

The WEEKLY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

NRA Decision Sends 1936 Campaign Off To Hot Summer Head Start; Roosevelt must Fight For New Deal And Opponents Have An Issue; Munitions Exporting Continues Active Despite Senate's Probing; Senate's Unnoticed Anti-Lobby Bill Likely To Die In The House.

by DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington — The Supreme Court's NRA decision has changed the immediate political picture. Usually the summer just before a campaign summer is somnolent and lazy. Political fences are repaired, but without any fireworks. This summer is different. The electoral campaign for 1936, in effect, already is in full swing. Heavy guns are wheeled into place. The firing is going to be hot and heavy.

Reason is that Roosevelt opponents suddenly have been presented with an issue. And they can't afford to let it get cold. Hitherto they had a number of minor issues, were groping rather fruitlessly for an effective way to use them.

But now they have been handed a heaven-sent weapon. They can attack Roosevelt as the uproter of the Constitution, an advocate of revolution, a disrespector of the Founding Fathers.

Roosevelt, in turn, has decided to more than accept the challenge. He is taking the initiative in the battle by insisting on pushing through his legislative program in toto. This means Congress in session all summer and the most vigorous political and legislative battle in years.

Washington will be hot in more ways than one this summer.

FAVORABLE

The Honorable Michael J. Stack is a man with a big heart. The Philadelphia Democrat is a member of the House Committee on Claims, which passes on all so-called "private bills." These are measures authorizing payment to individuals who have claims against the Government. Thousands of them are introduced each session and it is the practice of the committee to divide them among House members to study, then recommend to the full body.

Stack's unfailing report on every bill turned over to him for perusal is "favorable," a source of much amusement to his colleagues.

The following is a typical example of what occurs in the committee room when Stack reports:

Stack: With reference to bill H. R. 16597, I report favorably.

Chairman: What is the nature of the claim, Mr. Stack?

Stack: Why . . . er . . . it's printed right here on the jacket of the bill. And I report favorably.

Chairman: Hmm. I see, a claim for losses incurred while in the Government's employ. Have you read the department's report on this case, Mr. Stack?

Stack: Well . . . uh . . . not exactly.

Chairman: Of course, you read the testimony of the claimant and his witnesses?

Stack: Uh . . . I report favorably.

Chairman: Do you know the claimant's name, age or grounds for presenting this bill?

Stack: No, but I report the bill favorably.

Chairman: Have you by any chance read the bill itself, Mr. Stack?

Stack: "Well, not entirely, but . . .

"I report the bill favorably," the committee members shout in a chorus, concluding the sentence for him.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Sensational and startling have been the secrets of the arms industry brought to light by the Senate Munitions Committee. But for all the effect these disclosures have on the business of the arms makers the committee might just as well never have existed.

Int he first 3 months of this year—during the period when the Senate probers were most active—the munitions manufacturers exported a total of \$632,539 worth of arms as follows:

Pistols and revolvers, \$77,289. Rifles, \$126,716. Shotguns, \$26,431. Machine guns and artillery, \$125,414. Cartridges, \$162,225. Shells and projectiles, \$91,150. Smokeless powder, \$23,314.

These official figures, however, do not tell the whole story.

First, government authorities admit that the figures are incomplete. Second, there are no definite data on the amount of poison and other varieties of disabling gases that were sold abroad. These lethal commodities are shipped under trade and technical designations which mask their real identity. But Government experts are convinced that a large quantity of poison gas was reported.

Finally, the munitions sales do not include the foreign disposal of aircraft and aeronautical equipment.

During the first quarter, American airplane makers shipped abroad airplanes valued at \$1,782,593, all of them either designed outright for military use or made so as to be easily converted.

One of the leading purchasers was the Nationalist government of China which bought 28 fighting and bombing machines in January. Nazi Germany also was a heavy buyer of airplanes.

WRONG STORE

Here, is General Hugh Johnson's latest story:

A woman, desiring to breed canaries, went into a bird store and asked for a pair of the yellow warblers. The clerk showed her a handsome couple.

"How will I know," the woman asked, "which is the male and which is the female?"

"Oh, that's easy. The male eats the male worms and the female the female worms."

The woman purchased the birds and started to leave when a thought struck her. Turning to the clerk she inquired: "How will I tell which are male and which are female worms?"

"Madame," replied the clerk, "this is a bird store, not a worm store."

ANTI-LOBBY BILL

For the second time in five years the Senate has sent over to the House a reform that has been needed almost since the founding of Congress.

The excitement and confusion blanketing Washington since the Supreme Court's NRA decision has obscured the Senate's move, but the Democratic bosses of the House are acutely aware of it. They have been secretly confabbing among themselves on what to do about the hot potato.

What the Senate did was to pass Senator Hugo Black's bill requiring lobbyists to register and file reports giving the names of the interests or individuals they represent, their compensation and expenses.

An added stinger in the bill is its application to lobbyists from government departments as well as to outsiders. For the War and Navy Departments—which maintain large and aggressive lobbies on Capitol Hill—

Ruth Takes The Air



LOS ANGELES . . . Ruth Chatterton, screen actress, became so air minded that she bought an airplane and flew it here from New York. She is the first ranking screen star to pilot a plane across the country.

this provision will be a bitter pill if it becomes law.

But the IF is a big one.

The reason is that House rulers—Republican as well as Democratic—have always opposed curbs on lobbyists. Despite repeated lobbying scandals and sensational investigations—the Mulhall probe in 1913 and the Caraway inquiry in 1929-30—every attempt to clamp down on lobbyists has come to naught in the House.

Following the late Senator Thaddeus Caraway's disclosures the Senate passed his bill requiring lobbyists to register. The House promptly pigeonholed it. What will be the fate of Black's measure—offspring of his ocean and airmail lobbying revelations—remains to be seen.

Betting in Congress cloakrooms is that it will get no further than Caraway's proposal.

BAPTIST

Philadelphia's Representative J. Burrwood Daly is a Roman Catholic. But coming from a polyglot district he has leaned over backward to avoid any suggestion of religious preference in his patronage appointments.

Particularly was he anxious to be meticulous in this matter in making his West Point and Annapolis selections. Finally he decided on what he thought would be an air-tight solution.

He asked three prominent Protestant ministers in his district—a Baptist, a Methodist and a Presbyterian—to recommend worthy young men for appointment to the service colleges.

This they did. And heading their list was a youth bearing the name of Aloysius Fitzpatrick.

"The interesting thing about this boy," explains Daly, "is the fact that he is a Baptist. But just try and make anyone believe it."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Inspired by the Supreme Court's smashing turn-down of the NRA, utility interests opposing the Administration's Holding Corporation Bill are openly threatening to throw the measure into the courts. . . . Despite reports from close friends of Al Smith that he would not accept a fusion candidacy against Roosevelt next year, Administration politicians refuse to be convinced. Among the inner circle, where feeling against Al is strong, it is believed that if Al thought he saw a chance to win he would run.

Big Jim Farley is strongly of this opinion. . . . Dr. Frank E. Townsend father of the old-age pension plan, is having his hands full out west trying to stamp out a movement among his followers to oust Robert L. Clements, his business manager. The rank and file are demanding that Townsend submit to a national board of directors who would have a voice in the management of the organization. . . . Assistant Secretary of War Harry Woodring has leased the historic Nellie Custis house at Woodlaw, Virginia. Three miles from Mt. Vernon and overlooking the Potomac River, the old mansion was built in 1799 by George Washington as a wedding gift for his step-daughter. The property is owned by Mrs. Oscar Underwood, widow of the late Senator from Alabama.

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"Down" Is The Word

A fond father went to a school to see what progress his son was making. In response to his inquiry the principal said: "Your son will probably go down in history."

"That's good news," glowed the parent.

The principal lifted his eye brows, and continued: "But he might do better in geography and the other subjects."—Grit.

Ennice

Ennice, June 10.—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Poole and family, of Bel Air, Md., who spent a few days with Mrs. Poole's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Wilson, recently, returned home Monday.

Miss Ruby Higgins and Mrs. Larrie Cooper and daughter spent Wednesday night with Mrs. Joe Combs.

Miss Emma Lee Wagoner, who has been ill, is improving.

Mrs. D. C. Higgins spent Friday with her daughter, Mrs. Glenn Edwards.

A large crowd attended decoration services at Little Pine Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Evans, Galax, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Higgins and family, of Sparta, spent Sunday at the home of W. C. Higgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Artemis Higgins had as dinner guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Alex Andrews, Miss Ruby Smith, Freel Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Coy Evans and family, and Dave Edwards and daughters, Faye and Gay.

A number of friends met at the home of Reeves Greene Saturday night and enjoyed a fish fry. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Roe Dickens, Mr. and Mrs. Larrie Cooper and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Artemis Higgins and son, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Higgins, Mrs. Mickey, of Galax, Misses Gwyn-

Sails Largest Ship



NEW YORK . . . Above is Captain Rene Pagnet who brought the world's largest ship into port here on a record maiden trip from France. The liner is the Normandie, pronounced the greatest water craft ever built.

day night and enjoyed a fish fry. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Roe Dickens, Mr. and Mrs. Larrie Cooper and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Artemis Higgins and son, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Higgins, Mrs. Mickey, of Galax, Misses Gwyn-

dolen Greene and Ruby and Gelein Higgins and Rudolph Evans, Odell Greene and Rastus Bailey.

Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Larrie Cooper Sunday afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Combs, Misses Thelma and Melva Carico, Lizzie and Lillie Roberts and Ruby and Gelein Higgins, Hoyt Combs, Preston Cox, Lonnie Davis, Gayle Tompkins and Dillon Sidden.

Misses Esta and Edith Dancy spent Sunday with their grand mother, Mrs. G. W. Tucker.

Dean Higgins and Ernest Evans spent Sunday night at the home of D. C. Higgins.

Sleep at Twice the Price

Visitors to the house in the daytime made so much noise that the night nurse could not get sufficient rest to prepare her for her work.

One day she happened to mention this to the doctor, who wrote a large notice with the words: "Please remember the night nurse" and placed it in the hall table.

Next evening, when she came on duty, she found, beneath the notice, a shilling, a six-pence,

SALE OF REAL ESTATE FOR ASSETS

By virtue of a decree of the Superior Court in special proceedings entitled, "W. F. Doughton, Administrator C. T. A. of Emily Upchurch vs. S. F. Upchurch," I will offer for sale for assets on the premises on Saturday, July 6, 1935, at 11 o'clock A. M. all that certain tract of land lying on the waters of Pine Fork of Cranberry Creek, adjoining the lands of W. P. Bell, Everett Taylor, W. F. Doughton, F. O. Richardson, John Taylor, Silas Stamper and F. F. Mabe, known as the Emily Upchurch land, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay her debts and cost of administration.

Terms of sale: one-third cash on day of sale, balance in equal installments of six and twelve months. Purchaser required to give note and ample security for deferred payments.

This June 3, 1935.

W. F. DOUGHTON, Admr. C.T.A. of Emily Upchurch, deceased.

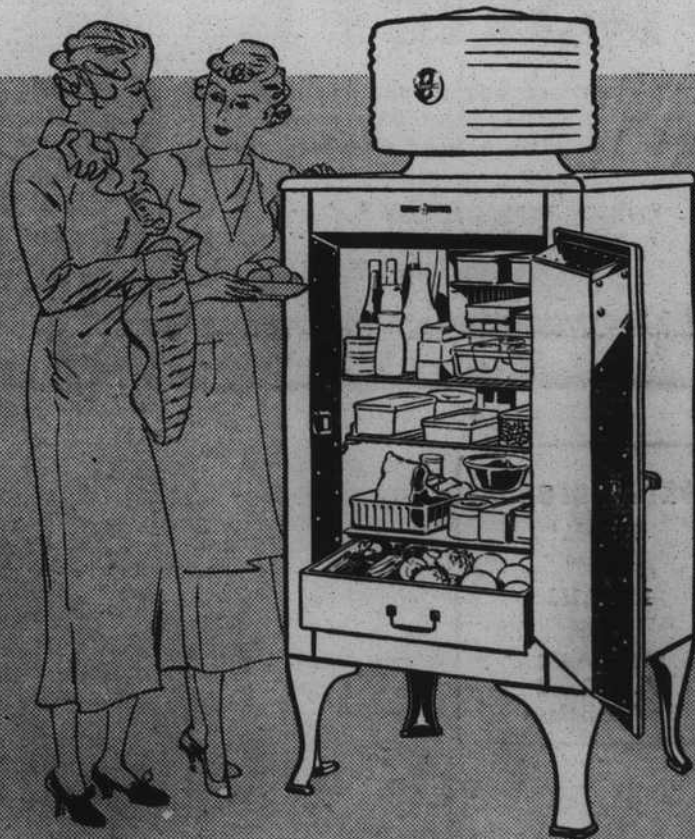
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