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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

## Congress Tears Budget Apart: Defense Fund May Be Raised But Other Items Are Slashed

(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:

#### Mutilation

After almost a month of argument it appeared that congress would grant Franklin Roosevelt his \$1,800,000,000 defense budget for 1941, but the price would be (1) drastic slashes in all other items and (2) a boost in the \$45,000,000 national debt limit. In both house and senate, four out of five committees kept one eye on the purse strings. The other was cocked carefully toward the constituents back home, who are more concerned about economy than pork barrels, even in an election year.

One warning came from Budget Director Harold D. Smith, who told all federal agencies to start training for a smaller diet next year.



WOODRING AND STARK  
They'll win; others will lose.

He threatened to be "plenty tough" on requests for deficiency appropriations. Another came from house appropriations committees who threatened to cut a proposed \$25,000,000 farm tenancy fund from the agriculture department's budget. But actions spoke louder than threats:

Out from the appropriations committee came a badly mutilated independent offices bill, usually the catch-all for pork barrel items. It was \$94,492,166 below the President's budget estimate. Gone were all funds for the national resources planning board and the office of government reports. Cut drastically were items for the executive office and the maritime commission. Nor did the house backslide on its appropriations committee: next day, having shouted down \$22,000,000 in pork-barrel requests, it passed the bill almost exactly as reported by the committee.

Meanwhile the army and navy were getting better treatment. Admiral Harold D. Stark, chief of naval operations, told the house naval committee that he hoped to complete a \$2,276,000,000 building program by 1945. Across the street, Secretary of War Harry Woodring told the house military committee about deficiencies in critical ordnance.

Fondlest congressional hope, obviously, is to raise the extra \$460,000,000 for national defense without imposing election-year taxes. But there still remains the \$800,000,000 (originally \$1,300,000,000) naval program, suggested not by the President but by Georgia's Rep. Carl Vinson. If this carries, no economies can stop the national debt short of its present limit.

Also in congress:  
Mourned was the fate that befell congress' senior statesman, Idaho's 74-year-old Sen. William E. Borah. While house and senate office buildings kept an ear cocked for news, the man who had served the senate 33 years lay close to death in his Rock Creek Park apartment, victim of a cerebral hemorrhage following a fall.

Vice President Jack Garner, whose opposition usually means certain death to any proposal, barked against a military loan to be-

leagued Finland. So had the President, for his recommendation of a \$50,000,000 loan through the Export-Import bank was strictly for non-military purposes. However, since the Finns wanted money for munitions only, their cause seemed lost. Still arguing for continuation of the reciprocal trade-act, the administration sent Undersecretary of Commerce Edward Noble and Assistant Secretary of State Henry F. Grady to testify before the house ways and means committee. Defense of the act itself completed, the state department next turned its guns on the senate's plan to seek ratification power over all trade treaties.

The senate foreign relations committee agreed to survey the entire field of U. S.-Japanese relations, including proposed embargoes against Japan, after the abrogated trade pact expires.

### EUROPE:

#### The Belligerents

Britain's war consisted of (1) a factory explosion; (2) a reported railroad sabotage plot; (3) a fiery defense in commons of Prime Minister Chamberlain's action ousting War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha, and (4) the slaying of Britain's first German on the western front.

France's war featured (1) expulsion from the chamber of deputies of all pro-Stalin Communists; (2) news of a "plot" to aid Hitler, and (3) a verbal battle with Berlin, where France was accused of backing down on its promise not to interfere with German expansion in eastern Europe.

It was not so quiet for the Finns. For five successive days Russian planes defied temperatures ranging down to 51 degrees below zero, bombing Helsinki, Hango and other cities mercilessly. Though they might be poor soldiers, the



SWEDISH VOLUNTEER  
"Now it is your duty..."

Russians proved themselves persistent in the far-north Salla sector. Forty thousand of them staged a new drive, only to be routed.

#### The Neutrals

"Now the world knows what it is to be a Finn. Now it is your duty to show what it means to be a Swede. Make up your mind now. Join the Swedish Volunteer Army, With Finland for Sweden!"

This advertisement in a Stockholm newspaper was one answer to Russia's order that Scandinavia stop sending aid to Finland. Richard J. Sandler, ex-Swedish foreign minister, demanded that his nation send troops to defend the Finnish Aaland islands.

Though both the allies and Germany tried to remain aloof from this Scandinavian-Russian spat, they were undoubtedly being drawn into it. One reason was the continued sniping at each other's iron ore shipments coming out of Sweden.

While tension grew here, it lessened in Netherlands and Belgium, which only a few days earlier had ordered complete mobilization in fear of a Nazi invasion. But there was still a chance that Germany and Russia would try to confound their foes and hostile neutrals alike with lightning-like blows at both the Lowlands and Scandinavia.

Italy, watching over the Balkans like a mother hen, heard a warning from Rome to be ready for war "at any moment." Still on the fence, Il Duce countered Britain's renewed wooing with a warning that Italians should not be too greatly impressed by "recent demonstrations of international sympathy."

### FEWER BABIES ARE BEING BORN

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score, deducting 20 points for each question you miss. Score of 60 or higher is acceptable.

- In which of the following cities did fire kill 500 people, destroy 7,000 homes and leave 50,000 homeless: (a) Taranto, Italy; (b) Shizuoka, Japan; (c) Nairobi, Tanganyika; (d) Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

- The new U. S. ambassador to Belgium, formerly minister to Eire, is: (a) John Cudahy; (b) Joseph Davies; (c) Tyrone Power; (d) Joseph C. Drew.

- True or False: Great Britain in a note to the Pan-American neutrality committee in Rio de Janeiro, rejected the 300-mile "safety zone" constructed around the Western hemisphere.

- Which gubernatorial candidate in Louisiana's stormy primary election was taken to jail: (a) James A. Noe; (b) Earl K. Long; (c) James H. Morrison; (d) Sam Houston Jones.

- The New York stock market deals in: (a) stocks and bonds; (b) grain; (c) live stock.

- (B) is correct. Shizuoka, Japan.
- (A) is correct. John Cudahy. He was rushed to Brussels because of the new Nazi crisis (See EUROPE.)
- True.
- (A) is correct. (Jones and Long led the election, but no candidate had a majority of all votes cast; therefore a run-off is necessary.)
- (A) is correct. (The stock market queried 5,000 people, learning to its amazement that 25.2 per cent believed grain was handled there, 8.7 per cent said live stock, and the other 71 per cent, stocks and bonds.)

### DISASTERS:

#### Turkey Again

Last December at least 30,000 died when earthquakes and floods hit north central Turkey. About the same time 1,500 more died in the flooded western plains. Late January brought still more tragedy to a nation whose international diplomatic woes are legion. A second major earthquake killed 50 and injured 160 more in the Nigde district, 200 miles southwest of the first quake area. Luckily, such blows were cushioned by French-British friendship. Available to the Ankara government was some \$340,000,000 in loans and credits, Turkey's "price" for keeping the strategic Dardanelles open to allied warships.

(This loan, to be repaid partly through British imports of Turkish tobacco, prompted the government to ban imports of U. S. tobacco. Mourning at the news, American growers found themselves deprived overnight of an export market running between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000 a year.)

So, borrowing from the expression of Frank Wilson of the census bureau, let me insist again that there is news of lasting value in this census and the job of census taking. It is, accurately stated, a "complete self-examination of Uncle Sam by Uncle Sam," and when it is done, we all will know much more about ourselves, individually and collectively, than we have ever known before. The current census is the most comprehensive of all of the 16 decennial canvasses that have been made since the first survey in 1790.

Counting of noses is Not Just Human Noses. Actual work in this counting of noses has already started. And when I say "counting noses," the term is rather broader than just human noses. For, as an example, the first nose counting is directed at enumerating businesses and manufacturing establishments and mines and quarries. Census representatives will visit something like 3,000,000 business concerns, including about 170,000 manufacturing plants and establishments. These figures, of course, are an approximation. The census will show exactly how many there are, what they did in the way of retailing, distributing, shipping, servicing, manufacturing—all through the list to the single gasoline station and the dry cleaning shop on the corner.

Then, along about April 1, there will be a large army of real nose counters start to work. They will visit your house and mine and every other one and it is expected they will find at the end of the month that there are more than 33,000,000 dwelling units where people live and, further, it is believed they will have counted upwards of 132,000,000 folks in the United States. To do this job and the other phases of counting, roughly 125,000 men and women are required.

Results Will Show What Progress Has Been Made. It seems to me, then, that we can look forward to the results of the current census as showing what progress has been made, what human nature has done in the way of changes. Simultaneously, it will show that many theories of what government can do or has done have failed or have succeeded by revealing just how much human na-

ture can be influenced by man-made rules. It can be said, therefore, that a new set of guide books are on the way to completion, on the way to being filled in by the records of the people who constitute the United States.

There is a thought in Frank Wilson's mind—and I believe Mr. Wilson has a better concept of the census program and its ultimate value than any other person I ever have met—that our nation is facing a much more serious problem in the matter of old age than is apparent to most of us. It comes about this way: Mr. Wilson pointed out that there are fewer babies being born annually among each one thousand of our population than was the case 10 or 20 years ago. The birth rate is declining. At the same time, through the development of medical science, through improved living conditions, through elimination of hazards, reduction of accidents and so forth, the "life span" of each of us is getting longer and longer. People actually are living longer; the expression of "living on borrowed time" after one is 70 years old is meaningless because so many people now live beyond that allotted time.

Seemingly Silly Questions Are Really Important. At the outset, I asked the questions about what you were doing five years ago and where you lived then. That was not facetious. Those questions are a part of the regular forms which the nose-counters will carry and which you, as a citizen, must answer. There is a good reason. I have just written about birth and life and death. If your Uncle Sam knows something about how firmly you are rooted to a particular farm or town or county or state, he can arrive at conclusions rather remote from the questions. For example, if you are the son of a farmer and are continuing to farm, it is reasonable to assume that you are a normally happy and reasonably successful farmer. Uncle Sam will not have to worry about that kind. He does have to worry, as a matter of national policy, however, when the census taker reports so many from one place who have moved to the city, especially if those who moved have no training in any field of industry. There arises, quickly, the question of unemployment.

Or, this business of moving about may have come from drought or floods or pestilence. Matters of health are reflected as well. Continued drought or continued floods may ruin an area for agricultural purposes. With facts concerning the condition, somebody may be able to suggest other means of utilization of the land.

### Bruckart's Washington Digest



According to Frank Wilson, director of the census, the annual birth rate is declining.

## 1940 Census Most Comprehensive Ever Made Since the First Survey

It Is a Complete Self-Examination of Uncle Sam by Uncle Sam; It Deals in Facts and We Cannot Have Too Many Facts About Ourselves.

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

WASHINGTON.—What were you doing five years ago? And where did you live at that time? What caused you to move, if you did change your residence?

While congress is working itself into a dither of flying arms and legs and heads and heels and while New Dealers are straining at every shirt-button in an effort to show President Roosevelt is the greatest peace advocate in 19 centuries, I want to talk about something that happens only once in 10 years. I refer to the decennial census, the counting of noses of Americans and the gathering of information about them, their lives and living upon which the federal government has launched.

A good many folks have been inclined to regard the census as something about which to joke. There was, and is, a certain number of people who think the whole thing is silly. It is not silly. Taking it on a long term basis, considering it from the standpoint of its permanent value, it is so much more important than the passing show of political shadow-boxing that we can well afford to forget about much of that bunk. The census deals in facts, and surely we cannot have too many facts about ourselves.

So, borrowing from the expression of Frank Wilson of the census bureau, let me insist again that there is news of lasting value in this census and the job of census taking. It is, accurately stated, a "complete self-examination of Uncle Sam by Uncle Sam," and when it is done, we all will know much more about ourselves, individually and collectively, than we have ever known before. The current census is the most comprehensive of all of the 16 decennial canvasses that have been made since the first survey in 1790.

### Counting of Noses Is Not Just Human Noses

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### Speaking of Sports

## Hostak Proves Worthy King of Middleweights

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

AS BARE as Russian victories in Finland are boxers who can stiffen opposition with one punch. They're the answer to managerial prayers; the pot of gold at the rainbow's end and the royal flush of the cauliflower game.

Down through the years the search has been constant for good fighters who would land one-punch knockouts. There have been some, but far too few to satisfy hungry American fight fans who demand sensational finishes.

That's why Al Hostak, the young Seattle middleweight, is one of today's greatest drawing cards. Not since the days of Stanley Ketchell has that division come up with a slugger of Hostak's type. Ketchell was a standout in a day when the middleweight ranks boasted of such fighters as Billy Papke, Mike Gibbons, Frank Klaus, Eddie McGoorty and others.

### Patient Fighter

Hostak is the kind of a fighter who waits patiently for an opening. He doesn't press matters and takes plenty of time to size up an opponent. When the stage has been set he blasts over that deadly right and the referee usually counts up to ten.

Seattle Al is a welcome relief from the modern school of pugilism which fights best over the radio or in newspaper columns. He is quiet and unobtrusive, almost to the point



SEATTLE AL HOSTAK

of bashfulness. A believe-it-or-not item in this era of ring boastfulness. He doesn't term every opponent a "bum," and he doesn't promise to flatten him in the first round.

He won the middleweight title from Freddie Steele on July 26, 1933, lost it to Solly Krieger the latter part of the year, and then regained his laurels by stopping Krieger in the fourth round of a return contest in Seattle on June 27, 1935. When Hostak accomplished this feat he did something no middleweight has achieved since Ketchell took back his crown from Papke in 1908.

### Crowd Pleaser

Win or lose, Hostak is a popular fighter. When he climbs into the ring his shyness is shed with his robe. He's in there for one purpose and that's to tag his opponent as rapidly as possible. He has as much raw courage as any fighter in the ring today. In his 15-round fight with Krieger in 1938 he finished the last 10 rounds with both hands broken, still trying for a knockout.

The New York Boxing commission, which moves in mysterious ways, has refused to recognize Hostak's claim to the title. It's blessing has been bestowed upon Ceferino Garcia of the Philippines and Los Angeles. The National Boxing association recognizes Hostak as the champion. The controversy has caused widespread dissension, particularly on the Pacific coast. Most ring addicts claim that the Seattle fighter is head and shoulders above the Philippine brawler.

Eddie Marino is Hostak's manager, and their relationship calls to mind innumerable magazine fiction stories. It's the ancient tale of the manager who discovers an unknown lad, sees his latent possibilities, trains him carefully for months, then springs him on an unsuspecting world. Of course the unknown fighter goes on to win the world's championship. The story wouldn't be complete without that final touch.

That's the story of Marino and Hostak. It may be stereotyped. Undoubtedly it is. But the pair could serve as blueprint for the much-used plot. It's just luck that they haven't been used for plagiarism by some budding author.

## Sportlight

By Grantland Rice

Doctor Hutchins of University Of Chicago Believed in 10-Cent Team—but It Played in Million-Dollar League.  
(SIANA-WNU Service.)

LOS ANGELES.—It is a difficult assignment to get into a winning football argument with Alton A. Stagg, of Yale, Chicago and the College of the Pacific.

Lionie Stagg made Walter Camp's first All-America team in 1899, just 50 years ago. He started coaching Chicago university in 1922, which happens to be some 47 years ago. He led the parade in Big Ten championships. They retired him at Chicago when he was 70, and still in his prime. He has proved that his record at the College of the Pacific where, at 77, he is still one of the most active coaches and one of the best in the game.

Lionie Stagg still thinks that football at Chicago could have been saved. That the game should still have been carried on.

I don't believe so—under a Big Ten tent. I don't believe so—in a major league background.

President Hutchins of Chicago had first set a high scholarship standard—not only for entrance, but also for remaining in his classic campus surroundings.

No one can have any quarrel on this point.

He had also come out strongly against any form of pro-letting, for any athletic scholarships,

for any form of payment.

I still contend that you can't compete with the leading teams in any conference on this basis. I am not defending pro-letting, athletic scholarships or direct payments. I am only saying that any university that abandons this triple-test hasn't much of a chance against the great majority who follow this path. For it is the winning path.

Chicago's Case. It was certainly a sporting crime this last season to throw the Chicago team against the list of opponents the Maroon squad had to face—Ohio State, Michigan, even Harvard.

Dr. Hutchins said once—maybe twice—that he believed in a 10-cent football team. O. K.—so far. But don't let them try to play in a million-dollar league.

I happen to know that the vast majority of college football players on the better-known teams today are rather well taken care of. Most of them have scholarships. Most of them have good jobs provided or they move into financial arrangements that carry them along. Part of this may be summer jobs from leading alumni who give the athlete enough to go through college. Or they may be allotted 10 or 20 tickets per game which they can sell for substantial amounts.

By substantial amounts I mean from \$100 to \$150 a game, if it happens to be a sell-out. I've seen too many tickets before the last Rose Bowl game sold for \$10 a ticket to do any guessing along this line.

Chicago had nothing like this to offer. Chicago had no plan of taking care of its football players. And Chicago had no soft courses where certain young husky athletes could get by who happened to have no particular leaning towards Latin, Greek or higher mathematics. Or logic, or advanced English.

### A Case of Doubt

It may be that Dr. Hutchins of Chicago is right. But in many ways I doubt it.

For this reason. Football squads are usually 40 or 50 strong out of 5,000 or 10,000 students. They belong to a magnificent minority. What are they doing for the 98 per cent? Are they any better students, any smarter—are they hearing more than the football players? I doubt this also.

To read all that is written you'd think that football dominated every university in the country.

It does on the sporting page. But again I ask—what about the remaining 98 or 99 per cent who don't play football? These don't have any better classroom averages than most of the football players have to show. They are not learning any more in college.

If a football squad of 45 men can dominate an institution that runs from 5,000 to 12,500 students—what can you think of that college as university as a training school for the younger brain?

## TREND

How the wind is blowing—

LABOR—Thanks partly to the current house committee probe, a Gallup poll showed most of the nation favors revision of the Wagner labor act. Score (of those who had an opinion): 53 per cent for revision; 18 per cent for repeal; 29 per cent for no change. Meanwhile the house committee was about to ask for more money.

COMMERCE—Shipments of airplanes, petroleum and metals to the allies boosted U. S. exports in December to \$358,000,000—the largest for any month in almost 10 years.