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Weekly News Analysis

Paris, London Woo Franco In Weak Bid to Oust Fascists

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.

Spain

Germany and Italy would not have aided Rebel Spain if they had no aspirations in the Iberian peninsula. Nor, presumably, would Rebel General Francisco Franco have accepted Fascist aid if he did not expect to repay that favor. These simple facts are being ignored by France and Britain, who now hope to woo the Rebels away from their Rome-Berlin connections to make a peace which would save the defeated Loyalist cause. It is hoped thereby to end the war immediately, giving General Franco a partial victory when he could achieve a complete victory through



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
(Shoemaker, Chicago Daily News)

a few more weeks' fighting on the Madrid-Valencia front. The likelihood of a complete Loyalist surrender is evidenced by an apparent breakdown in morale, coupled with internal squabbling. An army of 200,000 government troops allowed itself to be routed out of Catalonia. Next day Loyalist President Manuel Azana plumped for unconditional surrender while Premier Juan Negrin boasted he would continue fighting. Meanwhile, in southeastern Spain, Loyalist Gen. Jose Miaja was a virtual dictator in his own right.

Britain and France could hardly expect General Franco to jump at a peace offer from such badly-tattered opposition, but they did. It was reliably reported that Anglo-French interests were offering to supply funds for reconstructing Spain if Franco would oust German and Italian influence.

In return for these gestures, General Franco offered little to the two great European democracies who refused him recognition until all Loyalist hope was gone. His promise: To remove foreign troops, which does not necessarily mean removal of foreign influence. Expected daily is recall of the old Bourbon dynasty to Spain's throne. Probable ruler will be big, sport-loving Prince Jaime, not a sufferer from haemophilia (bleeding) like so many Bourbons. Highly grateful to the man who restored his throne, Prince Jaime would be more than willing to let General Franco rule.

Great Britain

Last January 13 the British foreign office received a mysterious "ultimatum" demanding withdrawal of English troops from Ireland within four days. Three days later bombs began exploding throughout the British Isles and between subsequent explosions Scotland Yard was able to place responsibility with the illegal Irish Republican army. While first arrests were being made and special guards were assigned to the king and queen, Irish Prime Minister Eamon de Valera found occasion to regret the incident.

Far from a terrorist, Mr. de Valera has won amazing concessions for Ireland by using much gentler tactics than the extremist Republican army advocates. Today Ireland is known as Eire, having become an independent state associated with the British Commonwealth only for certain minor purposes. British overlordship is gone except for far North Ulster, which is largely English Protestant as opposed to the Irish Catholicism of southern Ireland. Main purpose behind the Republican army is British withdrawal from Ulster. Mr. de Valera also wants this but he believes in saner tactics.

While soothing London's nerves by asking laws to crush the illegal army, Mr. de Valera probably found himself blushing with embarrassment when P. T. Kelly, an independent senator, arose to "regret that

the ultimatum sent by the Republican army to the British foreign secretary had not been sent by the Irish government."

Vatican

Within 18 days of a pope's death, the Sacred College of Cardinals must meet in Rome to elect his successor. Locked in secret conclave at the Vatican during late February and early March, these princes of the Roman Catholic church will name a successor to the late Pope Pius XI. Attesting to the futility of prediction was the last election, on February 6, 1922, when Pius—only nine months a cardinal—was elevated over the heads of many more favored candidates.

Favored candidate this time is Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, papal secretary of state who serves as temporary pope during the interim between Pius' death and the election of his successor. Though he confesses a longing to lead the contemplative life of a monk, Cardinal Pacelli has the excellent record of papal diplomat that qualifies him for the job of pope in a year like 1939.

Only stumbling block to Cardinal Pacelli's election is the growing belief that a non-Italian might make more headway in settling the current European turmoil. Though the position, traditionally goes to an Italian, it is recalled that in 1922 the Spanish Cardinal Merry del Val led early balloting.

Relief

It is paradoxical that this year's anti-administration congress should be the first to admit that federal relief is a permanent fixture. But this does not mean that the White House and Capitol Hill are agreed on how relief should be handled. No sooner had the nation recovered from the shock of congress' independence in slashing \$150,000,000 from the relief deficiency bill, than relief again popped into the headlines.

'Emergency.' As President Roosevelt signed the reduced deficiency appropriation he begged congress to restore the \$150,000,000. Reason: "In my opinion an emergency now exists." The President said WPA's alternatives are (1) to slash 1,000,000 relievers from the rolls by April 1 or (2) to oust from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 via week-by-week reductions from April 1 to July 1.

'URA.' The house received a bill from Virginia's Clifton A. Woodrum which would completely upset the administration's relief apple cart, creating 'URA' (unemployment relief administration). The bill's lightly-camouflaged purpose is to give congress complete voice over relief, hamstringing the White House. Stipulations: (1) halving the President's 1939-40 budgetary relief request of \$2,266,165,000; (2) abolishing WPA and creating 'URA' which would report monthly to congress; (3) providing for congressional allocation of relief funds to individual state agencies; (4) giving the President \$120,000,000 a year to spend



SECRETARY ICKES

"Off again, on again, gone again..."

as he sees fit; (5) attempting to divorce politics from relief.

'Off Again, On Again.' Created in 1933, PWA is soon to expire. But Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes has urged creation of a permanent PWA to prevent future depressions. Says he: "American growth has been an 'off again, on again, gone again Finnigan'... We owe it to our people to protect them... from the strains and stresses of an economic system which... periodically has hurtled off its track. A program of 'timed' or 'balanced' public works... would act like a gyroscope."

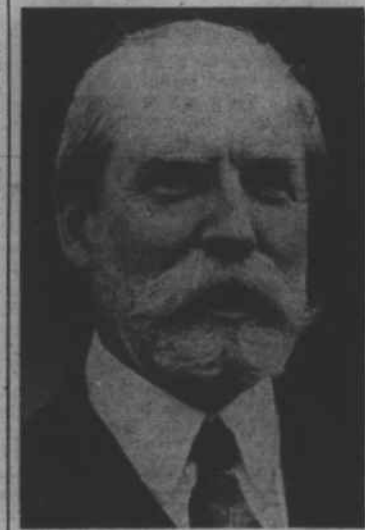
Business

As counsel for a New York state legislative insurance committee, Charles Evans Hughes made a name for himself in 1906 uncovering what he thought to be irregularities. The chief Hughes fear: That insurance company resources were so large as to make conservative, responsible management increasingly difficult. The Hughes remedy: Federal supervision of insurance investments.

Since 1906 Mr. Hughes has risen to the U. S. Supreme court and may have changed his mind. At least nothing has been done about it and the vast insurance fund has quadrupled. Whereas Mr. Hughes suggested limiting new policies to \$150,000,000 a year per company, some now write \$2,000,000,000 a year. Today there are \$110,000,000,000 worth of policies in effect and insurance investments cover a surprisingly wide field. Samples: Government securities, \$4,500,000,000; railroads, \$3,000,000,000; farm mortgages and corporation securities, \$2,000,000,000; state, county and city bonds, \$1,500,000,000.

If this business was worth investigating 23 years ago it is even more vulnerable today. Just started in Washington is a 12-month probe by the temporary national economic committee, headed by Wyoming's Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney and better known as the "monopoly investigating committee." Chiming in is William O. Douglas' Securities and Exchange commission. Pertinent question marks include (1) what influence insurance investments exert on U. S. money markets, banks, railroads, etc.; (2) how insurance executives are chosen; (3) possibility of interlocking directorates between insurance firms and utilities.

Though the monopoly committee has often reiterated that it is not hunting witches, and although Mr. Douglas maintains he only wants to



CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

The sins are now quadrupled.

bring the Hughes report up to date, there is a good chance of new legislation providing federal regulation over all interstate insurance business. This would supplement state supervision now in effect.

Treasury

Statutory limit of the U. S. public debt is now \$45,000,000,000, which will be reached when and if congress approves President Roosevelt's new budget. (Current debt: About \$39,700,000,000.) When congress convened last month it was rumored the administration would ask to raise the debt limit another \$5,000,000,000. To congressional fiscal experts who questioned him about the U. S. financial outlook, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. explained that it might be a good idea to raise the debt limit. Said he: "I would not be worried to see it (the debt) go to another \$4,000,000,000 or \$5,000,000,000, which is the present budget, and we are going to have to ask congress, if you vote this money, to increase the treasury's borrowing power." Mulling over this advice, congressmen decided the official request, which will come from the White House, may precipitate another feud between spenders and conservatives.

Wives in the News
GANDHI—Mrs. Kasturibhai Gandhi, "faithful, silent" wife of India's Mohandas K. Gandhi, has been arrested for participating in a civil disobedience campaign.

FLEGENHEIMER—Mrs. Arthur Fliegenheimer, widow of New York's late policy racketeer, "Dutch Schultz" Fliegenheimer, testified she saw her husband in conference with James J. Hines, Tammany leader who is accused of selling protection.

MOONEY—Mrs. Rena Mooney, wife of California's ex-convict Tom Mooney, promises to fight her husband's reported attempt to divorce her.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Feeling of Unrest in Europe Reaches Our Side of Atlantic

Permeates Administration and, to Some Extent, Congress;
Result Is Great and Increasing Mystery; President's
Secrecy Approved; Facts About Plane Sales.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—The feeling that has obsessed Europeans for weeks—that they are approaching toward some international crisis—seems to have spread to our side of the Atlantic. Right out of the air, so to speak, we are made to feel that great questions are about to take shape and that we, in this country, must be ready to decide them. The germ, or whatever it is, has taken up its domicile within our administration and, to some extent, in congress, and the result is great and increasing mystery.

Most sources in Washington did not believe that the so-called settlement of the European crisis at Munich last September was, in fact, more than a stop-gap, as I reported to you at that time. The Munich failure has become more and more evident and the very atmosphere is charged again with exactly the same type of bated expectancy.

In a general way, of course, we all know that the worldwide difference between the democratic forms of government and the dictatorships is at the bottom of the whole thing. We know, as well, that Hitler and Mussolini have challenged the European democracies by the boldness of their dictatorship actions in taking practically what they want in the way of additions to their empires. We know, further, that the end decidedly is not yet insofar as the Hitler and Mussolini ambitions are to be considered. And wrapped up in all of this is the genuine friendship that the United States has for France and England.

Beneath the surface, things have been going on in our own government. The President, the department of state and the military and naval services know what is taking place in Europe and they are advised as to what may be expected. Plans were being formed and developed so that steps could be taken here at the proper time. All of this was done in more or less secrecy, as it always has to be done since public discussion of such delicate matters could tilt us very easily from the frying pan into the fire.

Genuine Danger of War, But Not Immediately

Because of the necessity for avoiding wrong impressions which is a vital thing in international relations, President Roosevelt told the military affairs committee of the senate confidentially something of the inside story. I believe he did right in shielding those facts from general knowledge for no one knows how they could, or would, be distorted in German or Italian newspapers.

But this air of mystery has backfired in a curious way. It has aroused certain portions of the country into a veritable frenzy—particularly, some members of congress—and they have seized upon a relatively unimportant thing as their weapon in striking at Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policy. They have jumped all over the President's neck about the sale of airplanes to France, airplanes that were manufactured and are being manufactured by private plane builders and which are being sold for cash to the French government.

It is made to appear that this is a terrible thing. The howlers are saying that Mr. Roosevelt has violated the spirit of the neutrality act and that he should never have given permission for the sale of the planes. There are other charges flying about, also, but they are unimportant here.

I have dug into the situation as far as is possible, I believe, and I fall to get very much excited about the whole thing. There is, of course, the genuine danger of war, although I am not convinced that Europe is going to break out tomorrow. Sometime, probably, but not immediately. Such a clash of hopes and convictions and traditions and faith as obviously occurs between the philosophies of dictatorships and democracies is bound to lead to use of force but I think there is the probability that it is further away than this jittery feeling of the world now indicates.

France's Purchase of American-Made Airplanes

To get back to this airplane thing, I should like to set out some of the facts. France is buying American-made airplanes—several hundred of

them. She is doing this because her own airplane production has stalled and France has sufficient gold to buy them elsewhere. The French military service must have them in case there is that outbreak of force that seems so imminent on the surface for the reason that Germany and Italy are superior to France in the air.

The contracts were let in this country after Mr. Roosevelt had talked over the whole question with his cabinet and with the war and navy departments and certain leaders of the airplane industry. They were authorized after Ambassador Bullitt, in his reports from Paris, had laid bare the whole situation.

I am told that Mr. Bullitt advised Mr. Roosevelt to treat the matter as a routine; that to talk much about it would excite people, unduly. Well, the Bullitt idea was working until the unfortunate accident out near Los Angeles when a big bombing plane fell, injuring a member of the French mission that is in this country buying the planes. Then, out popped the secret and out came the critics of the Roosevelt foreign policy.

It is not within my power to say whether Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policy is right or wrong. I do not believe anyone can tell yet. Any foreign policy is something of a gamble. If it works, the author is a hero; if it fails, the author of the policy promptly is termed a sap.

Foreign Policy Opposition Making Itself Look Foolish

I do not regularly burn incense at the Roosevelt dais, but when I believe his opposition is making itself look foolish, I believe they ought to be called what they are. If they can show where the present foreign policies are ridiculous, now is their opportunity.

If this criticism of Mr. Roosevelt were directed at his actions with respect to Spain or Japan, perhaps there would be something worth considering. It will be recalled that the President persuaded plane manufacturers and many others as well to discontinue sales to the Japanese for use against China. It will be recalled also that indirect assistance was given the so-called loyalists in Spain, aid that surely must be looked upon—if done honestly—as help to the military forces although disguised as provisions for those who suffered back of the lines. All of this was done while we have a neutrality act through which congress believed it was taking away certain powers from the Chief Executive.

So, I repeat that there is cause, it appears, for criticism of some of the President's foreign policies, but it does not seem that critics have joined issue with the Chief Executive on any sound basis.

President Has Authority To Shape Foreign Policy

When it comes to foreign relations, however, the situation is entirely different. The constitution, wisely enough, provides that such matters must be dealt with by the President. It allows him the power of negotiation but it curbs that power by requiring him to ask congress for a declaration of war. In other words, the President is provided with authority to shape and conduct the foreign policy, the dealings with foreign nations, but he must have the approval of congress, which represents the people, when the concluding phases of those negotiations are reached and the nation is about to be bound.

That condition was arranged at the outset of our nation's history. It has worked well. The rights of the people are amply protected. Think for a moment what the situation would be if our foreign policies were in the hands of adulated demagogues in the house or the senate! I hazard a guess that some of them would talk as long as Hitler did the other day and create just as much grief.

So, I firmly believe there should be some secrecy about our foreign policy and that the President should have some liberties in working out arrangements with other governments. After all, any program that he has must eventually be published and debated by congress.

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Speaking of Sports

Warner, Dobie Resign College Gridiron Posts

By ROBERT McSHANE

WHEN Glenn "Pop" Warner and Gil Dobie, two of football's oldest coaches in point of service, announced their resignations almost simultaneously, they gave football historians a red letter day.

Only Amos Alonzo Stagg, College of the Pacific mentor, exceeds either of them in years devoted to the grid game. Warner has completed his forty-fourth year of coaching, and Dobie his thirty-eighth. Stagg has coached for 43 seasons.

Both men have had a great deal to do with shaping the trend of football. They were coaching teams when the flying wedge was the game's best ground-gaining play. Warner can claim credit for much of football as it is played today. He was among the first to rely on deception rather than power—in some cases carrying deception to an extreme. The "Warner System" is a monument to his ingenuity.

Warner's hidden ball trick will always be a delight to football fans, who never tire of hearing about it. Shortly after the turn of the century, when his Carlisle Indians were



Gil Dobie



Pop Warner

scheduled to meet Harvard, Pop decided on a tricky little play he noticed years before in an Auburn-Vanderbilt game. The Indians decided to use it on the opening play. When the kick-off was received the Indians ran together in a huddle, and slipped the ball under the front of Dillon's jersey. Then they scattered, running and dodging, each with one arm folded across his stomach. Dillon loped carelessly down the middle of the field, crossing the goal line with little effort. It was at Carlisle, too, that Warner crossed up his opposition by sewing halves of footballs on the jerseys of his players in one of the first real stratagems of the gridiron.

Pessimist Leader

His coaching career at Temple wound up with an all-time average of .776 as a result of 267 wins, 105 defeats and 31 ties during the 44-year stretch at Georgia, Carlisle, Pittsburgh, Stanford, Temple and a few other points.

Dobie, though he didn't make as many technical contributions, left an equally sharp imprint on the game. He learned his football under Doc Williams at Minnesota. To the gloomy dean of the gridiron the sport owes many of its traditions. Always a pessimist, Dobie gave rise to the tradition that coaches are always weeping about their misfortunes.

He is the possessor of the longest string of victories ever achieved by an American college—the 10-year stretch at Washington without a defeat. His team won 61 games and tied three from 1908 to the middle of the 1917 season.

One—Two—Three?

C. S. Howard may get ample revenge for the loss of two \$100,000 prizes when he shoots for racing's richest prize—the Santa Anita Handicap—with three standout performers.

Seabiscuit will be there, carrying top weight and a good share of the public's money in the March event. And in addition to the Biscuit will be two stablemates from the Argentine pampas, Kayak II and Sortado.

The three Howard stable entries have a good chance to make up for Seabiscuit's heartbreaking defeats of 1937 and 1938. It is far from impossible that they may run one, two and three this year.

Ralph Neves, Howard's jockey, has made the statement that he would rather ride Kayak II in the big race than Seabiscuit. Which is the pinnacle of praise, for a jockey gets 10 per cent of the purse when he wins a stake. His share, if he had a leg up on the winner, would be \$10,000.

Sortado is the horse bought for \$40,000 after he made a clean sweep of South American races. Howard hadn't planned on entering him in the handicap, as South American horses require quite a while to become acclimated.

Stratton Comeback

WHEN Monty Stratton, White Sox pitching ace whose right leg was amputated in December following a hunting accident, first announced that he was going to try a comeback it was suspected that he was whistling in the dark.

Now, however, even the most dubious are keeping a skeptical eye on Monty. Experts have already gone to his Greenville, Texas, home to consult on the best type of artificial leg for the injured young athlete. His convalescence has approached the point where he is ready to begin his mechanical experiment, and he is more optimistic of future success than he was last spring when he pulled an arm muscle.

Stratton is fortunate in having interested experts of the artificial limb industry in his plight. Some manufacturers accept his condition as a challenge to their resourcefulness. While many players grant that he has an outside chance of pitching again, they are not of the opinion that he will be able to cover ground with any speed.

It is reported one expert has assured Stratton and Sox officials that Monty will not only be able to pitch, but that he can run with a fair degree of speed.

Stratton will not make the trip to the Pasadena training camp. Instead, he will work out in Texas until April 10, when he will come to Chicago. According to present plans he will be in uniform during the White Sox-Cubs benefit game for him in Comiskey park on April 17.

Naismith Complains

DR. JAMES NAISMITH, originator of basketball, recently told a group of coaches, officials and sports writers what could be done to make the game better.

His criticisms were aimed mainly at officials and the rules body as he pointed out that:

1. The rules today consistently penalize the offensive team.
2. Many officials are not interpreting or enforcing the rules properly.
3. Elimination of the center jump, in addition to penalizing the scoring team, actually slows the game and eliminates many clever plays which would add spice.

It is true that the offensive team is penalized by loss of the ball every time it makes a basket. But it is equally true that the defensive team receives many unjust penalties. For instance, the dribble primarily was evolved to enable a cornered player to break loose. Today it is used as a weapon with which the offensive player can crash into a defensive man, knowing that the latter will get the penalty.

His first and second criticism is practically unanswerable. The fans seem to be against anything which would handicap the team with a score in prospect, and few officials are going to listen to an evening of booing. So that fault rests in the public's lap.

Before the center jump was eliminated the average time required for an official to get the ball and toss it up at the center was four or five seconds. Now a player takes the ball under the basket, has five seconds to get it out, and the team has ten more seconds to advance beyond the center of the court.

Coaches in general seem to be satisfied with the present rules. Many changes have been suggested, but the feeling has been that the game will certainly not be improved by the hasty adoption of new regulations.

Sport Shorts

ROBERT GARDNER, rookie pitcher for the Washington Senators, is 6 feet 7 inches tall.

Though golf is essentially a Scotch game, the word "caddy" is from the Chinese language. . . . Too hard tracks, too much speed from starting gates, and too many short distance races cause the early breakdown of American horses, according to Herbert Bayard Swope, New York racing commissioner. . . . Fred Swan, who succeeded Pop Warner as head coach at Temple university, served as Warner's assistant for six years at that school. . . . Nell Sandford, a Nova Scotia hockey player, scored 16 goals unassisted in a recent game. . . . Light and Welterweight Champion Henry Armstrong will fight Bobby Pacho in Havana on March 4. . . . Charles Rickard, 103 years old, hasn't missed an opening baseball game in Cincinnati for the last half century. . . . Baseball authorities estimate that 20,000,000 are playing the game around the world. . . . Bill Stewart, deposed manager of the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team, will umpire spring baseball games in the south.