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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

## Battle Over Income Questions Threatens Entire 1940 Census; In Europe; Peace Talk Revived

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Union



SHOEMAKER ROSSELLI AND HIS COBBLING SHOP  
*"I'm answer census questions when they put polite."*

### CONGRESS: Census Censure

From Washington to his Racine, Wis., office Census Director William Austin rushed a telegram:

"Withdraw Rosselli charges immediately. You have disregarded instructions that before taking legal action such cases must be submitted to Washington office for disposition. You will be held strictly responsible for this procedure . . ."

Thus was closed the latest in a series of eruptions which threaten to wreck Uncle Sam's 1940 decennial census. James Roselli, a Kenosha, Wis., shoe repair man, had been handed a federal warrant for refusing to answer census questions about his business. The census taker also charged Shoemaker Rosselli had thrown him out. Answered Rosselli:

"I'm answer census questions when they put polite. . . Everyt'ing can be explain. I walk out on him, yes. . . But I don't chase him."

Gaining steam at Washington was the fight of Sen. Charles Tobey (Rep., N. H.) to have personal income questions stricken from the 1940 nose count. Franklin Roosevelt had denounced it as "an obviously political move," and the census bureau was willing to let citizens refuse the question if they wished. But Senator Tobey was adamant. Said he: "The American people cry out, 'Hold! Enough!' . . . Those in authority will do well to face the issue . . ."

After several days of this, the senate commerce committee voted 10 to 5 to postpone temporarily its consideration of an anti-personal question resolution. Meanwhile Census Taker Austin wrung his hands, for his house-to-house canvass is to start April 2. Should congress continue to squabble, he knew not what would become of the decennial census.

Also in congress: Wagner Act. Twenty-one changes in the present act were recommended to the house by a special investigating committee, but defeat was predicted. Chief proposal: Divorcement of NLRB judicial and administrative functions.

"Clean Politics" Act. The senate killed a move to repeal the Hatch law's prohibition of political activity by federal employees, then began arguing a proposal to extend the act to state workers who get part of their pay from federal funds.

Agriculture. While the President signed legislation extending the farm mortgage moratorium, five Democratic senators introduced a bill to restore independence of the farm credit administration, recently placed under the department of agriculture.

## TREND

How the wind is blowing . . .

**RELIEF**—Patterned after the successful surplus foods stamp plan, a cotton stamp plan for distributing clothing among relief families will be started this month in five or six cities.

**AGRICULTURE**—According to Chicago crop authorities, U. S. winter wheat prospects in early March showed "some improvement" over the December 1 condition thanks to better-than-normal winter moisture and snow protection against sub-zero weather.

## NAMES

in the news . . .

**GEN. GEORGE C. MARSHALL**, U. S. army chief, was welcomed to Hawaii by a flight of 60 army planes. Embarrassing note: Two ships collided in mid-air, but pilots parachuted safely.

**FRANK ASHTON-GWATKIN**, Britisher, and **CHARLES RIST**, Frenchman, constituted a special allied apple-polishing expedition to soothe U. S. anger over difficulties arising from the German blockade.

Biggest complaints: (1) censorship of U. S. mails; (2) taking U. S. ships into contraband control ports. Arriving in Washington, the delegation was closeted with Secretary of State **CORDELL HULL**.

**MOST REV. SAMUEL A. STRITCH** was enthroned new Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago.



ASHTON-GWATKIN  
Apple polisher.

### POLAND: Atrocity News

From three sources this month came news of trouble in Nazi-occupied Poland and Czecho-Slovakia:

(1) In Berlin it was revealed that deportation of Jews to the newly established state southeast of Lublin, in Poland, has been stopped because local administrators complained about lack of facilities. At the same time Berlin announced that time of worship in Polish Catholic churches was being limited because priests "misused divine services for political purposes."

(2) In Paris, Poland-in-exile claimed that 136 Polish schoolboys had been executed at Bydgozcz; that 6,000 men and women had been executed there up to December 31; that 350 Poles from Gdynia were shot after being forced to dig their graves.

(3) Paul Ghali, writing from Paris for the *Chicago Daily News*, had "authentic sources" for his information that Polish landowners have been dispossessed, and that Czech children must submit when little Germans in the same school bully and tease them.

### RUMANIA: Prayers

Keystone of Balkan security is Rumania's neutrality, often threatened the past six months by the economic tug-of-war being waged between Russia, Germany, France and Britain. Cognizant of this, Pope Pius prayed in early March that Rumania might be preserved "from the scourge of war." What happened in the next three days made no sense, but it did indicate that Rumania was also praying:

First day: Rumania was reported rushing a little Maginot line along her Bessarabian border fronting Russia.

Second day: It was announced by Russia that Soviet Premier Vlachoslav Molotov will soon visit Bucharest to initial a non-aggression pact. This was a shocker, for Russia has made no secret of her designs on Bessarabia.

Third day: King Carol opened his parliament, promising to maintain a permanent 1,600,000-man army regardless of cost.

Adding it up, observers wondered if King Carol might not at last be withering under pressure from all sides.

### POLITICS: Biggest Barrage

For months Franklin Roosevelt has parried third-term questions. But each parry is more difficult, for each press conference brings more definite questions. In early March the President returned from his Caribbean vacation to face the biggest barrage yet. Only the day before his name had been entered in Pennsylvania's Democratic primary and correspondents were hungry for a comment. But they got nothing except his remark that all third-term rumors fell into one of the four newspaper categories suggested by Thomas Jefferson: (1) news; (2) probabilities; (3) possibilities; (4) lies.

Nobody knew into which of these categories the latest rumor fell, but it bore authentic earmarks. Out of Washington came reports that Franklin Roosevelt feud with John Nance Garner would burst into flames before Illinois' April 9 primary, first crucial Roosevelt-Garner contest support. Somehow, the wisecracks learned Mr. Roosevelt will plump this month for a New Dealish presidential slate, thus forcing an answer from the sphinx-like Mr. Garner.

### Bruckart's Washington Digest

## Advocates of Public Ownership Make Real Bid for Their Plan

Group of Government Officials and Other Interested Individuals Mix 'Movement' Into National Affairs and Politics.

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

WASHINGTON.—Behind the thick veil of official secrecy, a thoroughly active group of individuals is developing a broad plan of public ownership. It is using the established machinery of government and it is mixing into national politics to an amazing extent.

We, here in Washington, have heard recurring and increasing rumors of late that a new public ownership drive was contemplated by the extreme radicals nesting in the New Deal henhouse. It was a situation, however, where few details were obtainable. The leaders were making use of the veil of official secrecy that always is available for use by those supposed to be servants of the public. Suddenly, however, the magnitude of the movement became discernible. Its scope is astounding. It strikes me that it is a situation that contains elements of greater danger than did the infamous plan to pack the Supreme court of the United States.

Exposure of the group's intense effort came largely through stupidity of some of its members. Proof of the underlying motives came in the form of a sudden and slimy attack on John W. Hanes, former



JOHN W. HANES

undersecretary of the treasury. Mr. Hanes was slated to become trustee of the gigantic, but bankrupt octopus, the Associated Gas and Electric company. Mr. Hanes has not been named as trustee, although his official record has not a blemish on it so far as has been found. Instead, Dr. Willard Thorp, economic adviser to Secretary Hopkins, of the department of commerce; Denis J. Driscoll, chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities commission; and Walter H. Pollak, New York lawyer, were named.

### Billion-Dollar Utility Property Was to Be 'Proving Ground'

The public ownership group wanted to swing the trusteeship for this billion-dollar utility into the hands of the Securities and Exchange commission, as might be done under the SEC law. They proposed to use this great property, so badly muddled up, as proving ground for their public ownership ideals. It was contemplated that the Associated properties eventually would be welded into TVA, and a great north-and-south system under government ownership would have become a fact.

To accomplish this program, however, it was necessary to dispose of Mr. Hanes, who favors private ownership in industry and who wants to see America retain its fundamental traditions. In due course, we were treated to publication of the views of Senator Norris of Nebraska, who was the father of TVA. I doubt very much that the aged Nebraskan knew that he was being used in the fashion that was the case. But the scheme worked and the Norris criticism that Mr. Hanes had been a stock broker smeared the former treasury official who had done more to prevent New Deal financial mistakes than most of the others.

The attack on Mr. Hanes, however, failed to get the trusteeship into the hands of the Securities and Exchange commission. The schemers failed to cover up their tracks. But, while they failed on one track,

they did succeed in getting the gravy of trustee fees for men of their own choosing—Thorp, Driscoll and Pollak. Dr. Thorp's beliefs were so contrary to sound views that only a few years ago the senate refused to confirm his nomination as assistant secretary of commerce. Mr. Driscoll's affiliations in Pennsylvania show how he has been linked consistently with nearly every wild-eyed proposal that had New Deal ownership. He was liked for re-election to congress a term or two ago and became a lame duck appointee to the Pennsylvania commission by the then Governor George H. Earle. So, while it is accepted that the gravy is important, it was much more important that the trustees should think right, according to radical lights.

### Third Term for President Was in Political Strategy

Such is the picture of how the public ownership crowd operates. That picture fails, however, to disclose what is going on beneath the surface. Here is that story:

The strategy to be used, politically, contemplates that support of the payrollers, who seek to nominate President Roosevelt for a third term, shall be had for the public ownership theories in return for support of the third term program. A good political horse-trade. It is good because the public ownership segment figures that an apparent national political party endorsement will be available, or folks will be induced to believe there is such an endorsement. My information is that the public ownership crowd is counting on a repetition of conditions in 1932, when, it will be recalled, Mr. Roosevelt's political wings covered 57 varieties of political thought and theory.

Important members of the Washington group that heads up the public ownership group are placed in nearly every department of the government. They are in key positions. Whether they are influencing national policies is a question I cannot answer, but I can say they are in a position to use such influence very effectively. A decision here and a ruling there could be of vast help to such a program without there being any visible connections.

Then, as to rumors, again. We hear a great deal of gossip about some members of the Supreme court serving as advisers to less experienced agitators in the executive branch of the government. I repeat that I do not know whether these stories are true. There have been many signs indicating that frequent conferences take place, and no one denies that close ties of friendship exist between several of newer Supreme court justices and their proteges in Washington's downtown section. The rumors, therefore, are very disturbing to those of us with the old fashioned idea that the Supreme court should be an agency to serve the people in a judicial capacity and that its members should confine their activities to that field.

### Advocates of Public Ownership Are on Government Payroll

The general situation becomes all the more threatening, in my opinion, when it is known that there have been numerous advocates of wholesale government management of private industry operating on the government payroll. Some of them have taken the position that the way to obtain government ownership of private industry is to get industry so far into debt that the federal government would have to assume control. That is to say, only the federal government would have sufficient credit and borrowing power to pay off the debt.

As I said earlier, many details of the snakelike operations of this gang remain in deepest secrecy. Some facts have leaked out, however, that cause shivers to run up and down my spine.

The thing that none of us here know about, definitely, is whether Mr. Roosevelt has been persuaded to adopt the program. Some of my informants assure me that it does not matter whether Mr. Roosevelt even knows about the plan, because its tentacles extend like those of a jellyfish into many hidden places. In other words, a few of the cocky leaders believe the movement has grown so large that it is beyond the President's control.

### Speaking of Sports

## Records Prove Feller Is A. L. Hurling Champ

By ROBERT McSHANE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THOUGH American league records do not give young Bob Feller top ranking among pitchers in that circuit, those same records prove the Cleveland fireballer is the best hurler in baseball today.

Ever-important statistics show that Feller won the most games in the league, 24; that he had the most strikeouts, 246; that he pitched the most innings, 297; and that he made the first 10 in the classification of earned runs and winning percentage, with an earned run average of 2.85 and a won-and-lost average of .727.

Granted that he also threw the most wild pitches and walked the most batters—145. Manager Oscar Velt of the Indians wasn't a bit perturbed. When a pitcher's strikeout total exceeds his total of bases on balls by the wide margin of 246 to 145, it is easy to see that he has mastered the art of hurling.

While comparisons may be odious, it is interesting to note that after four years of professional baseball, Bob is leading Walter



BOB FELLER

Johnson in strikeouts. Johnson, who disappointed more batmen than any other pitcher who ever lived, fanned 3,497 batters in his 21-year career, an average of 167 a year. Feller has totaled 712 strikeouts, a phenomenal average of 178.

### New Handicaps

In his first four seasons in the American league, Johnson fanned 701 hitters, though he appeared in many more games than the Cleveland lad.

Remember, too, that in Johnson's day the pitcher was favored by all the breaks. Feller is working under opposite conditions and under many more handicaps than the pitcher of 30 years ago.

The Big Train never struck out more than 14 men in a nine-inning game. Feller has beaten that one-game strikeout record three times. He started by striking out 15 men, came back a short time later and fanned 17, then established a new modern record by fanning 18 men on the closing day of the 1938 season.

Feller isn't breaking his arm by attempting to set a new record. And chances are a hundred to one that he will never reach Johnson's mark. Pitching has been made more difficult, and not even Feller is good for 21 years of action in the big leagues.

Another difference between Johnson and Feller is the fact that Johnson relied almost entirely on his burning speed. He never developed a good curve. Bob throws one of the best curves in baseball, and by using it, along with a change of pace, he can win ball games without setting new strikeout records and can ease the punishment to his arm.

### Other Great Records

Christy Mathewson has the second best lifetime strikeout record. He fanned 2,399 hitters in 17 years. There have been other pitchers who have established remarkable records for themselves. In 1904 Rube Waddell fanned 343 men. But he didn't last. Almost 55 years ago one Matthew Kilroy of the Baltimore club struck out a total of 505 men. However, the distance from the pitcher's box to the plate in those days was 50 feet. It's 60½ now. And that extra difference makes a whale of a difference!

Since he broke into big league baseball, only one American league club has had the edge on Bob in victories. Naturally, this is New York, which has won seven out of thirteen from the Iowa boy.



LOS ANGELES.—Two youthful, venerable, sprightly, ancient members of the sporting fraternity are setting a new record in California this spring. Both are on active duty and their combined ages reach the tidy total of 154 years.

Their names are Connie Mack and Amos Alonzo Stagg—Connie and Lonnie.

As Lonnie Stagg starts spring practice for his College of the Pacific football team, Connie Mack starts a new year as manager of the Philadelphia Athletics.

Connie and Lonnie are each 77 years old. Both have been high-lights in competitive sport for over 50 years. Both go well back into the eighties for their start, so far back that only a fading few today remember the period that happened to start them off and away on the long, long trail.

### About Connie Mack

The amazing point concerning Connie Mack is the youthful spirit and the youthful keenness he still holds about his job of managing a ball club.

On this spring trip to Anaheim, Calif., he gives you the impression of a young manager anxious to make good. Yet Connie Mack has won at least nine American league pennants, and he has packed away



CONNIE MACK

more than his share of World Series triumphs. He has been in baseball as player and manager for 60 years. But those 60 years have taken nothing away from the fire that still blazes in his soul. The vital spark shows no sign of any smoldering ash.

In his day he has had at least three great teams. For one reason or another, largely financial, he has had to break them up and build again. Today he is just as keen and eager to build another as he ever was before.

Connie expects and hopes to win another pennant before he marches into baseball's Valhalla. He doesn't think it will be this year—not with the Yankees and Red Sox barring the road.

He has paid out as much money this season as any other owner has paid out—possibly more. And Connie is no millionaire. For above everything else he wants one more American league flag—one more World Series championship.

Connie Mack was 42 years old when I first met him in the Giants-Athletic clash of 1905—the series that lifted Christy Mathewson to the heights. No one could have figured then that this lean, middle-aged sportsman would still be driving forward 35 years later, as young in 1940 as he was in 1905—as he was in 1890.

### He Knows the Game

What makes Connie Mack a great manager?

"He is one of the greatest I ever knew," Ty Cobb told me recently. "Possibly the greatest, when you figure the smaller bankroll he has had to work with. Connie was never a member of the driving, hard-bitten type. He would rather encourage you. But he was never any softy. He always has demanded condition and the busting spirit. Also, he has known every angle of baseball—pitching and catching, infield and outfield play, baseball strategy, baseball psychology. And a ball player who wouldn't battle for Connie Mack would never battle for anyone."