

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Two Great National Policies Line Up Queer Combinations

President's Control of Money and Neutrality Legislation Bring About Political Mix-Up; Roosevelt Assumes Personal Command and Takes It on the Chin.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—It has been often said that politics makes strange bedfellows. It does that many times. Seldom, if ever, however, has there been more unfamiliar faces extending beyond the same bed linen as occurred recently in congress. The political bed served as a temporary resting place for most of the Republicans, a flock of anti-administration Democrats and a sizable collection of "yes" men from the New Deal camp. It was such a ludicrous combination that my memory harkened back to the legend of the Kansas wheat fields where it has been said that owls, prairie dogs and rattle snakes nest together below ground.

Two great national policies, breast fed and clothed by the New Deal, were the issues that brought about the strange alignment of politicians. One question was whether President Roosevelt should be allowed to keep his "emergency" power to tinker with the currency and to buy silver, both domestic and foreign, at prices that provided a subsidy for silver producers. The other question involved this nation's position in its relations with other powers—commonly referred to as "neutrality" legislation.

It ought to be noted, in passing, that the queer and somewhat humorous combination of conservative and radical political warriors delivered a series of uppercuts to the point of Mr. Roosevelt's political chin. They did it several times. Mr. Roosevelt did not like it. He squawked about the obstructionist tactics, which was what they were. But his shrill cry about the tactics was predicated upon argument quite as silly as the political alignment which brought about the temporary defeat.

Trade Brings About Some Strange Combinations

While Mr. Roosevelt's argument was as full of holes as a sieve, it strikes me that it probably was less to be condemned than the action of some of the members of the senate in the same series of controversies.

The strangest of combinations among the politicians evolved from a trade between the Republicans and the portion of the majority in the senate to which I have referred. Senators from silver producing states, some Democrats, some New Dealers, and the Republicans made a deal—a very polite description of the transaction. It worked out so that the silverite senators gave their votes to the Republicans who were seeking to take away Mr. Roosevelt's "emergency" power to change the value of the dollar. The Republicans also wanted to put an end to the administration's purchase of silver produced outside of the United States.

In return for the silverite votes on these issues, the Republicans gave the silverites their votes to increase the price paid for silver mined in this country. The Republicans gave the silver producers an additional subsidy of about 13 cents an ounce, or agreed to stand for that much. It was a rotten combination, a trade that smells. I have long argued that silver purchase at prices above the market was typical of a great deal of the theory that dominates current administration policies, but that senate combination on the basis which we know cannot justify, nor be justified by, the desire to correct unsound policies.

There was an old demagogue in the senate some years ago who said, in a flight of oratory, that "it is sometimes necessary to rise above principle for the party's sake." His soul ought to rest in peace, forever, because his goal was more than achieved by the rare political trade among the senators and by the type of argument Mr. Roosevelt made in demanding retention of his "emergency" powers over money.

No Attack Made by Anyone Upon Stabilization Fund

While Mr. Roosevelt was only temporarily defeated in his program for control of the money of the country, it might be well to review the shallow argument he put up as the reasons why the "emergency" powers should be continued. He said, for example, that taking away his control of the dollar and the right to subsidize silver was like laying up half of the navy's ships in the navy yards. I do not follow that analogy, so I will forget about that one. The other argument was that withdrawal of the power to devalue the dollar would place the nation's currency again in the hands of the Wall Street gamblers. Mr. Roosevelt said they would speculate in currencies and that there would be trade wars again. It was the same old story: When you have no other goat, jump on Wall Street.

But it is well just here to point out one phase of the situation that resulted largely from the stubbornness of the President. Throughout the battle with the senate over the so-called monetary bill, there never was an attack by anybody upon the

stabilization fund, also an emergency proposition. There is \$2,000,000,000 in that fund and it is managed by the treasury which seeks, by purchase or sale of foreign currencies, to maintain some even relationship between American and foreign money. It has worked well. It will be continued, without a doubt, and it certainly should be. As a piece of constructive money machinery, it shines like the millions of dollars of unneeded and useless silver that has been purchased by subsidy payments. The stabilization fund is the thing that prevents Wall Street speculation in currencies, not the President's power to devalue the dollar. But because Mr. Roosevelt insisted on all of the powers being continued beyond June 30, of this year, the whole thing went smash. Thus was necessitated new legislation to get even the good parts of the program.

Roosevelt Takes Command Of Situation; Program Flops

Mention ought to be made of how the whole program crashed, or was tossed out. When the Republicans and the Democrats and New Dealers from silver states made their deal, it appeared that Mr. Roosevelt would be satisfied to continue to buy silver from American producers and to operate the stabilization fund. But he wasn't. He rushed to Washington from his Hyde Park, N. Y., estate and took command. The bill which the senate had subjected to emasculation under the strange-bed-fellow combination originated in the house. It has to be sent back to the house, therefore, to have the amendments considered. That meant a conference between special delegations from the house and the senate, and here was where Mr. Roosevelt got busy. He directed the house delegation to refuse the senate amendments, and the senate conference delegation, headed up by Majority Leader Barkley, another equally fervent New Dealer, Senator Wagner of New York, and a sometimes New Dealer, Byrnes of South Carolina, yielded to the demands of the administration.

That circumstance is not unusual in legislative affairs. But it was thought the senate coalition of Republicans and silverite senators would be able to force some sort of a compromise. That did not happen. All of the senators who had sold their votes for a higher price for silver turned tail and ran. They left the Republicans holding the bag. Which would have been very bad for the Republicans, except that all of this happened during the day of June 30, and the powers involved were to expire at midnight, that night, by limitation in the law itself.

The Republicans were pretty sore about the situation. They had the element of time on their side, however, and so they engaged in "legitimate discussion" of the amendments, of the perfidy of the silverite senators, of Mr. Roosevelt's reasons and other things, until after the witching hour of midnight. The whole thing ended on a sour note.

Voting Usually Reflects Sentiment of the People

So the circumstances as we have seen fail to do credit either to the President, or the senate Republicans or the senate New Dealers. It was a pretty low grade of politics, but it disclosed one thing: there is rather large representation in the house and the senate which has lagging confidence in Mr. Roosevelt. Now, pursuing that further, I have noted the usual voting of house and senate rather reflects the sentiment throughout the country.

I think this lack of confidence in Mr. Roosevelt is further shown by the long drawn-out battle over what powers the President should have in dealing with international problems. Mr. Roosevelt has asked for rights that would let him designate "war zones," and would permit him to order Americans away from them. He has sought to obtain legislative authority to sell arms and munitions if they are sold for cash and carried away from our shores by boats of the purchasing nation.

Some of the things he has sought seem to me to be reasonable, but the house has not thought so, and I expect the senate will have many words to say about them also. There is so much stalling and maneuvering and efforts to save political faces that certain conclusions are inescapable. I referred to the lack of confidence in Mr. Roosevelt displayed in several ways. It is perhaps more manifest with respect to the neutrality question than in any other way. Indeed, it has been gossiped around Capitol hallways for a couple of months that congress will not adjourn as long as international crises are popping around like firecrackers. That, of course, is an exaggeration; but it is not exaggeration to say that a considerable number of senators and representatives do not want to leave Mr. Roosevelt an entirely free hand in international dealing.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Look Pretty as a Picture in Frocks of Dainty Silk Sheer

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



SO LITTLE MISSY and Miss Sweet Sixteen are dated up for just one party after another this summer? Hearts set all a flutter as to delectable gowns that will make young moderns look pretty as a picture? Which leads up to the why and wherefore of the accompanying illustration. This group of adorable party frocks conveys an all-important style message in regard to summertime party frocks, namely that of the supremacy of fine silken sheer fabrics in the mode.

The weaves in the category of silk sheers that are favored most include silk organdies in white or pastels, marquisettes, mousseline de soies, also either soft or starched silk chiffons, frothy white silk tulle, silk nets and of course the loveliness of silk laces is not ignored. Not a sheer in the above mentioned list but that works like magic in accenting the endearing young charms of party-going young daughters this season.

The outstanding characteristic of the new sheer frocks is a quaintness that reminisces of Civil war fashions. To give the ultra-feminine look and the coy simplicity that present styling implies, designers are indulging freely in such fetching details as flounces, dainty ruffles, bow-knot or flower appliques, and the newest gesture is the revival of gay ribbons (supposed to change the color of your ribbons to tune to your mood) run through yards and yards of beading, just like in the old-fashioned days.

The majority of party frocks look very bouffant with their wide skirts, and the most ultra models have nipped-in waistlines like heirloom daguerrotypes portray, for the

trend at present is more and more to wasp waist silhouettes. The flounce that flourished in Civil war times have returned.

Sometimes just one knee-deep flounce gives added fullness about the hemline. Then again flounces are tiered one above another. The old-fashioned way of heading the flounce with lace or embroidery beading, through which colorful beading has been run, adds to the quaintness of present day styling.

In the lovely girlish frock to the left the bow-knot applique done in ribbon enhances the full skirt. The little girl in the background has her silk organdy dress similarly fashioned, thus carrying out the popular idea of sister fashions. Frocks of this type are equally lovely fashioned of either white or pastel chiffons or silk organdies.

The little girls in the foreground are charmingly gowned. The diminutive lace jacket worn, as shown centered in the picture, is enough to delight any little girl's heart.

Very prettily styled is the other little girl's dress. It is made all of lace with flutings of self lace adorning the bodice top and outlining the waistline.

A styling trend very noticeable in the smartest new gowns is that of the all-over shirred waist. The new sheers yield to this treatment very pleasingly. The shirring can be easily done by the home dressmaker, by loosening the tension of one's sewing machine and lengthening the stitch. Then when the machine stitching is done pull the top thread and even shirring will result. Thin paper placed under chifton while stitching keeps material flat. It tears away easily.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lumber-Jacket Top



The lumber-jacket influence continues throughout summer fashions. So much so many of the daintiest sheer lingerie blouses are now made with belts (some worked with lace insertion and edging) that fasten over the skirt. Printed silk sheers such as pictured proclaim the new fad in this youthful lumber-jacket silhouette that has come in on the crest of the widely heralded "little girl" vogue. Note how its belt buttons over the skirt. The remarkable thing about the silk that fashions this dress is that it is the new sanitized type, treated with process that acts as a deodorant.

Flare for Rubber Flowers Growing

The idea of wearing the new rubber flowers as a corsage or boutonniere elsewhere than on the beach is gaining. These lovely flowers are too attractive to confine within a limited realm. Then, too, they are eminently practical, for soap and water will keep them fresh-looking indefinitely.

Natural colors, grace of design and true reproduction of nature marks these corsages as outstanding. Anemones in pastel colors enliven a swim suit with true artistry. Deep pink camellias are lovely to wear in an evening coiffure. Roses of realistically colored rubber and dahlias in colors true on sport jackets are ever so effective and outstanding.

Stripes Back in Fashion Picture

The cycle of fashions continues to revolve and now the indicator stops at 1915, the era of the Castle walk and, from the sartorial standpoint, of stripes.

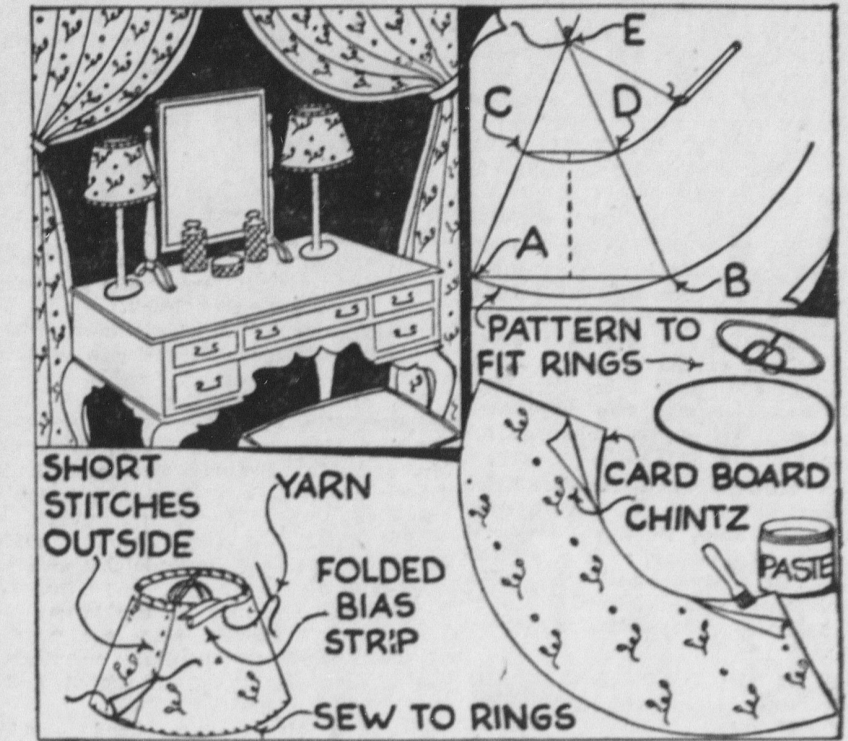
But striped materials in the hands of the modern designer have a spicy verve wholly different from those recorded in the fashion books of almost a quarter of a century ago. One of their paramount virtues is that they are slimming. However, their chief charm is that they lend themselves to such varied and exciting adaptations.

Flowers and Snoods

A charming evening headdress, if you wear your hair long enough to use a snood, is the combination of snood and flowers.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Make a pattern for chintz-covered lamp shades.

"DEAR MRS. SPEARS: I have a pair of lamps for my dressing table, and I would like to use some of my curtain material to cover plain shades. Can you tell me how this is done? C. H."

Here is a method that is shown for a living room lamp in Book 1. It may be used for a shade of any size. You will need the top and bottom rings from an old lamp shade. A cardboard foundation is cut to fit these, and the chintz or other fabric is pasted to the edge of this.

The AB line in the pattern diagram is as long as the diameter of the bottom ring. The dotted vertical line is approximately as long as the depth of the shade. The CD line is as long as the diameter of the top ring. Draw the diagonal lines to touch the ends of the AB and CD lines. Place a tack where they meet at E. Place a pencil through a loop in a string, as shown, and draw the bottom line of the shade making it as long as the measurement around the bottom ring plus a half inch. Shorten the string and draw the top to fit the top ring allowing for a half inch lap.

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 their orders at once, as no more copies will be available, when the present stock is sold. Your choice of the QUILT LEAFLET showing 36 authentic patchwork stitches; or the RAGRUG 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 the books.

Everyone should have copies of these two books containing 96 How to Sew articles by Mrs. Spears. Send your order at once to Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

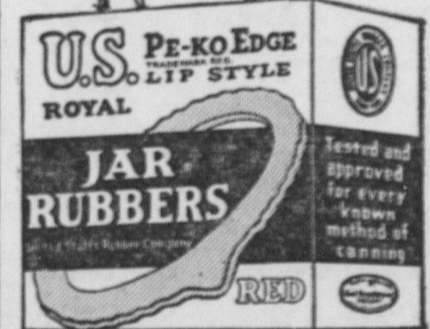
AROUND THE HOUSE

Removing Finger Marks.—Sweet oil will remove finger marks from varnished furniture.

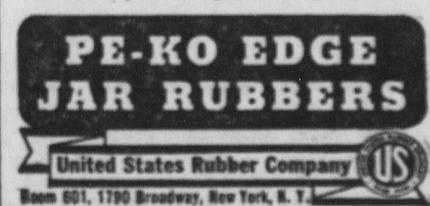
Handy Duster.—The duster with a long handle is a convenience for the housewife who has a bad back.

Pink Mayonnaise.—Mayonnaise can be given a decorative pink by the addition of tomato catsup or cooked tomatoes.

Stippling Linoleum.—If your linoleum is showing signs of growing old, try painting and stippling it. First remove wax and grease. Then use a good floor enamel or paint, put on two coats, and stipple. A plain color shows footprints too easily.



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