

Weekly News Analysis

Election 'Cleanup' Suggestions Leave Vote-Buying Loopholes

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.

Politics

Since the dim day when America's first pork barrel was burst open, politicians have legally or illegally used federal funds to further their personal ends. Pork-barreling was simple, and usually honest, when it involved no more than a U. S.-sponsored post office, highway or bridge. But since 1933 the old-fashioned pork barrel has been supplanted by relief projects, building up huge payrolls among unemployed people who will cast their votes not necessarily for the right man, but for the man who will protect their jobs. Three square meals a day have a far greater vote-getting appeal than any miscellaneous favor a congressman could pull from the pork barrel.

In an election year, political abuse of relief funds becomes a paramount danger. Therefore congress received no jolt when Texas' Sen.



SENATOR SHEPPARD
Recommendations were easier.

Morris Sheppard offered his committee's report on campaign expenditures. Skipping lightly over the routine fact that some campaigns cost nothing while another (that of Ohio's Robert P. Taft) cost \$159,451.37, the committee outlined results of relief-politics inquiries in 18 states. Sample allegations:

Kentucky. Gov. Albert B. ("Happy") Chandler collected about \$70,000 from state employees whose salaries came partly or wholly from federal funds. His successful opponent, Sen. Alben W. Barkley, received \$24,000 from federal employees, but his campaign manager denied all but \$2,000.

Pennsylvania. WPA state highway work cards were issued to high school children, who returned to their classes without doing any work.

Tennessee. Federal employees were solicited for contributions; WPA labor was used to repair private roads.

Illinois. In Cook county, 450 men were added to state highway crews, 70 of whom did no work other than canvass their respective precincts.

No criticism was directed at former WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins, nor was action taken against any candidate. The pathetic truth is that no individual office-seeker could be singled out without ripping open an unwholesome, futile investigation. Instead the committee contented itself with 16 suggestions for cleaning up elections, most of which would provide loopholes, few of which could be enforced without interfering with private rights. Sample suggestions:

(1) Prohibition against political contributions by relief recipients and legislation forbidding relief officials to influence votes.

(2) Legislation limiting individual contributions to candidates, preventing corporation donations and requiring complete reports of campaign costs.

(3) Consideration of legislation to make all political contributions by federal workers illegal.

The most applauded recommendation called for curtailment of the congressional franking (free mailing) privilege. This recalled the annual report of Postmaster General James J. Farley, made a few days earlier, which pointed out that abuse of the franking privilege was in a large part responsible for the post office department's deficit.

International

January 1 found the U. S. and Great Britain invoking their new low-tariff trade pact, designed primarily to stimulate business, but also to furnish a strong "white man's front" against dictator states. A few days later Britain made a strong show of enthusiasm over President Roosevelt's anti-dictator speech (See WHITE HOUSE). But if these two signs indicate a policy of "parallel action" between Washington and London, several other gestures by Britain hardly fit into the picture.

Smart "parallel action" would call for British adoption of the U. S.

policy of refusing to consort economically with Germany, Italy or Japan. But when Governor Montagu Norman of the Bank of England went to Berlin, and when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain visited Italy, each carried plans for stimulating British trade with the two dictator states. Meanwhile, Britain has extended China credits of only \$2,500,000, compared with U. S. credits of \$25,000,000.

Though Britain may some day be forced into a life-and-death battle with both Germany and Italy, she is willing to overlook this possibility for the sake of her foreign trade. The theory: That every effort must be made to keep the hard-pressed German and Italian buyers solvent, otherwise British export to these nations will decline and debts owed British commercial interests will not be paid.

White House

Before congress opened, President Roosevelt's critics believed his rising enthusiasm for rearmament was merely a cloak to focus public attention away from last November's election defeat. By shouting for larger army-navy appropriations, by keeping silent as a sphinx on every other subject, the President was expected to build for himself a storm shelter until the torrent of congressional criticism had passed.

But rearmament turned out to be a recognized national problem and Mr. Roosevelt turned out to be a smarter psychologist than his critics expected. It remained for his speech on the state of the Union to sound the keynote. Its essence: The U. S. is beset by threats from dictator nations, therefore we must rearm and take sanctions against aggressors. But rearmament is also an internal proposition, therefore we must set our house in order and defend ourselves with social and economic reforms. Some reforms already made (social security, farm legislation, labor act) need "machining down." Others (governmental reorganization, transportation) are still to be made. On spending: "It does not seem logical to me, at the moment we seek to increase production and consumption, for the federal government to consider a drastic curtailment."

Congress did not need long to figure out that if military rearmament would cost real money, internal rearmament would be even more expensive. When the budget message was delivered their figures were verified. The President's budget requests: \$8,995,000,000. The expected income: \$5,669,000,000. The net deficit for the fiscal year: \$3,326,000,000. By June 30, 1940, when the year ends in a burst of political campaigning, the administration will therefore have a public debt of \$44,458,000,000 to explain.

As congress dove headlong into its six, seven or eight-month task, President Roosevelt may have been surprised to learn his initiating utterances won more public acclaim in France and Great Britain than at home. Definitely on the defensive for the first time since 1933, he faced



HAMILTON FISH JR.
He offered a comment.

an independent congress and a very wary public which hoped he appreciated the magnitude of his actions. And while London and Paris applauded the strongest official U. S. statement yet made against dictators, Berlin and Rome sang the next stanza in the international hymn of hate which has now reached an alarming intensity.

At home, little comment was forthcoming. A sample, from New York's Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr.: "True to his devotion to internationalism and the League of Nations, (Mr. Roosevelt) urges collective security and military alliances of democracies. I do not believe that congress will scrap our traditional foreign policy of peace for one in which we would quarantine and police the world with American blood and money."

People

Fifteen-year-old Gloria Vanderbilt, who has \$4,000,000 in the bank, spent \$52.99 last year, an accounting in New York's surrogate's court reveals.

Phillip F. LaFollette, defeated governor of Wisconsin, has left on a "look-see" visit to England, France, Italy, Germany and Sweden.

Asia

War-torn China's biggest boast is her constantly growing national unity, a product of necessity that has made Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek the strongest Chinese ruler in modern history. But despite this well-publicized unity, China has not been able to make much of a showing against her Japanese invaders. Indeed, foreign military observers find Tokyo's paper-thin front lines so vulnerable that they say 30,000 American, British or French troops could put the enemy to rout. But in Jap-occupied territory are 270,000,000 civilians and 1,250,000 armed



GENERALISSIMO CHIANG
Time to stop bluffing.

guerrillas whose spirit of national unity is still not strong enough to inspire a sudden, inevitably successful attack.

Better than the national unity argument is the theory that smart General Chiang has been staging a fake show of Chinese nationalism, offering a good front at the expense of his wavering government. Though Chungking headquarters are overrun with nepotism, corruption and inefficiency, many abuses have been tolerated to make the outside world think China is strong. In the end General Chiang wangled handsome loans and credit arrangements from both the U. S. and Britain, proving the stunt was working, at least temporarily.

Not anticipated, however, was the walkout of one-time Premier Wang Ching-wei, who celebrated New Year's by reaching peace terms with Japanese Premier Fuminori Konoye. Long a silent bulwark of China's Kuomintang (Nationalist) party, Mr. Wang reportedly met at Hongkong with Japanese agents and reached terms which would make him China's head man, leaving General Chiang out in the cold. Terms: (1) China should open diplomatic relations with Japanese puppet state, Manchukuo; (2) China should agree to economic "cooperation" with Japan; (3) China should adhere to the Jap-Italo-German anti-Communist agreement; (4) China should accept Japanese garrisons while the anti-Communist pact was in force.

Interpretations of the Wang demarche have come thick and fast. In Tokyo, happy Japanese thought it meant a breakdown of the Kuomintang and the spotlight of publicity on China's internal troubles. With Ching weakened, Japanese puppet states would no longer seem pointless. In Shanghai, still Chinese despite its Japanese ownership, observers thought the Wang declaration was a well-timed Jap move to counteract U. S. and British credits to General Chiang.

With the die cast, General Chiang no longer saw need for hiding his troubles. From Chungking came word of a wholesale purge from the Kuomintang of some 200 peace partisans. Expelled was Deserter Wang, charged with having attempted to gain support from military leaders in Szechuan and Yunnan provinces.

Miscellany

For the first time in its history, New York's Sing Sing prison has executions every week during January. Total for the month already scheduled: 10.

U. S. correspondents returning from eighth Pan-American conference at Lima, Peru, have reported censorship, intimidation and spying unlike that ever before seen at a Pan-American assembly.

Army participation in the U. S. navy's three-month Atlantic fleet maneuvers has been cancelled because of friction, army officials claiming the exercise offers little value for its officers and men.

Aviation

In 1937, as head of the U. S. maritime commission, Joseph P. Kennedy urged construction of smaller ocean vessels as protection against the day when seaplanes would speed mail and passengers from Europe to America. Test flights had already been underway a year, and the Kennedy prediction has now been sustained by announcement that Imperial Airways of London will start weekly transatlantic service before next June. Forerunning 21-hour passenger service between Southampton and Montreal, four 40,200-pound flying boats will make two flights each way every week. On first flights the boats will carry 6,000 pounds of mail and 18 passengers, though only mail will be transported until the schedule is thoroughly tested. Still to be announced are plans for next summer's transatlantic travel by U. S.-operated Pan-American Airways. Air France Trans-Atlantique will start in 1940.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

President Put Over Fast One in Naming Hopkins to Commerce Post

Reduces Chances of Investigation of WPA and Its Relief Spending; Appointment of Harrington to Hopkins' Place Seen as Strategic Move.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON.—Many persons in Washington are convinced that President Roosevelt has slipped a fast ball right over the plate in front of his congressional critics by the transfer of Harry Hopkins to the job of secretary of commerce and the selection of Col. F. C. Harrington as works progress administrator. It appears to some observers, certainly, that the presidential maneuver has gone a long way toward reducing, if not eliminating, the chances of a dirty investigation of WPA and its relief spending.

The President knew of the brewing trouble that had Hopkins as the focus; he was told how much mud slinging was due to take place, and how the haters of Hopkins and his methods were preparing to leave no stone unturned in exposing everything about Hopkins and his organization that could be made to appear slimy. Yet, Hopkins is perhaps the closest of all of the "inner circle" of advisers to the President and surely he is the President's best personal friend. Naturally, he wanted to keep Hopkins around.

In naming Hopkins to the post of secretary of commerce, vacated only at Christmastime by the veteran official, Daniel C. Roper, Mr. Roosevelt has had to take the chance that the appointee would meet some razzing in senate confirmation. That is a chance, of course, but Mr. Hopkins will be confirmed after the boys in the senate have had their say. But there will be little opportunity for the anti-administration Democrats to sink their teeth into the Hopkins appointment to the commerce job. That department has less money to spread about perhaps than most important government jobs. Administration friends in the senate, therefore, can say with propriety that a razzing of Hopkins, as the commerce nominee, is not to be indulged in because this is another job, not related to spending relief money.

Appointment of Harrington
Another Strategic Move

I am told on very good authority that this will be the strategy employed when the Hopkins nomination is under consideration. To all critics of Hopkins, the administration friends simply will reply, in effect, "you wanted Hopkins out of the relief job. Now he is out, etc." It is undoubtedly a smart piece of politics and it will work—

for awhile. The President also strengthened his position in the coming battle with congress by the appointment of Colonel Harrington. The colonel is a regular army engineer. He has been assistant chief engineer of WPA and knows the organization. And most important of all, Colonel Harrington leans somewhat to the conservative side, which makes him acceptable to most senators, even anti-administration Democrats.

Mr. Roosevelt is taking no chances on any ruckus arising over Colonel Harrington, however, and has avoided it by a clever piece of detail. Colonel Harrington has been designated only as "acting WPA administrator." He will run the organization as though he were fully fledged on the job. The difference is that the designation of the colonel as acting administrator eliminates the requirement of a senate confirmation. In other words, the senate can do nothing about the Hopkins successor unless it acts by special resolution. If the Harrington name had come in as a nomination, there could be wide open exposure of WPA tactics by the committee which would consider the nomination. So it is plain to see that the President slipped away from his critics in this manner.

The third angle of the strategy also is vital to the picture I am seeking to present. The chief deputy administrator under Hopkins has been Aubrey Williams. It was Williams, you may recall, who has made speeches and has advised WPA workers to "vote for your friends," to insist on federal preservation of "your rights," and it was he who said in a speech that he was inclined to believe that class hatred was a good thing.

Many Attacks on Relief Policies to Be Expected

To keep Mr. Williams out of the clutches of the wolves around the capitol, Mr. Roosevelt took him off the job of deputy relief administrator and appointed him as director of the national youth administration. Again, the senate can get to Mr. Williams only if it is willing to adopt a special resolution for an investigation, and there is probably enough administration strength in the senate to block such a resolution.

The lines have not yet been tightly drawn in congress as a result of

the sudden maneuver by the President. There will be many attacks on the relief policies at an early date because the WPA must have something like \$750,000,000 in additional money before the middle of February, and that request will be laid before congress along with other calls for money in the first deficiency bill. But Mr. Hopkins will be nesting comfortably in his panelled office on the fifth floor of the commerce department; he will be "completely detached" from WPA and so the controversy over voting the money will settle down to a matter of principle without having too much personality in it.

The appointment of Col. Harrington will be much advertised by administration supporters in order to help others forget that Hopkins once held the job. Colonel Harrington is accepted as a high grade man. His army associates know him as capable and efficient and the critics of relief policies cannot help feeling that he will do a fairly good job. He has not engaged in politics, as Hopkins did, and thus is immune from that approach.

Beneath the surface, plans are said to be under way to give the country a "correct impression" of the new WPA. Colonel Harrington is reported to be planning to do away with most of the boon dogging, sewing circles to make baby diapers, writers' projects, art projects, what-else-have-you. He wants to use the WPA money for "constructive purposes."

Hopkins Is Objectionable
To a Majority in Congress

At the proper time, therefore, congress will learn of what is going to be done by the new administrator.

And then comes the climax. The President again will ask congress to vote relief funds in bulk, in blank check, just as happened before. The members will be reassured by the administration concerning the ability, honesty and soundness of plans of the administrator. Mr. Roosevelt is said to hope that the strategy will work. I doubt it, but stranger things have happened. There have been few times in my 20 years as a Washington observer that the feeling against a member of the executive staff has been so heated as it has grown to be concerning Hopkins and the relief spending that he carried on. It will be recalled that he never minced words about congressional critics, and it will be remembered, as well, that he sought to help the President "purge" a number of recalcitrant Democrats who were seeking re-election. It appears very strongly that Mr. Roosevelt has elevated to his cabinet an individual thoroughly objectionable to a majority of congress and has, at the same time, provided himself with a chance to get spending money again. He may not win with the maneuver, but he has caught a good many persons off guard with the trick.

But what of Hopkins as secretary of commerce, assuming that the name will be confirmed by the senate?

Well, Mr. Hopkins will draw his pay regularly on the first and fifteenth of each month. He will be faithful in going to his office in the powerful automobile that is provided by the government for the secretary of commerce. He will sign the papers which the secretary of commerce is required to sign because somebody, holding subordinate positions and who knows what it is all about, will tell him that is their recommendation.

Secretary of Commerce to
Make 130,000 Appointments

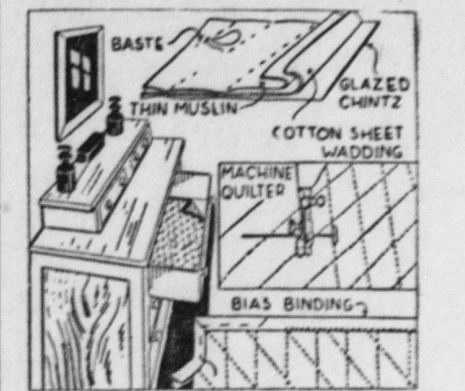
The patent office will run, as it always has run by itself, in a very efficient manner. The bureau of air commerce will be well managed because it has capable people in subordinate positions. The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, the bureau of fisheries, the bureau of lighthouses and the others, or most of them, will get along without too much trouble because Mr. Hopkins probably will leave them alone.

But we should not leave Mr. Hopkins alone yet for the reason that late this year, or early in 1940, there will be about 130,000 appointments to be made by the secretary of commerce. Next year is the period for the regular 10-year census and the personnel must be named. Next year also is a campaign year, a national election.

In the meantime, the business of the country which is supposed to receive encouragement and assistance will be allowed to indulge in hope. It will not be harassed or spangled or threatened with major surgery beyond the Hopkins capacity to do that sort of thing.

Make Quilted Pads For Dresser Drawer

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS.
THERE seems to be no corner in the house where the decorators' art is not applied. Closets used to be drab and dreary places but now they are bedecked in scalloped shelf edgings, gay garment bags and bright hat boxes. Dresser drawers are also perking up. Time was when a clean newspaper was put in the bottom of a drawer every so often, and the date of the one removed proclaimed how long it had been since this housewifely task had been performed. Now, we make



pads to fit the drawers. We scent them with our favorite sachet and find infinite joy in their soft colorings.

Machine quilting is just the thing to give the pads the stiffness and body they require so that they will lay flat in the bottom of the drawer and not wrinkle up. Glazed chintz in a plain soft blue with darker blue bindings is used for the pads made to fit the chest of drawers shown here. Thin muslin is used for the backing and sheet wadding for the padding. When all three layers of material have been cut the right size, baste them together. The first row of basting is run diagonally across the center and then the rows are spaced about six inches apart as shown. Here also is a sketch of a machine quilter in operation. It is merely a foot with an indicator attached. The end of the indicator runs along each previous row stitched making an accurate gauge for the spacing of the quilting. After the pads are quilted, bind the edges as shown.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears' Book 2—Gifts, Novelties and Embroidery, has helped thousands of women to use odds and ends of materials and their spare time to make things to sell and to use. Book 1—SEWING, for the Home Decorator, is full of inspiration for every homemaker. These books make delightful gifts. Mrs. Spears will autograph them on request. Crazy-patch quilt leaflet is included free with every order for both books. Books are 25 cents each. Address Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

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