

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Opening of Garner's Campaign Fails to Stir Political Circles; New Nazi-Italian Plot Hinted

(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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POLITICS: Announcement

"I will accept the nomination for President. I will make no effort to control any delegates. The people should decide. The candidate should be selected at primaries and conventions as provided by law, and I sincerely trust that all Democrats will participate in them."

In these 44 words the sage of Uvalde, Texas, whom John Lewis once called a "labor-baiting, poker-playing, whisky-drinking, evil old man," tossed his hat in the 1940 presidential ring.

Nobody in Washington was surprised by the announcement at first,



GARNER AND CHICKENS Haunched at Uvalde.

but over the week-end those 44 words received considerable study. Points of interest:

1. Unlike other Democratic hopefuls, Garner did not offer to step aside if President Roosevelt decided to run again.
2. He promised to make no effort to control delegates, indicating he would be a hard man to deal with in the convention hall. Jack Garner presumably refuses to enter into any trades.

THE WARS: Plot?

Her disrepute sharply heightened when the League of Nations expelled Russia, the German Reich got some solace when Italian Foreign Minister Galeazzo Ciano made an unusual announcement of his nation's foreign policy. European diplomacy is now clear as mud, with Germany's ally, Italy, aiding Finland to fight Russia, who is also Germany's ally.

But Ciano's speech indicated the picture may soon clear. Only point of difference between Rome and Berlin was Germany's method of "settling" the Danzig-Poland dispute, in the course of which Herr Hitler agreed that Italy should remain out of the European war. As for the Reich's friendship with Russia, Ciano charged Britain and France forced this solution on Hitler. This, possibly, is the key to future German-Italian collaboration.

Italy is still loyal to Berlin in every way, and still maintains that Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria cannot be restored if there is to be peace. And by charging the Russian pact was "forced" on Germany, Italy admits that the Soviet has merely been used as a tool to bring pressure on France and Britain. Can it be that the axis may now force peace on the allies as the price for keeping Russia out of Europe?



CIANO Is Russia the price?

Western War

Almost as a repercussion to the Graf Spee incident (see below) the western front saw its first direct artillery duel over the Rhine. This was purposeless, because the Rhine was so flooded that troops could not cross.

Biggest news developed from Britain's new aerial patrol, developed to combat the Nazi mine-laying campaign. On three successive nights royal air force planes raided German seaplane bases, after which the air ministry said it "tentatively believed" the mine menace was con-

quered. Next day, however, the war's biggest air battle took place over Helgoland Bight, the Nazis claiming 34 British ships were downed. London admitted seven losses and claimed Germany had lost 12.

British boast of the week: How her tiny submarine Ursula had penetrated the mine-infested mouth of the Elbe to sink a Koin class cruiser at her anchorage.

Northern War

Still playing to a full house was the Finnish-Russian war, in which the Soviet was taking a terrific licking both in manpower and prestige. For the first time, U. S. newsmen like United Press' Webb Miller and Chicago Daily News' Leland Stowe visited the Karelian front and saw Finnish troops resting snugly in their warm trenches while the Russians stormed away like madmen across the river, wasting ammunition and getting nowhere. Soviet tanks were disabled by the score, running against snow-covered boulders or being blasted by anti-tank guns. In the north the Finns reported they had encircled two Russian forces of 10,000 men each.

Spee

Pan America awoke suddenly to discover its "neutrality zone" (see map) was ineffectual. Before she dashed for the safety of Montevideo harbor in Uruguay, the Nazi pocket battleship Graf Spee had almost been blasted to pieces by three British cruisers. One of them, Exeter, was so badly damaged she headed for Britain's Falkland base in the south Atlantic, also within the neutrality zone. (Although Britain won the engagement, Germany lost fewer men.) Three days later, her 72-hour Uruguayan permit having expired, Graf Spee headed for open sea where British ships waited like lions for the kill. Suddenly she exploded, four-inch steel plates bulging like paper sacks. Graf Spee went to the bottom, her skipper having chosen to scuttle her in the face of hopeless odds.

Back at Montevideo a storm was brewing, but Foreign Minister Al-



NEUTRALITY & SPEE The explosion had repercussions.

berto Guani stuck to his post. The German minister charged him with a "flagrant violation of international law" for not giving Graf Spee enough time to repair her damage. The Nazis even planned to demand reparations for the ship. Taking no chances, Uruguay promptly arrested four of the crewmen and charged them with blowing up the ship.

INDIA: Zetland's Worry

Rapidly approaching, perhaps, is a crisis in which British domination of India may pass away. A good start at satisfying Indian nationalist ambitions was made several years ago when a quasi-home rule plan was instituted. But in November, faced with racial differences between the all-India congress and the Moslem league, Viceroy Marquess of Liffingow invoked emergency powers vesting authority in provincial governments. Native congress ministries in seven provinces promptly resigned.

Up in the house of lords to comment on this situation rose the Marquess of Zetland, secretary of state for India. The result of this wholesale resignation, he said, has been to "set back the hands of the clock more than 30 years." Meanwhile German propagandizers are trying to make the Indians "look to Nazi Germany for their freedom." Only hope for peaceful settlement, he thought, was division of legislatures on communal instead of political lines.

RATES DOWN

RATES DOWN—At Washington the interstate commerce commission ruled there is "nothing unlawful" about reduced rates for trainload shipments, thus reversing its former policy.

DEBT UP—Also at Washington, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau was quoted as testifying he favored raising the public debt limit from \$45,000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000.

EXPORTS DOWN—November U. S. exports were \$287,000,000 against \$323,168,000 in October, \$12,000,000 of the drop being accounted for in blocked shipments to Germany.

DIES UP—A Gallup poll showed 75 per cent of the U. S. still favoring continuation of the Dies anti-Americanism investigation, though presidential criticism has caused a 4 per cent decline the past six weeks.

LABOR:

Bad Business

First witness before the house committee investigating the National Labor Relations board was Dr. William Leiserson, NLRB member, whose testimony actually keyed the hearing. Its gist: That Dr. Leiserson has been a minority member, conservative and opposed to Members Edwin L. Smith and Warren Madden, whose agents had been "impartial" and had used "tactics one might expect from the (Russian) O. G. P. U."

Called to the stand, Boardman Smith found himself in hot water

Explaining his actions

during labor trouble at the Berkshire Knitting Mills, Reading, Pa. First he admitted "extra-legal" action in trying to mediate a strike before charges had been filed with NLRB the striking union (now a C. I. O. affiliate) represented a minority.

But his biggest mistake was in suggesting to a Boston department store handling Berkshire products that "any stand you might adopt would be listened to with the greatest respect by the Berkshire company." That, charged the committee, constituted an attempted boycott sponsored by an NLRB member.

At such an embarrassing moment in the Wagner act's young life, C. I. O.'s John Lewis chose to make his own recommendations for amendments at the next congressional session. The suggestion: Criminal penalties for violators of the act.

AGRICULTURE:

Certificates

There were plenty of signs that the administration's campaign to make its farm program self-financing will take shape in a processing tax—provided congress approves. Meeting in Washington "to study something for the President" were Secretaries Morgenthau and Wallace, Federal Reserve Chairman Eccles, Budget Director Smith and other fiscal bigwigs. When they parted it was learned the "certificate plan" had been discussed. Its gist: A processing tax in new dress (the last one was thrown out by the Supreme court in 1936) it would consist of parity payments paid to the farmer directly by the processor, who in turn will pass them on to the consumer directly. Reason: The U. S. needs more money next year for defense, hence must find a source of income without boosting taxes in a campaign year.

MISCELLANY:

Ambassador to President

Back home from Washington to the republic of Panama went Ambassador Dr. Augusto S. Boyd, first vice president of his country, to assume the post vacated by death of 59-year-old Dr. Juan Demostenes Arguements, president.

Purge

At Istanbul, Turkish officials clamped down on Nazi propagandists, ordering expulsion of 107 Germans charged with suspicious activities.

Probe

President Roosevelt ordered the tariff commission to find out whether large amounts of foreign wheat—particularly Canadian—are being imported to compete with the U. S. product. One reason for the probe: For several weeks American wheat has sold at about 30 cents a bushel above Canadian quotations.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Closing Session of Congress To Set Stage for 1940 Campaign

Proposals to Aid Party in Power Sure to Appear; Effort Will Be Made to Make Money Bills a Political Focus; Trade Treaties Expected to Draw Fire.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It is generally possible to forecast in broad outline what will happen in the session of a congress that winds up a second term of an eight-year national administration. That broad outline will include the annual appropriations for running the government, the promotion of several legislative proposals designed to aid the political party in power when its presidential nominee gets out on the hustings, and much talk by representatives and senators. Congress, and a Washington dateline, make fine springboards, and the politicians who are "in" make full use of the opportunity.

Since the last session of congress in the Roosevelt administration is upon us, it seems that a prediction on several phases is indicated.

1. The coming session is going to be longer than some of the politicians would like. Contrary to the average of such sessions, the national legislators are likely to be here until almost the middle of June. The length of the sitting probably will be determined by the dates of the Democratic and Republican national conventions, and there is every reason to believe these will be later than usual.

2. Appropriation bills will occupy a great deal of the time in the early weeks of the session, as usual.

But contrary to what has been the situation respecting the money bills, there is going to be a determined effort to make them the center of an issue, a political focus.

Tangled up with the appropriation bills this year will be a delicate question involving the national debt because President Roosevelt is going to put up to congress the question of increasing the present national debt limit from 45 billions to 50

SOME FORECASTS

Next session of congress will be longer than politicians would like. Republicans will seek a big domestic issue. Roosevelt will ask 50 billion debt limit. Garner will be on watch for New Deal fumbles. Senator Wheeler may join contest for delegates.

billions. And it must not be overlooked that the question of national revenue—taxation—is bound to figure in this controversy because the national treasury has been in the red—more spending than receipts—in the seven years of Mr. Roosevelt's administration and two years of Mr. Hoover's administration.

Proposal to Create Second Budget Sure to Draw Fire

3. National defense—expansion of the army and the navy—obviously will get attention and here, again, the question of taxation appears. Mr. Roosevelt has suggested to some of the senate and house leaders that there should be a separate listing of these expenditures and a separate tax to pay for them. That is to say, the President is thinking, at least, of creating a second, and distinct, budget covering such outlays of money just as he has reported, heretofore, to the use of separate budget listings for "regular" and "emergency" expenditures.

4. Another controversial proposition will be the President's proposal to extend the life of the reciprocal trade treaty program. If one expects fire from the trick budget plan, there is likely to be found a no-man's land, filled with gasses of the latest poison, hand grenades and machine gun strafing, between those who favor and those who oppose extension of the trade treaties.

5. In addition to the trade treaty program and tied to it in a fashion that makes a skein of tangled yarn appear simple of solution, is the widespread demand that congress revise the general agricultural program. Many farmers and farm organizations, as well as numerous politicians, are chasing Secretary Wallace and bureau farmers and farmerettes, in full cry. They are

demanding changes and Mr. Wallace is resisting.

Schism Within Democratic Party Due for Finish Fight

6. Lastly, there is the politics of the picture. This new session will be somewhat different than the ordinary run of "last" sessions because of the schism within the Democratic, or majority, party. Real Democrats are determined to get control of the party back in their hands; New Dealers, who have been running the show with increasing power to themselves until lately, are faced with what many observers believe to be conservative trend in the country as a whole. The best evidence of this is the great strength admittedly shown for the Democratic presidential aspirations of Vice President Jack Garner.

There will be other candidacies that must be watered and fed with artificial stimulants.

It looks like Sen. Burton Wheeler of Montana may jump out one of these days to contest for delegates to the Democratic convention against Mr. Garner. Each man will have his partisans, as will Paul McNutt, former Indiana governor, who holds himself in the spotlight through being social security administrator. But make no mistake about the vice president's ability to break up New Deal plays, if I may use a football term.

Conservative Tinge to Most Republican Aspirants

The Republicans have presidential aspirants, also. There are three of them in the senate—Taft of Ohio; Vandenberg of Michigan, and Bridges of New Hampshire. Some others may be found in the house of representatives. That is, there are those who are thinking of themselves as dark horses. Except for Vandenberg, there is a distinct conservative tinge to most of the fellows whose hats may be noted in the Republican ring.

Hovering over the candidacies in each of the two parties undeniably is the mist of a possible third term decision by President Roosevelt. I do not believe Mr. Roosevelt is going to run again, but he has not said so. Politically, of course, he would be foolish to announce it too early for the reason that once he takes himself out of the race, the wild scramble begins and Mr. Roosevelt loses control.

The political possibilities of the coming session are many. There is, of course, the evident move on the part of New Dealers, to drag the foreign situation further and further into the limelight.

That has the dual effect of enabling appeals to patriotism and of helping voters to forget mistakes and grievances.

I understand that Republican wheelhorses are moving to make issues out of purely domestic problems and alleged shortcomings of the New Deal administration. The undercurrent of information seems to indicate that Mr. Garner will make his campaign on proposals for improvement of conditions at home.

Will Result in Shaping Policies for Campaign

The presidential candidacies will make themselves felt likewise in the decisions which will be taken by congress on various of the other questions that I enumerated at the outset of this discussion. And when I say "presidential candidacies," I speak broadly of all of them, whether the aspirants be in, or out of, congress. It is to be remembered that the current session will result as much in shaping of policies to be fought out in the campaign of 1940 as in determining which of the men shall be selected by the respective party conventions.

Consider for example, the Roosevelt proposal for continuation of the trade treaties. Or, take the question of continued heavy spending and the resulting debt that is being piled up for future generations to pay, on which Mr. Roosevelt lately challenged Senator Taft to show how the budget can be balanced in two years. Or, examine the general agricultural problem. Any one or all of these may make or break the efforts of those now in the field.

Speaking of Sports

Yankees Face Restrictions in Player Deals

By ROBERT McSHANE

EXCEPT for a few thousand down-with-the-Yankees advocates, major league baseball fans in general were not too well pleased with the outcome of the big baseball powwow at Cincinnati recently.

Major reason for their lack of enthusiasm was the fact that they had seen the American league adopt an extraordinary ruling which prohibits the Yankees, as long as they are champions, from obtaining any players through trade or sale from their rival clubs unless such players have been waived by all the clubs in their circuit.

This legislation, of course, would be invoked against any championship American league team. The kindest thing that can be said of it is that it penalizes success. It is planned restraint against the Yankees for any future powerhouse of like greatness.

The Yankees suffered an equally damaging blow when Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, casting a deciding vote, reject-

Sport Shorts

THE Yankee farm system cleared \$50,000 in player sales last year. Wisconsin's football team, though it won only one game this season, drew enough gate receipts to cover the university's entire athletic budget with something left over.

Wrestler Jim London denies emphatically that he'll quit the game to enter the movies. Says he plans to retire in about three years.

Each team playing in the Rose Bowl receives one-third of gate receipts. The other third goes to the association sponsoring the game.

Excellent practice is given tennis players by a new electric robot which throws 100 balls in rapid order, varying delivery speed, twist and height. . . . Baseballs are stitched by hand, and a good sewer can turn out 40 in an eight-hour day. . . . Sam Snead claims his backhand swing is helped by a double-jointed left thumb caused by a football injury. . . . Bob Feller of Cleveland will get \$1,000 per win if he wins 20 games next year. . . . Members of the Green Bay Packers professional football team once received \$16.50 each as their pro rata share of season's profits.

Pro Football Gains

FOR the tenth consecutive year the 10 teams of the National Football league have shown a healthy increase in attendance figures.

The professional teams played before a total of 1,456,315 spectators during the 1939 season, an increase of 255,000 over 1938.

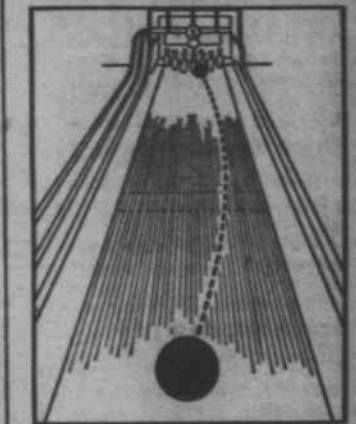
Only one team fell below last year's attendance mark. Detroit suffered a 7 per cent drop, even though its gate receipts equalled those of last year. Cleveland, where 102,388 persons saw five home games, showed the largest increase, almost a 50 per cent boost.

New York led the league, playing to 233,427 in six home games. Detroit led the western division, attracting 182,561 fans. The Chicago Bears were second with 50,000 fewer in attendance.

BOWLING Made Easy

By NED DAY National Match Game Champion

(This is the seventh of a series of bowling lessons by Ned Day of Milwaukee, Wis., national match game champion and recognized as an outstanding bowling authority.)



HOW TO PLAY ALLEYS. Generally speaking, alleys can be defined as slow or fast. The slow alley is the hook ball bowler's paradise. An alley is considered fast when, because of its highly polished surface, the ball will not hook, or, if it does, the bowler has little control over it.

In testing out the action of an unfamiliar alley, try a hook with a natural delivery. If the alley is too slow, the ball will hook too sharply and may cross over in front of the pins. If you are satisfied, then, that you have delivered a natural ball, place your ball a trifle nearer the center of the alley, thus reducing the angle. Further adjustments of this type may be necessary, even to increasing the speed of the ball in order to keep it on the right side of the head pin.

The reverse procedure is resorted to on alleys that are too fast. In other words, the bowler releases his ball nearer the right-hand gutter to increase the angle, perhaps even slowing down the speed of the ball to give it a chance to hook on the highly polished surface. A change of speed, however, is not advised unless the bowler finds it absolutely necessary. Remain in your natural grooved delivery, and change your angle on the alley to equalize variable alley conditions.

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