

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Tax Revision Brought to Fore By Administration Objection Over Huge Farm Appropriation

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

CONGRESS: Spend, Tax, Save

Excess spending was the complaint of U. S. Chamber of Commerce members at their annual convention. This has also been congress' complaint against President Roosevelt.

Almost as he spoke the senate passed a record agriculture appropriations bill which totaled \$1,218,000,000 (compared with the President's budget estimate of \$842,128,051).

with Polish Foreign Minister Josef Beck. Upshot was a lessening of Polish suspicion. Next day the Soviet proposed a four-power (Russia, France, Poland and Britain) mutual assistance pact to safeguard European peace.

Vatican. Pope Pius XII, himself a one-time ace diplomat, had his papal nuncios to Britain, Poland, France, Italy and Germany invite as "essential."



VLADIMIR POTEKIN Poland grew less suspicious.

If the senate thought Mr. Hopkins' spending plea meant a green light from the White House, it soon learned otherwise. At his press conference the President rebuked congress for breaking its promise to levy new taxes to meet out-of-pocket costs.

Probable upshot is that the farm appropriations squabble will force consideration this session of two issues treated superficially thus far, namely, economy and tax revision.

Since the President opposes new levies on small taxpayers, tax revision (probably the price Congress



SECRETARY MORGENTHAU "It's about time..."

must pay for its huge farm bill) would likely mean a mere shakeup of upper bracket taxes to secure more revenue.

If the farm bill is any sample of congressional economizing, this cause will also go unmet until another year. Already having appropriated record-breaking army funds under the new defense program, the house coughed up \$773,414,214 for the navy, \$17,015,212 more than the President asked.

EUROPE: Peace?

History may relate that Edward, duke of Windsor, helped avert a European war in 1859 when he spoke from Verdun's battlefield "simply as a soldier of the last war"

Poland. To stop Germany from seizing Danzig and part of the Polish corridor, Poland needs Russian help. Britain's effort to line up the Soviet were blocked by (1) Prime Minister Chamberlain's wariness, and (2) Polish hesitancy over letting Russian troops cross her soil.

Stopping at Warsaw en route home from Turkey, Bulgaria and Rumania, Russia's Vladimir P. Potemkin, first assistant foreign commissar, had a two-hour conference

POLITICS: GOP Liberalism

Though U. S. political power swings pendulum-like from conservatism to liberalism and back again, there is a long-run trend to liberalism. New Deal liberalism will probably be followed by Republican conservatism, but no alert Republican believes his party can win by junking all New Deal reforms and going back to the theories of Coolidge and Hoover days.

A good sample of progressive G. O. P. thinking is that of Minnesota's youthful Gov. Harold Stassen who, according to Dr. Glenn Frank of the party's program committee, believes something like this:

Republicans should accept much of the New Deal's social legislation, first and foremost, and solicit constructive statements regarding G. O. P. philosophy on political and economic problems. Though believing farmers "are ready to repudiate the New Deal," Mr. Stassen warns that the party cannot favor any individual clique like farm, business or labor groups.

Stassen on the 1940 convention: "It is very important that delegates represent genuinely and honestly the sentiment of their states. They should not just be a delegation picked by political bosses. Among them should be some youngsters, some real farmers, real workers."

WHITE HOUSE: Plan No. 2

Legalized by the newly passed governmental reorganization bill, President Roosevelt's No. 1 federal shakeup (effective June 24) created new agencies for public works, lending and welfare. Plan No. 2 followed quickly, a roundup of long-misplaced bureaus whose abolition or consolidation the President believes will save \$1,250,000 yearly.

Its most significant feature: Abolition of the unique national emergency council and transfer of its major functions to the President. An immense elaboration of ex-President Hoover's famed "secretariat," NEC has been and will remain a sensitive, nationally organized ear-to-the-ground device whereby the Chief Executive can keep his finger on the public pulse. Its 38 state administrators will probably be retained. Its director, Lowell Mellett, will probably be named one of six presidential assistants with a "passion for anonymity."

Other changes (with former affiliations parenthesized):

To COMMERCE: Inland waterways commission (War); to AGRICULTURE: Rural electrification administration (independent); to JUSTICE: Federal Prison Industries, Inc., and national training school for boys (independent); to NATIONAL ARCHIVES: Codification board (independent, to be abolished).

To INTERIOR: Coal commission (independent, to be abolished); bureau of insular affairs (War); bureau of fisheries (Commerce); biological survey (Agriculture), and Mt. Rushmore memorial commission (independent, to be placed in Interior's park service).

To STATE: Foreign commerce service (Commerce); foreign agricultural service (Agriculture), and foreign service buildings commission (independent).

To TREASURY: Bureau of lighthouses (Commerce, to be placed under Treasury's coast guard); director general of railroads and War Finance corporation (independent, both to be dissolved).

Expected soon is Plan No. 3, probably shifting jurisdiction over deportable aliens from labor to justice departments, and ironing out jurisdictional overlapping concerning public lands.

ASIA: Up the River

Twenty-two months ago China's capital was Nanking. Japanese aggression pushed it westward up the Yangtze to Hankow, next backward into Szechwan province and the ancient walled city of Chungking.

Playing a retreating game, Gen. Chiang Kai-shek knows that the deeper he can draw Japan into his bailiwick, the easier will China's resistance be.



CHINA AND HER CAPITALS Japan is prepared to follow.

But Generalissimo Chiang did not expect what happened next.

Into Chungking (normally 635,000 population) swarmed 1,500,000 refugees, in itself a grave problem. Then one day 45 Japanese war planes swarmed over Chungking, dropping incendiary bombs and demolitioners, more than 100 in all. When the smoke cleared China could count 5,000 casualties, a ruined capital and temporarily blasted morale.

Peace-loving Chengtu might well regard this official invasion as a death sentence. General Chiang probably hopes an off-the-river capital may break his bad luck jinx, but Tokyo thinks otherwise. Despite British protests that Chungking's bombing was purely terroristic and without a definite military objective, Nippon's warriors announced their death planes were prepared to follow China's capital wherever it may roam.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Early Political Activity Presages Bitter 1940 Presidential Campaign

Widespread Movement Away From New Deal Philosophy of Government Worries Democratic Leaders; Popularity of President Yet to Be Evaluated.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—There seems to be no doubt that the political mill for 1940 has begun to grind earlier than has happened in almost any modern time. Politicians and political forecasters, alike, agree that the activity, the advance agents of the 1940 campaign with its national conventions and presidential nominations and national elections, is evident now to a greater extent than has been recorded in almost any other quadrennial period.

It is to be recognized, of course, that there would be more intensive effort in advance of the 1940 elections than occurred prior to the 1936 national elections because, presumably at least, both great political parties will be sorting over the candidates.



ALFRED M. LANDON Will not have as much voice in selection of the Republican candidate as Mr. Roosevelt will have in making the Democratic choice.

So, we approach the things that are to be considered and dealt with as campaign questions next year—as seen from this distance.

Is New Deal On the Wane?

I believe it can safely be said as a fact recognized by most able political students that the 1938 elections, with the attendant increase in Republican strength in the house and senate, together with the evident trend of thinking throughout the country, that there is a wide-spread movement away from the New Deal philosophy of government.

Government Spending Causes Dissatisfaction

Another obvious sentiment shows a rather amazing dissatisfaction with continuation of government spending and the creation of added debt. With this, of course, is coupled the general fear of added taxes. It is quite widespread, this feeling that some gloomy years are ahead.

G. O. P. Has Tactical Advantage

Within the Republican ranks there are undoubtedly more of those waiting to see which way the cat will jump than there are among the Democrats. The Republicans, however, have one distinct advantage; they can attack anything and everything the New Deal administration has done. They do not need to defend anything, which is the handicap that burdens each faction of the Democrats to a greater or less extent.

Moreover, the Republicans are not burdened with the will of any one man to which they must give consideration. That is to say, neither former President Hoover nor Gov. Alf Landon, the nominees in 1932 and 1936, respectively, will or can have as much voice in selection of the next candidate as Mr. Roosevelt ordinarily would have in making the Democratic choice.

by the rank and file of the party or by Republican wheelhorses as having any greater rights than others.

And by the same token, the Roosevelt leadership complicates the Democratic picture. Since he has stated with great frequency and with an emphasis that cannot be denied that "there is no turning back," he can be regarded as determined to insist upon selection of a Democratic candidate—either himself or someone else—next year who will push the New Deal forward.

Small G. O. P. Machines Demand Recognition

It should not be overlooked, however, that there is hair-pulling in prospect on the Republican side as well. It extends down to the grass roots because of individual thinking that has been taking place. This condition results through lack of a federal political machine. Dozens of small machines have been wagging their own tails for so long that they now are demanding recognition from the brass hats at the top.

Further, since there is a growing belief that the Republican presidential nomination in 1940 is "worth something"—that is, that the Republicans have a chance after eight years of political drouth—there is an extraordinary crop of favorite sons coming forward.

Concerning the prospective campaign, itself, there again is that uncertainty about Mr. Roosevelt's personal popularity, about the prestige he has or will be able to lend to the mantle bearer of the Democratic party. There is likewise the question as to how much of the New Deal ought to be discarded and how much ought to be kept, and it is not an easy decision to make.

There is, for instance, no question in my mind but that voters everywhere are getting disgusted with too much government. I do not mean to infer that they are unanimous. But the evidence cumulates that the federal government is engaging in too many functions; that it is invading private rights too far; that its general scope is beyond what government was designed to be, and that more and more people are saying "there ought to be some laws repealed" rather than that "there ought to be a law."

A Turn Is Well

As turning the logs will make a fire burn, so changes of study a dull brain.

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