WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

President's Political Activity Since Congress' Adjournment Shows Heavy Interest in 1940

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

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POLITICS:
Rebuttal

Home in Hyde Park, Franklin Roosevelt probably reviewed editorial opinion on his recent seven-month debate with congress. The public thought congress had won, for it killed his lend-spend and housing bills, defeated his neutrality program and passed the Hatch "clean politics" bill. Not so evident were his victorious defense and relief programs and his retention of the $2,000,000 currency stabilization fund. On three successive days, therefore, he went before the people, first to boast, next to scold, last to warn.

Signing the Ashurst bill (creating an administrative officer to supervise federal court budgets) he announced that all goals of his 1937

UTAH'S SEN. KING
"I don't see how . . ."

court reorganization proposal had been realized, six of them by laws and the seventh (change in attitude) "through opinions of the Supreme Court itself.

Next day observers thought he let a cat from the bag. Discussing his neutrality and lend-spend defeats, he borrowed an analogy suggested by his wife—a precipice—to which he said congress is leading business, and over which it may plunge "next spring."

Placing it on a gambling basis, the President said a G. O. P.-Democratic coalition had made "two bets with the nation": (1) On continued peace, and (2) business' ability to absorb wage earners who lose WPA and PWA jobs "next spring."

Some thought it possible the President was gambling too, staking his 1940 candidacy on next spring's prospects. If there is a war and/or heavy unemployment, congress will be wrong and Mr. Roosevelt right, thus justifying a third term attempt.

Certain it was that no politician without interest in 1940 would have delivered the message President Roosevelt sent next day to young Democrats convening in Pittsburgh. Smoothly laying the groundwork for some action, perhaps a retirement from politics, possibly a coup to keep the Democratic party "liberal," or possibly for a new third party, he sent this warning: "If we nominate conservative candidates, or lip-service candidates, on a straddlebug platform, I personally for my own self-respect and because of my long service to, and belief in liberal democracy, will find it impossible to have an active part in such an unfortunate suicide of the old Democratic party."

Meanwhile, members of congress took exception to the precipice analogy and wondered if Mr. Roosevelt had the right man leading the right horse to doom. Said Michigan's Rep. Earl Michener: "The coalition . . . has stopped the American people just before they went over the financial precipice." Said Utah's Sen. William H. King: "I don't see how anyone can contend consistently that when we appropriated nearly $13,000,000,000 for next year, congress was not doing everything within its power, provided spending is the answer."

CONGRESS:
How Much?

How much a so-called "$13,000,000,000 congress" actually appropriated and spent became the computation job of Budget Director Harold D. Smith. His decision: Congress appropriated more than $13,000,000,000 but included some funds spent before July 1 and some to be spent in future fiscal years. For the 1939-40 year he figured the total was $10,472,354,914, or $260,937,376 more than President Roosevelt's budget estimate. Previous year's record: $9,268,338,030, which exceeded treasury receipts by $3,600,514,404.

Meanwhile the matter of appropriations became a political football. Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley said it was less than $10,000,000,000 because several re-appropriations were included. New York's Rep. John Taber placed it at $14,061,596,619, with about $1,000,000,000 each being spent before and after the current fiscal year. Publicly denouncing a public debt he said had reached $53,895,100,000 (including $13,000,000,000 government corporation debts) and pointing to an alleged 60 per cent payroll increase since 1933, Mr. Taber probably helped speed President Roosevelt's appeal next day that departments and agencies slash their next year's budget requests.

Also in Washington:

¶ Social security stopped receiving claims for lump-sum old age insurance benefits, and prepared to inaugurate new monthly benefit payments to workers over 65 who have paid taxes on their incomes the past 18 months.

¶ California's Rep. Frank Buck, after conferring with the President, predicted serious consideration of a plan to broaden the personal income tax base and increase the basic rate.

¶ House Minority Leader Joseph Martin announced Republicans will have definite programs on at least three major topics—housing, agriculture and reciprocal trade agreements—to present at the next congress as alternatives to administration measures.

EUROPE:
Tension Up

"Hostilities began at 8 p. m. The declaration of war between Eastland and Westland was quickly followed by a series of bombing raids by Eastland along the east coast of Westland from Wash to points north of the Thames estuary. Eleven sudden raids were made on this territory during the first forty minutes . . . Two raids have been made on South London and anti-aircraft batteries have been heavily engaged . . ."

In London early-to-bedders were irked because Sir John Anderson, chief of air-raid precautions, made them stay up late to test effectiveness of their new dark shades. It was "blackout" night, the most comprehensive trial yet made of facilities with which England hopes to foil an invader from the continent. When morning came, Londoners

ALBERT FORSTER
'Pfui!'

read the above account of proceedings, also reading that nine army air pilots had been killed. What made the "war" news seem the more realistic was word from the continent that Albert Forster, the Nazi "fuehrer" of Danzig, had flown to Berchtesgaden for conferences with Adolf Hitler.

German-Polish tension had previously been heightened when (1) a German airliner was fired upon while passing over Gydnia; (2) a Warsaw paper had warned Poland would bombard Danzig if political union with the Reich were proclaimed, and (3) Danzig's semi-official newspaper Vorposten, asserted the city was "prepared for defense against Poland's war threats."

All Europe watched Fuehrer Forster's return from Berchtesgaden. Interest heightened when he proclaimed a Danzig mass meeting.

That night, while his mob cried "Pfui!" at every mention of Poland, shrewd Fuehrer Forster resorted to time-tested dictator tactics. On Poland's shoulders he heaped a charge of plotting to seize not only Danzig but East Prussia as well. No sooner had this untruth raised German-Danziger resentment to a fever pitch than Herr Forster made the simple announcement that his brown shirted followers have made full preparations to reunite the ancient free city with Germany.

AGRICULTURE:
More Stamps

In Washington, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace at last took out of the experimentation stage his latest—and one of his most successful—plans to get rid of food surpluses. For three months the food stamp plan was tested in Rochester, Dayton and Seattle, expanded to Birmingham and Des Moines, and finally to Shawnee, Okla. At all but the latter place, relief families were fed by sale of orange stamps (for buying regular foods) and free distribution of blue stamps (for buying surplus foods). At Shawnee, low-income families tried the plan.

Not until early August did Mr. Wallace uncross his fingers. Then,

SECRETARY WALLACE
Uncrossed his fingers.

pronouncing the stamp plan successful, he announced it will be expanded on a national basis very soon. If it works nationally like it has at Rochester, farmers will be happy. In the three-month trial there, food sales were upped 8 per cent.

Forecast

Not until August 1 can any year's agricultural yield be accurately gauged. Simultaneously this August the U. S. department of agriculture and European sources released their predictions, the first on cotton, the latter on grains alone. Both looked bad:

Wheat. If big crops bode war, Europe must have war this autumn. Germany stored her surplus wheat in dance halls and gymnasiums. In the hot Danube basin, the Ukraine and the Vistula's valleys peasants brought in a crop that sold at the lowest price since 1592. In Rome, the International Institute of Agriculture forecast the largest wheat crop since the World war, excepting last year. With Soviet and Canadian production up, with devaluation of far eastern silver destroying purchasing power, the institute gloomily predicted a glutted market through 1940 and 1941.

Meanwhile U. S. farmers considered themselves lucky. Although Chicago wheat prices would normally be between 35 and 40 cents, and on the farm, 30 cents (customary differential under Liverpool prices), they are actually about 10 cents above Liverpool. Reasons: (1) U. S. loans to farmers on stored wheat keeps the supply down and the price up; (2) production this year was down 20 per cent, producing a crop about equal to the nation's need; (3) the U. S. pays a bounty to exporters of wheat, amounting to $28,000,000 on 118,000,000 bushels last season.

Cotton. Biggest cotton news was the Export-Import bank's credit sale of 250,000 bales to Spain, taken as a gesture to woo General Franco away from the Rome-Berlin axis. Meanwhile the International Cotton federation closed its Zurich meeting by cabling Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace in protest against U. S. export subsidies. In Washington the August 1 forecast was released, painting a somewhat brighter picture: Placed at 11,412,000 bales, the yield would be 531,000 bales under last year, and 2,388,000 bales less than the 10-year (1928-37) average. But there will still be a carryover of about 13,000,000 bales.

MEDICINE:
Mary Heart

Into a little maternity hospital in the center of Manila's slums walked Mrs. Manuel Quezon, wife of the Philippine commonwealth's president. Like scores of others, she came to see a phenomenon recorded only once before in medical history. Sound asleep after feeding from an eye-dropper was a seven-pound baby, normal in every way except that her heart was completely outside her body. While physicians watched fascinated through a stemless cocktail glass placed over the heart, they wondered whether to operate. Having baptized her child Mary Heart, the devout mother said she believed her infant's condition was caused by her worship of a picture which showed Jesus Christ with his heart exposed.

ASIA:
Hush Settlement

One month ago Russia and Japan were ready to wage war over oil and coal resources in Russia's half of Sakhalin island. Reason: Jap concessionaires, refused to hike wages of Russian workers. Both nations reinforced border garrisons and Jap warships rushed to the scene. At both Moscow and Tokyo, there was no sign of surrender. Almost unnoticed in the press a few weeks later was the humiliating outcome for Japan: Concessionaires granted a 15 per cent wage increase.

NEWS BITS

TAXES — In Washington, the National Association of Manufacturers brought out figures alleging that U. S. taxes have climbed 640 per cent since 1913, much more than Britain (430 per cent), whose exorbitant levies are often used as a basis of comparison with U. S. taxes.

DICTATOR—In Spain, Gen. Francisco Franco made himself supreme dictator, set prisoners to work digging trenches 20 feet from the frontiers of Britain's Gibralter.

WED, at Chicago in his iron lung, the self-styled "boiler kid" of infantile paralysis fame, Fred Snite, and Miss Teresa Larkin, 25.

1939 to Be Healthy Year, First Half Records Show

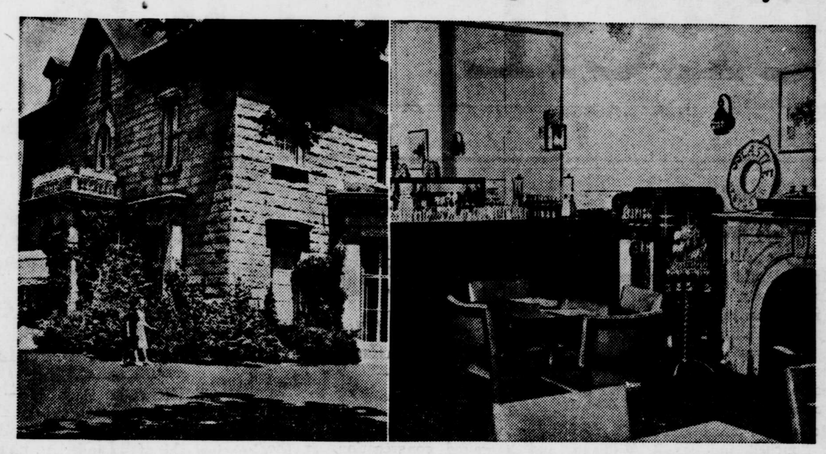
NEW YORK.—Health conditions have been so good during the first half of this year that the American people may reasonably expect 1939 to be one of the most healthful years in their history, despite high prevalence of respiratory diseases last winter and an increase of 59 per cent in the influenza death rate in the first six months, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company reported recently.

The June mortality rate among the company's industrial policyholders reached a record low level for the month. These millions of men, women and children had a mortality experience from tuberculosis, pneumonia, chronic nephritis, puerperal diseases, appendicitis, scarlet fever, diphtheria, diarrheal diseases and accidents that continued the decline that brought the 1938 death rates from these causes to the lowest points ever attained.

He Figured It Out

ALBANY, N. Y.—The statement that "incalculable tons of water" have gone over Niagara falls since the time of George III is all wet—take it from Edward H. Sargent, chief engineer of the Hudson river regulating district. Applying hydraulic formula, he computed the weight of water descending over Niagara in a day, multiplied by the days in a year and again by the 163 years since 1776. He got an answer of 34,054,938,000,000 tons.

'Heaven' Can Wait—If Newport Has Its Way



Mrs. Angela C. Kaufman, widow of the multi-millicnaire Joseph Kaufman, was recently refused a liquor license by Newport, R. I., officials when she planned on converting her mansion into an exclusive dinner and cocktail place. Then the fireworks started. Mrs. Kaufman created a furore in the ultra-fashionable resort by offering the mansion to "Father" Divine, Negro cult leader, as a "heaven" for his followers. The Negro evangelist accepted the offer, and is completing plans for establishing the new "heaven." Left: The Kaufman mansion which will house the Divine flock. Right: The bar for which Mrs. Kaufman was refused a liquor license.

Red Squirrel Plans Mischief In Darkness of Green Forest

By THORNTON BURGESS

"I NEED something to tempt my appetite. Yes, sir, that is just what I need. I'm not eating as I ought to, and the first thing I know I'll lose my appetite wholly, and then I'll lose my strength, and then—and then—well, I wouldn't give much for the chances of a squirrel who has lost his strength. I certainly must find something to tempt my appetite!" Chatterer the Red Squirrel said this as if he really believed it, and he looked quite downcast,

"What you need, Brother Chatterer, is a little more exercise," said he.

and unhappy. Bumble the Bee happened to be passing at the time, and he fairly laughed aloud.

"What you need, Brother Chatterer, is a little more exercise," said he. "Ever since you made friends with Farmer Brown's Boy and he began to give you so many good things to eat you have been growing lazier and lazier. What you need is a good stirring up. I believe I'll help you get it right now."

Bumble the Bee started straight for Chatterer as if he meant business. Chatterer didn't know what to think. He has a wholesome respect for that sharp little lance which Bumble carries. Perhaps it would be best to get out of the way, for there is no knowing what Bumble might take it into his head to do. So Chatterer ran, and after him flew Bumble, chuckling happily. You see now that he had gotten Chatterer started he didn't mean to let him stop right away. Along the old stone wall ran Chatterer and right at his heels Bumble crying "Buz-z-z, buzz, buz-z-z," in a way that made Chatterer terribly nervous. He was losing his temper now, but he didn't dare stop for fear of feeling Bumble's sharp little lance, so he kept on straight for the Green Forest, feeling sure that once he got there he would be safe. You see Bumble loves the Old Orchard and the Green Meadows but does not care for the shadowy Green Forest. Chatterer scampered as fast as he could, and by the time he reached the Green Forest he was puffing and blowing very hard.

At the edge of the Green Forest Bumble gave up the chase and went off laughing as hard as ever.

Chatterer was angry, very angry, and he scolded until the Green Forest rang with the sound of his voice, so that Sammy Jay came hurrying up to find out what was the matter. Of course Chatterer didn't tell him. No, indeed! He knew that he would be laughed at if he did. Instead, he told Sammy to mind his own affairs.

"You better keep that noisy tongue still," retorted Sammy, "for if you don't Shadow the Weasel is likely to hear you."

Chatterer stopped scolding right away and contented himself with making a face at Sammy, who flew away laughing. Left to himself Chatterer had to admit he felt better for his exercise, and needed nothing at all to tempt his appetite. In fact, he felt hungry enough to eat almost anything, and right away he began to look about to see what he could find. It wasn't the right time of year for nuts, but it was the season for eggs. To be sure it would be harder work to find them here in the Green Forest than in the Old Orchard. On the other hand everybody in the Old Orchard was on the watch for him, while here they wouldn't be because he had not bothered them for so long. Ha! Who was that acting secretive?

"Cresty the Flycatcher and his wife, as I live!" exclaimed Chatterer in high glee. "By the way they act I know well enough they have a nest close by. I'll keep out of sight and watch. Then we shall see what we shall see. It seems to me that I have heard that Mr. and Mrs. Cresty have very nice eggs."

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Masquerade Revealed

Involved in a minor traffic mixup, James W. Phipps was taken to a Pasadena, Calif. police station. There a sergeant penetrated the disguise and revealed "him" as a woman. Twice married, Phipps is the present "husband" of Mrs. Mabel Phipps, 50. For 23 years Minerva Phipps masqueraded as a man. "His" first wife died in 1928.

Argentine Pilots Defeat The Bugaboo of Darkness

BUENOS AIRES. — Argentina's warplanes no longer seek their bases at sundown.

Air force pilots, with the help of United States planes and instructors, have at last conquered the bugaboo of darkness which long had grounded most airplanes on this continent. From a modern base in suburban El Palomar, units of the modernized air corps make nightly training flights over the capital. The minister of war—apparently reasoning that if Argentines could fly at night others might try it also—has ordered the creation of a new division of anti-aircraft defense for the Argentine army.

All types of planes are to be used in the new program: training craft, scouts, speedy all-metal pursuits, and heavy bi-motored bombers.

Gay, Bright China Appropriate for Informal Dinners

By PHYLLIS BELMONT

WILL you kindly tell me if interchangeable china is appropriate for the dinner table, or should it be used only for breakfast and luncheon? I was given cups, saucers and plates in solid yellow and blue and want to use them correctly. Thank you. MRS. NEWLYWED.

Answer—Attractive interchangeable china gives the ingenious hostess plenty of chance these days to add a new zest and dash to the breakfast, luncheon and buffet tables, but it should be used only for very informal dinners. Interchangeable china is gay, bright and novel, and the different colors may be used together with telling effect. You can put your blue cups on yellow saucers, and wine-colored soups will go very well with your blue plates. Be sure to have the tablecloth echo or contrast in color. And a bowl or touch of green will combine very effectively with the blue and yellow. Or you may use odd pieces from the colored ware with your ordinary china.

(Phyllis Belmont.—WNU Service.)

Wheat Germ

Wheat germ is a cereal containing, as do practically all cereals, 26 per cent protein, 30 per cent carbohydrates and 11½ per cent fat. Such cereals are completely and rapidly digested.

Federal Agents Clamp Down on Tax Racketeers

81 Income Tax Evaders Convicted by Internal Revenue Bureau.

WASHINGTON.—Elmer L. Irey, co-ordinator of the treasury department, reported to Henry Morgenthau Jr., secretary of the treasury, that investigations by treasury agents of income tax evasions and other frauds against the government brought prison sentences or heavy fines to more "racketeers and politicians" during the 1939 fiscal year than in any period since prohibition. Convicted also were George Burns and Jack Benny, the screen and radio performers, and Mrs. Edgar J. Lauer, wife of the former New York supreme court justice, on smuggling charges.

The bureau of internal revenue recommended prosecution of Tom J. Pendergast, political "boss" of Kansas City, and such racketeers as John Torrio, predecessor and partner of Chicago's Al Capone, and the Warring brothers, leaders of the numbers racket in Washington.

81 Were Convicted.

In all, 114 persons were indicted as the result of investigations by the intelligence unit of the bureau of internal revenue, and 81 were convicted. Fines of $130,000 were imposed on those convicted and additional taxes and penalties totaling $39,237,830.68 were recommended.

During the fiscal year narcotic seizures aggregated 902 and amounted to 26,675 ounces, compared to 638 seizures amounting to 5,278 ounces in the previous fiscal year, while confiscations of smuggled liquor increased by 188 to 3,488.

Destruction of marijuana crops in co-operation with other state and federal agencies aggregated 26,150 tons and an area of 10,391 acres. Bulk seizures at ports and borders amounted to 1,500 ounces, compared to 897 ounces in the nine-month period of the 1938 fiscal year during which new legislation was effective. Seizure of marijuana seeds at ports dropped from 884 to 96 ounces. In internal traffic seizure of bulk marijuana dropped from 17,705 ounces in the last nine months of fiscal 1935 to 14,228 ounces in 1939; seizure of seeds was 2,715, compared to 2,487, and cigarette confiscations were 40,063, compared to 12,561 in the nine months of the 1938 fiscal year.

Secret Service Busy.

Chief Frank J. Wilson of the secret service reported that during its seventy-fifth year arrests for all offenses totaled 3,714, an all-time high, compared to 2,923 in fiscal 1938. Convictions were 3,381, also an all-time high, compared to 2,314 in 1938, exceeding the previous high record by 804 cases. Acquittals were obtained in only 3 per cent of the cases.

The service seized $424,193 in counterfeit notes, compared to $619,290 in fiscal 1938. Losses through counterfeit notes found in deposits of bank customers or surrendered by others were reduced from $403,843 in 1938 to $296,769 in 1939, the lowest amount of public loss in eight years.

The alcohol tax unit brought about the conviction of 1,982 persons.

Police Close 'Human Slave Market'

Photographers had to be alert to get this view of America's most novel matchmaking establishment, "The Human Slave Market," for immediately after bids got under way, Palisades, N. J., police stepped in and sent six people to jail on the charge of maintaining a nuisance. Here the auctioneer is asking for bids on a young man, an elderly gentleman and a young girl. The idea of the "market" was to offer marriageable subjects on the block.

HAVASUPAI INDIAN RESERVATION IS COUNTRY'S SMALLEST

GRAND CANYON, ARIZ.—Hidden from the modern world, the Havasupai Indians live today on the smallest reservation in North America—518.6 acres—in the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Only the barrier of a 15-mile pack trail serves to link them with their past.

The Indians, just a handful of them remaining to tell a history of attacks by marauding Apaches, are prospering now by farming 200 acres of their tiny domain, which they call "The Land of the Sky Blue Water."

The tribesmen left are survivors of wars and the advance of civilization alike.

They live in Havasu canyon where a falls tumbles into the Colorado river and provides them, along with what a few venturesome tourists buy, with their livelihood. And "very few" tourists attempt the rough trail by muleback, according to C. A. Shaffer, government-appointed supervisor.

For years the Havasupai were discouraged by floods which ravaged their ditches and fields, but now the tribe has allowed installation of a headgate to hold back the water and to protect their crops. Towering 2,500 to 3,000 feet above their fields are red-and-cream colored cliffs that most visitors miss because of the jagged canyons cutting off the view.

Shaffer believes the Indians are as "interesting and mysterious" as the Shiva Temple, a nearby plateau cut off from the outside world by almost perpendicular sides.

Recently the Indians buried the oldest member of their tribe, Mrs. Supai Bob, who lived in the shaded canyon for 107 years, content to sit by a fireside and tell stories.

New York Town Bans Baseball, Kites, Bell Ringing

SENECA FALLS, N. Y.—Playing ball and ringing bells are taboo in the central New York village, but authorities would have difficulty enforcing the laws.

Still on the statute books, and never repealed, is a law passed in 1913 which forbids bell ringing in public.

No one seems to know why ringing a bell in public was such a nuisance 26 years ago. However, authorities who might attempt to enforce the ordinance strictly would find difficulty surmounting another law, written later, which warned:

"Every bicycle, tricycle, automobile or motorcycle driven in any street shall be equipped with a horn, bell or other signal and such bell or other signal shall be used in giving warnings to pedestrians or other vehicles when necessary."

Kite flying and ball playing also are against the law in Seneca Falls.

An old law says boys cannot fly kites or play ball or even throw a ball in any public place, except on a public playground—and Seneca Falls has no public playground.

Profit in Herring Scales Greater Than for Fish

DEER ISLAND, N. B.—Fishermen here are getting more for the fish scales than they are for the fish.

Many fishermen are engaged in gathering herring scales, for which a demand exists at Eastport and Luzec, Maine, where pearl essence factories are situated.

The "scalers" obtain the herring scales from weirmen and seiners in exchange for labor performed in the dipping of the fish from the seines and the scooping of them aboard the large sardine carriers.

The scalers get three cents a pound for these scales—three times the value per pound of the fish at prevailing prices.