

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Second Season of 'Ism' Probe Has Rough-Tumble Beginning; Hundred Witnesses to Come

(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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DOMESTIC:

Un-Americanism

Dearly beloved by congressional investigating committees are the hot days of a Washington summer when the slightest ruffle of news makes national headlines. Into this scene last summer came a new figure, Texas' Rep. Martin Dies with his loud-but-not-accurate committee investigating un-Americanism.

This summer Martin Dies came back with a new committee and a new appropriation. At its first session the committee gave reporters a story as newsy as last year's accusation that Shirley Temple was a Communist.

Up to the witness stand strode German-American Bundmaster



FUEHRER KUHN

Who's a liar?

Fritz Kuhn. After hearing his life story, Alabama's Rep. Joe Starnes made so bold as to ask Fuehrer Kuhn if his organization wasn't intended to establish a Nazi government in the U. S.

"That's an absolute lie—a flat lie!" shouted Kuhn.

Flaming with anger, Joe Starnes jumped to his feet. Shoving reporters and photographers aside he strode toward the witness crying: "Don't call me a liar!"

When capitol policemen had put an end to these fighting words, the committee got down to more serious work. With calm deliberation, Illinois Rep. Noah Mason drew enough information from the witness to make German-American bundism distasteful. When faced with the accusation that his bund is "a money-making racket based on the credulity of the American people," Kuhn countered by listing these strange objectives: (1) To unite the German-American element, (2) to fight communism, (3) to give the German element "political background."

The committee also learned Fuehrer Kuhn had visited Hitler in 1936, had given him \$3,000 for winter relief and had worn a Nazi uniform in a Berlin parade. His brother is a Berlin supreme court justice. His 20,000 bund followers (whose records have been destroyed) are pledged to defend the "good name of the mother country—Germany."

Most Americans, reading about

In Paris . . .



ART—Watteau's famous "L'Indifferent," stolen from the Louvre June 11, was unexpectedly returned to Parisian police by 25-year-old Serge Bogouslavsky, an artist who admitted he took the \$200,000 painting to "bring back its original glory." Slapping the thief in jail, police called experts who found young Bogouslavsky's retouching had not only restored the picture, but "actually improved it."

Martin Dies' newest revelations, agreed the committee had made a good start. Still on the docket, however, was a list of some 110 witnesses whom agents have rounded up since last February. Observers hoped this summer's investigation wouldn't follow last year's pattern—a forum for unburdening grudges.

RELIEF:
Wages Up

A key provision of this year's \$1,477,000,000 relief appropriation was that WPA wages should be juggled to prevent any more geographical variation than the difference in living costs necessitated. For the South, where labor is cheaper, this meant a raise. For the North it meant wage cuts. For big cities it meant elimination of the 10 per cent differential up or down, which was allowed for local conditions.

Cast into three regions, south, north and west, new wage scales were announced by WPA Commissioner F. C. Harrington:

Region No. 1 (wage range, \$39.30 to \$94.90 per month)—Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Region No. 2 (wage range, \$44.20 to \$94.90 per month)—Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Region No. 3 (wage range, \$31.30 to \$81.90 per month)—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

Net result of the changes, observers figured, will be to raise the national monthly average from \$53 to \$55.50.

ARMY:
Before the Battle

At the second battle of Manassas in 1862, famed Stonewall Jackson sent his men a-raiding General Pope's headquarters. They returned with everything but the general himself. Manassas again made headlines this month when the regular U. S. Army units duplicated Stonewall Jackson's strategy, captured a brigadier general's outpost and advanced toward Washington against defending national guardsmen.

This was the first phase of spectacular military maneuvers unmatched in U. S. peacetime. The second phase began at Plattsburg, N. Y., where 36,000 national guardsmen and regulars began their battle, this invader piercing from the north.

Bigger than either battle, however, was the realism of Plattsburg's commander, Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum. Night before the war began, stern-jawed General Drum assembled 3,000 officers on the parade ground to present a few facts. Publicly scorned was the suggestion that his troops fight at "paper strength," i. e., with imaginary armament the army hopes some day to secure. The general demanded a campaign of reality, "to bring home the actualities of our state of preparedness." Only in tanks, he said, is the army up to strength. Other deficiencies: manpower, 77 per cent; machine guns, 67 per cent; trucks, 83; automobiles, 57.

In Tennessee . . .



UTILITIES—Wendell Wilkie's Commonwealth & Southern power corporation said good-bye to Tennessee, where its lines had been purchased by TVA. Said a full-page newspaper ad: "We still believe that the interests of the public are better served by privately operated utilities. . . . We could not stay in business and compete with virtually tax-free . . . plants." Next day TVA gave Mr. Wilkie \$78,000,000.

EUROPE:
War of Nerves

Last summer it was Britain's Viscount Runciman who volunteered to mediate the scrap between Czechoslovakia and Germany. Mediation—and Czechoslovakia's hopes—came to a sudden end when Viscount Runciman turned pro-Nazi.

This month there arose a new potential Viscount Runciman named Dr. Karl J. Burckhardt, internationally respected Swiss scholar appointed by the League of Nations as high commissioner of Danzig. Off to Hitler's Berchtesgaden eyrie he flew one day without notifying the League. There, while he listened in silence, Der Fuehrer lectured angrily and at length about Danzig. Why had he, as high commissioner, allowed "incidents" in Danzig? And why should Danzig not be returned immediately to the Reich?

Dr. Burckhardt had no chance to divulge his secret, that Great Britain alone knew about his mission and had empowered him to bespeak her official attitude on Danzig. Next day, back in Danzig, the commissioner forwarded a highly confidential report of proceedings to London.

Meanwhile, grasping at the chance, the controlled German press started another war of nerves, pouring out rumors of British-sponsored "peace plans." Veteran students of propaganda decided this had two purposes: (1) To make Poland think the British are ready to desert them, and (2) to find out, via the report-and-denial method, just how far Britain will really go.

This latter point was indeed important. High German circles confidently expected Danzig would be returned to the Reich within a few weeks, since there was little chance Britain would aid Poland in rescuing Danzig from an internally inspired Anschluss.

AGRICULTURE:
Rail Rebellion

Expiring August 1 were loans on some 255,000,000 bushels of farm-sealed corn. Although the Commodity Credit corporation has offered to extend these loans, the consensus holds most farmers will turn their old grain over to the government, making room for the 1939 crop.

Last month the department of agriculture saw what was coming. Bids were called on 33,000 storage bins for defaulted corn. Topping this problem came another—the railroads.

First rebuff was the carriers' refusal to let the government erect its bins without cost on railway property. Also denied was a reduced rate and elimination of demurrage charges on movement of the bins to their destination. The railroads thought they had good reason:

This autumn will see first practical application of the "ever-normal granary" program, designed to set aside excess supplies of grain in years of large production, to be held for lean crop periods. As it affects corn, this program will raise havoc with the normal flow of grain from farm to market via railroads. By buying its 33,000 bins, the U. S. will make storage at the farm end. Later, when finally moved, corn will be hauled as government property and will thus bring additional loss of revenue to railroads because land-grant statutes call for reduced (50 per cent) carrying charges.

In All U. S. . . .



THANKSGIVING—Cartoonists and columnists had a field day because President Roosevelt said he would proclaim Thanksgiving November 23, not November 30. While calendar makers moaned and college football officials complained that their schedules would be upset, the state department finally announced Mr. Roosevelt's proclamation affects only the District of Columbia. Each state sets its own.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

See Less Favorable Reaction to FDR's Remarks Than Formerly

Once Labeled Superman, It Is Now Realized President Is Human and Can Make Mistakes; His Will No Longer Completely Dominant.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There has been much conversation around here lately concerning the changed reception given President Roosevelt's acts or statements. It can not be doubted that there has been an absence of that buoyancy which characterized his shots of earlier days in the White House; but lately, if one may judge from the observations of many persons, he has been missing the target as often as he has been hitting. The result obviously is that a good many persons have noted less favorable reaction to Mr. Roosevelt's remarks than formerly was the case.

It is hardly necessary to recall how through some five or six years the President's remarks made his opposition wriggle and squirm. His statements seemed to have that necessary punch which quelled outbursts from those who disagreed with him. The press corps of Washington, or a large percentage of its membership, always hankered for a fresh Rooseveltian volley. It was good copy, in a news way.

Having noted the changed condition, myself, I sought a canvass of others. Nearly all of them eventually came to the conclusion that the lack of fire now often displayed in Mr. Roosevelt's remarks and their failure to arouse the same fervor among his followers are a natural result of events. He has been found by many people to be just human. Like his predecessor in the White House, Mr. Hoover, President Roosevelt was overbuilt or oversold by his ardent admirers. He was labelled as superman, and that is one of the worst things that can happen to a politician; it is the worst thing that can happen to a President because no man can be President unless he is a politician.

In saying that the Roosevelt circle ballyhooed their man too much, I hope I am not detracting from the good qualities. The point of this story is, after all, that millions of persons were led to believe that President Roosevelt could not make mistakes—mistakes were out of his ken. But the job of President of the United States has a way of disclosing the true fiber.

Build-Up Gave Roosevelt

False Idea of His Powers

I believe it is a fair statement that the success which met Mr. Roosevelt's every turn during the period of his tenure—until perhaps 18 months ago—was due to this illusion that had been created. To repeat: his publicity backers seized on a colorful figure and built up that man to the point where more was expected of him than should be expected from any human being.

It is entirely possible that Mr. Roosevelt suffered personally from the intense fervor of the admiration that was given him. I do not say, of course, that he felt that he was a superman. Yet, the combination of a willing congress and the overwhelming support he had from the country possibly gave him a false idea of the power vested in him. In any event, he used that power up to the hilt.

Then came signs of trouble. His advisors and possibly the President, as well, felt that congress could be made to do his bidding. Republican opposition and the chiding of members of congress that they were rubber stamps began to have an effect. A test was coming and most politicians realized it. Through the session of congress last year and that which only recently ended, Mr. Roosevelt followed the same tactics as before—but the change had come and the course was blocked. It was no longer a period in which the will of the President was wholly and completely dominant.

All of which brings to mind the real facts in the case insofar as the causes of the President's current ineffectiveness are concerned. It is the old story. Any ball team looks good when it is in the lead, when it is winning. Any race horse is a wonder only so long as it continues to win. It can be said, therefore, that having slipped considerably both in political prestige inside his own party and outside of it, and having allowed some of the wide public endorsement to get away from him, Mr. Roosevelt is now being regarded as a human being who can make mistakes. Any mistakes that he may have made while he remained the winner were discounted

or ignored. It seems likely, however, that all of them will be dug from their graves now and he must answer for them.

Makes Bad Break in Digging
Up Supreme Court Skeleton

Nor is Mr. Roosevelt willing to let some of them die unnoticed. For instance, everyone recalls the heat that was engendered by the President's attempt to get congressional approval of his own pet government reorganization bill. His terrific fight for a reorganization of the Supreme court with the new appointments that would come to him is easily recalled. But the President dug up the court skeleton, the other day. It struck me as terribly foolish because the country had forgotten much about that mistake. Mr. Roosevelt recalled it in all of its fury, however, by issuing a statement, almost without notice, saying that he had obtained his court fight objectives with enactment finally of a minor bill that sets up a court administrator.

In the same statement, Mr. Roosevelt made a bad break. He announced that besides the passage of the administrator bill, the last session of congress had created five additional judgeships in district court—which he wanted. Well, it happened that the senate passed the judgeship bill, but the house never did, and Mr. Roosevelt was incorrectly informed. The result was the same: it made the President look rather sour for the moment.

Along with Mr. Roosevelt's statement about Argentine canned beef being of a better quality than our own beef, I think we ought to rank the President's statement about the refusal of congress to pass the spending-lending bill and the housing bill. It struck me as being very bad politics for the President to climb "way out on a limb" and say that "the congress gambled with the welfare of 1,500,000,000 people when it failed to enact the administration's neutrality bill; it gambled with the welfare of 20,000,000 when it refused to pass the lending bill and the housing bill." He implied, of course, that refusal of congress to accept the President's judgment on the neutrality measure would cast the world into war, and that the action on the lending and housing bills would mean there could be no economic recovery.

President Sincere About
Spending and Housing Bills

So, evidently, the two or three defeats that were clustered together made the President appear differently than when he had been on the winning side. There were even some of the President's enemies charging him with qualities of a poor loser. I do not believe that is the case. There is evidence that the President sincerely believed his lending measure and the housing program would do the job of restoring a prosperous condition to the country. He has played the game of politics too long not to know how to lose.

On the other hand, there have been many harsh statements concerning the President's accusations that congress was gambling. From among Democrats who voted against him on the major bills, I heard declarations of belief that their judgment was as good as that possessed by the Chief Executive. Those Democrats saw no reason to concede a monopoly of brain power to Mr. Roosevelt. When he fired at them he obviously invited "back talk" of the worst order. He has received it, too.

Take another incident. Only a week ago, the President sent a letter to the Young Democrats of America, meeting in Pittsburgh, to the effect that unless the Democratic party nominates his kind of a liberal, he will take no active part in electing that nominee. In other words, he said actually that he would bolt the party.

Immediately, he got a reaction to that statement that just did him no good at all. Now, it is one thing to lead the party which is united; it is quite another horse to be led when the party is split; and the Democratic party is split. The declaration to the Young Democrats, therefore, was received by a good many Democrats as an open invitation for warfare. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Speaking of Sports

Old Man Grove, 39, Still King in Portside Ranks

By ROBERT McSHANE

ROBERT MOSES GROVE, who came out of the hills of Lonaconing, Md., back in 1920, is pitching his fifteenth season of major league baseball.

Lefty was 20 years old when he joined the Martinsburg team of the Blue Ridge league. In 1921 he went to Baltimore, where he won 106 games in five years. In 1925, when he was 25 years old, he went to Philadelphia, where in his first two years he won 23 games and lost 25 for the Athletics—an unimpressive record, but one which taught him how to pitch with his head as well as his portside arm.

The Lonaconing lancer's life-time major league record, brought up to date, is likely to stand for many a year. At this writing Grove has pitched 3,392 innings in 565 games. He has won 232 of these games as against 126 losses for a percentage of .691. On May 3, 1938, he joined the list of pitchers who struck



ROBERT MOSES GROVE

out 2,000 or more batters. His present strike-out total is 2,117. In that time he has given up 3,474 hits and 1,080 bases on balls.

In a four-year stretch, 1928-1931, Grove won 103 games and lost 23 for an average of .836. In 1931 he won 31 games and lost only four. This is the best single season pitching record in modern baseball.

In a seven-year span, 1927-1933, he won 172 games and lost 54 for a percentage of .761. Grove's record is one of the greatest of all time, and is especially impressive in view of the fact that his pitching was done with a lively ball.

Speed Ball Artist

Lefty started out as a fire ball pitcher. No other southpaw could touch his fast ball, and he depended largely upon it. He was strictly a speed ball artist. But even the greatest pitchers can't go on forever smoking them over, and he finally felt his speed slipping. Grove then developed a curve ball and a change of pace. He studied his batters, learned their weaknesses, and out-smarted them.

Tom Yawkey, owner of the Boston Red Sox, bought Grove from Connie Mack in 1934, paying slightly more than \$100,000 for him. Lefty had reported at the training camp with a dead arm, and the experts were congratulating Mack for a smart operator. Grove wasn't much help to the Sox that first season, his arm failed to respond. He finished the season with a record of eight won and eight lost.

The following year Mack wasn't so sure he had put over a good deal. Lefty was back in form, winning 20 games for Boston and losing 12. His career seemed ended again last year when his arm went dead while he was pitching against Detroit. But once more he returned to form, and through the early part of August this year, had won 11 games and lost two. Not at all bad considering that the crepe-hangers saw the end of his big league pitching days back in 1934.

The 1939 season is seeing a southpaw famine. Right now it looks as if Robert Moses Grove, the 39-year-old Sunday pitcher, will be the only one to win more than 15 games.

Other left handers in both leagues are having more than their share of difficulties. Gomes, Vander Meer, Lee, Hubbell, Krakauskas, Melton, Whitehill—in fact, all of them, are running far below expectations.

So chances are that the Lonaconing lancer, who has been pitching on borrowed time for five years, will be the only southpaw to come through with a creditable record when the 1939 season is ended.

Sport Shorts

A BASEBALL umpire not only can throw a player out of the park, but has the power to put spectators out, too. . . . Designer George Pocock built all 19 of the racing shells used in the Poughkeepsie regatta. . . . Hugh Duffy, whose .438 batting average is still an all-time major league record, often wonders what his average would have been if he had batted against the rabbit ball. . . . Lefty Gomez recently expressed the sentiment of the Yanks regarding the National league race: "The pennant won't be clinched in that league until the club in first place has a seven-game lead with only six games left to play."

Bob Pastor says he bet \$2,500 of his own money that he'll beat Joe Louis. . . . Light harness racing devotees of New Jersey are discussing the possibility of pari-mutuel machines at county fairs, but special legislative action will be necessary. . . . Notre Dame's football team will open with Purdue at Notre Dame September 30 in what shapes up as the outstanding first-day game. . . . Tom Yawkey, Boston Red Sox owner, has spiked rumors that his club will train next spring in Hawaii. The club will return, he says, to Sarasota, Fla. . . . If Maxie Baer attempts a comeback it will be against his wife's wishes. She wants him to quit the ring. . . . Max Schmeling has signed to defend his European crown in a 15-round bout against Walter Neusel October 1 at Dortmund stadium in Berlin.

Billiard Champs

THE National Billiard association, now busy on plans which call for national amateur tournaments in pocket billiards, straight-rail and three-cushion, recently announced its recognized world's champions in those three fields of billiard play.

Welker Cochran of San Francisco, Calif., is recognized as the king of the balkline billiard players. According to Clyde A. Storer, president of the very active N. B. A., Cochran won the last world's balkline tournament sponsored by the association and still is regarded as champion by that official group.

The N. B. A. places the pocket billiard crown on the brow of Jimmy Caras of Wilmington, Del., while the three-cushion title belongs to Joe Chamaco of Mexico. Chamaco won the angle game title last winter, finishing far ahead of nine other billiard masters in a round robin tournament played in nine cities.

In addition to the proposed national amateur meets, the N. B. A. plans world's title professional competition in pocket billiards and three-cushion this coming season. Storer expects 75,000 simon pure amateur cuemen will compete in the pocket, straight-rail and three-cushion billiard tournaments, working their way up through local, state and sectional play to the national playoffs.

Diamond Hero

THE courage of Tom Sunkel, rookie Cardinal southpaw pitcher, has thousands of St. Louis fans cheering for him every time he makes a mound appearance.

Sunkel is practically blind in his left eye, the result of an injury suffered 23 years ago when he was four years old. His eye was saved, but he was left with little better than half-normal vision.

Showing his courage, he did not allow this to interfere with his future. He went ahead and played good enough baseball to become a member of the Cardinal organization. Last year he ended a successful career in the minors by winning 21 games and losing five with Atlanta.

In Atlanta his condition became much worse. Cardinal officials, knowing the situation, recalled him and had him examined by eye specialists. They advised against operating on the eye, stating that such a move would be fruitless. Sunkel accepted their verdict philosophically, and returned to the diamond, undaunted by the news which would have meant the end to most players.

Despite his affliction, Sunkel recently pitched a two-hit game and has a creditable 1939 record with the Cards. He admits his control is a bit bothered, and that he has to guess where the plate is when he throws, but is quite confident of his ability to pitch winning baseball. He also admits that bums occasionally bother him to some extent, but if he fails to see them with his almost-sightless eye, he "grabs 'em with the other."

Sunkel expects no quarter from opposition. And would not welcome it.

He's a ball player, first, last and always. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)