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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LABINE

Charge Pittman Embargo Bill Constitutes Admission by U. S. Of Japan's Belligerent Rights

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

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CONGRESS:

Neutrality

First guesses after the senate foreign relations committee tabled the Bloom-Hull measure held that neutrality was a dead issue this session. Not counted upon were Sen. Key Pittman's enthusiasm and the White House's insistence. Because President Roosevelt evidently feared a European war after the harvest season, he demanded that neutrality legislation be passed this session. Nor would congressional objection avail much; filibusters are a handy weapon for stalemating legislation, but the President's special session threat made it seem more desirable to act now than be called back from vacation.

The President's program: (1) retention of the munitions board; (2) barring of American ships from combat zones; (3) restriction of American travel in such zones; (4) transfer of title of goods sold to bel-

ligerents before shipment; (5) continued restrictions on loans and credits to warring nations; (6) regulation of fund collections in the U. S. for belligerents.

Though all inclusive and apparently carrying more tenacity with which American isolationists fear the U. S. might become involved abroad, the President's program carries far less potential dynamite than Senator Pittman's measure. Under this bill, the President would be forced to declare a munitions embargo against any nation violating the 1922 nine-power Chinese non-aggression treaty. The obvious target: Japan.

But what Mr. Pittman apparently forgot is that such declaration would constitute American admission that a state of war exists in China—a fact Japan has never admitted. Japan would thus gain belligerent rights in China and U. S. interests would have to flee the war zone. Thus America's entire Oriental position would be toppled, and the embargo would have little effect unless Great Britain follows the unlikely course of adopting similar tactics.

AGRICULTURE:

More Trouble

On July 1 the U. S. looked forward to a wheat crop of 715,655,000 bushels, comparatively small beside last year's 930,801,000 bushels and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 752,962,000 bushels. Obviously, wheat is not a source of worry for Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace this year. But a job with more than its just quota of worries has produced three others to take the place of wheat.

Tobacco. Last year growers voted to remove strict marketing control provisions of the farm law, resulting in a big expansion of acreage this year. As of July 1 the tobacco forecast for this year was 1,654,622,000 pounds, compared with an average crop of 1,360,400,000 pounds. If estimates materialize, some experts believe prices will be depressed 25 per cent below last year; also that—under law—another referendum must be held on tobacco quotas.

Corn. Forecast now is a crop of around 2,570,795,000 bushels, compared with the 10-year average of 2,309,674,000 bushels. Reasons: (1) unusually favorable weather in June; (2) a sharp increase in plantings of high-yielding hybrid corn. With a surplus of about 450,000,000

bushels from previous seasons already on hand, experts predict some governmental action will be necessary to forestall undue price depression. If marketing quotas result, approved by two-thirds of corn-belt farmers, growers would be required to store their share of the excess supply or pay a penalty tax of 10 cents a bushel.

Cotton. With 14,350,000 bales of cotton hanging over his head, Secretary Wallace persuaded congress to give him \$928,000,000 for curing the surplus problem. Of this, a large part will go to cotton, distributing it among U. S. relief families and offsetting losses in selling cotton to foreign buyers at cut-rate prices, i.e., government subsidy. But in New York the Cotton Exchange service moaned a few days ago that cotton exports this season may be the smallest in more than 50 years, not in spite of, but because of government aid.

POLITICS:

Yes or No?

One good way of ruining an opponent is to give him so much rope he hangs himself. When Indiana's one-time Gov. Paul V. McNutt returned from his \$18,000-a-year post as governor general of the Philippine islands, he became the nation's No. 1 outspoken seeker after 1940's Democratic nomination. What amazed onlookers was that he boldly walked into the lion's mouth, conferring with President Roosevelt and his traditional enemy, Postmaster General James A. Farley. What amazed them still more was Paul McNutt's appointment a few days later as \$12,000-a-year head of the newly created U. S. security agency. What did it mean? Was Paul McNutt the President's choice for 1940? Or was Mr. Roosevelt craftily plotting the political suicide of this ambitious Hoosier, thus insuring his own re-nomination for a third term? The pro and con:

Buildup? "Liberalism" is a much worn-out word denoting the New Deal's objectives. The last few months it has been succeeded by "humanitarianism" as the keynote for 1940. Not to be forgotten is the "humanitarian" scope of Paul McNutt's new job, where he has charge of social security, the office of education, National Youth Administration and Civilian Conservation corps,

all strong talking points a smart politician can use to further his own cause. Neither should Paul McNutt's travel opportunities be forgotten; as head of the security agency his chances for speeches and political contacts are practically unlimited and he is expected to make the most of them.

Breakdown? The security post is not all roses. Keen observers know Paul McNutt is in the limelight where both Democrats and Republicans can take pot-shots at him between now and nomination day. They also know that his new job may be a good place to build a man up personally, yet "humanitarianism" should have nothing to do with politics; therefore Mr. McNutt must be discreet.

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, McNutt Manager Frank McHale could figure his campaign to date had been a success. His candidate, like young Lochinvar, had come out of the west after 2½ years in Manila, where he could make no embarrassing entangling alliances. More important, he had returned to get what Frank McHale termed the President's endorsement as a candidate for 1940.

HOUSING:

Political Vogue?

Periodically there arises a David who slays the wicked giant Goliath. Usually it sets a fashion until corruptness again catches hold. Last year New York's racket-busting States Attorney Thomas E. Dewey became a David, captured public fancy, inspired radio programs and placed wicked politicians on the defensive. The public obviously wanted reform and no more rackets.

When Tom Dewey began looming as a 1940 G. O. P. presidential possibility, reformation sounded like good strategy for any aspiring politician or party. By early July, Attorney General Frank Murphy had behind him an excellent record of smashing corrupt political machines (like Kansas City's Tom Pendergast) and tracking down income tax



RACKET BUSTER DEWEY
Everybody's doing it.

evaders. This was the signal for Scripps-Howard Columnist Raymond Clapper to charge that Frank Murphy was trying too hard to fit the vice presidential nomination.

Meanwhile there was arising another administration racket-busting program under guidance of the justice department's Thurman W. Arnold. Its aim: To drive trust practices, price-fixing and collusion out of the U. S. building industry. The day Mr. Arnold told his plans to the temporary national economic committee, Chicago Daily News' William H. Fort wrote from Washington that this was "obviously the New Deal's most ambitious trust-busting venture in its attempt to push young Tom Dewey's New York activities into the shade."

TRADE:

Penalties

It is no coincidence that the world's topmost aggressive powers, Italy, Germany and Japan, must force exports to maintain a balance of trade. One primary reason is that peace-loving nations would sooner trade elsewhere; another, goods for which foreign markets are available must be kept at home to guarantee self-sufficiency in case of war and to build military machines.

Therefore no deliberate anti-Nazi gesture was involved last spring when the U. S. began levying countervailing duties on goods imported for Germany. Though this move coincided with the Reich's absorption of Czechoslovakia, treasury and state departments pointed out that Germany customarily forces exports through subsidy.

Similar reasoning was behind the countervailing duties recently imposed on Italian silk exports to the U. S., which treasury officials discovered were being subsidized.

Skipping next to aggressive Japan, the U. S. is investigating complaints from domestic textile manufacturers that Nipponese cotton goods makers are being given government subsidy, boosting still further the natural world trade advantage they gain by low operating costs. Result: Observers predict countervailing duties will soon be imposed on cotton imports from Japan.

Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

LABOR—Oregon's Supreme court has held constitutional the famous "anti-picketing" law adopted by referendum last November, confining picketing to bona fide disputes between employers and a majority of employees, prohibiting boycotts and outlawing minority strikes.

BABIES—Since both 1937 and 1938 found France's deaths exceeding her births, Premier Edouard Daladier has announced decrees to reward large families and thus stimulate the birth rate.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Blame Absurd Relief Policies For Widespread WPA Strikes

Misguided Effort to Force Government Into Greater Gifts To Them; Yell Radical Accusations When Soft Snap Is Ended; Honest Distribution Congress' Aim.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It is sometimes possible, I believe, to find an excuse for violent action on the part of a man who is hungry. Likewise, that individual's desperation may be explained when his children are near starvation. It is a social condition that perhaps merits sympathetic understanding rather than harsh treatment. When those individuals have had the specter of starvation removed by the generous hand of government, however, it strikes me that there can be no justification for revolt against the government or the people which have been responsible for the charity. That is to say, neither the government nor the citizens can be held responsible for the hard luck of any of us, nor does any one individual have a divine right to such generosity.

Yet, there exists in this country today an extraordinarily large number of persons who seem to feel the government must bend its knees to them. They have lately taken the position—largely misguided by the lowest grade of leaders—that they can dictate to their government and their neighbors the terms upon which they will receive government relief. They have gone so far as to use the strike as a weapon to force, to coerce, their government into greater gifts to them, and it is one of the most dangerous trends to be noted on the horizon of our country. It is traceable, of course, to the utterly absurd relief policies that have been practiced, heretofore, but that fact does not lessen the threat contained in the widespread strikes of WPA workers that have taken place lately.

To go back a bit for a review, the relief program enacted recently by congress for the year that is now starting specified that all WPA workers must put in 130 hours per month in order to get the maximum government relief. It was included by congress as a part of the law upon recommendation by WPA Commissioner F. C. Harrington, and no right thinking persons can find reason to disagree. The purpose is most commendatory. The increase in the hours of labor was designed to weed out those who were receiving WPA checks who were satisfied to go on without any thought of ever obtaining a private job again. There is that type, you know. The new requirement obviously roughed their fur; it took away the soft snap that they had, and they yelled typical radical accusations about it.

Congress Sought to Set Up An Honest Distribution

The rules that expired June 30 had made it possible for some workers to receive the maximum pay in as little as two weeks of work. Skilled workers were being paid wages that were equivalent to the rates in private employment in the area where they were. So, some workers stayed on the job two weeks and had their month's pay; others worked longer and were paid much less. Congress, therefore, tried to set up something like an honest distribution and it directed that everybody receiving the WPA checks had to work 130 hours in order to receive the full amount.

There were some other provisions, too, that irked the WPA workers. One of them, for instance, makes it necessary for those who have been on WPA relief jobs for 18 months, to take a layoff of one month. That was designed to give some other unemployed person a chance to get WPA relief.

The third big change from last year and the earlier years of federal relief was a specification as to wages. The legal language is too complex for me to understand, thoroughly, but the intention is to make the rates of WPA wages have some relationship to the cost of living where the unemployed are given WPA jobs. This was put into the law by a determined group of southern Democratic senators, and the result will be to increase some of the wages in the South and reduce some of them in the northern half of the United States.

These things are, in the law, this time. In previous years, congress had been unable to break the grip of the professional relievers, like Harry Hopkins and Aubrey Williams, and the rates of pay and conditions of work were determined largely by such men. Mr. Williams will be recalled as the man who said in a speech to WPA workers they should

use their numerical strength politically and support only those officials who turned loose the most money. Under the previous system, the WPA workers could attack rules and regulations laid down by individuals. But now Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Williams are not in the picture, and a hard-boiled army officer heads up the WPA organization. If there are men who can stick closer to the words of law than army officers, I have yet to see them.

Strike Against Government Is What Confronts Country

The condition that confronts the country, therefore, is a strike against the national government, because the elected representatives of the people as a whole laid down the rules, this time. Of course, the Constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to petition congress. It does not grant the right, however, to use force or violence to change the action of congress. The WPA workers who went out on strike, therefore, in my opinion, were right close to the border line of a serious offense against the government. It is one thing to strike, as a union does, against an employer; it is quite another thing for a union to be organized to perpetuate government charity and to use that union in a violent fashion as has been done in this instance.

And, speaking of unions, there are two of them—rival organizations—among WPA workers. There is the Workers Alliance of America and the Workers League of the United States. The first named is headed by David Lasser and the second by Lloyd Leith. I do not know the background of either man, where they came from or what their mission in life may be. Of this, however, I am sure: very few men and women in this world of ours ever work for absolutely no pay.

Why Is a Union Necessary Among These Workers?

One might also inquire quite properly, I think, why it is necessary to have a union among these workers. I fail to see why they should spare any of the meager funds that the government gives them for living purposes to be used by union leaders. Those fellows cannot do anything to make congress change its mind. Oh! They can come to Washington—and they do—and issue statements and shout threats before congressional committees and see their names in the newspapers, and accomplish nothing. That is, they get nowhere except that they are able to show the poor, wretched souls on relief that their "leaders" are great "fighters" in the cause.

While there never was a chance of congress amending the law and anyone with a grain of sense must recognize it, these self-appointed, self-anointed saviors of the WPA workers did succeed in calling something like 40,000 workers off of their jobs in various parts of the country. The result was that those workers lost just that much money. They also ran afoul of the Harrington determination, which many of them did not realize was not a Hopkins or Williams chin. Colonel Harrington promptly issued orders that those who stayed away five days would be replaced, because there were thousands willing to work and had no jobs. Obviously, that brought a good many back to their jobs. Some others, however, let their passion and unwise leadership of their unions put them in a position of cutting off their nose to spite their face.

Seems There Are Some Very Stupid Local Labor Leaders

The national labor unions, like the American Federation of Labor and the Lewis organization, the C. I. O., came close to getting involved in this picture. I do not know whether the heads of those great unions were responsible for the general aloofness, but they were quick to explain that strikes by any of their member organizations in behalf of the WPA workers were "entirely local." If this be true, the explanation lies in the fact that there must be some very stupid local labor leaders. Surely, with union labor's prestige at its lowest ebb in many years, respectable labor unions could hardly expect to gain in public esteem by participating in such ludicrous proceedings as a strike against the government of the United States.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Speaking of Sports

Track Records Crack Up When Rice Performs

By ROBERT McSHANE

DIMINUTIVE Greg Rice, captain of Notre Dame's track team, whose latest feat was to clip 23 seconds off the National A. A. U. 5,000-meter run record, has managed to jam the Notre Dame book with a series of new marks.

The 5 foot, 4¼-inch distance runner is a native of Missoula, Mont. He enrolled in Notre Dame as a miler, winding up recently as the National Collegiate championship two-miler, second only to Don Lash, formerly of Indiana, as far as this country is concerned. Rice's time of 9 minutes, 2.6 seconds, is bettered only by Lash's 8:58.4 outdoor record for Americans.

In breaking the 5,000 meters run record, Greg shaved 23 seconds off



CAPTAIN GREG RICE

the A. A. U. mark of 15:41.1, made by Joseph P. McCluskey in 1937.

His all-time Notre Dame record is as follows:

- One-mile run indoor—4:16.2, made in 1937.
- One-mile run outdoor—4:13, made in 1937 state meet.
- Two-mile run indoor—9:05, made in 1939 Chicago relays.
- Two-mile run outdoor—9:02.6, made in 1939 N. C. A. A. meet.
- 1,500-meter run indoor—3:58, made in 1939 Illinois relays.
- 1,000-meter run indoor—3:44, made in 1938 exhibition.
- 3,000 meter run—8:34.1, made in 1939 Chicago relays.
- 5,000 meter run—14:50.9, made in 1939 Lincoln A. A. U. meet.
- His best time for the 3,000 meters run is only 7.7 seconds behind Paavo Nurmi's world record.

Rice's most beautiful exhibition of running came this year at the Drake relays, when, on the first day, he shaved .6 second off Lash's two-mile record in 9:10. The next day he came back to run the mile in 4:12.5 with the four-mile relay team, and 1:54.6 in the half-mile with the two-mile team. The marks were the best of his career.

It's not an easy task to keep an eye on his twinkling toes, but it will be well worth while. Coach John Nicholson will see to it that he's in the best of condition for next year's Olympic tryouts. And with a heart that must occupy the largest part of his under-sized chassis, Captain Gregory Rice is a man to watch.

The American Way

THE not-at-all sissified activities of American ball players have a shocking effect on Mr. Walter Ley-smith of London, England.

Walter, a veteran of Britain's cricket and football fields, comes to the United States as a student of the American Way. He wants to learn all about this country's sports and skyscrapers.

In his candid opinion, the whole thing is in rather bad taste. Fistic fights, pop bottle brawls and general attempted mayhem are unheard of in England. In fact, should a cricket player go so far as to shove an umpire, he would be banished from the game for life. He would become an outcast, a social pariah and a thing of evil.

Football in England isn't quite so gentlemanly. Walter stated, but it's still a pink tea proposition in comparison to U. S. baseball. The visiting Britisher cited an instance or two where the official was roughly handled by a team. In every case the football association secretary (an absolute dictator) closed the grounds for two or three weeks. Which meant a tremendous financial loss to both clubs.

He also advanced the information that a pop bottle thrower would be bunged up by the crowd before the police could slap him in jail.

Which is decidedly not the American Way!

Skiing to the Front

RESULTS of the national ski tournament held recently on Mt. Hood, near Portland, Ore., demonstrate that skiing has at last gained its rightful place on the American sports program.

Dick Durrance, Dartmouth college student, was top man in the tournament, which attracted the talent of seven nations to Timberline lodge ski fields.

Durrance won four of six possible men's titles. His competition included Hannes Schroll, the Austrian skier now plying his trade in California; Reidar Anderson of Norway; Friedl Pfeiffer, Sun Valley's Austrian coach, and Walter Prager, who coached Durrance.

Six Americans finished among the first 18 in combined downhill and slalom standings. All of them are young, with perhaps their best years of skiing ahead of them.

The open downhill race was won by Toni Mast, 19-year-old Austrian-born New Hampshire ski instructor, who is in America to stay.

American amateurs won fifth, sixth and seventh places in open competition. They were Wendell Cram, Rutland, Vt.; Dick Mitchell, University of Nevada, and Gordon Wren, Steamboat Springs, Colo. Other ranking Americans included William Janss and Peter Garrett.

That these native sons were able to make such an outstanding showing is remarkable in that only a few years ago, skiing was something an American saw in news reels or travelogues. A few enthusiasts, of course, had long been interested in the sport. But they were in a distinct, and scarcely heard, minority.

During the past few years U. S. athletes have had opportunity to avail themselves of more widespread skiing facilities. Their fondness and aptitude for the sport was evinced by the results of the Mt. Hood tournament.

Sport Shorts

THE first bat Johnny Vander Meer, Cincinnati pitcher, ever owned was given to him for winning a spelling bee in the second grade. . . . In 16 years in the major leagues, Lou Gehrig had a lifetime batting average of .341 for 2,717 hits in 7,937 times at bat. . . . During Ty Cobb's 24 years in the majors he was at bat 11,429 times, made 4,191 hits and struck out only 356 times, or once every 32 times at bat. Babe Ruth batted 1,330 times in 8,399 times at bat, or once every six times.

Should Los Angeles ever land a berth in the National Football League, Crooner Bing Crosby will finance the club. He is as interested in professional football as he is in horse racing. . . . Football seers are predicting that Bernie Bierman will have what it takes again when Minnesota's Golden Gophers hit the gridiron this fall. . . . Charley Brock, Nebraska football center, is attending summer school to complete work for his degree. . . . A record-breaking throng of 56,272 attended the Fourth of July doubleheader at Detroit. . . . Paulino Uzcudun, former heavyweight boxer, has been named commissioner of physical education for all of Spain.

'Der Moxie' Wins

HERR MAX SCHMELING, almost forgotten in fist circles, has again clambered back into the spotlight. "Der Moxie," showing his countrymen a trick he picked up from his American contemporaries, belted out one Adolph Heuser, another German heavyweight, in exactly 47 seconds.

Approximately 60 seconds later Max was anxious to know if his lightning-like conquest of the European heavyweight championship had kicked up any stir in America.

When asked if he planned to extend his comeback journey to America, Max replied: "I want to have a few more fights first, either here or over there."

It is likely that he will soon be fighting on American soil, to pick up another chunk of U. S. money. And he's just as likely to be welcomed back with open arms.

Though it is improbable that he will ever again face Louis in the prize ring, a meeting between Max and Lou Nova might appeal to fight fans. Max isn't the world's worst heavyweight, and in view of the present situation in this country, a Schmeling-Nova bout would be just as logical as any that might be arranged by the powers that be.

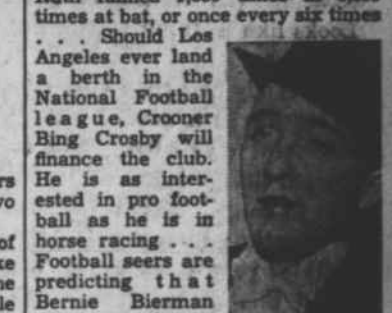
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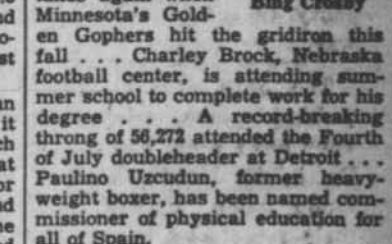
KEY PITTMAN
Japan would suffer, also gain.



MANAGER McHALE
Coming along fine.



Bing Crosby



Max Schmeling