

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

### Administration Prepares Fight For Reciprocal Trade Treaties In Face of Senate Opposition

(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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#### COMMERCE: Trade Battle

Just before Christmas the state department found it wise to announce that no concession on copper tariffs will be made in its reciprocal trade pact with Chile. This set a precedent, because never before has the department divulged such information about an anticipated reciprocal pact before the treaty is consummated. Official reason was "widespread public interest," but behind it lay the vocal protests of copper producing states who would otherwise join in the hue and cry when the reciprocal program comes up for renewal in congress next term.

Basis of opposition is the claim that Secretary of State Cordell Hull's trade program breaks down tariff walls and permits foreign products. Under the "most favored nation" clause a concession on wheat from Argentina, for instance, would be granted all other nations holding reciprocal pacts with the U. S.

It was rumored in Washington this month that President Roosevelt is girding himself for the toughest congressional fight of his entire administration, if necessary, to extend the act.

Entirely aside from the trade act's influence on U. S. economy, observers noted it was not without important political significance. Since reciprocal agreements are not subject to senate ratification, a lucrative source of legislative logrolling has been forfeited. Proud of his work, Secretary Hull maintains he is working to benefit the entire nation, not any small section. Whether his admittedly sincere policy will prevail is among the most important issues facing the new congress.

#### AGRICULTURE: Anschluss

Hungry for farm funds (see below) Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace has looked covetously on the well-tended \$2,000,000,000 Farm Credit administration fund supervised by its governor, F. F. Hill. So conservative was Mr. Hill that there still remains a \$600,000,000 FCA lending power which Mr. Wallace thought should be used to bring FCA's benefits to drought sufferers.

Alarmed, Mr. Hill pointed out that the \$1,400,000,000 in bonds which he has sold to banks and private investors might be jeopardized by a "loose" policy of lending money that might never be repaid. Wall Street, calling the Wallace plan "inflationary," was equally alarmed.

But Henry Wallace was boss. In late December, Franklin Roosevelt found himself called upon to write Mr. Hill a letter: "In accepting your resignation, I want to express my very real appreciation of your services..."

Speculation on FCA's future immediately became rife. Under its new administrator, Dr. A. G. Black, the agency will no doubt lose its independence, tie in closer with the department of agriculture and provide a measure of supervision over the farm operations of its borrowers.

#### Farm Money

It is no secret that the administration is feverishly seeking to cut the corners in 1940's budget to make way for a \$500,000,000 boost in defense expenditures. Most carefully scrutinized item is agriculture, whose parity payments have cost \$225,000,000 annually. The treasury's plight is further complicated by congress' failure to provide revenue sources for its farm appropriation the past two years.

Several weeks ago the treasury's Secretary Morgenthau met with agriculture's Wallace and a host of

fiscal experts to iron out this problem. While the President told his press conference he would ask congress to dig up the money it "owes" the treasury for past farm payments, Messrs. Wallace and Morgenthau talked over the certificate plan, under which farmers would get their parity payments from consumers rather than the treasury.

How Mr. Morgenthau reacted to this plan was indicated a few days later. Although reports persisted that the President would ask congress to provide \$1,050,000,000 in new revenue next year, his keeper of the exchequer started a mild rebellion that may burst into flames when the budget is finally announced. Said Mr. Morgenthau: "I haven't changed my views on consumer taxes; the taxes are now a little over 60 per cent and that's high enough."

#### PAN AMERICA: Neutrality

High sounding was the 300-mile "neutrality belt" thrown around the Western hemisphere when Europe went to war last September. Chief sponsor was the U. S., whose Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles promised his nation would take the lion's share of patrol duty. But by Christmastide the U. S. was feeling less altruistic.

Buried at Buenos Aires was Capt. Hans Langsdorff, who killed him-



COLUMBUS' DAEHNE ... at Uncle Sam's expense.

self after scuttling his shell-battered pocket battleship *Graf Spee* off Montevideo. British ships, cheated out of the kill, sailed off for other illegal conquests. Roosting at a Florida port was the Nazi freighter *Araucaria*, driven to shelter by a British cruiser. At New York's Ellis island were 577 survivors of the scuttled liner *Columbus*, whose Capt. Wilhelm Daehne charged a British boat had fired across his bow.

By this time Pan America was so aroused that Washington had its choice of enforcing neutrality or sacrificing prestige. With 20 other nations, the U. S. signed an ineffectual protest to the belligerents. Meanwhile Sumner Welles prepared for U. S. participation in the forthcoming Pan American conference, but Washington's enthusiasm was waning. While the state department said as little as possible, while the navy remained unenthusiastic about its job of patrolling a 3,000-mile coastline, Captain Daehne and his crew had a merry Christmas as Uncle Sam's guests.

#### THE WARS: In the West

Germany's eighth railroad accident since September 1 killed more people (52 dead, 30 injured) than were lost in several days on the western front, where an undeclared Yule truce held sway. As usual, there was more activity in the North sea. Britain, which was reported building a speedy fleet of "superplanes," adopted the Reich's trick of laying mines from the air.

#### In the North

It was an unhappy Christmas for Russia's atheistic Dictator Josef Stalin. Even unhappier were two of his stooges reportedly purged for failure on the Finnish front: Gen. K. A. Meretskov, Leningrad military district's chief of staff, and Otto Kuusinen, Finnish Communist who organized the "people's" government the day Russia began her ill-starred invasion. While Helsinki was evacuated in the face of a threatened Christmas air raid, the Finnish high command claimed its foe had been routed on all fronts.

## ESSAY

Know your news? Perfect score is 100 and deduct 20 for each question you miss. Any score above 60 is good.



By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

1. Above is the British cruiser Orion. How did she violate U. S. neutrality off the Florida coast?
2. What important European dictator just celebrated his sixtieth birthday anniversary?
3. Pope Pius XII decided to pay a state visit outside the Vatican during the holidays, the first of its kind in 69 years. Who is his host?
4. Choice: Louis ("Lepke") Buchalter of New York made news because he: (a) climbed up the outside of the Empire State building; (b) was convicted for conspiracy to violate the narcotic laws; (c) announced he will run for New York district attorney to succeed Thomas Dewey.
5. True or false: Although U. S. acreage planted to grain crops (wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley) was smaller in 1939 than in the previous year, total production was higher.

(Answers at bottom of column.)

#### WHITE HOUSE: Message

To Pope Pius XII, Franklin Roosevelt transmitted his Christmas greeting, his hope that men will "decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force," and his announcement that former U. S. Steel Chairman Myron Taylor had been named U. S. representative to the Vatican. Said the letter, also transmitted to Dr. George Butterick of the Federal Council of Churches, and Rabbi Cyrus Adler, president of the Jewish Theological seminary: "I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ."

#### ASIA: Ungrateful Recipient

Official Washington was still silent at Christmastide over Japan's "present," the announcement that China's Yangtze river would soon be reopened to foreign traffic. Missing were the whoops of delight that Tokyo expected from American newspapers. Missing, too, was enthusiasm among U. S. business men in China.

Nevertheless many an observer wondered if the U. S. shouldn't be a bit more receptive. Japan's gesture was significant in that it rep-



NOBUYUKI ABE  
If his cabinet falls...

resented an attempt to patch trade relations before the abrogated treaty expires January 26. Should the gesture fall short, Premier Nobuyuki Abe's "weak sister" cabinet is apt to collapse.

Danger lies in the fact that Nippon's American-hating army would seize control if the Abe government falls. Once that happens U. S. business men might as well go home.

#### News Quiz Answers

1. By shooting at the German cruiser *Araucaria*, which was driven to cover at Port Ezele.
2. Josef Stalin of Russia. (The army high command had promised to conquer Finland by that day, as a birthday present.)
3. King Vittorio Emanuele of Italy, at the Quirinal palace which no pope has visited since the unification of Italy.
4. (B) is correct. "Lepke" still faces bribery charges.
5. False. In 1939, production was 4,565,000,000; in 1938 it was estimated at 4,625,000,000. But barley, winter wheat and corn showed much larger individual acreage yields. (So did cotton, tobacco and soy beans.)

#### Bruckart's Washington Digest

### Some Conclusions, Predictions, Afterthoughts as 1940 Starts

Many Signs of Awakening Lead to Optimism for New Year; Work of Labor Relations Board Criticized; SEC Weaves A Tangled Web; Too Much Federal Government.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—DEAR FOLKS.—There are some things that I want to get off of my chest. Some facts, some conclusions, some afterthoughts, some predictions, just odds and ends, consequential and inconsequential—that ought to be said. The start of a new year strikes me as a good time to do it. (Also, this marks the start of my ninth year as a columnist and I am grateful to you who have done me the honor to read my observations.)

You folks may have disagreed with me many times during the last year. I have no quarrel about that. If, however, the product that I have sent you each week has failed to cause you to think more deeply about the problems of government, the problems of the United States, I am forced to conclude that I have not done my job very well. Confidentially, I have believed for a long time that it is up to you folks out there to do the thinking that is followed up by governmental policies. The brand of thinking that is dominant in government now has gone sour. It surely is getting us no place very fast.

I am rather optimistic about the new year, however, because there are so many signs of an awakening. It is the kind of an awakening that causes voters to sweep out panaceas and blue printed programs. The country's trend definitely is, I believe, towards its old conservative base after aimless wanderings around in the garden of isms.

We have been pestered with fantastic phrases that have disappeared each time with the rainbow. Fortunately, there were comparatively few who made or followed those preachments. Yet there were some who believed them, and all that they have left is an unhappy memory. The reason there were so few out of all the millions in America who strayed off from sound Americanism lies in the fact that the nation has grown great by restricting government to government functions.

All that is accomplished by that sort of thing is to show definitely how foolish a politician can appear when he talks out of turn. Such public statements demanding that Mr. Roosevelt announce are no more ridiculous, however, than the action of numerous would-be Democratic candidates for their party's top nomination when they said they are candidates "if Mr. Roosevelt does not run." That shows something, too. It demonstrates that those who have taken such a position are cheap and are not willing to rise or fall with the tide of politics. I liked the way "Cactus Jack" Garner announced. He said he was in the battle to win, because he wanted the nomination. No mention was made of Mr. Roosevelt's possible candidacy. There were no ifs or ands or buts.

Hopes Republicans Will Soon Show Signs of Sense

And while I am taking down my hair and combing out the bangs, I wish that the Republicans would begin to show some signs of sense. But here they are: three candidates out and only one shooting straight from the shoulder. Senator Vandenberg of Michigan has been riding two or three horses at once. He apparently still has a package of liberalism in his pockets and District Attorney Dewey with one big-time speech that I could not understand. However, I reckon the speech had something in it because a lot of New Dealers made fun of it. If they had not been hit, they would not have squealed. The other Republican candidate, Senator Taft of Ohio, has tangled a time or two with President Roosevelt and my guess is that he took off some White House bark because he was pretty close to the mark. But in the background are a lot of hopefuls who are sticking out their tongues, among them former Governor Landon of Kansas, who once ran against Mr. Roosevelt on a program and platform that he could do better than Mr. Roosevelt the very same things that Mr. Roosevelt was doing.

Well, anyway, folks, I think we may live through it. That is, we will survive if rural America keeps its head and uses it.

Members of Labor Board Simply Became Dictators

We have seen only recently what can come from excursions of government into fields where it does not belong. Consider what has been exposed by the special house committee in its investigation of the labor relations board. I take some pride in recording the rottenness of that federal agency, because more than a year ago I was severely criticized for saying that the labor board and the labor relations act would do as much harm to organized labor as prohibition had done to the cause of temperance. Now, we can read sworn statements of how some members of the board and many of its employees simply became dictators; how they threatened to "get" private employers or employees who disagreed or disobeyed the federal command; how attempts were made to suppress news stories that were unfavorable to the board and the silly law under which the board operated; how representatives of the board refused to hear statements from those who were charged with violation; how one union faction was given almost complete freedom of action and another was told, in effect, to go jump into the river.

Much of SEC Rules, Edicts Seem Wholly Unnecessary

I get pretty disgusted with the mouthings of those folks who would change us all over night and make us into robots to be governed by The Voice or by radio. The securities and exchange commission has issued so many rules and regulations, has entered so many decisions, has made so many investigations that appear to be wholly unnecessary that it has put the federal government in a position from which it probably never will fully untangle itself. I had quite an argument the other day over the statement that most people believe a permit by the SEC to sell a certain stock amounts to federal approval of the shares involved. Of course, I know that a permit by the commission does not give that approval. The damage is that people will be influenced by

knowledge of such a federal permit. They will think the shares are good, whether they are or not.

The wages and hours division of the department of labor is another example, like the securities and exchange commission, of too much federal government. It was had enough to combat all of the mess made by the brand of thinkers in the labor department. The wages and hours gang strikes me as being much worse. Frankly, I doubt that those folks know enough to come in out of the rain. Yet, they are striving to expand their power. They will bring farmers, small town businesses and everything else under the death-hand of government if they can get away with it.

Mr. Ickes must not be forgotten. He is secretary of the interior, but "Honest Harold" has not missed an opportunity in seven years to attack anybody and everybody who happened to disagree with him.

#### Speaking of Sports

### Slammin' Sam Recoups; Set For Big Year

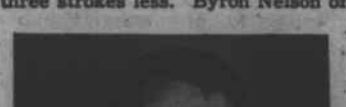
By ROBERT McSHANE

SAMUEL JACKSON SNEAD, golfing pride and joy of the Pamlico state, finally has re-established himself as the scourge of the fairways, an all-around threat to the professional ranks and as the club welder to watch during the coming year.

Slammin' Sammy, who hails from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., upset a lot of dope buckets when he came from behind to win the \$10,000 Miami Open tournament. He had to shoot a 72-hole total of 271, nine under par figures, to take first place. But Snead had to do more than battle Old Man Par to win this fight.

For the past year Snead's health has caused him considerable trouble. Aches and pains in his back resulted in the extraction of three teeth. Even after his win in the Miami Open he stated that he still didn't feel "in the pink," though the general state of his health is much improved.

Sam qualified with a 36-hole total of 140. So did nine others. Ahead of them were eight other professionals who qualified with one, two and three strokes less. Byron Nelson of



SAMUEL JACKSON SNEAD

Toledo and Gene Kunes of Philadelphia shared top honors with scores of 137.

At the 54-hole mark Nelson still retained the lead with a 205 total. A new threat emerged when Jag McSpaden of Boston, last year's winner, ripped off a hot four-below-par 66 to move up a single stroke behind Nelson with 206. Then Sammy showed some of the form that made him the most feared professional in the land, hammering out a 67 for a 207, which established him as a first place contender.

Sammy Warms Up

Then, in the final round, Sam shot a sizzling six-under-par 64 for a 271 total, to win the \$2,500 first prize. In a large measure his showing balanced his blowup in the last National Open. Golf fans will long remember that.

Sammy was being hailed as the Superman of golf before the National. He blasted his way through winter and early summer events with little difficulty. In the opinion of thousands he combined the best features of Joe Louis, Man O'War, Babe Ruth and Rin Tin Tin. Then came the National Open, bringing sorrow and gloom to Sammy. For it was in this tournament of tournaments, just at the crucial moment, that the Superman blew things wide open, taking a nightmare-inducing eight to snuff out his very good chances for victory.

Standing Endangered

The details of that harrowing experience have been told too often. Nevertheless, it made Sammy a marked man. It was up to him to produce. He couldn't afford to blow another chance. His standing in pro ranks was endangered through one poor hole.

His recent victory was a popular one. The public, quick to condemn, is just as quick to cheer a comeback. Though Sammy really didn't go any place. Despite his flop in the Open he ranks second in the list of leading money winners for 1939 among the country's professional golfers. Henry Picard had the most profitable year, totaling \$10,305. Snead's winnings amounted to \$9,712.

All in all, it's been a good year for Sam. He's a popular young man and when he keeps slamming the ball down the fairway during the coming year, he'll have the gallery cheering for him.

And, best of all, his gruesome adventure in the National Open will have been forgotten.

#### Sport Shorts

THE major leagues will continue the yearly \$20,000 contribution to American Legion junior baseball.

Jack Gregory, University of Chattanooga tackle, bled 23 pints during his college career, also of them this season.

Joe Cronin declares that Dominic DiMaggio is as good a ball hawk as his brother Joe and is faster on bases.

Most popular indoor sport at Wisconsin is boxing. Frank Thomas, Alabama coach, recently refused an offer to coach the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Professional Football League. Included in the offer was a share in the club. Kansas City will spend \$9,000 for a board running track in the municipal auditorium.

H. V. Porter, secretary of the national rules committee, predicts that the next change in basketball will see a much smaller basketball. Jimmy Roche, Maryland professional, has made six holes-in-one during the past nine years.

Spookiest Sport

THE nation's spookiest sport, "ghost basketball," has been a decided success in spite of the fact that spectators are left completely in the dark.

Copyrighted by Superintendent of School Dennis Potts of Ripley, Ohio, the game is played in total darkness. The players, ball, referees, baskets and sideline markings were made visible by a fluorescent paint. Two Ripley teams battled to a 24-22 score in the first game played. Spectators were quick to land the novelty.

"The crowd raved over it," Potts said. "The paint we use absorbs light and then gives it off again in the dark. It's brighter than phosphorus. Students liked the idea of being in the dark and still being able to see the game perfectly."

The game should be a success, those on the sidelines can keep their attention directed toward the game.

### BOWLING Made Easy

By NED DAY  
National Match Game Champion



ANGLING FOR SPARES. The use of the wrong angle for spares is probably the one thing that ruins more bowling games than any other factor. Here's a simple rule to remember: "Move away from every spare and use as much of the width of the alley as possible."

Suppose, for example, you have thrown your strike ball and left up the No. 7 pin. Do not attempt to roll at the No. 7 from your regular strike spot or move toward it to the left. Rather move away from it, and then angle your shot across the entire alley. You will find by moving toward the right, there will be a natural tendency to throw across your body at the 7 pin corner. Use this same angle in bowling at the 4, 5 or 2 pin or any combination of them.

This procedure is reversed when the No. 10 pin is left standing, that is, the bowler moves to the left of the alley to obtain the maximum angle. This angle is used also in rolling at the 3, 6 or 9 pin or any combination of the three.

The No. 5 pin angle is obtained with the body position in the middle of the alley in line with the 5 pin. It is used also on combinations of 5-9 or 5-8. Combinations of spares with the head pin standing are shot from the side opposite to which the greater number of pins are standing.

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