

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
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Washington. — It nearly always happens in the second term of any President that the congress begins to show signs of asserting its own will.

## Congress Balks

This is perfectly natural. Members of the house and senate recognize, or have recognized in the past, that when a President enters onto his second term he has little more in the way of trading to offer them. That is to say, the President has about exhausted political appointments and, except for special pieces of legislation, the Chief Executive cannot compensate house and senate members with political plums.

The New Deal congress in Mr. Roosevelt's first term was subservient, indeed. It gave him everything he asked. But now there are encouraging signs of a more independent attitude on the part of congress. I use the word "independent" to mean that congress has begun to examine legislative proposals from the White House in the light of the viewpoint of individual representatives and senators instead of an examination solely in the light of the argument of the President.

The Supreme court reorganization proposal brought the first sign of independence by congress. This sign broke out in the senate and there are many who believe that the senate will never yield on the President's proposal to pack the court with any additional justices of his own choosing. It is possible that, as we view history from, say ten years hence, the Supreme court reorganization plan will be shown to have been the straw that broke the President's control over a congress in which his party has more than two-thirds of the members.

Several other legislative proposals from the White House have met or are meeting real difficulties. One of them that must be regarded as important is the relief fund proposition. I imagine that, in the end, the President will get the full billion and a half that he has requested for relief purposes but the controversy over relief funds is significant.

For instance, and as an example of the undercurrent of feeling in congress, the house took a nasty slap at Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins. The house did it in a way designed to make Mr. Hopkins peevish. It cut his salary as relief administrator by two-thousand dollars a year. Now, a cut from \$12,000 to \$10,000 probably is unimportant as far as the monetary affect is concerned, but it was the same thing as if the house had turned Mr. Hopkins across its knees and had given him a couple of good spanks. What it does, actually, is to show Mr. Hopkins that the house is still its own boss and it demonstrates as well the house has some spunk left.

In addition to the relief fund controversy, congress is giving evidence also of more constructive opposition to control from the White House over all national policies. For example, the new farm bill is undergoing very critical analysis by the house agriculture committee. While this measure to establish what Secretary Wallace calls the "ever-normal" granary and to revive control over important farm groups was not sent to congress from the White House, everyone understands it has White House endorsement. House leaders accept it, at least, as representing the principle of AAA and, therefore, as being representative of the President's ideas.

Leaders of the farm bloc in the house are quite skeptical of the plan. Naturally, it is too early to forecast what is going to happen on this piece of legislation but it is important to note that the house is giving close and independent study instead of rushing the legislation through merely because the administration announced it was favorable to the proposition.

There is discontent in the senate also. Mr. Roosevelt's far-flung government reorganization bill has touched so many sensitive spots that some doubt actually exists whether it will get through at all, even after revision.

The feeling in the senate on this matter is so widespread that Democratic Leader Robinson made a statement the other day to the effect that "failure of the senate to pass the bill will be no public calamity." If their skepticism leads to a more systematic and thorough scrutiny of this bill and other pieces of legislation, it seems likely in my opinion that some costly blunders may be avoided.

The trouble with congress, however, when it gets into the humor we now observe, is that many times it does things the wrong way. After all, members of the house and senate are human and they flock together behind the bell cow, if that bell cow succeeds in stirring up enough excitement.

Take the controversy over the relief funds, as a case in point. It is plain that the house feels that Mr.

Roosevelt does not require a billion and a half in new money for relief. But the house apparently does not have the courage to take an out and out position in accordance with its conviction. So it is trying to dodge the real issue by holding out for a provision in the bill that would set aside half a billion of the total for use exclusively on permanent public works under Secretary Ickes as public works administrator. (Secretary Ickes and Relief Administrator Hopkins long have been snarling at each other.)

To get down to cases on this relief fund controversy, it actually happens that the real argument is on the side of Mr. Roosevelt. Either he needs the whole amount for relief or he does not and there is little sense in the house taking a run around the rosebush to cover a feeling of revenge. Thus, the house is shown in a rather bad light. If it has spunk enough to spank Mr. Hopkins and if it does not believe that the President needs the full amount he has requested, then why does not the house approve of only a billion and stick to that position?

There is another phase of this house revolt on relief funds that ought to be examined. I mentioned earlier that the members of the house and senate no longer expected political plums from the White House. Now they are trying to get close to the political pie counter in another manner. If they can get part of the relief funds allocated for permanent public works, they have their snouts in the political trough of the old pork barrel.

There is a natural reaction for politicians when money is to be passed out and the house has been displaying that reaction to the fullest on the relief funds. The proposition, simmered down, is, however, that the time has long passed when pork barrel methods can be tolerated in congress. It is not a sound principle of representative government and it is not economical.

On the other hand, it seems to me that Mr. Roosevelt cannot escape responsibility for revival of the pork barrel custom. Throughout his first term, he allowed congress plenty of pork barrel packages and now that he is attempting to stick through his own ideas without providing the usual sop for congress, the politicians resent it.

While the congress has been fussing and fuming over legislation, in downtown Washington, the Treasury is finding its job more and more difficult.

Last week, Secretary Morgenthau found himself in a position where he had to go into the money market for an additional eight-hundred-million dollars. He offered new government bonds in that amount and from the proceeds of their sale, he will have in the Treasury sufficient funds to keep the government going. Incidentally, this new loan will put the national debt almost to thirty-six billion, the highest point in all history.

The Treasury's latest borrowing of new money caused some surprise because it had been thought that the June 15 income tax payments would put the Treasury's balance sufficiently high to carry the government for another month or two. Notwithstanding Mr. Roosevelt's declarations that government expenses must be cut, they are continuing to expand and, consequently, it has been necessary to borrow more money in order to keep the machinery of government operating.

It is impossible to discuss the latest Treasury loan without linking to it the question of the administration's gold policy and, it is impossible to mention the gold policy without relating that the United States now has more than twelve billions in gold. The United States thus has approximately one-half of all the gold in the world. This would seem to make our nation the richest in the world, but having all of this gold stock is a very expensive proposition under the administration's gold policy.

No one seems to know how the administration will untangle itself from the gold policy. If the United States continues to maintain the present price of gold, just so long will other nations ship gold to the shores of America. We have seen gold entering the United States at the rate of sixteen million dollars a day for some days. Of course, that is an abnormal rate but the imports have been so high that presently, if the present pace is maintained, we will have all of the gold and its value will be questionable as a factor in trade.

From foreign sources come rumors that many of the banking interests abroad are perfectly willing to unload the bulk of their gold on the United States. In so doing, they put themselves in a position to bargain effectively with the United States whenever the time comes for world nations to discuss money stabilization.

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## 'Way Back When

By JEANNE

### AN OIL DRILLER

CLARK GABLE was little different from any other small town boy. Born in Cadiz, Ohio, in 1900, and later living in Hopedale, Ohio, population 500, Clark Gable was a regular American boy, fond of the outdoors and all sports. Motherless from the time he was seven months old, he was raised by his grandparents until his father remarried. He held a deep love and respect for his stepmother.



Like any other normal American boy, Clark Gable was not sure what position he would like to hold in life. He thought for awhile that he might be an architect, and later he studied medicine at night school. Ambitious but poor, he had to work from the time he was seventeen years old, and his jobs were as varied as his opportunities. He was time-keeper in a rubber factory, call-boy in a theater, an oil driller, a telephone lineman, a surveyor's assistant and a lumberjack. Clark Gable might have been anything but a motion picture actor.

He became a star by traveling the hard road of theatrical stock companies and motion picture extra, overcoming many disappointments, until he reached the pinnacle in "It Happened One Night," which won the Motion Picture award for the best picture of 1934.

### CARL SANDBURG NEVER WOULD SETTLE DOWN

HOW many times have you heard someone say, "I don't know what to do about that boy of mine; it looks like he never will settle down"? Carl Sandburg was like that. A boy who skipped from job to job, and gave his simple Swedish immigrant parents many a worried hour! He was born in 1878 in Galesburg, Ill., of people who were uneducated and kindly, simple and poor. Forced by poverty to go to work when he was thirteen, he began the seemingly endless series of jobs that gave him such true understanding of the common people.

He drove a milk wagon in Galesburg and he blacked boots in a barber shop. If you could have looked into the future and said that some day Carl Sandburg would be a great poet, they would have laughed you out of town! He became a scene shifter in a cheap theater, a truck handler in a brick yard, and then a turner's apprentice in a pottery shop. Cheap manual labor, nothing skilled about most of it! He worked as a dish-washer in



mid-western hotels, a harvest hand in the Kansas wheat fields, and a carpenter's helper.

Carl Sandburg was learning the painter's trade when the Spanish-American war broke out, and he enlisted. A comrade persuaded him to go to Lombard college and he worked his way through as a bell ringer, gym janitor and college correspondent for the Galesburg Daily Mail. In college his literary ability developed and he became editor of the school publications. After graduation he supported himself as advertising manager of a department store and sales manager of a business machines firm.

He entered politics, became a reporter, and in 1917, Carl Sandburg joined the staff of the Chicago Daily News, where his work has been outstanding.

A rolling stone, a restless jack-of-all-trades has been Carl Sandburg, but from the time of his literary awakening in college, he has written steadily stories for children, a biography of Lincoln, and hundreds of poems about the mass of people.

So, if that boy of yours is restless, if he skips from place to place, be patient. Carl Sandburg gained fame by knowing many people, many jobs, many problems.

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## STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

ALWAYS a dauntless trail blazer, Sam Goldwyn has just announced that in future all of his productions will be filmed in Technicolor.

Where Sam leads, others feel that they must follow, and the chief drawback is that it is going to be very expensive, because Technicolor film costs considerably more than black and white. First of the Goldwyn Technicolor films will be "Follies" with Helen Jepson, the Ritz Brothers, Zorina, the great Russian ballerina, Virginia Verrill, beloved of radio fans, to swing those blues and a vast array of comics.

Robert Young got a wonderful break when M-G-M loaned him to play opposite Claudette Colbert in "Met Him in Paris." His own studio officials who lately had been treating Bob rather like a comfortable old shoe, went to the preview and came out raving about him as if he were a new discovery. Right away they went out and bought the screen rights to a grand story called "Witness to a Murder," and presented the star role to Bob.

There isn't a busier girl in all Hollywood than Dorothy Lamour, which is a break for film fans, but bad news to the many radio fans who have been wishing she would find time to sing regularly on a radio program again. She has just finished roles in "High, Wide, and Handsome" and "The Last Train From Madrid" and will start any day now on "Her Jungle Love." Her first big success, you will recall, came when she played "The Jungle Princess" and Paramount has been looking for a sequel to it ever since.

Connie Boswell is the latest radio singer to succumb to the pleas of motion-picture producers. She will warble in Paramount's "Artists and Models." But the most exciting news on the Paramount lot is that Mary Livingstone, the giddy comic of Jack Benny's program and in private life, his wife, is such an inspired screen comic in her first picture that all her supporting players are sulking. The picture, called "This Way Please," was supposed to star Shirley Ross and Buddy Rogers, but Mary is just romping off with all the scenes.

It looks as if Kenny Baker of the air waves will be a strong rival of Bing Crosby's on the screen just as soon as "Mr. Dodd Takes the Air" is released. Walter Wanger, who has been searching for a good-looking young singer to play the lead in "52nd Street" persuaded Mervyn LeRoy to let him see as much of the picture as has been filmed. Immediately, he decided Kenny Baker was just what he had been looking for. Kenny Baker will have Pat Patterson, wife of Charles Boyer, playing opposite him in the Wanger film. That's a break for him, because she is one of the most utterly charming young women in all Hollywood.

ODDS AND ENDS... Screams of rage and violent protests broke loose on the Paramount set for "Artists and Models" when he-men like Richard Arlen and Rube Goldberg, the cartoonist, found they had to get all prettied up in knee breeches and lace ruffles for a masquerade scene... Motion picture producers are trying to argue Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor out of galloping through mountain passes on frisky horses. Barbara took a nasty fall the other day—with the horse landing on top of her. She wasn't seriously hurt, though... Motion picture stars can get into accidents anywhere, it seems, because Sylvia Sydney took a header on the slippery floor of a beauty salon and cut her face quite badly... Ginger Rogers and Harriet Hilliard have more fun on Sundays when streams of tourists are haunting all the well-known Hollywood cafes. They pack a lunch and go picnicking, and nobody recognizes them.

Face Opportunity  
Don't let opportunity stare you in the back instead of the face.

Counteracting Fear  
Knowledge is the antidote to fear.—Emerson.

CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO 5¢ PLUG

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher

US MODERNS  
"Man Overboard!!"

## Clothes That Look the Part



NOW, Milady, that you've seen all three, which will you choose, the lovely dance frock, an easy-to-sew runabout model, or a slick all around the clock dress to flatter your every move and moment? It's a personal question but one you'll surely want to toy with since Sew-Your-Own makes the answer so easy.

Any Time After 8:30... The romantic fashion at the left will make memorable occasions of your summer parties as only a lovely appearance can. Its two pieces are young, cool and streamlined. For the Miss whose interest centers about matinee goings-on, there's a dashing shorter style—it differs only in length, and either will be picturesque in marquisette, dimity, or organdie.

A Tip for Tea Time... When you're keeping up with the Joneses, wear this stylish all occasion dress. It will do great things for you socially, and, figuratively speaking, it will cut inches from those high spots and make you feel pounds lighter. Think of what that means to chic and comfort when things get hot out your way. Dark sheer crepe is the material that lends to p charm to this creation.

Fore and Aft... Easy to sew and always ready to go is this new spectator frock for young women and those who want to turn back the clock. With this number handy there's no need to pause for reflection about what to wear. And that holds good whether you're bound for sports, business, or society. It is becoming as a sun tan, as simple to sew as a dress can be, and a cinch

to launder. Why not make a carbon copy for the morning after? Remember summer chic depends upon the company your wardrobe keeps. Be sure it's amply supplied with cool convenient Sew-Your-Owns!

The Patterns... Pattern 1291 is designed in sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 38 bust). Size 14 requires 6 yards of 35 or 39 inch material. Size 14, walking length, requires 5 1/2 yards. Pattern 1847 is designed in sizes 36 to 52. Size 38 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. Pattern 1279 is designed in sizes 32 to 46. Size 34 requires 4 1/2 yards of 35 inch material. Ribbon for belt requires 1 yard. 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.

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Face Opportunity  
Don't let opportunity stare you in the back instead of the face.

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US MODERNS

"Man Overboard!!"

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