

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

U. S. Rupture of Japan Treaty Seen as Isolationist Decision In Wake of British Surrender

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
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INTERNATIONAL: Focus on Japan

The word "defeat" laid heavily on Neville Chamberlain's brow. In Tokyo, his British Ambassador Sir Robert Leslie Craigie had signed peace terms with Japan in which Mr. Chamberlain's government promised not to obstruct the Japanese army in its war with China.

But first guesses are sometimes wrong. Though Berlin's *Volksischer Beobachter* sneered "Very Disagreeable, Mr. Chamberlain," and though Secretary of State Cordell Hull warned this meant the end of U. S. British "parallel action" in the Orient, Britain herself felt satisfied. To Shanghai's British chamber of



AMBASSADOR HORINOUCHE
More bad news is coming.

commerce, which protested vehemently, Mr. Chamberlain gave an explanation something like this:

The U. S. was to blame, since she refused to raise a finger to protect accidental influence in China against Jap aggression. But by granting Japan rights in China, Britain satisfied Tokyo's grievances against western democracies and thus "detached" her from the threatening Rome-Berlin axis. Moreover the European tension made such a settlement unavoidable, since Britain could not protect both her Asiatic and European interests. As a result, full emphasis can now be placed on blocking Hitler and Mussolini; Britain's worries in the Orient are over.

But were they? Critics warned Mr. Chamberlain that U. S. isolation might result from this unprecedented surrender. That very thing looked possible a few days later when Cordell Hull flatly terminated the 28-year "treaty of general commerce and friendship" with Japan. Though Jap Ambassador Kensuke Horinouchi got a formal explanation that certain provisions of the pact "need new consideration," he knew it was but the first of several slaps. A few months from now the U. S. will probably notify Ambassador Horinouchi of an arms embargo against Japan. Meanwhile, Japan turned the tables by announcing its price for a new treaty would be U. S. recognition of a "new order" in China.

As for Britain, there was growing opinion in Washington that Neville Chamberlain is to be trusted no more than Japan. Having sold British interests in China down the river, having violated both the nine-power and Kellogg pacts, he probably winced at the next news: Japan got an inch and took a mile, announcing all foreign shipping would be banned from Canton.

POLITICS: Rift

Interesting to Republican politicians was the announcement that Ohio's Gov. John W. Bricker would seek another term, and not run for the G. O. P. presidential nomination. This left convention delegates from Mr. Bricker's state a clear

field to plump for Ohio's Sen. Robert A. Taft, who simultaneously notified his supporters to start digging up Taft-pledged delegates.

But Democratic politicians had even more interesting—if more puzzling—news about 1940. Off to Europe (on the same boat with G. O. P. Chairman John D. M. Hamilton) sailed Postmaster General James A. Farley after a mystifying conference at Hyde Park with President Roosevelt. Only after-conference word to reporters was Mr. Roosevelt's remark that such talks had been going on for years, and were "fairly effective."

But everyone knew the subject of 1940's presidential election had been broached, most observers thought Jim Farley had pressed his boss for an announcement regarding his third-term candidacy, and a few thought there was a definite rift between the two men which will not break into headlines until October or later.

Reasons: Mr. Farley is a potential candidate who cannot risk an announcement until after the President himself speaks. Otherwise he would lose much New Deal support. Even so, bad blood began simmering during the Supreme court fight, boiled during last year's "purge" and boiled even harder when Farley's enemy, Paul McNutt, got a fat administrative job. Good Democrats are wondering if these rifts will ever be healed.

ENGLAND: Irish Wit

Commuters at London's King's Cross and Victoria stations shuddered as bombs exploded. Forty were hurt, one killed. At Liverpool the Mount Pleasant post office and a wooden bridge were blown up. Wreckage blocked the Liverpool-Leeds canal and parliament shivered when someone discovered its historic building might be blown up next. Next morning commons hastily passed and sent to the house of lords a bill to give police special powers. Immediately 15,000 bobbies went to work looking for the phantom Irish republican army responsible for this mess. Reason: They want Britain to evacuate soldiers and officials from northern Ireland.

MEDICINE: Victory

Last summer Trust Buster Thurman Arnold obtained indictments against the American Medical Association, three other lesser medical groups and 21 physicians on the ground that they had conspired to restrain trade under the Sherman anti-trust act. Specific case: Group Health Association, Inc., a low-cost medical group formed by government employees in Washington, charged that certain hospitals and doctors refused to accept patients referred to them by the association's doctors.

Best guesses last summer held the indictments were a weapon over A. M. A.'s head to force modification



A. M. A.'S FISHBEIN
No program, no need of it.

of its Gibraltar-like stand against socialized medicine. A few weeks later A. M. A.'s board of governors actually did modify this stand and observers thought the case would be dropped.

Late July found A. M. A. scoring a victory. At Washington's District of Columbia federal court, Justice James M. Proctor dismissed the proceedings on ground that the practice of medicine is a profession, not a trade, therefore does not fall under the Sherman act.

While Wendell Berge, Mr. Arnold's assistant, told reporters that a government appeal "seems to me a foregone conclusion," A. M. A.'s *Journal* editor smiled over his victory at headquarters in Chicago. Said he, expansively: The A. M. A.'s principles and policies neither forbid nor ever have contemplated "any opposition to a well-considered expanded program of medical service, when the need can be established." Thus far, evidently, A. M. A. thinks the U. S. has found neither a fit program nor sufficient need for it.

PUZZLERS

Do you know your news? Answer all five and your mark is 100; four, 80; three, 60; two, 40; one, 20; none, 0!



1. Why is south polar area between twentieth and sixty-eighth meridian (shown on map) now in the news?
2. True or False: The Rev. Gerold Goldner, Ohio prisoner kidnaped by Arabs, was released after kissing each of his captors on both cheeks.
3. Choice: An unprecedented drought recently hit the (northwest) (southeast) (southwest) (northeast) section of the U. S.
4. What nationally important event is scheduled to happen August 15 in St. Joseph and Marshall counties, Ind.?
5. What "boner" did R. S. Hudson, British secretary for overseas trade, pull during his recent talk with Germany's Helmut Wohltat?

(Answers at bottom of column.)

CONGRESS: "Splending"

By the time it reached the senate floor, President Roosevelt's \$2,490,000 spend-lead bill had become a personal headache to Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley, a scorn-center of scoffing Republicans (who called it "splending") and a catch-all reservoir into which were dumped such irrelevant riders as that of Montana's Democratic Sen. James E. Murray, who sought to restore old prevailing WPA wages.

By cautious elimination, Leader Barkley was removing every possi-



SENATOR BARKLEY
He took plenty of scorn.

ble obstacle to passage by the time-honored method of modification. By this time it was a matter of face-saving, for any sort of a bill at all would be better than utter defeat. Major modification was elimination of the toll provision on the projected \$500,000,000 road-building program. Then Leader Barkley held his breath while the senate voted an amendment to eliminate \$350,000,000 in public works loans and substitute the old PWA setup. By an even closer margin, 40 to 38, the road-building program was saved.

Mr. Barkley also took scorn from Michigan's Sen. Arthur Vandenberg ("Another tug at boot-strap lifting") from Virginia's Harry Byrd ("The whole scheme is devised to evade the debt limit") and from Georgia's Walter F. George ("A palpable fraud on its face"). Besides the public debt issue, opposition centered around the impossibility of hiking bonded indebtedness in already hard-pressed states and cities. Moreover, spend-lead philosophy failed in last year's election. But with adjournment hanging on the measure, Leader Barkley stuck to his guns and awaited the propitious moment for a vote.

Also in congress:
 1. Passed by the senate, the general transportation bill of Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler was shelved for this session because the house made so many changes that immediate compromise was impossible.
 2. Nomination of Francis B. Sayre, undersecretary of state, as high commissioner to the Philippines was received from the White House.
 3. Middle-west congressmen sought discussions with Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace on a proposal to barter hard to Germany in exchange for products now on the U. S. tariff free list.

Answers to Puzzlers

1. Argentina claims sovereignty over this land, disputing U. S. and British claims, especially those to be made by Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd in forthcoming U. S. Antarctic expedition.
2. True: Reverend Goldner and his captors kissed and swore "eternal friendship."
3. Northeast.
4. Questions to be asked in 1940 census will be tested there.
5. Made unauthorized offer of huge loan to "buy" peace from Germany.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Shaping of National Policies Influenced by Work of Congress

Party Defections, Defeats and Victories of President Have Important Place in Picture; Growing Split in Democratic Party Blamed on Roosevelt.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—When one examines political situations and maneuvers, there is nearly always a tendency to overestimate the importance of the current activity. That is to say, an action or a policy just completed is generally likely to be given an appraisal that exaggerates its significance. Political plans, on the contrary, ought to be looked upon in the mass. This is especially true of national politics which, of course, involves the national party and voting strength.

For these reasons, there seems to be need for a review of the first session of the seventy-sixth congress. The things that have happened, the party defections and party realignments, temporary defeats for the President and balancing victories for him and his political philosophy, all should be analyzed. The result of all of these things is the important bit of history. It is important because it has a direct bearing on the 1940 political campaign and voting. It is more valuable to see the shaping of national policies at this time than usual because of the efforts being made to put forward President Roosevelt for a precedent-breaking third term in the White House.

Most every one has been aware, since 1936, that a split in Democratic party strength has been growing. Mr. Roosevelt, himself, led the way and was perhaps the main cause of the present wide breach. It will be remembered how he sought to "purge" the Democratic party of Senators George of Georgia; Smith, of South Carolina; Tydings, of Maryland; and Representative O'Connor of New York. He failed on all except the New York representative. So there were three senior members of the United States able, openly, to battle Mr. Roosevelt's policies. Around these three have since collected all of those Democrats who fear radical leadership in the party; who fear a Roosevelt third term and who are determined to restore party control to those who have been responsible for a long line of party successes.

Old-Line Democrats Succeed In Building 1940 Platform

There has been much written and spoken about maneuvers underneath, and what the results of these maneuvers are. I am inclined to the opinion, however, that only now after seven months of the first session of the seventy-sixth congress are we able to evaluate them properly. The various acts of congress, the various attitudes and defeats and victories can now be placed in the basket. When they are shaken up, it strikes me that the old line Democrats have succeeded in building what amounts to a national Democratic platform for 1940. And that platform can reasonably be said to be one upon which no real New Dealer can run for the presidency next year.

Perhaps, the statement of Senator Joe Guffey of Pennsylvania evaluates the circumstance better than I can do. Guffey, New Dealer, closer associate of the President than Mr. Roosevelt sometimes desired, asserted in a recent radio address that Mr. Roosevelt "has had no term in the first term and was wrecked by Tories in the second years."

When one places the seething mass of legislation, bureaucracy and propaganda under a microscope, Mr. Guffey undoubtedly is correct—if the view is from the New Deal angle, alone. The wild reforms proposed by the brain trust of the first term were knocked down by the Supreme court. Further attempts to rebuild America were slowed down by congress, little by little, until the current session of congress has been telling the President what to do in a great many instances. Thus, it can be said, the President remade the Supreme court to his liking, but he lost congress, and it is well to remember just here that the Supreme court decides only questions that are brought before it. If congress does not enact questionable laws, the highest court does not get a chance to hold them constitutional.

Congress Takes Back Power Delegated to Mr. Roosevelt

It becomes less difficult, therefore, to sit back now and use hindsight. We see, practically from the time of the "purge," how congress began to take back powers it delegated to Mr. Roosevelt in the hectic days of 1933 and 1934. A bite here and a bite there. The pinnacle was reached when the senate kicked out the President's power to devalue the dollar and took away the right to buy silver with a repulsive and disgusting subsidy. Of course, after a brief lapse, those powers were given back to the President, but there is significance in that fact. It showed that when congress is ready, it will

be just as free to take away from the President as it was to give powers to him before the party breach.

In between the extremes just mentioned, and particularly within the current session of congress, there have been unmistakable signs of congressional domination. I do not mean to say that the Democratic wheelhorses in congress have thrown the President overboard. They have chosen to chisel away his strength; they have avoided knock-down and drag-out battles as much as possible, unless the issues were paramount. Their strategy plainly has been to build strength for themselves in their own districts and in their own states rather slowly. The whole thing amounts to a program of education of the voters who a few brief years ago were hailing Mr. Roosevelt as the national savior. I believe the work has gone so far now that most of the Democrats in congress have considerable support in their home playgrounds.

To elaborate on the generalities which have been stated above, I may cite such things as the house determination to continue the WPA investigation—something New Dealers did not want. Additional funds were voted for continuation of the investigation of un-American activities, headed by Representative Dies of Texas—a program openly attacked by the New Dealers. The constant threats of congressional investigation of the labor relations board and the federal communications commission are two other things which the inner circle of New Dealers are moving heaven and earth to prevent.

Many Things That Annoyed New Deal Faction of Party

Reduction of the WPA fund total early in the spring, while small, was just another annoying mosquito bite on the New Dealers' legs. The voting of furloughs for WPA workers who have had 18 months of continuous checks was disliked by and was thoroughly distasteful to the New Deal faction of the party.

Nor did Mr. Roosevelt want to see congress change the tax laws. Senator Harrison of Mississippi, together with Undersecretary Haynes of the treasury, worked out the law that was passed. It eliminated the principal schemes for reform that the New Dealers had sponsored in the days when congress was completely subservient to the White House. It is to be noted just here, too, that these tax changes had the support of Chairman Doughton of the house ways and means committee, who had been a dependable "yes man" for the President, up to that time.

Changes that were made in the social security laws were never acceptable to the inner circle of New Dealers who constitute the President's principal advisors. But, again, congress showed its teeth in only a snarl.

The senate foreign relations committee gave the administration something more than name-calling, however, on the question of neutrality legislation. This, of course, followed a real spanking by the house. The house, it will be recalled, took the administration's neutrality program and butchered it right out where all could see what was going on.

President Gets Plain Mad The Way Things Are Going

It might be proper at this time to call attention to another phase of the situation here, although it can hardly be said to be a part of the circumstance that I have been discussing. Lately, Mr. Roosevelt has had his "Dutch up," so to speak, and has not minced words. For example, he called in Lyle Wilson, head of the United Press bureau here, and denounced Mr. Wilson and his organization for sending out dispatches which the President said were untrue. These dispatches, or one, particularly, told of a purported split between Mr. Roosevelt and the able and patient Secretary Hull of the Department of State. Their differences were reported to be over the President's policy on neutrality. Anyway, the incident wound up with the President taking the almost unprecedented action of issuing a public statement accusing the United Press of falsification of the facts.

This series of incidents came after many reports were in circulation at the Capitol that Mr. Roosevelt was mad about the way things were going. Whether these reports were true or false, they were seized upon by Republicans and by the Democrats who no longer want any part of Roosevelt policy. They were spread in the most fanciful fashion and there was no opportunity overlooked by which those old meanies around the congress could add to the President's discomfort. Of course, all of this is a part of the great game of politics.

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