News Review of Current Events

LID OF TVA BLOWN OFF

Chairman Morgan Demands Congressional Inquiry . . Refuses to Resign . . Spanish Cruiser Torpedoed



Evidently these three leaders in the fight about the administration backed "Third Basket" tax bill did not get enough pro and con on the house floor. They continue their argument in the corridor, with the bill's author, Representative Fred Vinson of Kentucky, right, rebuking Representative Allen T. Treadway of Massachusetts, left, for his opposition to the measure. Representative Robert L. Doughton of North Carolina, center, who introduced the bill to the house, backs Vinson.

SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Berry Claim Cause of Row

LONG existing warfare between Dr. A. E. Morgan, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and his fellow directors, David Lilienthal and Harcourt

Morgan, has come

to a climax, due to

the claims of Sen. George L. Berry for \$5,000,000 be-

cause his alleged

marble quarries

were flooded in the

Norris dam area.



A. E. Morgan

Doctor Morgan has demanded a show-down in the form of a congressional investigation of the whole TVA setup and its activities. A commission appointed by a federal court in Tennessee reported the

claims of Berry and his associates were worthless because their properties could not be profitably operated commercially.

Chairman Morgan then issued a long statement revealing that the quarrel in the authority was due not to differences between himself and his colleagues over policy, but to his efforts to obtain "honesty, openness, decency and fairness in govern-

Dr. Morgan intimated that the Berry deal was only a part of the issue of honesty and decency which he had to face and that there was a lot more he would like to tell a congressional committee.

Lilienthal and Harcourt Morgan retaliated with a long defense statement, severely criticizing the chairman and suggesting that he retire from the commission. President Roosevelt made public this statement, leading observers to believe he rather sided with them. But Chairman Morgan replied that he would not resign under fire and in a letter to Representative Maverick of Texas reiterated his demand for an investigation by congress. Resolutions for such an inquiry were introduced, and Senator Norris, patron saint of TVA and similar projects, sought either to smother the proposed probe or to see that it was carried on by friendly hands.

In the midst of the rumpus Lilienthal announced that the government is willing to buy the properties of private electric power companies in the TVA area provided the owners will sell them at sacrifice prices. The utility officials interested were invited to meet him and Harcourt Morgan for a discussion. Lilienthal said that if the proposed purchases were carried out, private power enterprises would be eliminated in northern Alabama, northeastern Mississippi and nearly all of Tennessee. He also announced that the TVA would be ready to advance cities in the area, otherwise unable financially to purchase local power plants, funds from an appropriation of \$50,000,000 voted by congress in the recently amended TVA act.

Franco Warship Sunk

SPANISH insurgents sustained a severe loss when their cruiser Baleares was torpedoed and sunk in a big naval battle off Cartegena. The 10,000-ton cruiser went down in flames and probably about 300 of her crew were drowned. Some 400 others were rescued by two British destroyers.

The loyalist attack by warships and planes was carefully planned to break the rebel blockade of government ports on the Mediterranean coast. The loyalist authorities were highly elated by this victory in what they called the first real naval battle of the civil war, and War Minister Prieto said they were now prepared to fight the conflict to a finish

on the seas. The British admiralty announced that two British destroyers were at-Spanish coast while on "anti-pira- reciprocal tax immunity.

cy" patrol duty. There were no

General Franco was reported to be reorganizing all his troops from Africa so that he can carry on if Mussolini withdraws the Italian contingents in accordance with the expected agreement with Great Britain. Conversations to lead to that agreement were started by British and Italian diplomats.

We Take Two Islands

UNDER orders from the President, Secretary of the Interior Ickes added to the island possessions of the United States which he supervises two little bits of land in the Pacific-Canton and Enderby islands, in the Phoenix archipelago. Their value is as stopping places for transoceanic air flights to Aus-

Great Britain has held a disputed claim to the two islands, as well as to others of the Phoenix group. The President's order for control of the islands is based on settlements made three years ago by American citizens. The government now is in a position to discuss the conflicting claims with Britain.

Included in the President's order are lands in the Antarctic first visited by Admiral Byrd and other

New French Ambassador

Georges Bonnet as ambassador from France, arrived in Washing-

Roosevelt. The count

old and a bachelor.

citizen of France



and the scion of a long famous family.

Other callers at the White House who aroused much interest were the three unmarried sisters of King Zog of Albania. The princesses are on a pleasure tour of the United States and it is officially denied that they are seeking suitable husbands over here.

Borah Hits Navy Bill

JUST before the house began consideration of the administration's billion-dollar naval construction bill, Senator Borah virtually gave notice that the measure would not get through the senate without a lively fight. He gave out a statement attacking the naval building program as an unjustified step toward "the beginning of another World waran armaments war."

"Such a program is not in the interest of peace," he said. "It is not for the welfare of our people These vast sums are being drained off from the people at a time when they are in sore distress to find means to carry on."

Borah is the senior member of the senate foreign relations committee.

Widens Tax Field

N A 5 to 2 decision of far reaching implications, sweeping aside more than a century of precedents, the United States' Supreme court held that income from leases of state school lands is not immune bers of the chamber of deputies from federal taxation.

Justice Pierce Butler, dissenting with Justice James Clark McReynolds, said it was impossible to foresee the extent to which the court's opinion upsets the long settled principle of reciprocal tax immunity in our dual system of government.

The decision was the latest of a series in which the Supreme court tacked by five airplanes off the has greatly narrowed the field of be spent for measures to increase

Another Trade Treaty

SECRETARY HULL and the Czech minister signed a sweep-ing reciprocal trade treaty between the United States and Czechoslovakia. It includes tariff concessions covering 76.7 per cent of American exports to Czechoslovakia and 55 per cent of Czechoslovakian exports to the United States. Limited concessions on shoes are granted the Czechs, who manufacture vast quantities of cheap footwear for the American market.

No Wage-Hour Bill?

R EPEATED reports that house leaders had decided not to push through the Presiden's wage-hour bill aroused the anger of several members. Chairman John J. O'Connor of the rules committee demanded that a start on "this momentous problem" be made before congress adjourns. He said he would be "greatly disappointed" if a "flexi-ble" wage bill were not enacted at this session, warning that the workers are "concerned with their government assuring some minimum wages which will lift them out of starvation and some maximum hours that will free them from industrial slavery."

Tax Bill Battle Rages

R OBERT L. DOUGHTON of North Carolina, chairman of the ways and means committee, submitted to the house the revenue bill formulat-

ed by a majority of the committee, and the struggle over this measure began at once. The administration leaders claim the act will stimulate trade and remove hardships on both big and little business without lowering the aggre-

R. L. Doughton gate federal income.
Mr. Doughton knew
he had a fight on his hands, but predicted the speedy passage of the measure substantially as reported. The most vulnerable provision admittedly was a proposed penalty tax on closely held corporations. McCormack of Massachusetts and Lamneck of Ohio filed a separate report attacking this feature.

Republican members of the committee united in a report which blamed New Deal taxes for the 'Franklin D. Roosevelt depression" and which charged that the tax on closely held corporations is a political weapon to be used to purge the nation's business structure of corporations controlled by New Deal

Chairman Pat Harrison, Democrat, Mississippi, of the senate ficommittee, said his group would begin hearings soon on the measure. A majority of his com-mittee is reported to be opposed to several provisions of the house bill, including the retention of the principles of the undistributed profits

Veto Power Refused

EGISLATION granting President Roosevelt's request for COUNT RENE DOYNEL DE power to veto individual items in appropriation bills was refused by a senate-house conference committon and proceeded

Such a provision had been added to the White House in full regalia, to present his credentials to President agreed to the elimination.

is fifty-four years Corn Acreage Cut He is a distinguished

FARMERS of 12 commercial corn producing states were told by the Agricultural Adjustment administration that they might plant this year in corn 40,491,279 acres in 566 counties. This compares with 58,-816,000 acres in 1,123 counties harvested last year. The complete national goal for 1938, including the commercial corn acreage allotments, is 94,000,000 to 97,000,000 bushels.

Disaster in California

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, especially the region about Los Angeles, was swept by a destructive flood following extraordinary rains. Nearly 200 persons were drowned or killed in landslides and thousands fled from their homes. It was thought the property damage might reach \$65,000,000.

Czechs Defy Hitler

HITLER is progressing with the nazification of Austria, with the aid of Interior Minister Seyss-Inquart, the latest concession being

the opening of state payrolls to hundreds of Nazis. But Czechoslovakia will be a harder nut for the fuehrer to crack if Premier Milan Hodza knows what he is talking about. In a statement at Prague Hodza defied the threats of Germany and told the frantically cheering mem-

Milan Hodga that Czechoslovakia, if the necessity arises, will "defend, defend,

defend herself." Hungary is entering the arma-ment race to the extent of her limited abilities. Premier Dayanyi announced an internal loan of \$200,-000,000 would be floated and that the money would be used principally for air defense and other rearmament measures. Some of it, however, will employment.



WHO'S **NEWS** THIS

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

WEEK

NEW YORK.—Many years ago, in South America, this writer was always hearing somebody mutter "Perros!" (dogs), as he passed

by. It expressed dislike of all North Propaganda Trick Hurt Americans. Upton Sinclair's book, U. S. Trade "The Jungle," about the Chicago packing houses, had been carefully mistranslated, in

a widely circulated version, which made multitudes of South Americans believe all North Americans ate dogs. Even in remote jungle towns, I found European trade scouts and salesmen making diligent use of the book. It was the neatest trade propaganda trick of the century.

The one-sided battle has contin-

ved through the decades. Late reports are that South American ra-dio stations are belting Uncle Sam with everything at hand, and, to

the same degree, apostrophizing Italy, Germany and Japan.

For this reason, there appears to be more than meets the eye in the printed story of our new airwave rearmament, and the assignment of a new short-wave channel for broadcasts to South America.

With Secretary Hull, Dr. L. S Rowe, director general of the Pan-American union, pleads for "strong-er cultural ties" in the first broadcast. Spanish translations follow the English version.

While all this is in the name of "peace and good-will," and official announcements carry no hint of a defensive propa-

Radio Aids ganda war, it apin Fighting pears to be the answer-perhaps the U. S. Smear only possible reply—to the widespread smearing campaign against the U.S.A. in Latin American countries.

The sixty-six-year-old Dr. Rowe is a happy choice to head Ameri-ca's "cultural," if not propaganda, outreach in this direction. become widely known and decidedly persona grata in South America in his 32 years of pleading and prose-lyting for solidarity, friendship and understanding in the Americas.

He has fraternized with South Americans more than any other northerner, lecturing, writing, evangelizing and expounding his doctrines of friendly co-operan-always on the high plane of cultural and intellectual intercourse. He has been head of the Pan-American union since 1920, succeeding John Barrett.

L IFE begins at forty for Gracie Fields, English Music Hall actress, who curtsies to the king and becomes a commander of the Order

Career of Stage Star

of the British Empire. It is another Jane Alger story, this tale of the Lancashire mill girl who became the highest-paid

entertainer in the world. Her earnings from her 5,000,000 gramophone records, and from the stage and cinema have reached \$750,000 a year. Her film, "Mr. Tower of London," ran seven years. She lives simply with her

mother, who manages her affairs, and never has anything more than pocket money. Every so often she visits Rochdale, the mill town where she sang for pennies at the age of seven, and has a rollicking time, singing for her old friends.

She was a "half-timer" in the cotton mills, half the day in school and half at work. In 1930, she made a brief appear-

ance at the Palace theater in New

York. It wasn't Act Spoiled much of a sucby Fear of cess. She ex-Gum-Chewers plained afterward that she had been warned in England that entire audiences in America chewed gum together and in time, with dreadful facial contortions. This frightened her and spoiled her act, although, she admitted, there was only one

observable gum-chewer. She was glad to land safely in England, where she is widely beloved and known as "Good Old Gra-

Just a few days before her fortieth birthday, she returned home from a party at four o'clock in the morning. The milkman, the policeman on the beat and a streetsweeper ceremoniously handed her a morning paper with her name in the king's honor list. She is tall,

blonde and merry.
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Oilcloth in the Making Oilcloth is a thick canvas coated on both sides with thick oil paint. First the canvas is passed through liquid glue, etc., pressed by heavy rollers, dried, and rubbed with pumice-stone. The paint is applied in several coats, the final coat being in a pattern. The quality of the oilcloth is governed by the number of

STAR DUST

Movie · Radio *** By VIRGINIA VALE ***

HE millions who have read and loved "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" will rejoice that it has been brought to the screen almost intact. A few memorable scenes of the classic of boyhood had to be skipped, but the important ones are all there, the whitewashing of the fence, Muff Potter under suspicion of murder, Tom's startling appearance at his own funeral.

Filmed in Technicolor, the tones are subdued and pleasant, making the town and all its inhabitants of some sixty years ago look entirely natural.

There was a great to-do a year or so ago over David Selznick's country-wide search for just the right boy to play Tom. Finally, Tommy Kelly, son of a WPA work-er, was found in New York. Everyone who sees the picture will surely be glad that Selznick passed up the precocious actors of Hollywood and waited until he found Tommy. For Tommy Kelly fits perfectly the character of Tom Sawyer.

All Hollywood is talking about the great change in Katharine Hepburn. The roustabout comedy that she indulges in for her new picture, "Bringing Up Baby," has affected her manner in private life. No longer is she aloof and haughty. No longer does she scurry away as if frightened, or very bored, when coworkers approach.

Lawrence Tibbett will come back to the screen if Warner Brothers have anything to say about it. They want him for "The Desert Song" and he will have time to make a



Lawrence Tibbett.

picture soon, for Grace Moore is going to replace him on his radio hour.

Joan Crawford was quite startled recently when she heard an early-morning news broadcast announcing that she had left her husband, Franchot Tone, and would soon institute divorce proceedings. She glanced across the breakfast table, and there was Franchot as usual.
"Never mind, honey," he counselled, "they have been trying to separate us for three years, and I don't believe they can do it ever."

Hollywood casting directors deserve a vote of thanks. They have

put back to work three popular actresses who have been playing hookey from the screen too long. Zasu Pitts was dragged out of her kitchen, where she has been busily writing a cookbook, to play opposite Victor Moore in "Strictly Accidental" for R. K. O. Joan Bennett.

just returned from a stage tour and very happy to be settling down in her new house in Beverly Hills, was persuaded to go to Texas to film "The Texan" with Randolph Scott and several hundred long-horned cattle in support. And Claire Trevor, so well liked in her radio serial with Edward G. Robinson, was cast opposite him in a Warner Brothers picture.

ODDS AND ENDS—"Bad Man of Brimstone" revived Wallace Beery's career which has been under a cloud of so-so pictures lately. He will follow that up with a sequel "Bad Man From Arizona"... Peter Van Steeden received congratulatory telegrams from several New York ... Peter Van Steeden received congratulatory telegrams from several New York university professors on the fourteenth anniversary of his radio debut. It seems that in 1924 they excused him from his classes one day so he could audition for a radio program. He has been on the air ever since ... Martha Tilton who sings with Benny Goodman's Tuesday night swing school did the song numbers that Joyce Compton appeared to be singing in the film "The Awful Truth" ... When you see the "Goldwyn Follies" you may think that Andrea Leeds is singing, but your old friend Virginia Verrill of the radio really recorded those song numbers.

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