

Weekly News Review

Domestic 'Dumping' Favored In New Farm Relief Proposal

By Joseph W. La Bine

Agriculture

One feature of the 1938 farm bill calls for U. S. loans on crops affected by falling prices. When crops are sold, loans must be repaid. Due November 1 are repayments on loans covering 48,000,000 bushels of corn. But by mid-October, with corn selling on the farm from 33 to 38 cents, and at market for 44 cents, disgusted farmers saw they would be money ahead to default on loans and give Uncle Sam their corn. Thus, overnight, the U. S. government became the world's largest corn broker.

This is but one phase of a Chinese puzzle known as the American farm problem. Since 1933 it has been the personal headache of Iowa's Henry A. Wallace, secretary of agricul-

ture, who can remember the halcyon days when all surplus wheat and cotton—the two basic crops—were bought readily by foreign nations. But foreign markets are now glutted. American farm surpluses must either be dumped abroad at any price foreign buyers are willing to pay, or be left to rot in U. S. granaries. Most people have favored the latter policy, meanwhile deploring the economic unbalance that allows many U. S. citizens to go hungry despite bountiful crops.

The easiest remedy would be to let low prices drive American farmers off the land, but this is socially inhumane, politically unsound and economically foolhardy. When the New Deal started in 1933, AAA was formulated to pay farmers for limiting their acreage. Funds came from processing taxes levied against manufacturers, but ultimately paid by consumers. When the Supreme court ruled processing taxes invalid, a "soil conservation" program was set up to pay farmers for retiring their land, ostensibly to give it a rest but actually to limit production. Thirty per cent of customs receipts were set aside to pay for it.

Business

Even as U. S. business has been busy reporting declined profits during its third 1938 quarter, neighboring columns of the financial pages have chronicled what every manufacturer and banker knew was coming: A business upturn. At Detroit, General Motors led the way by placing 35,000 men back at work, meanwhile granting 10 per cent pay boosts to all employees making less than \$300 a month. Chrysler was a close second, announcing recall of 34,000 men since August 1.

The reason was a double one. October, November and December are normal upturn months, especially in the automobile industry where new models begin coming off assembly lines. The other reason, one that made business hold its tongue in check, is that the full force of U. S. "pump priming" is just beginning to take force. Whether this combined natural-artificial stimulant will keep business going uphill after January 1 is anybody's guess.

If it accomplishes nothing else, the upturn has brought a measure of industrial peace. Where a month ago new strike waves were sweeping the nation, sudden calm has now descended as industry's wheels again start turning.

Religion

Had October's national Eucharistic congress gone searching for a discussion theme, it could have found none better than that which Nazi Germany tossed into its lap a fortnight earlier. In Vienna, Theodore Cardinal Innitzer's St. Stephen's cathedral had been mobbed, his palace invaded in protest against the cardinal's strong anti-Nazi stand. By the time 100,000 U. S. Roman Catholics assembled in New Orleans, enough sentiment was crystallized to make the Eucharistic congress a stomping ground for democracy and an unpopular place for dictators.

Message Franklin Roosevelt: "We still remain true to the faith of our fathers who established religious liberty when the nation be-



POPE PIUS XI
He slapped at Dictator Hitler.

gan . . . I doubt if there is any problem in the world today that would not find happy solution in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount."

But the keynote came from Pope Pius XI, whose six-minute broadcast from the Vatican was a direct slap at Dictator Adolf Hitler, whose lieutenants had tolerated the Vienna outrage. Said the pontiff: "We see many men who hold as valueless and reject and spurn those divine precepts of the gospel which alone can bring salvation to the human race. Scarcely can we refrain from a tear when we behold the eternal majesty of God himself set aside and outraged; or with unspeakable wickedness held up, as an enemy, to reviling and to execration."

Defense

Though the Munich agreement was aimed to preserve Europe's peace, its immediate result has been feverish rearmament. Great Britain has made plans for conscription and new airplane factories; France has appropriated 1,320,000,000 francs for military spending and 887,000,000 more for her navy; Germany is rushing fortification of her Belgian frontier; Italy speeds barriers in the Alps.

Few Americans have hoped that the U. S. can avoid similar preparations. Loudest persuasion of all has come from Britain's Winston Churchill, whose short wave broadcast urged the U. S. to take a commanding lead against dictators, to join Britain in stopping "isms" before it is too late. Added impetus has come from current U. S. espionage investigations (see DOMESTIC).



BERNARD BARUCH
He wanted billions for defense.

Growing louder, this voice finally reached White House ears, coincidentally bringing comment from Capitalist Bernard Baruch who chaired the war industries board in 1917.

Emerging from a White House conference, Mr. Baruch started observers thinking by warning that U. S. defenses were inadequate. Though most Americans regard "defense" as successful repulsion of a North American invasion, a broader conception calls for protection of the entire Western hemisphere. Mr. Baruch's defense program includes: (1) immediate construction of a "two ocean navy"; (2) increased air power; (3) better equipment for 400,000 regular soldiers and the national guard; (4) subsidies to protect U. S. trade interests in South America; (5) industrial and military mobilization law; (6) a special tax to pay for these expenses.

Though it lacks official confirmation, President Roosevelt plainly favors the Baruch program. The suggested tax boost comes dangerously near election time, but administration leaders minimize this political hazard because: (1) most Americans regard democracy's security as more important than financial security or political partisanship; (2) a speeded-up military and naval program, financed by special tax, would decrease relief rolls and possibly create what Germany has been facing, an actual shortage of labor. Thus WPA and PWA costs could be slashed and the budget balanced.

Domestic

Inescapably connected with the government's new emphasis on military defense against Nazi-Fascist world powers is President Roosevelt's interest in espionage. For 20 years the U. S. has disregarded spies, though the increasing frequency of arrests has made Americans fearful of Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia. Heightening the tension have been: (1) the Munich agreement which placed democracies on the defensive; (2) arrest in mid-October of four Germans taking photographs in the Canal Zone; (3) trial in New York of four alleged Nazi agents, with coincident efforts to prove indictments against 14 others who escaped the spy net and fled to Germany.

Greatest interest in the espionage trial lies in red-haired, 28-year-old Johanna Hoffman, who reportedly transported spy messages from New York to Germany while serving as hairdresser on the liner Europa. Second interest lies in Guenther Gustav Rumrich, former U. S. army sergeant who deserted and made a blundering attempt to secure 35 passport blanks last June.

Though New York's spy trial appears commonplace, its significance is tremendous. Not only does it mark an emboldened U. S. defense attitude, but legal experts also explain it is the first time America has named a supposedly friendly power (Germany) in direct charges. Since indictments are filed against heads of the German secret service and naval intelligence, the trial is a potential international dynamite keg.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Wallace Proposes Two-Price Plan To Market Agricultural Surplus

System Would Create Class Distinction in This Country and Open Road to More Graft and Corruption; Farmers Rebel as Various Schemes Prove Unworkable.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON. — I just cannot help wondering what the verdict of history is going to be, say 50 years in the future, concerning the present secretary of agriculture, Mr. Henry A. Wallace. From a current perspective, it appears that Mr. Wallace can get out on more limbs — "way out on them" — than any man who ever has helped bungle governmental policies. He seems to have a penchant for jumping from a frying pan into the fire, as we see the thing as of today.

This capacity for jumping here and there has placed the head of the department of agriculture out on another limb. This time, as has been announced, Mr. Wallace is giving serious consideration to a program that seems certain to create a new mess. Having made what appears to be a terrifically bad job — at least that is what tens of thousands of farmers think — of efforts to rehabilitate the agriculture industry, Mr. Wallace is now proposing to enter the consumers' field.

He and his window box farmer-aides are seriously considering establishment of a two-price system in this country. That is, they are proposing that agricultural surpluses should be sold to "ordinary consumers at one price and that the same commodities should be sold to "lower income" persons at a lower price. The federal government would make up the difference where losses occur in the sale of farm products to the lower income groups, swallowing that loss as a subsidy disguised under the fine words "maintaining a sound market for American producers."

Opens the Road to More Graft and Corruption

The thing is so cock-eyed that it seems strange it would be given a serious thought anywhere. It opens the road to more graft and corruption than can be measured, more governmental pressure and regimentation of people, more vote buying. But my objection goes deeper. I object, and I think the plan ought to be laughed out of the window, because it is proposing to destroy the very reasons for establishment of the United States as a free nation. Everyone knows that the earliest settlers fled England because of the oppression resulting from the class system. Other reasons expanded the desire for freedom, but fundamentally the motivating force that brought colonists to American shores was the class system and the damages done to the lower classes and untitled persons. The current thought, advanced by Mr. Wallace, will create class distinction in this country — and no one can tell where that will lead.

I suspect this new limb on to which Mr. Wallace and his crew have climbed sprouted from the failure of some of the other visionary schemes tried by the professional farm planners. It is unnecessary for me to recount the numerous plans that brought, first, the scarcity plan for raising prices; that brought, next, such sweet refrains as "the more abundant life" and that brought various and sundry delightful outlooks. Rain clouds blew up, however, and the schemes that were to solve the farm problems were like the letters in a leaky mail box after a downpour. But always there were checks, government checks, and I never would blame anyone for taking them. I believe surely, however, that it was only the existence of those checks that kept the farmers from moving en masse upon the beautiful grounds of the department of agriculture, demanding fair treatment.

Farmers Raise Voices as Schemes Prove Unworkable

As the latest schemes from the department have proved unworkable — the farmers with their better knowledge of what is good for the industry have raised their voices in objection, notwithstanding the checks. Mr. Wallace and his the- orists have had to look quickly for something new. They have hit upon the two-price system, largely in a hope that they can stall off a general farm uprising, but also because the idea of governmental purchase of farm crops has piled up such tre-

mendous stocks that the boys are afraid their lives will be snuffed out by cave-ins. In other words, the small houses they were building have turned out to be skyscrapers.

It is not only my conclusion that such things as the recently tried export subsidies idea have failed. Another, and, very important, agency of the government apparently has reached the same conclusion. Only recently, the department of state took a slap at the Wallace policies on export subsidies. Assistant Secretary Francis B. Sayre was the voice of the department of state in this instance, and he said in a New York speech:

"In many minds, export subsidies offer a plausible solution; but such a method is as unsound at bottom as it is plausible on its face. Practical experiences in numerous countries have shown that this method creates more problems than it solves. Export subsidies are powerless to move exports in the face of foreign quota restrictions, licenses, etc."

And so forth. Now Mr. Wallace said that quotas, licenses and that sort of thing had forced the export subsidies, but apparently the department of state thinks it is the other way "round." Mr. Sayre, of course, was supporting the reciprocal trade agreement program that is fostered by Secretary Hull, and whether you believe in that idea or not, you can hardly dodge the fact that trade treaties at least seek to put a stop to the building of more trade restrictions. Mr. Wallace's export subsidies invite new action against our shipments.

Buying Surplus Products To Care for Destitute

Again, assuming that it is necessary to care for the destitute — and nobody can deny that either the states or the federal government must do so — why is it necessary to further complicate the present problem of feeding the poor by this half-baked scheme? The surplus commodity corporation has been buying surpluses from the open market. The purpose was to take off a price depressing influence. It was designed to make a price for the farmer somewhat higher than would have obtained, whether it has accomplished that end or not. In any event, the surplus products that were used to feed the poor were given to them and that action has had very little effect upon the stability of prices.

But Mr. Wallace is not satisfied with that arrangement. Why? Well, apparently, he is getting afraid of the huge piles of government-owned products, acquired because of the fuzzy character of his earlier promises to make agriculture safe for democracy, or the New Deal, or something.

Mr. Wallace's experts have just concluded a survey which leads to the conclusion that if everyone in the United States had an "adequate diet," this country would consume all that is produced on farms annually, and in addition would require the production of two additional states of the size of Iowa. We must assume that their findings are correct, but questions will occur to everyone about them. First, what is an adequate diet? People have different ideas about that, especially the fat man or the fat woman who wants to hold the belt line within reason. But the more important question is: if there is that additional production needed to insure an adequate diet, why does Mr. Wallace still cling to crop control, to a scheme for cutting down production? The two systems do not rhyme in my humble mind.

How Will History Regard Policies of Wallace?

So, when we see Mr. Wallace's own policies doing a contradictory loop-the-loop; when we find him trying to promote foreign trade by killing the goose that laid the golden egg, and when we find him turning to the development — or, consideration, at least — of a scheme to create class feelings within our own population, I wonder what the end will be. To repeat, I cannot help wondering how history will regard him and the policies he is now seeking to carry through.

Speaking of Sports

New Football Theories Get Trial at Penn

By HERB ROGERS

IDEALISM and theory never have gotten very far in the hard-bottled business of football coaching. Perhaps the exception to the rule will prove itself at the University of Pennsylvania this season, where 28-year-old George Munger is handling a varsity coaching job for the first time.

Munger is an idealist and a theorist. With a background of only



GEORGE MUNGER

five years of high school and freshman coaching, he has moved into one of the top-notch football berths of the country.

Back to the Boys

One of the novel ideas that Munger has already put in effect is giving the game back to the boys. The team captain attends all coaching conferences and has a voice in the choosing of starting lineups.

A card index system is another innovation. Every player has a rating sheet. His good points and faults are listed and no player is shifted from one team to another without knowing the reason.

Munger has some interesting new theories that are as yet too untried to completely justify themselves. He has devised a single wing back style of attack that is basically the same as Harvey Harman used at Penn last year, but has different blocking assignments from start to finish. The tail back is posted behind the weak side guard and the bucking back behind the strong side guard.

'38 Teams Tougher?

Switching from the youngest major college coach in the country to the oldest brings us to Amos Alonzo Stagg, football's grand old man who is now in his forty-ninth year of coaching at the age of 76.



AMOS ALONZO STAGG

Stagg, who has probably contributed more to the progress of football than any living man, recently gave his ideas on current trends of the sport. He believes that the most progressive development is not the lateral pass, but the return to the old single wing back.

"Any good class B college football team of 1938 could beat the 'immortal' football teams of 30 years ago by two touchdowns," he said. "The boys of today are bigger, stronger, faster and more agile athletes than the men who made up the squads of old Yale, Princeton and Harvard."

"Thirty years ago, football was an exclusive sport for the few young men who could afford to go to college. Today it is the common man's sport and because more boys are playing it, it naturally must be better."

Baer Again

MAX BAER, pugilism's perennial jack-in-the-box, is going to make another try for the world heavyweight championship, according to latest reports.

Promoter Mike Jacobs announced that Baer has agreed to fight the winner of the Louis Nova-Tommy Farr bout, scheduled for Madison Square Garden in New York, next December 16.

Jacobs said the winner of the Baer and either Nova or Farr would be matched with Joe Louis for the heavyweight championship.

However, there are a few minor details to be ironed out before Jacobs can arrange a match with Joe Louis. He got his first big set-back when Manager Julian Black demanded a guarantee of \$500,000 for Champion Louis to risk his crown against the California play-boy in a San Francisco match next April.

Whereupon Jacobs left for California to see what he could do about promoting that tidy sum from the world's fair people there.

Whether such a meeting could be arranged, even if Jacobs is successful in his quest for the \$500 grand, is another question. Jack Dempsey gave it as his opinion that "Max Baer never should be given a chance at Louis again. The match wouldn't draw and anyway I don't think any athletic commission would sanction it."

A more likely challenger for the heavyweight championship would come from the field of aspiring youngsters who are rapidly pushing such veterans as Baer, Tommy Farr, Max Schmeling and Tony Galento out of the picture. These newcomers include Lou Nova of California, Gunnar Barlund of Finland, Bob Pastor of New York, Jimmy Adack of Detroit and Maurice Stickleland of New Zealand.

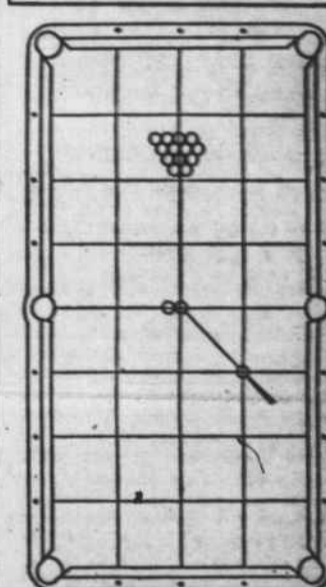
Lou Nova in particular has proved that he's no flash-in-the-pan. The crack coast heavyweight has had an extremely rapid development in the two years since he turned professional, after winning the international amateur heavyweight boxing title in Paris.

Here and There—

COLUMBIA university hasn't lost an opening football game since Lou Little became head coach in 1930. . . . Gehrig and Lazzari moved past Frisch as runners-up to Babe Ruth in all-time world series spoils. Total takes: Ruth, \$41,645; Gehrig, \$38,490; Lazzari, \$37,350; Frisch, \$35,607. . . . George Veneker, Iowa State athletic director, says broken cleats are the chief source of serious football injuries. . . . The University of Wisconsin which has won 26 of its last 29 intercollegiate boxing matches, will be host to the national collegiate tournament March 30, 31 and April 1.

Pocket Billiards

By CHARLES C. PETERSON
President, National Billiard Association of America and World's Trick Shot Champion.



LESSON NO. 3

A combination kiss and break shot. Place balls as per diagram. Make certain the object balls are frozen (touching). The balls in the triangle must be carefully spotted and frozen as the chart indicates. Be sure and strike the object ball in dead center—in order to get perfect results—and don't be too anxious to draw your cue from the table. This is one of the most glaring blunders in the game of pocket billiards. Keep your cue on the line of aim.