WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Maze of Democratic Candidates Plays Into Roosevelt's Hands; May Compromise on 3rd Term

(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,

POLITICS: Plan?

Whatever his reasoning, President Roosevelt has shown political wisdom in refusing to announce his intentions for 1940. But campaigns and conventions must eventually settle the Democratic party's political stew, and by early June campaign time was so near that thirdterm talk was definitely in the picture. Enough other Democrats had talked to give the voting public their choice of two probable reasons why the White House continued to remain silent:

Resolution. West Virginia's Sen Rush D. Holt began demanding that the senate vote on his resolution forbidding a third term. Until that vote was made, Mr. Roosevelt could hardly be expected to declare himself; if the resolution were passed after he announced his candidacy, the President would go down in history as a villain, not a hero. Contrariwise, if the resolution were



SECRETARY ICKES He doesn't like Mr. Garner.

rejected, Mr. Roosevelt knew the public would regard the rejection as a vote of confidence from the senate, thus paving the way for renomi-

Confusion. Far more pertinent, however, is another reason. While Mr. Roosevelt keeps quiet, all other Democratic hopefuls are scrambling into the exciting political dogfight, never be expected to bring party harmony.

First (and best liked) hopeful to speak was Vice President John N. Garner, whose friends announced he would be "available." Within 48 hours he was pounced on by: (1) Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, who called him by inference a "know nothing, say nothing, do nothing"; (2) Workers Alliance, which adopted a resolution condemning Mr. Garner as representing a poverty-stricken mass of people; (3) San Antonio's Mayor Maury Maverick, former congressman, who objected chiefly to Mr. Garner's age (70).

Meanwhile Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace had his name added to a list of second choices already cluttered with those of Postmaster General James A. Farley. Indiana's former Gov. Paul V. Mc-Nutt and aging Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who has long been mentioned as a presidential possibility.

Immediate result was probably just what the President wanted, a recognition by many Democrats that the Garner-Hull-Farley-Wallace-McNutt candidacies merely produced an utter confusion which could have but one logical solution

HEADLINERS MAURICE GUSTAVE GAMELIN

This French general first came to prominence during the Munich crisis, though he

has been chief of the army general staff since 1931. Now 66, he entered the World war as a captain and emerged as a major general. His latest honor: Commandership



and air forces, an unprecedented move to unify the government's defense. The move had been expected, however, since General Gamelin was in 1938 named chief of the general staff of national defense, directly under Edouard Daladier, premier and minister of national defense and war. The new task is one of co-ordinating all French forces. Retaining generalship of French land forces, the new commander will have as air chief Gen. J. Vuillemin. Commander-in-chief of the navy will be Admiral Jean Darlin, advanced from vice-admiral. Both are under Gamelin's supervision.

at convention time: Junk them all

If this was not the case, observers zine, in which he plumped for a third term. Extremely close to the White House, the vitriolic secretary of the interior was not likely to make such a statement unless he knew the President was at least toying with the idea of running

FAIRS:

Attendance

Closer to large populations, New York's World's fair would naturally draw larger attendance than its rival at San Francisco. By June 1, after running 3½ months, the Golden Gate exposition reported attendance of 3,284,329. In one month, from April 30 to June 1. New York's turnstiles spun to the tune of 5,594,-

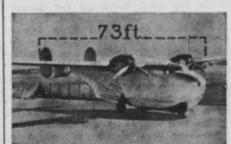
More interesting to executives of both fairs was the source of attendance, for local visitors add little to the prosperity of either San Francisco or New York. At the Golden Gate, a checkup of parking lots revealed 85 per cent of visitors were from California. Of out-of-state visitors, 55 per cent came from nearby Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Ne-

vada, etc. Closest comparable estimate at New York came from the Goodrich exhibit, which offered replica auto tags to the estimated 20 per cent total attendance which visited the Transportation area. Judging from auto tag sales, 49 per cent of the fair's visitors were from New York. Pennsylvania, 6.5 per cent; Massachusetts, 4.5 per cent; Connecticut, neutrality an airing. 4.5 per cent. Only states not registered on June 1: North and South

Though both surveys showed early attendance was localized, both fairs also predicted mid-summer vacation season would bring visitors from afar.

AVIATION: Competition

Most huge flying boats like Pan-American's transatlantic clippers took two to three years for design and completion. Last summer, when the new clippers were already knifing each other in a way that can | under way, San Diego's Consolidated aircraft went to work on a streamlined, simplified, awkward looking boat (see photo) powered by two 2,000-horsepower, 18-cylinder, twinrow radial engines; capable of cruising 300 miles an hour with a



CONSOLIDATED'S BOAT Not graceful, but efficient.

cruising range exceeding present types; seating 52 passengers in daytime, and sleeping 28 at night. Its size: 110-foot wingspread, 73foot length, 22-foot height, 50,000pound weight. Most surprising feature: an unexpected, ungraceful 'reverse clipper' cut at the stern, which sacrifices beauty for efficiency.

Consolidated lost no time disposing of the boat. Sponsored by American Export Lines, Inc., which operates 18 surface boats between the eastern seaboard and Mediterranean ports, a subsidiary known as American Export airlines will this summer make several transatlantic survey flights with the ship. Each of American Export's surface ships will maintain a floating weather observatory and guard service across the Atlantic.

For Pan-American, just getting under way on a two-flights-a-week basis, Consolidated's flying whale may mean competition.

BUSINESS:

Unanimity

A sample day's comment in this spring's week-after-week demand for tax revision as a means of aiding business, and thereby stimulating recovery:

Gen. Charles G. Dawes: "The business man is no longer taking things lying down. It is insane to believe that the government can do the job alone.

John W. Hanes, treasury undersecretary: "The social reforms desired by the people can be sustained and developed only by the recovery of private enterprise, which after all is the backbone of

federal revenue. Walter B. Van Wart, Dallas steel executive: "If confidence is to be revived and long-term business recovery promoted, punitive and in- the total debt limit of \$45,000,000,000 centive taxation policies should be (to be reached next fiscal year) re abandoned."

NEUTRALITY:

Co-operation

German domination over lesser European nations need not only mean dependence on the Reich for peacetime manufactured goods. If such was the case last year, Adolf Hitler's aggression this spring added military domination to the already pressing economic leverage. Reason: Already boss of Germany's mighty Krupp works, Berlin captured the even mightier Skoda plants when Czecho-Slovakia fell before the conquerer. Until then southeast Europe's minor nations and nominate Franklin Roosevelt | (like Rumania, Greece, Turkey and Jugoslavia) had Skoda guns and shells to ward off the aggressive at least saw something significant Reich. Today Skoda munitions go in Mr. Ickes' article in Look maga- mainly to Germany and can be



CZECHIA'S SKODA WORKS It may change U.S. policy.

bought by lesser nations only in exchange for concessions.

Aggravating the situation is the Anglo-French rearmament program, which demands domestic consumption of all munitions produced in those nations' plants. Lesser countries get none.

This forceful argument against current U. S. neutrality legislation was apparently saved for the crucial moment. Not offered early this session during house and senate committee hearings, it was plumped in fair's visitors were from New York. their laps unexpectedly by Secre-Others: New Jersey, 15 per cent; tary of State Cordell Hull just as the two houses seemed likely to give

It seemed a fairly sound basis for changing U. S. policy, isolationists notwithstanding. Since the Nazi government has become No. 1 source of military supplies, moreover since practically continuous German mobilization aggravates the situation, Mr. Hull joined Nevada's Sen. Key Pittman in demanding repeal of the neutrality act's tion want it or not. Indeed, a good embargo provision.

(This provision stipulates that once the President finds a state of war exists in any foreign conflict, the sale of U.S. arms and munitions is prohibited.)

Best anti-embargo argument: That it actually places the U.S. in a position of co-operating with Nazi Germany in freezing out smaller nations by depriving them of munitions.

On the surface less pressing when war scares have temporarily died down, neutrality revision seemed out of the question if congress is to consider tax revision, relief appropriations and social security and still adjourn by July 15.

TRANSPORTATION:

Survey

Last winter congress ordered the federal trade commission to survey the automobile industry for concentration of control, competition, manufacturer-dealer recommendation and pricing activities of local dealer associations. Inspiration: Sen. Joseph O'Mahoney's monopolies investigating committee.

Just submitted, FCC's report both praised and blamed the auto industry. Chief praise was that, although in 1938 there were only 11 manufacturing firms and that three of these (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) controlled 90 per cent of sales, the public got its money's worth. FCC found that "consumer benefits from competition in the automobile industry have probably been more substantial than in any other large industry studied by the commission."

Chief blame was that certain manufacturers impose "unfair and inequitable conditions on their dealers, forcing them to accept contracts favoring the manufacturer. Recommendations: (1) less restriction on dealers; (2) placing of quota requirements for dealers on a mutual basis.

TREASURY:

News Notes

June 15 is quarterly U. S. treasury refinancing time. Only refinancing this June is an offer to exchange \$426,554,600 in 1% per cent notes maturing next September for new five year, % per cent notes maturing June 15, 1944. No new money will be needed until September. Other treasury news:

Q During the first 11 months of the 1938-39 fiscal year the U.S. operateu with a deficit of \$3,240,467,092 which will probably hit \$4,000.000. 000 by year's end on June 30.

@ Secretary Morgenthau revealed only 49 Americans had million-dol lar incomes in 1937, compared with 61 in 1936. Yet 6,350,148 people filed 1937 income tax returns, compared

with only 5,413,499 in 1936. C Okayed by the senate was a meas ure to remove the \$30,000,000 limit on federal bond insurance, though mains undisturbed.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Would Force Public Ownership on Nation in Spite of Voters' Wishes

Power Commission Appears as Spearhead of Minority With Socialistic Tendencies; Niagara Falls Investigation May Bring Out Some New Facts; Private Plants Menaced.

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

tions always hold some fascination for me, whether the inquiry is conducted by a congressional committee or by some agency of government. My interest, however, seldom lies in the sensational testimony or muckraking that may be among the results. I care little for the smearing of individuals and that sort of thing. The thing that attracts me to these ditch-digging activities is a desire always to know what motives lie beneath the apparently earnest effort in behalf of the pee-pul.

I do not mean to impugn the motives of all and sundry individuals who set about unearthing facts. Far from it. But whatever the results may be in the public interest, it remains as fact that in most instances there will be found an individual or two who are seeking to capitalize upon the reputation they can build for themselves in a good knock-downand-drag-out investigation. Now, it may be that this is just a by-product, like some of the poisons that come from beautiful flowers. But it does come, and that is why I always want to smell around a bit for a look-see at the full story of an investigation.

There is no doubt, for instance, that the federal power commission's investigation of the use of Niagara Falls water for generation of electric power may produce some new facts. A great natural resource of that kind should not be allowed to become a thing in which public interest is ignored. But there should be, and there is, a limit to public interest, just as much as there is a limit beyond which private control should not be allowed.

In the Niagara case, however, the power commission is made to appear as the spearhead of a loudspeaking, rough-riding minority which, for years, has sought to saddle public ownership on the whole United States. That group makes no bones of its purposes. It is for public ownership, a socialist venture, whether the voters of the naguess is that this group wants to force public ownership of all utilities-power, water, transportationupon the country despite the refusal of congress to create a network of electric lines throughout the nation such as has been established in parts of the South under the creeping paralysis of TVA.

Bound to Destroy Property Value of Private Plants

This conclusion is borne out, as far as I am concerned, by the public pronouncements of those charged with making the policy of the power commission and, therefore, the power policy of the Roosevelt administration. The conclusion is accepted by many also because of the unending efforts of Secretary Ickes of the interior department. Mr. Ickes, as is rather generally known, has urged municipalities, wherever he could find one, to borrow federal money or accept an outright gift of funds for the purchase or construction of publicly owned electric light plants. He even has gone so far as to pour millions out on the plains, agricultural areas, as he did in Nebraska, where there is no market for more than a thimbleful of electricity. Such a course was bound to destroy the property value of private plants which did not have a bottomless treasury from which to make up operating losses.

When one has a knowledge of all of this background, the Niagara Falls story changes its aspect, considerably. The power commission has been kicking the Niagara Falls case around about 10 years. Suddenly, a couple of months ago a hearing was ordered on a great number of charges of violation of license. They are too technical to be of much concern here, but it is plain to see that if the commission's views are sustained in the courts, a wedge has been driven by the government, itself, into the structure of private ownership. In other words, a federal agency has carved national policy by use of regulatory power and has done so by the simple process of enforcing its views rather than the wishes of the people which are expressed through laws of

Clearly Illustrates How Investigations May Turn Out

Thus, it seems that the Niagara Falls case can be used as an illustration of what investigations may turn out to be, even though such an inquiry is properly conceived in the public interest. The use of them for the purposes that appear in this one surely must be deplored, for it is bureaucracy run riot.

There is yet another phase of the Niagara Falls case to which attention should be drawn. It relates to the utilization of investigations for personal promotion. Oh! I reckon there is no crime in promoting one's self, or one's political ambitions. Anyway, I do not infer any crime. I am merely criticizing the thing as I

WASHINGTON .- Public investiga- | something that does not make for good government. It is a species of demagoguery, this campaigning on a vehicle set up for other pur-

> So, we come to the case of Casa March, 28 years old, a Texas citizen, and an attorney for the power commission which is a federal agency. From all appearances, Mr. March is politically ambitious. He is convinced, it seems, that Texas ought to have him as governor in the next few years. Prosecution of some great corporation is a political horse that will gallop far and well over the plains of the great state of Texas. Of course, Mr. March would be aboard that horse. I understand that he even has a campaign slogan. He would herd the voters of Texas under his banner with "Forward March, With

I am not informed as to Mr. March's qualification for the office of governor of Texas. Sometimes these young whippersnappers have what it takes and Mr. March may be one of them. In any event, he. is determined to win the power commission case against "those four families that have pyramided one corporation on top of another" until Niagara Falls water must be crushed under the burden. The four families are named by Mr. March as the Morgans, the Mellons, the Schoellkopfs and the Carlisles.

Wonder if Private Persons Any Longer Have Rights

One look at the stenographic record of the hearings in the Niagara Falls case rather causes one to question whether private persons any longer have rights even under our constitutional form of government. There were apparently no rules of law followed in that case; and the statement is the same regarding the usual congressional committee investigations. The fellow who gets on the witness stand in one of these cases is worse off than the Negro boy behind the canvass at the county fair. The boy can duck. He has that sporting chance, even though his head is the target for well-aimed throws. Not so with a witness in a public investigation.

Nor does there seem to be any limitation on the kind of charges that can be hurled at a person or a firm or a corporation, once they are in the toils of an investigation. The constitutional provision seems to have been reversed. You are guilty until you are proved innocent-that is, if you get a chance to submit proof.

Of course, such names as the Aluminum Company of America, and J. P. Morgan and company and the Carlisle power interests and the others are well known. They are "big" names. Without them, most investigations are a flop. Being wealthy and well known, when those people are attacked, they make headlines. Almost anything that is done about them or by them is printed. Besides, many, many speeches can be made about trust busting!

Perhaps such tactics pay. Think of Hugo Black. He rode roughshod over anybody and everybody in his airmail investigation several years ago, an investigation conducted by him as a United States senator. Mr. Black now sits as an associate justice of the Supreme court. It will be a long time, however, before most people will forget how Mr. Black used powers of the securities and exchange commission to force the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies to deliver thousands of personal telegrams to his committee for use in the investiga-

Jackson Tried It Too, See What Happened

There was Robert Jackson, too. Mr. Jackson, as chief counsel for the bureau of internal revenue, battled the late Andrew W. Mellon over his income taxes. He was appointed soon thereafter as the assistant attorney general in charge of antitrust prosecutions. Promptly, he started an anti-trust suit against the Aluminum Company of America, but his political star was not in the right transit. Anyway, he did not get to be governor of New York. He did not even get the nomination, as did Thomas E. Dewey, as a public reward for striking at malefactors of great wealth or racketeersone type being as good as the other for political purposes.

Or, we may advert to Senator La-Follette's crusade with his senate civil liberties committee. Now, I am none too sure of the meaning of the phrase, civil liberties, but Senator LaFollette surely tried to convince the union workers, especially the C. I. O. members, that he was protecting them against those sinful employers who would grind workers into the grime and grease of their overalls, as well as obtaining much publicity for the senator.

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Empty Task In general those who nothing have to say contrive to spend the longest time in doing it.-Lowell.



Right Reading It is not wide reading but useful reading that tends to excellence .-Aristippus.



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