

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Maze of Democratic Candidates Plays Into Roosevelt's Hands; May Compromise on 3rd Term

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

POLITICS: Plan?

Whatever his reasoning, President Roosevelt has shown political wisdom in refusing to announce his intentions for 1940. But campaigns and conventions must eventually settle the Democratic party's political stew, and by early June campaign time was so near that third-term talk was definitely in the picture. Enough other Democrats had talked to give the voting public their choice of two probable reasons why the White House continued to remain silent:

Resolution. West Virginia's Sen. Rush D. Holt began demanding that the senate vote on his resolution forbidding a third term. Until that vote was made, Mr. Roosevelt could hardly be expected to declare himself; if the resolution were passed after he announced his candidacy, the President would go down in history as a villain, not a hero. Contrariwise, if the resolution were rejected, Mr. Roosevelt knew the public would regard it as a vote of confidence from the senate, thus paving the way for renomination.

Confusion. Far more pertinent, however, is another reason. While

already cluttered with those of Postmaster General James A. Farley, Indiana's former Gov. Paul V. McNutt and aging Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

Immediate result was probably just what the President wanted, a recognition by many Democrats that the Garner-Hull-Farley-Wallace-McNutt candidacies merely produced an utter confusion which could have but one solution at convention time: Junk them all and nominate Franklin Roosevelt again.

If this was not the case, observers at least saw something significant in Mr. Ickes' article in Look magazine, in which he plumped for a third term. Extremely close to the White House, the vitriolic secretary of the interior was not likely to make such a statement unless he knew the President was at least toying with the idea of running again.

FAIRS: Attendance

Closer to large populations, New York's World's fair would naturally draw larger attendance than its rival at San Francisco. By June 1, after running 3½ months, the Golden Gate exposition reported attendance of 3,284,329. In one month, from April 30 to June 1, New York's turnstiles spun to the tune of 5,394,770.

More interesting to executives of both fairs was the source of attendance, for local visitors add little to the prosperity of either San Francisco or New York. At the Golden Gate, a checkup of parking lots revealed 85 per cent of visitors were from California. Of out-of-state visitors, 55 per cent came from nearby Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, etc.

Closest comparable estimate at New York came from the Goodrich exhibit, which offered replica auto tags to the estimated 20 per cent total attendance which visited the Transportation area. Judging from auto tag sales, 49 per cent of the fair's visitors were from New York. Others: New Jersey, 15 per cent; Pennsylvania, 6.5 per cent; Massachusetts, 4.5 per cent; Connecticut, 4.5 per cent. Only states not registered on June 1: North and South Dakota.

Though both surveys showed early attendance was localized, both fairs also predicted mid-summer vacation season would bring visitors from afar.

AVIATION: Competition

Most huge flying boats like Pan-American's transatlantic clippers took two to three years for design and completion. Last summer, when the new clippers were already under way, San Diego's Consolidated aircraft went to work on a streamlined, simplified, awkward looking boat (see photo) powered by two 2,000-horsepower, 18-cylinder, twin-row radial engines; capable of cruising 300 miles an hour with a



CONSOLIDATED'S BOAT
Not graceful, but efficient.

cruising range exceeding present types; seating 52 passengers in daytime, and sleeping 28 at night. Its size: 110-foot wingspread, 73-foot length, 22-foot height, 50,000-pound weight. Most surprising feature: an unexpected, ungraceful "reverse clipper" cut at the stern, which sacrifices beauty for efficiency.

Consolidated lost no time disposing of the boat. Sponsored by American Export Lines, Inc., which operates 18 surface boats between the eastern seaboard and Mediterranean ports, a subsidiary known as American Export Airlines will fly this summer make several transatlantic survey flights with the ship. Each of American Export's surface ships will maintain a floating weather observatory and guard service across the Atlantic.

For Pan-American, just getting under way on a two-flights-a-week basis, Consolidated's flying whale may mean competition.

NEUTRALITY: Co-operation

German domination over lesser European nations need not only mean dependence on the Reich for peacetime manufactured goods. It such was the case last year, Adolf Hitler's aggression this spring added military domination to the already pressing economic leverage. Reason: Already boss of Germany's mighty Krupp works, Berlin captured the even mightier Skoda plants when Czechoslovakia fell before the conqueror. Until then southeast Europe's minor nations (like Rumania, Greece, Turkey and Jugoslavia) had Skoda guns and shells to ward off the aggressive Reich. Today Skoda munitions go mainly to Germany and can be



CZECHIA'S SKODA WORKS
It may change U. S. policy.

bought by lesser nations only in exchange for concessions.

Aggravating the situation is the Anglo-French rearmament program, which demands domestic consumption of all munitions produced in those nations' plants. Lesser countries get none.

This forceful argument against current U. S. neutrality legislation was apparently saved for the crucial moment. Not offered early this session during house and senate committee hearings, it was plumped in their laps unexpectedly by Secretary of State Cordell Hull just as the two houses seemed likely to give neutrality an airing.

It seemed a fairly sound basis for changing U. S. policy, isolationists notwithstanding. Since the Nazi government has become No. 1 source of military supplies, moreover since practically continuous German mobilization aggravates the situation, Mr. Hull joined Nevada's Sen. Key Pittman in demanding repeal of the neutrality act's embargo provision.

(This provision stipulates that once the President finds a state of war exists in any foreign conflict, the sale of U. S. arms and munitions is prohibited.)

Best anti-embargo argument: That it places the U. S. in a position of co-operating with Nazi Germany in freezing out smaller nations by depriving them of munitions.

On the surface less pressing when war scares have temporarily died down, neutrality revision seemed out of the question if congress is to consider tax revision, relief appropriations and social security and still adjourn by July 15.

TRANSPORTATION: Survey

Last winter congress ordered the federal trade commission to survey the automobile industry for concentration of control, competition, manufacturer-dealer recommendation and pricing activities of local dealer associations. Inspiration: Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney's monopolies investigating committee.

Just submitted, FCC's report both praised and blamed the auto industry. Chief praise was that, although in 1938 there were only 11 manufacturing firms and that three of these (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) controlled 90 per cent of sales, the public got its money's worth.

Chief blame was that certain manufacturers impose "unfair and inequitable conditions on their dealers, forcing them to accept contracts favoring the manufacturer. Recommendations: (1) less restriction on dealers; (2) placing of quota requirements for dealers on a mutual basis.

TREASURY: News Notes

During the first 11 months of the 1938-39 fiscal year the U. S. operated with a deficit of \$3,240,467,092, which will probably hit \$4,000,000,000 by year's end on June 30.

Secretary Morgenthau revealed only 49 Americans had million-dollar incomes in 1937, compared with 61 in 1936. Yet 6,350,148 people filed 1937 income tax returns, compared with only 5,413,499 in 1936.

Okayed by the senate was a measure to remove the \$30,000,000 limit on federal bond insurance, though the total debt limit of \$45,000,000,000 (to be reached next fiscal year) remains undisturbed.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Would Force Public Ownership on Nation in Spite of Voters' Wishes

Power Commission Appears as Spearhead of Minority With Socialistic Tendencies; Niagara Falls Investigation May Bring Out Some New Facts; Private Plants Menaced.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—Public investigations always hold some fascination for me, whether the inquiry is conducted by a congressional committee or by some agency of government. My interest, however, seldom lies in the sensational testimony or muckraking that may be among the results. I care little for the smearing of individuals and that sort of thing. The thing that attracts me to these ditch-digging activities is a desire always to know what motives lie beneath the apparently earnest effort in behalf of the pee-pul.

I do not mean to impugn the motives of all and sundry individuals who set about unearthing facts. Far from it. But whatever the results may be in the public interest, it remains as fact that in most instances there will be found an individual or two who are seeking to capitalize upon the reputation they can build for themselves in a good knock-down-and-drag-out investigation. Now, it may be that this is just a by-product, like some of the poisons that come from beautiful flowers. But it does come, and that is why I always want to smell around a bit for a look-see at the full story of an investigation.

There is no doubt, for instance, that the federal power commission's investigation of the use of Niagara Falls water for generation of electric power may produce some new facts. A great natural resource of that kind should not be allowed to become a thing in which public interest is ignored. But there should be, and there is, a limit to public interest, just as much as there is a limit beyond which private control should not be allowed.

In the Niagara case, however, the power commission is made to appear as the spearhead of a loud-speaking, rough-riding minority which, for years, has sought to saddle public ownership on the whole United States. That group makes no bones of its purposes. It is for public ownership, a socialist venture, whether the voters of the nation want it or not. Indeed, a good guess is that this group wants to force public ownership of all utilities—power, water, transportation—upon the country despite the refusal of congress to create a network of electric lines throughout the nation such as has been established in parts of the South under the creeping paralysis of TVA.

Bound to Destroy Property Value of Private Plants

This conclusion is borne out, as far as I am concerned, by the public pronouncements of those charged with making the policy of the power commission, and therefore, the power policy of the Roosevelt administration. The conclusion is accepted by many also because of the unending efforts of Secretary Ickes of the interior department. Mr. Ickes, as is rather generally known, has urged municipalities, wherever he could find one, to borrow federal money or accept an outright gift of funds for the purchase or construction of publicly owned electric light plants. He even has gone so far as to pour millions out on the plains, agricultural areas, as he did in Nebraska, where there is no market for more than a thimbleful of electricity. Such a course was bound to destroy the property value of private plants which did not have a bottomless treasury from which to make up operating losses.

When one has a knowledge of all of this background, the Niagara Falls story changes its aspect, considerably. The power commission has been kicking the Niagara Falls case around about 10 years. Suddenly, a couple of months ago a hearing was ordered on a great number of charges of violation of license. They are too technical to be of much concern here, but it is plain to see that if the commission's views are sustained in the courts, a wedge has been driven by the government, itself, into the structure of private ownership. In other words, a federal agency has carved national policy by use of regulatory power and has done so by the simple process of enforcing its views rather than the wishes of the people which are expressed through laws of congress.

Clearly illustrates How Investigations May Turn Out

Thus, it seems that the Niagara Falls case can be used as an illustration of what investigations may

turn out to be, even though such an inquiry is properly conceived in the public interest. The use of them for the purposes that appear in this one surely must be deplored, for it is bureaucracy run riot.

There is yet another phase of the Niagara Falls case to which attention should be drawn. It relates to the utilization of investigations for personal promotion. Oh! I reckon there is no crime in promoting one's self, or one's political ambitions. Anyway, I do not infer any crime. I am merely criticizing the thing as something that does not make for good government. It is a species of demagoguery, this campaigning on a vehicle set up for other purposes.

So, we come to the case of Casa March, 28 years old, a Texas citizen, and an attorney for the power commission which is a federal agency. From all appearances, Mr. March is politically ambitious. He is convinced, it seems, that Texas ought to have him as governor in the next few years. Prosecution of some great corporation is a political horse that will gallop far and well over the plains of the great state of Texas. Of course, Mr. March would be aboard that horse. I understand that he even has a campaign slogan. He would herd the voters of Texas under his banner with "Forward March, With March."

Wonder if Private Persons Any Longer Have Rights

One look at the stenographic record of the hearings in the Niagara Falls case rather causes one to question whether private persons any longer have rights even under our constitutional form of government. There were apparently no rules of law followed in that case; and the statement is the same regarding the usual congressional committee investigations. The fellow who gets on the witness stand in one of these cases is worse off than the Negro boy behind the canvass at the county fair. The boy can duck. He has that sporting chance, even though his head is the target for well-aimed throws. Not so with a witness in a public investigation.

Nor does there seem to be any limitation on the kind of charges that can be hurled at a person or a firm or a corporation, once they are in the tools of an investigation. The constitutional provision seems to have been reversed. You are guilty until you are proved innocent—that is, if you get a chance to submit proof.

Of course, such names as the Aluminum Company of America, and J. P. Morgan and company and the Carlisle power interests and the others are well known. They are "big" names. Without them, most investigations are a flop. Being wealthy and well-known, when those people are attacked, they make headlines. Almost anything that is done about them or by them is printed. Besides, many, many speeches can be made about trust busting!

Jackson Tried It Too, See What Happened

There was Robert Jackson, too. Mr. Jackson, as chief counsel for the bureau of internal revenue, battled the late Andrew W. Mellon over his income taxes. He was appointed soon thereafter as the assistant attorney general in charge of anti-trust prosecutions. Promptly, he started an anti-trust suit against the Aluminum Company of America, but his political star was not in the right transit. Anyway, he did not get to be governor of New York. He did not even get the nomination, as did Thomas E. Dewey, as a public reward for striking at malefactors of great wealth or racketeers—one type being as good as the other for political purposes.

Or, we may advert to Senator LaFollette's crusade with his senate civil liberties committee. Now, I am none too sure of the meaning of the phrase, civil liberties, but Senator LaFollette surely tried to convince the union workers, especially the C. I. O. members, that he was protecting them against those sinful employers who would grind workers into the grime and grease of their overalls, as well as obtaining much publicity for the senator.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Speaking of Sports

Check Yanks? League Must Hold Players

By ROBERT McSHANE

BASEBALL experts, officials and fans are almost unanimous in their belief that something must be done about the New York Yankees before they eliminate all thought of competition in the American league. The Yanks won the 1938 American league pennant by 19½ games. In 1937 they won by 13 games, and in 1938 by 9½ games. The belief that their superiority was growing less pronounced—a belief fostered by the diminishing margin of victory—has proved untrue.

In the American league circuit it is being said that the Yanks will be from 8 to 12 games ahead by July 4.

This means they might as well call off the rest of the race, that Joe McCarthy's aggregation is too good for the rest of the teams in baseball.

Whether or not you subscribe to the theory—and we do not—that the Yankees should be broken up for the good of baseball, you will agree that some steps must be taken to revive an interest already flagging.

When Lou Gehrig benched himself they lost one of the greatest players of all time. When Joe DiMaggio sprained an ankle they lost, temporarily, today's outstanding player. But what happened with those two great performers out of the lineup? The Yanks, with Babe Dahlgren on first base, won 17 out of their next 20 games.

Keep Talent at Home

Not long ago Oscar Vitt, Cleveland manager, hinted that New York was ruining the American league by snatching all the pennants and by shipping talent, fresh from the minors and good enough for other clubs in the same circuit, to the National league.

To bear him out a hasty survey shows that in the last three years the Yanks have sold Bob Seeds, outfielder, and Johnny McCarthy, first baseman, to the Giants; outfielder Jim Gleason to the Cubs, Shortstop Nolen Richardson and Catcher Willard Hershberger to the Reds and Shortstop Eddie Miller to the Bees. The last named is being hailed as one of the best infielders to enter the National league in years. Almost any club in the Yanks' circuit would have been glad to get him.

During the coming year officials of the league are certain to discuss methods of equalizing the strength of its teams. They cannot, of course, take forcible measures and distribute the Yanks' star performers among the weaker clubs. Nor is it likely the team will be voluntarily broken up by player sales.

One course is open to American league officials. They can do all in their power to urge the Yanks to keep all excess material in their home circuit. This would be in direct contrast to the Yanks' present policy of selling players only to those teams which can't possibly threaten their supremacy.

Cards Build Own League

The St. Louis Cardinals, for instance, dispose of their excess players to clubs within their own league, which maintains the strength of the entire organization. Though they were developed on Cardinal farms, there was no place for Bill Lee and Johnny Rizzo on the St. Louis team. But they were sold to clubs in the same league.

Tom Yawkey of Boston is one man attempting to fight the Yanks on their home grounds, and even for that moneyed gentleman it's going to be a tough, uphill struggle.

To date the American league is not the drawing power it was in the past. Weather conditions have been blamed by Edward G. Barrow, president of the Yankees, for unfilled grandstands. However, one writer pointed out that Jersey City, near New York and—having the same weather conditions, has drawn larger crowds to minor league games than the world's champions have attracted in their mutilation of American league competition.

It can't be blamed on the weather. At least not altogether. Fans have grown tired of seeing the Yankees win with such little effort.

Yesterday's Heroes

DURING the past few weeks approximately 6,000 football players have been turned loose upon the nation by America's 1,000 colleges and universities. This is an average of six men per squad at all institutions of more than preparatory school rating.

For the majority of these men football holds no interest other than that of an enthusiastic spectator. A few will remain as coaches. However, those that do are exceptionally talented. Coaching no longer has the appeal for graduates. Colleges are looking more and more each season to professional football and high schools for staff replacements. Most embryo coaches find their only openings in high school jobs, and prep assignments lack the inducement they hoped to find.

Contrary to general belief, which holds that practically all good football players join professional ranks, the National Football league will provide playing jobs for approximately 250 graduates—one out of every 24 college players meet major league football requirements.

The great majority of these men will go to work in the more prosaic fields. In their ranks are lawyers, doctors, engineers—in fact, any and all branches of business and the professions.

The National Football league is to be congratulated that it does not hold out false hopes to men who might expect to capitalize on talents cultivated during three years of collegiate competition.

The graduates deserve a hand for being intelligent enough to realize that their futures depend on their capabilities in the business world. And not on past gridiron performances.

Great Finisher

WHEN speaking of baseball's great relief pitchers, the average fan thinks of Johnny Murphy with the New York Yankees, Dick Coffman of the Giants, Jack Russell, formerly with the Senators, and now with the Cubs, Sarge Connolly of the old White Sox. Those and a few more.

A close checkup on the Chicago White Sox will reveal that one of baseball's truly great relief pitchers



CLINT BROWN

is still saving ball games for Lou Comiskey. He is Clint Brown, one of the most spectacularly timely artists of the diamond.

Brown left Cleveland for Chicago in the winter of 1936. He was largely responsible for the third-place finish of the White Sox in 1936 and 1937. In the first season he figured in 36 games for the Sox, winning six, losing two and working 63 innings. In 1937 he was in a total of 53 games, working 100 innings, winning seven and losing seven.

The trouble shooter was canceled out last season following an operation for a slipped disc. That wasn't, of course, the only reason the Sox finished in the second division, but it was a contributing factor that cannot be overlooked.

The loss of Monte Stratton, ace starting pitcher, was a severe blow to the Sox this year. Their hopes were pinned on Stratton, whose career was cut short when he lost a leg in a hunting accident. But the Sox are still plenty had medicine—and one of the big reasons is Clint Brown, unparalleled trouble shooter. He's back in form again, and as dangerous as ever.

Brown has proved that sometimes a great finishing pitcher is just as valuable as a great starting pitcher.

HEADLINERS

MAURICE GUSTAVE GÄMELIN

This French general first came to prominence during the Munich crisis, though he has been chief of the army general staff since 1931. Now 66, he entered the World war as a captain and emerged as a major general. His latest honor: Commandership of the combined French land, sea and air forces, an unprecedented move to unify the government's defense. The move had been expected, however, since General Gamelin was in 1938 named chief of the general staff of national defense, directly under Edouard Daladier, premier and minister of national defense and war. The new task is one of co-ordinating all French forces. Retaining generalship of French land forces, the new commander will have as air chief Gen. J. Vuillemin. Commander-in-chief of the navy will be Admiral Jean Darlan. Both are under Gamelin's supervision.

