

## Weekly News Review

### Germans, Poles, Hungarians Covet Part of Czech Nation

By Joseph W. LaBine



CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HER MINORITIES DISTRIBUTION

### Foreign

"After 20 years of peace we were overtaken by a violent crisis. Dynamic political forces . . . from neighboring states threatened our lands . . . England and France, two democracies, informed us that arbitration could not solve the difficulty . . . The government could do nothing but accept the suggestion of the two powers . . . Nothing else remained, because we were alone."

Thus, to her angry, downhearted populace, little Czecho-Slovakia explained why Sudeten borderlands were being ceded to Germany. Two days had passed since faithless England and France had capitulated to Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler's demand for immediate "release" of the 3,500,000 German Czechs whose protests have kept Europe in a dither all summer. Further delay would bring invasion; it was the better part of valor to surrender. The terms: Predominantly German areas would be ceded immediately, while part German areas would be given a plebiscite. In return, Adolf Hitler would join in guaranteeing Czecho-Slovakia's future.

But even while Europe began breathing easier, new troubles were brewing, mostly caused by the hopeless conglomeration of nationalities from which the Czech nation was carved 20 years ago. (See Map.) The troubles:

In Prague itself, democracy gave way to semi-dictatorship as Premier Milan Hodza's cabinet resigned, replaced by that of Gen. Jan Syrový, one-eyed army chief.

In Warsaw was heard a growing cry for "liberation" of 82,000 Poles in the Silesian Teschen belt which Poland lost to Czecho-Slovakia in 1920.

In Budapest, Hungarians demanded annexation of 700,000 Magyars in Czech territory contiguous to Hungary.

In Treviso, Italy, Premier Benito Mussolini decided treaties mean nothing in modern Europe, therefore urged complete split-up of Czecho-Slovakia to satisfy Czechs, Germans, Magyars, Poles, Ruthenians, Slovaks.

Meanwhile, Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and France's Premier Edouard Daladier ate crow. In Paris, a crisis threatened in protest against the Franco-British scheme whose stench almost paralleled that of the notorious Hoare-Laval plan for Ethiopia's partition. Three cabinet members resigned. In London, where the "sell-out" created equal protest, Neville Chamberlain had good reason to worry about his job.

As the prime minister boarded his plane for Godesberg, Germany, and his second conference with Adolf Hitler in a week's time, there were some indications that Der Fuehrer might eventually reject the Sudeten settlement, might demand complete division of Czecho-Slovakia among Germany, Poland and Hungary.

Only definite fact was that Germany had bluffed her way into Europe's No. 1 position, relegating both France and England to the classification of second-rate powers.

### Domestic

New England had already weathered three days of rain when tropical storm warnings were posted on Florida's east coast. By midnight the hurricane was safely past Florida, far at sea. Next morning Jacksonville warned North Carolina's capes, but high tides and wind had already spread the word. By noon the weather bureau at Washington ordered storm warnings posted from Atlantic City to Eastport, Me.

By late afternoon the storm hit Long Island's fashionable Westhampton with a 90-mile wind, a 40-foot tidal wave. Luxurious homes on the sand dunes were blown to sea and bodies were scattered for miles along the beach. The storm's full force had struck the island from Montauk down to Queens and Brooklyn.

Roaring across Long Island sound, it brought flood, wind and fire to Connecticut in a night of horror that cost \$30,000,000. At Providence, R. I., waves that broke 1,000 feet into

the city left 25 feet of water in some streets. By the time it reached Massachusetts, four days of rain had already swollen rivers to flood stage. As only a hurricane can, it ripped northward into New Hampshire and Vermont, thence across to Montreal where it took two more lives before playing out. Behind was a picture of amazing desolation that stretched across six states.

Next day began the biggest rehabilitation job since 1937's spring floods. With more than 400 dead, with property damage standing above \$400,000,000, with thousands homeless, many communities were so hopelessly shattered they could not help themselves. To the rescue came the Red Cross, U. S. coast guard and WPA, while from Washington President Roosevelt ordered all federal agencies to give every possible assistance.

### Politics

All summer the U. S. has waited for Franklin Roosevelt to say yes or no regarding his third term candidacy. Only known facts were (1) that he would retire if a strongly liberal congress approved his legislative program by 1940, and (2) that, having control over the Democratic party, he would then be able



NEW YORK'S O'CONNOR  
Biggest fish in a summer's angling.

to name his successor. Thus it was obvious why he strove to defeat such "obstructionist" senators as Iowa's Gillette, South Carolina's Smith, Maryland's Tydings and Georgia's George.

But by last week, as primary season closed, the President's only major success had been against New York's Rep. John J. O'Connor, defeated by administration-blessed James H. Fay, one-legged war veteran. Though Representative O'Connor won Republican nomination (he entered both tickets), Candidate Fay is a safe bet next November since he carries both American Labor party and Democratic endorsement.

Since little John O'Connor was the biggest fish Franklin Roosevelt has been able to hook in a summer's angling, at best his so-called "purge" was only 25 per cent successful. This means the President's program will not be completed by 1940, also that his tremendous personal popularity would bog down if he attempted to choose his successor. Though he can win votes for himself, he cannot do it for others.

Apparently two choices remain open. Either Franklin Roosevelt will run for Democratic renomination or he will head a new third party, a step not considered unlikely in view of his recent promise to support liberals, whether Democratic or Republican.

● In Massachusetts, ex-Gov. James M. Curley staged a comeback, won Democratic gubernatorial nomination over the incumbent, Gov. Charles F. Hurlley. Opposing him next November will be 46-year-old Leverett Saltonstall, liberal Republican, who scored three times the vote of his three opponents combined.

### Business

Foremost among American industry's problem children are the railroads, who jointly fell \$180,000,000 short of earning fixed charges during 1938's first six months, whose proposed 15 per cent pay cut (\$250,000,000 a year) is met by labor's allegation of financial mismanagement and overcapitalization. Last spring, almost simultaneous with the wage cut announcement, congress received rail legislation but tabled it on the insistence of Wisconsin's Sen. Robert M. LaFollette.

Called for October 1 was a general railroad strike which, under federal legislation, can be averted 30 days while a presidential fact-finding committee deliberates 30 more days after its report is submitted. Though President Roosevelt plans to follow this procedure, he began thinking early in September in broader terms than a strike. To the White House were summoned three experts of rail management (Union Pacific's Carl Gray, Pennsylvania's M. W. Clement, Southern Pacific's E. C. Norris) and three experts of rail labor (Railway Employees' B. M. Jewell, Firemen-Engineers Brotherhood's D. B. Robertson, Railway Labor Executives' George M. Harrison).

Their job: To draft for next winter's congress a long-range rehabilitation plan for the \$26,000,000,000 industry, one-third of which is now bankrupt. Though the President obviously hoped to avert a rail strike by promising legislation, though steadily increasing carloadings plus the prospect of business recovery gave promise of obviating a wage cut, labor remained adamant. At the committee's first session, its three experts told management's three experts that no legislation could be talked until wage cut demands were dropped.

### International

Early in Depression it became apparent that permanent recovery was a world-wide proposition. Thus, since 1931, each year has brought an International Management congress which woos international prosperity through means that have thus far failed to win international peace, namely, co-operation.

To Washington for this year's congress came 2,000 executives and management experts. But a fortnight ago, after the first day's session, it was plain that the weight of American delegates would change an impersonal discussion of business into a field day for protests against what U. S. industry considers its No. 1 foe, the New Deal.

From France's Alex Brule came the simple analysis that most of management's problems are reducible to human problems. Germany's Dr. Gorg Seebauer was interested in "the social aspects of scientific management." But one U. S. speaker after another found reason to lay American business ills at the White House door. Samples:

Johns-Manville's Lewis H. Brown: "Adding to the misunderstandings between business and government . . . is our present confused state of mind . . . We are torn between contradictions."

Westinghouse's A. W. Robertson: "Management . . . must struggle to maintain the cause of free enterprise in a world threatened by too much regimentation."

Soundest advice of all came from William Allen White, wizen editor of the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette, who were well ignored.



EMPORIA'S EDITOR WHITE  
Capital was "just plain dumb."

spanked both capital and labor while speaking as a "representative of the public."

Editor White to capital: "You were short-sighted for not seeing that the eight-hour day was coming . . . You had to fight it, every inch, and make the consuming public think you were greedy . . . You were just dumb."

Editor White to labor: "The proper business of a labor union is to get higher wages, better hours and good shop conditions . . . But when labor en masse plunks its vote for its own (political) party, then the spirit of loyalty begins to obscure labor's objectives."

### Bruckart's Washington Digest

## Three Times in Row President's 'Purge' Attempts Prove Futile

Roosevelt Unable to Transmit Personal Popularity to His Followers; Political Prestige Suffers Irreparable Damage; Forced Realignment Seen Complete Flop.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There was quite a sermon, for me, in the telegram of congratulations that Virginia's great leader, Sen. Carter Glass, sent to Senator George upon the occasion of Senator George's victory in the attempted New Deal "purge" in Georgia. I don't know why that telegram was not more widely printed, but it was typically like Carter Glass, so cryptic, so full of meaning, that I am going to reprint it here:

"Senator Walter F. George, Atlanta, Ga.  
"God bless you, Walter. Likewise, the sovereign State of Georgia.  
"Signed, Carter Glass."

To get its true meaning, one has to recall that Senator George was the third Democratic senator, in a row, who was openly opposed by President Roosevelt; the third marked to be "purged" from the Democratic party and the third in a row to be victorious over the President's ill-advised attempt to dominate voters of a state, and, in due course, the congress of the United States, by personally picking the Democratic party nominees.

Next, Mr. George had been subjected to perhaps the strongest New Deal slap by the President, of any of the nine senators whom the President originally described as men behind the times. It will be recalled how Mr. Roosevelt, with Senator George on the platform, spoke his blessing of United States Attorney Camp at Barnesville, Ga., and announced his conclusion that Mr. George represented the past, not the future. It was on that occasion, too, that Mr. Roosevelt uttered the now famous: "God bless you, Walter; I hope we will always be friends."

The third feature to be remembered is that Mr. George won, that former Governor Talmadge was second and that the New Deal candidate was third in the race, and that Mr. George's victory was so overwhelming that there was no need for a run-off primary.

### President's Prestige Has Suffered Heavy Damage

Couple these facts with Senator Tydings' victory over Rep. David J. Lewis for the Democratic senatorial nomination in Maryland, and Sen. "Cotton Ed" Smith's substantial margin over Governor Johnston in South Carolina, and it appears to me that several conclusions are proper and justifiable. Mr. Roosevelt went into South Carolina in behalf of Governor Johnston and he went into Maryland to promise construction of several huge Chesapeake bay bridges and to point to the good qualities of Representative Lewis. Yet, the President's wishes were well ignored.

The conclusions I have reached—and I believe they will stand the most critical test—are:

1. Mr. Roosevelt is unable to transmit to his followers the same personal popularity that he has enjoyed since entering the White House.

2. His prestige as a political leader, which undoubtedly was slipping to some extent before, has now suffered irreparable damage.

3. The congress that will be elected in November will be the most independent, indeed, probably the most obstreperous, that the President has faced, and that spells trouble in a big way.

4. There can be no discounting the influence that victories for the conservatives, like those won by Tydings, Smith and George, will have on the rest of the country in the November elections. It is an honest statement, I believe, that there are numerous voters who have been wavering between the New Deal and the conservative school of thought, and a large percentage of them will turn to conservative candidate when they have a chance. They will be influenced strongly, and that fact worries the New Deal thinkers at the moment.

### 'Purge' but Step In Plan Of Political Realignment

But there is yet another thought in this connection. I refer to the President's program for a realignment of political groups in this country. He has called for it; of that there is no obvious doubt. The

"purge" of the senators marked for political destruction was one of the early steps. So, it is significant that Mr. Roosevelt's early maneuver in the direction of a forced realignment has succeeded to the extent of a complete flop. The thing that started out to be a beautiful swan-like dive became a belly-buster, much to the chagrin of the great thinkers who surround the President and give him such poor political advice.

There will be a condition in the next congress that will be worthy of watching. Surely, no one will expect Tydings and Smith and George and Clark of Missouri and six or eight other senators to go out of their way to support a Roosevelt program in which they may not believe.

House members nearly always keep in close touch with the senators of their respective states, particularly if they are of the same political faith. They will take encouragement from the forthrightness of their seniors and, quite naturally, will be bolder and more outspoken. It will be much more difficult for Democratic Leader Rayburn to hold his majority together in the house of representatives because of this new-found courage and, in some cases, resentment.

All of which leads into a third phase. Few Presidents have been able to withstand bushwhacking from Capitol Hill. It confronts Mr. Roosevelt to an unparalleled degree because of the "purge." Thus, a further analysis seems to offer evidence, at least a hint, that Mr. Roosevelt's control of the Democratic party may be broken. If it is not now an accomplished fact, I see no reason to expect that the President can control the Democratic national convention of 1940. That, after all, is one of the things at stake in the President's ill-starred "purge" attempts.

### Some Heads May Fall; New Spokesmen Appear

In consequence of these things, I have an idea that there will be many, many moves made during the next session and in the session just before the 1940 convention designed to take the Democratic party out of the hands of the Roosevelt advisers. I think you will see delegates being groomed here and there, 18 months before they are to be formally chosen. I believe also that state political bosses will become quite active next summer as they watch which way the wind blows. Some will guess wrong, some right. Some political heads will fall and new spokesmen will appear on the scene.

All of these things, I predict, will happen, barring one thing. That one thing is war. If there is a general European war on the horizon, then we may expect a different course of political events in the United States.

What I am about to say, now, is not said in discredit of the President. It is merely voicing a fact in politics. If there be a general war abroad, and, more particularly, if American relations become involved in it, then Mr. Roosevelt unquestionably will appeal for solidarity of public opinion, for unanimous support for the government of the nation. His spokesmen and henchmen will be busy as bees showing him to be the only man for the job, the only man capable of saving the nation. That happened in Woodrow Wilson's time and it has happened in every other war, and it will happen again.

### Political Destruction Of Roosevelt Threatened

I know that Mr. Roosevelt is no more anxious to have the United States become involved in war than you or I. He realizes its cost in blood, as well as the disarrangement of world economics that follows. And if war comes, he naturally will want a united nation back of him. But, coldly and abstractly, I repeat that war conditions are the only set of circumstances that I see now which may prevent a thoroughgoing movement on Capitol Hill for the political destruction of Mr. Roosevelt. When I say, political destruction, I do not mean to imply, or to hint that opponents of the President within his own party want to send him to oblivion. They will seek—they are seeking, now—to de-throne him in every way except as titular head of the party.

### Speaking of Sports

## Old Quarrel Reason for Frisch Fall

By HERB ROGERS

THE real story behind Frankie Frisch's exit as leader of the famous "Gas-House" gang, most colorful team in baseball history, is told by observers close to Cardinal affairs.

It all harks back to the spring of '37 when Frisch is said to have urged the trading of Leo "Lippy" Durocher, captain of his team. There had never been any love lost



FRANKIE FRISCH

between the two, and on May 8, just before the game with the Giants, they quarreled publicly. Frisch noted that Durocher was not taking batting practice, and spotting him talking to friends in the stands, called him in.

"If you're too big for this ball club," yelled Frisch, "go get a train for St. Louis." Lippy lived up to his name in the fluency of his retort. He finished out the season but there was no lessening in the bad blood between him and his manager.

### Fateful Trade

Branch Rickey, general manager of the Cardinals, liked Durocher and wanted to keep him. But during the 1937 World Series in New York he made the deal with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey called in Frisch and said: "Well, I've just traded Durocher as you wanted." He handed him a paper showing that for Lippy the Cards had received infielders Joe Stripp and Jim Bucher, outfielder Johnny Cooney and pitcher Roy Henshaw.

Frisch read the list, then exclaimed: "Didn't you get a shortstop?"

"You didn't ask me to get you a shortstop," said Rickey grimly. "All you asked me was to get rid of Durocher. You go out and get one or play short yourself."

Frisch is said never to have recovered from the blow and to have blamed Rickey for the absence of any suitable successor to the brilliant Durocher.

And Rickey is said to have fretted all summer for the same reason, watching the Cards lose game after game with misfits at short. St. Louis sports writers said that Don Guttridge, playing the short field, had cost the team a round dozen defeats so far with his wild throws. Had Durocher stayed at short, they said, the team would have been in the pennant fight, battling with the Pirates, Cubs and Reds.

Frisch's career as a player ended last spring when he took himself off the active list, leaving a record of 2,311 games for baseball tyros to shoot at. He holds many World Series records. In the eight which saw him perform, always as a star, he got 58 hits, far in excess of any other player in history. He won the record of the most singles ever made by one man in the classics, 45; the most two-base hits, 10, and averaged .298 for the eight series.

Now 41, Frisch reached a peak salary of \$18,000. His baseball career started at the age of 19, when he came to the Giants direct from Fordham college, where he had starred at second base as well as in football. John McGraw, manager of the Giants, had a special liking for the fiercely competitive young player, and in 1921, two years after he joined the team, installed him as the regular second baseman, a spot where McGraw always had a star.

Frisch never hit lower than .327 in his six years with McGraw. A bitter dispute with McGraw at the height of the 1925 season led Frisch to quit the club and return home for a time. McGraw said that he had overlooked it, but that December when Branch Rickey offered him Hornsby, McGraw swapped Frisch.

### Year's Best Amateur

A MATEUR athletes' man or woman of the year will be known soon after November 1. It will be an athlete of this country who, by his or her performance as a competitor and by example and influence as an amateur, did most to advance the cause of sportsmanship during the year 1938.

Five hundred sports writers and athletic leaders from all sections of the country will serve on the board to select the outstanding athlete of 1938, and the winner will receive the annual James E. Sullivan trophy.

In the past members of the board made their choice on athletic ability and popularity which often came from wide newspaper publicity. This year the board is asked not to vote on athletic ability only, as acts of sportsmanship, excellence of performance, qualities of character and leadership, force of personality and high ideals of amateurism are as important as athletic ability in making the nominations.

There are plenty of able youngsters who might qualify this year. Charley Yates has been a favorite ever since he won the British Amateur golf championship. Katherine Rawls Thompson, the swimmer, will have much support, while Patty Berg, who is having a great year among the women golfers, is a good prospect.

Former winners of the Sullivan award include Bobby Jones, Don Budge and Glenn Morris.

### Grand Old Man

Speaking of awards for outstanding athletes, there ought to be a laurel wreath for that grand old man of American sports, Julian Curtiss. Just turned 80, Curtiss has announced his retirement from active association with sports, although he is still keener, both mentally and physically, than most men in their middle fifties.

If you've never heard of Julian Curtiss it's because he's never sought the spotlight. No other man has had the intimate and wide association with leading amateur and professional athletes that Curtiss has had. For years he has been the referee of the Poughkeepsie boat races.

It is Curtiss who is responsible for making golf an American national sport. Years ago, he brought back a bag of golf sticks from Great Britain and then sold the game to a skeptical public by importing a boatload of Scotch pros and touring them in exhibitions.

### Top U. S. Swimmer

Ralph Flanagan of the Miami Billmore pool has again been accorded the title of America's outstanding swimmer. The choice was made by the All-American board of swimming which, aided by a committee



RALPH FLANAGAN

of best aquatic experts in the country, annually selects its star team.

This year there are a few new names on the list, but Flanagan is again an easy winner. He took the honors in the 220, 440, 880 and one mile freestyle events.

### Here and There

Pop Warner is starting his forty-fourth year as a coach . . . Detroit is the only team in the American league which never has finished in eighth place . . . Every evening during pre-season football training the Princeton team knocks off for a session of musical entertainment. The purpose, says Coach Tad Wieman, is to aid the digestive system through rest and to provide good comradeship after scrapping for team positions all day . . . Southern California's Trojans are claiming that this is their year on the Pacific Coast . . . The fish story season has arrived in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Jack Breckenridge, veteran lumberman, reports he ran out of bait while fishing in the Sault ship canal, so he put a piece of chewing gum on his hook—and hauled out a 4½-pound whitefish.