war - - both sides in any battle.

The president has never applied that neutrality mandate in the China-Japan war - - one technical point being that neither of the two countries has ever declared war. The real reason is that if we embargoed both, we'd cut off war supplies to defending China. But, on the other hand, by selling to both, we'd be supplying materials of battle to aggressive Japan - and there has been much complaint about that.

It's something of a neutrality dilemma, and this dilemma senator

~~Pittman of the Foreign Relations Committee now intends to solve. He~~

The Senator
proposes legislation that would enable the president to restrict ~~and~~ our trade with any nation that signed the nine power treaty in nineteen

twenty two. That treaty guaranteed the integrity of China. Japan signed it, and now Japan has invaded and occupied a large ^{part} of China.

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In proposing his embargo idea today, Senator Pittman gave an answer in advance to those critics who have been contending that the President should not be given the power to decide which nation is an aggressor and which is not. They say that this would give the President the power to involve us in a war. Senator Pittman said today : "This is one case in which Congress should have no uneasiness in giving the President authority. Because his conduct over many months in relation to these matters has been marked by patience and tolerance," ^{So} ₁ said the ~~Senator~~ ^{Senator}. Meaning - - the President's conduct in relation to ~~the~~ ~~Far East~~, China and Japan.

MUSSOLINI

TP Returning reluctantly to Europe now, for a moment,

The general tenor of the European news is grave though not exactly

jittery or scary. There's ^a ~~surprising~~ report from Rome that Mussolini

is going to confer with Hitler's military chiefs, talk over war plans

with the German Generals. The Duce is said to be doing this because

he anticipates that there may be new complications-- a new crisis.

TP It's easy to see the elements of a possible crisis-- Great Britain's

drastic defense measure in resorting to conscription, that, coupled

with Hitler's speech tomorrow, ^{the Fuehrer's} ~~his~~ oratorical reply to President

Roosevelt's peace proposal. There's no real indication of the attitude

the Nazi dictator will take, defiance or comparative mildness. The

world awaits that issue, awaits that Hitler reply tomorrow

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