

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

**U. S. Medical Group Hits Claim That 40,000,000 Require Care; Call Health Program Needless**

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.

**MEDICINE: 40,000,000?**

Basis for the Wagner bill now before congress is the claim that 40,000,000 U. S. citizens are without medical care. If passed, the measure would provide federal subsidies for care of the indigent sick, amounting to \$100,000,000 the first year. Such socialization is strenuously opposed by the American Medical Association, which surveyed local physicians of 747 counties in 37 states to disprove the government.

Forty million people constitute roughly one-fourth the population. Of 20,000 physicians surveyed, 17,000 (or one-fourth the physicians in territories canvassed) reported free medical service to 2,611,451 persons each year, plus 1,909,713 hours of free hospital service each year. If all physicians furnish free service on this basis, A. M. A. figured that 10,000,000 of the 43,000,000 people covered in its survey are getting free service. On a nation-wide basis, multiplied by four, this would mean U. S. physicians are already taking care of the 40,000,000 needy citizens Uncle Sam would help.

Possible, though unsubstantiated, A. M. A. fallacies: (1) "Free" services may include those to solvent patients guilty of the good old American custom of not paying doctor bills; (2) not asking free services (nor would they ask help under a U. S. program) are thousands of medicine's "forgotten men," low-salaried white collar workers who can neither get relief nor pay doctor and hospital bills.

Socialized medicine is one side of the problem, but A. M. A.'s President-elect Dr. Rock Sleyster of Watousa, Wis., thought he knew a



**A. M. A.'S DR. SLEYS TER**  
*Is it all worth while?*

more basic side. Nationally known as a brain authority, President Sleyster pointed out that 10,000,000 of the nation's 130,000,000 people bear in their bodies seeds which may result occasionally in a feeble-minded child. Holding that mental troubles are the "greatest unsolved medical problem," he gloomily commented that medicine's strides in prolonging life have cost "far more than the goods are worth" if such protection from sickness brings unwillingness to battle against economic troubles.

**CONGRESS: Taxes**

Most U. S. business men have an opinion on why the nation is glutted with idle capital. Their explanation: Too much federal spending and excessive business taxes discourage new enterprise. By coincidence, Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney's temporary national economic committee began investigating this problem just after the senate passed its huge farm bill, inciting a new congressional argument over economy and tax revision versus early adjournment.

Though the senate junked President Roosevelt's Florida ship canal, its farm bill spending spree gave the house courage to pass the record \$773,420,000 naval appropriations bill. Tax revision apparently has a green light from the White House, but last January's anti-spending talk has been forgotten under pressure of 1940 elections. Net gain: Nothing.

If this is a neutralizing factor, General Electric Chairman Owen D. Young discussed a greater neutralizer before Senator O'Mahoney's committee. His argument: Government should remove threats and restraints to business, thereby making the administration's spending policies effective in putting idle capital to work. Said he: "I do not believe in . . . giving a stimulant and then neutralizing it," meaning that spending should only be used to boost lagging purchasing power.

Crux of Mr. Young's argument against the undistributed profits levy is that most industries must expand with earnings retained for that purpose, an experience of both General

Electric and U. S. Steel, whose Chairman Edward R. Stettinius preceded Mr. Young to the stand. G. E.'s chairman believes the excess profits tax should be modified to stop penalizing business.

With \$2,000,000,000 in "nuisance" taxes and corporate levies expiring



**OWEN D. YOUNG**  
*Why neutralize a stimulant?*

this year, congress is scurrying around to replace them, remembering—but possibly revolting against—the President's admonishment that (1) total revenues must not be decreased, and (2) low income levies shall not be boosted. Already circulating are plans to tap new tax sources for \$3,160,000,000 by looking to liquor and tobacco; personal income, corporation income and manufacturers sales taxes; tariffs; and taxes on state employees and securities.

**RACES: Settlement?**

During the World war anxious Great Britain enlisted Arab aid with a hasty, ill-reasoned promise of independence in Palestine. Britain also enlisted Jewish funds by promising to make Palestine a homeland for Jews. Twenty years after Versailles the bloody "holy war" which has kept British troops busy in Palestine shows no sign of abating. Last winter an Arab-Jewish conference in London failed because delegates refused to sit at the same table. Confronted with more pressing crises in Europe, Britain finally decided to dictate a settlement.

Released in London was a white paper decision providing gradual relaxation of British overlordship between now and 1944, during which 75,000 more Jews would be allowed to enter Palestine. Then, with population standing at 40 per cent Jewish and 60 per cent Arab, Britain would try to get delegates together to frame a constitution for the new independent state.

Observers thought Britain's haste to reach a settlement had precipitated chaos. Since 20 years' experience have demonstrated that Jews and Arabs will not live under the same flag, it was quite obvious Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain might have made more permanent peace by following the original plan: Creation of independent Jewish and Arab states separated by a British neutral strip.

**SPAIN: Manna From France**

What happened to Loyalist Spain's huge gold reserve is a perplexing mystery, especially to money-hungry Gen. Francisco Franco, who needs it to rebuild his war-torn nation. Part of Spain's gold rests in U. S. banks, another—and larger—part in France. Rumor has it that still more was shipped secretly to Mexico to support fleeing Loyalists.

Several months ago France and Britain hoped to woo Dictator Franco away from the Rome-Berlin axis with reconstruction loans which neither Italy nor Germany could furnish. Rejecting direct Anglo-French help, Senator Franco joined the Axis and turned to international bankers. Seen recently in Paris was Paul Van Zeeland, former Belgian premier, internationally known economist and banker, sounding out private French banking sentiment on a \$100,000,000 loan to Franco Spain. Planned by French, Dutch and Swiss firms, one-fourth of the loan would be underwritten in France, where bankers have overridden government objections. Premier Edouard Daladier wants no truck with Franco Spain unless a permanent neutrality agreement is extracted in return.

Little does General Franco care about Premier Daladier's attitude, however. Thoroughly angry over Spanish gold held in French banks, equally angry over the 40,000 Basques who are drawing 15 francs a day out of funds brought with them from Spain, Franco would gladly borrow from private French bankers. He might even find it expedient not to repay the loan until these bankers talk their government into returning Spain's gold.

**AGRICULTURE: Looking Ahead**

Last year's agriculture act requires quota elections on the quantity of wheat each grower may sell when the supply reaches 1,021,600,000 bushels. At the same time, excess surpluses would justify lowering of acreage allotments. Only a few weeks ago the bureau of agricultural economics predicted wheat supplies would reach 1,013,900,000 bushels by July 1, only 2,100,000 bushels short of the level at which marketing quotas could be enforced for 1940.

A good crop this season might have driven surpluses over that mark, giving the administration an embarrassing job of clamping down on wheat farmers during election year. But unexpected dry weather in the spring wheat belt helped Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace justify radical changes in the department's original estimates:

Original July 1 carryover figure was 275,000,000 bushels; Mr. Wallace dropped it to 270,000,000. Spring wheat was first placed at 200,000,000 bushels; Mr. Wallace made it 160,000,000. Total current year's crop was first placed at 743,900,000; Mr. Wallace made it 704,000,000. Instead of 1,018,900,000 bushels, Mr. Wallace therefore got a July 1 total of 974,000,000, well under the mandatory quota figure. To further placate rebellious farmers during election year, he decided to let them plant 62,000,000 acres next year, 7,000,000 more than in 1939. Justification: The 974,000,000-bushel estimate for this July 1 is 47,000,000 bushels under last year.

**WHITE HOUSE: Menu**

President and Mrs. Roosevelt like simple food. When White Housekeeper Mrs. Henrietta Nesbitt translated into English several menus served Britain's King George and Queen Elizabeth during last year's Paris visit she discovered they, too, liked simple food. Announced in Washington was the "typical American" menu scheduled June 8 when Britain's No. 1 citizens visit the No. 1 U. S. citizens:

- Clam cocktail
- Calve's head soup
- Broiled filet of flounder
- Mushroom and wine sauce
- Sliced tomatoes
- Boned capon
- Cranberry sauce
- Peas
- Buttered beets
- Sweet potato purfs
- Frozen cheese and cress salad
- Maple and almond ice cream
- Coffee

Meanwhile the lady of British Ambassador Sir Ronald Lindsay forwarded 1,300 invitations for the garden party her husband will give for the visiting sovereigns, leaving 13,000 other would-be guests sulking in the cold.

**ASIA: Rebuff**

Thus far self-righteous Japan has met little resistance from western democracies in such bold land-steals as Hainan Island and Canton. In early May, Tokyo informed British and American ambassadors that she wanted greater voice in rule of Shanghai's vital international settlement. A few days later she landed marines in the international settlement (Kulansu) of Amoy after a Japanese naval commander charged his life had been endangered in a street brawl.

If Britain thought of following precedent and bowing to Jap demands, the U. S. also followed precedent by setting Japan back on its heels. Within 24 hours American, British and French marines were pulled ashore at Amoy, a gentle hint which Japan's bluejackets accepted by bouncing back to their own warships. At the same time, in Tokyo, U. S. Ambassador Joseph C. Grew expressed his government's views on Shanghai:

"The government of the U. S. is constrained to point out . . . that conditions in the Shanghai area are . . . so far from normal . . . that there is totally lacking a basis for discussion looking toward an orderly settlement of the complicated problems involved."

Placing the shoe on another foot, the U. S. ignored Japan's demands for a greater measure of control in the settlement's political and economic life, demanding instead that Japan return to the settlement land lying north of Shanghai's Soochow creek.



**AMBASSADOR GREW**  
*He answered Japan in kind.*

**Bruckart's Washington Digest**

**Hoan's 'Good Government' Plea Ignored by Washington Press**

**Milwaukee Mayor's Criticism of Relief Administration Practices Neglected as Mayor LaGuardia Furnishes Usual Newspaper Copy.**

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

WASHINGTON.—It has come to be quite a habit for mayors of cities and governors of states to come rushing to Washington for appearances before congressional committees. They appear as out of the blue sky; rush to the capitol; testify before a committee; repair to a hotel suite and hold a press conference and gain a lot of publicity, and go back home. They usually come for just one thing—money.

Visitations to Washington, therefore, have become fashionable as a political game. And if, as a result of the words of alleged wisdom dropped from the lips of the self-appointed purveyors of people's thoughts, new checks should be forthcoming from the United States treasury—"ah," they say, "we got it for you."

The traffic in mayors and governors, especially mayors, has grown so heavy that it is seldom news, except for the mayor's home town; and, frankly, the news writers describe them as being worth about a dime a dozen from a strictly news standpoint. I don't mean to neglect the governors when I stress the number of mayors. It is a fact that there are more mayors who come, hat in hand and a bouquet to toss to themselves later, than there are governors. It is just like the fact that there are more freshmen in high school than there are graduates from college, because hundreds of them drop by the wayside.

**Hoan Flays Relief Spending**

Those preliminaries ought to explain why the appearance here the other day of Mayor Daniel W. Hoan of Milwaukee, Wis., failed to get anything like the attention it deserved from the press. Now, Mayor Hoan is a socialist. He is, however, an individual who thinks about city administration along many practical lines, thus differing from the mine run of mayors who are concerned only with re-election or a political promotion. The mayor came to testify, but the mayor wasn't in the capital city just to beg for money for Milwaukee. He saw some things around here which he believed were wrong, as national policy, and he talked about them.

Said the Milwaukee mayor, in substance: you fellows are spending a lot of money for relief of the destitute; you are wasting a lot of that money, and it ought to be stopped. It ought to be stopped because you are letting the states and the cities get into the habit of coming to Washington for money and more money. They are, therefore, getting out of the habit of justifying to the people of their communities the necessity of expenditures they are making and money their poor are using. In other words, you ought to make the states and the cities kick in with a greater share for the support of those on relief, and force them again for wasted, as well as proper use of funds. And, more important than anything else, you ought to put this relief business on a pay-as-you-go basis and stop getting further into debt.

Those were not Mayor Hoan's words, of course. Yet I have presented them as substantially what his testimony meant, and seldom, in recent years, have I heard better sense spoken to a committee of congress. To me, it was almost startling testimony, the more so because it was offered while another committee was looking into President Roosevelt's request for \$1,750,000,000 for relief in the next year. It should be said just here that Mr. Roosevelt's appeal for the annual relief appropriation was, or appears to be, modest. That is, the amount is modest if it is all he will ask for. There are those who expect that he will ask congress next winter for a deficiency appropriation when the projected sum runs out.

**Charges States Shirk Relief Responsibilities**

Mayor Hoan appeared to believe that some of the states were, and are, shirking their responsibilities. It is so easy to come to Washington and tell a congressional committee that "our people are destitute and we have no money to care for them." Aside from the mayor's belief, it ought to be observed that the mayors and the governors are prone to think only of how much money they can pay out without having to assess their own taxpayers for it. They are not to be concerned with federal policy in relief matters, and they are all too willing to avoid references to their own responsibility. They apparently have a new slogan: "Pull Uncle Sam's leg."

Another mayor was around town at the same time that Mayor Hoan was here. He was Mayor LaGuardia of New York. Nobody seems to know exactly where "the Little Flower" should be catalogued, politically. He once was a member of congress as a Republican. That is, he was a

Republican when he came in, but he wandered around into three or four different political parties and seems now to be among the bell wethers of the American labor party. Anyway, the New York mayor is a great little testifier in favor of getting all of the money for New York city that is possible—so long as it comes from the federal treasury.

Mayor LaGuardia is a great favorite among many news correspondents in Washington. He is what is called "good copy." That is to say, he always is ready with comment on—well, on about any subject. Picture it for yourself; if you were a writer and had to have stories for your next edition and you found the mayor of a great city willing to talk, a plenty! Let there be no misunderstanding about that.

**LaGuardia's Statement Politically Expedient**

Surely, then, a casual reader can understand why the comparative statements of mayors of two great cities had the effect on me that I have attempted to report. One of them giving consideration to the future of the nation as a whole, a statesmanlike examination of a paramount policy; the other apparently thinking only of protecting the political hide of himself.

So, I say that Mayor Hoan's testimony was almost sensational, while Mayor LaGuardia was singing the same old refrain of "gimme, gimme." And I believe thoroughly that the words of the Milwaukee mayor will sharpen the wits and stir the courage of those men and women in congress who are seeking an honest solution for the relief problem that is now scarcely less repulsive than a festering sore.

It was quite by coincidence of course that Mayor Hoan's observations should have come about the time that a house subcommittee should have unearthed some evidence concerning uses of WPA money that actually stinks. I do not know about the truth of the evidence, but it is a matter of official record now.

A subcommittee investigator presented statements to the effect that WPA money was used to build lakes in Tennessee "without reference to the need for recreational facilities considered on any statewide or community basis." The statements were attributed to a member of the Tennessee fish and game commission, and the investigator's conclusions were that the money had been diverted in this manner in order to increase the value of real estate held by several politicians.

The investigator and his sources of information named ex-Senator George L. Berry and Gov. Prentice Cooper, of Tennessee, as holders of land which benefitted by the WPA-built lakes. This is the same Senator Berry who sued the Tennessee Valley Authority for a million dollars or so on account of damage claimed to have been done by construction of one or more of the TVA dams. The then member of the United States senate charged that some of his marble quarries were under 50 feet of water as a result of TVA dams.

**Move Started to Publish WPA Salaries**

As a part of this general WPA use and misuse of millions of dollars, Rep. Joe Martin of Massachusetts, has started a move to find out how much money is being paid to those who run WPA. He has introduced a resolution to have the WPA headquarters here supply the house with a complete list of salaries paid under WPA. You know, there have been many charges tossed about concerning the salaries paid out of WPA funds—and the lack of work done for them. In other words, Mr. Martin wants to know some facts why only about 60 cents out of each WPA dollar ever gets down the line to the poor devil out of a job and with a wife and children to feed.

This action on the part of Mr. Martin seems to link into petitions long made that numerous politicians have placed their tents in WPA top jobs where, if need be, they could be quite influential, politically. Mr. Martin tried to obtain the information about Massachusetts, but Col. F. C. Harrington, WPA administrator, refused to make the facts public. He contended that disclosure of the salaries would be "embarrassing to those who receive them." Mr. Martin told the house, however, that federal salaries should always be a matter open to the public and he believed there is no more right to secrecy about WPA salaries than about the salary of the President or a member of congress.

It will be interesting to see if the house votes the order to make the list public, but it will be more interesting to see the amounts of those pay checks.

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No. 1747 is designed for sizes 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Size 13 requires 4 1/2 yards of 35-inch material for the ensemble; 10 yards of ric-rac.

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