

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
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To Lure Farm Vote

Washington.—There seems to be little doubt any longer that President Roosevelt is getting ready to spring a new surprise among his and that he will employ it to wean away as much of the farm vote from Governor Landon of Kansas as is possible. The President usually has a card up his sleeve, one that he can pull out with a flourish and one that, on the surface at least, carries very convincing prospects in the particular line he has chosen.

In this instance, it seems rather well established that you may expect the President to come forward shortly with a brand new proposition for greater co-operative effort between the farmers and the city consumers. He is likely to present this new proposition—some of its critics have been unkind enough to describe it as a new rabbit from the hat—in a dressing that will be quite alluring. It is not clear yet just when the new plan will be offered by the President and his New Deal associates, but the guess can be made that it will come in time to permit a full exposition of the program by the New Dealers in advance of election. By the same token, it is apparent that the President's 1936 promises for the farmers will be disclosed late enough so that the Republicans will have little time to pick it to pieces.

The tip-off on the fact that Mr. Roosevelt is developing another farm program comes in Mr. Secretary Wallace's latest book, "Whose Constitution?" Of course, the secretary's observations may not be charged directly to the President. Nevertheless, it is the opinion of many of us who have watched the New Deal wheels go round that the secretary of agriculture usually leads the procession offering new suggestions for New Deal activities.

Secretary Wallace is a candid man and his frankness continuous has been of an engaging sort. For the reason that he is of this type, I think it can be said usually that his views reflect what is going on beneath the surface. That is, his views ordinarily serve as a trial balloon, whether the secretary rezeers it or not, and if they are watched closely, an accurate forecast of what is coming may be made.

It might have been that the secretary's book would have escaped mention as a vehicle carrying a message from the inner circle of New Dealers except for one line that was tucked away in the Democratic platform, or the platform adopted by the Philadelphia convention.

The sentence in the platform with which the secretary's book may properly be connected reads: "We will act to secure to the consumer fair value, honest sales and a decreasing spread between the price he pays and the price the producer receives."

Some observers here have linked that proposition with a thought that Mr. Roosevelt proposes to organize only co-operatives among the farmers but to link those co-operatives with similar co-operatives among the consumers. The conviction held by these individuals is that Mr. Roosevelt, astute politician that he is, is seeking to kill two birds with one stone. In other words, they contend that his plan will be thrown out as an inducement for the farmers to support his policies and re-elect him and that when he deals with the voters in great industrial areas he will point out to them the possibility of cheaper food in this manner.

It is to be remembered in connection with the reported new farm program that Mr. Roosevelt has not a commission to Europe to study the co-operative idea. There has been no fanfare, no blare of trumpets about the departure of these men, each being an avowed New Dealer and each one being thoroughly dependable. That is, they are men who can be depended on to present the facts they gather in true New Deal light. They have been in Europe now about a month. It is expected they will return at least one month longer. If they take a month to write their report it becomes obvious that we can expect another New Deal farm program, based upon the co-operative idea, to emerge from the White House around October 1. It is just 30 days from that date to the election.

How have had acceptance speeches by both Mr. Roosevelt and Governor Landon, his opponent. To the extent that the keynote speeches of the national conventions indicate the trend of mind of the party workers and to the extent that the acceptance speeches in a way the deeply rooted views of the candidates, the issues of the campaign are drawn. Of course, it has frequently been

the case that the issues of July are not the issues that decide the election in November. There are those students of politics who are saying this year that the questions discussed by President Roosevelt and Governor Landon in their acceptance speeches are going to have very little to do with the decision of the voters three months hence.

I can report only on a consensus among political authorities on this point. That consensus seems to be that Mr. Landon is going to stick to discussion of the major problems as he sees them and that Mr. Roosevelt's strategy will be governed entirely by whatever changes take place in campaign conditions.

In other words, these writers in Washington who have gone through many a harried political battle, seem to feel that Mr. Roosevelt's campaign strategy is going to be exactly like the policies he has followed in his present administration. By that I mean, to quote the President's own words, that "if one thing fails, we will try something else."

There is the conviction among these same writers that Governor Landon will resort to no oratorical flourishes nor will he employ any of the tactics that Mr. Roosevelt has so often used in his fireside radio chats. Further, it is quite evident, I believe, that Governor Landon will make the burden of his plea to the American people an appeal to restore what he considers to be the American form of government. It was quite obvious from his acceptance speech, as it has been evident in some of his pre-campaign pronouncements, that he favors the common sense idea in government management and that he will permit nothing to swerve him from that course.

But it should be said, it seems to me, that if Governor Landon is able to maintain that plane throughout his campaign, he will be deserving of great commendation. There are many observers here who believe he has undertaken a task of the most difficult kind. The governor has built up or others have built up around him an atmosphere of simplicity. It has reached a high pitch. The question is—can he keep the campaign attuned to that pitch from now until November? If he does, he will surprise a great many observers.

Lately, I have heard through underground channels that Democratic Chairman Farley is getting a little irked at the methods of

played by the youthful John Hamilton, who is chairman of the Republicans. "Big Jim" has taken a leave of absence as postmaster general, you will remember, in order to devote his time to re-electing President Roosevelt. He is now in a position to battle and, judging by his record, he can be expected to carry on a vigorous fight. That makes it all the more surprising to know that "Big Jim" has grown a little bit peevish as a result of the nudging and the razing that the red-headed Republican chairman has been handing him.

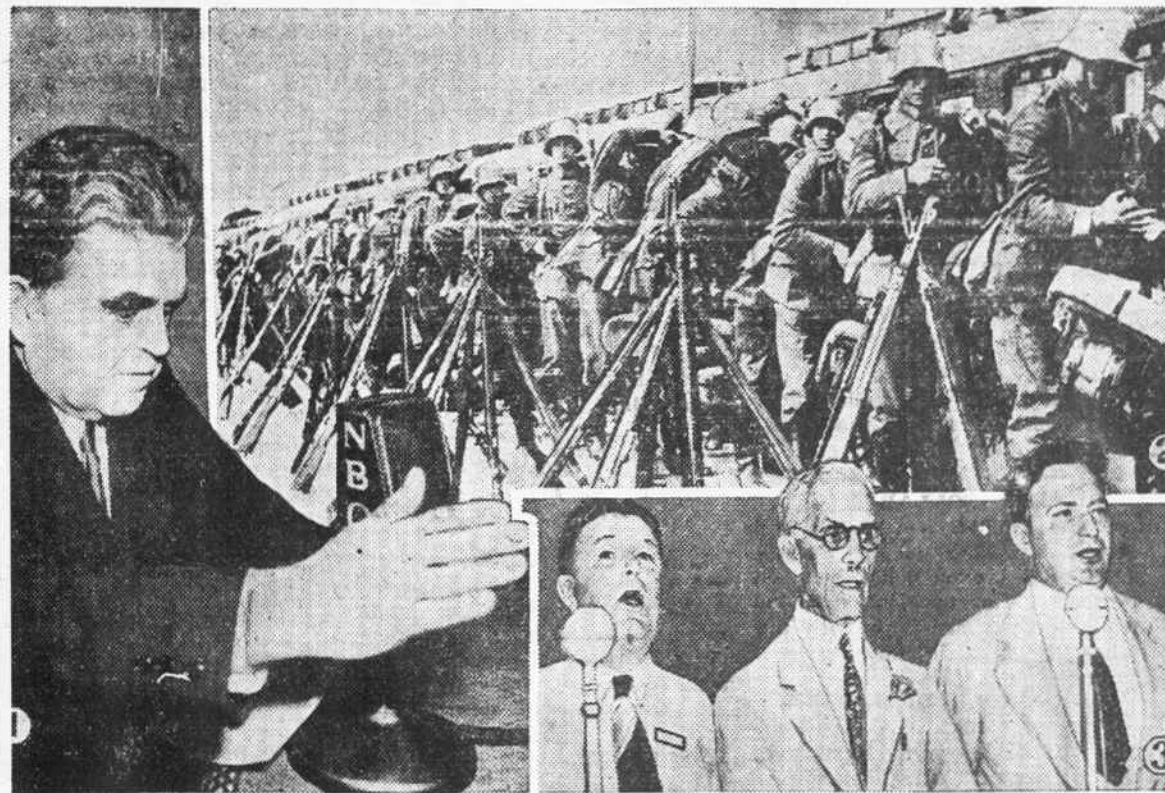
Six weeks elapsed between the nomination of Governor Landon and the date of his formal notification. During this time, Mr. Hamilton alone had to carry the Republican ball. He made numerous speeches and minced no words in any of them. He struck out straight from the shoulder at Mr. Farley.

During that time, Mr. Hamilton really had no one firing back at him. It was exactly the same condition as obtained before the Republicans had selected a candidate and Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Farley had no one to fight back at them. The test for Mr. Hamilton, therefore, will come when Mr. Farley gets into action and the Democratic campaign is fully under way. He is young in national politics and some of the success of the Republican campaign is going to depend upon how Mr. Hamilton conducts himself, when Mr. Farley starts jibing and knocking down the Republican chairman's ears in the heat of battle.

There is another phase of the campaign that is going to be interesting to watch. For three years, Mr. Roosevelt has had open channels on the radio, has had the utmost freedom in picking his spots for delivering new pronouncements or his appeals for patience by the people. But that time has passed insofar as the President is concerned. He is now confronted with competition. What I am trying to say is that everywhere and every time the President speaks, he will speak with the knowledge that a fighting opposition is ready to leap on every word and every proposal that he makes. This is an entirely different circumstance than any Mr. Roosevelt has faced since he entered the White House March 4, 1933.

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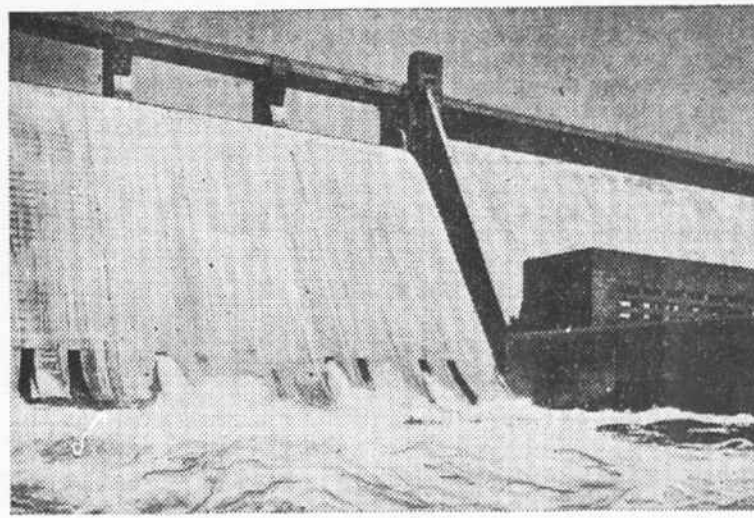
Scenes and Persons in the Current News



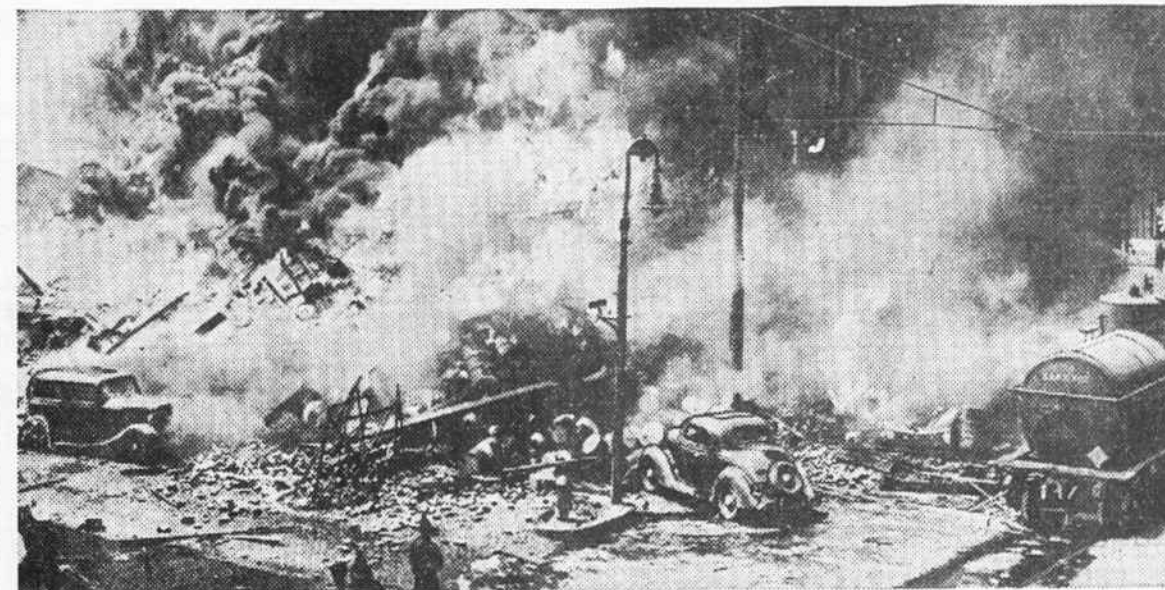
1—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America who has refused to appear for trial before the American Federation of Labor. 2—German troops boarding a train to cross the Polish corridor, now regarded as one of Europe's danger spots. 3—Scene at convention of Townsendites held recently at Cleveland. Dr. Townsend, founder of the old-age pension movement, is seen in the middle.

Water Now Rushes Through Sluiceways of Norris Dam

Water is seen being let through the sluiceways of Norris dam, Tennessee, for the first time since the dam gates were closed to Great Norris lake, immediately after the dam was completed. The gates were opened to raise the Tennessee river to its normal level, thus providing transportation and increasing power production at Wilson dam, Muscle Shoals. Norris dam cost about \$33,000,000 to build.



Six Alarms Sounded for Baltimore Factory Fire



Most of Baltimore's fire fighting apparatus was called to battle a conflagration in a factory which followed a terrific explosion.

"Boy Orator" Seeks U. S. Senate Seat



Defeated Gore in Primary in Oklahoma

Rep. Josh Lee, the "boy orator" who defeated blind Senator Thomas E. Gore in the senatorial primary in Oklahoma. He took issue with the anti-New Deal views of the veteran who had represented Oklahoma from statehood in 1907 until 1920 when he was beaten. Senator Gore was called out of retirement six years ago by a heavy vote.

Birds Eat Roast Bugs
Yosemite National Park.—Park rangers say birds no longer seek worms. They wait till motorists arrive, then sweep down and pluck the hot roasted bugs from radiators.

YOUNG EDUCATOR



The Rev. Francis Kelley, 34, newly appointed president of Seton Hall college, South Orange, N. J., is the youngest college head in the United States. He was formerly head of the college's philosophy department.

Refugees From the "Dust Bowl" Seek New Homes



Penniless, without shelter and looking for work these refugees from the drouth-ridden "Dust Bowl" have become squatters along the highway near Bakersfield, Calif. There are 22 in the family which came from Oklahoma.



Terry and Cochrane Are Facing Crisis in Baseball Jobs

DEFINITELY Bill Terry, and Mickey Cochrane now are in the midst of what higher class writers might term a crisis. Aside from their spot efforts to keep crippled and hard luck teams in the first division they also are undergoing tests which may determine whether it is worthwhile for them to continue in baseball.

Because each of them wor a world championship early in his managerial career and so, immediately, was acclaimed as one of the greatest of all time pilots this view may require a bit of explaining. It involves putting the reverse on that old "Don't do as I do but as I say" bit of philosophy by which the youth of the nation once was entertained.

Terry possibly was the best first baseman who ever played the game and Cochrane holds similar high rating among the catchers. They took over their manager's jobs while still able to perform in sprightly fashion. They starred in their own right while their example undoubtedly inspired lesser teammates to reach hitherto (and since then) unthought-of heights.

Now, when they are sorely tried by an assortment of the ailments which inevitably take toll of aging athletes, things do not add up the same. Reibers, Myatts, Leslies and such folk are hired men of average worth, but they simply do not possess the spark that makes Terrys and Cochranes. So, as has been apparent all season, the two managers immediately are beset by problems even more vexing than thyroids or sciatica while attempting to readjust their baseball lives.

If the law of averages operated properly there could be some compensation for all this. Blood streams, which formerly had to do double duty while generating both base blows and strategy, could be entirely at the service of deep thinking. In place of the line drives which once encouraged their championship ambitions the Tigers and the Giants could be inspired by daily strokes of managerial genius.

This, of course, would indicate a most sublime future but, unfortunately, neither Hoyle nor Hughie has much influence with the law of averages.

Both Bill and Mickey are men of action. They seem to function best, mentally as well as physically, while on their feet in the midst of heated action. Probably a proper appreciation of his own muscular possibilities has inspired each of these managers as much as it has inspired his followers.

Undoubtedly this has been true of Terry during the past two years. Without attempting to second guess a guy who has been trying hard in the midst of severe handicaps most fans are aware that he is a far better manager when playing than when spending an afternoon in the dugout.

Less opportunity has been provided for judging Cochrane as a dugout executive. Yet it is possible that the future may be even harder on him than on Terry. Mickey is an intensely nervous type—in some ways resembling Ty Cobb who failed as a manager. At least once during each of his best playing years when he could release pent-up emotions through direct actions he came close to just such a breakdown as finally overtook him this season. He also is excessively irked by players who cannot comport themselves according to his own high athletic standards.

During one inning at Yankee stadium recently I watched him. He made six trips from one end of the dugout to the other. He kneeled in front of the dugout five times. He sat down and immediately arose eight times.

There you have the question for the future. Will Cochrane wear himself out of the majors with worrying? Will Terry achieve the same results through disgust over the essential dumbness of his fellow men?

TIRES on those midget autos last only four miles during a race . . . Did the Giants pay \$21 dividend on each share of stock last year? . . . Jockey Sonny Workman during his recent suspension improved his time upon the golf links where he is almost as good as he is in the saddle . . . Fortune tellers probably can improve their batting averages if they give Bob Pastor a high rating for 1937. The Washington Heights youngster is the most improved heavyweight of the year. . . His coaches say that sixteen-year-old Bob Sandbach, kid brother of the Princeton star, will be even better than Ken.

If the president of the Phils had not vetoed the deal at the last minute a Frenchy Bordagaray-Johnny Moore swap would have been made in May . . . The Giants will operate the Jersey City club as a farm when an International league franchise is moved to Hagueville next season . . . Unless thoroughbred prices are upped considerably Colonel E. R. Bradley will not take his yearlings to the Saratoga sales next month. He still is annoyed at the low receipts obtained last August . . . Charley Gehring and Billy Herman, the game's two best second basemen, share an easily understandable weakness. Ballplayers say they do not like to be slid into with spikes.

The U. S. G. A. is sadly perturbed because of rumors concerning four-ball tournaments and the auction pools which so often make them more than interesting to the performers. These pools—you buy tickets on teams you think are hot—often are worth from \$1,000 to \$3,000. That, so evil-tongued gents snicker, is enough sugar to bring the racketeers in so that they can arrange such "amateur" golf matches to suit their own high purposes . . . Hun school, right there in the shadow of Princeton's famed Gothic towers, will have five regulars (Elverson, McNamara, Ober, Miceau and Shinn) on the Penn varsity next fall. . . Don Lash, the runner, earns his way through college by mopping up floors in the dormitory at Indiana university . . . Ivy Wilson, the very good twenty-four-year-old girl athlete from the Mercury A. C., makes dolls' wigs when not winning 50-meter championships.

Landis Irks Scribe By Talking Golf

A veteran reporter is very indignant because he had to wait fifteen minutes in Boston before getting some All-Star game information from Judge Landis. It seems that baseball's high commissioner was spending some time in entertaining his audience of club owners with blithesome comment concerning his golf scores.

Could it be true Judge Landis the New York racing commission now has planted ditaphones in the betting ring and other gossip juicy sections of local tracks? Or are naughty boys just blaspheming when they whisper that this cunning device, which was tried out last winter by Florida and Don Meade, produced a carload of worthless chit-chat when secreted in the Aqueduct jockey room during the recent meeting?

There is more than a chance that the Ivy league, which now protects the more holy colleges from rude beatings in basketball and baseball, will also provide the same smooth gridiron guardianship in 1938 . . . Although he is a motorboat enthusiast, John D. Spreckels, millionaire horse owner from the West, believes in keeping aquatic sports in their proper place. He has no liking for the regattas which are becoming so popular with the regatta committees at too many Eastern racetracks . . . Another effort may be made next winter to put the Cards in Detroit and leave St. Louis as a one-club (American League variety) town . . . If Joe Louis can score a decisive victory over Al Ettore there need be little doubt about the Brown Bomber having the proper comeback ammunition.

Although he can take the wails of disappointed fans as well as he can give his money to Connie Mack, there is one rift in Tom Yawkey's serenity. The owner of the Red (and frequently) Socked Boston team has been hearing the whispers of his mates among the magnates. They refer to the youthful business man as a "Sap" and a "Sucker," which is rather hard to take considering all he has done for them . . . Each member of that great Husky crew is a native of the state of Washington, is working his way through college and never handled a racing sweep until his freshman year . . . Winsett, the big outfielder listed for the Dodgers, is a good hitter. That is, he is until the pitchers start throwing too close to him.

A Finnish vapor bath has been installed in the Olympic village at the request of Helsingfors . . . The bath was placed on the edge of a lake because the Finns like to cool off with a cold plunge after the baths . . . Paul Waner of the Pirates still uses a bat, now taped half its length to keep it from falling apart, that he borrowed during the 1934 All-Star game in New York.