

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Mixed Reaction Created by Huge Money Lending Program

Some Legislators Shout Halleluiahs, Others Are Bitter in Opposition to What They See as Another Gigantic Flop; Government Credit Menaced!

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt has asked congress for approval of another gigantic money lending program. He wants to put out \$3,860,000,000 as a "stimulant to business." He wants to start right away and he wants to keep the money pouring into sinkholes through the summer and fall and winter and spring and next summer, too.

The President is not proposing government spending, as distinguished from government lending. That is important. While it has been shown by the experiences of the last half dozen years that this spending idea is just as successful as trying to pull one's self up by one's boot straps, those who favor the lending program say this method of bringing about recovery has not yet been fully tested. The brilliant-minded, self-appointed saviors of America, therefore, are out to prove that government cash can end a depression.

Arrival of the President's letter at the Capitol created quite a mixed reaction. Some members shouted their halleluiahs of more manna for the spawning ground for votes. Others expressed approval of parts of the gigantic outpouring of cash and objected to other items of the program. The third group on capitol hill at once voiced their wholehearted opposition to the scheme, offering several reasons why they could not support the President.

Nearly everything that is done in the national government is tinged with or steeped in politics. So the political phases immediately were stressed by the opponents of the program, and they are putting more steam behind their attacks as the days go by. Some of these members are objecting to further outlays by the government because they fear that government credit is about to crack any way, and they predict the newest presidential plan will seriously endanger the government's financial stability. The other group of oppositionists take a brutal position.

Say Roosevelt Is Paving Way for His Renomination

They say Mr. Roosevelt is proposing this new lending program now in order to pave the way for his renomination to a third term in the White House. I expect that we will hear more of this aspect of the situation as the debate develops on the floors of the house and senate.

There is every reason to believe that the President will obtain approval for most of his program. He may not get it all, but when it comes to getting a legislative program through congress, nothing equals the distribution of money as bait.

Thus, it appears to me that we can treat the proposition from the standpoint of what will come from the program in the way of beneficial results, if any, and to find, if possible, what the long range effect will be.

First, let me recall that during the administration of Herbert Hoover, when the present depression first fastened its fangs on our economic structure, there was the first major outpouring of government funds. The Hoover thought was to stimulate business by lending money and by spending for public construction. It was Mr. Hoover, too, who sponsored "self-liquidating projects" for which federal cash would be loaned—the idea being that a self-liquidating project would earn enough money to pay off the government loan. That was the way the reconstruction finance corporation came into being, and that was the greatest mistake of the early days of the world depression insofar as our nation is concerned.

Well, the Hoover administration promoted loans for self-liquidating projects in a big way. As a stimulant of business, the plan was a magnificent flop. The current program, being modeled exactly as Herbert Hoover designed the first one, also will be a glorious flop. There is, as a matter of fact, not one bit of difference between the new Roosevelt program and the futile move in the Hoover day.

Few Have Confidence in Policies of Government

Whether this government lending idea is sponsored by Republicans or Democrats, by Communists or Fascists, the result is bound to be the same as far as accomplishing anything toward business revival. By its very nature, government lending creates a doubt in the minds of every one whether they recognize it just that way or not. The feeling that most every one gets is manifested in the form of a question: well, where are we headed when conditions are so bad that the United States treasury has to supply money upon which business operates? Which, to my way of thinking, is simply saying that few, if any, persons have confidence in the policies of their government. It was distinctly true in the Hoover adminis-

tration, and I think it is equally true in the Roosevelt administration. But I want to go deeper into this problem. There is something more that we ought to think about, and it makes me shudder to talk about the possibilities inherent in moves of this kind by a democracy.

Mr. Roosevelt says that, without a doubt, all of this money that he proposes to lend will be paid back. He said in his message on the subject that there would be no loans approved unless there was assurance that the sums would be repaid. Which is all very well and good. But experience of banking institutions and other lending agencies indicates that a certain per cent of the loans go bad. Poor management, unforeseen business conditions, deaths of key figures, labor disturbances, changes in the taste of the buying public for certain marketable products—all of these things, as well as the responsibility of the borrowers, go to determine whether the money will be paid back. And so it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Roosevelt is a bit, a teeny, weeny bit, optimistic about recovering all of the funds that are loaned.

Personal Political Element Is the Most Disturbing

If we can dismiss the doubt, however, there yet remains the factor, the potentiality, of the program that makes me jittery. Frankly, it is the personal political element that disturbs me most.

Let me illustrate. When Senator Norris, of Nebraska, began fighting a number of years ago for what turned out to be the TVA, he and all other sponsors of that socialistic government-owned power project shouted denials all over the place when it was charged they intended to put the government deeper into the field of private business. All they wanted to do, they insisted, was to develop a government power plant that would serve to measure profits of private companies. They argued that this experiment would show the power companies were taking too much profit out of the hides of consumers of electricity. They said that if this were not true, the TVA would be a blessing to private ownership.

What happened? The answer is pretty well known. TVA began competing with private companies wherever it could get in the field against them. Its means of entering some of the fields of competition were of the rottenest type.

On top of that came the operations of Secretary Ickes, and his public works administration. Mr. Ickes wanted to see more and better publicly owned power plants. He tried, and is still trying, to make power plants grow where power plants never grew before—all from money loaned by the government. Throughout the nation, therefore, are scores of power plants, small as well as large, that were forced to sell out to the competing plant, financed by Uncle Sam, and the investors got what the little boy shot at. TVA, itself, has driven flocks of them out of the field and has negotiated to buy one of the great privately owned systems that could not sell in competition with the government octopus which has no taxes to pay and borrows money on government-backed bonds.

Officials Say Thought Is To Help Private Business

It is only fair to report that the top officials in the government say there is no intention to use these funds as was done through the Public Works administration. There is, they say, no thought of discouraging private business; the thought is to help private business. But it is pointed out, meanwhile, that the funds which are planned to be used in this program will be under the control of half a dozen different agencies. Those who know the set-up in the federal government recognize this fact as important. It means this: Every agency of the federal government always has sought and always will seek to perpetuate itself, to expand its power and its functions. Give it a hundred millions or so to play with; and then express any doubt, if you can, that its officials will overlook any spot where they can boost their own importance. Truly, that would be too much to expect.

Then, give consideration to the fact that the current lending proposal contemplates expanding the original Hoover-initiated program into fields of loaning not hitherto occupied by a government agency. Self-liquidating highways, toll bridges, purchase of railway equipment, construction of more electric lines, to name only a few, are fields where the sloven hand of governmental bureaucracy will retard and handicap private initiative. Apparently, the dear pee-pul are going to be given a great many things to use whether they need them or not and whether they want them or not. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Play Clothes Smartly Styled Of Dependable Wash Fabrics

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



PLAY clothes have come to be a theme of themes with costume designers. The idea of wearing just one old dud when you go out to play or to rough it in camp life or mountain climbs or just simple cross-country hikes is completely taboo these days. No woman of modern outlook can afford to sidetrack the issue of being smartly and appropriately garbed wherever she goes. There's absolutely no escaping the new demand for "style" tuned to environs of the time, the place and the game. Indulge in any outdoor pastime you will, but be sure you "look the part" in the matter of correct attire.

Designers have risen so valiantly to the occasion of creating an entire wardrobe of play clothes that all one has to do is to go to specialized departments and make your needs known and you will be outfitted to the "nth degree of correctness for this sports occasion or that. However, there is more to the play clothes challenge than just style, for dependable wearability that will withstand the ravages of roughing it is of such vast importance one needs must meet the issue with all the art and science at command. Which is exactly what fabric manufacturers are doing.

Note the play clothes pictured. They are extremely fabric conscious

we can assure you, demonstrating perfectly the fact of their non-shrinkableness and their color fastness. Describing these timely modes, from left to right, the perfectly tailored slacks and shirt on the standing figure is of a wool and cotton flannel which has been scientifically sanforized shrunk in Switzerland.

A dark blouse with lighter skirt, both of sturdy cotton gabardine that has been pre-shrunk, as shown centered in the group will undoubtedly be a first choice with outdoor girls who know their 1939 fashions. Note the impeccably tailored pockets. The Gay Nineties dressmaker bathing suit comes back again. Full skirt, basque bodice, snug-fitting waistband and tiny puffed sleeves with touches of narrow black velvet ribbon against demure yellow and white and black printed cotton describes the 1939 version of this quaint type as illustrated above to the right. Underneath this sanforized-shrunk cotton outfit jansje tight fits snugly making a complete trim and ship-shape ensemble.

Full of Nineteenth century charm, yet intensely modern with its brief bras is the beach ensemble on the seated figure in the foreground. It can be relied on to give perfect wear in that the flower print cotton which fashions it is pre-shrunk and fast color. Quaint ruffles edge the snug shorts and finish the formal little semi-fitted basque-like coat. The platform shoes are also interesting. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Hats, Tiny or Big



There is no excuse for not having a flattering hat this summer for every type is included in the showings from tiniest toques to brims that go to extremes in the matter of size. The diminutive hat for dinner and evening wear, as shown below, gains daily in popularity. It is here interpreted in soft iridescent feathers with a touch of shell pink velvet. The black veil is strikingly embroidered. Compared to some of the new brims the large mushroom hat shown here of black Milan is in reality quite conservative. There's no limit as to brim dimensions.

Favor Tweed-Like Linens for Suits

Although this year's linens abound in the traditional smooth finishes of the sort that denote well-bred aristocracy, many new versions are appearing. Something for the home make-your-own-clothes designer to get excited about is the smart new slubbed, nubbed and tweed-like linens which combine the celebrated coolness of flax with a fine aptitude for tailoring that insures a suit of distinction and comfort for town or travel wear.

Fruit Trims New White Straw Hats

Perfectly charming among summer-girl fashions are the new, usually large, rough white straw hats that are trimmed with clusters of gay colored fruit instead of the usual flower garnitures. This new fashion is wonderfully effective whether the hat be worn with an all-white costume or with a gay and festive silk print. It adds to the glory of this mode to carry a matching white straw handbag that is similarly fruit-trimmed.

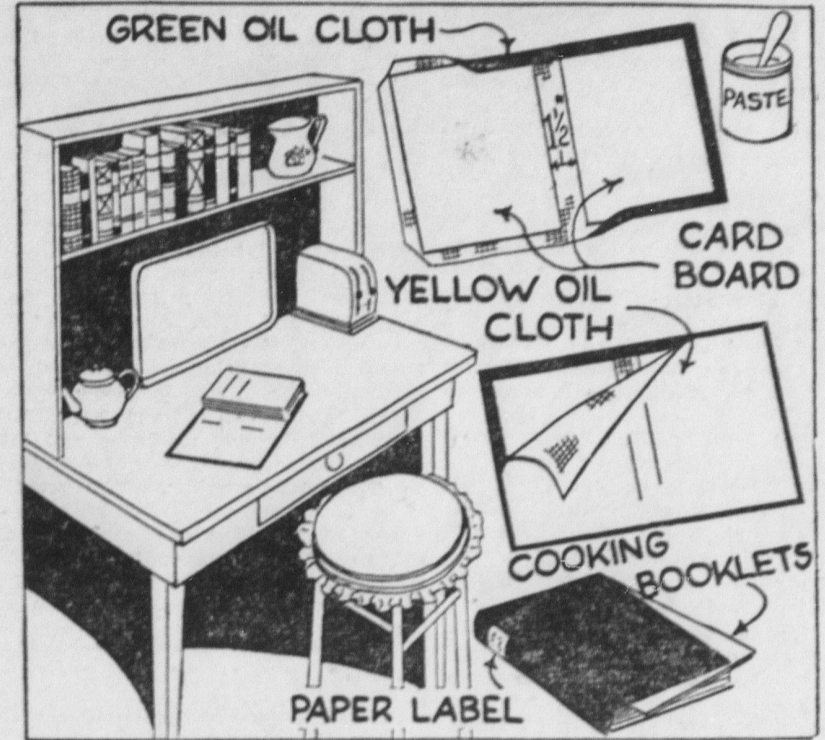
Deck White Suits In Brass Buttons

There is a tendency to impart a military air to summer dresses and suits made of white sharkskin or white gossamer sheer wool by the use of handsome brass buttons, and in some instances epaulets of gold braid have been added. The fad for all white with gold trimming is also carried out in that gold kid belts are being worn with classic white dresses the draping of which takes on a sculptural beauty.

Fishnet Trim
A New York designer, on the search for something different to distinguish summer clothes, has turned to fishnet.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Oilcloth Folders for Your Cooking Booklets.

EVERY efficient kitchen has a book shelf. The paper back booklets that all homemakers love to collect may be placed in bright oil cloth folders so that they will make a brave show along with the bound cook books.

The prettiest folders of this sort that I have seen were made in green and yellow to match the kitchen color scheme. The diagrams given here show exactly how they were made. It is generally best to sort the booklets according to subjects rather than size.

The folders are stiffened with cardboard so they hold booklets of different sizes neatly. The cardboard should be cut the size of the largest booklet in the group. The fabric side of both pieces of oilcloth should be entirely covered with paste to make it stick smoothly to the cardboard. Letter or write the general subject of the booklets on a label and paste it on the back. Place the folder flat under something heavy until it is dry.

NOTE: Book 1—SEWING, for the Home Decorator, and No. 2, Gifts, Novelties, and Embroideries, are now 15 cents each, or both books for 25 cents. Readers who have not secured their copies of these two books should send in

AROUND THE HOUSE

For Polishing Glass.—Old linen is better than cotton. Newsprint paper may be used successfully.

For Yellowed Knife Handles.—If the handles of knives become yellow soak them in peroxide for four hours, then place out of doors in the sun.

Storing Honey.—Store honey in a warm, dry place. It should not be kept in the cellar or in a damp place as it will absorb moisture and ferment.

Refreshing White Paint.—White paint which has gone yellow should be cleaned with a solution made by mixing a handful of ordinary whiting with a pint of water.

Separating Covers.—When jam-pot covers become glued together, do not soak in water, but pass a hot iron over them with a thin paper laid between. They will then separate easily, though the gum will remain intact.

their orders at once, as no more copies will be available when the present stock is sold. Your choice of the QUILT LEAFLET illustrating 36 authentic patchwork stitches; or the RAG RUG LEAFLET, will be included with orders for both books for the present, but the offer may be withdrawn at any time. Leaflets are 6 cents each when ordered without books.

Everyone should have copies of these two books containing 96 HOW TO SEW articles by Mrs. Spears, that have not appeared in the paper. Send your order at once to Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplains St., Chicago, Ill.

Favorite Recipe of the Week

KOOL-AID FLUFF DESSERT

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 level tablespoons Kool-Aid | 1 cup sugar |
| 1/2 cup corn starch | 2 eggs |
| 1 tablespoon butter | Juice 1/2 lemon |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 4 cups water |

1. Place sugar and 3 cups water in pan and bring to boil.
2. To this add 1 cup cold water to which has been added the corn starch, egg yolks, salt, butter and lemon juice.
3. Cook until thick, stirring constantly.
4. Remove from fire and add Kool-Aid, mixing well. Then fold in stiffly beaten egg whites.—Adv.



Your Heart in Your Work
If your job isn't more than wheeling a wheelbarrow, wheel it so the boss will think there's a motor under it.—Unknown.



Liberal Sorrow
Joy may be a miser, but sorrow's purse is free.—Stoddard.

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