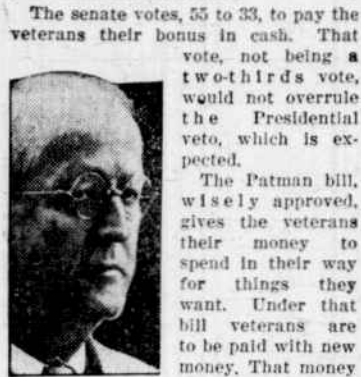


# BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Pass the Patman Bill They Love King George Parachutes? Puzzle for Solomon



Arthur Brisbane purchases in every corner of the United States.

New United States money is exactly as good as new bonds, since paper dollars and paper bonds get all their value from the name of the government printed on them.

President Roosevelt, congratulating King George, says: "It is gratifying to contemplate the wise and steadfast influence which your majesty has exerted for a quarter of a century."

The king seems to think that those who have built the greatness of the British empire to its present height may be trusted to continue building it.

Time will tell whether a government policy of "let them alone" or "tell them how" is better.

Five killed, eight injured, in an airplane crash. The dead include Senator Cutting of New Mexico, who will be deeply regretted by his state and by the senate.

Flying in fog, fuel gave out. The last radio message was: "Fuel's getting low. We can't find a break in the fog. It looks like a forced landing."

Both pilots were killed; they did their best.

An occasional disaster will not discourage flying, but this particular accident raises again the question, Should not airplane builders concentrate on parachute protection for passengers?

King Solomon never solved any such problem as this: A New York manufacturer wished to advertise "invisible panties," in usual words—small trousers worn by modern women.

Eight million young women in Germany are unmarried. The government invites 333,000 of them to marry "healthy, virile, hereditary farmers."

To lead the unmarried German girl to the "virile, hereditary farmer" may be easier than making her marry him.

A labor law compels women under twenty-five years of age to serve one year on farms before they can take other jobs.

Once you begin to tell human beings how they must live, life becomes complicated.

Pope Pius, addressing 130 German pilgrims, spoke plainly about Germany's present Hitler government: "They wish in the name of so-called positive Christianity to dechristianize Germany, and they wish to conduct the country back to barbaric paganism, and nothing is left undone to disturb Christian and Catholic life."

The pope's words referred to the unpleasant welcome home of 2,000 young German pilgrims that went to Rome to receive the papal blessing.

Harry L. Hopkins, federal emergency relief administrator, uses language as plain as that of Mussolini or Stalin. He finds that we have in America a class of "oppressors," rich men, and promises that that small, oppressive, business minority "who extol poverty and profits in the same breath" shall be made outcasts in the "new order" that is coming.

One English town will celebrate the king's jubilee by distributing free beer. Might it not be a good idea to make light beer part of the regular food supply of men in this government's CCC camps?

Minus government tax, it would cost little, keep men contented, abolish or diminish complaints of some workers spending their small supplies of money with bootleggers.

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart

National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Probably the most notable incident of recent days in Washington is the explosion of a bomb by business. It is significant and important that the business voice, as represented by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, has spoken in such emphatic terms about the New Deal. It is further a matter of significance that the business voice criticized the New Deal generally as well as specifically, because it is the first time in the period since President Roosevelt took charge that anything like unity in business thought has been presented.

The reaction was instantaneous. First, Secretary Roper of the Department of Commerce mustered 21 members of his business advisory committee for a counter attack. It was almost drowned out by the chamber's roar. Such was not the case, however, with the President's reply. He waited until the convention had ended to let loose a charge that the business interests were selfish. It made all the front pages.

This brings us to the crux of the condition precipitated by the outburst of the Chamber of Commerce convention. It is seldom, and I believe the record shows this statement to be absolutely true, that annual conventions of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States have been taken seriously by the newspapers. The business men have been looked upon as possessors and promoters of rather antiquated ideas. Their interests have been and are of a selfish character. That is quite obvious and quite natural. But at this time, the voice of business speaks more than just business views. It speaks politically. Hence, when business spoke this time the newspapers of the country paid heed. The result was an unprecedented amount of publicity was obtained by the chamber through the medium of its convention this year.

Whether this represents a change in the thought of the country, surely no one individual of any group is able to say definitely. It must be recognized, however, that for many months a highly vocal minority of politicians has been accusing the administration of throttling criticism. Although this group fought vigorously and charged the administration with having the greatest propaganda machine ever to exist, it obtained little publicity for those views. Most newspapers dismissed them by publication of three or four paragraphs, buried on the inside pages of the metropolitan dailies. So, necessarily, significance attaches to the fact that when the business voice was raised in apparent unity the newspapers accorded columns of space to it. It can be construed in no other way than as meaning there is a larger opposition to some phases of the New Deal at least than most of us had expected.

For quite a while such groups as the American Liberty league have pounded away at certain phases of the New Deal. To the Washington observers it appeared that these groups were getting nowhere and getting there fast. Of a sudden, however, the voice opposed to the New Deal seems to have found itself. Certainly at the moment and for the first time, there is an approximation of unity to New Deal opposition and that fact is reflected in a rather important way. I refer to the courage exhibited in congress where there is more and more evidence of a decision on the part of the legislators to assert their independence in contradistinction to previous silent obedience to the White House.

I believe it is too early to attempt a prediction whether the Chamber of Commerce leadership will last. If I were to make an individual guess I would say that leadership of this type will crumble. That guess is predicated upon the record of the past because heretofore it has been true that business always suffered defections and presently there was bushwhacking in its own camp. Regardless of whether that condition develops again, the explosive character of the speeches in the chamber's convention have added a momentum to Roosevelt opposition which it has lacked heretofore. It is just possible, therefore, that even if business leadership fails in its efforts to curb radical tendencies among the administration group, a well knit opposition may now be developing.

Pursuing this assumption further, one hears suggestions around Washington to the effect that a genuine and basic issue for the 1936 campaign may be in the making. It would seem that Mr. Roosevelt will be forced into the position again of appealing to the forgotten man of his 1932 campaign who has since been forgotten. The conservative thought of the country meanwhile will marshal behind the home owners, the possessors of property and capital and the workers whose income must be taxed heavily in subsequent years to pay for the program of spending our way out of the depression.

Some support is seen for this theory of probable issues in 1936 in the recent statement of Postmaster General Farley who spoke politically as chairman of the Democratic national committee.

In almost so many words, Mr. Farley declared that the business interests had not been favorable to Mr. Roosevelt; that they were not now favorable to him and that there was no reason to expect the support of business hereafter. Mr. Farley, clever politician that he is, recognizes that under present conditions there are more votes on the side of the man who appeals to those who have not than there are on the side of the man who appeals to those who have.

On the other hand, government statistics show that something like 65,000,000 persons hold life insurance policies; that something like 20,000,000 have saving accounts in banks; that there are around 10,000,000 home owners in the nation, and that even at the lowest point of the depression there were more people working for salaries and wages than there were unemployed. Mr. Farley's guess apparently is that so many of these workers have had their incomes reduced that they will support a candidate who promises to improve their condition. In their numbers lies the difference between victory and defeat.

In addition to these factors, there is to be considered the probability of defections caused by such demagogic leadership as the Longs and the Coughlins. Saner thinking people know, of course, that the programs which Senator Long and Father Coughlin have been preaching far and wide are as impossible of fulfillment as was the EPIC program advanced by Upton Sinclair in his California campaign. But it may not be overlooked that these men can and will pull together several million voters.

No discussion of the controversy between business and President Roosevelt would be complete without consideration of the NRA. It is the hottest spot in congress right now. The situation is of such a character as to be comparable to a carbuncle on your neck. Those who have had carbuncles will fully understand.

A few days ago, Mr. Roosevelt called the most obstreperous of opposition senators to the White House for a conference on the question of what to do about extending the national industrial recovery act. It is due to expire by limitation of law on June 16. He cleverly invited Miss Perkins, the secretary of labor, and Donald Richberg, the guiding hand of the Recovery administration, to sit in on that meeting. It was only natural that two such avid New Dealers as Miss Perkins and Mr. Richberg should hold out for continuation of NRA for a two-year period. And it was only natural for senators who do not believe wholeheartedly in all of the NRA principles to insist on a makeshift, or temporary continuation. The President put them into a cockpit to fight it out. The resulting disagreement was perfectly logical but the President had put himself in a position to trade with congress.

Since the NRA opponents in congress did not yield, they naturally went back to the Capitol and framed their own program. They propose to have NRA continued, with some of its unsatisfactory features eliminated. April of next year. They probably will be able to muster enough support to pass some such legislation. If they do, the President will accept it. Actually, he has no choice. He cannot allow the policy represented by NRA to crash completely. It would mean a political defeat which the President, strong as he is, probably could not withstand.

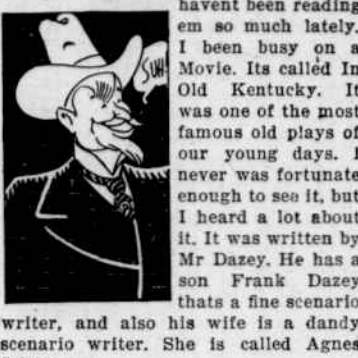
It is a wiser and sadder Blue Eagle that is proposed in the senate resolution continuing NRA. That resolution is equipped with scissors to trim the tail feathers of the famed eagle so that it cannot operate against businesses whose traffic is wholly within a state—intrastate—nor will it permit price fixing.

The senate finance committee which drafted this resolution reported it to the senate by the overwhelming vote of sixteen to three. That shows better than any words of mine how thoroughly determined that senate group was to override the Richberg-Perkins views on administration policy. Succinctly, the continuing resolution provides for changes in the current law as follows:

- 1. No price fixing shall be permitted or sanctioned under any code except in codes covering mineral or natural resources industries that now embody the price fixing principle.
2. No trade engaged wholly in intrastate commerce shall be placed under code.
3. The President will have 30 days in which to review present codes of fair practice in order to revise and adjust each so that it will conform to the provisions of the new NRA.
" I think this is the best way out," said Senator Harrison, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the committee.
" I feel certain we can pass this resolution without a great amount of debate and it will give NRA time to adjust itself and give the courts time to rule on the various questions of NRA validity."

# Says WILL ROGERS

BEVERLY HILLS—Well all I know is just what I read in the papers That is generally that all I know, but I haven't been reading em so much lately.



When our youngest kid Jimmy was about 12 he used to play polo. He had a couple of little old ponies, and he played quite a bit with the women, and Agnes Johnson played, and Jim had heard all the other women call her "Aggie" so he used to holler, "Leave it Aggie, leave it Aggie!" My wife told him he should call a Lady by her first or nick name. Jim said "Well when you are going so fast and you want her to leave the ball, you haven't got time to say a lot of names. I can't holler leave it Mrs. Agnes Johnson Dazey. The game would be over by then."

Well I got to get back to old Kentucky. Of course I don't know how much our picture will be like the original Old Kentucky play. Anyhow we are having a lot of fun making it. We are working out at a fine stock ranch owned by Mr. Craton Burke, the head of California's Racing Commission. He and his Commission are the ones that kept racing on such a high plane out here and it was such a success. He breeds some very fine horses, he and Mr. Neil McCarty, one of Los Angeles most prominent attorneys.

You know this horse breeding and raising has become a great fad not only out here, but all over the Country. Never was the horse so popular as now. Well I have just been up there playing with those beautiful young thoroughbred colts, and their mothers who had raced on famous tracks and some had made great records and won many thousands of dollars. This McCarty is a nut on breeding strains, and remembering whos pap was who. You know England is great for that. I was out one day at a big English Estate for lunch, and more women than men, and for once in my life I never got to say a word. All the whole talk was "Sires, dams, gets, foals, and that strain could get the distance, and that strain was a bit sluggish". Not a word about the Republicans or the Democrats and I couldn't get in a word edgewise.

But say those English sure do know breeding, of horses and dogs. But there is nothing nicer than the raising of a nice animal of any description. Those great racing stock farms out from Lexington Kentucky are the greatest sight in America. See old Man of War out there with a skin of golden chestnut that glistens like gold in the sun, and the old darky that takes care of him has a monologue that goes just like one of these tourist guides. He cant stop till he is finished the whole thing. See some old sleepy looking sway back mare with a colt tugging at her, and maby five years ago 50 thousand people were standing hollering her name.

It must be a great thrill to breed a horse yourself and then have them win a race, like the Kentucky Derby or the Santa Anita Handicap.

You know in the Argentine they have some very fine horses, and among the wealthy polo players, it is almost considered a disgrace to ride a horse in your string that you did not breed yourself. They all have big ranches out from Buenos Aires and they break them in working them after cattle, so they are really cow ponies, but thoroughbred. Averil Harriman in this Country breeds his string, and some others but not so many.

Throughbreds are a nervous, nutty lot. I like an old gentle, kind of dopey horse, that is, I mean, to ride around, and mess about on. I want one you kinder got to work your passage on, and kinder nudge him in the stomach at every step. We have a lot of pretty steep mountain trails out here and they are plenty narrow and steep sometimes, and there is a lot of difference in the way different horses negotiate em.

# Desperate Plight of the Share-Croppers



Above, Southern Cotton Field. Top, Left, Senator Tydings; Right, Senator Bankhead. Below, Right, Edwin R. Embree.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

HALF of all the farming in the United States is done by tenant farmers. Most of them are in the southern states, and despite their numbers—there are some 1,800,000 of them, mostly cotton farmers, in 16 of these states—they have of late come to be regarded as the "forgotten men" of the New Deal's agricultural experimenting.

They are the share-croppers. Virtually illiterate, never at any time prosperous in the true sense, these unfortunates have in the last few years been forced into circumstances every bit as pitiable as old-time slavery, according to investigations public and private which have been made within the last few months.

For cultivating, planting and picking their landlords' cotton, these poverty-stricken Twentieth century serfs are given half the harvest from the crop, unless they furnish their own implements, in which case they get three-fourths of it.

The income from this harvest is largely spent before they get it. Before harvest time they are paid in commissary scrip which is good only in the landowner's store. It is alleged that the usual allowance for a family of five is two dollars a week before the harvest. Then if there is any balance it is paid off in cash.

Meanwhile the share-cropper is often charged prices for his food and essentials which are considerably greater than those paid by his neighbor who owns land and may buy where he pleases. The landowner, in addition, takes a 10 per cent levy in advancing scrip, making \$2 worth really cost \$2.20. The ordinary food supply for half a week for one family runs about like this: Half-suck flour, 55 cents; gallon of sorghum black molasses, 60 cents, 24 pounds of cornmeal, 60 cents. That leaves little for clothing. And these people simply don't eat meat.

The share-cropper until 1920 was able to eke out a fair sort of existence, getting enough to eat in the sense of a sufficiency to keep body and soul together, and having something of a roof over his family's heads. Then prices began to fall. The machine, which had been steadily growing as a threat, became a competitor real and overwhelming. Competition from new cotton-producing areas, soil erosion and sterility of the soil from constant production of a single kind of crop added their woeful work to the villainy of what some might call fate.

What these had knocked down, the depression trampled upon. And into what the depression had trampled upon, the Brain Trust ground its heel when it decreed that cotton acreage must be reduced 40 per cent. AAA crop reductions and processing tax meant loss of income and loss of livelihood to many a tenant farmer who already had little enough of either.

Probably the first really comprehensive analysis of the situation was that recently made public by the committee on minority groups in economic recovery, headed by Dr. E. R. Embree of Chicago, president of the Julius B. Rosenwald fund. As might be supposed from Dr. Embree's presence (for the late Mr. Rosenwald was far famed for his sympathy with the black race), the original purpose of the committee's survey was to investigate the condition of the agricultural negro in the South. It found more whites than blacks suffering and reported that the problem was so serious that all racial angles to it were overshadowed.

No less than 58 per cent of the farmers of the South—and 71 per cent of the cotton farmers—are without land. Exports are on the decline, while cotton production abroad is increasing. The South faces a major crisis, says the committee.

## Heavy Newsprint Demand Depletes U. S. Reserves

Newsprint is largely finely ground wood with enough of the fibrous pulp added to make it hold together. In addition it contains clay, to give it body, and sizing material, to keep it from soaking up and blurring ink the way blotting paper does.

The committee found that of 3,088,111 farms in 13 southern states, 1,789,000 were cultivated by tenants. Of these, 1,091,000 were white and 698,000 colored. In certain regions farmed almost entirely by negroes, 80 per cent of the farmers were of the share-cropper variety. Practically all of the increase in the number of tenant-farmers since 1920 is accounted for by whites, approximately 200,000 of them, who were unable to keep a hold on their property. A good share of the tenant farmers and others have been released upon the world with no means of support until millions who should be getting a living from southern soil are now on the relief rolls. Last year one family in every four was on relief.

Chances Are Slim. According to the report, the tenant farmer's chances of recovery are slim under a credit system which enables the landowner to borrow money at 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 per cent interest while "the tenant farmer cannot secure this cheap credit unless the landowner waives his first lien on the crop." The landowner can seldom afford to do this.

"If he refuses to release the crop lien to the governmental agency, the Federal Farm Credit administration, the landlord may then secure the loan for all his tenant farmers at 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 per cent, and then advance supplies and furnishings to his tenants at customary prices—20 to 30 per cent above cash prices.

"Here again the tenant bears the brunt of the risk. If he can repay, his surplus is wiped out by the extortionate credit charges; if he cannot repay, he loses his crop and whatever work stock he may possess," says the report.

"So far the various debt reconciliation commissions have made no attempt to have the landlords scale down the debts owed them from previous seasons by croppers and share tenants. Such proposals would be resented, no doubt, by landowners who had just had their debts scaled down by creditors."

Doctor Embree's committee says that the United States must "reorganize the system of land tenure in the South." The negro problem has long been an obstacle to such a program, but the committee is of the opinion that the country has "seriously overestimated the importance of the negro farmers numerically as competitors, since tenancy in the South has come to be essentially a problem of white farmers."

The committee distinctly frowned upon continuing indefinitely to encourage landlords to cut down their production. It advised the raising of crops other than cotton in the Southeast, "with foreign competition in cotton growing increasing and Texas and Oklahoma able to furnish all the cotton needed for the national market at cheaper cost of production." Yet it admits an advantage in the fact that the government, having cut down cotton growing by some 8,000,000 acres, is in a position to force a balanced agriculture on farmers who can't get cotton off their minds.

No money crops and no crops to be sold can be raised on these 8,000,000 acres. Rather, crops for home use are encouraged, as well as crops which tend to improve the soil and prevent erosion and leaching.

"In the course of time the government might find the outright purchasing of certain farming lands less expensive than the payments of rents. Such payments rightly expended would serve to start worthy tenants in land ownership and remunerate large and absentee owners for portions of their excessive holdings," the committee says.

Of course such farmers turned loose upon their own land, but restrained from raising the only crop with which

most of them are familiar or experienced would need helpful supervision, but their properties—small subsistence homesteads—might bid fair to approach the economic state of some of the most prosperous peasant-owned farms in Europe, the committee believes.

Such a program would certainly meet with approval from the thousands of homeless share-croppers who have hit the southern roads without food or chattels, bound in most cases for the cities, there to seek what relief they can from the proper agencies. Some of them write to the President in pitiful, hardly readable letters, imploring him to aid them. Some of them have formed the Southern Tenant Farmers' union, whose allegedly radical members have been said to be the instigators of violence in some instances.

Designed to give these tenant farmers land of their own, after the manner of European land-owning peasants, is the Bankhead bill, proposed by Senator John H. Bankhead of Alabama, father of the glamorous Tallulah Bankhead, the stage and screen star, and a member of a family which has represented Alabama for many years in the government. It is quite in accord with the suggestions of the committee under Doctor Embree.

The Bankhead bill, which at this writing had gained a unanimously favorable report from a house committee, would provide legislation patterned after that which has allowed the tenant farmer of Ireland, Denmark, Finland and Germany to become a landowner. What has been done for owners of mortgaged homes, it plans to do for the share-cropper—make federal credit available to lift him out of the financial morass.

Senator Bankhead contends that the administration's crop reduction and tax on processing were measures adopted in defense of the farmers, protecting them from curtailed production by industries and manufacturers after the crash. In sharp opposition to him has been Senator Millard F. Tydings of Maryland, who claims that the only result of the whole Roosevelt "economics of scarcity" program has been to reduce the total wealth of the nation. He demands the end of crop curtailment by the AAA.

Senator Bankhead points out that the United States at the start of 1933 was faced with the biggest cotton surplus on record, a full year's crop of 13,000,000 bales, the effect of which was to cause a tremendous drop in cotton prices. Cotton was 19 1/2 cents a pound in 1929, but by 1932 it had fallen off to 5 1/2 cents a pound, he pointed out, explaining that the processing tax was designed to give the farmers the same "scarcity" which manufacturers had effected to maintain their prices.

Doctor Embree's committee was more interested in Senator Bankhead's proposals to enable the tenant farmer to gain independence.

"Life in the rural South is capable of being lived to the fullest," said its report. "In our modern scheme of things it has proved much easier to produce a steady flow of goods than to produce a steady income with which to purchase those goods or their equivalent. Of all the laborers and craftsmen, the general or all-round farmer is the only one able to produce the type and variety of goods suitable for his own consumption."

Of cellulose, cotton linters, however, it is hardly likely that this ever will consume an amount of wood pulp comparable to that required by the paper industry.

Not all types of wood make good paper. Virtually all of the pulp used comes from spruce. The millions of tons of newsprint required annually by American newspapers have seriously depleted this country's reserves of this timber, with the result that since about 1900 there has been a steady shift of the paper industry to Canada.

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