

The Indianapolis Times

FINAL HOME
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FORECAST: Mostly cloudy tonight and tomorrow; somewhat warmer tonight with lowest temperature 40 to 45 degrees.

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FRANCE, BRITAIN PLEDGE POLES AID

MANAGER STUDY MAY BE BLOCKED BY TECHNICALITY

House Clerk Says Resolution Was Neither Signed Nor Handed to Him for Enrollment After Legislative Passage.

BACKERS RALLYING TO 'SAVE' PLAN

Weiss Declares Measure Is Operative and Court Mandate Can Compel Setting Up of Proper Commission.

By WILLIAM R. CRABBE

The resolution setting up a city manager study commission, generally believed to have been passed by the Legislature, may have been blocked by a technicality in the closing days of the session, it was learned today.

State and legislative officials appeared uncertain as to its present status but reportedly the resolution was neither properly signed or enrolled.

The City Manager Committee of the Indianapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce, one of the organizations sponsoring the resolution, was to hold a special meeting this afternoon to discuss the situation.

Rep. Howard Bateman (D, Terre Haute), who led the fight for the resolution on the floor of the House, said he would confer with Governor Townsend and Attorney General Omer Stokes Jackson next week to determine what action can be taken to save the measure.

Senator Jacob Weiss (D, Indianapolis) said the resolution, despite the fact it did not go through all the prescribed technical steps of enrolling and certification, is still operative.

If any of the persons designated to appoint members of the commission object, a court mandate can be obtained to set up the commission, he said.

The Indianapolis City Manager League called a meeting of heads of several civic organizations at the Y. W. C. A. this afternoon to discuss the advisability of forming a Citizens Council for Better Government.

House Passed Resolution

William Insley, chairman of the League's executive committee, presided at the meeting.

The City Manager resolution was introduced into the House of Representatives early in the session and was passed a month later by that chamber and sent to the Senate.

It provided for a seven-member commission to decide on the best method for Indiana cities to obtain the city manager form of government. One member was to be appointed by the Governor, one by the Lieutenant Governor, one by the Speaker of the House, two by the president of Indiana University and two by the president of Purdue University.

Amended by Senate

The resolution passed the House and was amended by the Senate to change the reporting date of the commission from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1. The House then concurred in the Senate's amendment.

At this point the resolution was to have been enrolled, but the clerk of the House said the measure was never given him by the Speaker to take this final step. As a result, it was not signed by the Speaker or the Lieutenant Governor.

Speaker James Knapp said it was not necessary for him to hand down the resolution; that it should go directly to the clerk.

Minutes of House Clerk

(Continued on Page Three)

'WARM WEEK-END' IS BUREAU FORECAST

LOCAL TEMPERATURES

6 a. m.	37	10 a. m.	42
7 a. m.	38	11 a. m.	43
8 a. m.	37	12 (noon)	45
9 a. m.	40	1 p. m.	51

It looks like a warm week-end as far as we can tell now," the Weather Bureau said today.

The Bureau, however, said skies would be mostly cloudy tomorrow, and promised that the mercury will not sink any lower than 40 degrees tonight.

A light snow flurry this morning lasted only a few minutes.

TIMES FEATURES ON INSIDE PAGES

Books	21	Movies	26
Brown	22	Mrs. Ferguson	22
Clapper	22	Obituaries	22
Comics	22	Pegler	22
Crossword	21	Pyle	21
Curious World	22	Questions	21
Editorials	22	Radio	21
Fashions	25	Mrs. Roosevelt	21
Financial	22	Scherer	21
Flynn	22	Serial Story	21
Forum	22	Society	21
Gallup	12	Sports	27, 28, 29
In Indpls.	3	State Deaths	13
Jane Jordan	21	Wiggin	22

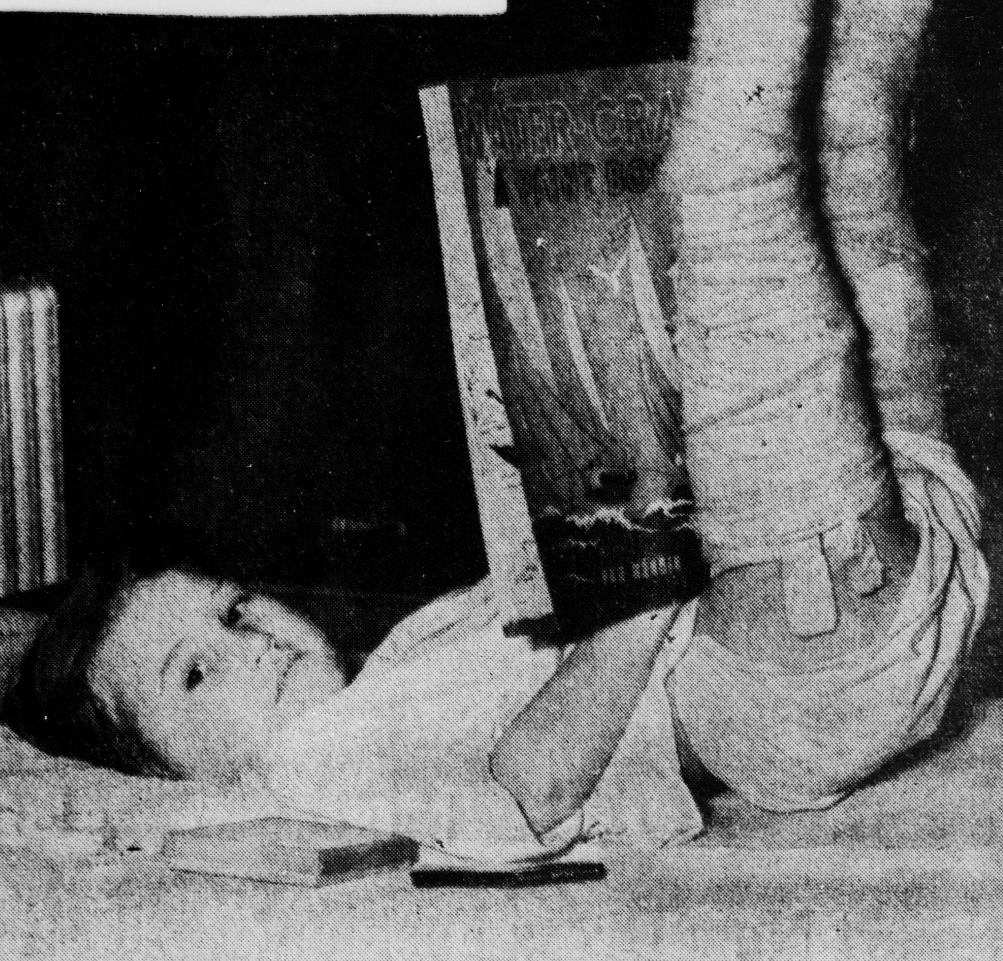
It's No Fun, So Gee—Be Careful!

"Gee, I wish I could have all the fun the other boys and girls will have." The little fellow speaking, uttering both hope and warning from his City Hospital bed, is Maurice Hiten, of 901 Charles St.

Maurice is only 6, but he has a message for the 65,000 or more Indianapolis children who will scamper from school buildings this afternoon for a spring vacation.

Maurice can take it, but it's pretty tough not to be able to get out and play—play to a boy's heart's content. And it isn't so comfortable lying in bed this way. His right leg is fractured so near the hip that it's necessary to truss up the other one, too.

Maurice was playing marbles March 5—but needed more. On the way to the store Maurice darted across the street and was struck by a car.



NEW MINE PACT DEADLINE NEARS

Accord by Midnight Sought So 338,000 May Continue On Job Next Week.

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.).—With the deadline for automatic suspension of mining in the nation's most productive soft coal region almost at hand, negotiators for operators and union miners of the Appalachian bituminous area attempted today to draft mutually satisfactory terms for extension or renewal of the wage-hour contract which expires at midnight.

The present agreement, signed two years ago, provides for a 35-hour week and a basic daily wage of \$8 in the North and \$5.50 in the South. Both sides in the contract conference which started March 14 have waived conflicting demands for an increase or reduction in wages.

A subcommittee of the joint conference, led by Charles O'Neill of New York for the operators, and John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, for the miners—resumed discussions today mindful of the fact that if they fail to reach an agreement, thousands of mines will be shut down and 338,000 miners thrown out of work next week.

Arrangements already have been made for the maintenance of skeleton crews of pumps and watchmen in the mines in the event of a shutdown.

Strike Order Given Miners in Indiana

TERRE HAUTE, March 31 (U. P.).—Approximately 2000 United Mine Workers' members, employed in Indiana strip mines, were ordered to strike tomorrow unless a new contract is signed today with the Indiana Coal Producers' Association. Truck and shaft miners will not be affected by the order.

Officials of District 11 of the union ordered the strike, seeking renewal of the contract which expires at midnight tonight.

NATIONAL AND STATE BANK CALLS ISSUED

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.).—The Controller of the Currency today issued a call for the condition of all national banks as of March 29. The Federal Reserve Board issued a similar call.

The Indiana Department of Financial Institutions today issued a call for the condition of all state banks as of March 29.

Reminder—Five Died in 1938 Recess

A reminder that five public school children died of injuries during last year's spring vacation was made today as 65,000 Indianapolis children began their annual spring holiday.

School records show the fatalities last year during the spring recess took the lives of a 7-year-old girl who died of burns; a 16-year-old Shortridge freshman who fell under the wheels of a truck while bicycling; a youth who drowned when he fell off a raft; another youth who was killed in a motorcycle accident; and a 10-year-old girl, accidentally shot.

"We hope parents, children and motorists will exercise greatest possible care to avoid accidents during this vacation so such tragedies will not occur again this year," William A. Evans, director of schools' safety education, said.

GOEPPER DEAD OF PNEUMONIA

County Democratic Leader, 69, Was Elected Assessor In November.

Albert H. Goepfer, Marion County Assessor, died today at his home, 3055 N. Meridian St. He had been ill with pneumonia and had been semiconscious since Tuesday. He was 69.

He started his business career with the Paul H. Krauss Co., haberdashers. He later became associated with his father-in-law, August M. Kuhn.

Active in Democratic politics for a number of years, he was nominated for County Assessor last April and was elected in November.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Cora Kuhn Goepfer; two daughters, Mrs. Charles E. Cox Jr., of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Edward B. Anderson of Winnetka, Ill.; two sisters, Mrs. Otto N. Frenzel of Carmel, and Miss Lena Goepfer of Indianapolis, and four grandchildren.

Services will be at 4 p. m. tomorrow at Flanner & Buchanan.

CHAMBERLAIN PROMISES MILITARY SUPPORT IF HITLER TRIES NEW GRAB

WARSAW NOW KEY TO PEACE, LONDON TOLD

U. S. Consulted in Cabinet's Discussion of Radical Policy Change.

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.).—Great Britain forcefully warned Fuehrer Hitler today against another grab in Europe, declaring that Britain and France will fight if Poland's independence is menaced during the present European security consultations and Poland fights back.

Prime Minister Chamberlain made the momentous announcement in the House of Commons, disclosing a revolutionary change in Britain's European policy. He revealed that Britain is in close consultation with Soviet Russia on the matter.

After the speech, a Government spokesman indicated that the military pledge may apply to the Polish Corridor and even to Danzig.

"At Mercy of Poles"

Asked whether German action affecting the Corridor would bring British aid, the spokesman pointed out that the statement clearly guarantees British assistance in event of "any action." Regarding Danzig, he said the pledge would apply if Poland resisted action against Danzig with its national forces.

A British journalist remarked: "Well, then, we are completely at the mercy of the Poles."

The spokesman, asked about the possibility of a similar pledge to Rumania, emphasized that the statement was merely a "preliminary" announcement. He said the United States had been kept informed of the Government's deliberations. He indicated that the British decision eliminates the possibility of Polish-German negotiations on Danzig and the Corridor.

Solidarity Stressed

In his speech Mr. Chamberlain revealed the solidarity of France and Britain, saying the French Government had authorized him to make it plain that it stood in the same position as the British Government.

Mr. Chamberlain made the specific statement that in the event of any action which clearly threatened Polish independence during the present consultations and which the Polish Government considered it vital to resist, the British Government would stand by Poland.

Stocks Sink With Wave of Selling

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.).—Prices fell to around the lowest levels of the year as a sudden wave of selling struck the stock market around noon today. U. S. Steel, market bellwether, dropped to a new low for the year at \$52 a share.

2 DIE IN PLUNGE

MICHIGAN, Mich., March 31 (U. P.).—The engineer and fireman of a Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic train were drowned last night when the locomotive struck a landslide and plunged into the Beaufort River.

Democratic Bloc Draws Line Against Aggression 'For Duration of Consultations'; Russia Stands in Background.

FUEHRER TO ANSWER TOMORROW, Italy Ready to Fight and Certain of Victory, Duce Cries; Japan Takes Cue to Seize French Islands Near Philippines.

(Chamberlain Text, Page Nine)

By JOE ALEX MORRIS
United Press Foreign News Editor

Great Britain and France today called Fuehrer Hitler's hand in Central Europe.

In a declaration unprecedented since the World War, Prime Minister Chamberlain announced in the House of Commons that during the present crisis British armed might would go to the aid of Poland in event that nation is attacked, and her armies fight back.

France, known to have the finest troops in Europe, stands with Great Britain.

Thus an aroused democratic bloc put military teeth into Europe's faltering "halt Hitler" movement and sought—without abandoning the hope that the great powers can yet live peacefully together—to end the Nazi method of expansion by threat of armed force.

Mr. Chamberlain made Britain's pledge to Poland at a time when only the vaguest Nazi threats had been made against the Warsaw Government. Nazi officials had denied that Germany had anything but peaceful intentions toward Poland and vigorously denounced as "English lies" the recent reports of German troop movements toward the Polish Corridor or Danzig. Thus the Chamberlain pledge requires no official back-tracking by Herr Hitler.

Great Britain took full cognizance of the fact that reports of troop movements were not confirmed. In that way, Mr. Chamberlain avoided embarrassing Herr Hitler by threatening him with war at a time when the Fuehrer was already committed to pursuing an aggressive program.

The British Prime Minister obviously hoped that, by making his declaration now, he would give the Germans an opportunity to hold back and aid in stabilization of peace without losing face.

Fuehrer Speaks Tomorrow

Herr Hitler, who speaks tomorrow, may make his attitude known then.

Mr. Chamberlain's statement meant that the democratic bloc had drawn a line against Nazi-Fascist expansion in both the East and West.

Premier Daladier of France, already had declared that not one inch of French soil would be yielded to Italian demands for greater power in the Mediterranean, although other concessions might be negotiated to give the Fascists a better economic break.

In reply to France, Fascist Premier Mussolini told a cheering crowd at Reggio di Calabria this morning that Italians are "ready to don their knapsacks and are certain of victory."

More important than the immediate developments in Italy's quarrel with France was the determination of Mr. Chamberlain to save his collapsing diplomatic front against Nazi expansion.

Hope for Other Nations

Mr. Chamberlain obviously hoped that Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece would either be influenced by or lend their support to the antiaggression movement, but it appeared that Britain and France had decided to go ahead with their own commitments because they considered speed a vital factor.

The role of Soviet Russia in the changing European alignment continued vague. There were indications that both London and Paris had kept in close touch with the Moscow Government during the present negotiations. In any event, the Soviets are vitally interested in Nazi eastward expansion because it is aimed toward the Russian Ukraine and their estimated 2,500,000 troops would be an important factor in any conflict in Eastern Europe regardless of previous pledges.

Japan also may be a factor. Throughout the last two years, the Tokyo Government has taken advantage of every European crisis to further its campaign for hegemony over Eastern Asia.

Frequently, the Japanese moves have been so closely co-ordinated with Nazi or Fascist marches that it appeared they might have been arranged in advance.

This morning, the Tokyo Government announced it had annexed the Spratly Island group (French) off the southeast coast of French Indo-China.

How Long Will Bloodless Conflict Content Hitler? Europe Feels the Answer Will Shape Its Future

Editor's Note—This is the fifth of a series of uncensored cable dispatches from Paris to the Indianapolis Times by Roy W. Howard of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers. Mr. Howard spent five weeks visiting the major statesmen, diplomats, military leaders and other authorities, as well as "the man in the street."

By ROY W. HOWARD
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PARIS, March 31. — High above the great door that leads to the magnificent office of Fuehrer Hitler in the new Reichschancellery there are carved, on a massive block of red marble, the initials "A. H."

Hitler has gone the other Little Corporal one initial better. Bonaparte was content to mark his architectural monument with the single letter "N."

Several hundred years B. C., a famous Chinese soldier announced that the highest form of military strategy was to attain objectives without fighting. By this measure Hitler has proved himself a master strategist.

Whether the Fuehrer will be content much longer with bloodless victories, or whether the initials over the door indicate the flowering of a



Carves his "A. H." in marble

Napoleonic complex that will be appeased only by armed conflict, is Europe's greatest unsolved problem. Germany today is an armed camp, yet life moves methodically and efficiently, with little deviation from the normal beyond an obvious tenseness. The era of helling Hitler even before one's shaving mirror has given way to a saner attitude.

The much publicized Autobahnen—express highways—are models of efficiency, though they lack variety. The many new Government buildings are monuments to the new Reich or bad dreams expressed

architecturally according to your taste. The two combine to give, in large part, the answer to Germany's haunted elimination of unemployment. In America they would be called WPA or PWA projects and we would continue to publicize our unemployment.

The old night life of Berlin is pretty much a thing of the past. Germans are glad to sleep during the lapses between Dr. Fuehrer's fits of conquest. The better hotels and restaurants give the foreigner little evidence of the known shortage of certain foods. These shortages are best observed in private homes and in the country.

With war talk buzzing in every other European capital, all of it hinging on where Hitler will strike next, there is surprisingly little discussion of the subject in Germany except among the Nazi elite and the younger generation. One reason is the tight press censorship, which doesn't permit the public to obtain sufficient news to cause great agitation. Germany learns the Fuehrer's plans after the fact. A second reason is the grimness of the subject for those who recall the suffering and tragedy of the great war.

Like the Italians, the German people do not want war. But when the Italians are convinced that they are in a position to win, they are not so pacifist. (Continued on Page Nine)