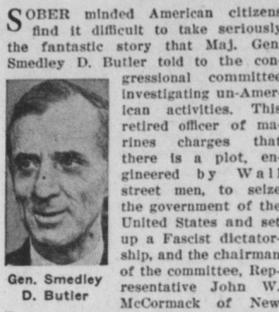


# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## General Butler's Fantastic Story of Fascist Plot to Seize the Government—Strike in the Great Steel Industry Becomes Imminent.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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Gen. Smedley D. Butler

SOBER minded American citizens find it difficult to take seriously the fantastic story that Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler told to the congressional committee investigating un-American activities. This retired officer of marines charges that there is a plot, engineered by Wall Street men, to seize the government of the United States and set up a Fascist dictatorship, and the chairman of the committee, Representative John W. McCormack of New York, considered the tale of enough importance to warrant the calling of witnesses to prove or disprove it. General Butler made his story public through the columns of the New York Evening Post, as the proceedings of the committee are conducted in private.

If Butler is to be believed, he was approached by Gerald P. MacGuire, bond salesman in the stock exchange firm of Grayson M. P. Murphy and Company, and urged to accept the leadership of a soldier organization of half a million men "which would assemble—probably a year from now—in Washington, and that within a few days it could take over the functions of the government."

MacGuire, according to the general, thought the overturn of the government might be accomplished peacefully and suggested that "we might even go along with Roosevelt and do with him what Mussolini did with the king of Italy."

Butler's story continued: "He told me he believed that at least half of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars would follow me."

"MacGuire explained to me that they had two other candidates for the position of 'Man on the White Horse.' He said that if I did not accept an offer would be made to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, chief of staff of the United States army, and that the third choice would be Hanford MacNider, former commander of the American Legion.

"So far as I know, neither General MacArthur nor MacNider has been approached. Their names were merely mentioned as 'alternates.'"

The general said he was offered considerable sums "for expenses" which he did not accept. He said MacGuire intimated that among the backers of the plan were Mr. Murphy and Col. Robert S. Clark, a wealthy New Yorker with offices in the Stock Exchange building; and he added that later Colonel Clark offered him money to go to the American Legion convention in Chicago last year and make a speech for retention of the gold standard, which speech MacGuire had previously given Butler.

Clark, at present in France, admitted he had asked Butler "to use his influence in favor of sound money and against inflation," but strongly denied that he had sponsored a Fascist movement. He declared he would take action for libel against any person accusing him in such a connection.

Murphy and other Wall Street men said the story was absolutely false and unutterably ridiculous, and MacGuire, after being heard by the McCormack committee, said: "It's a joke—a publicity stunt. I know nothing about it. The matter is made out of whole cloth. I deny the story completely."

SO FAR as the great steel industry is concerned, it appears that the industrial truce asked by President Roosevelt cannot be arranged, and the prospect of a strike of the steel workers is growing.

In behalf of the United States Steel corporation, a proposal was made to the American Federation of Labor that recognition of that organization would be granted, but that no contract would be made. This proposal, it was said, would be agreed to by 85 per cent of the steel industry.

The labor spokesmen, led by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., rejected the tender on the ground that it was hedged about in such a way to permit collective bargaining with minority groups or company unions, and that the employers were still unwilling to accept the principle of majority rule as set forth in the national labor relations board's decision in the Houde case.

If a rupture comes the Federation of Labor may find the federal government rather unsympathetic. Mr. Green's influence in the White House has been waning noticeably and he has had no personal contacts with the President for some time.

New Yorkers with offices in skyscrapers were gladdened by the news that a threatened strike of elevator operators had been averted and an agreement, drafted by Mayor La Guardia's board of arbitration, had been signed by representatives of the real estate interests and the union. The union withdrew its demand for a closed shop; and standards of wages and hours in various types of buildings

will be worked out by a committee of three arbiters, with the union recognized as the bargaining agent for the employees.

BY ORDER of the national labor relations board there will be held soon a great workers' election which will determine whether organized labor shall dominate the country's rubber industry.

The board decreed that the Firestone Tire and Rubber company and the B. F. Goodrich company of Akron, Ohio, must allow their employees to ballot on the question of whether they want a company union or an American Federation of Labor union to represent them in collective bargaining under the NRA.

Twenty-one thousand workers, the largest number ever polled by the labor board on an NRA question, will participate in the election. In addition another 15,000 workers of the Good-year Rubber company may ballot on the same question. The Goodyear angle of the case has not yet been passed upon by the board.

Both the Firestone and Goodrich companies have opposed the elections now ordered, maintaining that conditions in their plants are satisfactory and that electioneering in rival unions would only disturb the peace among the workers.

DONALD R. RICHBURG, executive director of the national emergency council and now perhaps the President's chief adviser, addressing the Associated Grocers of America at their convention in New York, proposed the creation of a new federal body, combining functions of the NRA and the federal trade commission, to define and regulate concerted trade action in the "twilight zone" under antitrust laws.

Discussing the program for permanent NRA legislation, he reiterated his opposition to control of prices and production. He said the fixing of minimum wages and maximum hours had demonstrated its soundness for eliminating the worst forms of unfair competition in treatment of employees, and that admittedly dishonest business practices should be proscribed.

PHILADELPHIA lawyers are traditionally supposed to be able to unravel the worst of tangles, so President Roosevelt has picked one to be chairman of the national labor relations board. He is Francis Biddle, of the famous family of that name, and he succeeds Lloyd K. Garrison, who retired from the chairmanship to resume his duties as dean of the law school of the University of Wisconsin.

Francis Biddle has been engaged in law practice as a member of the Philadelphia firm of Barnes, Biddle, and Meyers. He served from 1922 to 1926 as assistant district attorney for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. In his new post his task will be the settlement of labor disputes arising out of the recovery act, especially those involving collective bargaining.

FRANCE is worried by the admitted fact that Germany has developed a military air fleet of considerable size, composed of modern pursuit and bombing planes, and Gen. Victor Denain, French minister of air, estimates that by January the reich will have from 1,000 to 1,100 of these machines, swifter and better than those possessed by France. Consequently he has asked the chamber of deputies for about \$230,000,000 to finance a program for recovering the ground lost by French aviation. The task is already under way, \$32,500,000 having been spent out of an appropriation for modernization.

HUGH R. WILSON, American ambassador to Switzerland, laid before the disarmament conference in Geneva a proposal by the United States for international control of arms traffic and full publicity to prevent secret arming of nations. The proposal was well received by most of the delegates, and it will be studied by committees in January.

By the American plan each government would license its manufacturers of munitions for five year periods. No reserve stocks would be allowed and manufacturers would be required to present bona fide orders before receiving a license. Details of war vessels built for other nations would have to be reported. Reports of licenses and orders would be turned over to a central committee at Geneva and made a matter of public record. A permanent commission, including a member from each signatory nation, would be empowered to investigate transactions.

NOTABLES of the Catholic church gathered in Chicago from all parts of the world to take part in the silver jubilee of Cardinal Mundelein, who was consecrated a bishop 25 years ago. The pope sent his personal greetings and his blessing.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is reveling in baths and rest at Warm Springs, Ga., but he is not neglecting the nation's business, keeping in close touch with Washington and receiving many official visitors. At his first press conference there he announced with glad smiles that he would again "lend his birthday," January 30, to the national committee that arranges birthday balls all over the country for the benefit of infantile paralysis sufferers.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL J. R. MC CARL has thrown a monkey-wrench into part of the machinery of Relief Administrator Harry L. Hopkins. Turning down a check from Hopkins to the officials of the District of Columbia which was to have started work on a housing development, Mr. McCarl held that the federal emergency relief act, providing for the granting of funds for various relief purposes, could not apply to the acquisition of real estate and the construction of homes. This type of activity, he said, would be of a permanent and not an emergency nature, and the act was adopted to meet emergencies.

The FERA already has under way a program of "rehabilitating" 80,000 farm families in homes and on land to be sold to them by the government.

MORE and more it becomes evident that President Roosevelt intends to pursue a middle of the road policy in his efforts for national recovery, and that in the overwhelmingly Democratic next congress there will be no one faction strong enough to dictate to him. The Chief Executive and the business leaders of the country are gradually coming together, and if and when they reach an accord on methods it will be found that a good many of the more radical ideas of the brain trusters will have been discarded. The best minds in industry and finance are no longer standing back and merely criticizing. They are taking an active part in planning for the future welfare of the nation. Hereafter are summarized some of the important new developments in this direction:

President Henry I. Harriman of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the board of directors, has appointed a committee of six men, headed by Silas Strawn of Chicago, to co-operate with other business and agricultural associations in drafting plans for the recovery of business. The board of the chamber endorsed the continuation of relief and housing, but signified that business is still opposed to the unbalanced budget, further reduction of working hours as embodied in the movement for a 30-hour week, new and unprecedented outlays for public works, continuance of the NRA, the doctrine of majority rule in collective bargaining, and unemployment insurance.

Through the National Association of Manufacturers, invitations were sent to every manufacturer in the United States to attend a national industrial conference in New York on December 5 to draft "constructive recommendations" for presentation to President Roosevelt.

In a petition addressed to the President and congress the National Economy league has presented a definite program for balancing the federal budget in the coming fiscal year, holding that only by balancing the budget can sustained national recovery be accomplished. The petition proposes heavy reductions in government expenditures and additional taxes totaling \$935,000,000.

NOT so pleasing to the industrialists were the two speeches the President delivered during his inspection of the Tennessee valley project, for if his predictions are borne out, his "revolution" will bring about the death of private enterprise in the power industry. At Tupelo, Miss., he declared himself flatly for public ownership of public utilities, saying: "What you are doing here is going to be copied in every state in the Union before we are through"; the allusion being to the fact that Tupelo has contracted for TVA power.

In Birmingham the President said: "I am aware that a few of your citizens are leaving no stone unturned to block and harass and delay this great national program. I am confident, however, that these obstructionists, few in number in comparison with the whole population, do not reflect the views of the overwhelming majority."

"I know, too, that the overwhelming majority of your business men, big and little, are in hearty accord with the great undertaking of regional planning now being carried forward."

FORTY-FIVE new bills were pushed through the Louisiana legislature in five days with Senator Huey Long on the rostrum telling the legislators just what to do, but seldom stopping to tell them why. The "Kingfish" says he now is in position to make the state a Utopia, or rather, in his own words, "the kind of state nobody has dreamed of." It is the general belief that he hopes his "share the wealth" program will ultimately land him in the White House.

The senator's most ambitious legislation is the statute proclaiming a two-year moratorium for harassed debtors. Another bill sets up a civil service commission, composed of state administration leaders, with power to remove police and fire chiefs. That will give Long control of virtually all municipal policemen and firemen. Long said the bill was intended to take them "out of politics."

Washington.—Administration plans and policies appear to be undergoing a shaking down process. Safely passing the elections and with no need to make moves solely to please particular segments of voters the President appears to have started getting rid of duplication in the various alphabetical agencies of the government. Further, many conservatives are taking some hope out of other administrative actions lately and are willing to believe that the shake-up among the many emergency groups along with White House pronouncements may possibly indicate a slight return toward what they regard as sounder fundamentals.

In a move held by many observers to indicate an attempt by the President to eliminate some waste the President has brought under one supervisory control all of the agencies lending government money. It may be surprising to know that there are ten important federal offices engaged in loaning money. They have been operating largely on their own programs. No attempt has been made heretofore to co-ordinate their efforts. The result has been conflicting policies and undoubtedly waste in results.

The President now proposes that this shall end. He has named the committee for the defined purpose of establishing uniform policy respecting government loans and has declared with emphasis that the duplication must be eliminated.

Some leaders in and out of the government construed this action as indicating a conviction by the President that there were too many agencies floating around doing odd jobs without restraint. Others believed that Mr. Roosevelt was making an honest effort to bring some semblance of order out of chaos in the hope that eventually expenses can be reduced thereby.

In support of this view was the action taken by the Home Owners' Loan corporation which has cut off further loaning on homes. In announcing its action the home loan board said it believed government aid in this direction was no longer necessary, thus inferentially at least saying that some recovery had taken place.

The home loan agency is among those placed under cabinet committee control. It will begin immediately to shrink its organization, turning loose eventually a total of 28,000 workers.

The Reconstruction Finance corporation, another one of the groups which will be guided by cabinet committee policy hereafter, has announced it will not seek additional funds from the forthcoming session of congress. Borrowers who have been using that agency will be accommodated further, of course, in accordance with the terms of their obligations but the whole tendency will be to cut down on new loans.

And so it is for the first time in the current administration we are witnessing a shrinkage, rather than an expansion, in governmental facilities set up as a part of the recovery program of the New Dealers.

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart

## Shake-Up in Policies

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Along with the establishment of the loan policy committee, there came an order from the treasury, bearing Mr. Roosevelt's approval, which once again allows unrestricted exports of currency, but not gold or silver metal. Heretofore it has been necessary for private business to obtain a specific license from the treasury before it could ship currency abroad in settlement of obligations. This move is expected to have far-reaching consequences because it lifts from business one of those annoying red tape procedures to which business always objects and a kind of transaction that has never crept into private business in any way.

Gold and silver, both having been nationalized under the New Deal, must stay in this country. Gold must stay in the coffers of the treasury. Nevertheless, from many sources I hear favorable comment on the relaxation of the restrictions on movement of currency because it is generally believed the action will have a psychological benefit. Many persons will feel that if the government at Washington is willing to permit shipment of currency abroad, there is no reason to fear embarrassing situations as a matter of dealing in currency. Of course, obviously, the confidence hitherto reposing in our dollar by foreigners cannot be fully restored as long as gold cannot be shipped but the present change admittedly improves the situation. It should be explained that the treasury still keeps its fingers on the currency movement and that it has the authority to slap on an embargo again whenever it sees fit. This appears to be unlikely, however, as long as international trade retains anything like its present stability. Indeed, experts declare that greater stability in international trade ought to be one of the results and the treasury is obviously looking for that end to be served.

In some quarters the lifting of the ban on currency exports was accepted as meaning that Mr. Roosevelt is not entertaining any thought of further devaluation of the currency. He may have to give consideration to that proposition after congress comes back

because there are half a hundred senators and representatives who are avidly pursuing the inflation phantom. They think this will solve the country's economic problems and they can be counted on to bear down with their ideas when the forum of congress again is opened to them.

Whatever these men may do, it is pointed out now, Mr. Roosevelt would be only complicating his own problems by allowing free interchange of currency at this time if he had any thought in mind of changing the dollar value in the not too distant future.

With the time only a month away for selection by the Democrats of their candidate for speaker of the house—selection that means election—the speakership fight is attracting much attention. Heat is being shown and enemies are being created in every direction. There are at least a dozen members of the house who figure or hope that the Democratic caucus to be held late in December will pick their name for one of the honor posts, speaker, majority floor leader or chairman of the rules committee. At the moment one can deal only with possibilities for the stage of probabilities is yet in the distance.

## Speakership Fight

Although, as I said, the fight is wide open there are certain straws that tend to show the way the wind is blowing. There are certain backgrounds and conditions as well that must be accepted as having a meaning.

For example, Representative Byrnes of Tennessee, the Democratic leader while the late Mr. Rainey was speaker, normally would be expected to be chosen as speaker. But Mr. Byrnes is not sure. In fact, there are many observers who declare that the odds are against him. For instance, he was not invited aboard the President's special train to make the recent trip to Harrodsburg, Ky.

There is a row brewing between the North and the South. Northern Democrats resent what they regard as southern domination of the house. Consequently, some of the harmonizers are attempting to effect a deal whereby the speakership will go to the South and the post of majority leader be filled by a northern Democrat.

In this combination the names of Representatives Rayburn of Texas and McCormack of Massachusetts, figure most prominently. However, this arrangement has vulnerable spots because there are many other southern Democrats who feel they are entitled to consideration, and they may not be satisfied with such a combination.

On top of all this is a statement from White House quarters that the President will remain aloof. Mr. Roosevelt considers the speakership fight solely a house matter, but it must be added that the President's pronouncement has not deterred some of his satellites. A dozen or more New Dealers are active and some say that they have agreed on Mr. Rayburn and Mr. McCormack. If that be true Mr. Roosevelt is in a tough spot unless he wants to declare openly that he does not favor Mr. Rayburn and Mr. McCormack. In which event he is expected to antagonize their supporters.

The responsibility which the administration carries in having such complete control of governmental machinery has its thorny cushion despite the ability to muster a two-thirds majority in both the house and the senate. One of the sharpest of the thorns apparently is Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, Progressive Republican. Mr. Borah always has played a lone hand in the senate and he apparently is going to do so again.

The first harpoon which the Idaho senator has thrown was directed at the relief policies pressed through and administered by professional relievers. Mr. Borah says there is an enormous amount of waste in connection with the relief activities. He says there are thousands of superfluous jobs being maintained out of relief funds under the guise of distributing the money. He has called attention as well to the lack of co-ordination and the apparent inability of the relief funds to arrive at uniform bases for ministering to the destitute. Having begun the fight well in advance of the opening of congress Mr. Borah can be expected to give it momentum from time to time so that when it reaches the floors of congress it can be counted on to be more than a puff ball.

Of course, the administration has fought to ward off just such attacks as Mr. Borah has inaugurated, by announcement of employment plans and transfer of unemployed from relief rolls to work rolls. I reported to you several weeks ago that Mr. Roosevelt favored elimination of the dole and the creation of work for which the present unemployed would be paid. Yet it is being pointed out in many quarters here that pursuit of such a plan as the President has in mind requires an immense amount of study. Otherwise it is liable to flop and if it goes off half-cocked, undoubtedly the criticism will be more vigorous.

## Borah Criticizes

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## New Hybrid Wheat Sets Good Record

### Tenmarq, Fair Example of American Type Produced by Hybridization.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Tenmarq, the new high-yielding, excellent quality, hard red winter wheat which made a good showing this year in spite of the drought, is a good example of an American variety produced by hybridization from wheats of other countries. Tenmarq, produced and tested by the Kansas agricultural experiment station and the United States Department of Agriculture, derives its name from the pedigree number of the male parent, Ten-sixty-six and the female parent, Marquis.

Ten-sixty-six is a selection of hard winter wheat made in 1906 from a bulk lot of Crimean wheat introduced from Russia. Marquis is the result of a cross made in Canada in 1892 between an early ripening spring wheat from Calcutta, India, and Red Fife, a high quality, hard red spring wheat introduced into Canada in 1842 from Danzig, Prussia.

Tenmarq also is an excellent example of the procedure followed by the bureau of plant industry in producing and testing new varieties. The first cross of Marquis and Ten-sixty-six was made in 1918. Several hundred selections of this cross were tested in the plant breeding nursery at Manhattan, Kan., until 1924, when the selection now known as Tenmarq was advanced to field plot tests on the agronomy farm. As it continued to show the good qualities sought, it was tested at experiment stations in western Kansas, and at stations in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and Nebraska.

Tenmarq appeals to the grain trade, millers, and bakers, because it has inherited many of the milling characters and "baking strength" of Marquis. Its spring wheat parent, Marquis is considered in the flour markets of the world as a high standard for new varieties.

Tenmarq is superior to Turkey, Kharkof, Kanred, and Blackhall, old varieties of hard red winter wheat in yield, stiffness of straw, earliness, and quality. The characters of primary interest to farmers.

It was grown in quantities this year by 60 Kansas farmers and lived up to advance expectations, although the yield was affected by the drought. Tenmarq is not so winter hardy as Kanred and Turkey and is not recommended for northern Kansas or states to the north.

## There Are Various Ways of Destroying Stumps

If time is an object stumps can be removed quickly by use of dynamite or a stump puller, but either method entails considerable work and expense, says Pathfinder Magazine. If the process can be stretched out over several weeks they can be removed with little expense or effort. Fire is the agent used but several weeks of treatment are necessary before the entire stump is made inflammable. The treatment consists of boring several vertical holes into the top of the stump, filling them with saltpeter, and then adding hot water. The chemical will gradually be carried to all parts of the stump and as the holes empty they should be refilled. After about four weeks during which time the holes have been refilled about three times, the stump is ready to burn. Due to the saltpeter the fire will even follow the deep roots and consume them.

## World Wheat Supplies

Production of wheat in the northern hemisphere, not including Russia and China, is expected to be about 325,000,000 bushels less than last year, and the crop of the southern hemisphere about 105,000,000 bushels less, according to the government survey, says Wallace's Farmer. The world carryover appears to be about the same as last year. The United States carryover is estimated at 290,000,000 bushels, which, together with the estimated production of 491,000,000 bushels, indicates a domestic supply of 781,000,000 bushels. With a normal domestic utilization of about 625,000,000 bushels, this would leave a carryover next July of about 156,000,000 bushels if there are no net imports or exports.

## Plan Crop Locations

Considerable thought is going to be needed to plan 1935 crop rotations so as to avoid damage from chinch bugs. It is not so easy to plan for the elimination or reduction of acreages of the grass crops such as wheat, oats and rye. Care can be taken, however, in planning field arrangements so that these crops are more or less isolated from the cornfields. If the wheat fields are separated from corn by fields of clover, soy beans, potatoes, or other crops such as sugar beets the bugs are not likely to migrate through them to the corn.—Prairie Farmer.

## Clover in Ontario

In the clover plots at the Ontario Agricultural college there are 236 strains of early red clover, perennial red clover, sweet clover, white clover and alsike, says the Montreal Herald. Nearly 25,000 plants in all are being studied, these including strains and indigenous hardy types from Russia, other northern European countries, America, and from old pastures in Ontario, the objective being thorough selection and cross-hybridization to combine the best characters.