

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

## Congress Tears Budget Apart: Defense Fund May Be Raised But Other Items Are Slashed

(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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### CONGRESS:

#### Mutilation

After almost a month of argument it appeared that congress would grant Franklin Roosevelt his \$1,800,000,000 defense budget for 1941, but the price would be (1) drastic slashes in all other items and (2) a boost in the \$45,000,000,000 national debt limit. In both house and senate, four out of five committees kept one eye on the purse strings. The other was cocked carefully toward the constituents back home, who are more concerned about economy than pork barrels, even in an election year.

One warning came from Budget Director Harold D. Smith, who told all federal agencies to start training for a smaller diet next year.



WOODRING AND STARK  
They'll win; others will lose.

He threatened to be "plenty tough" on requests for deficiency appropriations. Another came from house appropriations committees who threatened to cut a proposed \$25,000,000 farm tenancy fund from the agriculture department's budget. But actions spoke louder than threats:

Out from the appropriations committee came a badly mutilated independent office bill, usually the catch-all for pork barrel items. It was \$94,492,166 below the President's budget estimate. Gone were all funds for the national resources planning board and the office of government reports. Cut drastically were items for the executive office and the maritime commission. Nor did the house backslide on its appropriations committee; next day, having shouted down \$22,000,000 in pork-barrel requests, it passed the bill almost exactly as reported by the committee.

Meanwhile the army and navy were getting better treatment. Admiral Harold D. Stark, chief of naval operations, told the house naval committee that he hoped to complete a \$2,276,000,000 building program by 1945. Across the street, Secretary of War Harry Woodring told the house military committee about deficiencies in critical ordnance.

Fondest congressional hope, obviously, is to raise the extra \$460,000,000 for national defense without imposing election-year taxes. But there still remains the \$800,000,000 (originally \$1,300,000,000) naval program, suggested not by the President but by Georgia's Rep. Carl Vinson. If this carries, no economies can stop the national debt short of its present limit.

Also in congress:  
Mourned was the fate that befell congress' senior statesman, Idaho's 74-year-old Sen. William E. Borah. While house and senate office buildings kept an ear cocked for news, the man who had served the senate 33 years lay close to death in his Rock Creek Park apartment, victim of a cerebral hemorrhage following a fall.

Vice President Jack Garner, whose opposition usually means certain death to any proposal, barked against a military loan to be-

leaguered Finland. So had the President, for his recommendation of a \$50,000,000 loan through the Export-Import bank was strictly for non-military purposes. However, since the Finns wanted money for munitions only, their cause seemed lost.

Still arguing for continuation of the reciprocal trade act, the administration sent Undersecretary of Commerce Edward Noble and Assistant Secretary of State Henry F. Grady to testify before the house ways and means committee. Defense of the act itself completed, the state department next turned its guns on the senate's plan to seek ratification power over all trade treaties.

The senate foreign relations committee agreed to survey the entire field of U. S.-Japanese relations, including proposed embargoes against Japan, after the abrogated trade pact expires.

### EUROPE:

#### The Belligerents

Britain's war consisted of (1) a factory explosion; (2) a reported railroad sabotage plot; (3) a fiery defense in commons of Prime Minister Chamberlain's action ousting War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha, and (4) the slaying of Britain's first German on the western front.

France's war featured (1) expulsion from the chamber of deputies of all pro-Stalin Communists; (2) news of a "plot" to aid Hitler, and (3) a verbal battle with Berlin, where France was accused of backing down on its promise not to interfere with German expansion in eastern Europe.

It was not so quiet for the Finns. For five successive days Russian planes defied temperatures ranging down to 51 degrees below zero, bombing Helsinki, Hango and other cities mercilessly. Though they might be poor soldiers, the



SWEDISH VOLUNTEER  
"Now it is your duty..."

Russians proved themselves persistent in the far-north Salla sector. Forty thousand of them staged a new drive, only to be routed.

#### The Neutrals

"Now the world knows what it is to be a Finn. Now it is your duty to show what it means to be a Swede. Make up your mind now. Join the Swedish Volunteer Army, With Finland for Sweden!"

This advertisement in a Stockholm newspaper was one answer to Russia's order that Scandinavia stop sending aid to Finland. Richard J. Sandier, ex-Swedish foreign minister, demanded that his nation send troops to defend the Finnish Aaland islands.

Though both the allies and Germany tried to remain aloof from this Scandinavian-Russian spat, they were undoubtedly being drawn into it. One reason was the continued sniping at each other's iron ore shipments coming out of Sweden.

While tension grew here, it lessened in Netherlands and Belgium, which only a few days earlier had ordered complete mobilization in fear of a Nazi invasion. But there was still a chance that Germany and Russia would try to confound their foes and hostile neutrals alike with lightning-like blows at both the Lowlands and Scandinavia.

Italy, watching over the Balkans like a mother hen, heard a warning from Rome to be ready for war "at any moment." Still on the fence, Il Duce countered Britain's renewed wooing with a warning that Italians should not be too greatly impressed by "recent demonstrations of international sympathy."

### PEOPLE:

#### Confessions

At Washington, North Carolina's Rep. Robert L. Doughton regarded his advanced age (76) and announced he would retire next December 31 when his current term ends. Explanation: "My private business badly needs attention."  
In London, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told commons that War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha was dismissed because he was "too energetic."

## NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? One hundred is perfect score, deducting 20 points for each question you miss. Score of 60 or higher is acceptable.

1. In which of the following cities did fire kill 500 people, destroy 7,000 homes and leave 50,000 homeless: (a) Taranto, Italy; (b) Shizuoka, Japan; (c) Nairobi, Tanganyika; (d) Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

2. The new U. S. ambassador to Belgium, formerly minister to Eire, is: (a) John Cudahy; (b) Joseph Davies; (c) Tyrone Power; (d) Joseph C. Drew.

3. True or False: Great Britain in a note to the Pan-American neutrality committee in Rio de Janeiro, rejected the 300-mile "safety zone" constructed around the Western hemisphere.

4. Which gubernatorial candidate in Louisiana's stormy primary election was taken to jail: (a) James A. Noe; (b) Earl K. Long; (c) James H. Morrison; (d) Sam Houston Jones.

5. The New York stock market deals in: (a) stocks and bonds; (b) grain; (c) live stock.

### News Quiz Answers

1. (B) is correct. Shizuoka, Japan.  
2. (A) is correct. John Cudahy. He was rushed to Brussels because of the new Nazi crisis (See EUROPE).  
3. True.  
4. (A) is correct. (Jones and Long led the election, but no candidate had a majority of all votes cast; therefore a runoff is necessary.)  
5. (A) is correct. (The stock market queried 8,000 people learning to its amazement that 24.2 per cent believed grain was handled there, 8.7 per cent said live stock, and the other 77 per cent, stocks and bonds.)

### DISASTERS:

#### Turkey Again

Last December at least 30,000 died when earthquakes and floods hit north central Turkey. About the same time 1,500 more died in the flooded western plains. Late January brought still more tragedy to a nation whose international diplomatic woes are legion. A second major earthquake killed 50 and injured 160 more in the Nigde district, 200 miles southwest of the first quake area. Luckily, such blows were cushioned by French-British friendship. Available to the Ankara government was some \$340,000,000 in loans and credits, Turkey's "price" for keeping the strategic Dardanelles open to allied warships.

(This loan, to be repaid partly through British imports of Turkish tobacco, prompted the government to ban imports of U. S. tobacco. Mourning at the news, American growers found themselves deprived overnight of an export market running between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000 a year.)

### DEFENSE:

#### Mock Warfare

From San Francisco south to Santa Barbara, troops awaited an attempt by the navy to land an attacking force of 8,000 men. Meanwhile the Caribbean sea buzzed as marines, troops and some 20 warships of the Atlantic squadron staged a mock war.

### POLITICS:

#### Call to Duty

"I realize what it means to be a candidate for the Republican nomination for President—what it means in responsibility, hard work, in sacrifice. Yet it is a call to duty no citizen can ignore. My answer is yes."

Thus did Frank Gannett, Rochester, N. Y., publisher, toss his hat into a ring already cluttered with Tafts, Bridges, and Deweys. All he had waited for was a bid, and that came from the Young Republican Club of Indiana. Unless he gains tremendous strength, few observers expect Candidate Gannett to make much of a showing nationally. But his candidacy does presage a knock-down-and-drag-out fight for New York's 92 Republican convention votes, wanted also by Manhattan's District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey.



GANNETT  
"Yes."

Meanwhile another prospective candidate was given his camera test: Wendell L. Wilkie, president of Commonwealth & Southern corporation. At New York 400 sales executives applauded him. Said Dr. Paul Nystrom, president of the Limited Price Variety Stores association: "We could expect great improvement with gathering momentum if we had a man running for President like our distinguished guest, Mr. Wilkie."

Said Mr. Wilkie: Nothing. Franklin Roosevelt was meanwhile gaining strength for a third term. Florida's Sen. Claude Pepper promised his state's 14 delegates would support the President or any man of his choice, although they would go to the convention without official instructions. From Ohio came word that its Democratic delegates would also be in the Roosevelt camp if their favorite son, Sen. Vic Donahey, failed to develop. Both Democratic and Republican national committees were soon to meet, naming times and places for their nominating conventions.

## FEWER BABIES ARE BEING BORN



According to Frank Wilson, director of the census, the annual birth rate is declining.

### Bruckart's Washington Digest

## 1940 Census Most Comprehensive Ever Made Since the First Survey

It Is a Complete Self-Examination of Uncle Sam by Uncle Sam; It Deals in Facts and We Cannot Have Too Many Facts About Ourselves.

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

WASHINGTON.—What were you doing five years ago? And where did you live at that time? What caused you to move, if you did change your residence?

While congress is working itself into a dither of flying arms and legs and heads and heels and while New Dealers are straining at every shirt-button in an effort to show President Roosevelt is the greatest peace advocate in 19 centuries, I want to talk about something that happens only once in 10 years. I refer to the decennial census, the counting of noses of Americans and the gathering of information about them, their lives and living upon which the federal government has launched.

A good many folks have been inclined to regard the census as something about which to joke. There was, and is, a certain number of people who think the whole thing is silly. It is not silly. Taking it on a long term basis, considering it from the standpoint of its permanent value, it is so much more important than the passing show of political shadow-boxing that we can well afford to forget about much of that bunk. The census deals in facts, and surely we cannot have too many facts about ourselves.

So, borrowing from the expression of Frank Wilson of the census bureau, let me insist again that there is news of lasting value in this census and the job of census taking. It is, accurately stated, a "complete self-examination of Uncle Sam by Uncle Sam," and when it is done we all will know much more about ourselves, individually and collectively, than we have ever known before. The current census is the most comprehensive of all of the 16 decennial canvasses that have been made since the first survey in 1790.

### Counting of Noses Is Not Just Human Noses

Actual work in this counting of noses has already started. And when I say "counting noses," the term is rather broader than just human noses. For, as an example, the first nose counting is directed at enumerating businesses and manufacturing establishments and mines and quarries. Census representatives will visit something like 3,000,000 business concerns, including about 170,000 manufacturing plants and establishments. These figures, of course, are an approximation. The census will show exactly how many there are, what they did in the way of retailing, distributing, shipping, servicing, manufacturing—all through the list to the single gasoline station and the dry cleaning shop on the corner.

Then, along about April 1, there will be a large army of real nose counters start to work. They will visit your house and mine and every other one and it is expected they will find at the end of the month that there are more than 33,000,000 dwelling units where people live and, further, it is believed they will have counted upwards of 132,000,000 folks in the United States. To do this job and the other phases of counting, roughly 128,000 men and women are required.

### Results Will Show What Progress Has Been Made

It seems to me, then, that we can look forward to the results of the current census as showing what progress has been made, what human nature has done in the way of changes. Simultaneously, it will show that many theories of what government can do or has done have failed or have succeeded by revealing just how much human na-

ture can be influenced by man-made rules. It can be said, therefore, that a new set of guide books are on the way to completion, on the way to being filled in by the records of the people who constitute the United States.

There is a thought in Frank Wilson's mind—and I believe Mr. Wilson has a better concept of the census program and its ultimate value than any other person I ever have met—that our nation is facing a much more serious problem in the matter of old age than is apparent to most of us. It comes about this way: Mr. Wilson pointed out that there are fewer babies being born annually among each one thousand of our population than was the case 10 or 20 years ago. The birth rate is declining. At the same time, through the development of medical science, through improved living conditions, through elimination of hazards, reduction of accidents and so forth, the "life span" of each of us is getting longer and longer. People actually are living longer; the expression of "living on borrowed time" after one is 70 years old is meaningless because so many people now live beyond that allotted time.

### Seemingly Silly Questions Are Really Important

At the outset, I asked the questions about what you were doing five years ago and where you lived then. That was not facetious. Those questions are a part of the regular forms which the nose-counters will carry and which you, as a citizen, must answer. There is a good reason.

I have just written about birth and life and death. If your Uncle Sam knows something about how firmly you are rooted to a particular farm or town or county or state, he can arrive at conclusions rather remote from the questions. For example, if you are the son of a farmer and are continuing to farm, it is reasonable to assume that you are a normally happy and reasonably successful farmer. Uncle Sam will not have to worry about that kind. He does have to worry, as a matter of national policy, however, when the census taker reports so many from one place who have moved to the city, especially if those who moved have no training in any field of industry. There arises, quickly, the question of unemployment.

Or, this business of moving about may have come from drought or floods or pestilence. Matters of health are reflected as well. Continued drought or continued floods may ruin an area for agricultural purposes. With facts concerning the condition, somebody may be able to suggest other means of utilization of the land.

### Information Will Help As Guide to the Future

I suspect that the current census will produce a lot of information that will be classifiable merely as information. That is, there is bound to be a chunk of the facts and statistics which will serve no immediate use. That is the way of things done by the government. But individuals, business and government each will find things of value, information to help as a guide to the future.

We can look back to the census of 1790 and see where our population averaged 4.5 persons per square mile of the then United States and we can then see how, in 1930, it was 41.3 persons per square mile. That is the average for the nation; one area will be very much less, another will be very much more, and it is vital for a manufacturer or a wholesaler or a retailer to know how many prospective customers there are in a given area.

And this information extends on down the line to baby buggies. The stork had been flying into homes at the rate of about 6,000 a day in the ten years prior to 1930. Death, with his scythe, had been taking his toll at the rate of about 4,000 a day from 1920 to 1930. What has happened since? The census will tell us sometime next fall and it will tell, in addition, whether a great many factors that influence our lives are subjects to be dealt with by politicians or must remain in the hands of mother nature . . .

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8605

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### Friday the 13th

It is generally believed that the superstition in connection with the number 13 has reference to the Last Supper of the Lord and His disciples, at which 13 members were present. Friday is considered unlucky by Christians because it was the day of the Lord's Crucifixion.

There is also a legend that it is the day on which Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit. Friday was considered unlucky among the Buddhists, Brahmans and also the Romans.

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