

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Robinson Says President Plans No New Taxes—Franco-German Agreement Concerning the Saar Reported—Vinson's Warning to Japan.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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JOE ROBINSON of Arkansas, senate floor leader, spent four hours in conference with President Roosevelt at Warm Springs, and emerged with the welcome assurance that the New Deal program to be presented to congress in January does not contemplate the imposition of new taxes or the substantial increase of existing taxes.



Senator Robinson

He added that he believed expenditures for normal government purposes would be kept well within the national income. Of course, this does not mean a balanced budget, for this cannot be had while enormous sums are being spent for relief and re-employment, but the senator would not admit that the cost of these would go above the ten-billion-dollar mark.

"Unemployment relief is to be preferred to the dole," he said. "A reasonably conservative program should be adopted with a view to tapering off the deficit."

Senator Robinson said that the bonus was discussed at some length but no conclusion was reached. Intimates of the White House have expressed the fear that a bonus program calling for expenditure of more than two billion dollars may be passed over a veto.

Senator Harrison of Mississippi, chairman of the senate finance committee, who was also present at the conference, left for Washington to begin a study of unemployment insurance. Next day the President's chief caller was Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper, and he told Mr. Roosevelt that business would move rapidly on the road to recovery if only it were assured of a safe and sane federal program of expenditures. To correspondents Mr. Roper said he was greatly cheered by Senator Robinson's statement. He felt that the left wing demand for vast sums of money for relief of the unemployed must be checked and that there must be a further shifting of relief control to communities.

TROUBLE over the Saar plebiscite may be averted after all the alarm, for it is reported unofficially that Chancellor Hitler of Germany and Foreign Minister Pierre Laval of France have reached an accord providing that Germany will pay for French mining properties in the Saar if France abandons the effort to keep the region under the jurisdiction of the League of Nations.

Substance was given this report when Reichsfuehrer Hitler instructed all the Nazi propaganda forces in the Saar to cease their activities. He ordered that disturbances must be avoided and that the Nazis must rely largely on the press to keep the swastika flying in the disputed territory after the plebiscite. This would seem to insure an impartial vote on January 13.

JAPAN, having given unofficial notice that she will withdraw from the Washington naval treaty, still seems to have hope that the United States and Great Britain will agree to give her naval parity. But just in case, she has now invited France and Italy to join her in denouncing the pact. Those nations may consent, but the two great Anglo-Saxon nations are as one in demanding that the 5-5-3 ratio be maintained.

Representative Carl Vinson of Georgia, who is chairman of the house committee on naval affairs, has made plain the policy he will insist upon. "I sincerely hope it will not be necessary to scrap the treaty," he said, "but it seems now we cannot hope very strongly for anything else. We cannot grant naval equality to Japan at any price. If the Tokyo government does insist upon wrecking the treaty I will insist that the house naval affairs committee and congress make enough money available to build five ships for each three laid down by Japan."

Japan, he said, had once agreed to be satisfied with three warships for each five built by the United States or Great Britain. "Officially and formally it said that was all it needed," Vinson said, "yet now it wants more."

AGAIN it may be said that if or when another European war breaks out, it will start among the southern nations. The blaze lighted by the assassinations of King Alexander and Louis Barthelemy in Marselles is still smoldering. Yugoslavia's delegates in the League of Nations formally charged Hungary with complicity in the murder of the king, asserting she had harbored Balkan terrorists. Hungary demanded immediate action by the league's council on this accusation, declaring "the peace of the world" might be affected. The Hungarian note asked that the matter be placed on the agenda of the council's session

called to meet on December 3 to discuss the forthcoming plebiscite in the Saar, so that Hungary might "defend its honor against proceedings which have no other purpose than to compromise the good name of the whole Hungarian nation."

The document then pointed out that the council, under Article IV of the covenant of the league, may deal with any question affecting the peace of the world.

It is, therefore, the duty of the council to face this question as soon as possible, it asserted, "and thus guard against the grave dangers which might arise from the situation that Hungary is still bound to bring to the attention of the council."

The Yugoslavian charges were supported by the other two states of the little entente, Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

Italy, which has stood by Hungary, was expected to refuse to grant extradition to France of Dr. Ante Pavelich, alleged leader of the gang that planned and carried out the assassination of King Alexander. The court of appeals at Turin denied the application of France, and it was believed the minister of justice would confirm this ruling.

LEON ARCHIMBAUD, French reporter of the budget, declared before the chamber of deputies that it was undeniable that an understanding exists between France and Russia, and that the Soviet government had offered armed aid to France in case of a conflict with Germany.

This caused great excitement and the French office contented itself with a denial that there was any military accord. The Russian offer was generally believed to have been made by Maxim Litvinov, Russian foreign commissar, last spring to the late Louis Barthelemy and again to his successor, Pierre Laval. Col. Jean Fabry, former French minister of war, gave support to Archimbaud's statement by asserting that France's knowledge of German rearmament, the details of German troops and information concerning the secret manufacture of arms and airplanes in the reich was supplied by Russia. The two men were arguing for a large war budget, and Archimbaud pictured Russia's huge military machine working with France as the only means of preserving peace in Europe.

DISPATCHES from Germany tell of Nazi unrest in the reich, and though the government calls them "malicious lies," it is a fact that the army and police forces are being held under emergency orders. A long smoldering feud between the reichswehr (regular army) and the schutzstaffel (black shirt picked Nazi guards) was believed responsible for the orders, which involved suspension of Christmas furloughs for soldiers and military police.

Drilling of Nazi storm troops has increased, reports said, while all marriages of army men and police set for the Christmas holidays, popular wedding period for Germany's military men, have been postponed.

Baron Werner von Fritsch, chief of the reichswehr, in a memorandum to Hitler, said plainly in discussing Nazi suppressive methods that, unless a more liberal spirit prevailed, the government would face opposition from all sides in case of war. He told Hitler something must be done about the bad blood between the schutzstaffel and the reichswehr.

BOLIVIA'S troops in the Chaco were being soundly whipped by the Paraguayans and President Daniel Salamanca was blamed. He visited the war front and was arrested by Gen. Enrique Penaranda and forced to resign. Meantime Vice President Jose Sorzano had taken over the presidential powers by decree and installed a new cabinet.

Penaranda appeared to be the virtual dictator and it seemed likely he would take steps to bring about peace with Paraguay.

GEN. LAZARO CARDENAS, who though only thirty-nine years old is a veteran of the Mexican revolution, was installed as president of Mexico on November 30. He is of Spanish and Tarascan Indian stock, a fine soldier and statesman and has held office under the revolutionary government for five years.

IN A trial lasting only a few minutes, Lord Ashley won a divorce from his wife, the former Sylvia Hawke, actress, and the costs, estimated at \$10,000, were ordered paid by Douglas Fairbanks, who was named as co-respondent. Neither Lady Ashley nor the American film star made any defense, and there were but two witnesses, Lord Ashley and George Edwards, Fairbanks' secretary. A decree nisi was granted by Justice Sir Boyd Merriman, and it may be made final in six months.

INSPECTOR SAMUEL P. COWLEY and Agent Herman E. Hollis of the bureau of investigation, Department of Justice, engaged in a gun battle with Lester Gillis, better known as George ("Baby Face") Nelson, Public Enemy No. 1, and a companion, near Barrington, Ill., and both the federal men were shot to death by machine guns in the hands of the bandits. The killers, accompanied by a woman, escaped for the time being in the agents' car, their own being disabled.

Next day Nelson's body was found miles away, in Niles Center, at the entrance to a cemetery. He had died of nine bullet wounds from the guns of the federal agents he killed and evidently his body had been left at the roadside after his companions had failed to save his life. In the same region were found Nelson's clothing and the car the bandits had fled in after the battle.

Cowley was the man who killed John Dillinger, chief of the gang to which Nelson belonged, and he also was in command of the posse that ran down and killed "Pretty Boy" Floyd in an Indiana cornfield not long ago.

THANKSGIVING day in America was wedding day in London for the duke of Kent, fourth son of the king and queen of England, and Princess Marina of Greece. The metropolis swarmed with royalty and nobility from many lands, and vast throngs of ordinary persons watched the parade to Westminster Abbey, where the marriage ceremony was performed. The ancient church was filled with the fortunate ones who had been invited and the scene was glittering. The only Americans present were United States Ambassador and Mrs. Robert W. Bingham.

The ceremony in the abbey was celebrated at 11 o'clock in the morning, and it was followed immediately by another, the Greek Orthodox. The latter took place in the private chapel of Buckingham palace and was celebrated by Archbishop Germanos, archbishop of the Greek church in London. Only a select company of royal witnesses was present.

REPORTS of various business groups indicate that "luxury spending" is becoming more noticeable and is aiding industry considerably. This includes everything from the baby's doll to the palatial yacht—and some place in between is fine furs—and all trade organizations report an increase. Reports to Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper by business leaders indicated that sales in some gift lines this year would be 40 per cent greater than a year ago.

Charity is not forgotten in this revival of spending. Community chests and councils reported that contributions to community chest drives this year already are within 10 per cent of the 1929 total, and national income has dropped about 50 per cent in that time.

TAKE it from the Department of Agriculture that American farmers have these reasons to be thankful this year:

Cash farm income from sales of crops and live stock, AAA benefit payments, and emergency drought sales of cattle to the government totaled \$736,000,000 in October, compared with \$659,000,000 in September and \$620,000,000 in October, 1933.

Total farm cash income for ten months this year was \$5,045,000,000 compared to \$4,060,000,000 for the corresponding period last year, of which \$4,614,000,000 was derived from marketings and \$433,000,000 from benefit payments and emergency cattle sales, compared to \$3,967,000,000 and \$132,000,000, respectively, in 1933.

SAMUEL INSULL and his sixteen co-defendants in the great mail fraud trial in Chicago were acquitted by the jury, despite the long work of the government officials in preparing and presenting the case at an estimated cost of \$100,000. The verdict was reached on the third ballot, and the attorneys for the prosecution could say only that they had done their best. It was apparent that the jurors were not convinced Insull had an intent to defraud. There are other charges standing against Insull, but whether or not there will be further prosecution is undecided.

There were rumors that the former magnate, if cleared of all charges, planned to re-enter La Salle street and the utilities field.

THERE is bound to be another hot fight in the senate over the revamped St. Lawrence waterway treaty, but it looks now as if President Roosevelt were justified in his expectation that the treaty will be ratified. Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, leader of the opposition that defeated the pact in the last session, said in Washington that he had heard rumors that some major provisions involved in the controversy had been eliminated in a new treaty with Canada that is being negotiated. The omitted provisions, he understood, have to do with the American share of the cost of the seaway and limitations on the diversion of water from Lake Michigan for the Chicago drainage canal. He added rumor also had it that the new pact would acknowledge complete American sovereignty over Lake Michigan.

The St. Lawrence treaty was one of the live topics discussed in the annual convention of the Mississippi Valley association in St. Louis.

The association voted to continue its opposition to the treaty unless its objectionable features are removed.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington—Henry A. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, is girding his armor to fight off a drive to revise the agricultural adjustment act. Mr. Wallace will fight

Wallace Will Fight

Wallace sees many sinister moves now being made in that direction and he is preparing to meet his adversaries in the congressional battle that now appears certain to come.

The secretary freely admits now that there may be some changes necessary in the adjustment act, but his position will be boldly against too much whitening when agricultural legislation is before congress in January. The conviction is held by him that the agricultural situation has been improved by the New Deal program, and he is avowedly favorable to its retention in a general way, although in a recent speech Mr. Wallace told the national grange that probably it would be necessary to re-examine the basis of the program that has been operating now more than a year.

"Exactly what form the drives on the adjustment act and administration may take this coming winter," said Mr. Wallace in an interview the other day, "no one of us can say, but from present indications I would anticipate the most potent drive to be directed at restrictions on agricultural production. So I envision a conflict, a choice between two paths, one leading to unrestricted agricultural production at the earliest possible moment, the other leading to continuance and perfection of the present control methods. Either path may very well require certain changes in the Agricultural Adjustment act. Before I discuss unrestricted production in detail, I would like to say parenthetically that I am for it, provided there is a sufficient excess of imports over exports to service the debts owed us by foreign nations, and in addition to pay a fair price for our exportable surplus; and provided, furthermore, that shipment of these excess products abroad does not impoverish our soil beyond repair."

While Mr. Wallace is saying that the drive is on the adjustment act, observers are finding considerable objection among farmers to control from Washington. I think it is an undoubted fact that the American farmers are rock-ribbed individualists and, that being true, they naturally resent having bureaucrats sitting in Washington offices tell them what to do and how to do it. Because the farm industry was so flat on its back when the adjustment act was passed, the bulk of the farmers were willing to accept anything that promised a measure of relief, according to the considered judgment of students who have watched the whole picture. They have found now, however, that unhappy consequences have resulted, and I am told by many members of congress that they are uncertain whether there is a majority of farmers in this country now favorable to the New Deal farm program.

It seems reasonably certain, therefore, that the discussion of farm legislation in the new congress will develop before, namely, the voice of the consumer. There is also likely to be violent expressions from the corn and hog producers because of the processing taxes on hogs. A goodly number of farm leaders believe, after surveys among actual farmers, that the processing taxes on hogs have been taken out of the farmer's hide and not the hog.

I told you some weeks ago that there was every prospect of a proposal to repeal the Bankhead cotton law. That movement has gained in momentum beyond belief. The Department of Agriculture, under Mr. Wallace's direction, is taking a census, a vote, on the question whether this law should be continued. The result is that congress will find that question on its door-step also, and don't forget that opponents of the Bankhead law are real fighters. Those who claim to have suffered damages under it believe that one dose is enough, and if they do not gain their point one way, they will accomplish their desires in another, much to the chagrin of Senator Bankhead, of Alabama, who made so many long speeches in its behalf.

Mr. Wallace stated that he expects the main drive against present agricultural laws to be in favor of removal of all restrictions on production. He thinks that is a ridiculous course to follow. He proposes to give present schemes of control time for trial in order to perfect them. In this he has the whole-hearted support of the New Deal professors who clutter up Department of Agriculture offices in numbers greater than in any other government department. The professors have their contacts at the Capitol, and they use them. Thus, observers here feel that opponents of the present adjustment act may not win unless the objections claimed to exist among the farmers themselves are made vocal. If that occurs, it is declared by authorities, we may see President Roosevelt taking a hand because of the politics involved. If the President throws his weight in favor of revision, there is little doubt but that changes will come. If he indicates that he is satisfied with the present set-up, the strength of the professors will be so multiplied that defeat of their program will be next to impossible.

Notwithstanding President Roosevelt's speech at the annual convention of the American Bankers' association here, a speech that was believed at the time to have soothed the bankers' feelings, considerable distrust of administration policies has begun to accumulate among the banking fraternity. It was noticed before the appointment of M. S. Eccles as governor of the federal reserve board, but it has become much more evident and more vocal since. The reason is that Mr. Eccles is considerably more of a liberal than most bankers and business men. Frankly, some of the important bankers of the country fear that Mr. Eccles will go far to the radical side in directing affairs of the greatest banking system in the world.

While most financial authorities are not now alarmed over the prospect of any inflation by means of reckless running of printing presses, they do fear that the banks of the country will be forced into the position of buying government bonds whether they desire to do so or not. I was told by one banker, a man who has served in official capacity in Washington, and therefore knows this field as well as banking, that he would not be surprised if banks were assigned certain blocks of bonds which they must purchase in the course of financing by the treasury in the next two years. All of the conservative thought in the country looks upon this, of course, as next to printing press money in its inflationary tendencies.

As the laws now stand, it apparently would be difficult for the treasury, acting through the federal reserve board, to tell any particular bank how many government bonds it must absorb. But it would not be difficult to change the law so that any bank could be allocated a stated amount of bonds and be given the privilege of turning over those securities to the federal reserve bank for currency.

Obviously, such financial students as the veteran Senator Carter Glass, Virginia Democrat, would fight to the death against what he believes to be misuse of the federal reserve system and the country's banking structure. There are several other Democrats, both in the house and senate, who would follow the Virginia senator's lead. The belief, however, is that there are not enough to defeat such a proposal were it sent to congress with the administration's blessing.

There is banking legislation scheduled for this coming session. Its scope has not yet been determined but it will be more far-reaching than the previous legislation and, in all probability, there will be some brand new pet schemes put forward by professional advisers who have been called into conference by Secretary Morgenthau and his aides. Then there are the findings of the senate committee on bank and currency to be considered. That committee, as will be remembered, held lengthy hearings and exposed much corruption in certain types of banks. Whether the members of that committee and the administration will attempt to bind the whole banking structure hand and foot because of the rotten spots found in several apples in the barrel, it is too early to forecast.

Yet it is to be remembered that there were ultra-radical investigators included in the staff of men who operated under Ferdinand Pecora, the committee's counsel. Mr. Pecora, of course, is now a member of the securities commission and therefore not in direct touch with his former employer, but there are those here who say his influence is just as great. If that be true, the senate committee can be expected to go off at a tangent in drafting legislation to hamstring not only the bad banks but the good ones.

Because weather affects our daily lives as nothing else, it proves an ever fascinating subject. It is always interesting as well, really a fascinating occupation, to look ahead.

While we cannot definitely foretell the weather this winter, the American Nature association and the United States weather bureau have compiled some records about other winters that are most interesting. Take for example, the country-wide blizzard of 1888. The boys and girls of those days, those who now say, "do you remember way back when," insist that that was a winter which really was winter. The later generations point to the "war winter" of 1917-18, a period of excessive cold and of great snow throughout the United States east of the Rocky mountains. The Far West was much warmer.

Two outstanding winters were: 1912—Severe cold weather during the first three months of the year when unprecedented ice formed on all northern lakes and rivers. It was during this cold spell that Lake Superior was frozen from shore to shore and moose crossed on the ice. Lake Michigan and Lake Erie were completely spanned with ice in some places.

1899—A record cold wave from February 11 to February 13, with zero temperatures extending from the Gulf coast northward. Mobile, Ala., recorded 1 below zero; Vicksburg, Miss., zero; Washington, D. C., 15 degrees below; St. Louis, 19 below; Chicago, 21 below; and Ottawa, Can., 24 below.

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DUNCAN DEE woke, grunted and relaxed once more into a morning nap. Somewhere in his mind were two ideas. One was of complete satisfaction after an enjoyable two days in New York. The second pricked at him uncomfortably. Something he should remember, but couldn't. Oh . . . well! He sank gently back into full slumber.

At eleven o'clock, after breakfast in the house of his friends where he was staying, he became electrified. He had forgotten something. Something very important. A Christmas night dinner-dance that evening. He had been invited by Rosamond Tone, a girl he was quite mad about. How could he have forgotten? It seemed impossible. But Rosamond had telephoned him two evenings ago, exactly one minute before a hasty departure for New York. He had been delighted, charmed to take her. Then . . . that long freezing ride . . . finding a place to stay which did not cost too much, dressing, getting to a late party which was big and brisk, and went on and on

until morning and breakfast. Then a few scant hours of sleep, another afternoon party outside the city . . . a sleet storm, and the sensible decision that he would not drive back in town for his evening clothes . . . but keep on going to the second informal engagement for the evening . . . a hundred and thirty miles in another direction, where he would stay all night.

So, here he was at eleven the next morning, a hundred and thirty miles from his evening clothes . . . and due in a few hours at a party forty miles in quite an opposite direction. This was the manner in which Duncan was wont to spread out his week-ends. Bedlam raged in his brain.

It wasn't the party so much; it was the girl. Rosamond Tone was more than lovely—she was lovable. She was also the daughter of old Taurus Tone, the head of the company in which Duncan held a responsible but not impressive position. And there was that guy named Frank Nester. He, too, held a responsible but not impressive position in the same place. He, too, loved Rosamond, or at least paid her conspicuous attention. Mr. Tone glared at both of them. It was old Taurus' way; and you could like it or leave it. No one wished to leave it, certainly not Duncan Dee nor that Frank Nester fellow.

At noon Duncan called up Rosamond long-distance, to assure her he had not forgotten and would be there. Immediately then he began scouring the town for dress clothes. All the people he knew were going to dances that night. They needed their own. He began to feel silly and a little sick. He began to contrive in the course of three hours to collect one pair of dress-suspenders, a white tie, and proper waistcoat. Another hour yielded a dress-shirt and pair of trousers. This was

sheer triumph of personality. Somebody tell him he has studs and a collar. He'd have to wear his ordinary black shoes and socks. He still required a coat. He could not get a coat!

Duncan went to the dinner dance. He looked exceptionally happy and well groomed. Frank Nester was there. He also looked well groomed but far from happy. Rosamond, if not unkind, had been frugal in giving dances to him.

Old Taurus was there, snorting and suspicious. Once he grabbed Duncan's elbow. "See here, young man," he growled, "that coat of yours looks darned familiar, and a little large. Could it, by any chance, be one of mine?"

"Yes, sir!" said Duncan, looking Rosamond's father straight in the eye. That was the best way with old Taurus. "My own is in New York. I collected all the other things from friends. I came anyway. And Rosamond . . ."

"I thought so!" Taurus glared at him. "Well, it appears you have courage, and that you keep your wits about you. It should help you get along. Report to me tomorrow morning. We'll talk over that . . . er . . . opening I mentioned."

"Oh, sir . . . I'll tell Rosamond right away."

"You'll do no such thing!" Taurus roared.

But Duncan told her. Rosamond said she had already selected a sweet apartment and an egg-beater, "in case you asked me, you know."

Duncan kissed her and stated he must be very careful not to spill anything on her father's coat . . . and they kissed again.

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