

Weekly News Review
Gigantic Military Bluff Game
Focuses Attention on Europe
 By Joseph W. LaBine

Foreign

Seldom had the world seen such furious shadow boxing.
 In France, 100 motor buses burned up the roads, carrying troops to the frontier in a maneuver that made Frenchmen recall Gen. Joseph Simon Gallieni's taxicab roundup of 1914. Premier Edouard Daladier's cabinet, which a fortnight ago had shuddered at the idea of a longer work week, now condescended meekly. And Paris looked to England as a frightened child looks to its mother.

Back to London rushed German Ambassador Sir Neville Henderson. Back, too, rushed vacationing cabinet members. In the morning, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain walked his wife around St. James' park as if nothing had happened. But by afternoon his cabinet was immersed in gloom. Echoing puzzled Britain's thoughts, the isolationist Daily Mail cried: "The British public are disquieted . . . rumors of all sorts go round, but from official sources people hear nothing. It is time that the British public were frankly told what is happening."

Much would Mr. Chamberlain have paid to know what was happening. Cause of this international fussing was Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler, who even then was doing some fussing of his own. Two days before, England's Sir John Simon had warned Germany to keep its hands off little Czechoslovakia, on pain of war with Great Britain. But Adolf Hitler answered this bluff with a new bluff, preparing to keep his 1,000,000 reserves under arms until mid-October. Flying from one frontier to the next, Dictator Hitler proudly surveyed the war machine that all Europe fears he will soon point at Czechoslovakia.

For more than a month, Britain's Viscount Runciman has struggled to arbitrate differences between Czechoslovakia and her 3,500,000 rebellious subjects, pro-Nazi Germans living in the Sudeten region which fronts Greater Germany. While Adolf Hitler's official newspapers whip up Nazi resentment against Czechoslovakia, Sudetens themselves have been doing their best to stir up trouble. Their leader, Konrad Henlein, has obeyed Herr Hitler by refusing all mediation efforts by Viscount Runciman or Czechoslovakia's government.

Since Germany would quite likely gobble up the Sudetens if given an opportunity, Great Britain has strongly protested Konrad Henlein's demand for autonomy. Last week, after sitting calmly through these protests, Sudetens pointed an admiring finger at England's autonomy arrangement with Ireland (Eire). While Viscount Runciman blushed, they asked why a similar arrangement could not be made between Czechoslovakia and themselves.

After a week's bluffing, the end was not yet in sight. For his part, Fuehrer Hitler bluffed that he wanted (1) complete autonomy for Sudetens; (2) repudiation of Czech alliances with France, Russia, Poland; (3) Czech non-aggression pact with Germany; (4) Czech customs union with Germany. Though Europe was jittering badly, the disinterested observer could count noses and find Adolf Hitler forlornly friendless. Lined against him were France, Britain, Russia, Czechoslovakia. Silent, but presumably favoring the Czechs, were Rumania, Jugo-Slavia. Even his best friend, Benito Mussolini, warned he would not intervene in the Sudeten squabble.

Politics

Last month, South Carolinians were treated to the unique political show that no other state can boast. Since law demands it, three Democrats running for U. S. senatorial nomination traveled together, stayed at the same hotels, denounced each other daily from the same platforms. These men were: Ellison D. "Cotton Ed" Smith, who has stayed a South Carolina senator 30 years by championing



SOUTH CAROLINA'S SMITH
 Southern womanhood was vindicated.

three stock issues—white supremacy, the price of cotton, Southern womanhood. Under Franklin Roosevelt's party leadership he has been an "80 per cent New Dealer," opposing wage-hour and government reorganization measures. For his

lute warm New Dealism, "Cotton Ed" Smith's defeat was asked last month by Franklin Roosevelt.

Gov. Olin D. Johnson, strapping, 41-year-old World War veteran, who had Franklin Roosevelt's blessing. His chief campaign argument was that "Cotton Ed" once remarked a man could live in South Carolina on 50 cents a day. Actually, Governor Johnson misconstrued his opponent's speech in the senate opposing the wage-hour bill. He really meant that South Carolinians could live cheaper than New Englanders.

State Senator Edgar Brown, once Governor Johnson's colleague in the state Democratic organization controlled by Highway Commissioner Ben Sawyer. Two days before the election, he withdrew and threw his support to Senator Smith.

After weathering this stormy battle as best they could, South Carolinians marched dutifully to the polls and sent "Cotton Ed" Smith back to the senate. That night, standing under a statue of Wade Hampton, the South Carolina governor who ended carpetbagging and Negro domination, Senator Smith donned his Red Shirts uniform (equivalent to the old Ku-Klux Klan) and intoned: "No man dares to come into South Carolina and try to dictate to the sons of those men who held high the hands of Gen. Robert E. Lee and Wade Hampton!"

A haven for old folks, California periodically gives birth to pension ideas. Townsendism arose there, so did Upton Sinclair's E. P. I. C. (End Poverty in California). This year's pension plan came from Sheridan Downey, a San Francisco lawyer who would pay \$30 each Thursday to every Californian who is jobless or over 50.

Downey pension would be paid in script, legal for taxes or goods. Pensioners would stamp their warrants every week with 2 per cent of their face value, purchasing stamps with real money. At each year's end, every \$1 warrant would bear \$1.04 in stamps. The state would redeem it for \$1 from the stamp fund and re-



CALIFORNIA'S McADOO
 He'll get \$30 every Thursday.

use it. On this platform, Sheridan Downey ran for Democratic senatorial nomination against 74-year-old William Gibbs McAdoo, incumbent. Last July, Franklin Roosevelt spent three days with Senator McAdoo, asked Californians to re-elect him and censured Candidate Downey's campaign as "utopian."

Same day as South Carolina defeated Franklin Roosevelt's candidate (see above), Californians also exercised their franchise. All day they voted, and at Los Angeles the excitement rose to fever pitch. A short, sharp earthquake was felt. By midnight, the President heard about his second defeat of the day. Candidate Downey was nominated. Next day, California's Supreme court met to decide the legality of "\$30 every Thursday."

Aviation

Once a captain in the Russian czar's guards, Alexander P. de Seversky came to the U. S. when he found himself an exile, established a name for himself designing speed planes. His latest ship: a low-wing, single-motored military pursuit plane which Aviatix Jacqueline Cochran hoped to fly in this year's Bendix races.

To test his new ship, Seversky flew from New York to Los Angeles in 10 hours, 3 minutes, 7 seconds, bettering by almost 1½ hours the mark set in 1933 by Roscoe Turner.

Carrying a remarkable load of fuel in its wing-to-wing tanks, the ship can cruise 3,000 miles, would be a logical convoy for new U. S. "flying fortresses" that cruise 5,000 miles.

Miscellany

Fifteen years ago, in 1923, an earthquake killed 150,000 Japanese in Yokohama. Night before this year's anniversary, sentimental Yokohamans retired, planned to spend the next day in mourning. At midnight there was a high wind. At 2:45 a typhoon struck, collapsing houses, grounding steamers, flooding streets. Pushing on to Tokyo, the typhoon killed hundreds. Thus was an earthquake's anniversary observed.

Labor

Since coming to the U. S. from Australia, Allen Harry Bridges has become John Lewis' chief C. I. O. aide among Pacific coast maritime workers. Last month the un-Americanism committee of Rep. Martin Dies (Dem., Texas) produced interesting charges about Harry Bridges. The charges:

(1) That he is a member of the Communist party, having been seen paying a \$2 assessment and membership dues; (2) that he is more interested in advancing Communism than the interests of his maritime



MADAM SECRETARY PERKINS
 Shirley Temple vs. Harry Bridges.

workers; (3) that he once said "To hell with the President of the United States"; (4) that he claims more power behind him than the U. S. government; (5) that Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins had more than enough evidence to deport him.

Harry Bridges' deportation was blocked last April pending a court ruling which does not forbid aliens to belong to "the Communist party or any other party except one which teaches overthrow . . . of the government of the United States."

But, armed with his evidence, Chairman Dies demanded that Secretary Perkins resume deportation action against Harry Bridges. Next day came the answer:

"It is not usual for the legislative branch . . . to attempt to usurp the functions and duties of the administrative branch. I cannot accept your analysis and evaluation of the evidence . . . as it appears to have been made without sufficient knowledge of the law . . ."

"Perhaps it is fortunate that Shirley Temple was born an American citizen and that we will not have to debate the issue raised by the preposterous revelations of your committee in regard to this innocent and likeable child."

Plainly, Madam Secretary Perkins did not intend to deport Harry Bridges, and Representative Dies could do nothing about it.

Crime

At Philadelphia's county prison, 600 convicts went on a hunger strike. Three mornings later, 25 ringleaders were led to the one-story "Klondike" building with its row of tiny cells, each 3 feet long by 4 feet wide. Into each cell, whose doors are solid except for a slot, whose walls are lined with disproportionately large radiators, guards tossed four or five prisoners. Then they turned on the heat.

By noon the convicts were suffering. By nightfall they fought for the privilege of sucking air through the door slot. By midnight they prayed on their knees for guards to turn off the steam or shoot them. By next morning they cried insensate and clawed at their own parboiled flesh. By evening most of them lay senseless, but the heat was not turned off until next morning, when guards inspected their victims, four were dead.

Into this modern black hole of Calcutta walked Coroner Charles M. Hersch to arrest four guards, charging them with homicide. Prison Superintendent William B. Mills said the men had died from injuries received fighting among themselves, but Coroner Hersch thought otherwise. As his investigation began involving not only prison authorities, but all Philadelphia officialdom as well, he threatened: "Before I am finished, everyone responsible for this revolting situation will be punished."

Navy

Pet ambition of every navy is a fleet second to none. Never in U. S. naval history has a chief of operations voiced absolute contentment with his equipment. Last year, as 1938's war scare was just beginning to sprout (see FOREIGN), congress approved a huge naval building program to squelch its navy's growing inferiority complex.

Last week, in the seventy-fifth anniversary issue of the Army and Navy Journal, Admiral William D. Leahy made a remarkable statement: "The new building program will give the United States for the first time a homogeneous fleet, well-balanced and equipped with modern weapons and machinery."

But naval satisfaction proved short-lived. Though the U. S. now has 18 capital ships, 8 aircraft carriers, 18 heavy cruisers, 28 light cruisers, 144 destroyers and 56 submarines, plans were rushed to ask congress for 18 more ships in a 1939-40 construction program

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President's Supporters Catch Brunt of Opposition Criticism

Roosevelt Personally Under Direct Fire of Enemies Only Twice; Interference in State Primaries Now Subject of Bitter Controversy; Prestige Will Be Hurt.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON.—It has been a matter of frequent reference among observers how President Roosevelt's supporters or subordinates, or spokesmen for him, have caught the brunt of opposition criticism. Mr. Roosevelt personally has been under the direct fire of his enemies on only two occasions. He played his political cards so that, when some plan blew up, it was some subordinate or supporter whose neck was found out too far. The President, of course, found himself as the target when he proposed packing the Supreme court with six additional justices of his own choosing and when he sought reorganization of the government, but, generally speaking, the Roosevelt prestige has avoided damage, until now.

Which brings us to the bitter controversy over presidential interference in state primaries, and the second stage—Mr. Roosevelt's declaration that it was a violation of public morality for Republicans to enter a Democratic primary. This controversy is the most heated and has the broadest implications of any of the three in which the storm centered about Mr. Roosevelt's own head. It is likely to be the most far-reaching in its result. The Roosevelt prestige is bound to be damaged whether he wins or loses when the score finally is totaled, and, as far as can be seen now, he will not be able to avoid it.

I remember having written, when the President made his cross-country trip in the dual capacity of President and head of the Democratic party, that it appeared difficult to disassociate the two capacities. I predicted at that time, two months ago, that there were germs of trouble in such an attempt. It was not long before the germs were growing. Mr. Roosevelt's pat on the back for Senator Bulkley of Ohio, and his bold command to the Democratic voters of Kentucky to send Sen. "Dear Alben" Barkley back to the senate brought a shower of ripe verbal eggs on the head of either the President or the head of the Democratic party. I did not know which personality was naming the favorite Democratic candidate in the primaries then, nor do I yet know. From all of the information from those states since, I gather that the voters in the primaries did not know whether they were voting to support the President of the United States or the head of the Democratic party.

Pat on Back for McAdoo,

Face Slap for O'Connor

Then, on to the Middle West and the Far West, the pat on the back for Senator McAdoo, who has opposition for the Democratic senatorial nomination in California; and, next, in Georgia where Mr. Roosevelt uttered the now famous "God bless you, Walter—but you're no liberal" to Senator George, to be followed by a direct endorsement of Lawrence Camp for the senatorial nomination against Mr. George. Later, Mr. Roosevelt gave a vicious political slap in the face to Rep. John O'Connor, in New York, and attacked Senator Tydings in Maryland by saying that Representative Davey Lewis ought to have the Democratic nomination.

In addition to these direct interferences in state primaries, Mr. Roosevelt's subordinates—men like Relief Administrator Hopkins and Secretary Ickes—horned into primaries in Iowa, Oregon, Idaho and elsewhere. They were well licked in Iowa and Idaho, and it was the result in the latter state that has brought up the second stage of the controversy.

Idaho's Senator Pope used to say that if any constituent wanted to know his position on a given question, it was necessary only to inquire whether the President was for or against it. Apparently, the voters in Idaho did not like that; they preferred a senator to vote their views rather than one who consistently voted the President's view. Anyway, they nominated Representative Clark, in their Democratic primary. He had something in excess of 3,500 more votes than Mr. Pope.

The licking administered to Senator Pope did not taste well to the President or the coterie of New Deal advisors. Senator Pope obviously did not like it either, and he did the childish thing of emitting a loud and noxious squawk that the nomination was taken from him by Republicans. He said they went into the Democratic primary and gave Representative Clark their votes in sufficient number to override the will of a majority of the Democrats in the state. Senator Pope went to Hyde Park, N. Y., to weep out his story on the shoulders of Mr. Roosevelt, but it has not been made clear whether it was the shoulders of the President of the United States or of

the head of the Democratic party. Anyway, there was weeping at Hyde Park.

Takes Important Second Step in Controversy

And after that meeting and when the tears were wiped away so there would be no sniffing, Mr. Roosevelt took the important second step in the controversy. He denounced the Republicans as having "violated public morals" by voting for Mr. Clark in a Democratic primary, although if the ballots were secret as the law requires I have been unable to figure out how either Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Pope know that it was the Republicans and not the Democrats who brought about Mr. Pope's defeat. Anyway, Mr. Roosevelt—either as President of the United States or as head of the Democratic party—condemned such terrible things as Republican votes in a Democratic primary. Such a course of action, the President or the head of the Democratic party said, constituted an attempt to destroy the direct primary system. It apparently did not matter to the President or the head of the Democratic party that Mr. Clark had campaigned as a Democrat while Senator Pope was sounding off as a 100 per cent New Dealer.

I have been wondering, since the Hyde Park condemnation of the Republicans, how Mr. Roosevelt's position in the two phases of his course can be reconciled. It never has seemed to me to be so terrible for the President or the head of the Democratic party (or the head of the Republican party if the President be a Republican) to state his views about candidates. Probably, the presidential office ought not to be so excited about it as some writers and some newspapers and some politicians have done. I am inclined to regard such action as the purest of politics and politics is a game and the voters have to recognize that it is a game. There has been a lot of meaningless gushing going on about Mr. Roosevelt's course that just fails to impress me at all.

But, on the other hand, there is an old, old quotation: Consistency, thou art a jewel. In remembering and applying that thought, it appears to me that Mr. Roosevelt has gone off the deep end of the pool without an inflated rubber tube for an arm rest. Indeed, isn't it a rather silly thing, an utterly stupid piece of business, to claim the right to interfere on his own part and tell the common, ordinary garden variety of voter that he can not take a position because he once played on the other team?

Is Roosevelt's Forgettery Working Well These Days?

Further, I am wondering whether Mr. Roosevelt's forgettery works so well that he fails to recall his appeal in 1932 and again in 1936 for Republicans to follow him, elect him as the savior of the country. It seems to me if it is sauce for the goose, the old gander can eat the same food.

Further, there is a bit of logic about the whole thing that ought to be examined. Take the state of Georgia, for example, where the Democratic nomination means election. A Republican in Georgia would be sunk without a trace, as far as selection of someone to represent him in congress is concerned, if he wanted to have his real choice recorded. His only course, if he preferred one Democratic candidate to another, would be to enter the Democratic primary and vote for one of those candidates. Assume that the Republican voter lives in Idaho. If that voter felt that neither of the candidates for the Republican nomination for the senate measured up to his ideas, why should he not be allowed to vote in the Democratic primary in order to express his preference? It might well be that a Republican voter in Idaho would feel that the Democratic nominee had a better chance of being elected in November than did the Republican nominee. If he felt that way, it appears to me that he would be showing good sense, common horse sense to express his preference on that side of the fence. I believe Mr. Roosevelt's record would look very much better at this point if he had extended his congratulations to Representative Clark in Idaho, and promised him the support of the Democratic national committee in the forthcoming election, as was done by National Democratic Chairman Farley. Surely, that would have been sportsmanship and the attitude of a good loser.

It may be, however—and this is an implication from the indications of the day—that Mr. Roosevelt is trying deliberately to force a realignment of voters throughout the country. He may be seeking to drive radicals into his camp—in case of a third term urge—and the conservatives into another camp.

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