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Weekly News Analysis

Election 'Cleanup' Suggestions Leave Vote-Buying Loopholes

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.

Politics

Since the dim day when America's first pork barrel was burst open, politicians have legally or illegally used federal funds to further their personal ends. Pork-barreling was simple, and usually honest, when it involved no more than a U. S.-sponsored post office, highway or bridge. But since 1933 the old-fashioned pork barrel has been supplanted by relief projects, building up huge payrolls among unemployed people who will cast their votes not necessarily for the right man, but for the man who will protect their jobs. Three square meals a day have a far greater vote-getting appeal than any miscellaneous favor a congressman could pull from the pork barrel.

In an election year, political abuse of relief funds becomes a paramount danger. Therefore congress received no jolt when Texas' Sen.



SENATOR SHEPPARD
Recommendations were easier.

Morris Sheppard offered his committee's report on campaign expenditures. Skipping lightly over the routine fact that some campaigns cost nothing while another (that of Ohio's Robert P. Taft) cost \$159,451.37, the committee outlined results of relief-politics inquiries in 18 states. Sample allegations:

Kentucky. Gov. Albert B. ("Happy") Chandler collected about \$70,000 from state employees whose salaries came partly or wholly from federal funds. His successful opponent, Sen. Alben W. Barkley, received \$24,000 from federal employees, but his campaign manager denied all but \$2,000.

Pennsylvania. WPA state highway work cards were issued to high school children, who returned to their classes without doing any work.

Tennessee. Federal employees were solicited for contributions; WPA labor was used to repair private roads.

Illinois. In Cook county, 450 men were added to state highway crews, 70 of whom did no work other than canvass their respective precincts.

No criticism was directed at former WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins, nor was action taken against any candidate. The pathetic truth is that no individual office-seeker could be singled out without ripping open an unwholesome, futile investigation. Instead the committee contented itself with 18 suggestions for cleaning up elections, most of which would provide loopholes, few of which could be enforced without interfering with private rights. Sample suggestions:

(1) Prohibition against political contributions by relief recipients and legislation forbidding relief officials to influence votes.

(2) Legislation limiting individual contributions to candidates, preventing corporation donations and requiring complete reports of campaign costs.

International

January 1 found the U. S. and Great Britain invoking their new low-tariff trade pact, designed primarily to stimulate business, but also to furnish a strong "white man's front" against dictator states. A few days later Britain made a strong show of enthusiasm over President Roosevelt's anti-dictator speech (See **WHITE HOUSE**). But if these two signs indicate a policy of "parallel action" between Washington and London, several other

gestures by Britain hardly fit into the picture.

Smart "parallel action" would call for British adoption of the U. S. policy of refusing to consort economically with Germany, Italy or Japan. But when Governor Montagu Norman of the Bank of England went to Berlin, and when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain visited Italy, each carried plans for stimulating British trade with the two dictator states. Meanwhile, Britain has extended China credits of only \$2,500,000, compared with U. S. credits of \$25,000,000.

Though Britain may some day be forced into a life-and-death battle with both Germany and Italy, she is willing to overlook this possibility for the sake of her foreign trade.

White House

Before congress opened, President Roosevelt's critics believed his rising enthusiasm for rearmament was merely a cloak to focus public attention away from last November's election defeat. By shouting for larger army-navy appropriations, by keeping silent as a sphinx on every other subject, the President was expected to build for himself a storm shelter until the torrent of congressional criticism had passed.

But rearmament turned out to be a recognized national problem and Mr. Roosevelt turned out to be a smarter psychologist than his critics expected. It remained for his speech on the state of the Union to sound the keynote. Its essence: The U. S. is beset by threats from dictator nations, therefore we must rearm and take sanctions against aggressors. But rearmament is also an internal proposition, therefore we must set our house in order and defend ourselves with social and economic reforms. Some reforms already made (social security, farm legislation, labor act) need "machining down." Others (governmental reorganization, transportation) are still to be made. On spending: "It does not seem logical to me, at the moment we seek to increase production and consumption, for the federal government to consider a drastic curtailment."

Congress did not need long to figure out that if military rearmament would cost real money, internal rearmament would be even more expensive. When the budget message was delivered their figures were verified. The President's budget requests: \$8,995,000,000. The expected income: \$5,669,000,000. The net deficit for the fiscal year: \$3,326,000,000. By June 30, 1940, when the year ends in a burst of political campaigning, the administration will therefore have a public debt of \$44,458,000,000 to explain.

As congress dove headlong into its six, seven or eight-month task, President Roosevelt may have been surprised to learn his initiating utterances won more public acclaim in France and Great Britain than at home. Definitely on the defensive for the first time since 1933, he faced



HAMILTON FISH JR.
He offered a comment.

an independent congress and a very wary public which hoped he appreciated the magnitude of his actions. And while London and Paris applauded the strongest official U. S. statement yet made against dictators, Berlin and Rome sang the next stanza in the international hymn of hate which has now reached an alarming intensity.

At home, little comment was forthcoming. A sample, from New York's Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr.: "True to his devotion to internationalism and the League of Nations, (Mr. Roosevelt) urges collective security and military alliances of democracies. I do not believe that congress will scrap our traditional foreign policy of peace for one in which we would quarantine and police the world with American blood and money."

Asia

War-torn China's biggest boast is her constantly growing national unity, a product of necessity that has made Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek the strongest Chinese ruler in modern history. But despite this well-publicized unity, China has not been able to make much of a showing against her Japanese invaders. Indeed, foreign military observers find Tokyo's paper-thin front lines so vulnerable that they say 30,000 American, British or French troops could put the enemy to rout. But in Jap-occupied territory are 270,000-300,000 civilians and 1,250,000 armed



GENERALISSIMO CHIANG
Time to stop bluffing.

guerrillas whose spirit of national unity is still not strong enough to inspire a sudden, inevitably successful attack.

Better than the national unity argument is the theory that smart General Chiang has been staging a fake show of Chinese nationalism, offering a good front at the expense of his wavering government. Though Chungking headquarters are overrun with nepotism, corruption and inefficiency, many abuses have been tolerated to make the outside world think China is strong. In the end General Chiang wangled handsome loans and credit arrangements from both the U. S. and Britain, proving the stunt was working, at least temporarily.

Not anticipated, however, was the walkout of one-time Premier Wang Ching-wei, who celebrated New Year's by reaching peace terms with Japanese Premier Fumimaro Konoye. Long a silent bulwark of China's Kuomintang (Nationalist) party, Mr. Wang reportedly met at Hongkong with Japanese agents and reached terms which would make him China's head man, leaving General Chiang out in the cold. Terms: (1) China should open diplomatic relations with Japanese puppet state, Manchukuo; (2) China should agree to economic "cooperation" with Japan; (3) China should adhere to the Jap-Italo-German anti-Communist agreement; (4) China should accept Japanese garrisons while the anti-Communist pact was in force.

Interpretations of the Wang demarche have come thick and fast. In Tokyo, happy Japanese thought it meant a breakdown of the Kuomintang and the spotlight of publicity on China's internal troubles. With Chiang weakened, Japanese puppet states would no longer seem pointless. In Shanghai, still Chinese despite its Japanese ownership, observers thought the Wang declaration was a well-timed Jap move to counteract U. S. and British credits to General Chiang.

With the die cast, General Chiang no longer saw need for hiding his troubles. From Chungking came word of a wholesale purge from the Kuomintang of some 200 peace partisans. Expelled was Deserter Wang, charged with having attempted to gain support from military leaders in Szechuan and Yunnan provinces.

Miscellany

For the first time in its history, New York's Sing Sing prison has executions every week during January. Total for the month already scheduled: 10.

U. S. correspondents returning from eighth Pan-American conference at Lima, Peru, have reported censorship, intimidation and spying unlike that ever before seen at a Pan-American assembly.

Aviation

In 1937, as head of the U. S. maritime commission, Joseph P. Kennedy urged construction of smaller ocean vessels as protection against the day when seaplanes would speed mail and passengers from Europe to America. Test flights had already been underway a year, and the Kennedy prediction has now been sustained by announcement that Imperial Airways of London will start weekly transatlantic service before next June. Forerunning 21-hour passenger service between Southampton and Montreal, four 40,000-pound flying boats will make two flights each way every week.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Put Over Fast One in Naming Hopkins to Commerce Post

Reduces Chances of Investigation of WPA and Its Relief Spending; Appointment of Harrington to Hopkins' Place Seen as Strategic Move.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—Many persons in Washington are convinced that President Roosevelt has slipped a fast ball right over the plate in front of his congressional critics by the transfer of Harry Hopkins to the job of secretary of commerce and the selection of Col. F. C. Harrington as works progress administrator. It appears to some observers, certainly, that the presidential maneuver has gone a long way toward reducing, if not eliminating, the chances of a dirty investigation of WPA and its relief spending.

The President knew of the brewing trouble that had Hopkins as the focus; he was told how much mud slinging was due to take place, and how the haters of Hopkins and his methods were preparing to leave no stone unturned in exposing everything about Hopkins and his organization that could be made to appear silly. Yet, Hopkins is perhaps the closest of all of the "inner circle" of advisers to the President and surely he is the President's best personal friend. Naturally, he wanted to keep Hopkins around.

In naming Hopkins to the post of secretary of commerce, vacated only at Christmastime by the veteran official, Daniel C. Roper, Mr. Roosevelt has had to take the chance that the appointee would meet some razzing in senate confirmation. That is a chance, of course, but Mr. Hopkins will be confirmed after the boys in the senate have had their say. But there will be little opportunity for the anti-administration Democrats to stick their teeth into the Hopkins appointment to the commerce job. That department has less money to spread about perhaps than most important government jobs. Administration friends in the senate, therefore, can say with propriety that a razzing of Hopkins, as the commerce nominee, is not to be indulged in because this is another job, not related to spending relief money.

Appointment of Harrington Another Strategic Move

I am told on very good authority that this will be the strategy employed when the Hopkins nomination is under consideration. To all critics of Hopkins, the administration friends simply will reply, in effect, "you wanted Hopkins out of the relief job. Now he is out, etc." It is undoubtedly a smart piece of politics and it will work—

for awhile. The President also strengthened his position in the coming battle with congress by the appointment of Colonel Harrington. The colonel is a regular army engineer. He has been assistant chief engineer of WPA and knows the organization. And most important of all, Colonel Harrington leans somewhat to the conservative side, which makes him acceptable to most senators, even anti-administration Democrats.

Mr. Roosevelt is taking no chances on any ruckus arising over Colonel Harrington, however, and has avoided it by a clever piece of detail. Colonel Harrington has been designated only as "acting WPA administrator." He will run the organization as though he were full fledged on the job. The difference is that the designation of the colonel as acting administrator eliminates the requirement of a senate confirmation.

The third angle of the strategy also is vital to the picture I am seeking to present. The chief deputy administrator under Hopkins has been Aubrey Williams. It was Williams, you may recall, who has made speeches and has advised WPA workers to "vote for your friends," to insist on federal preservation of "your rights," and it was he who said in a speech that he was inclined to believe that class hatred was a good thing.

Many Attacks on Relief Policies to Be Expected

To keep Mr. Williams out of the clutches of the wolves around the capitol, Mr. Roosevelt took him off the job of deputy relief administrator and appointed him as director of the national youth administration. Again, the senate can get to Mr. Williams only if it is willing to adopt a special resolution for an investigation, and there is probably

enough administration strength in the senate to block such a resolution.

The lines have not yet been tightly drawn in congress as a result of the sudden maneuver by the President. There will be many attacks on the relief policies at an early date because the WPA must have something like \$750,000,000 in additional money before the middle of February, and that request will be laid before congress along with other calls for money in the first deficiency bill. But Mr. Hopkins will be nesting comfortably in his paneled office on the fifth floor of the commerce department; he will be "completely detached" from WPA and so the controversy over voting the money will settle down to a matter of principle without having too much personality in it.

The appointment of Col. Harrington will be much advertised by administration supporters in order to help others forget that Hopkins once held the job. Colonel Harrington is accepted as a high grade man. His army associates know him as capable and efficient and the critics of relief policies cannot help feeling that he will do a fairly good job. He has not engaged in politics, as Hopkins did, and thus is immune from that approach.

Hopkins Is Objectionable To a Majority in Congress

At the proper time, therefore, congress will learn of what is going to be done by the new administrator.

And then comes the climax. The President again will ask congress to vote relief funds in bulk, in blank check, just as happened before. The members will be reassured by the administration concerning the ability, honesty and soundness of plans of the administrator. Mr. Roosevelt is said to hope that the strategy will work. I doubt it, but stranger things have happened. There have been few times in my 30 years as a Washington observer that the feeling against a member of the executive staff has been so heated as it has grown to be concerning Hopkins and the relief spending that he carried on. It will be recalled that he never minced words about congressional critics, and it will be remembered, as well, that he sought to help the President "purge" a number of recalcitrant Democrats who were seeking re-election. It appears very strongly that Mr. Roosevelt has elevated to his cabinet an individual thoroughly objectionable to a majority of congress and has, at the same time, provided himself with a chance to get spending money again. He may not win with the maneuver, but he has caught a good many persons off guard with the trick.

But what of Hopkins as secretary of commerce, assuming that the name will be confirmed by the senate?

Well, Mr. Hopkins will draw his pay regularly on the first and fifteenth of each month. He will be faithful in going to his office in the powerful automobile that is provided by the government for the secretary of commerce. He will sign the papers which the secretary of commerce is required to sign because somebody, holding subordinate positions and who knows what it is all about, will tell him that is his recommendation.

Secretary of Commerce to Make 130,000 Appointments

The patent office will run, as it always has run by itself, in a very efficient manner. The bureau of air commerce will be well managed because it has capable people in subordinate positions. The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, the bureau of fisheries, the bureau of lighthouses and the others, or most of them, will get along without too much trouble because Mr. Hopkins probably will leave them alone.

But we should not leave Mr. Hopkins alone yet for the reason that late this year, or early in 1940, there will be about 130,000 appointments to be made by the secretary of commerce. Next year is the period for the regular 10-year census and the personnel must be named. Next year also is a campaign year, a national election.

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Speaking of Sports

Sports Veterans Duplicate Wins In 1937 Events

By ROBERT McSHANE

LOOKING back over the past year in sports, Mr. Average Fan is somewhat amazed to see so many champions stay at the head of the field. Though there were many upsets, equally as many topnotchers increased the prestige which they had gained in previous years.

That does not mean that there were no new champions crowned, no records broken. It does mean that 1938 lacked some of the explosiveness of other years.

For instance, Joe Louis didn't win the heavyweight title in 1938, he merely kept it well in hand, and gave a good accounting of himself. America merely kept the Davis cup again this year, and didn't bring it to this country. Don Budge again cannonaded his way through the opposition, repeating his victories of the previous year. The Yankees certainly did nothing new in blanketing the rest of baseball. At least nothing new for them. Ralph Guldahl won the open golf championship for the second consecutive year. Seabiscuit (and this is a touchy point) stayed at the top, and beat new competition in driving down the track ahead of War Admiral.

Two marks which were threatened during the past year, but which still stand as a goal, are Babe Ruth's 60 home runs in 1927 and the 14 feet 11 inch pole vault record established by Sefton and Meadows in 1937. Hank Greenberg of Detroit came close to passing the Babe's total, but failed by two clouts in his gallant assault. Pole vaulters seem to have plenty of trouble in reaching for that additional inch.

There are new goals to shoot at, however. Glenn Cunningham ran the mile in 4:04.4 to establish a world record, and Johnny Vander Meer electrified the baseball world by pitching two successive no-hit games. The United States had a banner year in international competition, aside from the loss of the Walker cup and two or three other scattered reverses. It defended the Davis cup in easy manner, and its track team snowed under the Nazis in a dual meet at Berlin, winning 14 to 6 first places and losing only one track event.

The English grand national went to Battleship, an American-bred jumper, and Flares, with no rating in the British stud book, captured the Ascot gold cup. Charley Yates plowed through Troon's mud to win the British amateur golf championship, and the native American-infested Chicago Black Hawks came through in the playoffs to capture hockey's Stanley cup.

Henry Armstrong, tough little Negro fighter, started the year in possession of the featherweight title, and then added the welterweight and lightweight crowns. Armstrong ranked second only to Budge in the Associated Press poll to determine the year's outstanding athlete. His feats in the ring far overshadowed those of his contemporaries. Joe Louis blasted Schmeling with little effort, thus causing Der Max to fall from Herr Hitler's good graces.

"Horse and Horseman" picked Battleship as the best race horse of the year, but a majority of experts settled on Seabiscuit, and a goodly number favored El Chico. Earl Sande, who trained Stagehand, really doesn't mind, for the horse won the most money, \$189,716.

Sport Shorts

BILL KLEM, veteran National league umpire, will not retire until his legs or voice fold up. Klem will be 65 in February. . . . Lieut. Harry J. (Hank) Hardwick, former football coach at the naval academy, has been transferred back to sea duty with the Asiatic squadron. . . . An international checker match is being planned in Glasgow and London for 1941. . . . Jan Van der Vyver of the Netherlands and Mickey Francoise of New Jersey were the only two cycling champs to retain their crowns.

Baseball's Iron Horse

LOU GEHRIG, iron horse of the world champion Yankees, paying no attention to passing years, broke eight major league records and tied another in 1938.

Some of the marks were already in his possession, of course, but he added to their luster, and placed them still farther beyond reach of hopefuls who will try to beat them.

When he hung up his glove at the end of the season he had extended his string of consecutive championship games without an interruption to 2,122. This total doesn't include series or exhibition games.

The redoubtable diamond warrior played in 157 American league games last season, a feat that tied another major league mark for first basemen and at the same time extended Lou's own mark for consecutive years in which he has played 150 or more games to 12.

Other records credited to him include: most years scoring 100 or more runs, 13; most consecutive years scoring 100 or more runs, 13; home runs with bases filled, 23, and most double plays by a first baseman, 157.

Thirty-three major records fell, and 13 were tied. One of the outstanding performances was that of Bob Feller, the Indians' spectacular right-hander, in striking out 18 batters in a single game. The young pitcher also set another modern record by issuing 208 bases on balls during the past season.

The entire American league reached a new high for home runs in a single season with 864 circuit clouts. A new record was also established with the hitting of 37 home runs with the bases loaded.

Money Players

AT A time when cries of "paid athletes" and "subsidized players" fill the air—which is practically all the time—the news that the University of Florida has a definite salary schedule for her footballers comes startling news.

At the Gainesville school, as at other institutions of the Southeastern conference, no attempt is made to cover up this fact. The pay-off is all above-board.

Sam McAllister, assistant to head coach Josh Cody, in speaking of the system, said:

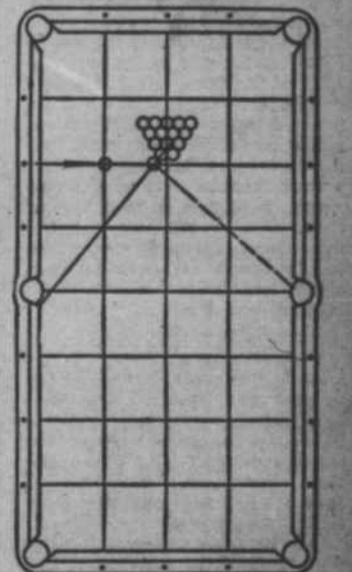
"Since we've come out in the open about things that are hidden at so many other schools we've had no lessening or morale. We've had less trouble over eligibility, and we've had better football because everybody's satisfied."

There are two schedules under which the athletes are subsidized. First string players receive full scholarships, worth approximately \$600 and covering board, room and tuition. In addition to this they are given a weekly wage that varies from \$3 to a high of \$3.50. Players who aren't top varsity material get half scholarships and a wage.

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Pocket Billiards

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



Lesson No. 13
This diagram shows a kiss shot from the cluster into the side pocket—a interesting and thrilling shot. Here utmost care must be exercised to place the balls in the exact position as shown in the diagram. Follow the lines drawn that guide the object ball; and again, since this shot is so very interesting because of the side pocket position, I warn the player to concentrate on a level cue and center the object and cue balls. Hold a firm bridge and stroke ball medium hard.