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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY ROGER SHAW

F. D.'s Personality Dominates 1940 Democratic Convention; No U. S. Troops for Europe

(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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Right up to convention time, Franklin D. Roosevelt kept the country guessing on third term plans. The Democratic National Convention, meeting in Chicago, however, felt at all times the weight of the President's personality. The sketch herewith is by the famous artist, Helge Sahlin.

II GERMAN WAR: Ships & Planes

Germany and England continued to blast one another from the air, with foolhardy gallantry. Germany slowly seemed to be establishing supremacy of numbers, although her pilots were sometimes too young, and not equal on the whole to the veteran regulars who made up a considerable portion of the royal air force: the R. A. F.

In the Mediterranean sea, the English and French and Italian fleets continued to skirmish, off North Africa, off West Africa, off Greece. Some of the French ships were surrendered to the British navy, others were sunk or disabled. Demobilized French flyers were joining up again, this time to help the Italian airmen bomb British Gibraltar. There were naval clashes between the Italian and British seamen, who already had eliminated seven of the eight French capital warships. The 43,000-ton "Ile de France"—that French luxury liner so well known in America—was seized by the British at Singapore, England's No. 1 naval base in the Far East, in the Malay peninsula. The best French warship—35,000 tons—was knocked out by a British motorboat, which artfully dropped a depth bomb near the stern. The victim was the famous Richelieu.

NO U. S. TROOPS: But Billions for Defense

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt emphatically told congress we would send no man to European wars, but would only seek to defend the western hemisphere. Towards this end he asked for billions of dollars. This presidential statement to congress tended to match the "peace" plank in the Republican campaign platform, and might have removed one of the major issues from the 1940 race.

NAMES

... in the news

Gen. Juan Almazan, Mexican presidential candidate, praised the "success" of the Mexican election, and lauded its small loss of life. There were only 50 killed.

John Dewey, philosopher and educationalist, returned to teach at Columbia university for the first time in 10 years. He is 80 years old, but addressed 1,000 students with all his old steam.

WHAT A JOB: Re-employed

The luckless duke of Windsor, who used to be King Edward VIII, got another job, at last. They made him governor of the Bahamas islands, 20 of them inhabited, off the southeast coast of Florida. It was a \$12,000 annual job, whose main function was to reign over ex-slaves and tourists from the United States. Capital of the Bahamas is Nassau, on New Providence island, where they have a nice beach, and a saloon of merit called "Dirty Dick's." Windsor used to have 500,000 people to reign over. Now he has 68,000, plus 6 officers and 124 policemen. Critics said the basic idea was to get him out of Europe, in case the Germans took over England. Hitler, they thought, might oust brother George, and reinstate brother Edward, who is better liked all round. (On the other hand, Queen Elizabeth is much better liked than Duchess Warfield.)

M. PETAIN: Approved

While the British and American newspapers were hammering old Marshal Petain, the savior of Verdun, who doesn't like Winston Churchill, the Vatican came out and declared that Petain was the best possible man to lead France. The Vatican said that the Marshal inspired French youth, and added that he represented the "best French tradition."

Petain is a good Catholic, and a close friend of the Catholic dictator of Spain, his former pupil, Generalissimo Franco. French General Weygand, who aids Petain in the new Italo-type French government, is also devoutly religious, although Pierre Laval, third member of the Gallic triumvirate, has a non-clerical background. Laval is father-in-law of the official heir of Lafayette.

While the Vatican approved, the "new" France got under way. The senate was to be appointed for life, while the chamber was to represent trades, jobs, and occupations, as in the corporative state of Mussolini. Both senate and chamber were to be largely advisory, and trade unions were to be abolished, on the Italic plan.

The professional trade groups, in the chamber, were to take the place of unions, and of political parties as well. The slogan of liberty-equality-fraternity (dating from 1789) was to be supplanted by another trio: labor-family-nation. This, again, was based on the fascist system of Rome. One wit put it like this: "When in Paris, do as the Romans do."

RACIAL: Interesting

One of our foreign commentators raised an interesting point. It was this. He said that although Germans are currently unpopular, for excellent reasons, the American system was still functioning splendidly. To prove his statement, he pointed out that Wendell Willkie was of Germanic family origin. But this did not stop Mr. Willkie, able and magnetic and thoroughly likeable, from becoming the Republican candidate for President of the United States at a hectic time.

Hitler himself, said the commentator, was born in Austria, with only one Germanic parent, and one Czech parent (his mother). But Willkie was born in America, he continued, with two Germanic parents. He concluded that Willkie was a better type of the Germanic stock than the rampant Fuehrer. It was interesting to note, in addition, that our General Pershing's family name was Pfoersching, in the "correct" spelling.

Also, the Roosevelts have a Dutch origin which sometimes is mistaken for German.

III REICH: Complexities

The Hitlerian domain was sorted out into the following, to make its way less confusing, for it covers a lot of ground in several main categories:

1. Hitler himself, plus the Nazi party itself.
2. Germany, including Austria, the Sudetes, Danzig, Posen, etc.
3. Protectorates of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, Holland, Belgium, of which Denmark is the pet, with the Slovaks, Norse and Dutch next.
4. Fascist France—half victim, half neutral, a wee bit of an ally.
5. Italy, an ally, active.
6. Japan, an ally, passive. Also Spain and Hungary.
7. Russia, a treaty partner, uncertain. (Russia wants Constantinople.)
8. Client states of Sweden, Rumania. (Through Sweden and Hungary Germany has army transit rights. Spain and Rumania might come into the war on the German side.)

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Taxes Raise Needed Revenue, But Are Not Basically Sound

Only Part of Money Paid by Consumers Reaches Federal Treasury as Dealers Are Forced to Collect More Than Taxes Levied.

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

WASHINGTON.—Among the hands on my father's farm when I was a boy was a big Negro named Noah. He was a good worker, and strong as the team of mules that he claimed and always used. Noah was a good farm hand. But my father could always count upon Noah being off of the job two or three days after he was paid his wages each month. Noah, generally called "Chalk" because he was so black, would disappear as soon as he got his money and he did not return to work until that money was gone.

It never seemed to concern Noah one bit that he was broke and couldn't even buy tobacco for his corn-cob pipe unless somebody gave him money. He was that way throughout his life because he said he "never brought nuttin here" and he would "take nuttin away" when he died. He really carried out that philosophy of life, for my father paid his burial expenses.

I have been thinking of Noah and his ideas of living, lately, because of certain developments of national import. His philosophy was recalled especially when President Roosevelt asked congress for an increase in taxes to defray the cost of the vast new program of national armament. It was recalled again when, out of a clear sky and in the shortest message ever sent to congress in Mr. Roosevelt's seven years as head of the government, the President proposed that congress take a second step in raising taxes. He asked for a "steeply graduated" excess profits tax.

Additional Taxation Has Been Needed

Now, I believe anyone who has ever read my columns will agree that I have urged additional taxation, constantly. On that point I never have wavered. It might be supposed then that I would go off of the deep end for the new taxes. That, however, is not the case. I find myself willing to support only half of the program, for reasons that will be apparent as the situation is analyzed.

The first tax increase was proper. It was needed. The second proposal, that which congress is yet to consider, is not proper, but the revenue is badly needed. The difference is that the first program will yield revenue that, generally speaking, will be received by the treasury in its entirety. The second program will yield vast sums and only part of the tax paid by the consumers will reach the treasury.

It is a strong statement to make when one says that the treasury will get only part of the amount paid by the taxpayers. It is true, however, because in a levy like the excess profits tax, every dealer, great or small, collects more than the amount of the tax. We saw it when an excess profits tax was in operation during the World War of 1917-1918. A tax that amounted to half a cent was paid as one cent for the very simple reason that one has some difficulty in cutting a penny into two pieces. The seller is never going to absorb any tax, and I think he probably cannot be blamed. He raises the price to protect himself, and you and I and every mother's son carries the load of tax when it is laid that way.

The first tax program offered by Mr. Roosevelt was had enough in that direction. On its good side, however, it can be said that it levied direct taxes on incomes, a method by which the tax, all of it, goes into the treasury. That tax bill also extended the income tax to something like 2,500,000 additional taxpayers, by reducing the personal exemption allowed. That is to say, after July 1, of this year, a married person with an income of \$2,000 a year will pay income tax above that sum and a single person receiving \$800 also will pay income tax for the first time. Previously, the exemption was \$2,500 for a married person and \$1,000 for a single person.

Ten Per Cent Supertax Added to Regular Levy

There was included in the taxing act also an increase in taxes from the previous rates. It was provided in the new law that a person receiving \$2,000 a year, for example, will pay the old rate of tax and then will add a flat 10 per cent to that total as the amount he must contribute for support of his govern-

ment and for building a real national defense.

Let me show how this 10 per cent added tax works out as a means of showing why I object to, and criticize, it. The 10 per cent was added to the so-called nuisance taxes—tax on admissions, cigarettes, gasoline and a thousand other articles. Take cigarettes as an example. Popular brands sold in many places at two for a quarter. The new price, generally, is two for 27 cents. But the actual increase in price caused by the tax will be about one and a quarter cents. The dealers will get an increase in the price.

While I say with candor that the dealers get an increase, I am not one who is going to criticize them for it. I do not see how any individual or firm could absorb that additional tax—even though it is just one-eighth of a cent—on every sale that is made. He would go broke in a few months. So, there is more than the amount of the tax collected as a protection.

Business Not as Sound As It Was in 1917-18

And that is the damnable feature of the excess profits tax. During its first application—1917, 1918 and 1919—every business that had to pay an excess profits tax had to protect its own pocketbook. It could not tell in April what its business would be in November, or any other month. Its prices had to be scaled upward to bring in enough profit that it would be able to pay the tax, the amount of which it could not forecast.

These new taxes come at a time when few businesses have any real reserve for a rainy day. Ten years of depression has left them with no fat. Yet, if we do not have the new taxes, where will our government find itself?

In respect of the lack of reserve, the business of the country is in quite a different situation than it was in 1918 when the earlier excess profits tax went on. Then, business was functioning, making money hand over fist, reaping war profits from before the United States joined the allies against Germany. Now, the tax goes on and business is flat on its back. There is no use kidding ourselves about the condition. In my opinion, any real economic recovery is now definitely off until such a type of tax is altered and the levy applied so that taxpayers will know what tax they must pay each year.

Tax Structure of Nation Needs Reorganization

The laying of these new taxes brings the people of the country face to face with another fact. I have been preaching against waste and have been called anti-New Deal because I have criticized the administration for piling up such a huge debt—in excess of \$45,000,000,000. But I believe a good many folks now are going to realize that Sen. Harry Byrd, the Virginia Democrat, was exactly right when he urged that the whole tax structure be gone over and reorganized. He wanted to see a sound tax structure. He surely was right when he said there are contradictory and ridiculous tax levies in effect and they ought to be corrected.

The condition links directly with my recollection of old Noah. Noah went out and spent his money with no thought of the future. The present administration went out and borrowed under one excuse or another until the national debt is the greatest in the nation's history—without any thought of the future. They built privies and raked leaves and constructed unneeded buildings and spent billions in every direction.

It strikes me that since the administration has emulated old Noah, it ought to wake up and take the advice of some sound thinkers such as Senator Byrd. The taxes must be paid—yes, in undreamed of amounts—but the taxpayers in the country have a right to demand some system in that taxation.

Some of these days an understanding of the sour nature of these taxes will permeate down to the last person who eats. The politicians have been getting away with the grandest deceit by using hidden taxes—taxes you have paid as a part of the price of your purchase—for years. I think the end is not far off. I firmly believe that the tremendous taxes we are going to have to pay because we played like Noah, the farm hand, will teach a lot of folks a lesson.

Speaking of Sports

Night Baseball May Threaten Game's Future

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WHETHER or not night baseball will continue its present remarkable growth depends not so much upon club owners and managers as upon the millions of fans who foot the bills.

And that, in this instance, is just too bad. Today's baseball addict is very likely to declare himself in favor of nocturnal encounters. He can't be blamed for that. A majority of fans find it impossible to see more than one or two afternoon games each week. Work interferes constantly with lighter pursuits. But night games take care of that matter. After his evening dinner, the Bleacher Baron can strike out for the ball park, settle down with a bottle of pop and, with time out for a few hoarse yells, take things easy.

That's fine for the present day fan—but indirectly he's brightening the future of some other sport. Every additional dollar the baseball magnate takes in through night games means a double loss in days to come. He is slamming the door in the face of the one group that helps keep baseball the sport it is today. That group is composed of the millions of small boys of the nation. They can't buy tickets today—they see a whole nine innings only when the Knot Hole Gang is admitted free of charge.

Kids May Lose Interest

But every year a new generation of ticket buyers comes of age. In the past they have grown up with the sport. The kids often know more about league standings, batting averages and various standings than do the adults. However, if more and more games are played at night, the kids won't be at the ball park to see them. The game will lose its familiarity and something will be found to replace it—something that has a closer appeal.

Not so many big league managers and club owners are whole-hearted disciples of night baseball. They feel that artificial lights are just that kind of a stimulus. Right now it's doubtful that they can do much about it. The trend is toward the masadas. The bright lights seem to be as profitable at a baseball park as in a nightclub, and very few of the purse holders are willing to kick a dollar in the teeth.

Edward G. Barrow of the Yankees is a staunch advocate of things as they are. He echoed the opinions of quite a few contemporaries when he stated not so long ago that night baseball is a thing of evil. He disposed of it in one sweeping statement:

Gate Receipts Up

"Gate receipts for baseball have increased 100 per cent in 20 years. Now, why go in for any new-fangled ideas with those figures staring at you in the record books? We used to think a crowd of 25,000 was a turnaway gang. Now, on our good days, if we don't have 80,000 we think something's wrong. The game has prospered by its regularity and dignity. Why these new ideas?"

Barrow, when he made those remarks, wasn't thinking of the Yanks alone. He had every big league club in mind.

Larry MacPhail, the man who started the craze for night games, now wants to turn on the dimmers. He's fearful where night baseball may lead. The Dodgers' manager declared that the Browns made a mistake in doubling the usual allotment of night games. He stated emphatically that he'd never approve of more than seven night games—more would hurt daylight attendance, the backbone of the game.

For the sake of baseball's future, it is to be hoped that all executives will bear in mind the fact that daylight attendance is the lifeblood of the game.

Sport Shorts

Paul Derringer and Ernie Lombardi form one of baseball's heaviest batteries. Their combined weight is 480 pounds. . . . Tarzan Taylor, line coach at Marquette, always wears a flower. He keeps it fresh in a small vase that fits into the buttonhole of his lapel. . . . Craig Wood wanted to be a civil engineer as a youngster. He went to college for one year, then quit to take a pro golf job at Lexington, Ky. . . . Mole Dowell, former Chicago Cardinals' fullback, is athletic director at Texas Tech. . . . Eleanor Holm still holds 10 of the 14 A. U. backstroke records.



Washington, D. C.
LESSON FOR U. S.

Most of the lessons of the war are too obscure to learn. The fall of France can't be explained. Gossip filtering back indicates a stench to heaven.

We are already officially blamed for not doing something that we were somehow supposed to be obliged to do. Who obligated us? Mr. Bullitt did say openly that we wouldn't be in it at the beginning but would be in the end. The end came too soon for France. If she relied on Mr. Bullitt, she missed the bus.

The lesson from France is not clear enough to learn but there is one lesson from the whole bloody mess that simply shrieks. No nation can rely on any other and certainly not on the British navy, or Latin America, or on anything but our own strength.

France created the "cordon sanitaire"—the ring of little nations like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, to keep Germany captive. (She relied on them and they on her. She relied on the British navy. Britain relied on the French army. When Hitler began to show strength, France wanted to stop him. Britain wouldn't play. When Mussolini hijacked Ethiopia, Britain wanted to stop him. France wouldn't play. Both let Hitler and Mussolini build up the strength to ravage the French and British reliance on little nations in the "cordon sanitaire" and their reliance on Britain and France.

One by one they fell. Britain and France were helpless or unwilling to stop it. They are responsible for the threat to us today because, finally, came the case of Poland. Britain and France at last were drowsily preparing. But neither was remotely ready. Nevertheless they shoved Poland into the guns. The case was weak. Danzig was a German city. The Polish corridor was a monstrosity. Furthermore, worst of all, Hitler wanted no war in the west, he was headed east and southeast.

France, under British pressure, joined in declaring war when Hitler marched. It was one of the greatest and most stupid blunders in history—if not the very greatest. It forced Hitler to turn to the west. The result already has been the destruction of six small neutral nations—and the French empire. It terribly threatens the British empire. It threatens us.

Recriminations have already begun. We hear that France didn't want to go to war and Britain forced her—that the French government didn't want to abandon the defensive and plunge into the disastrous Belgian pocket—that Britain forced it and didn't support it. The facts aren't clear. But the blunders are. They shoud their lessons to us. Don't start anything you can't finish. Get fully ready before you start slapping down ears. Don't rely on anybody but yourself. Don't push other nations into warlike positions to defend yourself.

In this blundering diversion of Hitler to our direction when he might have gone eastward to wear himself out in battle with the bear of Russia, we are not blameless. We supported and encouraged it morally. Part of the argument to bring France in was that only if she were in war could she be sufficiently unified and mobilized for war, and that if she did get in she would have time to get ready afterward. Exactly that is being said to us in this country today. There is another way to say it. It is "Get a dictator."

Step by muddled step we have followed blundering European war policies. We are still following them. Our two new war cabinet members believe in doing that. That is why they were chosen. Our greatest need is new and competent leadership—before it is too late.

WANTED: A PRODUCTION MAN

Industrial mobilization isn't just madly appropriate billions. Billions are necessary, but success is threatened if they are thrown away. Contracts with suppliers are necessary, but they are no good if they don't result in swift and acceptable production so regulated that all the separate parts come to the assembly line properly timed to all other deliveries and with no spoiled work or parts that do not fit. I doubt if we are giving enough attention to either one of these principles. There is too much ballyhoo about billions. It tends to pacify the demand of the people for drive and effectiveness.