

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

### Boost in Relief Fund Forecast As House Joins Spending Spree; Leave Tax Bogy for Next Year

(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: Coup de Grace

"You have just done the most tragic thing in the history of the country. You have shown a reversal of the spirit congress adopted from the beginning in trying to live within the budget. . . I feel this afternoon very much like the poet who said:

*'I was at the funeral of all my hopes  
And tumbled them one by one.  
Not a word was said, not a tear was shed  
When the mournful task was done.'*

Thus did Virginia's Rep. Clifton Woodrum scold and eulogize his fellow congressmen who had just administered the coup de grace to a great and idealistic crusade: The 1940 congressional economy campaign. Until the senate added almost \$300,000,000 to the farm appro-

son: It proposes a graduated tax, based on the number of stores. Myer pointed out that the Constitution requires that taxes be levied uniformly, geographically speaking.

#### WHITE HOUSE: Welles' Return

Down the bay at New York went some 25 reporters to meet the incoming *Conte di Savoia*. A few minutes later, in her card room, they faced a tall, dark-suited and handsome diplomat. Behind him was a 90-minute talk with Adolf Hitler; two meetings with Benito Mussolini; long and private discussions with Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier.

Had he wished, Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles might have pulled big news from his bulging portfolio. Instead he said: "I am mighty glad to see you, and I'm glad to be home."

With that he caught a train for Washington where rumors were already mounting fast. Revived was the favorite chestnut that Sumner Welles' report held the key to Franklin Roosevelt's third term ambitions. Said the wisecracker: If Mr. Welles felt a European peace was in the air, the President would retire; otherwise, no. Judging by European news Mr. Welles read the American papers, it looked like a third term.

#### EUROPE: Telegram

"Thanks to the wisdom of the Soviet government and to our valiant Red Army, the plans of the British-French warmongers who attempted to fan the flames of war in northeastern Europe again failed. . ."

Such was the telegram sent to Dictator Josef Stalin the day Russia made peace with Finland. It came not from friendly Germany but from hostile France—from Soviet Ambassador Jakob Souritz. Two weeks later Envoy Souritz's recall at request of the French government created a mild diplomatic flurry that echoed across the English channel. There, Britain and Russia were at swords points over British seizure of a Soviet freighter in the Pacific. After several days the excitement had apparently died down, but not a big question mark:



ENVOY SOURITZ  
Got his wires crossed?

Did Envoy Souritz, a seasoned diplomat, send this uncoded wire as a deliberate attempt to shatter Franco-Soviet relations?

#### Chancellories

In Paris, Premier Paul Reynaud's new cabinet made an auspicious start in its aggressive campaign against Germany. Summoned home one by one were all of France's diplomats, chief among them Ambassador to Italy Andre Francois-Poncet. Reason: Premier Reynaud will do his best to keep Italy away from Berlin and Russia. Meanwhile Great Britain was also starting trade negotiations with Rome, but more important for the moment was creation of a five-man "inner cabinet."

#### The War

For two days the British blockade worked its way into the Skagerrak and Kattegat and threatened to cut off Germany's merchant trade with Scandinavia. There was still a chance it might succeed, but the Nazis began fierce warfare in the North sea with the apparent purpose of diverting British attention from the blockade. Meanwhile spring flowers began blossoming on the western front.

## NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score on the following quiz. Deduct 10 points from each question you miss. Score of 60 or more is acceptable to excellent.



1. Above is the cannon-firing P-40 Curtiss pursuit ship, one of three new army models which France and Britain asked permission to buy. Did the army grant or refuse such permission?

2. (Each part of the following counts 10 points). Why were the following movie stars in the news: (a) Dorothy "Penny" Singleton; (b) Bob Burns?

3. True or False: Reprimanded by the state department after delivering an anti-Germans speech, U. S. Minister to Canada James H. E. Cromwell resigned in a huff.

4. What record-shattering event made residents of Syracuse, Utica, Rochester, and other upper New York cities stay home against their will?

5. Choice: The new explosive of Lester P. Barlow, demonstrated before congressmen, is made of (a) liquid oxygen and carbon; (b) T. N. T., dynamite and carbon; (c) glycerin and rosewater.

#### News Quiz Answers

1. Permission was granted.
2. (A) "Penny" Singleton was hospitalized after an auto accident; (B) Bob Burns and others were used by man who said he was kidnapped and forced to sign a denial that Burns had stolen his wife's affections.
3. False. He refused to resign.
4. The biggest blizzard since 1898 blocked all roads and piled drifts up to 30 feet in depth.
5. (A) is correct.

#### AVIATION: Achievement

Skies were overcast but radio reception was good. Pilot A. F. Olson nosed his Northwest airliner into the night toward Billings, Mont. Just west of Helena a bolt of lightning "appeared from nowhere," ripped the fabric from the right aileron and gave Pilot Olson, his two fellow crewmen and 21 passengers a good scare.

When Pilot Olson landed at Billings he also brought home the bacon. That night the nation's 21 commercial airlines completed a full year's operation, flying almost 88,000,000 miles with not a single crew or passenger fatality.

While operators slapped themselves on the back, actuaries figured this record made it safer to fly than to walk.

#### UNAMERICANISM: 'Amazing'

Back into the headlines after his vacation in Florida went Texas' Rep. Martin Dies and his un-Americanism investigating committee. Current enemy: Russia and Communism. While Chairman Dies announced plans to "summon witnesses as fast as we can locate them," his operatives swooped down on Pittsburgh Communist headquarters in search of a Red who used the name "Franklin D. Roosevelt" on his party membership card. Also hard at work was New Jersey's Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, a Dies aid, who told reporters that "any number" of school textbooks used in the U. S. contain "one subversive passage right after another. . . Taken with the surrounding material, they may mean little, but when they are put with other selected passages they fit together perfectly, and the result is amazing."

#### COURTS:

##### Sherman Vengeance

At Washington last year an A. F. of L. teamsters' union allegedly "conspired" to make concrete mixing companies hire union teamsters to drive mixer trucks. About this time the anti-trust division of the department of justice began casting a suspicious eye at the sorry plight of America's building construction field. Taking a long shot, Trust Buster Thurman Arnold slapped a charge of Sherman act violation against Washington's teamsters. The allegation: That this squabble interrupted building operations, therefore the union had restrained trade.

Protesting loudly that unions do not fall under the Sherman act, A. F. of L. cooked up a demurrer and a motion to dismiss the indictment. In late March Federal District Judge Peyton Gordon surprised everybody by upholding the indictment, maintaining the Sherman act applies to unions where their objectives are not "legitimate."

## Bruckart's Washington Digest

### Third Term Backers Dismayed By Roosevelt's Failure to Speak

Candidates Farley and Garner Confuse Issue for President's Followers; Hull-Jackson Combination Further Complicates Political Scene.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
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WASHINGTON.—The political situation that fails to provide a good laugh somewhere along the line is rare, indeed. There is, of course, that time-worn expression about politics making strange bedfellows, which frequently happens. There is just as much of a laugh for me, however, when these same strangers have got into the same bed—mentioned in the preceding sentence—and the slats fall out from under one of them. Actually, collapse of the slats gives anyone quite a sinking feeling, sort of an all-gone sensation.

And, so, I am writing this week about how fallen slats have forced some of the boys on the Democratic team to prepare a pallet on the floor. In some quarters, I have heard expressions within the last few days indicating that there is no particular shortage of pallets, but the would-be wheelhorses are having difficulty at discovering the proper floor.

It all came about in a series of events, some of which I have discussed in these columns before but, of necessity, must be repeated. Everyone knows, for instance, how the payroll boys, anxious to keep their jowls inside the trough, have been carrying on a great drive that they hope will eventuate in a third-term nomination for President Roosevelt. They have been doing right well by themselves, what with federal millions to spend; a patronage army mustered by Secretary Wallace who also pays farmers to let him show them how to farm; the vast relief legions and the other government agents of one kind or another, aggregating nearly a million persons, not to mention postmasters, United States attorneys and marshals and the others. They are, or they were, cocky and pretty happy about the whole thing.

There were such things as Vice President Garner's candidacy which was announced without strings attached and without any reference to whether Mr. Roosevelt should decide the country needs him, again. That candidacy was not welcome; nor was it taken seriously, at first. But someone among the amateur strategists within the corps of Presidential advisers suddenly awakened to the fact that the Garner candidacy might be regarded as serious. Well, there were deep discussions of what to do. Whatever else you can say about the true New Dealer, the hell-and-high-water New Dealer, it must be said that he is a serious person, and he plans his reform of the population with grave determination that what is about to be done for you is, of course, always for your best interests.

#### Whispering Campaign Sees Garner as Stooze

Out of these discussions has come a whispering campaign. It is exactly the same type of whispering campaign as was used against Herbert Hoover, when he was President. Only, these whispers are by Democrats about a Democrat. It has a technique that is well worked out and it gets results. That is, it gets results if it goes on long enough without anyone seeing what the game is.

In the current whispering campaign—and its source can be traced to an expert—Mr. Garner was pictured as just a stooze, just someone striving to break down the New Deal. He was pointed out as disloyal, a personally disloyal man despite 40 years as a Democratic battler, and his campaign was said to have "flattened out" to such an extent that everyone interested in the Democratic party could go home and go to bed—you know, the way that is done after an election victory is safely in the bag and the worry is over.

I am not prepared to argue that Mr. Garner's candidacy is, or is not, washed up. Just as a one-man guess, I have thought he was rather popular in the parts of the country where I have traveled in recent months. But that is not the story about which I am writing.

The story at this time is what has happened in another direction. In the efforts of the strategists to make the fences safe against the Garner bulls, they forgot about the man who built the Democratic machine of which these strategists are a part. In other words, they forgot about "Big Jim" Farley, postmaster general and chairman of the Democratic national committee. They apparently overlooked Mr. Farley, except that they did a lot of things contrary to his idea of smart politics and fairness to those who had been riding herd in the pastures where votes grow. Mr. Farley has not been happy about the whole thing, and he has been reported on several occasions as being prepared to resign.

**Farley's Candidacy  
Surprise to Leaders**  
And, now, what confronts the boys? Just an announcement by Mr. Farley that he is an out-and-out candidate for the presidential nomination of the Democratic party, an announcement that ended with "that's that!" When Mr. Farley made that statement to the party leaders in Massachusetts recently, he pulled out more bed slats than you can imagine. He did not say "if the Chief does not run." He said he was running "and that's that!"

There are not many folks in the country who do not realize that, as a machine politician, Mr. Farley has few equals. He has a personal following that he has built up throughout the nation, men whom he calls by their first names and who write to him as "Dear Jim."

The ranks of those who jumped too soon include a lot of senators and representatives who had arrived at their places on the payroll by virtue of a happy ride on the Roosevelt coattails. But the Roosevelt coattails might not have borne up under the strain, except for the Farley direction. That is what the early bandwagon crowd is now trying to measure. They are looking around to see whether their pallet should be on the Farley floor, the Garner floor or the Roosevelt floor, and they are casting squints through partially open doors to see whether there might be comparative peace and political quiet in the next room where the second-choice delegates may have to go at convention time.

#### Hull-Jackson Team May Enter 1940 Race

This whole stage scene is further complicated by continued stories that Mr. Roosevelt looks upon Secretary Hull of the state department as a "good man," but with sort of a side glance that "some good liberal like Bob Jackson (the attorney general) should be nominated with him." Of course, there is no way to substantiate the story that Mr. Roosevelt wants Hull and Jackson as the team. He has said nothing. I have said before, and there is no reason to change the belief, that Mr. Roosevelt is not going to say anything until about convention time. In the meantime, the folks who owe their political places to Mr. Farley and who have gone off the deep end for Mr. Roosevelt as a third-term candidate are spending sleepless nights. They are afraid to make up their pallets on the floor anywhere in fear of the boogey-man.

As I said at the beginning, nearly every political situation contains a good laugh. It is always the more amusing when you see the amateurs trying to play the game of professionals. The final scene on the stage may not have Garner or Farley or Roosevelt in the center to take the acclaim of the audience, but Mr. Garner is going ahead and Mr. Farley is going ahead, and the third-term leaders are practically helpless since Mr. Roosevelt steadfastly declines to make a public statement on his intentions. He just lets the slats stay on the floor.



ST. PETERSBURGH, FLA.—The Red Bird engraved upon the shirts of the St. Louis Cardinals has turned into a hawk, seeking its prey. A year ago these Cardinals were not sure whether they might finish second or fifth.

They caught your eye in this sun-flooded city that now lays claim to the World Series training spot. But too many of them had just begun to wield a razor along downy cheeks. They were Red Birds then—not hawks. They needed the hammering experience of a hard campaign.

It was in the shade of a sheltering oak, ash or palm tree that Branch Rickey advised me to pick the Reds for 1939 and the Cardinals for 1940.

"We have quite a number of young fellows," he said, "who need just one more season. The Reds will get the jump on this young team but we won't be far away in the stretch. It will be different next year."

This happens to be the "next year" mentioned by Mr. Rickey. If he is as sound a prophet in 1940 as he was in 1939, the Cardinals are already in.

#### Sound Pitching Staff

They have that year's experience stuck under their belts and they have the same speed and the same spirit. More than that, in addition to such veterans as Curt Davis, Lon Warneke and Big Bob Weiland, they also carry along the younger pitching arms of Cooper, McGee, Lanier, Bowman, Sunkel and Barrett—the soundest all-around pitching staff in the National league and one of the best in baseball.

It has both quantity and quality. From the nine pitchers mentioned Ray Blades should be able to get at least five moving briskly along, which is well above the average.

There are those around who will advise you not to climb too far towards the end of the limb in this Cardinal matter. They mention the fact that Davis, Warneke and Weiland are no longer kids—that most of the younger pitchers have yet to prove their place—and that Pepper Martin can't retain the iron in his system and the flame in his soul forever.

#### Temperamental Medwick

They also bring out the fact that Joe Medwick hasn't been any too happy under the St. Louis setup for some time. And Ducky Medwick happens to be one of the best ball players in either league. He may be high-strung and temperamental, but he can hit, field, run and throw—the four main essentials.

Ray Blades figures there are six teams that can win the National league pennant.

I can't agree with him. The race should be between the Cardinals and Reds, with the Dodgers and Cubs making the main challenge.

Frank Frisch will need at least a year to get the Pirates untangled and headed forward.

I can't figure Giants, Braves or Phillies with anything but a miracle chance.

Most of the old Gas House Gang have left the scene. They are scattered far and wide.

Only a few years ago at Bradenton there were the two Deans, Jimmy Wilson, Rip Collins, Leo Durocher, Bill Hallahan and several others. Now Pepper Martin and Joe Medwick are about the only ones left.

Baseball has seen better teams, but none with so much color. There was the time when Jimmy Wilson, the crack Cardinal catcher, began missing his silk shirts from the locker. Dixy began wearing them. Dixy was then a rookie. When Jimmy put the blast on Dix for pilfering his favorite shirt, Dix only grinned.

"Listen, Jimmy," he said. "I came down here with only one shirt. I knew you wouldn't want the greatest pitcher baseball ever knew to go around with the same shirt for a month. Now, would you?"

"I guess you're right, Dix," Wilson said. So Dean kept the shirt. But there is still enough color in this present Cardinal outfit. It's a young outfit, in the main, an outfit that's keen to go somewhere.

## Speaking of Sports

### 3-Count 'Em-3 DiMags Join in Baseball Wars

By ROBERT McSHANE  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

CONTRARY to rumor, there is no ruling to the effect that every major league baseball club must include at least one DiMaggio on its roster.

The public unconsciously has been misled by the frequency with which the name appears in the public prints. The ball-playing members of the clan are not numbered by the dozen. In fact, there are only three of the former fisher lads now in big time baseball.

Joe DiMaggio, veteran of the tribe, is not unknown to baseball addicts. He commanded a considerable degree of attention when he made a runaway of the race for individual batting championship of the American league last season, hitting at a distinctly passable clip of .361. The Yankee star led his closest competitor by the comfortable margin of 21 points, establishing himself as one of the truly great batsmen of all time.

#### Win Duplicate Honors

Brother Dominic DiMaggio, a bespectacled, expensive young man, is getting a tryout with the Boston Red Sox. In 1939 he was voted the most valuable player of the Pacific Coast league. (Joe receive the same award in the American league.)

Though Dominic still has to wear glasses with thick lenses, he hits the ball hard—had the second high-



THE DI MAGGIOS: Joe and Vince

est batting average on the West coast, .361, led in total hits and runs scored, and was among the leading home run hitters.

Dom started playing ball with the Monterey Presidio team. From there he jumped to the San Francisco Seals, where he hung on in spite of a couple of bad starts. He batted just above .300 in his first two seasons. Like the rest of the family, he is an outfielder.

Brother Vince DiMaggio, now the property of the Cincinnati Reds, is the oldest but least known of the illustrious trio. It was Vince who first went to the baseball wars. While a junior high school student he was picked as a member of a San Francisco all-star team. Before he went to high school he was picked up by the Seals. Father Giuseppe DiMaggio wasn't at all enthusiastic. He argued. All the DiMaggios had been fishermen. Vince's liking for the game was out.

#### Joe's Introduction

It was Vince who brought Brother Joe into the game. Late one season, when Vince was with the Seals and when all contests for place in the Pacific Coast league had been decided, Augie Galan, the shortstop, asked to be excused from a game to go on a barnstorming tour. The manager said he could go if he would find somebody to play shortstop. Vince DiMaggio dug up his brother Joe. That was the start of the greatest DiMaggio career.

Largely on the strength of Joe's reputation, Vince went to the Boston Bees. He couldn't hit major league pitching, and in 1932 led the National-circuit in strikeouts. He was sent to Kansas City. There he began to hit home runs, gained confidence and removed a bothersome hitch in his swing. Then he was brought back to the big time with Cincinnati.

Despite the fact that Vince struck out 12 times in 14 times at bat during last year's pennant fight, Manager Bill McKechnie still has faith in him. Now the oldest of the DiMaggios is getting probably his last chance to make good.

There you have the DiMaggio family—Joe, king-pin slugger of the world champion New York Yankees; Dom, highly touted minor league star getting his golden opportunity with the Red Sox; and Vince, whose big—and undoubtedly last—chance is with the Reds.

## TREND

How the wind is blowing . . .

**POLITICS** — At Dallas, ex-Gov. Miriam A. ("Ma") Ferguson announced she was willing to run for a third term.

**JAPAN** — At Tokyo, Rear Adm. Shozaburo Kanazawa viewed with "grave concern" a report that the U. S. is strengthening its Philippine naval forces.

**INCOME** — Salaries and other money paid U. S. individuals in February totaled \$5,554,000,000, a 6 per cent increase over February, 1939.