



**WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK**

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

**Runciman Master of Squeeze Play**  
NEW YORK.—When Sir Walter Runciman was here in 1937, it was reported that he was trying to persuade Washington to lend money to Germany, to soothe Hitler and make him stop frightening England. That may or may not have been his mission, but, as a master of the old credit-and-raw-materials squeeze play, he works that way, and, now, as Viscount Runciman, he is deep in the Downing Street strategy which sends these two cudgels of empire, Prime Minister Chamberlain appointed him as mediator in the Czechoslovak-Sudeten German negotiations, but the Czechs toned that down to adviser.

Viscount Runciman has been a silent ally of Viscount Halifax in the quiet, glacial-pressure advance of the four-power bloc scheme for a European coalition and the final and complete isolation of Russia.

It was reported from London, unverified so far as this writer knows, that it was he who put over a fast credit double-play with France and Italy, the moment the Daladier government came in, and he has been tagged as the man who deploys the empire's financial resources in the diplomatic chess game.

His father was a ruddy old sea dog who sang chanteys, a cabin boy who became a shipping czar and a baronet. Viscount Runciman is a pallid, tight-lipped little man, a total abstainer, a former Sunday School teacher, and a faithful chapelgoer.

As president of the British board of trade, he made concessions in empire free trade, but he is a protectionist of the Chamberlain tradition. Like many men of small stature, he has the Napoleonic psychosis, writing books about Napoleon and hoarding memorabilia.

THIS writer has heard from several assured but not necessarily authoritative sources that Tullio Serafin would succeed Edward Johnson as manager of the Metropolitan Opera.

**Serafin To Boss The Met?**  
Signor Serafin has been highly esteemed here for his musicianship, but all was not well between him and the Metropolitan management when he returned to Rome in 1935, after a number of years as Italian conductor here.

"The Metropolitan has not kept pace with the artistic progress of the modern stage," he said, on his arrival in Rome. "The way opera is put on at the Metropolitan is ridiculous. . . . The great fault with the Metropolitan is the little encouragement it is giving to its latent talent."

The Metropolitan reply hinted that Signor Serafin was really thinking about money rather than art. In the season '32-'33, he had a fair subsistence wage of \$58,200 for the season. This had been worked down to \$34,000 the year he left.

He did indicate that he thought that was pretty shabby pay for an ace conductor, but insisted his criticism was directed solely at artistic shortcomings.

Several years ago, the Metropolitan was intent on national self-sufficiency in music.

**Home Talent For Opera No Bargain**  
It was going to discover and nurture native talent. That hasn't quite come off, and there have been the usual number of importations. It will be interesting if it brings in not only a European manager, but one who is its sharpest critic.

Among music lovers of this writer's acquaintance, there seems to be great indifference about where the singers come from as long as they are good. They insist that music, above all, must be free from the sharply nationalistic trends of the day.

As a lad, Tullio Serafin laid down a shepherd's crook for a baton. Tending the sheep near Cavazzere on the Venetian mainland, he used to walk several miles to town on Saturday night, at the age of ten, to conduct the village band. He attended the conservatory at Milan and was a full-fledged conductor in his early youth.

At La Scala, in Milan, he was assistant conductor under Gatti-Casazza. He became one of the most widely known and popular conductors in Europe.

A staunch supporter of the Fascist regime from its outset, he has been conductor of the Royal Opera at Rome since his departure from New York. He was replaced here by Ettore Panizza.

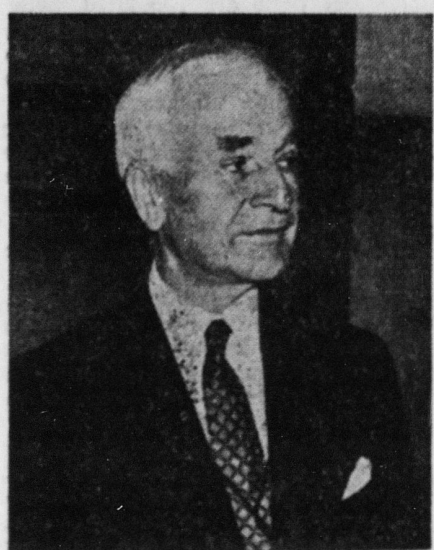
Consolidated News Features, WNU Service

**Weekly News Review**  
**'International Lawlessness'**  
**Deplored by Secretary Hull**  
By Joseph W. LaBine

**International**

Last week as neurotic Europe jittered and shivered, Adolf Hitler led 1,500,000 troops through unprecedented maneuvers. In England, there were signs that Neville Chamberlain's "kid glove" policy toward Germany and England was breaking down. In Shanghai, Japan made bold advances on the International Settlement. (See below).

Into such a troubled world stepped U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull to deplore once again the "tide of lawlessness." A good maker-of-points, Statesman Hull listed a seven-point international program to



CORDELL HULL  
... a "narrow mental horizon."

accomplish this aim: (1) economic reconstruction; (2) adherence to international law; (3) observance of treaties and their orderly modification when necessary; (4) abstention from use of force; (5) non-intervention with other nations' internal affairs; (6) disarmament; (7) collaboration for culture.

To America, Mr. Hull's speech was a warning that U. S. isolation is no longer possible. To European chancelleries it was intended to be a pep talk for internationalism. But as comment drifted back home next day from London, Berlin, Paris, Rome and Tokyo, it appeared Mr. Hull had only made his friends dearer, made his enemies stronger.

Berlin spoke of his "narrow mental horizon," Rome called him "idealistic and impracticable," Tokyo said his speech was a "repetition of his idealistic diplomacy which contains nothing not included in recent pronouncements." But from ally-hungry Paris and London came only praise.

Two days later Franklin Roosevelt found occasion to make another official U. S. utterance on Democracy vs. Dictatorship. At Ontario's Queens university, where he got an honorary degree, the President (1) extended the Monroe doctrine to Canada by promising that "the people of the U. S. will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by another empire," and (2) took a slap at Hitler, Mussolini, et al, by remarking: "We cannot prevent our people from having an opinion in regard to wanton brutality . . . undemocratic regimentation . . . misery inflicted on helpless peoples." To France this was proof that "the democracies of the world are standing together."

**Foreign**  
Last February 20, dapper Anthony Eden resigned as Britain's foreign secretary because he didn't believe in consorting with dictators. But Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain set out to make friends with Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Appointed as Eden's successor was Viscount Halifax.

Next came conversations at Berlin and Rome, a British-Italian friendship pact, a plan to take foreigners out of the Spanish war, an avowal of peace from Hitler. Unfit last fortnight Neville Chamberlain was a success at winning friends and influencing people.

But a few days later his house of cards collapsed. Italy began anti-British propaganda despite her "friendship" agreement. Hitler massed 1,500,000 men for war maneuvers despite his peace avowal. Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Spain's rebel commander, balked at eliminating foreign fighters, presumably on advice from Berlin and Rome.

What was still more disheartening, Viscount Halifax met secretly with opinionated Anthony Eden and was reported ready to resign. Some thought Neville Chamberlain might also resign, placing weather-beaten Sir Samuel Hoare in line for the premiership.

At Cologne an anti-aircraft gun was planted in front of the U. S. consulate, barking every 20 minutes at an imaginary enemy in the sky. Throughout Germany, troop trains pulled reserves to the borders of France, Poland and Czechoslovakia for Adolf Hitler's 15-day war maneuvers. From many points, foreign observers sent word of wholesale rebellion among workers drafted for "state tasks."

Nowhere was this Nazi show of power more keenly felt than in little Czechoslovakia, where 400,000 troops were secretly mobilized to forestall a sudden invasion move

by Germany. Meanwhile, England's Lord Runciman made little progress in his mission to settle the scrap between loyal Czechs and pro-Nazi Sudeten Germans. As negotiations reached an impasse, Sudeten Ernst Kundt warned the government that the "gap is unbridgeable."

Fortnight ago, Chinese nationalists in Shanghai celebrated the first anniversary of Japan's invasion by raising flags and waging guerrilla warfare. Result was an invasion of Shanghai's International Settlement by Jap secret service agents who were promptly spanked and sent home. Last week two French soldiers were seized and taken to the Japanese embassy where they were held despite protests.

Though Shanghai itself now lives peacefully under Tokyo rule, the foreign-owned International Settlement houses 1,000,000 Chinese still loyal to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Shanghai diplomats feared that Japan might attempt to seize the settlement, a move that would send U. S., Great Britain and France into an outraged uproar.

Meanwhile, Tokyo tightened its belt once more, taking more economy measures to speed up the war in China. Hankow, long-sought objective, still remained 100 miles away from war weary Nipponese.

**Business**

Last week Secretary of State Cordell Hull reported satisfactory progress with his reciprocal trade treaty program whereby the U. S. becomes "most favored nation" with a host of governments. Then came a stumbling block, thrown in his path not by a foreign power but by Mr. Hull's next door neighbor, Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace.

In all the world there are wheat surpluses of 975 million bushels. Of this the U. S. has 325 million, Canada 250 million. Easily the biggest competitors in wheat export business, North America's "good neighbors" have made price-cutting moves against each other to sell a major part of the 400 million bushels the world export market needs this year.

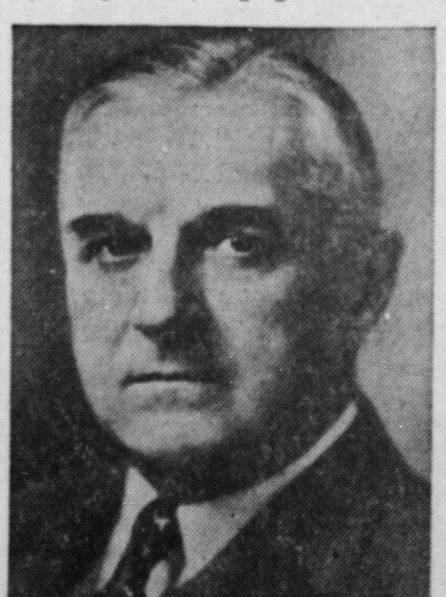
What Secretary Wallace suggested last week was an "understanding" on wheat export policy with the Canadian government which has pegged No. 1 wheat at a minimum of 81 cents a bushel and agreed to absorb losses connected with export business. After he reaches an agreement, Secretary Wallace hopes to make a similar provision for U. S. exports, subsidy money to come from customs receipts.

Determined to dispose of at least 100 million bushels on the export market this year, Secretary Wallace might easily disrupt the reciprocal trade treaty by underbidding nations now operating under agreements with Secretary Hull.

**Politics**

This year, more than ever, state primary campaigns have brought complaints of "dirty poker." In Kentucky, both Sen. Alben Barkley and Gov. A. B. "Happy" Chandler were accused of misusing federal and state funds to influence voters. Investigating such charges last week, Sen. Morris Sheppard's committee on campaign expenditures found a particularly juicy morsel.

Uncovered in Pennsylvania were letters carrying Sen. Joseph P. Guffey's signature, urging WPA workers



PENNSYLVANIA'S GUFFEY  
He wrote too many letters.

to contribute to campaign chests of Gov. George A. Earle, running for the senate, and C. Alvin Jones, running for governor.

Section 208 of the U. S. criminal code forbids solicitation by a federal officer of political funds from any person receiving federal compensation. Vehemently denying the charge, Senator Guffey's secretary nevertheless sped word across the Atlantic to his boss, who is touring Europe.

In Wyoming, a quiet primary renominated Gov. Leslie A. Miller, naming Nels H. Smith as his Republican opponent next November. Also renominated was Wyoming's only representative, Paul R. Greeverson, who will face Frank O. Horton, personal friend of Herbert Hoover.

**Crime**

In September, 1934, the body of a headless woman was washed ashore on Cleveland's Lake Erie front door. The next three and one-half years produced nine more headless bodies, seven of them men, two of them women. In each case, clues were maddeningly absent; always the same mutilation and cleavage of bodies, always the papers and boxes into which the pieces were packed, always the hopelessness of identification.

Last week, rummaging around a lake front dump, police stumbled on an eleventh victim, headless like the rest. Four hours of patient examination brought no clues. A few hours later crowds swarmed over the dump, uncovered a twelfth torso. Both were women; one may have been a Negro.

As police continued to seek the "mad butcher of Kingsbury Run" they knew only that he was a surgically skilled maniac who apparently has no other motive except a fenshish desire to dissect human bodies.

**Sports**

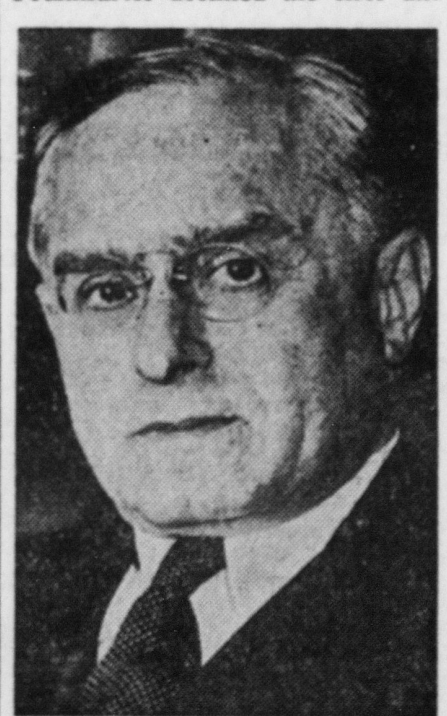
In New York's Madison Square Garden, 20,000 fight fans saw dusky Henry Armstrong enter a boxing ring wearing two crowns, world featherweight, world welterweight. In another corner sat Lou Ambers wearing one crown, world lightweight. For 15 rounds they fought at terrific pace as Henry Armstrong clearly held the edge. In the fifth, Ambers dropped under a crushing right. In the sixth he dropped again under a fusillade of rights. But in the thirteenth he fought Armstrong to a standstill.

At fight's end, Henry Armstrong left the ring wearing three crowns instead of two, the first man in boxing history to hold three titles at one time. But from the audience came jeers, boos, catcalls, straw hats, cigar butts and pop bottles.

**Domestic**

"I am quite confident that he is superior in learning and ability to anyone else available and that his character is equal to his gifts. He has been a dear friend of mine for many years, but I am confident that the judgment I express is not the child but the parent of my affection."

Thus, in 1932, wrote the late beloved Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes regarding Harvard's Felix Frankfurter, whom he wanted appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme court. But famed Jurist Frankfurter declined the offer and



FELIX FRANKFURTER  
"He is superior in learning . . ."

Justice Holmes died. So did another great liberal, Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

To fill Justice Cardozo's post was a job confronting Franklin Roosevelt last week. Since the court already has a liberal majority he would not find it necessary to consider that factor. Some thought a westerner should have the job for reasons of geographical distribution. Others thought it should go to a Jew or Catholic for religious reasons.

Though no appointment was expected before congress reconvenes, pro-Frankfurter sentiment was growing rapidly in Washington. First to climb the bandwagon was Nebraska's Sen. George Norris. Most observers thought Felix Frankfurter would make a good addition to the high court.

**Army**

Last week, as Adolf Hitler paraded his manpower before the world and England's Leslie Hore-Belisha began "streamlining" Great Britain's army, many an American wondered about his own national defense. To their surprise, investigators learned that U. S. army officials are placing an accent on youth, are moreover tightening efficiency strings.

New regulations require periodic reports on major generals and 12,500 officers below that grade. And, because a score of majors and brigadier generals reach retirement age this year, a wholesale reshuffling of upper ranks is in progress.

But to Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, attending Third Army maneuvers at Camp Bullis, Texas, officers were only part of the problem. Said he: "The No. 1 problem facing the United States today from a military standpoint is manpower, which is the worst in our history. There are five reasons. In this order: graft, crime, health, illiteracy and venereal disease."

**Washington Digest**  
National Topics Interpreted  
By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—Something like a year ago, quite a furor was raised here by the revelation that the Home Owners Loan Corporation had loaned \$40,000 out of its own treasury to its employees who wanted to organize a group which could hire its own doctors on an annual basis. This was public money, because the HOLC is wholly owned by the federal treasury and its function is to loan money on private homes to encourage home ownership. The Group Health association, as it was named, guaranteed medical treatment to its members for a fixed annual fee and hired doctors to do the job.

There was a roar from many quarters at the time because of the use of government money in this manner, but the loudest roar came from the doctors who are members of the District of Columbia Medical society. Few of us realized then, I think, where this controversy was going to lead. I doubt that there were very many persons expected to see the tiny spark fanned into a flame so large. Now, however, that spark has become a national flame, national issue of serious import. For what could be more serious, indeed, than a chance to live when the cold fingers of death creep closer?

The issue as it is now defined, succinctly, is whether the long and honorable history of the medical profession, and all of the scientific assets that this implies, shall be thrown to the winds; whether, in the place of that history and gain and the services of those individual doctors, there shall be created a new basic method, a procedure where the doctors are hired by a corporation subsisting on the annual fees paid by its members who will telephone the corporation offices and say: send me one of your best doctors. In short, as I see it, the issue is whether there is to be personalized, conscientious service or service as lacking in personal interest as a "fill my tank, please," at the gasoline service station.

That is the preface to the recent legal proceedings by our own government against the American Medical association and the District of Columbia Medical society, which are threatened with prosecution as a "trust." The government's action, of course, makes the controversy a national issue, one which interests all of us. The trust busting assistant attorney general, Thurman Arnold, former Yale professor, vows he will break up the "trust" which is the national organization of doctors, but there are those of us who cannot help linking the corporation method of medical practice with Professor Arnold's blast and threats against the doctors who believe in individual practice.

The whole department of justice position strikes me as rather fuzzy, rather asinine and, in some respects, reprehensible. However, if there is to be a complete analysis made and a complete understanding of the situation obtained, it is necessary to know that "President Roosevelt wants it done," and Mr. Arnold is proceeding. It does not seem to matter that there are only a few medical crooks, only a few unethical and unscrupulous medical practitioners; the whole profession must be attacked and defamed. Nor does it seem of great concern to the prosecuting officials that some of those doctors who are promoting corporation medicine throughout the United States have been denied admission to the American Medical association for reasons of character and ethics deemed sufficient to warrant non-recognition.

And while I am about it, I want to pay tribute to that greatest of all American characters, the country doctor. I have personal reasons for offering my humble praise to one of their number, but throughout America there can be found no greater asset. He is a friend and confidant and adviser, minister to the body and the mind. There are some among his numbers that will not have, even do not warrant, respect. But that obtains in every walk of life and my belief is that there are fewer country doctors lacking in honesty and good conscience than in any regular profession or avocation of life.

The country doctor is different from his brother practitioner of the city. The latter probably is better trained, more up to date on all developments of science, perhaps more expert in most fields, but I think I can say without equivocation or doubt because of personal experience that the country doctor is not excelled anywhere among humans for good, common horse sense. And the man or woman who is equipped with horse sense keeps the human race on an even keel.

But to get back to the government proceedings: here we see an action, or threat, against a whole profession that has done as much or more for mankind as the ministers of the gospel. I take it for granted that there are skeletons in the closets of many doctors. There is, and can be, no justification, for example, of some of the high fees charged in cases where people without worldly goods are concerned. Their lives are as valuable as the lives of the richest multimillionaires. There can be no defense, as a further proposition, for laxness and disinterest which are matters of record. But I maintain and shall always believe that there are comparatively few members of the medical profession who fail to give the best that is in them. And when I mention disinterest, I cannot help wondering whether doctors hired by group health associations are going to be much concerned about hurrying to the bedside of an association member after a few years of such practice. The monthly check is going to come in whether the corporation doctor is sympathetic and skillful or apathetic.

But let us get on to another phase; two of them, in fact.

According to the best legal opinion that is available outside of the department of justice, it seems likely that no court will hold the medical society to be a "trust." The organization of doctors is effected for the purpose of maintaining high standards, to keep racketeers out of the profession. Its members must be of good character; they must adhere to rules that are designed for the protection of the layman who obviously is at the mercy of the man trained in the science of medicine and surgery. The whole purpose seems to be the very simple proposition of self-discipline. (I might say just here that New Dealers all along have called for self-discipline among business and professional men.) The medical men want to destroy the type that feeds upon the hopeless individual's desire to regain health, to live; they want to rid society of the abortionist, the quacks and the men and women who traffic in blood. And the question I propound, therefore, is: can such a profession be catalogued in law or in morals as dealers in commodities like steel or oil or calico? If it can be so held under our laws, then there surely is no point in young men and women slaving through six or seven or eight years of training for the profession. They had better go out and start practicing medicine as the unskilled laborer digs ditches.

In this connection, too, it seems proper to mention an implication of a decision holding the medical societies to be trusts. As set down above, membership is based on character and training. If the medical society is a trust, what are all of your fraternal organizations, your civic societies, your clubs, who elect or fail to elect members because of good character or lack of it? The Masonic order, the Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World? And, what of Knights of Columbus? That great organization for good also could be broken down if a crook, for selfish reasons, would want membership.

And now to the politics of the situation. It appears to me to be a great tactical blunder on the part of the so-called board of strategy which has President Roosevelt's ear. Those men, most of them untrained in political campaigning, have failed to recognize the human element that is involved. They have listened to the generalities of those who have their own nests to feather and have so far forgotten common sense in politics as to propose a move that can be offset by direct, personal contact.

Let us think of the picture here presented in a hypothetical case. Suppose you are a great supporter of President Roosevelt, believe him to be sincere in his announced interest in the masses, praise his courage and his forward-looking program for government. Along comes old man sickness and lays you down flat on your back. Your doctor comes. You know him, have confidence in him, or you would not call him.

Then, after the manner that usually happens, the doctor talks about a number of things with you. Of course, you know something about the government attacks on the doctors and you want to hear the story from the other angle. I would, and so would you. What is all of this about, Doctor? Is there such a thing as a medical trust?

Well, unless I miss my guess, unless my understanding of human relations is as wet as swamp log—you are going to feel that the whole proceeding is quite unfair and possibly you will condemn the man who "wants it done." That thing will go on in thousands upon thousands of households and hospitals, because the smart alecks who started Mr. Roosevelt in that direction put him on the spot.

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