Weekly News Review

Failure of Democratic Purge Gives Republicans New Fear

Politics

If Franklin Roosevelt ever planned to "purge" his Democratic party of undesirables, he now knows the purge has failed. On the presidential black list may have been Iowa's Gillette, Nevada's McCarran, Colorado's Adams, and Missouri's Clark. By last week these New Deal haters were either renominated or assured of winning their state primaries at the expense of administration favorites.

News of purge failure has recently sent the most dour conservative into ecstasies. For once, it appears, Franklin Roosevelt's domination over the party is at ebb tide. But last week a few foes began thinking instead of effervescing:

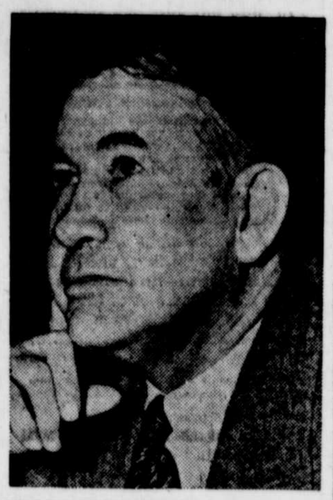
Is purge failure helping untangle badly twisted United States political lines? Decidedly the contrary. Is purge failure eliminating Franklin Roosevelt as a third termer? Probably not.

Originally the purge idea sought to transform the Democrat party into an instrument of coherent liberalism, implying formation of an equally coherent conservative party on the other side. But when congress convenes next winter the United States will see instead a hodgepodge of multi-colored political thought from which little but bickering can be expected.

Deeply tanned from his 20-day fishing trip to tropical Pacific waters, Franklin Roosevelt was back in his 48 states last week, still mum about third term rumors that have kept newsmen busy since he left. Of all rumors, most thought-provoking was that purge failure robs the President of party control, robs him also of the right to name a successor in 1940. Not willing to be robbed, enthusiastic New Dealer Roosevelt would rather run himself than pass the mantle to a less ardent New Dealer.

Kentucky

Blue Grass politics was red hot as Kentucky prepared to choose a Democratic senator. At Jackson, Former Sheriff Lee Combs and his brother attended a rally for their own faction, then walked brazenly into a rally of opposition forces. When the smoke cleared, Lee Combs was shot dead. A few minutes later his father organized kinfolk to search for William Combs, who was no relative but the alleged slayer.



KENTUCKY'S ALBEN BARKLEY
It was surely a fine day.

Said Police Chief A. S. Sizmore: "I'm a Republican so I'm not on either side. They were all het up from politicin'."

Two days later Kentucky went to the polls. At Versailles, Gov. A. B. "Happy" Chandler muttered, "Down the hatch" as he chivalrously voted for his opponent, Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley. At Paducah, Alben Barkley deposited his ballot, glanced at the skies and predicted a record vote.

By midnight it appeared that Happy Chandler should have voted for himself. "Dear Alben," with presidential blessing, was renominated and political theorists tried to figure out what it meant.

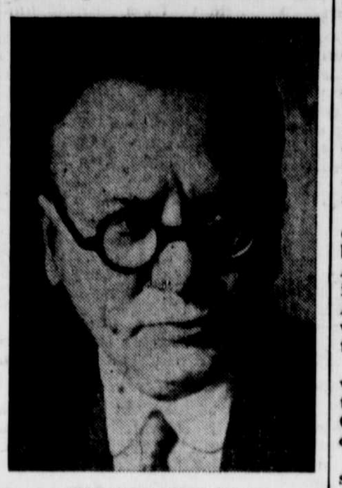
Foreign

Since 1931, when Japan marched into Manchuria, Tokyo and Moscow have been "on the brink of war." Last week they appeared to be fighting two wars: In one, at the isolated Russian-Manchukuan-Korean frontier nobody knew who was winning. In the other, being waged in the Moscow office of Soviet Foreign Maxim Litvinoff, it appeared that Russia had the upper hand.

Amidst a barrage of incidents, communiques and curt notes, Asia's two powers were attempting to settle ownership of a shell-pocked hill near the village of Changkufeng.

Russia-Jap hostilities in this sector date back to 1931 when Japan marched into Manchuria and looked longingly at land patrolled by Russia's autonomous Siberian army. But not until mid-July this year did the five-year "secret war" break into the open. Since then both powers have attacked and counter attacked for days on end, moving troops, artillery and planes to little Changkufeng.

Already tired of one war (see below), Japan was anxious to avoid another. Finally Ambassador Mamoru Shigemitsu at Moscow received word to open peace negotiations. Last week it appeared proud, stubborn Japan would have to eat crow if she wanted peace with prouder, more stubborn Russia. Muttering that "the time has come



MAXIM LITVINOFF
"The time has come . . ."

to terminate these endless incidents," Foreign Minister Litvinoff matched Tokyo's proposals with an even better set:

(1) Immediate cessation of hostilities, with mutual withdrawal behind a fixed line.

(2) That line to be determined by the Russ-China treaty of June 26, 1886.

(3) Appointment of a bilateral commission, two Russians, one Manchukuan, one Jap, to negotiate for redemarcation of the line on basis of the 1886 treaty.

While Japan boasted after two weeks that 1,500 Russ soldiers had been killed and wounded against 180 on her own side, two tattered Soviet deserters walked into her Siberian camp to air their grievances against Moscow.

They deserted because their fathers, well-to-do Kulak farmers, had been heavily taxed, heavily oppressed in the Soviet drive for collective agriculture. "Our slogan is defend the fatherland of liberty," one said, "but how can we soldiers defend such a system when the cows, horses and even their barns are taken away."

To Japan it looked like Russia's poor Siberian administration was her ally.

● Last week weary Japanese troops were still more than 100 miles down the flooded Yangtze river from their goal, Nanking, long since deserted by the Chinese government. While defending troops claimed the invaders had been repelled in battle after battle, crafty Japs were evidently resorting to brains instead of brawn to capture another part of China.

In the past Manchuria and Peking governments were undermined by palm-rubbing Tokyo agents and disgruntled Chinese officials. Result in each case has been a puppet state, completely divorced from China. Last week at peaceful Canton, only a few miles from Britain's Hongkong, came reports of secret negotiations to sway South China from the central government.

Promising to prevent recurrence of disastrous bombings which left Canton a bloody shambles last month, Jap agents would set up an independent government closely allied to Tokyo.

Meanwhile Japan refused to stop her bombing attacks on Canton. For two successive days last week war planes swooped down with their cargoes of death, finally striking within 400 yards of the foreign settlement where thousands had taken refuge. Next day Canton's Catholic cathedral was struck while hundreds cowered in terror within.

Miscellany

Back to London last week from darkest Africa came Missionary John Harris with a strange tale. His story: In Bechuanaland lives Ramonolwana Senan, believed to be 140 years old yet still in good health and boasting all but one tooth. He has a son more than 100 years old, and a daughter 16.

● Twenty thousand bathers at New York's Rockaway beach sought relief from sticky weather last week. In the distance were unimportant rumblings of thunder. Suddenly the air was splintered by a bolt of lightning that zig-zagged 300 feet down the beach, killing three, felling hundreds. Next day investigators wondered if a huge steel bridge, passing almost immediately over the beach, might have drawn the freak bolt.

● When she was first launched, England's proud Queen Mary was also queen of the Atlantic. Then came the French Normandie to set a westward passage record of 3 days, 22 hours, 52 minutes. Last week her powerful engines churned the Queen Mary to a new record, clipping 1 hour, 14 minutes off the Normandie's mark.

● Fondled like the museum piece it is, Douglas (Wrong Way) Corrigan's $900 transatlantic airplane was unloaded in Manhattan last week.

People

At Callander, Ont., Olivia Dionne's famous five children failed to appear before their daily tourist audience. Dr. Roy Dafoe, who has guided the four-year-old quintuplets since birth, reported they suffered from upset stomachs. Next day Pappa Dionne worried publicly over Emilie, who had taken no nourishment for 24 hours.

● Two days after former cinema actress Pearl White died in Paris, Warner Oland of "Charlie Chan" fame succumbed in his native Sweden of bronchial pneumonia.

● At Hammond, La., Governor Richard W. Leche poured coffee, served sandwiches to pickets surrounding a box factory.

Religion

On the next day . . . when they heard that Jesus was coming . . . took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet Him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the king of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Thus wrote St. John in Biblical days. Since then his words have been unchanged, but last week American clergymen began studying the Bible as rewritten under Adolph Hitler's direction to conform with Germany's Nazi ideology. Said the Nazified St. John:

"Then they took green branches, went to meet him and cried: HEIL to him that comes in the name of God. HEIL to thee, thou shalt be our king."

Eliminated are all references to sin, heaven and the Hebrew prophets, for the Nazi heaven is now to be found in Germany alone.

Domestic

That Pennsylvania's Sen. James J. Davis has been more successful with U. S. Moose than his Tennessee Valley authority investigating committee, was admitted last week. From Washington to Knoxville, in the heart of TVA's far-flung power empire, the committee has dug for facts, rumors and figures to establish why ousted TVA Administrator Arthur Morgan raised such a hullabaloo last winter.

The committee's aim, said Davis, was to find the "real, true 'yardstick' cost of power and the total amount of money going into TVA development."

Last week, after spending more than half the $50,000 appropriation, Chairman Davis decided 85 per cent of his rummaging was concerned with uninteresting auditing and accounting. Named to investigate for the investigating committee was a private investigator, M. C. Conick, whose personal headache TVA now becomes.

Labor

The nasty word "Communism" hung like a spectre last week before the eyes of C. I. O. Mogul John L. Lewis. At Detroit and Los Angeles his henchmen were having trouble.

Ex-Preacher Homer Martin, who heads 375,000 members of the C. I. O. United Automobile Workers, found himself marked for liquidation by the four vice presidents he recently found guilty of consorting with Communists. Their charge: That Martin himself has been consorting with President Jay Lovestone of the Independent Communist Labor league.

To bewildered C. I. O. workers it appeared that U. A. W.'s trouble was simply a fight between Stalinist Communists and Lovestone Communists, each willing to fight for their own beliefs no matter how many unions are destroyed. Standing on the sidelines at Detroit awaiting the opportune moment was A. F. of L.'s Francis Dillon who headed the U. A. W. when it was a respectable Labor Federation affiliate.

Meanwhile at Los Angeles, four C. I. O. unions voted to withdraw from Radical Harry Bridges' Industrial Union council, charging he had brought the body under Communist control.

Aviation

Since its birth shortly after the World war, U. S. commercial aviation has been bounced back and forth by a dozen government agencies, has suffered from repudiated agreements and constantly changing administration. Worst low was the government's repudiation of airmail contracts five years ago, an experiment that ended in headaches for all.

Last winter congress established a Civil Aeronautics authority to manage commercial aviation permanently and sensibly. Its job: To administer air mail contracts, supervise commercial air lines and private fliers and study aviation safety.

Last week the new authority took over its job, two weeks before the act goes into effect. As Chairman Elmer J. Noble of Greenwich, Conn., walked into his office for the first time he hoped to regulate aviation as successfully as another policy-forming board, the Interstate Commerce commission, has supervised railroading.

Sports

Several weeks ago a young Chicago broker, Fred Tuerk, bet his partner half a $30,000 plantation he couldn't play 144 holes of golf from dawn to dusk without going over 95 on any 18 holes. Partner J. Smith Ferebee took him up, starting out one morning last week. By nightfall all 144 holes were played at an average of 86 strokes per 18 holes. Next day Broker Ferebee, still golf hungry, played again to "unlimber" after his ordeal.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Does F. D. R. Seek Third Term? President Has Many Reasons

If Roosevelt Is Sure of Victory He'll Run; Meanwhile It's a Waiting Game with President Holding Cards, Says Observer

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON. — Senator Burke, the Nebraska Democrat, has come forward with a proposition fixing the term of the President of the United States at six years and limiting the individual to one term. It is not a new proposition. It has been suggested before—as long ago as President Jackson's term—but it takes on a new significance now. Its new importance is not because of Senator Burke's declared intention to press the thing through to enactment so much as in the fact that "third term talk" is all over the place these days.

I do not profess to know what is in Mr. Roosevelt's mind about a third term. That is one subject upon which he has kept his own counsel quite severely. He is completely capable of keeping his own counsel when he desires, and I can say without equivocation that he has kept it in this case. The Washington correspondent or observer usually can get a tip-off as to the presidential mind in ordinary matters, but not so regarding the third term.

Precedent Maker

The third-term precedent will be no barrier to Franklin Roosevelt if he thinks four more years will help him to achieve history's rating as a great president, thinks William Bruckart. Two of Mr. Roosevelt's outstanding characteristics are his enjoyment of the power of the chief executive and his willingness to create new precedents.

Thus, having made a reassuring statement that this is only a guess as to the future, I shall try to put the puzzle sections together and make a prediction. There are many, many factors to be examined. Without them, there can be no judgment as to the circumstance. With them in full view, certain conclusions appear inescapable. Note that I said "appear." I use that word for the reason that Mr. Roosevelt is one of the few men ever to occupy the White House whose whole attitude may change completely overnight on any given subject.

Mr. Roosevelt Revels In the Presidency

Mr. Roosevelt has a consuming desire to go down in history as a great President. There can be no doubt of that. He wants history to show him as an outstanding friend of the people, the masses. He will let nothing prevent him from that course if it is within his power.

If there is one trait in the makeup of the man that transcends others, I believe it is his desire to establish new precedents. We speak of him as precedent-breaker. That is incorrect. He likes to make new ones. No other President has ever done more than make motions about a third term. Mr. Roosevelt would not be disturbed by the fact that never before had any President occupied the White House for 12 years. I suspect that he would enjoy doing that sort of thing.

And when I mention enjoyment, I need to refer at the same time to the very well known fact that Mr. Roosevelt enjoys being President. That is, he has what we say is a "good time" on the job. There is no real weariness for him as Chief Executive. Within the range of my quarter of a century as an observer, there has been no other President who so reveled under the generally accepted tremendous burden of the presidency.

President's Popularity Has Religious Fervor

Behind the scenes, no President has ever had a hallelujah chorus of so many voices around him. There has never been a President with such great personal popularity as Mr. Roosevelt. The combination of these things, the continual songs of praise that he hears from his close advisors and the adoring multitudes —well, I firmly believe that no living man can maintain the equilibrium necessary for sound and sane thinking while such semi-religious fervor toward him is shown.

Seldom, if ever before, has any President had the same type of promoting theorists, starry - eyed dreamers around him. The country never has had an administration as radical as Mr. Roosevelt's regime. At no time have as many crackpots, schemers, theorists with untried panaceas had a chance to get their plans put into action. Some are workable; most of them are not. The fact that some have worked, however, is the very reason the whole crew sticks around and keeps plugging for further trials of this, that or the other. For most of these folks, it is the first time in public life, their first entry into national office with authority. They like it. Also, they like the payroll. It is natural that they want to stay.

Effort to Restore Party To Old-Line Democrats

There is, beside all of these factors, the differences within the party of which Mr. Roosevelt is the titular head. I believe that the Democratic party machinery was completely taken over by the radical wing, and so now there is a definite effort under way to restore the party control to old and tried Democrats. That is to say, the effort is to unhorse the type of men like Ickes, Wallace, Corcoran, Minton of Indiana, and others of that stripe. Men like Senator Harrison and Vice President Garner, and even Jim Farley, do not like to see those other fellows in a position of responsibility. They believe in the Democratic party for Democrats.

So, it is quite apparent that the struggle for party control is a rough and tumble fight from now on, because there is a convention of the party to be held in 1940, and it is not too early to line up delegates. Were it not for the battle ahead and the desire of those surrounding Mr. Roosevelt to keep on with his reforms—and the jobs—Mr. Roosevelt would control the 1940 convention. His declarations of a "purge of the party" has made it impossible for him to control the convention without a fight. That is to say, he will be unable to pick the 1940 nominee (to carry out his plans) without a battle.

President Is Playing Waiting Game

Now, there are many who believe that Mr. Roosevelt's personal popularity will be the only thing sufficient to swing that party control. He will not be able to nominate his own pick, but he will be able to nominate himself, say these observers.

When we have reached that stage, therefore, we have reached the point of determination of the course which Mr. Roosevelt will follow. My own conclusion is definitely that Mr. Roosevelt is preparing for any eventuality. He is unlikely to say he will or will not run. He will wait. If the situation makes it appear that he can win, he will "accept" the nomination; if, however, he believes that he will get licked, he will try to pick the nominee. He will select a man who will do his bidding, if he has not lost control of the party convention. I am convinced Mr. Roosevelt would like to run, but he will not run if there is certain defeat staring him in the face.

And when we talk of third terms and precedents, etc., I must recall a certain vote in the senate on February 10, 1928. President Coolidge had said he did not "choose" to run, but there were many Democrats who thought that was a trick to invite the nomination. So the senate adopted a resolution, a precedent-making resolution, saying it was the sense of the senate that no President ought to have a third term or something to that effect.

How Will They Vote This Time?

It gave me quite a laugh when I looked up the vote on that resolution, because I can see some very delicate situations developing for some of the senators who voted for that resolution. It was good politics then, of course, but what, I wonder, are some of those men going to do if Mr. Roosevelt moves in on them with a third term campaign?

Of the present Democratic members of the senate, we find the following as having voted their expression that no President should have a third term: Ashurst of Arizona, Barkley of Kentucky, Gerry of Rhode Island, Glass of Virginia; Harrison of Mississippi, King of Utah, Thomas of Oklahoma, Wagner of New York, Wheeler of Montana, McKellar of Tennessee, Neely of West Virginia, Pittman of Nevada, Sheppard of Texas, Smith of South Carolina, and Tydings of Maryland. We find also that Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin, the great Progressive leader, voted against a third term, and we also note Senator Norris, another Progressive, who said by his vote that no man should have a third term.

Well, it struck me as being funny. Take such men as Barkley, the New Deal leader in the senate; and Neely and McKellar, who continually have popped off in praise of Mr. Roosevelt and who have no complaint about any phase of the New Deal. Or consider the plight of Thomas, of Oklahoma, who probably will be reelected and who, therefore, will be faced with a decision if Mr. Roosevelt decides to seek a third term. It will be easy for Pat Harrison, or Wheeler or Smith of South Carolina, to vote for a similar resolution in the next session; but it won't be so easy for the others to decide, because those who have opposed some of Mr. Roosevelt's program will be able to say they are being consistent.

© Western Newspaper Union.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—The playing fields of Eton have been given due credit for Britain's power and durability. We seem to have overlooked the playing fields of West Point. A sweeping technical reorganization of the army is news this week. It might not have come off had it not been for a certain incident on the West Point football field. Gen. Malin Craig, chief of staff, is the reorganizer. He is preparing the army for the open game—swiftness, mobility, adaptiveness, as in modern football.

Army to Ape Strategy Of Football

It was an instant of inspired open football, back in the juggernaut days of the guards back and the side-line buck, that saved young Malin Craig for the army and the current reordering of tactics and equipment.

Just before the game with Trinity college in 1897, the West Point scholastic command had decided to retire Cadet Craig. Of an ancient army line, with many relatives in the service, he had been visiting around army posts. His marks had suffered. The ax was to fall just after the game.

Craig was a brilliant backfield player, but somewhat given to unplanned maneuvers. Carrying the ball at a critical turn of the game, he lost his interference in a broken field. He shook off several tacklers, but, somewhere around the 35-yard line, a stone wall of Trinity players loomed ahead.

Young Craig Boots Goal On the Run

Ducking a hurtling body, scarcely checking his stride, he booted a perfect field goal—winning the game, with appropriate Frank Merriwell trimmings. Of course, the faculty couldn't fire a hero. The ax was put away, a tutor was found, and Cadet Craig finished creditably—to establish the open game in the American army.

He was a baseball star, also, and old Pop Anson tried to sign him for the Chicago National team. Born in St. Joseph, Mo., he was the grandson of a Civil war general. His father was a major and he has a son recently out of West Point.

In the Spanish-American war, the Philippines, France and in minor mixups, he was a quick thinker and a self-starter, heavily garlanded from the first and known as a "progressive" tactician.

• • •

A FEW years ago, Richard Strauss was in trouble with the Nazis. The libretto of his opera, "The Silent Woman," had been written by Stefan Zweig, a "non-Aryan." The opera was a flop and Herr Strauss was ousted as president of the Reich Culture chamber and chairman of the Federation of German Composers. He is now restored to official favor.

Strauss Is Restored to Nazi Favor

His librettist for his new opera, "Der Fridenstag," is a certified Aryan, Joseph Gregor, a Viennese poet, and its world premier at Munich is a brilliant success, with new garlands for the seventy-five-year-old composer.

So apparently all is forgiven, and the traditional rebel of the musical world is rebelling no longer. He had decided to save the world at any cost, but turning sixty, he concluded he was doing well enough by merely keeping out of jail.

When "Salome" was presented in 1905, puritanical New York was shocked, and the mere idea of its being given here caused a row. Its presentation in New York in 1921 was taken calmly. Strauss' "Murky Psychographies," as the critics called them, didn't bring any riot calls. These muddy phantasmagorias of his earlier years got him into many battles, but he settled down to writing and —being a good business man—to money making. Once, when he was quarreling with Berlin, he was asked if he would play there. "I would play on a manure pile if they pay me for it," he said.

'Salome' Was Cause of Famous Row

He is no kin of the famous waltz family of Vienna. In mellow and beery old Bavaria, his father was a horn-blower and his mother a brewer's daughter. He has prospered through his later years, the owner of a castle in Vienna and an estate in Bavaria.

In 1930, German cities were fighting for him as their leading citizen, with chambers of commerce competing and making offers. Then came the brief eclipse over the "non-Aryan" associations, and now the full effulgence of his restored career.

© Consolidated News Features
WNU Service