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Weekly News Analysis

Farley-Garner-Hull Alliance Arises to Plague White House

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.

White House

As chief of the Works Progress administration Harry Hopkins has spent more money than any previous U. S. citizen, yet that was precisely what Franklin Roosevelt hired him to do. If this job as federal Santa Claus gave Harry Hopkins a bad name among conservative Democrats and Republicans, the bad name grew bigger during 1938's electioneering. But the campaign expenditures committee of Texas' Sen. Morris Shepard found Harry Hopkins generally blameless of using WPA funds for political purposes.

Considered a spendthrift scapegrace, Mr. Hopkins is to U. S. business what a public executioner is to a pious churchman. With this reputation it is therefore considered bad taste and bad political judgment for President Roosevelt to name Mr. Hopkins secretary of commerce. Regardless of Gen. "Ironpants" Hugh S. Johnson's opinion that Mr. Hopkins will be the



POLITICIAN FARLEY
He watched for a weathervane.

best commerce secretary ever, political observers think the appointment foreshadows a serious, permanent rift between Rooseveltian Democrats (Hopkins, Solicitor General Jackson, Interior Secretary Ickes, Brain Trustee Corcoran) and middle-of-the-road Democrats (Vice President Garner, Postmaster General Farley, Secretary of State Hull).

A month ago, when Homer S. Cummings retired as attorney general, Chairman Farley warned that his potent political organization would be swung to one side or another, depending on who was named to succeed Mr. Cummings. By choosing Solicitor General Bob Jackson, President Roosevelt would show left-wing tendencies and thereby lose Farley support. As it happened, the commerce vacancy appeared and was filled before Mr. Roosevelt got around to the attorney generalship, so this post became the weathervane. Mr. Farley's current opinion: That President Roosevelt, by naming Mr. Hopkins, is boosting him for the presidency in 1940; that Bob Jackson, the alternative for 1940, will be named attorney general; that some New Dealer, like Michigan's ex-Gov. Frank Murphy, may get a Supreme court post. If this happens—and the wind is now blowing in that direction, Farley, Hull, Garner, et al will bolt from the New Deal.

If these men bolt, there is a possibility that either 69-year-old Mr. Garner or 67-year-old Mr. Hull will head a presidential ticket in 1940, with Farley as running mate.

Transportation

Last autumn President Roosevelt's railroad fact-finding committee ruled against a wage cut to help sorely pressed carriers on the ground that its benefits would be only temporary. But this did not minimize the problem of high operating costs vs. low income, and the President agreed to ask congressional consideration for any readjustment program—railway management and labor might offer.

Therefore, just as congress prepared to open a six-man committee offered its plan, indirectly laying part of the responsibility at the President's own doorstep. The committee's explanation of rail troubles: (1) government's favoritism to competitors, such as barge lines; (2) lack of centralized transportation regulation.

The remedy: Regulation of all forms of transportation by (1) the interstate commerce commission, which would fix rates, regulate services, valuation and accounting; and (2) an independent transportation board which would handle all other regulations. Also recommended is a federal transportation court to handle reorganization plans.

In addition, the committee offered four other complaints which could be remedied by legislation. It asked removal of restrictions on RFC loans to carriers, repeal of the long-and-short haul rate clauses (which prevents rails from charging a lower rate for a long haul than for a short haul over the same route in the same direction), elimination of low rates for government freight, and discontinuation of government-operated barge lines.

Briefly, carriers want less red tape and more efficient government regulation over their industry. Against President Roosevelt's probable approval of the general program, observers stack Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, interstate commerce committee chairman.

Defense

The satisfaction of U. S. speech-makers from denouncing Nazi Germany is equalled only by Nazi Germany's satisfaction in making reply. Yet each outburst and retort invites wider rupture of the already strained German-American diplomatic relations, started during November when each nation withdrew its ambassador over the Jewish persecution issue. Returning from Europe just as protests and replies were charging from Berlin to Washington and back, Illinois' Sen. J. Hamilton Lewis commented that the U. S. must stop its "hate wave" against European dictatorship, must instead substitute peace through conciliation and conference.

What prompted Mr. Lewis' statement was the remark a week earlier by Secretary of the Interior Harold S. Ickes, to the effect that Henry Ford and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh should be ashamed to "accept a decoration at the hand of a brutal dictator (Hitler), who with the same hand, is robbing and torturing thousands of human beings." Result was a German protest, followed by the state department's refusal to apologize. This latter action was contrasted with the hasty apology last spring when New York's Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia similarly cursed Nazism. Its significance: That the U. S. has decided to handle Adolf Hitler with boxing gloves, not kid gloves.

Such a revolutionary diplomatic stand requires military-naval back-



ADMIRAL BLOCH
Purposes, announced and otherwise.

ing. Last fall, when the European threat first became imminent, President Roosevelt hinted at the desirability of a two-ocean navy to give our Eastern seacoast the protection now enjoyed at our back door. At the same time he suggested the U. S. might enlarge its defense program to encompass the entire Western hemisphere.

Eastward from the Pacific came the entire fleet (except a small submarine and destroyer squadron at Honolulu), led from the battleship New Mexico by Admiral Claude O. Bloch.

The announced purpose: "To afford the maximum amount of fleet training, training of personnel and tests of material." Added, unannounced purposes: (1) To focus U. S. attention on naval requirements while congress is debating armament appropriations; (2) to stage a show for the benefit of any ambitious European dictator who might be watching; (3) to court Latin-American friendship by showing how Uncle Sam's battlewagons would protect South America.

Balkans

Obviously Italy has resented Germany's economic invasion of the Balkan states, for while the Rome-Berlin axis is her most important alliance, Italy nevertheless has long-standing ambitions in Yugoslavia, Albania and Hungary. Therefore correspondents have watched, with tongue in cheek while Italy's Count Galeazzo Ciano, foreign minister and son-in-law of Premier Mussolini, stresses his diplomatic relations with Hungary. While apparently attempting to draw Hungary into the Rome-Berlin axis and the Italo-German-Japanese anti-communist pact (at expense of the League of Nations), Count Ciano is probably more interested in making his Balkan neighbors' dependencies of Italy.

Likewise, Rome has watched with interest Yugo-Slavian Premier Milan Stoyadinovich's victory in the December general election, which probably paves the way for a Yugo-Slavian Fascist state. While Count Ciano works on Stoyadinovich, that gentleman has crawled into his shell to wait the outcome of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's January conference with Premier Mussolini. If Mussolini emerges victorious, Yugo-Slavia will probably lead the Balkans in a pro-Italian



ITALY'S COUNT CIANO
For the cause, or for Italy?

movement; if he loses, the anxious Balkans will line up with Western democracies.

For Great Britain and France, who also covet Balkan friendship, a messiah has appeared in Grigore Gafencu, 47-year-old World War fier named as Rumanian foreign minister. Once an influential Bucharest newspaper man, Gafencu has long advocated closer co-operation among Yugo-Slavia, Hungary and Bulgaria, thereby averting dependency on either Germany or Italy.

Germany

Since German policies began antagonizing world democracies, the obvious prediction has maintained that German foreign trade would suffer. It then follows that Germany must increase her domestic production to become independent of foreign imports. The difficulty of the task was first emphasized in late November when Col. von Schell was named "general plenipotentiary" of the automobile industry to speed production and standardization, and institute necessary economic measures. A few days later Dr. Karl Lange was given similar powers over Germany's machine industry. Next came Dr. Fritz Todt as "general plenipotentiary" in charge of all road building.

Always closely supervised, German industry will now feel official domination even more severely. How an apparently communistic method of industrial overlordship will work in a nation which still supports private enterprise, remains to be seen.

Great Britain

A solidified empire is the United Kingdom's goal since Nazi-Fascist states began threatening her position. Among the empire's weakest features is the string of miscellaneous possessions centering in the Caribbean sea, who individually and collectively have thus far received too little attention from London. One of them, Jamaica, recently heard agitation for annexation by the U. S. Still more recently it was suggested that Great Britain might pay its \$4,000,000,000 war debt by ceding her Caribbean islands to the U. S.

Belatedly recognizing some valuable property, London now proposes to group all the West Indies into a new dominion. Its composite parts: British Honduras, Bahamas, Jamaica, Leeward islands, Windward islands, Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, Kingston, centrally located capital of Jamaica, would be dominion headquarters.

The United Kingdom's new empire would include 2,000,000 people, mostly descendants of one-time Negro slaves, who depend chiefly on agriculture. Main trouble point the past year has been Kingston, where a royal investigating commission was recently welcomed by a strike of gas workers, throwing the entire city into darkness.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Unusual Coincidence Attends Visit of Governor of Nebraska

Executive of State Without Debt Appears at Moment Treasury Announce Huge Federal Debt; Spend Less When Income Drops, Cornhusker Formula.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—Gov. R. L. Cochran of Nebraska visited Washington recently. Governors of states get around to Washington visits every now and then, but in the case of Governor Cochran's visit, there was a very unusual coincidence. On the day of his arrival, the treasury department happened to make public its routine monthly statement of the national debt and expenditures. It was late in December, so the treasury statement served to mark half of the federal government's fiscal year.

There was, of course, nothing spectacular about the fact that the treasury issued a debt statement. The government has lots of debt. But it was spectacular, even sensational, that the treasury statement of that day should reveal a new high record for the national debt on the day of arrival of one of the state governors, the chief executive of a state that has no state debt. Not a penny does the state of Nebraska owe. It bound itself by its constitution never to accumulate a state debt and, further, it restricted its counties and cities in the amount of debt they can create.

Some may disagree with me but I was very much impressed with the facts in the case of these two political jurisdictions. Our national government now is in debt to the staggering amount of \$39,500,000,000 in direct obligations, and if one adds the outstanding bonds and notes of agencies and government-owned corporations which amount to about \$5,000,000,000, your Uncle Samuel some way, some how, must pay nearly \$45,000,000,000. And this at a time when one of its states, Nebraska, does not owe a thin dime!

Governor Explains How His State Kept Out of Debt

I had quite a conversation with Governor Cochran who was elected for the third successive term only last November—being one of two Democratic governors in northern states to be re-elected—about how the state had come through the depression with taxes low and no state debt.

I reminded him that most every other state had added to its debt; that taxes were higher and new taxes were added in every direction, and yet Nebraska, with many of the same problems, had kept its record clear. So, exactly what is the answer?

"The answer is very simple," the governor replied. "It is so simple that there is hardly a news story in it."

"It has been the policy of my administration to cut the cloth to fit—it cut it to what we could pay for. If our state income was due to be less, I insisted that we spend less. After all, I guess that is your answer—spend less when you have less income."

How about those taxes?

"Well, it's much the same story," Mr. Cochran went on. "We feel that agriculture and manufacturing, retailing and service, every kind of industry, has a right to survive. I believe those engaged in it have a right to a reasonable profit, a reward for their work and efficiency in that work. Every time a new tax is added it comes out of the whole people. This statement that taxes can be shifted around is all the bunk. The whole people is going to pay and it is unfair for a state government to take everything. The state exists for the people; not the people for a state."

Shows Results of Minority Pressure From Many Angles

I called the governor's attention that in the current fiscal year, the national government is scheduled to spend something like \$9,000,000,000 whereas its income, at the most, will hardly exceed five billions. The observation struck fire.

"That's what you get for letting government go into fields where it does not belong," he shot back. "There you have the results of minority pressure from many angles. In my campaign last fall, I told every audience that I had been taught it was wrong for a candidate to buy votes with his own money and I think it is worse to buy votes with other people's money or taxpayers' money."

"And here is something for you to think about: as long as you plan on pensions or aids or security or

whatever name the thing is—if you plan on fixed amounts to pay people—however deserving they may be, you are going to have pressure for more and more. What must be done is the nation must face the facts—call this stuff what it is—call it charity, and make it unpopular. Unless you do, the thing that faces this country is a huge population of panhandlers."

Within a few days after Governor Cochran's visit, word was given out at the White House that President Roosevelt will send a special message to congress early in the new session, asking that the social security act be broadened to cover more people. The act, as it stands, was described as having many inequities, many injustices, and it might have been added safely that it contains many impossibilities. Senator Vandenberg, Michigan Republican, long has complained about some of these and he has urged called for amendment of the law's provision that would set up a "reserve fund." This reserve fund, calculated to reach the fantastic figure of \$47,000,000,000, eventually, is supposed to be invested and the interest from that investment is supposed to be enough to pay the old age pensions, etc.

Social Security Money Goes Into Treasury General Fund

The Michigan senator repeatedly has sought information from the so-called experts as to how this money could be invested in government securities, and has had no answer. The truth is that there has been no cash reserve set up at all. The money paid in for social security tax has gone into the treasury's general funds to be appropriated and spent like any other dollars. And the further truth is that if there had to be full payment now, congress would have to appropriate other money to pay it.

There is no way to forecast what is going to come out of the congress on the President's projected proposal. In some quarters, one hears declarations that congressional investigation of the whole cobwebby situation is the only way to arrive at a firm foundation. Other places are sources for observations to the effect that the federal government can not handle charity or pensions or assistance matters of any kind without stinking fumes coming therefrom.

Adverting again to what may come from the all of the discussion concerning social security, one can not ignore the possibility of a wholesale revision of the law so that a fixed monthly sum will be paid to persons attaining some stated advanced age. There were too many members of the house and too many members of the senate elected last November after having hinted they were favorable to such a course when they were hunting for votes. As a matter of fact, there are probably about 100 house members who pledged themselves outright to vote some type of Townsend plan or who said they would support a modification of the present law to provide early and large cash payments.

And Loans to European Countries Remain Unpaid

As I hear these various plans discussed and as I hear other ways of spending money projected, I am more and more impressed with the sound thinking of Nebraska's Governor Cochran. Where is all of this money coming from? I have neither the money, nor the answer.

In the midst of all of this, what should be catapulted upon the scene but a proposal to loan money to the Central and South Americans. The idea is to loan them money and help them buy products of the United States—and thus keep the Europeans out of our neighbor countries. I do not know enough about the program to analyze it because it is a far-fetched and intricate scheme. Probably, we ought to do something to keep the Americas for the Americans, but it was only December 15 that we were reminded again that the United States loaned something like \$1,000,000,000 to a flock of European nations to help make the world safe for democracy.

On December 15, according to the treasury figures, there was a little over \$1,000,000,000 of that money due—and unpaid.

Speaking of Sports

Winter Sports Show Healthy Growth in U. S.

By ROBERT McSHANE

NOT many years ago the average American's program of winter sports was confined to the closest vacant-lot skating rink, or to the more adventuresome, an evening of dare-devil tobogganing on a gently graded slope down which a circus fat woman could navigate safely.

All that has changed. No longer does the well-bundled witness of a high school ski meet look upon himself as a rough and ready athlete. No, indeed. Today he dons a pair of skis or skates and participates almost as actively in winter sports as in golf or tennis.

Millions of Americans now forsake the fireside in favor of the skating ponds and ski slopes. And they don't go merely to watch. They take an active part.

Ski Enthusiasts Increase

The steady growth in the popularity of skiing is an example of this trend. A bulletin issued by the National Sports Council of Chicago gives an interesting survey of this increased popularity. It states: "More than 500,000 people will take part in the sport this winter throughout the snow belt that covers two-thirds of the United States from Maine to California."

The major reason behind this phenomenal growth of popular interest in skiing is that it has become easier for the beginner. For the average participant, there has been a shift from the spectacular sport of ski-jumping to the more popular sport of down-hill ski running on slopes and trails.

This, however, doesn't mean that ski-jumping is losing the public's favor. On the contrary, more people than ever are interested in watching the experts demonstrate their prowess. It does mean that it is possible for the average person of both sexes to enjoy themselves on skis without being completely skilled in the art of jumping.

Facilities Improved

Another important factor is that more areas and facilities for skiing are being opened and improvements in safe and practical skiing equipment and lighter, warmer and more serviceable winter clothing are being provided.

Snowshoeing, coasting and tobogganing are holding their traditional popularity, and are adding new enthusiasts all the time as people turn more and more to the outdoors. Their simplicity makes them ideal for the beginning winter sportsman.

The campaign promoted by the National Sports Council encourages people to take part personally in some sport or recreation as an antidote to the American habit of taking sports vicariously by sitting at a radio or by getting a second hand view at the movies.

Sport Shorts

BIG TEN officials are convinced that the camera falls short as a solution of football disputes or fouls. . . . Both the New York Yanks and Giants refuse to play ball under lights next season. . . . More than 2,000 prep teams played six-man football last season. . . . Pie Traynor agrees with sports writers who picked his Pittsburgh Pirates as the biggest disappointment of the year. The Pirates kicked away the National league pennant in the final week of the season. . . . Bob Gracie and Bill Thoms, members of the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team, are brothers-in-law. . . . Gabby Hartnett declares the Chicago Cubs are stronger now than they were when he took over managerial reins. . . . Jack Tidball is teaming with Gene Mack to replace Don Budge. . . . The 1939 Senior Professional Golfer's association tournament will be held in Sarasota, Fla. . . . When Lou Nova meets Joe Louis he'll box, not fight, the champion. . . . Archie Compston, famous British golfer, is making the tournament rounds again after a two-year layoff because of illness. . . . England's golfers believe 1938 saw the end of the era of great club swingers from the United States. . . . No. 1 sport trend of the year was increased attendance at professional football games. . . . Sports writers of the nation dislike post-season bowl football. . . . Phil Miller, French Lick, Ind., was North America's highest-average trap shooter in 1938.

Pie Traynor



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Heavyweight Threat

THOUGH Lou Nova, California's outstanding contribution to the boxing world, clearly deserved his recent 15-round victory over Tommy Farr, it is quite evident that he is not yet ready for the big boss—Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis.

Nova can punch, box and keep cool. But his footwork and over-anxiousness are against him. His fight with the granite jawed Welshman was his first 15-round battle, and he didn't get his second wind during that untraveled route until the thirteenth round.

Gene Tunney, who criticized Ray Carlin, Nova's manager for rushing the kid against Farr, declared after the fight that Lou is muscle bound, and that although he is a good fighter, maybe a great one, his fighting days are numbered.

The Los Angeles heavyweight has improved a great deal since he fought Gunnar Barlund. His punching is sharper, his accuracy has improved, and he keeps his head. Even his footwork is better, though it still leaves something to be desired.

Boxing critics in general blasted Carlin for rushing his white hope. But they were all pleasantly surprised with Nova's recent showing, and expressed surprise at Referee Eddie Joseph's calling the bout a draw.

It may be that Nova is the fighter with Joe Louis' number. He has the heart, and with a few more 15-round bouts in the "win" column he will be even more dangerous.

Tennis Prophet

THE dark, murky curtain of gloom surrounding the tennis world was penetrated by a few rays of shining light recently when Bobby Riggs, America's top-ranking amateur tennis player since Don Budge turned pro, declared that the U. S. has a fifty-fifty chance of keeping the Davis cup.

He says the cup will remain in our possession if the first-flight candidates for the team "get into perfect condition and make every effort to reach their peak for the international matches."

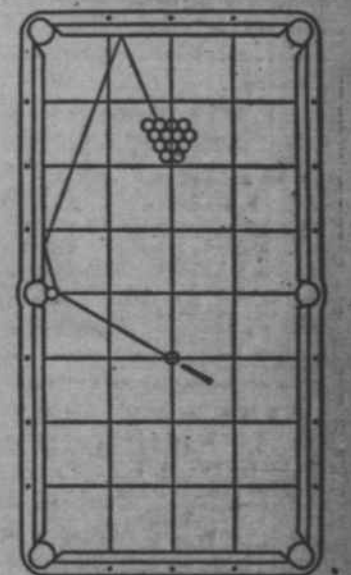
The United States will unquestionably have a good team. Though Budge will be missing, players of the caliber of Gene Mako, Betsy Grant, Sid Wood, Joe Hunt, Elwood Cooke and Frank Kovacs provide material for a strong, and maybe unbeatable, team. Riggs lists them all as definite cup possibilities in the singles.

"In the doubles," he stated, "the only thing to do is give all tandems a chance to show their stuff, then pick the one with the best record."

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Pocket Billiards

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



Lesson No. 12
This diagram shows a two-cushion break shot.

Here we have a very treacherous break. If the player is not cautious he will likely in a majority of cases cause his cue ball to go into the corner pocket. To prevent this, special care should be taken to strike the object ball as designated. In this particular shot the stroking of the cue ball is of great importance. Hold the cue as level as possible and favor english slightly to the right. Keep your cue on the line of aim. The stroke is medium hard.