WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Charge Pittman Embargo Bill Constitutes Admission by U. S. Of Japan's Belligerent Rights

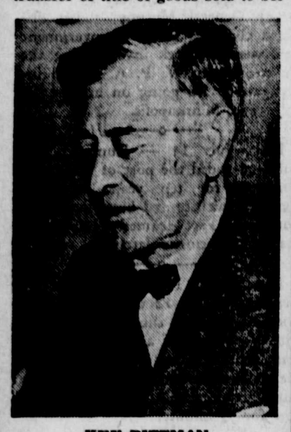
(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CONGRESS:
Neutrality

First guesses after the senate foreign relations committee tabled the Bloom-Hull measure held that neutrality was a dead issue this session. Not counted upon were Sen. Key Pittman's enthusiasm and the White House's insistence. Because President Roosevelt evidently feared a European war after the harvest season, he demanded that neutrality legislation be passed this session. Nor would congressional objection avail much; filibusters are a handy weapon for stalemating legislation, but the President's special session threat made it seem more desirable to act now than be called back from vacation.

The President's program: (1) retention of the munitions board; (2) barring of American ships from combat zones; (3) restriction of American travel in such zones; (4) transfer of title of goods sold to belligerents before shipment; (5) continued restrictions on loans and credits to warring nations; (6) regulation of fund collections in the U. S. for belligerents.



KEY PITTMAN
Japan would suffer, also gain.

Though all inclusive and apparently carrying more tenacles with which American isolationists fear the U. S. might become involved abroad, the President's program carries far less potential dynamite than Senator Pittman's measure. Under this bill, the President would be forced to declare a munitions embargo against any nation violating the 1922 nine-power Chinese non-aggression treaty. The obvious target: Japan.

But what Mr. Pittman apparently forgot is that such declaration would constitute American admission that a state of war exists in China—a fact Japan has never admitted. Japan would thus gain belligerent rights in China and U. S. interests would have to flee the war zone. Thus America's entire Oriental position would be toppled, and the embargo would have little effect unless Great Britain follows the unlikely course of adopting similar tactics.

Most vital from a White House viewpoint is immediate repeal of the existing arms embargo, which the President and Secretary of State Cordell Hull believe gives encouragement to Dictators Hitler and Mussolini, who know that in event of war with Britain and France the ban on U. S. arms shipments must be invoked against all belligerents. Isolationists, admitting this, think it would be a good idea.

AGRICULTURE:
More Trouble

On July 1 the U. S. looked forward to a wheat crop of 716,655,000 bushels, comparatively small beside last year's 930,801,000 bushels and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 752,962,000 bushels. Obviously, wheat is not a source of worry for Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace this year. But a job with more than its just quota of worries has produced three others to take the place of wheat:

Tobacco. Last year growers voted to remove strict marketing control provisions of the farm law, resulting in a big expansion of acreage this year. As of July 1 the tobacco forecast for this year was 1,654,622,000 pounds, compared with an average crop of 1,360,400,000 pounds. If estimates materialize, some experts believe prices will be depressed 25 per cent below last year; also that—under law—another referendum must be held on tobacco quotas. If approved the quotas would not become operative until the 1940 crop started to market.

Corn. Forecast now is a crop of around 2,570,795,000 bushels, compared with the 10-year average of 2,309,674,000 bushels. Reasons: (1) unusually favorable weather in June; (2) a sharp increase in plantings of high-yielding hybrid corn. With a surplus of about 450,000,000 bushels from previous seasons already on hand, experts predict some governmental action will be necessary to forestall undue price depression. If marketing quotas result, approved by two-thirds of corn-belt farmers, growers would be required to store their share of the excess supply or pay a penalty tax of 10 cents a bushel.

Cotton. With 14,350,000 bales of cotton hanging over his head, Secretary Wallace persuaded congress to give him $928,000,000 for curing the surplus problem. Of this, a large part will go to cotton, distributing it among U. S. relief families and offsetting losses in selling cotton to foreign buyers at cut-rate prices, i.e., government subsidy. But in New York the Cotton Exchange service moaned a few days ago that cotton exports this season may be the smallest in more than 50 years, not in spite of, but because of government aid. The factors:

"First—American cotton has been priced roughly at one cent a pound above competitive relationships with foreign growths that can be readily substituted for American cotton. This, in turn, being due to the fact that American cotton prices have been largely pegged by government loans.

"Second—For several months foreign users of American cotton have not dared to make normal forward purchases of the American staple because they have not known to what extent the price of American cotton abroad will be lowered by the prospective subsidy payments on exports by the U. S."

POLITICS:
Yes or No?

One good way of ruining an opponent is to give him so much rope he hangs himself. When Indiana's one-time Gov. Paul V. McNutt returned from his $18,000-a-year post as governor general of the Philippine islands, he became the nation's No. 1 outspoken seeker after 1940's Democratic nomination. What amazed onlookers was that he boldly walked into the lion's mouth, conferring with President Roosevelt and his traditional enemy, Postmaster General James A. Farley. What amazed them still more was Paul McNutt's appointment a few days later as $12,000-a-year head of the newly created U. S. security agency. What did it mean? Was Paul McNutt the President's choice for 1940? Or was Mr. Roosevelt craftily plotting the political suicide of this ambitious Hoosier, thus insuring his own renomination for a third term? The pro and con:

Buildup? "Liberalism" is a much worn-out word denoting the New Deal's objectives. The last few months it has been succeeded by "humanitarianism" as the keynote for 1940. Not to be forgotten is the "humanitarian" scope of Paul McNutt's new job, where he has charge of social security, the office of education, National Youth administration and Civilian Conservation corps, all strong talking points a smart politician can use to further his own cause. Neither should Paul McNutt's travel opportunities be forgotten; as head of the security agency his chances for speeches and political contacts are practically unlimited and he is expected to make the most of them.

MANAGER McHALE
Coming along fine.

Breakdown? The security post is not all roses. Keen observers know Paul McNutt is in the limelight where both Democrats and Republicans can take pot-shots at him between now and nomination day. They also know that his new job may be a good place to build a man up personally, yet "humanitarianism" should have nothing to do with politics; therefore Mr. McNutt must be discreet.

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, McNutt Manager Frank McHale could figure his campaign to date had been a success. His candidate, like young Lochinvar, had come out of the west after 2½ years in Manila, where he could make no embarrassing entangling alliances. More important, he had returned to get what Frank McHale termed the President's endorsement as a candidate for 1940.

HOUSING:
Political Vogue?

Periodically there arises a David who slays the wicked giant Goliath. Usually it sets a fashion until corruptness again catches hold. Last year New York's racket-busting States Attorney Thomas E. Dewey became a David, captured public fancy, inspired radio programs and placed wicked politicians on the defensive. The public obviously wanted reform and no more rackets.

When Tom Dewey began looming as a 1940 G. O. P. presidential possibility, reformation sounded like good strategy for any aspiring politician or party. By early July, Attorney General Frank Murphy had behind him an excellent record of smashing corrupt political machines (like Kansas City's Tom Pendergast) and tracking down income tax evaders. This was the signal for Scripps-Howard Columnist Raymond Clapper to charge that Frank Murphy was trying too hard to win the vice presidential nomination.

RACKET BUSTER DEWEY
Everybody's doing it.

Meanwhile there was arising another administration racket-busting program under guidance of the justice department's Thurman W. Arnold. Its aim: To drive trust practices, price-fixing and collusion out of the U. S. building industry. The day Mr. Arnold told his plans to the temporary national economic committee, Chicago Daily News' William H. Fort wrote from Washington that this was "obviously the New Deal's most ambitious trust-busting venture in its attempt to push young Tom Dewey's New York activities into the shade."

Designing or not, Thurman Arnold's drive bids fair to accomplish something. With 140 lawyers and an enlarged appropriation, the justice department expects to uncover plenty of reasons why a metropolitan dweller runs into trouble when he wants to build a house. Alleged monopolistic devices: (1) fixing of prices by producers of building materials and trade associations; (2) use of joint selling agencies; (3) control of sales and limiting of quantities.

TRADE:
Penalties

It is no coincidence that the world's topmost aggressive powers, Italy, Germany and Japan, must force exports to maintain a balance of trade. One primary reason is that peace-loving nations would sooner trade elsewhere; another, goods for which foreign markets are available must be kept at home to guarantee self-sufficiency in case of war and to build military machines.

Therefore no deliberate anti-Nazi gesture was involved last spring when the U. S. began levying countervailing duties on goods imported for Germany. Though this move coincided with the Reich's absorption of Czecho-Slovakia, treasury and state departments pointed out that Germany customarily forces exports through subsidy, thereby giving its manufacturers an unfair advantage.

Similar reasoning was behind the countervailing duties recently imposed on Italian silk exports to the U. S., which treasury officials discovered were being subsidized.

Skipping next to aggressive Japan, the U. S. is investigating complaints from domestic textile manufacturers that Nipponese cotton goods makers are being given government subsidy, boosting still further the natural world trade advantage they gain by low operating costs. Result: Observers predict countervailing duties will soon be imposed on cotton imports from Japan.

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

LABOR — Oregon's Supreme court has held constitutional the famous "anti-picketing" law adopted by referendum last November, confining picketing to bona fide disputes between employers and a majority of employees, prohibiting boycotts and outlawing minority strikes.

BABIES—Since both 1937 and 1938 found France's deaths exceeding her births, Premier Edouard Daladier has announced decrees to reward large families and thus stimulate the birth rate.

BUILDING—Major U. S. engineering construction awards for 1939's first half reached the greatest volume since 1930.

Mr. Blacksnake Makes Plans For Splendid New Wardrobe

By THORNTON BURGESS

Vanity and Foolishness can think of naught but their dress;
Upon their backs in bright array they always put all they possess.

MR. BLACKSNAKE lay basking in the sun. Now and then one of his neighbors would come along and call him unpleasant names, but he didn't mind that. He is so used to being called all kinds of bad names that he would hardly know what to make of it if someone was to say something pleasant and kind. So the bad names didn't trouble him at all. He just ran out his tongue from force of habit and continued to enjoy his sun bath.

Now, Mr. Blacksnake is very independent. He honestly doesn't care what people think of him. He has had such a bad reputation so long that he is rather proud of it. You know it gets that way sometimes. Some people actually take pride in being thought a lot worse than they are.

"The worse they think I am the more they will be afraid of me, and the more afraid of me they are the more they will leave me alone," Mr. Blacksnake would say. So he would do things just to make his neighbors think the very worst possible of him.

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But, like most people, he has one great weakness, has Mr. Blacksnake. He is inclined to be vain. He thinks a great deal of his personal appearance. He has a handsome black suit and is very proud of it. You may call him a thief and worse, and he will only chuckle. But when he happened to hear Sammy Jay remark that Mr. Blacksnake was looking rather shabby and must be having hard times his pride was touched. He raised his head and looked himself all over, a thing he can do much easier than most people.

"It's true," he muttered. "That busybody, Sammy Jay, is right. I am looking rather shabby. Not that I care what he thinks, but I do like to feel well dressed. I believe that everybody should dress as well as they can for their self-respect. I always feel best when I look best. Sammy Jay is quite right, and it is time I had a new suit. It is high time. I must see what can be done. Sometimes I think I would like to wear colors, but for my build I guess there is nothing quite so appropriate as black. Then, black always wears well, and it is very convenient when I want to keep out of sight in dark places. I think I will get black again this year. It certainly is very dressy."

He said this just as if he could choose his suit himself, when all the time he knew perfectly well that he could have nothing but what Old Mother Nature provided, and that would be black. It is, you know, a very good plan to think you want what you know you have got to have, and this is what Mr. Blacksnake was doing.

Having fully made up his mind that it was time to have a new suit, Mr. Blacksnake wasted no time. He cut short his sun bath and started out to look for a place to change his clothes. He is very particular about this. It must have every convenience and at the same time it must be a retired spot where he can be sure of being undisturbed. Nothing annoys Mr. Blacksnake so much as being discovered changing his clothes. So now he went about looking for just the right place, and all the time he took the greatest care to keep out of sight. This was a secret he wouldn't have get out for the world.

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Tiny Cathedral Chimes

SAUGUS, MASS.—William Love, 69, has completed a 40-inch high replica of a French cathedral, complete even to chimes in the towers and an electric lighting system.

Pedal Plane Speedy—At Least on Ground

Resembling a winged baby buggy, this peculiar looking contraption is the invention of Paul Fouilleul (right) of Paris. The propeller is powered by pedals. M. Fouilleul has not as yet attempted to take off, but has high hopes that the plane will fly. Ground tests have shown a possible speed of 35 kilometers per hour.

U. S. Commissioner Urges Mandatory Fingerprinting

Washington Studies Plan to Make It Part of 1940 Census.

SPOKANE, WASH.—United States Commissioner Maurice Smith, who 37 years ago helped overtake the Pacific Northwest's most notorious badman, Harry Tracy, urges that mandatory public fingerprinting be adopted and that it be taken by United States census workers next year.

Smith already has exchanged correspondence with the census bureau, J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the federal bureau of investigation, and the United States attorney general's office in Washington, regarding the idea, which the commissioner has studied consistently.

A letter from the assistant director of the census bureau, Vergil D. Reed, promised the suggestion would be considered by the committee appointed to determine the inquiries which are to be included in the population schedule for the sixteenth decennial census.

Solve Many Problems.

Smith said universal fingerprinting would solve the problem of identifying the hundreds of "unknowns" whose bodies annually lie in morgues for weeks and finally are buried in pauper's fields without their names ever being determined by authorities.

The commissioner said there could be only two objections raised to public fingerprinting. The first he listed as the inconvenience and expense entailed, and the second that some persons might feel it had some connection with classifying them with criminals.

"In reply to the first objection," Smith said, "it should be understood that fingerprinting is very simple and inexpensive and especially so if the prints are obtained at the same time the coming census is obtained, which will be in 1940.

Not Well Founded.

"The second objection is, of course, not well founded for the reason that all persons connected with military forces in the last war were fingerprinted, and everyone understood it was for identification and had no relation to criminal matters.

"It will not be necessary to quote statistics to convince anyone the identity of many persons who are now unknown could be determined definitely if the fingerprints of such persons were on record.

"If the census bureau contained the prints of all persons, including children, it would not be many years before an absolute record of all persons could be obtained by a check with the department. These records would be available only to the constituted authorities.

"Many persons enter upon a criminal career with the idea that their identity would never become known. If, however, each person was aware of the fact that his identity could and would be ascertained, it might have considerable bearing on his conduct."

Cinderella's Slippers

Here are the shoes of tomorrow, according to Sally Rand, well-known figure in the entertainment world, who introduced them at San Francisco's Golden Gate exposition. Sally's dazzling slippers are made of a transparent plastic similar to glass.

What to Do

BY PHYLLIS BELMONT

I WANT to give my girl friend something useful, but beautiful, for a shower gift. What would you suggest? Might say I am pretty good at embroidering and needlework.
PRISCILLA L.

Answer — What would be more lovely than a set of bath towels with your friend's new initials monogrammed in the modern manner? The new bathroom sets are so smart and unusual and may be purchased to match any color scheme. But instead of the usual fancy capitals in the Old English style, use the plain lower-case initials and have all three initials of your friend's new name stamped on the towels. Work them solidly in one shade, then outline them with small neat stitches in a contrasting color. For instance, solidly embroidered initials in a deep bright blue outlined in a rich Burgundy would be just the thing in a blue-and-white bathroom.

(Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.)

Canadian Mace Bearer Is Also Tailor and Fireman

FREDERICTON, N. B.—Sergeant at Arms Karl A. Walker, the colorfully uniformed figure who carries the ponderous silver and gold mace in the New Brunswick legislature, has a background believed to be unique among such officials in the assembly houses of the Canadian provinces.

For one thing, Walker made his own uniform. In business life he is a tailor, so the natural course for him after he was named sergeant at arms in 1931 was to measure himself and cut and fashion the regalia. So he is perhaps the best dressed of all sergeants at arms.

For another thing, Walker is chief of the Fredricton city fire department. This fact, according to reliable sources, once caused the many-sided tailor to wear his official uniform with two pairs of trousers at the one time.

He was delayed at a serious fire on this occasion and had to "hurry like blazes" to get to the legislature. He did not take time to change his trousers—he just pulled the official pair over his fireman's pants—and thus when the speaker entered the chamber the sergeant at arms was on hand to accompany him, and everything turned out fine.

Heil! Heil! The Gang's All Here: Can You Name 'Em?

Diplomat, dummy and duke—they're all included in this controversial caricature done by Conrad W. Massaguer, Cuban cartoonist, for the private restaurant of the Cuban pavilion at the New York World's fair. The drawing shows (right of dancer) Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia playing maracas for the rhumba dance, President Roosevelt playing the bull fiddle, Gov. Lehman the drum and Grover Whalen the guitar. At left of dancer, first row: King Victor Emmanuel, Premier Mussolini, Mahatma Ghandi, Charlie Chaplin, Charlie McCarthy and the duke of Windsor. Rear row includes King Carol, John L. Lewis, Marshal Goering, George Bernard Shaw, Haile Selassie, Prime Minister Chamberlain, King Gustaf and Joseph Stalin.

Father, Dear Father Come Home With Me

PASADENA, CALIF.—An extensive survey taken here relative to father's place in the home, revealed that the majority of mothers believe if father will just keep out of the kitchen, he isn't a bad person to help out along other lines of housework. The final conclusion was that America is achieving equality in home making—meaning that father is doing an increasing share of the "housework."

5,000,000,000 PENNIES MISPLACED BY AMERICANS

WASHINGTON.—Speaking of losing things, mint officials estimated that Americans have misplaced 5,000,000,000 pennies since the government started making them.

Comes summer every year and the loss mounts higher, for this is the time that children are out of school and on the loose—spraying pennies behind them.

Copper cent pieces—the government doesn't call them pennies because that is a British coin—are definitely the money of children. Of the unaccounted-for 5,000,000,000, officials guess that more than half have been dropped down drains and gutters or lost in the streets by youngsters.

Millions, of course, are in children's banks and a lot more in vending machines.

Of the rare two-cent pieces once coined to a total of 91,202,000, upward of 57,000,000 still are missing. More than 94,000,000 three-cent pieces were minted, and 66,000,000 never came home. Collectors have relatively few.

Penny-making is one of the nation's biggest businesses. They are turned out at the rate of 2,871 a minute each working day.

Enough one-cent pieces have been coined to girdle the earth three times if laid end to end. Yet—

Officials say the average citizen has only three in his pocket.

Where do they go?

The government has given up trying to figure it out. Officials once tried, long ago, but the best research failed.

Anyhow, why worry when you're making money? Uncle Sam makes a gross profit of nine cents on every cent's worth of copper used in the coinage.

Seeks Actual Graves of Thermopylae's Victims

ATHENS, GREECE. — Excavations that have been carried out by Professor Marinatos, director of archeological services of the Greek ministry of education, in the neighborhood of the Gulf of Lamia have aroused hope that discovery of the actual grave of the 300 Spartans and 20,000 Persians who perished in the Battle of Thermopylae is imminent.

Thermopylae was fought in 480 B. C. and the heroism of a handful of Spartans under Leonidas has been immortalized by the historian Herodotus.

Herodotus relates that an army of 100,000 Persians under King Xerxes invaded Greece from the north, but in order to reach the center of the country it had to go through the Pass of Thermopylae, a narrow road between the mountain named Callidromos and the shores of the Maliac gulf, which is now called the Gulf of Lamia, an inlet of the Aegean sea.

Tree Stumps Reclaimed

The tree stumps which constitute the "feed" for the steam and solvent wood naval stores industry are found in the vast cut-over lands of Mississippi, Georgia and Florida, according to Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. These remnants of lumbering are not useful until 10 to 15 years after cutting. By that time the bark has sloughed off, leaving the heartwood in which the resinous material is concentrated. The stumps are pulled out by tractors.

Fried Chicken Solves A Neighborhood Squabble

REVERE, MASS.—The best way to stop a neighborhood squabble is to remove the cause, even if you have to eat it, according to Patrolman Arthur Sweeney who has the evidence to back up his assertion.

Two lusty-lunged, early-rising roosters were the cause in this case. Sweeney tried to convince their owner that she would have to silence them, but was stumped by the question—"How?"

So Sweeney bought them from her. Going to the next-door home of the most constant complainant, Sweeney explained how he had settled the matter. In appreciation, the man volunteered to kill them for the policeman, and a woman neighbor—also a complainant—volunteered to pluck and clean them for him.

The neighborhood once again had peace. Sweeney had a feast.

'Seeing Eye' Dog Serves as Silent Partner in Law Firm

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—Gretchen, a police dog, is an indispensable "silent partner" of Henry T. Istas, attorney.

Istas has been blind since birth, received his college and law training under great handicaps and after being admitted to practice found it almost impossible to pursue his business alone.

So he went to the "Seeing Eye" farm at Morristown, N. J., selected Gretchen as his companion and together they have become familiar figures in the courts.

Gretchen curls at the feet of her master while he conducts his cases, makes notes in Braille on a pocket-size machine and cites innumerable references which he must commit to memory.

When the case is over, Gretchen leads Istas unerringly from the courtroom to his office.