

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart  
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Farm leaders have gone before congress again to press a new agricultural program. Like **Urge New Farm Program** several that have come through in the last half-dozen years, the new proposition is based on a subsidy. The current program, like the old AAA, is predicated on agreements by which farmers will not do something and be paid for not doing it. To obtain the subsidies from the federal treasury contemplated in the new farm legislation, farmers will have to sign contracts agreeing to curtail their acreages up to twenty per cent of their average cultivation for the last several years. If they fail or refuse to sign these contracts, the legislation describes them as not co-operating and, therefore, they would be denied the right to obtain loans from the federal government and they would not have a guarantee of "parity prices," as a penalty. Moreover, those farmers who failed or refused to co-operate in this manner would be subjected to prohibitive taxes on the sale of products grown in excess of limits on totals to be prescribed by Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture.

The announced basis of this new program is for "conservation of the soil." Further, its sponsors contend that it will mean a gradual upbuilding of the fertility of the soil so that, in the end, fewer acres will have to be cultivated to produce the same volume of corn or cotton or wheat or whatever other crop is grown.

But I think there are few individuals who will say that the above reasons honestly constitute the basis for this new farm legislation. I think it must be admitted that the plan is only a subterfuge; that, while it may help some farmers by giving them cash, it is pure politics with cash as a sop.

I am not one equipped to say that agriculture does not need a subsidy even though prices of farm products are now almost double what they were in 1933. It is entirely possible that farmers throughout the nation still need help in the form of cash. It may be the better part of wisdom to vote such payments as are contemplated in this new legislation. On the other hand, however, if there is that need then let us be honest about it.

President Roosevelt lately has signed a new law which provides subsidies to shipping companies in order that America may have its own merchant marine, but those payments are to be called subsidies. They are not disguised nor concealed. It seems ridiculous, therefore, that the farm leaders should not be frank with the members of their organizations. If they feel that a subsidy is needed, why not put it up to congress that way so that those farmers who believe in subsidies as well as those who want to see agriculture left alone for awhile can understand what is going on.

I imagine that the farm leaders who are sponsoring the new legislation could scarcely have chosen a

**Chose Bad Time** presentation of their program. I mean that, in presenting this type of legislation when congress is undergoing a wave of economy, the program is likely to receive scant consideration. It always has been the case that legislation goes through several stages of hauling and filling in congress with the result that after much debate a bill satisfactory to the majority emerges. In presenting their program at this time, therefore, the farm leaders are not doing a very good job of leading. There will be much agitation on the part of the farm leaders that will get just nowhere at all because of conditions in congress.

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, recently was quoted as saying that the new plan would not require any payments direct from the treasury; that is, it would pay its own way through the medium of taxes if it "works perfectly." That is the rub. I find doubt in nearly all quarters that the plan can "work perfectly." It is so complex and requires such a bureaucracy for administration of it that to expect it to "work perfectly," is virtually to expect that legislation will control the weather. I think everyone will agree that congress and the administration has not yet been able to find the formula for controlling the weather.

I believe it can be said fairly that many farmers are dissatisfied with the soil conservation program adopted as a substitute for the AAA which the much criticized Supreme court held unconstitutional by a unanimous vote. Even those officials of the Department of Agriculture who are frank will admit that the soil conservation is not an effective means for controlling production. It does have merit as far as it goes in conserving the soil. But there is another phase: It has been pointed out too often almost to need repetition here that the soil con-

servations law, as occurred under the AAA, results in millions of dollars being paid to individuals and corporations who are in no way participating in conservation activities.

Now, while Mr. O'Neal thinks that the proposed law can be operated without expense to the federal treasury, there is yet the conviction in some quarters that it probably will cost about six hundred million dollars a year to pay the subsidies and pay for administration of the law. Six hundred million dollars a year is a large sum at any time and it bulks much larger at a time when there is a nation-wide cry for a balanced budget for the federal government. It is a sum that, if the budget of the federal government otherwise were balanced, would be sufficient to frighten thousands of holders of United States bonds.

It would seem then that the farm leaders ought to take into consideration the status of the federal government's financial affairs if they want to develop a program that will live. I have heard from many students of agricultural problems that the remedy for farm conditions is not an expensive new system of farm subsidies. They assert that it will be impossible for Uncle Sam to continue annual payments to some three million or more farmers and they are convinced, further, that most farmers themselves objected to being placed in the category of relief clients. An argument is also advanced that more and more farmers believe federal policies that cause money to be handed out free to farmers will, in the end, destroy the independence of agriculture. However that may be and however the majority of the farmers feel about receiving money gratis from the government at Washington, it cannot be said that agriculture is being placed on a sound footing by politicians and political farm leaders whose sole objective is to loot the treasury. Farmers would not permit it to happen to the governments of their states or their counties but a considerable number of them apparently have been persuaded that the government at Washington is something else.

The Department of Commerce which has supervision of airplane traffic has announced that it **Air Pilots Out of Races** will not permit American pilots to participate in an air race that was proposed for this summer. The race was to have taken place from New York to Paris, but the Department of Commerce has vetoed the plan unequivocally because it considers the race as nothing more than a stunt.

It may occur to some that such a ruling by the Department of Commerce constitutes an interference with private business beyond reason. I cannot share that view. The experts have been unable to find in this proposed race any possibility of benefit for aviation nor any experimentation that would lead to more scientific flying. It has taken the position that there is too great a danger involved for those pilots who are foolhardy enough to undertake the three thousand two hundred mile flight across the ocean. Its position is further fortified with the argument that if any of the pilots should lose their lives in that type of aviation, it will cause many thousands of persons to lose faith in the airplane as a means of transportation. In short, the department thinks that there are only disadvantages and no advantages in the prospect.

While many persons may disagree with the position the department has taken, it is heartening to those of us who like to see private business encouraged, to know that a responsible federal agency charged with supervision of a private industry is again functioning as it was intended to do. For several years, the Department of Commerce, with particular respect to its aviation division, has been in a state of turmoil. There were wide differences of opinion and in consequence little in the way of permanent development was sponsored from Washington for the aviation industry.

In criticizing the government's inactivity, no observer would be fair unless he also called attention to the frailties and the failures of the industry itself. It is true that some of the larger lines lately have made sensational improvements in the equipment they use in the air and in the operations part of flying. It is true that larger and better planes have been built and are being built. But it is likewise true that a number of airlines have adopted penurious, penny pinching policies and have refused to replace worn out and obsolete planes because they did not want to invest additional money. Until the air industry awakens to the necessity for spending money and until the Department of Commerce becomes a smooth functioning supervisory agent, the air travel of this country will not even approach the limit of its capacity.

him and were provided with food and lodging, while he found jobs for them and collected all their earnings. In 1919, he changed his name to Father Divine (God) and conferred the title of Angels on all who turned their possessions over to him. Thousands of dollars became his in return for new, more glamorous names, such as Ruth Rachel, Hozanna Love, and Frank Incense. Today Father Divine's Angels number about 1,000 and there are 3,000 "Children" or followers who retain some of their possessions, living in apartment houses and flats of Harlem. Heaven is his headquarters, where meals are served and where about 75 Angels sleep. He has established Extension Heavens now in Bridgeport, Jersey City, Newark, and Baltimore; and he owns profit-making stores and shops throughout Harlem. It has been estimated that his income is \$10,000 per week, but no property is held in his own name.

Western Newspaper Union.

©—WNU Service.

## 'Way Back When

By JEANNE  
DICTATOR ONCE DEPENDENT ON CHARITY

YOU may not agree with the principles advanced by Adolf Hitler, or you may be an enthusiastic admirer of his. In either case you will be interested in looking at the man and his life to see what lesson we may learn. Perhaps the greatest inspiration to be drawn from the German dictator's life is a word of encouragement for those whose early lives may seem failures.

Adolf Hitler was born on the Bavarian frontier of Germany in 1889, the son of a customs official who had political ambitions for him. The boy developed a desire to be an artist. His father opposed him, so Adolf refused to study in school. He was the despair of his father and mother. When he was eighteen, he went to Vienna and applied for admission to the Academy of Art. His art was too poor to qualify



and they directed him to the architectural school, but his loafing in early grades made it impossible for him to pass entrance requirements there.

For three years he slept in a cheap men's hotel in Vienna, getting his meals at a monastery and occasionally begging from passers-by. In the winter he shoveled snow to make a living. Whenever he earned a few kronen, he stopped work and went to some cheap cafe to deliver political speeches. He painted poor water colors which a friend peddled for him, he painted picture postcards, and when hungry enough was a house painter. During the war he was a corporal. Here was a man in his thirties who had never shown any real promise in anything he did. Then, Adolf Hitler formed an ideal of government.

### FATHER DIVINE WAS A HEDGE TRIMMER

WHAT are the limits of human credulity? To what heights may not the spell-binding orator rise? For thousands of simple blacks in that section of upper New York city known as Harlem, the answer to those questions is "God! Only God is the Limit!" For George Baker, once a Baltimore hedge trimmer and dock worker, who is reported to have served 60 days on a chain gang, is the negro who claims to be God.

Early records of his life have not been found and George Baker, who now calls himself Father Divine or God, will not talk. It is known that he came from the South, and that he worked at odd jobs in Baltimore in 1899. Starting as a Sunday School teacher, he established a new cult, and moved to New York with a few followers who believed him to be God. New disciples joined



Western Newspaper Union.

## STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

JOAN BENNETT is so homesick for the stage that she has signed up to work with a Cape Cod stock company this summer for a few weeks. Some of the motion picture producers who have planned busy summers for their players wish that she wasn't quite so thrilled at the prospect.

Her infectious enthusiasm has sent half of Hollywood scurrying to their bosses to ask if they can't have leave of absence too. Bette Davis wants to go, but Warners have big plans for her. Josephine Hutchinson wants her annual fling on the stage. And Joan Crawford and Franchot Tone are acting mighty mysterious, reading plays and time tables.

Add one more picture to the current list of those you simply have to see. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Captains Courageous" is one of the finest pictures of all time. There isn't a woman in the cast, but even the young girls who think any picture without torrid love scenes is a washout, confess that they never even miss the romantic angle in this one. It is a story of the Gloucester fishing fleet in which Spencer Tracy and young Freddie Bartholomew do the finest acting of their careers. Indeed, it is the first picture in which young Bartholomew has had a chance to show that he is not just a sweet and handsome lad with pathetic eyes. He is a grand actor.



As soon as Ernst Lubitsch finishes directing Marlene Dietrich and Herbert Marshall in "Angel" he is going to turn actor for a few days. Long ago when he was an actor in Germany, his great ambition was to play Napoleon, and just now it happens that Cecil De Mille is searching the highways and byways for a man to play Napoleon in "Bucaneer." Lubitsch got into costume and make-up, presented himself to De Mille, and was hired at once.

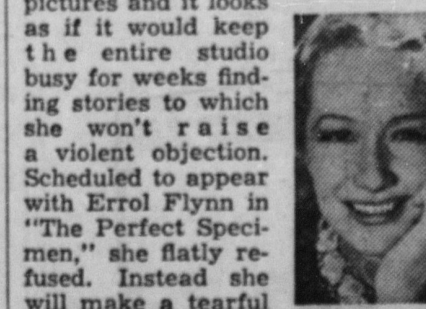
Executives at the Twentieth Century Fox studio are disappointed that the public hasn't made more of a fuss over Simone Simon, so they are going to put her in a comedy and see if she goes over better. They are teaming her with Jack Haley, who made such a hit in "Wake Up and Live," in a fast-moving comedy called "Love at Work."

Motion picture studio officials always change the subject when anyone asks if their stars really sing or if some singer substitutes for them, but radio listeners can recognize their favorite voices under any circumstances. They insist that Buddy Clark of the Hit Parade did Jack Haley's singing, that Virginia Verrill sang for both Jean Harlow and Virginia Bruce, and that in "The Great Barnum" it was Francis White who sang for Miss Bruce.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., has decided that he likes the United States better, after all. While he was in England, he realized his ambition to become a producer, and felt so grateful to the countrymen who backed him that he thought he would live there always. Coming back to Hollywood to make just one picture, "The Prisoner of Zenda," he found when it was finished and he was free to go back to England that he just couldn't bear to leave all his childhood friends.

Warner Brothers have arranged to borrow Miriam Hopkins for two pictures and it looks as if it would keep the entire studio busy for weeks finding stories to which she won't raise a violent objection. Scheduled to appear with Errol Flynn in "The Perfect Specimen," she flatly refused. Instead she will make a tearful little romance called "Episode" supported by Ian Hunter and Charles Winninger. After that, Warners would like to have her in "Sisters" with Kay Francis.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Joe Penner doesn't mention ducks even once in "New Faces," which is being filmed by R-K-O, and furthermore he appears in black face for the first time . . . Ken Murray always dresses more conservatively when he shows up for a broadcast, but around home he goes in for the dizziest colored smoking jackets and lounging robes . . . Motion picture producers are wildly enthusiastic over the intimate, caressing voice of Rosalind Greene who announces Mrs. Roosevelt's radio program, and since they have heard that she is young and extraordinarily beautiful they are rushing to her with contracts for pictures.



Western Newspaper Union.

## Correct Vacation Toggery



VACATIONING they will go—Vera, Mom and Flo. And they will enjoy themselves the more because their wardrobes after Sew-Your-Own are just exactly right. Mother in this model will be mistaken for daughter many a time because her design and dots are so very youthful. She will have various frocks in various materials developed on this theme, and in one of them, at least, the dots will be red. **Dates for Dancing.** Vera, to the right, has a date for dancing and when her escort admiringly effuses some such nonsense as, "That gown must have come on the last boat from Paris," she will toss her dark head and say, "No foreign frocks for me. I Sew-My-Own." Her dress of soft flowered material with demure braid at the neck and hem almost makes a sweet old-fashioned girl of her, but the tailored collar and trim cut label her the sophisticated young thing that she really is.

Only a snappy sophomore can fully appreciate just how smart are those buttons down the back of the model to the left. Her yoke and neckline are "Oh, so new, my dear"; her plaid as British as she would like her accent to be. Best of good vacation wishes to the three of them from Sew-Your-Own.

Pattern 1297 is designed in sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 42 bust). Size 16 requires 2 1/2 yards of 35-inch material plus 1/2 yard contrasting. Pattern 1998 is designed in sizes 34 to 46. Size 36 requires 4 1/2 yards of 35-inch material. With long sleeves 4 3/4 yards of 35 inch material is required. Pattern 1307 is designed in sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 40 bust). Size 16 requires 3 3/4 yards of 39-inch material. For trimming 7 1/2 yards of braid or ribbon is required. Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each. © Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

**CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO** 5¢ PLUG

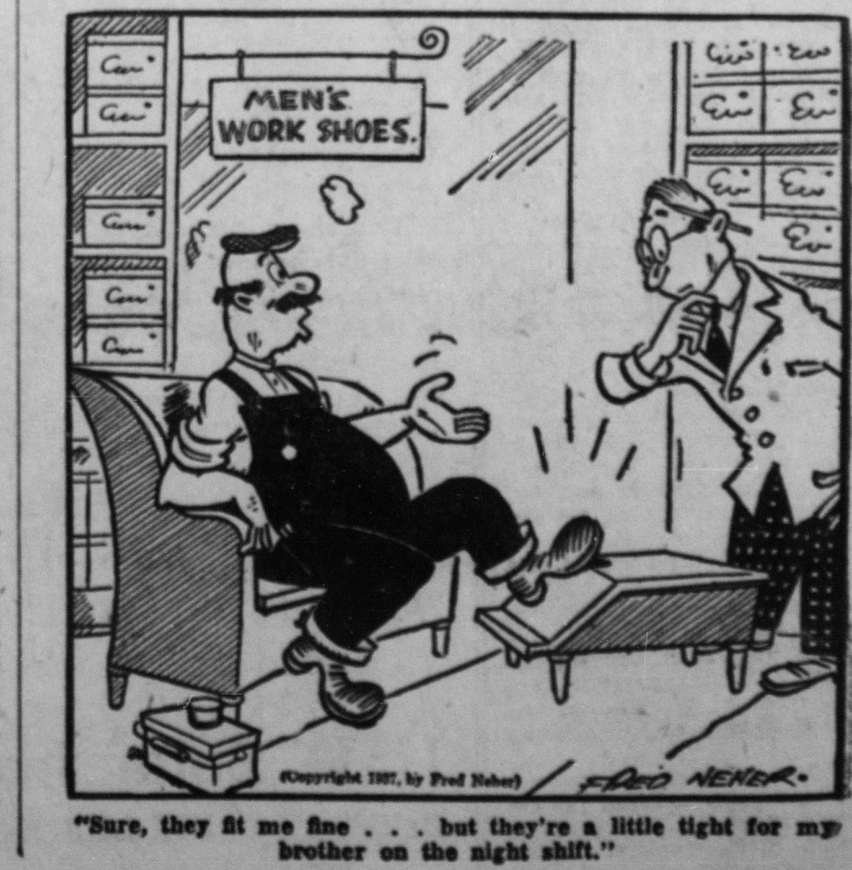
Endangered Man Man is never watchful enough against dangers that threaten him every hour.—Horace.

High Finance It is better to give than to lend, and it costs about the same.—Sir Philip Gibbs.

**BARI-CIDE**  
Kills Chewing insects such as the Mexican Bean Beetle, Cucumber Beetle, Potato Beetle.  
Does Not Contain Lead, Arsenic or Fluorine.  
Harmless to Bean Foliage or that of other Crops on which we recommend its use.  
Sold by Reliable Dealers

## LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



"Sure, they fit me fine . . . but they're a little tight for my brother on the night shift."