WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

New Government Lending Plan Will Hit Trouble, Say Experts; Strikes Spending Key for 1940

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

POLITICS:
Looking to 1940

"A year ago when the President sent his $4,500,000,000 lend-spend message to congress, I said it was like putting a shin plaster on a cancer. This plan now is just another shin plaster."

What looks like a shin plaster to North Carolina's Sen. Josiah W. Bailey looks to dubious U. S. business men as a timely reiteration of the politico-economic philosophy President Roosevelt expounded before congress last January 4, namely, that "government investment" in U. S. financial stability should not merely be an emergency stop gap, but a long-range standard policy. The new plan:

Government agencies would issue extra-budgetary federal-guaranteed securities for financing self-liquidating projects. Special U. S. authorities would loan a total of $3,860,000,000 within periods ranging from two to seven years, the total program to be divided as follows:

SENATOR BAILEY
Shin plaster for a cancer.

Non-federal public works like bridges, hospitals and waterworks	$350,000,000
Toll roads, express highways, city by-passes, etc.	750,000,000
Railroad equipment to be leased to carriers	500,000,000
Rural electrification expansion	460,000,000
Farm tenancy program	500,000,000
Increase in U. S. Housing Authority's borrowing power	800,000,000
Loans to foreign nations to purchase U. S. surpluses	500,000,000

While Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley assured reporters the measure would pass immediately, political wiseacres took great pains to make an undiluted election issue of it. Almost universally overlooked was the White House's violent retreat from the costly, ineffectual pump-priming methods it has tried before, which consisted not of loans but straight spending. Also overlooked was the small size of a seven-year $3,860,000,000 program compared with $20,678,000,000 the New Deal spent on recovery and relief from 1933 to 1938. Nevertheless many a vital hole and many a political portent could be read from the measure:

Politics. With 10,000,000 still unemployed and national income about $12,000,000,000 under the "ideal" of $80,000,000,000 a year, the administration will obviously seek to perpetuate itself in 1940 by stimulating a temporary recovery as in 1938. Republicans and conservative Democrats point out that the new lending plan provides $870,000,000 to be spent next year; with FHA's new lending power ($800,000,000), with the emergency relief appropriation ($1,735,000,000) and record agricultural subsidies ($1,000,000,000) the coming fiscal year will bring expenditures of $4,405,000,000 as a prelude to the campaign and election. However sincere the President's intentions for recovery, the political connection is inescapable and leads many observers to believe Mr. Roosevelt will positively seek a third term.

Finance. Fears of orthodox U. S. financiers went unnoticed in the deluge of political comment. Among the fears:

¶ It was recalled that even Brain-truster Adolf Berle Jr., assistant secretary of state, recently said such lending methods must eventually lead to government absorption of the country's most productive plants.

¶ Mr. Roosevelt's insistence that the so-called "self liquidating" bonds be taxable brought investigation which revealed many projects are self-sustaining by so close a margin that to tax the bonds would make them a losing investment.

¶ Loans to municipalities will be blocked in many cases by local laws and state regulations covering municipal indebtedness. Most large cities, moreover, have already reached their debt limit.

¶ Since the Johnson act forbids new loans to nations already indebted to the U. S., only South America and Scandinavian countries could use the $500,000,000 trade-boosting loan. Financiers fear a loss here, since there is no method to force collection short of war.

¶ Leasing of equipment to railroads would, it is alleged, be an unsatisfactory substitute for the remedial legislation necessary to place U. S. carriers back on their feet. Restoration of rail prosperity is regarded as far preferable.

FRANCE:
Lesson

When French Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet signed a mutual assistance pact with Turkish Ambassador Suad Davaz, Italo-German aggression into the eastern Mediterranean seemed effectively stymied. Moreover, for Signor Benito Mussolini it was an object lesson in gentlemanly behavior. Results: (1) Turkey is wooed away from the Rome-Berlin axis; (2) Anglo-French wartime control of the strategic Dardanelles makes German invasion of the Balkans less likely; (3) pro-Nazi Bulgaria is isolated; (4) Turkey's big neighbor, Russia, should now be more willing to enter a military agreement with Britain.

TURKEY'S GAIN
It pays to be a gentleman.

Mussolini's object lesson was that Turkey won the strategic Republic of Hatay (Syrian Alexandretta) in return. Though the transfer was probably illegal in League of Nations' eyes, under whose mandate France ruled it, Turkey nevertheless gained by negotiation what Italy has been unable to gain by threat. Stubborn Frenchmen still refuse to bow before Mussolini's demands for Suez canal rights, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railroad and Italian minority rights in Tunisia.

NAVY:
Speed-Up

Fiscal year's start July 1 means new funds for new work in most U. S. government departments. Biggest appropriations for the 1939-40 fiscal year cover rearmament, and before July has passed into history the navy will be well under way with three new jobs:

Bases. Costing $65,000,000 are 12 plane and submarine bases for which congress has appropriated $31,621,000 to handle the first year's work. Outlying bases will be at San Juan, Puerto Rico; Kaneohe and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Sitka and Kodiak, Alaska; Midway island; Johnston island and Palmyra island in the western Pacific. Continental bases will be at Pensacola and Jacksonville, Fla., and Tongue Point, Ore.

Ships. Early June found 75 warships under construction, the program running ahead of last year. Meanwhile 24 new ships are being rushed, including two 45,000-ton "super" battleships. All will be laid down in 1940 and will cost about $350,000,000.

Planes. Effective immediately the "speed-up" policy will be applied to 500 new airships, whose completion during the 1939-40 fiscal year will bring the navy's total to 2,132.

HEADLINERS

REAR ADM. HARRY YARNELL

A pop-eyed Japanese consul in Shanghai received an unexpectedly brusque message recently for transmittal to Tokyo. It said that the American navy will go "wherever necessary" to protect American citizens and that it expects no interference from Japan, who has been trying to shove Occidentals out of the Orient.

The message came from Rear Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, spare native of Independence, Iowa, director of America's Asiatic fleet and unofficial Far Eastern diplomatic representative since October, 1936. It was almost the parting shot of a man who has won virtually all disputes with Japan growing out of the Chinese war. For Mr. Yarnell, who meantime has won the admiration and even the respect of Japan, will reach statutory retirement age in July.

Veteran of the Spanish-American war, Philippine insurrection, Boxer campaign, Vera Cruz occupation and World war (where he commanded the U. S. S. Nashville), his most difficult assignment is the present one. He will be succeeded by Rear Admiral Thomas C. Hart, possibly returning to his prairie home after a job well done.

How It Works

ANGLO-U. S. BARTER PACT

Most nations are deficient in some natural resources and have too much of others. In wartime, inability to export non-essentials and import essentials would be a military handicap. Friendly nations can prepare in advance against such emergencies without disturbing their economic balances. Under the new American-British barter treaty, the U. S. will give England $30,000,000 worth (or 600,000 bales) of surplus

COTTON, such as Britain needs for shells like these. It will come from 11,300,000 bales held by the U. S. as security for loans to farmers, thereby relieving pressure on the domestic market. In return, Britain will give the U. S. 85,000 tons of

RUBBER, such as the army would need in wartime for purposes like tires for the above anti-tank gun. Britain will buy the rubber on open market. Each nation will hold the reserves for seven years as war stocks. Later other materials may be bartered, for America needs items like tin, chromium and manganese. Although the U. S. deplores barter as fostered by Germany, the new arrangement will merely supplement existing "favored nation" treaties and is not a basic economic tenet.

AGRICULTURE:
Strange Feeling

America's "dust bowl" lies roughly in the Panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma, eastern New Mexico and Colorado, and western Kansas. In 1936, at the drouth's depth, some 16,000,000 acres of once-valuable grain and grazing land lost part of its topsoil under ferocious winds that brought no moisture.

Reclamation followed, featured chiefly by conservation of rainfall and "fastening down" of the soil with hardy vegetation. Thousands of square miles were terraced and cultivated in contour furrows that held the moisture and stopped erosion. By this spring the 16,000,000 "blow" acres were reduced to 800,000.

As wind-weary farmers began harvesting the summer's crop, they could look back on a prodigious job well done. Whereas 1935 yielded a wheat crop of only 4,000,000 bushels, the dust bowl's elevator men expect from 15,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels when this season's grain is threshed.

Smiling, likewise, were drouth-ridden farmers of northern plains states (Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana). Though their land was still quite dry and this year's prospects none too good, they have felt something unusual this summer—rain.

TRANSPORTATION:
Pedestrians

"He has been sadly neglected and has had to shift for himself. He has evolved the simple philosophy that his job is to get across the street as best he can. He joins with other pedestrians in mass violation of traffic lights. In rural areas he walks on the pavement, on the wrong side of the road, and wears dark clothing at night."

This, said the National Safety Council's Leslie J. Sorenson, is the plight of U. S. pedestrians who in 1938 accounted for three out of every five persons killed in traffic accidents. What made the situation more startling were figures showing two-thirds of pedestrians killed were violating a traffic ordinance or committing an unsafe act. Thirteen per cent of them had been drinking; only 9 per cent of drivers involved in fatal accidents had been drinking.

Suggested cure: Make pedestrians obey stop signals and other traffic regulations just as automobile drivers must do; build sidewalks in the country.

FORECAST

PURGE—Succeeding retiring Gov. Richard W. Leche, the late Huey Long's brother Earl is expected to "purge" the political machine created by his illustrious brother, thereby preserving an air-tight organization being threatened by dissension. First to leave: Dr. James Monroe Smith, whom Huey Long named president of Louisiana State university.

WRECK—Evidencing the need for better submarine rescue equipment, salvagers of the sunken U. S. submarine Squalus predict the boat will not be raised until at least late July.

Belgium Opens New Canal As Aid to Economic Life

Albert Waterway Connects Port of Antwerp and Industrial Liege.

WASHINGTON. — The Albert canal, magnificent manufactured waterway connecting the port of Antwerp with the industrial city of Liege, has been completed. To celebrate this event, King Leopold recently opened an International exhibition at Liege, often called the "Birmingham of the Low Countries."

"The canal, which was 10 years under construction, will stimulate the economic life of Belgium," says the National Geographic society. "It will extend industrialization in the Flemish countryside, and will make Liege one of the most important inland ports of Europe.

"Liege, with a population of over 160,000, is the center of Belgian coal-mining and armament industries. Many other plants producing iron, glass, automobiles, and bicycles cast their smoky pall over the city. The first locomotive used on the continent of Europe was built in a suburb of Liege.

Liege Is Chief City.

"Capital of a province of the same name, Liege is the chief city of the Walloon country, the French-speaking southern section of Belgium. Even with its hurly-burly of factories and business houses, it still bears the picturesque imprint of the Middle ages. It is a curious combination of historic charm and progressive industrialism. The town is old, having been founded about the middle of the Sixth century. It is on the Maas river, an international stream which traverses a large part of northeastern France as the Meuse, and finally comes to an end in the Netherlands, after picking up a considerable share of the waters of the Rhine

"For years the city was ruled by a long line of prince bishops who lived regally and maintained large armies. More than once the Walloon people surrounding Liege rebelled against their rulers. The city has been laid waste many times. Charles the Bold, last of the Burgundian dukes, made it the scene of a bloody massacre, described in Scott's "Quentin Durward."

Heroic Defenders.

"About the middle of the Seventeenth century, the Liegeois built a citadel for defense. Before the city became a part of united Belgium in 1830 it belonged successively to Austria, France, and the Netherlands. During the World war its defenders held off the German forces for more than a week. To the stout resistance of Liege, Paris owes much of her safety from capture during the first months of the war. The French government recognized the city's valor with the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

"In the Middle ages Liege was a great cultural center. This tradition of culture is still in evidence. Home of a Royal Conservatory of Art, it fosters interest in contemporary art by annual exhibitions, and protects carefully its art treasures of the past. Liege is the birthplace of Cesar Franck, famous composer and organist, and of Eugene Ysaye, the great Belgian violinist, who taught in its Conservatory of Music.

"In this strange mixture of the smoke of industry and the dust of antiquity, lamp-posts decorated with baskets of flowering plants flaunt patches of brilliant color in the summer."

WHAT IS IT?

Patricia Maylene, 28, of Los Angeles, was bound over for trial on seven counts of forging narcotic prescriptions. The photograph shows Patricia Maylene as she dodged the camera when arrested, covering her head with fur, giving her the appearance of a weird animal.

Law Against Ornaments In Colonies Uncovered

BOSTON.—In 1651 colonists had to own £200 before being allowed to wear gold or silver ornaments, silk bands or scarfs.

But magistrates and other public officers, their families, military officers and soldiers then in service and those whose estates had become "decayed" were exempt from the ruling passed by the general court of Massachusetts Bay colony, according to the WPA historical records survey.

Giant Oak 1,200 Years Old

SAN MARINO, CALIF.—The gigantic oak tree here, known as "The Sentinel of the Ages," is believed by scientists to be the oldest and largest oak in the world. Its age has been established at 1,200 years. The tree's circumference is 20 feet and its spread more than 60.

FELINE FIREMAN

Firemen in a Cambridge, Mass., station are proud of "Sparky," a three-months-old kitten who obeys all the rules. The mascot is shown as she slides down the pole at the sounding of an alarm, following one of the firefighters.

Farmer Brown's Boy Catches Mr. Blacksnake in Orchard

By THORNTON BURGESS

MR. BLACKSNAKE was in no hurry. He had plenty of time. Anyway, he thought he had. He never likes to be hurried when he is dining. He long ago learned the wisdom of taking plenty of time for his meals, though to see him eat you would think him the greediest fellow alive, for he swallows his food whole. Now, as he looked in at the doorway of the home of Drummer the Woodpecker and counted the five babies there his eyes glistened. What a feast they would make! Just before he looked in they had been calling greedily for food, but now they were still. Though they knew nothing about him, they seemed to feel that this was a terrible monster staring down at them with cruel, hungry eyes.

"There is either a snake or a hawk over there," he muttered.

He drew back his head to look about him before going inside, and he laughed as Drummer dashed at him, coming so close that his wings actually brushed Mr. Blacksnake, who might have caught him if he had tried. But he didn't try. He didn't want a tough old bird when right within reach were five tender young birds. So he just hissed at Drummer and all the other birds of the Old Orchard, and ran out his tongue at them. The truth is he rather enjoyed seeing them so frightened and angry and helpless, and that is one reason why he did not hurry to swallow those five helpless babies.

Now, you know, the Old Orchard is near Farmer Brown's House. Farmer Brown's Boy heard the great racket made by the birds as they screamed. Of course he did. He would have had to be deaf not to. He listened for only a brief moment, then started toward the Old Orchard.

"There is either a snake or a hawk over there," he muttered, for he has learned much of the little people who live there, and he guessed from the sound of their voices, the excitement and the anger in them, that one or the other of their two greatest enemies was causing all this trouble. As he walked he picked up a stick and a stone. "They may come in handy," he thought.

Now the birds were so excited, and Chatterer the Red Squirrel, who had been the first to discover Mr. Blacksnake, was so excited, and Mr. Blacksnake himself was so intent on that good dinner that he was so sure of, that not one of them noticed Farmer Brown's Boy until he had almost reached them. Then Chatterer's bright eyes saw him. Chatterer gave a shrill cry of gladness. You know, he and Farmer Brown's Boy are now very good friends. Chatterer is afraid of Mr. Blacksnake, and hates him, and when he saw Farmer Brown's Boy he knew right away that it meant trouble for Mr. Blacksnake, and he was glad. Not that he had a great deal of sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Drummer. If the truth is to be told, I suspect that Chatterer himself would have dined on those helpless babies if he had dared to, but he didn't dare because he has a wholesome respect for the sharp bills of Mr. and Mrs. Drummer. He was glad, not for the sake of Mr. and Mrs. Drummer, but because he felt sure that Mr. Blacksnake was in for a great deal of trouble, for he saw the stick in Farmer Brown's Boy's hands.

"Kill him! Kill him!" shrieked Chatterer, dancing about in great excitement.

And this is just what Farmer Brown's Boy made up his mind that he would do when at last he caught sight of Mr. Blacksnake just getting ready to take the first of Drummer's babies. Of course, Mr. Blacksnake heard Chatterer and looked around to see what it meant. The minute he saw Farmer Brown's Boy he wished with all his might that he had been a little quicker in getting his dinner.

© T. W. Burgess.—WNU Service.

Children Think Fast, Save Smothering Cat

ALAMEDA, CALIF. — Bobby Nelson, 12, and his eight-year-old brother, Ronnie, knew how to diagnose a patient and apply the proper remedy as fast as the most skilled physician. The patient was a cat. It had its head fast in an empty salmon can.

It was apparent that the cat was going to die of suffocation before even they could get its head out. They promptly punched holes with an icepick in the bottom of the can and, with air restored, proceeded to extract the cat's head.

Home Artists Given Chance To Do Murals

By BETTY WELLS

IN A nutshell, the trouble with most rooms is that they don't make any point, decoratively speaking. In design or theme, they aren't one thing or the other but simply a combination of unrelated details. Often it would take very little to pull the whole thing together, but that little makes all the difference.

Take the Hunters' living room, for instance — the furniture was all right; so was the rug. But the effect was dull and uninteresting till Hilda Hunter took the room in hand. To begin with, the rug, an Oriental, was unusual with dull green as the predominating color, so Hilda had the walls painted in the same green, only in a tone not quite as dark as that in the rug. The woodwork was finished in ivory, then Hilda selected a figured linen in cream with the design predominantly brick red. This she used for curtains, and to cover the wall in an alcove made by a pair of built-in corner book-cases. A small sofa in green covering just fit in here and Hilda made a pair of small extra cushions for it of the same linen.

An alcove lined in the patterned fabric used at the windows.

A pair of easy chairs were then covered in a striped material predominantly brick red, while an extra arm chair got a covering of dull deep old gold. Accessories of brass gradually replaced the odds and ends, and Hilda makes a point to have plenty of yellow flowers in her garden to cut for this room—she also likes zinnias here.

Now the room has exceptional distinction and individuality—with the same old furniture. Take a hard-boiled look at your own room and see if you mightn't tighten up the colors to make the most of the things you have.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

Scientists Find Swastikas Used by Jews in Past Ages

JERUSALEM. — The swastika, emblem of Nazi rule, was used by Jews 1,500 years ago, according to a find made on the ancient site of Apamea, an important ruined Seleucid city near Hama.

The city flourished during the early centuries of the Christian era.

Belgian archeologists investigated a synagogue which was found to have an altar standing on a richly decorated mosaic floor, near the remains of a Byzantine church inside the walls of the old fortress of Kalat Mudik.

The hooked cross appeared in considerable number in one corner of the marble squares forming the floor design.

War? Unthinkable, Says London Woman

When Sir John Anderson, British civilian defense minister, planned his air raid precautions shelters, he forgot all about Mrs. Dobson of London, who, through no fault of her own, just can't get through the doorway of a standard shelter. Mrs. Dobson, as you may have noticed, is somewhat oversized, and even with the help of friends is at somewhat of a loss. She undoubtedly believes in a policy of further appeasement.

PAPER SCRAPS MAY SOLVE SHAKESPEAREAN DISPUTE

LONDON.—Hope of a definite settlement of the claim that Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, wrote the plays of William Shakespeare, was offered in three faded, blotched scraps of paper preserved under glass in a show case in the British museum.

Dr. Robin Flower, deputy keeper of manuscripts of the museum, said that he believed, after years of study, that the fragments were written by Shakespeare, and thus were the only original Shakespearean writings known to exist, aside from a few mere signatures.

The three fragments, in untidy writing, are ranged in the museum alongside open pages of a manuscript book in Bacon's neat, scholarly hand. They are three pages from the play on Sir Thomas More, and are part of the world famous Harleian collection of the museum, the collection of Robert Harley and his son Edward, in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries.

"The conditions in which these pages were written," Dr. Flower explained, "imply that they were the original composition of a journeyman dramatist called in by his company to patch up a play to certain features of which a censor might have been expected to object. And the great lawyer (Bacon) or the magnificent nobleman (the seventeenth earl of Oxford) whom wild theorists prefer to Shakespeare as the author of Shakespeare's plays do not fit easily in this role."

It was in 1769, more than 150 years after Shakespeare's death, that the theory was first advanced that Bacon really wrote Shakespeare's plays. Little attention was caused then but the theory was revived in 1848.

Germany's Utility Firms Pay for Farm Equipment

BERLIN.—The Reich price control commissioner has decreed an annual assessment of 35,000,000 marks for a five-year period on public power and utility plants that will be devoted to supplying German peasants and agriculturists with motors and power-driven farm utensils. The equipment will be supplied free of charge, the recipient paying only the cost of installation.

Through previous decrees German agriculture already has assured reduced rates for electric power. This "electrification" of farms, it is announced, is designed to mitigate the chronic shortage of farm labor and, incidentally, enhance agricultural productivity generally. It is also intended, says the official announcement, to relieve farmers' wives from excess manual labor as the free electrical equipment can also be diverted to domestic and household purposes.

Canadian Pensions Costly

OTTAWA, ONT.—The cost of caring for Canada's aged amounted to more than $35,000,000 in the fiscal year ended March 31. A report submitted to the house of commons by Finance Minister Charles Dunning showed that the dominion government contributed $28,283,284 toward the care of the country's 181,514 old-age pensioners, and the provincial governments contributed another $7,070,821. The government pays 75 per cent of the cost.

Chinese Hold Classes In Caves in Mountains

KWEILIN, CHINA. — Students from various parts of China are now flocking to the caves in the mountains of Kwangsi near here.

When schoolwork seemed at a standstill as the Japanese were incessantly bombing this mountainous province, a Chinese teacher, Tao Tze-shing, hit upon the idea of using the 18 huge caves for schoolhouses and it proved at once an unqualified success.

The Han Min middle school, formerly of Nanking, the Kiangsu educational institute, and the China vocational educational institute which was once in the French concession, Shanghai, are all now in the large Kwangsi caves. In the smaller ones are libraries.

Numerous radio sets have been placed in these improvised schoolrooms and the students are kept fully informed of all that is going on in the present clash.

Oldest Foreign Mission Is Nearing 130th Year

ST. LOUIS.—The oldest foreign missionary society in America, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, will hold its 130th annual meeting here this fall.

The board, founded in 1810, will meet October 24-26 in conjunction with the Midwest Regional Conference of Congregational and Christian Churches. General theme will be "The World Christian Community at Work," and the program will feature nationally and internationally known church leaders as well as business and professional men. Delegates are expected to number 500.

The Midwest regional area includes churches in 19 states—Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas.