Weekly News Analysis-

AAA Supporters, Encouraged, Expect Little Change in Act

-By Joseph W. La Bine-

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of the newspaper.

Agriculture

U. S. cotton farmers having voted U. S. cotton farmers having voted to impose taxes on any producer who markets more than his share in 1939, last spring's agricultural adjustment act seems destined for enforcement next year with little change. Not only the cotton election, but three other signs have given because the AAA's friends.

en hope to AAA's friends:
(1) At New Orleans, President Edward A. O'Neal of the powerful American Farm Bureau federation told his convention that AAA, coupled with the soil conservation act the marketing agreements act and allied legislation "gives us the best all-around farm program we have ever had." Hitting criticism based on currently low wheat and cotton prices, he said: "Everybody knows



FARM BUREAU'S O'NEAL "Compare . . . then say candidly . . . "

the law was passed too late for wheat growers to comply . . . and everybody knows that the cotton surplus was produced in 1937, not 1938 . . . Compare the farm income this year with the 1932 figure, and then say candidly whether or not our programs have helped the farmer." The importance of Mr. O'Neal's statement is that Farm Bureau opinion could be a mighty force against AAA abolition agitation.

At Winnipeg, AAA Administrator R. M. Evans spiked rumors of drastic wheat acreage curtailment next year by pointing out that U. S. farmers could not be expected to accept such curtailment without similar action by other exporting nations. Hoping that government subsidized exports need be only a temporary measure, Mr. Evans nevertheless defended it as a justified step to give the U.S. a fair share of the export market.

(3) At Washington, F. R. Wilcox of AAA announced sale of 5,000,000 United Kingdom, adding to the 20,-000,000 bushels he had already sold. Having committed itself to sell 100 .-000,000 bushels by next July, U. S. was already well past the half-way mark and had begun negotiations for additional sales to China and Mexico. Though such subsidized exports will help reduce the U. S. surplus, granaries will still be far too full next year.

Europe

The initial thunder of Italy's de-mands for French colonies has died down, as has the German-inspired agitation for autonomy in Lithua-nia's Memel district. Although both France and Britain promise one day they will give no more concessions, the very next day they make ges-tures in that direction.

Probably recognizing some justice in Italy's complaint, France has re-Suez canal rates to make Italian East Africa-more accessible from Rome. Both France and England remember that they promised to split African war spoils with Itback in 1915 when the Treaty of London was signed. Since this pact was ignored at Versailles, and since Italy can now be a formidable enemy, the two democracies are willing to make peace.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, in a speech defending his policy of "appeasing" dictators, has led Italy to believe he will work for territorial concessions on France's part. Italy's demands in-clude Savoy, Nice, Corsica, Tunisia and the East African seaport of Diibouti.

Thus Europe has apparently mounting sentiment will not bury it emerged from another war scare in a protest vote.

into another period of diplomatic conversations, to be followed probably next spring by a German drive into the Russian Ukraine. Among the latest diplomatic moves is Ger-many's effort to consolidate its export trade position in the face of strenuous international objection to Jewish persecution. Seeking to kill two birds with one stone, Dr. Hjal-mar Schacht of the Reichsbank has proposed several plans for permit-ting German Jews to emigrate with a portion of their capital, in the form of German-manufactured export items. Dr. Schacht's recent trip to London on foreign trade business emphasizes Germany's anxiety over the United Kingdom's redou-

bled export drive.

Last winter Texas' Rep. Wright Patman offered congress a measure to tax chain stores out of existence. Its gist: To levy graded assessments from \$50 per store on small chains to \$1,000 per store on large chains, each store tax to be multiplied by the number of states in which the chain operated. Sample: A chain operating in 48 states plus the District of Columbia would pay \$49,000 per store annually on each store over 500

Though boasting 73 co-sponsors, Mr. Patman's bill failed. Also defeated was a New York state chain store tax, which signified that chains had more friends than their foes had expected. But an apparently dying issue was revived as congress adjourned, for Mr. Patman announced his bill would be introduced in January, 1939, as House Resolution No. 1. Battle lines since formed presage a bitter contest next month, as chains and anti-chain agitators re-

Anti-Chain. Supporting Mr. Patman is a once-potent national trend (now questionable) which caused 21 state legislatures to enact chain store taxes. Another state, Colorado, last month rejected a referendum to kill a similar levy. Having won passage of his Robinson-Patman act, also an anti-chain measure, Mr. Patman bases his new attack on familiar charges that chains (1) force independent merchants out of business: (2) cause low farm prices; (3) take money out of the community.

Pro-Chain. U. S. census figures

show a decreasing number of chain stores and more independents, while stores and more independents, while federal trade commission statistics credit chains with distributing \$8,000,000,000 in goods at an average 10 per cent saving to consumers. If the Patman bill passes, resultant taxes (with the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea company, they would total more than half 1937's gross



WRIGHT PATMAN Fewer noses than last year.

sales) would destroy practically all chains, would reportedly wipe out 30 per cent of the farmer's market. throw nearly 1,000,000 chain em-ployees out of work and force a sharp rise in retail prices. Chains point proudly to their two-year campaign of helping farmers move surplus crops like lamb, beef, walnuts, apples, and canned grapefruit juice. Anti-Patmanites include the American Federation of Labor, speaking for its 5,000,000 members (who charge the measure would increase living costs and unemployment), and the National Association of Retail Boards, which termed it "vicious."

Counting noses on the eve of congress' opening, Mr. Patman finds his 73 original co-sponsors dwindled to 32 through election defeats, while another (New York's Caroline O'Day) has withdrawn support. If the Patman bill succeeds in reaching the house floor, political observers wonder whether continually

FORECAST

CANCELLATION of the 1933 concordat between Germany and the Vatican, to precede enact-ment of Nazi laws directed against the Roman Catholic

REVITALIZATION of Japan's drive north and west of Canton, to strengthen Tokyo's position in the event of a Russian war (see ASLA).

INCREASE in lending power of U. S. Export-Import bank to expand trade with Latin America. CANDIDACY of Franklin D.

Roosevelt for the Presidency, not in 1940, but in 1944. REQUEST by small businessmen for congressional creation of a system of credit banks to meet

the needs of "little business."

Asia

The possibility of a major Far Eastern crisis involving Japan, Chi-na and Russia becomes more immi-nent each week. Far from denying it, Japan has taken new hitches in her economic belt and settled down for a struggle which may begin shortly after January 1. Having made supplementary army-navy appropriations of \$1,634,400,000, Japan faces a probable Russ-Chinese alliance forcing her to desperate measures to protect what gains she has already made in China.

Having penetrated deep into the vast Shansi province, Jap troops are confronted with guerrilla attacks which in 10 days cost 6,000 lives. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who Russia, promises the guerrilla war-fare will continue. That Japanese are at a disadvantage fighting so far from their base of operations is evidenced by Chinese recapture of several key towns near Canton.

Two clashes with Russia form the basis for a new war scare. The first concerns Japanese fishing concessions in Russian waters. Though Russia refuses to renew the concessions, which lapse January 1, Tokyo threatens to continue fishing though an armed patrol is needed. The second dispute cen-ters on Sakhalin island, where the Japs charge Russia is seeking to expel Nipponese oil workers. For her part, Moscow is demanding Jap-anese payment for the Russian interest in the Chinese eastern rail-

Meanwhile Japan has substantiat-ed the belief held by observers for many months, that China's "open door"—guaranteed by the nine-pow-er treaty—is about to be closed. Seeking to liberate Japan and China from dependency on foreign markets, finance and raw materials, Tokyo has virtually dictated what Great Britain and the U. S. can henceforth expect in the way of trading privileges. Shrugging shoulders over still another treaty broken in 1938, the U. S. state department has called home Nelson T. Johnson, ambassador to China, to see what can be done about it. Since Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy has also been called home from London, it is thought the U. S. may solicit British support for a unified protest against Japan's economic activity in China. Probable result: nothing.

Espionage

In New York Hairdresser Johanna Hoffman and other members of a Germany spy ring had just been sentenced. In the Panama Canal Zone, the government was busy try-ing four other young Germans accused of photographing fortifica-tions. Commented their attorney: "I venture to say that there is not a single construction or equipment for defensive purposes in the Canal Zone, details of which are not now in the possession of any foreign government desiring the information and willing to pay."

Hardly had this shock penetrated before the West coast, hotbed of espionage, reported its latest spy scare. In Los Angeles government agents arrested Mikhail Gorin, a Soviet tourist agent and Hafis Salich, native Russian who became a Berkeley police officer and was lent to the naval intelligence because he could speak Japanese. The charge: That Salich supplied Gorin with confidential navy department information regarding Japanese military affairs. How the U.S. (which claims to operate no counter-espionage agency) secured its Japanese secrets, was not told.

Miscellany

Invalidated, by the North Dakota Supreme court, that state's \$40 minimum old age pension plan approved in the November election, because 1937 legislative appropriations cannot be used to pay pensions more than \$30 monthly, also because the measure exceeds "reasonable as-sistance" as outlined in the state

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Legislation Against Chain Stores Will Come Up Again

Danger to Independent Store Operator Will Be Theme of Discussion; Question of General National Policy Needs Thought; Sane Regulation Is Possible.

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

WASHINGTON. - The politician | legislator ought to consider that his who is a demagogue—the fellow who has nothing on the ball and gets into politics on his gift for gab—always must have a bogie man, There must always be an immediate threat, like the sword of Damocles, hanging over the heads of the dear pee-pul. political demagogue doesn't have that sort of thing, he is utterly lost, because usually he can not talk about fundamental issues.

The favorite bogie man of fellows like former Sen. Tom Hefiin was "Wall Street." Day after day, ole Tom would drag Wall Street onto the floor of the senate and shake the gizzard out of it. There were others like Tom and there were other hobgoblins. The chain stores, for a number of years, were the meat and drink of the demagogue and many an otherwise punk got elected to of-fice because he could talk for 10 hours about the evils of the chain stores. We always have had our trust busters, the baiters of corpora-tions. One bogic dies and another takes its place and the thing goes on until presently one of the old and and almost forgotten bogie boys is brought to life again,

As pre-session plans take shape, it appears that the country is going to be told again about the evils of the chain stores. There is going to be an attempt to legislate them out of existence. Many a shout will ring out on the floors of the senate and house about the danger to the independent store operator, the man thomas. The bill windsteam forms at home. The bill, whatever form it takes or whatever it proposes to do, will serve as a vehicle for a shouting mob of representatives and senators. As usual, they will offer no new argument, but they will send copies of their speeches back home and make a great howdy-do over themselves.

Should Give Thought to General National Policy

Because of this prospect and the existence of several other things like it, there ought to be some thought given to the question of a general national policy. In other words, I am of the opinion that the congress and the several state legislatures ought to keep their feet on the ground instead of jumping off the deep end when there is no boat in which to ride. I see no profit in cut-ting off my nose just to spite my There is just as little sense to that as selling out to the "vested interests."

There is something to the argument in favor of regulation of great chains of stores. It can be truth-fully said that they exert a lot of pressure on the independent. They his, of course, and answer that there is no pressure. Their statement may be true insofar as it may mean that the chain store has made no calculated plan to drive the independent out of existence Yet, their very bigness is, of itself, a pressure because they can buy in larger quantities and obtain lower cost prices than the individual who buys a few cases of canned goods at a time. When they buy at lower prices, they can sell at lower prices and the independent finds himself hard put to meet the competition.

That sort of thing happens in every community where chain stores are in operation. It will continue to happen, because there is not a man nor a woman who will say honestly that he or she will pay higher price simply because the store at home is owned by somebody who is a local citizen. I am old fashioned about it. I will go to a chain store many, many times, because I save money. It is my mon-ey that I am spending and I am going to get the most for it that I can. The fellow who owns a local store is in business to make a profit and I am willing that he shall have a profit, provided he can give me the same value for what I spend as does some other store.

Sane Regulation of Chain Stores Can Be Accomplished

If the chain stores are abusing their power, a power they have sole-ly because they are big, the congress and the several states surely ought to take notice. There can be sane regulation of them. They can be made to correct any abuses, but I can not find any legitimate ex-cuse for destroying them. I am in the role of a consumer, and every

constituents are consumers and that they must be given consideration. I have been told by men in the government whom I believe have a general understanding of the problem that destruction of chain stores will rejected. will raise retail prices of the things they sell by as much as 20 per cent. Who is going to pay that? You and I and everyone who buys for consumption. If I can get my cigarettes at two-for-a-quarter, I am and saing to pay 15 cents. So, if connot going to pay 15 cents. So, if congress or the state legislatures find it necessary to protect the independ-ent, that policy should be adopted. But the extreme position of taxing them out of existence or destroying them some other way is utterly silly. It is, as I said earlier, rather like cutting off my nose to spite my face
—and I have a beak of which no one could be very proud!

This chain store bogie man is just another of the many that are used by politicians to build up them-selves. Once before, in these columns, I expressed the hope that some time I would like to see an honest politician. I think it would be refreshing to all of us.

I heard lately, too, of a movement against those people who sell direct to the consumers. There are certain types of them that ought to be locked up. Most of them, however, have a legitimate product and they are making that product to sell to considers. The movement that is now said to be spreading has evolved into what is called the "Green River ordinance," a munici-pal law which is designed to prevent any house-to-house canvassers

Problem of Separating Crooks From Honest People Now, there may be sound reasons

for a city council to bar anybody from selling direct. At the moment, I do not know of any. Yet, according to the reports received by the federal trade commission, there was a small town out in Wyoming which actually convicted some boys from the neighboring farms and sen-tenced them to jail because they violated the city law, by selling direct to the householders in the town. That town ought to have a very red face, it seems to me.

I said that there were certain types of canvassers ought to be barred. I refer to the racketeers who scour the country in crews, selling this or that or the other; who are here today and gone tomorrow, and who many times leave a wake of dishonest dealings, insults and sometimes plain thievery. Of course, there ought to be punishment of that type. But why punish the honest ones by placing them in the same category as the crooks. The problem becomes one of separating the crooks from the legitimate people, but your demagogue will not do that, whether that demagogue be a member of congress, a member of the state legislature or a member of the city council. He would not be able to bleat so long if he attempted to analyze the real

All Factors in Situation **Need Careful Consideration**

I suppose that some of the things I have said in this analysis of a national problem will make me as popular as a skunk with some local merchants. I believe, however, that there are two sides to the argument and that there must be moderation in dealing with the hobgoblins that are built up for selfish reasons, either political selfishness or for monetary gain.

Hence, I argue that the country and its legislative bodies must look at all factors involved in the situation. Hysteria and demagoguery go hand in hand, with the demagogue leading and capitalizing on the circumstances he has created. If it can be shown where the brush salesman or the salesman for the floor sweeper or the home remedy salesmen are wielding a bad influence upon the life of the nation, prohibit them as is done many places with the saloon. If it can be shown that the vast majority of the people get no benefits from chain stores and that the chain stores and that the chain stores damage the national life, get rid of them or regulate them closely. My thought continues to be, however, that there must be moderation in legislation.

• Western Newspaper Union. Speaking of Sports-

Jacobs Plans Banner Sports Shows for '39

By ROBERT McSHANE

M IKE JACOBS, sports promoter who boasts the "fastest clicking set of store teeth in the United States," is not completely satisfied with his 1938 income.

With more than \$2,000,000 grossed from his various activities during the past year, Mike has decided to promote a show wherever there's a chance to earn an honest dollar. The number of fights and the size of the state heavily here. the gates hasn't been satisfactory to him, and he hopes to remedy the situation during the coming year. "Next year," declared Mike, "I'm

going to put on some kind of a



Mike Jacobs thing, I may have another fight going on in New York the same night."

Admittedly Mike has no aversion to making money. He's shrewd, and on top of that has all the luck in the world. That combination has made him an outstanding success in sports promotion. in sports promotion.

Mike was accused of pulling a coner when he introduced the ancient basque game, jai alai, to Broadway without the mutuel ma-chines which have made the games so successful in Havana and Miami. The wise boys figured it couldn't make the grade without the added attraction of gambling.

But Mike called his shot. The game has done so well in New York, even without betting, that he intends to keep it running through until August. He intimated that he will put the game in Boston, Hollywood and Chicago, but only if the legislatures in Massachusetts, California and Illinois take action that will insure installation of befting machines.

Dirt-Track Czar

SPEED kings like to gather 'round when John A. Sloan Jr. of Chicago, the "Judge Landis" of the dirt-tracks, talks over old times. In his own words:

"I'm the second generation of Sloans in the race business. In 1905 my dad began presenting speed kings. He brought out Barney Oldfield, Louis Disbrow and Sig Haugdahl. Now we stage dirt-track races all but three months in the year. It's all but three months in the year. It's a big business. We played before two and a half million people this past summer at fair grounds from Montana to New York and Florida. St. Paul is THE dirt-track town a crowd of 171,000 saw our races on

Labor day. "We haven't had a fatal accident in six years while staging 2,730 races . . . we don't sacrifice speed either. Emory Collins, the dirt-track champion, holds the record of 90 miles an hour on a mile track. They only average a little better than that on the big, banked brick track at Indianapolis. We get top drivers because we give 'em regu-lar work—some of 'em make as high as \$10,000 a season.

There's a little more security at-tached to dirt-track racing. They don't have to gamble for their money. Drivers are given a percentage

Don't Curb Liberties

SUGGESTIONS that the liberties of baseball players in the off-season be curbed received a set-back recently from Connie Mack, baseball's "grand old gentleman." Scores of "viewers-with-alarm" have proposed all kinds of far-fetched measures to

protect baseball players from accidents — and to re-lieve them of per-sonal freedom. Most of the proposals came following the tragic accident of Monty Stratton, Chicago White Sox pitcher, whose leg was amputated as

the result of a hunt- Connie Mack

"Suppose we did tell the players they couldn't go gunning, flying, or go over Niagara Falls in a barrel? In the end the player would rise up and ask: 'What am I? A slave,

and ask: 'What am 1? A slave, bound hand and foot? My life isn't my own by any standard.'"

"We might put all kinds of clauses in their contracts," he added, "but they'd probably do what they want anyway."

Basketball Rules

SEVERAL important changes in national basketball rules were made recently by basketball coaches and officials from western and mid-western universities and colleges.

Western conference teams will concur in the rules drawn up by the National Collegiate Athletic association more completely than in

Principal deviation from the code Principal deviation from the code for the Big Ten is the decision to continue the practice of permitting two minutes for each time out. The code allows only one minute. The rules this year extend the number of time-outs without penalty to five for each team.

The coaches agreed also that when a field goal has been made and a foul called immediately after the goal, that substitution would be permitted before the free threw is attempted and that the substitution

will not count as a time out.

The player with the ball, if he touches the center line, now is considered to be in the back court and he may pass back to a teammate without penalty. The ten second count, of course, continues. Formerly when the player, under these circumstances, touched the line, then stepped back or passed back, the interpretation was that the ball had been brought back from the front court and since it had not been touched by an opponent, possession was forfeited to the defense.

Olympics Again

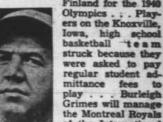
OFFICIALS of the American Olympic committee recently voted to accept Finland's invitation to the games of the Tweifth Olympiad, to be staged in July and Au-gust of 1940, and at the same time lent its indorsement to a bid by the city of Detroit for the 1944

games.

Much to the delight of followers of that sport, gliding will appear on the roster for the first time. Three sports, however, which were contested in the 1336 games at Berlin—basketball, field hockey, and field handball—have been dropped.

Sport Shorts

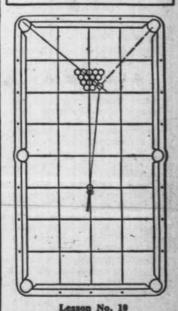
THE highest scoring college game on record saw Georgia Tech crush Cumberland (Tenn.) university 220 to 0 in 1917 in a game shortened to 45 minutes . . . Sweden will send 275 athletes by plane to Finland for the 1940



of the International league for the next two years . . . At-tendance at college football games during 1938 rose 11 per cent over the '37 total . . . Italy's vocabulary has been purged

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

of all foreign words and express



This diagram shows another ki break shot from the table center. As in some of the previous kiss shots the outstanding point is that the balls must be carefully spotted

the balls must be carefully spotted as shown in the diagram—every ball frozen. Cue your ball at absoluts center and do not try to break the cluster of balls with your cue ball. Let the object ball do that. The stroke for this shot should be medium hard, and be sure that you follow through.

• Western Newspaper Union.