

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. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

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 which has been the beginning in trying to live within the budget...

I was at the funeral of all my hopes and I saw them all die. Not a word was said, not a tear was shed. What the mournful task was done...

Thus did Virginia's Rep. Woodrum scold and eulogize his fellow congressmen who had just administered the coup de grace to a great and idealistic crusade...



VIRGINIA'S WOODRUM He felt poetic.

priaion bill, house skinflints had slashed more than that from early budgetary requests. They had saved almost enough to avoid the \$450,000,000 new tax levy which Franklin Roosevelt wanted in order to avert a boost in the \$45,000,000,000 debt limit.

But senate spendthriftness now found its way to the house. Upped \$55,651,058 above the President's budget request were CCC and NYA funds, and it was this particular increase that made Virginia's Woodrum wax poetic. Next item would be relief, for which the President asked \$1,000,000,000, but everyone knew that this figure would be increased. Sole remaining bulwark of economy was the house appropriations committee, which was rumored about to slash \$60,000,000 from the navy bill.

Meanwhile it was a safe guess that congress would shun new taxes this session. Reasons: (1) It's an election year; (2) the debt limit won't be exceeded until next year, and a new congress will then be in session.

Also in congress: Flayed by customarily ardent New Dealers like Key Pittman, Joe O'Mahoney and Pat McCarran, a resolution for three-year extension of the administration's reciprocal trade act neared its showdown in the senate. Chief quibble: Whether the senate should retain ratification power. Franklin Roosevelt promised to veto the bill if the senate did. The perennial and controversial anti-lynching bill, already passed by the house, went to the senate floor after an okay by the judiciary committee.

Inserted in the Hatch anti-politics bill by a house committee was a clause forbidding expenditures of more than \$3,000,000 by any national political party in any campaign.

Hearings opened on the chain store tax bill, flaming torch and cause celebre of Texas' Rep. Wright Patman. First blow: Weaver Myers, legal staffman for the congressional committee on internal revenue, opined that the measure was "clearly unconstitutional." Rea-

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 \$5,584,000,000, a 6 per cent increase over February, 1939.

AGRICULTURE - Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace asked congress to make it easier for farmers to get credit. Reason: One-fourth of all farm mortgages are in arrears. Meanwhile the department viewed with alarm Britain's decision to decrease imports of American cotton. Probable upshot: A revival of export subsidies.

AVIATION - Army and navy spokesmen revealed 1,600 warplanes have been sent to French and British forces in the past 14 months; that production is being rushed on \$270 more.

CANADA - Voting in a raging blizzard, Canadians swept back into office the entire government of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King in the special election called to get a "mandate from the people" on war policy. King's entire liberal candidate was re-elected to parliament.

SWEDEN - Signs of a crisis: (1) Large shipments of Swedish gold are being received in the U. S., earmarked for future use; (2) at Stockholm, the government banned imports of 200 articles in a move to preserve foreign exchange; (3) tea and coffee went on ration basis.

son: It proposes a graduated tax, based on the number of stores. Myers 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 Count de Welles. 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.

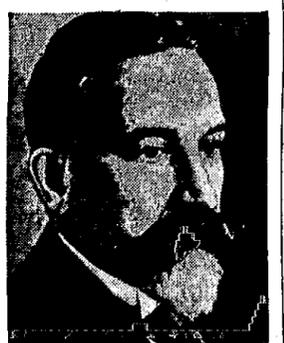
Had he wished, Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles might have pulled big news from his bulging portfolio. Instead he said: "I am mighty glad to see you, and I'm glad to be home."

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?

Chancelleries

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.

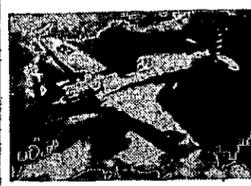
PAN-AMERICA: Strong Arm Stuff

At dawn 2,000 of Bolivia's 12,000 soldiers marched against the presidential palace at La Paz, resolved to assassinate the provisional president and seize the government. Out to meet them went Chief of Staff Gen. Antenor Ichazo with two machine guns and a handful of loyal officers. Into the enemy ranks went an army captain, recapturing tanks which the plotters had stolen. In a few minutes the war was ended.

Meanwhile, in nearby Brazil, President Getulio Vargas was struggling his dictatorial powers. Moving into industrial San Paulo, troops closed offices of the leading morning paper O Estado de Sao Paulo, arrested its editors, then took in tow nearly all the San Paulo deputies who used to sit in the national congress before Dictator Vargas created his "new state" two years ago. Left to dictate the affairs of bewildered San Paulos was a federal interverner by the name of Adhemar DeBarros.

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score on the following quiz. Deduct 20 points from each question you miss. Score 60 or more is acceptable to excellent.



- 1. Above is the cannon-armed 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 "Fanny" Steiglitz; (b) Bob Burns? 3. True or False: Reprimanded by the state department after delivering an anti-Germanspeech, 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 F. Barlow, demonstrated before congressmen, is made of (a) liquid oxygen and carbon; (b) T. N. T., dynamite and carbon; (c) glycerin and resawater.

News Quiz Answers

- 1. Permission was granted. 2. (A) "Fanny" Steiglitz was hospitalized after an auto accident; (B) Bob Burns and others were sued 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 1888 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."

Day before it struck at labor, the Sherman act floored a capitalist. A unanimous Supreme court ruling held that patent owners may not extend their legal monopoly to control their product after it reaches the dealers, and specifically may not impose price-fixing restrictions. Case on which the ruling was made was that of the Ethyl corporation, which has licensed 123 refiners to manufacture anti-knock gasoline with its patented tetraethyl lead fluid, and in turn has made the refiners license dealers who sell it to the consumer.

SPAIN: Peace's Birthday

Down the main thoroughfares of Madrid and a score of other cities marched Falangists, their black and red banners more prominently displayed than the nation's traditional gold and scarlet. Bands played the stirring war song, "Face to the Sun." Thus, four years after Falange went to war as a negligible political force, Nationalist Spain celebrated the first anniversary of its victorious peace.

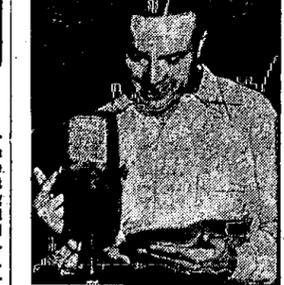


RAY MILLAND would like to keep a controlling hand on the scripts of all pictures in which he appears from now on. Truth came far too close to fiction to suit him a while ago, and he hasn't quite recovered yet.

He'd finished work in "Untamed" and gone to Sun Valley for a week's rest. Mrs. Milland stayed in Hollywood, as they were expecting the arrival of their first child some weeks later. Then he received word that he'd have to race the stork if he wanted to be in Hollywood when it appeared. He started for Boise, Idaho, in a car, also in a blizzard. At Boise he chartered the only plane available, and was grounded at Salt Lake City. He telephoned the hospital, in Hollywood, and learned that he had a son.

In "Untamed" he'd braved a blizzard to reach the bedside of a sick sweetheart. If it's all the same to the scenario writers, he'd rather have less harrowing experiences.

Hollywood's most famous mixed foursome—Paulette Goddard, Ruby Keeler, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope—will probably have difficulty in sticking to picture-making if they all



BOB HOPE

find themselves in the cast of "Follow Through." They played together in a charity match last autumn, and it was then that the idea of teaming them in a picture was suggested. They're all experts, and if they can resist staging a match that the script doesn't call for they'll be doing well.

Announcer Del Sharbutt intended to be a musician, but instead has become widely known as announcer for such programs as "Myrt and Marge," "Ask-it-Basket" and Lamy Ross. The musician in him has come out at last, though; he's written two songs of Hit Parade proportions within a few weeks—"The Kitten with the Big Green Eyes," and "I'd Love To."

Ginger Rogers, who has millions of fans now, had only one in 1939: he was John L. Cass, who recorded the sound of "Frimrose Path," in which she costars with Joel McCrea. About 10 years ago RCA made a two-reeler called "Campus Sweethearts," in New York, to try out a new wide-film process. Two movie unknowns, Ginger Rogers and Rudy Vallee, were featured.

The director didn't care for the song that Ginger had been rehearsing, but Cass insisted on recording it. "She had everything, including a swell mike voice," he says. "I knew she was star dust—and how!"

What to see what happens to winners of beauty contests? Claire James, who was runner-up in the Miss America contest last year, is playing a bit in Paramount's "The Ghost Breakers"; she appears in a restaurant scene, wearing a floor-length dinner dress.

Ben Bernie and his lads and lassies, including Dinah Shore and Lew Lehr, are moving. After 60 weeks of Sunday broadcasts they're setting up shop in a Wednesday evening half-hour, beginning April 10. Want to bet that for the first few weeks at least half of the troupe will fall to the studio on Sundays?

Cecil B. DeMille is back in character again. Now that he is directing "The Northward Mounted Police" and goes straight from the movie studio to the radio one where he does his Radio Theater broadcasts, he shows up in his "shooting" outfit—high boots, riding breeches, and headgear ranging from sombrero to pith helmet.

If you have a harpsichord that you don't want, get in touch with Alec Templeton. Collecting unusual musical instruments is his hobby, and he has no harpsichord and he wants one. There are only 10 of these ancient instruments in the United States, four of them owned by friends of Templeton's in Chicago. They urged him to try one not long ago, he played his favorite satire, "Bach Goes to Town"—and now his life won't be perfect until he is presented with a harpsichord of his own.

ODDS AND ENDS... Muriel Angelus (of Paramount's "The Way of All Flesh," has had to have several rooms in her house repapered for the second time in a year—her two Scotties sharpen their nails on the walls... Paulette Goddard declares that she keeps her figure by drinking warm, skimmed milk six glasses of it a day... Failing to get John Barrymore to play himself in "The Great Profile," Darryl Zanuck signed Adolphe Menjou for the chore; Menjou had tried his hand at being Barrymore in "Sing, Baby, Sing"... Selene Royle, radio's "Woman of Courage," is dramatic advisor to the Campfire Girls of America.

Uncle Sam Guards Canal Zone Against Sabotage by 'Enemy'



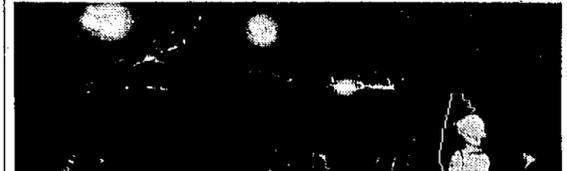
WAR in Europe has caused Uncle Sam to tighten the guard on his vital Panama canal. Even visitors (above) are now barred from much of the canal area. Twenty thousand troops are on duty there now. Sentry shown at the left shows how these soldiers must guard against malaria.



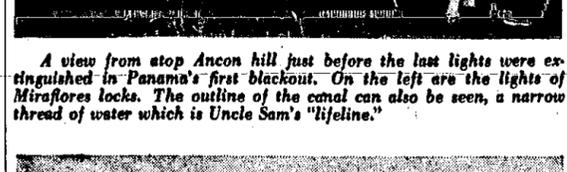
Guns shown at right are typical of the artillery weapons installed at Panama. Below, doughboys during maneuvers leap over a sea wall. Mags guns and large troop concentrations are capable of protecting the Canal Zone's secrets from enemy "invaders" and spies.



Merchant ships passing through the canal are guarded by army troops like the fellow above, on duty in the engine room. It is also reported that steel nets have been installed to protect the great locks from would-be saboteurs.



A view from atop Ancon hill just before the last lights were extinguished in Panama's first blackout. On the left are the lights of Miraflores locks. The outline of the canal can also be seen, a narrow thread of water which is Uncle Sam's "lifeline."



Light army bombing planes on guard. They'd harry enemy ships.



Garden Wall A garden without a wall is only half a garden. It need not be a brick wall or a stone or concrete wall, for a living wall of evergreens or some hedge shrub will serve admirably. But there should be something to shut out the world and form a background for flowers. If the garden is small, the wall can be kept low so as not to shade it too much, but even a low wall gives a feeling of privacy that is necessary for the real enjoyment of a garden.



By LEMUEL F. PARTON (Consolidated Features-WNU Service.)

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

NEW YORK.—When young "Red" Phillips played guard on the University of Oklahoma football team, in 1915, he was scolded down to a mere 250 pounds, but in spite of that managed to root through the line like a high-powered snowplow. Sometimes he wouldn't stop when the whistle blew and they had a hard time to keep him inside the state lines. Today, as Gov. Leon C. Phillips of Oklahoma, he weighs in at 200 and is even more abandoned in his rootin' tootin' guard play. He orders out the National Guard to repulse the invasion of the federals, trying to build a \$20,000,000 dam on the Grand river in his state.

This, one of his many scrimmages, is part of his waxing battle for state rights against what he considers the illegal encroachment of the federal government. He is an apostate New Dealer, having defeated the similarly belligerent "Alfalfa Bill" Murray on the issue of New Deal adherence in the 1938 Democratic primary.

Now he has switched teams. With a big cigar protruding from his lips at a cocky angle, biting it to shreds when he gets steamed up, he says the New Deal is a social service outfit, and social workers are "society sisters." Like the "Fiery and Snuffy" of the Oklahoma cowboy song, he's "fartin' to go and he sends word to the war department that he won't let any invader set foot on Oklahoma soil."

He started to be a preacher, but switched to the law. Born 50 years ago in Grant county, Missouri, along the covered wagon trail, he was taken to Oklahoma at the age of two and grew up in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian country. He attended Epworth university one year, studying, presumably militant, Christianity, and then entered the law school of the University of Oklahoma. His fame as "Red" Phillips, the bone-crushing, man-eating football player, gave him a fast running start in politics, and he soon landed in the state legislature. He made his campaign for the governorship on an economy platform, sweeping the state. The citizens still know him as "Red," and the "Yea Red!" yell of his college days, serves for his political campaigns.

WHEN I knew Death Valley, Scotty and his dog "Goldbug," around Goldfield, Rhyolite and Windy Gap, there was a story that All Scotty's Cash the dog had made a great is 'Loaned' to Him fuss over a By Chicago Man stranger at Casey's hotel, and a theory that this stranger must have been Scotty's mysterious backer.

The visitor, however, was just passing through and was never identified, and Scotty, even in moments of abandon in Tex Rickard's place, continued to insist that he had a "chimney," or "blow-out" of gold nuggets, samples of which he carried in his overalls pocket. It was not until years later that the man who financed the Death Valley Scotty saga, just for his own amusement it would seem, was A. M. Johnson, the head of a big insurance firm in Chicago.

As Scotty and his backer round out 40 years of a beautiful friendship, Scotty informs the federal tax collectors that he has \$100,000 in gold certificates buried somewhere in the Panamint mountains, and that the source of his mysterious wealth has unfailingly been Mr. Johnson. From the same source came the \$3,000,000 Spanish castle which Scotty built in the heart of Death valley several years ago, according to his previous admissions.

The unique partnership opened with a \$2,500 grubstake. He not only wrote a check, but followed Scotty to Death valley. The first mine didn't pan out, but Mr. Johnson was having fun. They fought bandits, got clubby with the Plute Indians and roamed around in old prospect holes. Thereafter came Scotty's famous train ride and the deepening mystery of his treasure cache. They kept their secret until about 1930. The pooch, "Goldbug," and Scotty's extraordinarily intelligent white mule both died of old age. But the original partnership still goes on.

Mr. Johnson, now 68 years old, is cut somewhat on the same lines as Henry Ford, but with an Achilles' Heel of Romance. He was born and grew up in a small town in Ohio, went to Cornell university, did a job of railroading in Arkansas and engaged in mining lead and zinc near Joplin, Mo. In Chicago he augmented an inherited fortune in the insurance business. He belongs to a string of good clubs in Chicago, is a sagacious and conservative citizen, and, from all accounts, has bankrolled Scotty just for the fun of it.

NOW that Huey Long is gone, the strongest voice in congress is that of Rep. John C. Schafer of Wisconsin, in the news parade today as he opposes the foreign sale of our latest types of airplanes. He is a militant contender in a congressional battle which is warming up daily—so far on the short end of the mounting argument. In 1923 he climbed down from an engine cab on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad to go to congress and has been there ever since. His great nerves are talk-bridges and C. I. O.