

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

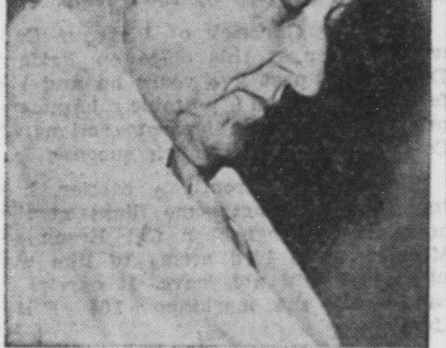
President's Political Activity Since Congress' Adjournment Shows Heavy Interest in 1940

(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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POLITICS: Rebuttal

Home in Hyde Park, Franklin Roosevelt probably reviewed editorial opinion on his recent seven-month debate with congress. The public thought congress had won, for it killed his lend-lease and housing bills, defeated his neutrality program and passed the Hatch "clean politics" bill. Not so evident were his victorious defense and relief programs and his retention of the \$2,000,000,000 currency stabilization fund. On three successive days, therefore, he went before the people, first to boast, next to scold, last to warn.

Signing the Ashurst bill (creating an administrative officer to supervise federal court budgets) he announced that all goals of his 1937



UTAH'S SEN. KING
"I don't see how..."

court reorganization proposal had been realized, six of them by laws and the seventh (change in attitude) "through opinions of the Supreme Court itself."

Next day observers thought he let a cat from the bag. Discussing his neutrality and lend-lease defeats, he borrowed an analogy suggested by his wife—a precipice—to which he said congress is leading business, and over which it may plunge "next spring."

Placing it on a gambling basis, the President said a G. O. P.-Democratic coalition had made "two bets with the nation": (1) On continued peace, and (2) business' ability to absorb wage earners who lose WPA and FWA jobs "next spring."

Some thought it possible the President was gambling too, staking his 1940 candidacy on next spring's prospects. If there is a war and/or heavy unemployment, congress will be wrong and Mr. Roosevelt right, thus justifying a third term attempt.

Certain it was that no politician without interest in 1940 would have delivered the message President Roosevelt sent next day to young Democrats convening in Pittsburgh. Smoothly laying the groundwork for some action, perhaps a retirement from politics, possibly a coup to keep the Democratic party "liberal," or possibly for a new third party, he sent this warning: "If we nominate conservative candidates, or lip-service candidates, on a straddle platform, I personally for my own self-respect and because of my long service to, and belief in liberal democracy, will find it impossible to have an active part in such an unfortunate suicide of the old Democratic party."

Meanwhile, members of congress took exception to the precipice analogy and wondered if Mr. Roosevelt had the right man leading the right horse to doom. Said Michigan's Rep. Earl Michener: "The coalition... has stopped the American people just before they went over the financial precipice." Said Utah's Sen. William H. King: "I don't see how anyone can contend consistently that when we appropriated nearly \$13,000,000,000 for next year, congress was not doing everything within its power, provided spending is the answer."

CONGRESS: How Much?

How much a so-called "\$13,000,000,000 congress" actually appropriated and spent became the compu-

NEWS BITS

TAXES—In Washington, the National Association of Manufacturers brought out figures alleging that U. S. taxes have climbed 640 per cent since 1913, much more than Britain (430 per cent), whose exorbitant levies are often used as a basis of comparison with U. S. taxes.

DICTATOR—In Spain, Gen. Francisco Franco made himself supreme dictator, set prisoners to work digging trenches 20 feet from the frontiers of Britain's Gibraltar.

WED. at Chicago in his iron lung, the self-styled "boiler kid" of infantile paralysis fame, Fred Snite, and Miss Teresa Larkin, 25,

AGRICULTURE: More Stamps

In Washington, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace at last took out of the experimentation stage his latest—and one of his most successful—plans to get rid of food surpluses. For three months the food stamp plan was tested in Rochester, Dayton and Seattle, expanded to Birmingham and Des Moines, and finally to Shawnee, Okla. At all but the latter place, relief families were fed by sale of orange stamps (for buying regular foods) and free distribution of blue stamps (for buying surplus foods). At Shawnee, low-income families tried the plan.

Not until early August did Mr. Wallace uncross his fingers. Then,



SECRETARY WALLACE
Uncrossed his fingers.

pronouncing the stamp plan successful, he announced it will be expanded on a national basis very soon. If it works nationally like it has at Rochester, farmers will be happy. In the three-month trial there, food sales were upped 8 per cent.

Forecast

Not until August 1 can any year's agricultural yield be accurately gauged. Simultaneously this August the U. S. department of agriculture and European sources released their predictions, the first on cotton, the latter on grains alone. Both looked bad:

Wheat. If big crops bode war, Europe must have war this autumn. Germany stored her surplus wheat in dance halls and gymnasiums. In the hot Danube basin, the Ukraine and the Vistula's valleys peasants brought in a crop that sold at the lowest price since 1929. In Rome, the International Institute of Agriculture forecast the largest wheat crop since the World War, excepting last year. With Soviet and Canadian production up, with devaluation of far eastern silver destroying purchasing power, the institute gloomily predicted a glutted market through 1940 and 1941.

Meanwhile U. S. farmers considered themselves lucky. Although Chicago wheat prices would normally be between 35 and 40 cents, and on the farm, 30 cents (customary differential under Liverpool prices), they are actually about 10 cents above Liverpool. Reasons: (1) U. S. loans to farmers on stored wheat keeps the supply down and the price up; (2) production this year was down 20 per cent, producing a crop about equal to the nation's exports; (3) the U. S. pays a bounty to exporters of wheat, amounting to \$28,000,000 on 118,000,000 bushels last season.

Cotton. Biggest cotton news was the Export-Import bank's credit sale of 250,000 bales to Spain, taken as a gesture to woo General Franco away from the Rome-Berlin axis. Meanwhile the International Cotton federation closed its Zurich meeting by cabling Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace in protest against U. S. export subsidies. In Washington the August 1 forecast was released, painting a somewhat brighter picture: Placed at 11,412,000 bales, the yield would be 531,000 bales under last year, and 2,388,000 bales less than the 10-year (1928-37) average. But there will still be a carryover of about 13,000,000 bales.

MEDICINE: Mary Heart

Into a little maternity hospital in the center of Manila's slums walked Mrs. Manuel Quezon, wife of the Philippine commonwealth's president. Like scores of others, she came to see a phenomenon recorded only once before in medical history. Sound asleep after feeding from an eye-dropper was a seven-pound baby, normal in every way except that her heart was completely outside her body. While physicians watched fascinated through a stemless cocktail glass placed over the heart, they wondered whether to operate. Having baptized her child Mary Heart, the devout mother said she believed her infant's condition was caused by her worship of a picture which showed Jesus Christ with his heart exposed.

ASIA: Hush Settlement

One month ago Russia and Japan were ready to wage war over oil and coal resources in Russia's half of Sakhalin island. Reason: Jap concessionaires refused to hike wages of Russian workers. Both nations reinforced border garrisons and Jap warships rushed to the scene. At both Moscow and Tokyo, there was no sign of surrender. Almost unnoticed in the press a few weeks later was the humiliating outcome for Japan: Concessionaires granted a 15 per cent wage increase.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Wisdom of Constitution Is Seen In Revolt of House on Spending

Not Politics Alone Involved in Congress' Opposition to President's Spending Policy; Response to Will of People at Last Reflected in Members' Action.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON.—The Constitution of the United States—that document that has served us so well notwithstanding the razzing given it by enlightened thinkers of recent years—says in Article 1 that "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives." It further says with an emphasis that, "no moneys shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

There is, of course, nothing at all new in the above paragraph. It is important, however, to remember those provisions of the basic law of our nation for in them again we see wisdom and a rather clear understanding of what happened just before congress adjourned its first session. It is as though the authors of the Constitution were laying a prophecy when one considers the recent revolt of the house of representatives against President Roosevelt's spending-lending program. (And, by the way, during the debates on this program it became known as the "splending" program among those terrible people who opposed it.)

I assume that throughout the land there was much talk about the revolt against the President's policies for current spending as being purely political. I have heard from many sections of the country, and the story was the same; politics. That is only partly true. Obviously, the house members had their weather eye on the political aftermath of what they were doing when they refused even to give consideration to Mr. Roosevelt's spending-lending plan that originally involved more than \$3,000,000,000. They considered politics, too, when they refused to debate the merits of the \$800,000,000 housing bill, although I believe they should have debated that thing in order that the country could know that it would have cost several billion dollars of taxpayers' money before it is finally wound up 60 years hence.

Not Politics Alone Moved House to Oppose President

The refusal of the house members to do the bidding of the Chief Executive must be examined in something more than just a political light, however, because of the two provisions of the Constitution that I quoted. It must be recalled that the authors of the Constitution contrived to build a national legislative body with a dual purpose: 1. to represent the Union of states which is accomplished through the senate, and, 2. to represent the individual citizens which is accomplished through the house of representatives. The house, therefore, is held to be the body more responsive to individual thinking among the people and to react more quickly to changes in public sentiment. That matter of having taxation originate in the house, therefore, is seen to be an attempt to reflect in the legislative acts the willingness or unwillingness of the people to stand for taxes, since the house members must stand for election each two years.

Again, when the Constitution said that appropriations had to be enacted as law before money is paid out of the treasury, there was a patent curb on wild and profligate spending. The house, being closer to the people, first felt the call of the people for government spending and responded. Since the senators, too, are elected by direct vote of the people, they also heard the siren call and voted out money with the greatest of ease. But the house led the way.

Lately, however, there has been a change in that individual thinking. The majority of the people have begun to wonder where all of this spending was going to end; they began to wonder how the national debt—now well above \$45,000,000,000—would ever be paid. They smelled fresh taxes. The senate heard, but failed to heed, this new call. Senators chiseled and nibbled at curtailment, but they did not put their mind to the business of cutting expenditures. It was the house that led the way, again. And, as I said earlier, they acted definitely by refusing even to debate the two cornerstone bills—the spending-lending bill and the housing bill.

Action of House Reflects Will of People on Spending

It is made to appear, therefore, that the concept of the Constitution's authors was correct. They felt that the house would hear from home, as we say these days. And the house has heard. Politics, alone, was not responsible except insofar as politics represents the shifts in position that statesmen must take to meet the changes in public sentiment.

The bulk of the people, it seems, has suddenly awakened to the fact that something must be done about the continued spree upon which the federal government has been engaged in the last five or six years.

The refusal of the house to act cannot be catalogued otherwise than as reflecting the will of the people, for the politician who knows his onions seldom is seen going in the wrong direction if the votes of his constituents are concerned.

Whether the economy wave that swept through the house in the last few weeks of a session that is destined to be historically important will be maintained in the next session of the Seventy-sixth congress, of course, is a matter of conjecture. It is to be noted that primaries for nominations come along early next spring and summer. Following those primaries in natural sequence are the November elections. If the members of the house and senate who have balked at running the federal government further into debt take the same position in the session starting next January, then I am inclined to the opinion that our nation will be on the way out of its troubles. I always hedge statements about congress, however, because politicians will sometimes place party above principle. They might deem it necessary to buy a few votes with taxpayers' money in advance of the primaries next year. Whether the representatives and senators have such ideas in mind, or not, I wish the voters would put every one of them on the spot by demanding to know whether they are going to let this nation go any further into debt. The debt now is so large that each of us is going to pay and pay and pay in taxes, and after we have passed on, our children and theirs will pay.

Congress Failed to See That Money Was Properly Spent

I always have opposed congressional action that delegates power settled on the congress by the Constitution. In these columns, there has never been any deviation from that conviction. Since 1933, there has been a constant trend in the wrong direction. New powers have been given the President time after time. Particularly, has this been true in the matter of handling money. Congress obeyed the dictates of the Constitution by appropriating the money, but it did not do that which there certainly is a duty to do, namely, see that the money is spent properly.

In an examination of the latest spending-lending scheme put forward by the President and rudely shattered by the house, therefore, it strikes me that another device to get more power away from congress was being proposed. In the first place, there was little, if any, hope that recovery could come out of the program. We have seen only slightly different schemes flop annually for several years. Further, these plans that are temporarily out of the window appeared to me to be a trick to evade the law in that the financing was to be done without consideration of the national budget and finances. None of these new debts would show in the budget. The program resembled a road that is cut around the edge of a town to avoid the business section, a by-pass.

Respecting the merit of the spending-lending bill, itself, there is little in my opinion to warrant its adoption. In plain language, the proposal would have socialized credit in the United States—and I can not believe that the United States is ready to take up state socialism after the manner of Mussolini or Hitler.

President's Hints Sound Like Admission of Failure

The smashing of the administration's scheme, of course, did have its political repercussions and Mr. Roosevelt, feeling the toe of a stiff boot as he obviously did feel such a political blow, will be carrying his case to "the people" soon. He said in a press conference one day that "the people were entitled to know who was responsible," meaning the congress. He also suggested that the people ought to know in advance why there would be more unemployment and why there would be new taxes to pay for relief. All of which sounds rather like an admission of failure. That is to say, these schemes of spending, of pump priming, of creating new and greater debt, all have failed in returning the country to anything like a normal condition. We have nothing to show for something like \$25,000,000,000 so expended excepting the bonds of the United States government that are outstanding.

New Dealers, however, are still battling. I noted one of them said the other day that an extra session of congress in November of this year was surely a necessity. That proposal will bear watching. I have talked with many, many leaders in congress—men of long experience and understanding—and none of them believes an extra session to be necessary.

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Beauty Aimed to Give Comprehensive Report

Such beauty and personality as a strange girl applying for a job in a small town store possessed! The boss could not resist. Even though she was entirely without experience he believed that she would be a good business getter. Carefully, he instructed her, and as he showed her how to operate her cash register, he added: "Remember now to ring up the result of every sale." He watched her for a while and was astonished to see her go so often to the cash register. He noted that she went there once for even prospective customers. He found that she was ringing up, time after time, "No Sale."

Common Sense About Constipation

A doctor would tell you that the best thing to do with constipation is get at its cause. That way you don't have to endure it first and try to cure it afterward—you can avoid having it. Chances are you won't have to look far for the cause if you eat the super-refined foods most people do. Most likely you don't get enough "bulk" and "bulk" doesn't mean a lot of food. It means a kind of food that isn't consumed in the body, but leaves a soft "bulky" mass in the intestines. If this is what you lack, try crisp crunchy Kellogg's All-Bran for breakfast. It contains just the "bulk" you need. Eat All-Bran every day, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." Made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. Sold by every grocer.

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