

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK—Word comes from London that Sir Seymour Hicks, who, last September, became official backer-up of British civilians, Sir Seymour's sailors and soldiers, is laughing at the laughing bombs which eventually may blow down the Siegfried wall like the trumpets of Jericho.

Sir Seymour, who had a similar job in the World war, is England's favorite light comedy actor, a leading producer and actor-manager, a writer of consequence and a rallying point for both masses and classes, as they both claim him as their own.

He started life as a call boy in a London theater. His next job was as an undertaker's mute, a hired mourner, sometimes filling in as an emergency pall-bearer and the like. He wore black well and did nicely in his new career, until his memories of the theater obtruded at an unfortunate moment. He was walking solemnly behind a hearse, when a distant hand struck up a tune, which carried him back-stage again. He swung open the door of the hearse and called out, "The overture begins now, sir."

That shunted him right back to the theater, which, by all accounts, he never should have left. He has written and produced 64 plays and is the author of eight books of reminiscence, comment and criticism. He was knighted in 1935.

DINING with Henry F. Grady many years ago, this writer noted that he had old-time free-trade religion. He has never backslid. He is Secretary of the Hull's Jephthah, girded to smite the Ammonites hip and thigh as they assail the secretary's trade agreements program.

Mr. Grady, 57-year-old Celtic and incurably optimistic specialist in foreign trade, is assistant secretary of state and has taken over the job of expounding and putting forward the agreements. The law authorizing the plan will expire June 12, and the continuation of this trade policy will be an early and exciting kick-off in congress.

Mr. Grady, a San Franciscan, educated at St. Mary's university, Baltimore, is a man of encyclopedic learning in trade matters, a lecturer at many universities, the author of many books and treatises and a member of many learned societies. He boils down a mountain of data and statistics to his vehement insistence that, no matter how we may tinker with tariffs and quotas, the only helpful reality is the flux of good through the international bloodstream.

THE Russian Baltic drive, side-tracked by the Finns, was, according to the meager evidence obtainable, the pet idea of Andrei Zhdanoff, frequently referred to in the last two years as Stalin's possible successor. Later news is that Stalin has other ideas about M. Zhdanoff's future, as the latter takes the rap for the debacle in Finland.

He was designated secretary of the Leningrad Communist party committee on December 16, 1934. That made him a virtual dictator of the Leningrad district, the Pittsburgh of Russia. M. Zhdanoff has been particularly bitter against Britain, and several correspondents have attributed to him the disruption of last summer's negotiations of the allied powers with the Soviets.

He is 43 years old, a Revolutionist since 1912, when he left school to engage in agitation against the czarist government. Until 1917, he was chiefly occupied dodging the police and joined the army as a germ-carrier for the Bolsheviks. In the early revolutionary years, he was one of the leading organizers of party propaganda and was thrown into close association with Josef Stalin.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Lengthy Congress in Prospect Despite FDR Peace Overtures; New Tax Measure Faces Fight

(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:

Keynote

"Dear Alben" Barkley settled down for six months in Washington. "We'll be here until June," he told reporters, "but I doubt if there will be much new legislation. There probably will be efforts to amend the Wagner act and the wage-hour law. The reciprocal trade treaty program probably will cause the greatest controversy."

He told no lie there, and President Roosevelt knew it. Striking fast, before the opposition had a chance to open its mouth, the President keynoted the second session of the seventy-sixth congress in a state-of-the-union speech which attacked the "destructive mine-field of trade restrictions." Plumping for renew-



KENTUCKY'S BARKLEY
"We'll be here until June."

al of his "most-favored-nation" program in which the administration—not congress—has the power to sign trade pacts, he offered this defense: "... it is advisable to provide, at times of emergency, some flexibility to make the general law adjustable to quickly changing conditions."

Only one other concession did he want in 1940, because it is an election year: "I am asking the congress for army and navy increases which are based not on panic but on common sense."

Conservation of resources, protection of national health, extension of social security and the merit system were also mentioned, but in a moderate voice. Only out-and-out political dart was a crack at G. O. P. Hopeful Tom Dewey, who recently accused the New Deal of "defeatism." Said the President: "To warble easy platitudes that if we will only go back to the ways that have failed, everything will be all right—is not courage."

Next day congress got the budget. Items and total:

National defense	\$1,800,000,000
Work relief programs	1,300,000,000
Agricultural programs	900,000,000
Public works and investments	1,100,000,000
Pensions, retirements and assistance	1,200,000,000
Interest on the public debt	1,100,000,000
Regular operating	1,000,000,000
Total	\$8,400,000,000

This, said the President, was an estimated cut of \$675,000,000 from the current fiscal year, while treasury receipts are expected to rise \$382,000,000. Estimated net deficit for 1940-41: \$2,176,000,000. Compared with \$3,933,000,000 this year. But to further cut the deficit, Mr. Roosevelt recommended that his \$460,000,000 boost in defense costs be paid through new taxes. Commented loyal Sen. Pat Harrison from Mississippi: "It's not easy to raise \$460,000,000 right off. I'm not strong on this tax business."

Rolling up its sleeves, congress found the Democrats enjoyed a

three-to-one majority in the senate, and a three-to-two lead in the house. Major issues, aside from the reciprocal trade act and national defense:

1. Whether to raise the national debt limit, now nearing its \$45,000,000,000 legal peak.

2. What to do about new tax proposals, such as Secretary of Agriculture Wallace's "certificate plan" (in effect, a processing tax) to pay farm benefits.

3. Whether to amend the Wagner labor relations act, under fire from all sides.

4. Whether to continue Martin Dies' un-Americanism committee.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Wire Merger

Western Union maintains 20,000 branch offices employing 43,000 people; Postal Telegraph, its competitor, has 4,400 offices and 14,000 employees. Thanks to air mail, telephone and radio, Western and Postal are both having financial troubles. This month, as a result, came a paradox: While Trust Buster Thurman Arnold was busy breaking up monopolies, the much-concerned federal communications commission recommended to congress that Western and Postal be allowed to consolidate.

INTERNATIONAL:

Something in the Wind

It was big news in early January that hardy Finnish troops had cut 16,000 Russians off from their base at Salla; had trapped another division near Suomussalmi; had captured a Russian base at Aittajoki; had repulsed countless shock troops on the Karelian isthmus; had even blasted a Red air base in Estonia.

But the biggest news came from a little Madrid newspaper called *Alcazar*. Said its editorial: "Finland is defending with its flesh and bravery the treasure of occidental civilization. Fighting so bravely for independence she fights also for all Christianity, and it is inexplicable that after a long month of war she hasn't received tangible aid..."

Looking about them, European observers wondered if the *Alcazar* plea wasn't being answered. They saw a series of potentially related moves



PAUL EMILE NAGGIAR
Lansome in Moscow.

that might eventually lead to peace among the allies and Germany, and to a European attack driving the Russian bear to his den. Indications:

Isolation. Home from Moscow to London went Ambassador Sir William Seeds to write a white paper on Russo-British relations. Gossip had it that his conversations with Premier Vicheslav Molotov had been stormy, and that he probably wouldn't return. Also homeward bound was Augusto Rosso, Italian ambassador. Left in Moscow, uncomfortable and lonesome, was French Ambassador Paul Emile Naggiar.

Shakeup. The newspaper *Petit Parisien* reported from Italy that Germany was planning a drastic political reorganization to woo the allies. It would include Adolf Hitler's becoming president, succeeded to the chancellorship by moderate Herman Goering; purging of radicals like Heinrich Himmler, Joe Goebbels and Dr. Robert Ley; management of foreign affairs by a moderate like Dr. Hans von Mackensen, ambassador to Italy; slackening of relations with Russia and provisional recreation of Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Aid. In an embarrassing spot, Germany announced she would wink at allied shipments of munitions to Finland, but could not tolerate troop movements. Thus it was obvious the Reich would like to see her "ally" (Russia) driven back, yet could not risk exposure to allied troops from the North sea.

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score, and deduct 20 for each question you miss. Score of 60 or more is acceptable.



1. This English peer's daughter, an ardent Hitlerite who has been in Germany since before the war started, returned to England on a stretcher with a revolver bullet in her neck. What's her name?

2. Why did Irish Premier Eamon De Valera ask parliament for dictatorial powers?

3. True or False: Martin Dies has asked congress to discontinue his un-Americanism probe because of ill health and because the justice department is now prosecuting alien "isms."

4. What do the following have in common: Robert Fechner, head of the CCC; Guy Ballard, head of the "Great I Am" cult; several thousand residents of the Turkish earthquake area; the 163rd Russian division on the Finnish front.

5. If the U. S. began taking its decennial census January 2, why hasn't an enumerator knocked on your door yet?

News Quiz Answers

1. Unity Valkyrie Freeman-Mitford.
2. He feared an uprising of the outlawed Irish republican army.
3. False. He asked congress for more funds.
4. They died. Most of the Russian division was killed.
5. The business census started January 1. The regular "nose-count" doesn't start until April 1.

COURTS:

Tell It to Congress

Well-timed if its intention was to heighten congressional demands for revision of the Wagner act, a decision by the Supreme court upheld the much-criticized National Labor Relations board on three counts:

(1) For refusing to place an allegedly company-dominated union on ballots used in a bargaining agency election at the Falk corporation, Milwaukee.

(2) For designating a C. I. O. union as collective bargaining agency for waterfront workers along the Pacific coast.

(3) For ordering employees of the Jackson, Mich., power company to vote on the question of affiliation with C. I. O., after a ballot on C. I. O. versus A. F. of L. had brought no majority vote.

These decisions offered no particular commendation of NLRB, however. Commented Justice Harlan Stone: "... this failure (of congress) to provide for a court review (of NLRB decisions) is productive of peculiar hardships..." But these are arguments to be addressed to congress and not to the courts."

TREASURY:

Easy Taxes

Tenderly breaking the news that income tax time is just around the corner, Guy T. Helvering, commissioner of internal revenue, soothed taxpayers with the announcement that this year's report forms have been simplified. Instructions, once as complex as the report form itself, have been pared down and shaved of technical phrasing.

POLITICS:

Appointments

Fast on the heels of President Roosevelt's judicial and justice appointments came a baker's dozen of explanations. Among them: Attorney General Frank Murphy was named to the Supreme court (a popular appointment) to get him out of the 1940 presidential picture; Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson was reclaimed from obscurity and made attorney general as grooming for a place on the 1940 ticket, probably as vice presidential candidate under Cordell Hull; Judge Francis Biddle of the circuit appeals court (a lifetime job) was boosted to the solicitor generalship to make a place for unpopular Warren Madden, NLRB chairman. Thus were several birds killed with one stone.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

'Pressure Groups' Already Are Worrying Members of Congress

New Deal Agencies, Seekers After Justice and Promoters Of Various Movements Active as Usual; Old Age Pensions, Unemployment Insurance Not Neglected.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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

WASHINGTON.—About the time congress reconvenes each year, the national capital is deluged with what have come to be known as "pressure groups." It is a poor description. I believe most of them can be called "selfish groups" for the reason that the self-righteous individuals who lead (or promote) movements or causes or demands for justice usually have jobs of their own at stake.

They want to keep their followers happy, especially the saps who contribute hard-earned dimes or dollars so that their representative or their delegation may put up a good front in the city of Washington.

Any way, it is the open season for them, again. They are busier than a hive of bees. They are engaged in the annual invasion upon senators and representatives and among the numerous New Deal agencies, seeking justice, urging help for those whose liberties are being trampled into the mud, appealing for this and that and the other.

There are the usual spokesmen for corporations and groups of corporations. They, too, are seekers after justice. They are no more selfish than the lesser racketeers. Those fellows, however, have a different kind of stake in the results. The seekers after individual justice, those who urge maintenance of "civil liberties," etc., usually are concerned with keeping themselves in their jobs, while the seekers after justice for the corporations and business interests are trying to preserve their own material futures.

May Be Just Tiring Up For the Election Campaigns

There is, however, something disturbing about this year's invasion. It seems to be utterly impossible that so many new injustices could have arisen within the last year. There always has been a considerable amount of this low form of high pressure around Washington, but the increased number of seekers after justice this year would seem to prove that the whole country has gone to pieces. It may be, of course, that they are tuning up for the election campaigns.

Seriously, however, few persons have been able to analyze the situation. Some suggest that the current trek of seekers after justice results from the fact that the national government has become the focal point for "relief" from everything since the depression fell upon us in 1930. Others feel that a sense of futility about life, itself, has crept into this country from the lands where dictators hold a human life to be nothing more than a chattel. If either of these answers is correct, we have a dangerous condition on our hands. It is the defeatist attitude.

It represents a decaying civilization and national leaders had better wake up to what it means.

Now, lest someone charge me with having changed my tune from several years ago, I want to recall that I once feebly attempted to pin a senator's ears back for seeking legislation to make every-one register or a representative in behalf of legislation. He wanted to brand each one as a lobbyist. That senator was Hugo Black.

Now, lest someone charge me with having changed my tune from several years ago, I want to recall that I once feebly attempted to pin a senator's ears back for seeking legislation to make every-one register or a representative in behalf of legislation. He wanted to brand each one as a lobbyist. That senator was Hugo Black, who now writes binding legal opinions as a member of the Supreme court of the United States instead of blabbing for hours on the floor of the senate. I maintain that everyone has the right of petition to any government agency. What I am trying to do here, however, is to show that there are so many more "petitioners" now than heretofore and to find the reason for it.

Many Seekers After Justice in Washington

Of course, most of these movements will not get very far. They will not get as far, in fact, as when I used to crawl under the corncrib for eggs out on the farm. But there are enough dissatisfied and discouraged folks throughout the country to pay the freight—and the hotel bills—for an extraordinarily large number of seekers after justice in Washington.

It is astonishing to see the lengths to which some of them will go. For example, there is one great church organization that sought to force the census bureau to include in the forthcoming census certain questions that would have given that church a powerful leverage in the future administration of government affairs, according to well-authenticated reports. The church representative tried for weeks to high pressure the census officials into inclusion of three questions. He made some threats about the consequences of their refusal. The government attorney to whom the census officials submitted the question had the guts to say "no" and that was the census bureau answer.

It was a despicable thing, however, and illustrates the dangers inherent in the conditions I have tried to describe. The old age pension movement and the unemployment compensation movement and the other "welfare" movements are represented in full force.

Other Groups Are Working For Gifts From Government

There are half a dozen other groups around town, working for one thing or another in the shape of gifts from the government. Nearly all of them have found something wrong with the present social security law, but they do not agree on what is wrong with it. The whole circumstance rather convinces me that maybe the law ought to be tossed overboard. I doubt that the federal government can ever administer such law. There probably is little possibility that any such law ever can be made workable on a national basis. Some of the dreamy New Dealers who conceived it have faded out of Washington officialdom already and have left their baby for somebody else to nurse to maturity. The one service they performed was to the New Deal finances, because the original program has brought six or seven hundred million dollars into the federal treasury—and it has been spent.

Organized labor has its representatives on the scene in a big way. Both the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which is headed by John L. Lewis, and the American Federation of Labor, which is headed by William Green, have national headquarters here. What is a poor politician going to do, however, when Lewis and Green are fighting each other and seldom, if ever, agree upon what changes must be made in the national labor relations act.

The labor row may get more than just an ordinary airing during the session of congress now under way.

I have written heretofore about the special house committee investigation of the National Labor Relations board. Exposures by that committee already have brought demands for the ousting of Commissioner Smith and Chairman Madden.

American Legion Can Really Put on High Pressure

There is an offshoot of organized labor's setup here known as Labor's Non-Partisan League. I don't know what it is supposed to accomplish, but it has a press agent and a staff of "executives" and they all seem to get paid regularly.

The American Legion is getting active again. It wants more government money for the ex-soldiers, and make no mistake about it. The American Legion can really put on high pressure when it sets out to do the job.

I haven't scratched the surface in naming the pressure groups that are to be found here for the current session of congress. There are at least 50 business organizations and trade associations. The purposes of all are the same, namely, advantages for them. The advantages may be in the form of cash such as the pension petitioners and the Legion seek, or advantages that can be turned into cash after the methods of business.

Sneaking of Sports

Amateur Boxing Seen as Ideal Prep Program

By ROBERT McSHANE

A MATHEUR boxing as a sport ranking equal to football, basketball, hockey or any of the others has been long advocated by Ed Haislet, director of Golden Glove activities in the state of Minnesota and one of the most ardent boxing enthusiasts of the nation.

Haislet fathers an amateur program which is backed by the Minneapolis Star-Journal, co-supervisor of the Golden Glove tournament in Minnesota. He believes every school should include the sport on its athletic program; that every fighter should wear a protective helmet, and that thumbless boxing gloves should be used by amateurs. The helmet protects the head and eliminates cauliflower ears. Eyes would be protected from gouging with the thumbless glove.

It is Haislet's claim that boxing will make better men of the participants; that no other sport can exceed fighting in developing coordination and skill, building the body or satisfying the emotional aspect of competition.

Fosters Champions

There is little question that the sport which fostered fighters of the caliber of Joe Louis, one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all time, would enjoy a much higher status if every program were administered with the care given by Minnesota officials.

Quite well-equipped dressing rooms are provided Gopher fighters. Diets are planned carefully and doctors are stationed at the ringside and in the dressing rooms. Every boy who is knocked out is kept under observation for 30 minutes. And any boy knocked down must stay down for the eight count before continuing to fight.

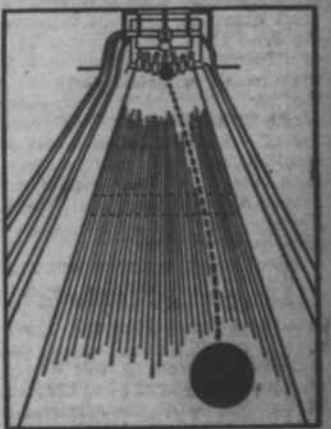
Today fighting is a scientific art. There is more to the sport than mere slugging and the ability to "take it." Hundreds of high schools throughout the nation sponsor boxing teams. Competent instructors have taught youngsters how to care for their bodies and how to stay in condition. Boxing meets are carefully supervised and parents no longer fear for their youngsters' health.

Amateur boxing in high schools will reach its rightful place when everyone concerned with it places the welfare of participants above victory and every other factor.

That most of them do now is a thing distinctly in its favor.

BOWLING Made Easy

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



SPOT AND HEAD PIN BOWLING. Spot bowling should not be tried by a new bowler unless he is confident that his delivery is truly grooved.

A true spot bowler will pick a spot at a point where he expects to see the ball down on the alley, not his body on the approach accordingly, address the pins, look at them for the first step or two to keep his body in line, and then concentrate on the spot, without looking at the pins until the ball is delivered.

The head pin bowler is one who addresses the pins, draws an imaginary line from the pocket to the spot on the alley where he will set his ball down, sets his body accordingly and then fastens his eyes on the object he expects to hit.

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