

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Congress believes that the real Roosevelt plans are not included in his messages... Foreign diplomats amazed at the character of the comment that greeted the message... Senator Taft's speech is expected to plague the administration.

WASHINGTON. — Congress expects a new rabbit to pop out of the Roosevelt hat. It isn't for a moment convinced that the President laid all his cards on the table in his message on "The State of the Union," or in his budget figures. It believes he is waiting for the psychological moment. There is more time in which for him to turn around this year than has ever been the case in the past, because the national conventions are to be later this year, by at least a month, than they have been for many years.



The President

Whether he runs himself, or intends to name his successor—and there is no dissent whatever from the contention that he wishes to do one or the other—he has not laid the groundwork in these first messages.

Just what is planned by the President nobody knows except the President himself, assuming he has made up his mind. He is talking about a lot of plans to different groups of advisers, but, as usual, not even the members of these intimate groups know whether he is really favoring their plan or some other. His enthusiasm in such conferences has always been unbounding. Participants for the first few times are always convinced that they have completely sold the "Chief." But if they continue long in the inner circle they gradually learn to discount this enthusiasm. They learn that the President is interested in almost everything, and perfectly willing to delve in an exhaustive manner into the details of some scheme which he will decide not to follow.

Hear About Various Plans, But There Is No Certainty

So there is no way of being sure what the rabbit will be this time, and senators and representatives do not profess to have any certainty, though they keep hearing about various plans. But they are mighty sure that, with his often demonstrated resourcefulness, Roosevelt is not going to make his fight to dominate the Democratic National convention and win the election on the issues stated in his message.

His defense of trade treaties, not only for their economic value but as a barrier to wars, and especially as an answer to the demands of the have-not nations for colonies, etc., was expected. It has been known for weeks that he would fight for this, and that renewal of the power to make these reciprocal trade agreements would be one of the tough fights of this session of congress.

But there is nothing new in his messages on which to carry the New Deal forward, as members of congress see it. This can be interpreted, as they view it, in only two ways. Either he has no idea—which is almost impossible to conceive of such a fertile brain—or he does not intend to inject any new controversial issue at this particular time.

There is even some skepticism about the amount of space the President devoted to arguments for continuance of the trade-agreement policy. It is true that this is the outstanding fight in plain sight as congress opens. But some shrewd observers believe that the President purposely stressed it for another reason—to divert attention from the fact that he is not proposing any new plan for curing the ills of the country, of which the most outstanding is unemployment.

Message Has Varied Meaning For Foreign Diplomats

Foreign diplomats in Washington are amazed at the character of the comment that greeted President Roosevelt's message to congress. As they see it, the most important parts of the message have been almost ignored. So interested are they about it that many have conferred with colleagues, wondering if their knowledge of the English language, or rather the blind spots which occur when a person learns a new language, have caused them to misinterpret it.

It is rather obvious, for instance, that the German embassy here wired its government that the President was determined to have a place at the peace conference table. Inspired stories printed in Germany and allowed to be sent out of the country by the censors have commented on this phase.

The German reaction is that Roosevelt is anxious to bring pressure to bear at the peace table to prevent too harsh terms being imposed on the defeated Britain and France!

But this point does not interest the diplomats nearly so much as what they believe to be an intention on the part of President Roosevelt to further inflame this country against Germany and Russia. They are mildly shocked at the "lack of diplomacy" he showed in pointing out to the American people that it is of vital concern to this country that the rest of the world should not be governed by such rulers as Stalin and Hitler, particularly his insistence that it would affect even domestic affairs in this country.

Thoughts Behind Words Not Criticized by Diplomats

The diplomats are particularly excited about this sentence from the President's address: "For it becomes clearer and clearer that the future world will be a shabby and dangerous place to live in—even for Americans to live in if it is ruled by force in the hands of a few." And they were almost as much interested in this one: "We must look ahead and see the effect of our own future if all the small nations throughout the world have their independence snatched from them or become mere appendages to relatively vast and powerful military systems."

And also: "We must look ahead and see the effect on our future generations if world trade is controlled by any nation or group of nations which sets up that control through military force."

There is no quarrel on the part of most of the diplomats, it should be stated, with the thoughts behind these words. Naturally the representatives of the smaller countries at Washington are in hearty accord with them. Naturally also the British and French are delighted, and the Finns exuberant. In fact, only the Germans and Russians are displeased.

That is not the point. The point is that they interpret the message as Roosevelt promising congress and the country solemnly that this country is going to keep out of the war, and then in the same breath saying words—almost irrefutable words, as they see them—which are inclined to pave the way to this country going into the war on the side of Britain and France and Finland.

Dewey's Speech Gets Under President's Skin

There is no doubt that the much talked about Minneapolis speech of Thomas E. Dewey got further under President Roosevelt's skin than any recent public utterance. Evidence of this is the devotion of two paragraphs in the President's "state of the union" address to congress answering Dewey's charge of "defeatism."

But it was the Chicago speech of Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio which will cause more immediate trouble for the administration.

Dewey's attack hurt because it was the first time any critic had painted such a simple picture of the hopelessness of the New Deal policies. Its effect, presuming the line of attack is continued, are feared on the electorate, and in the election itself.

Taft's criticisms, on the other hand, are apt to plague the administration during the session of congress now sitting. At once New Dealers realized the danger. They rushed out chapter and verse of the answers to Taft—the impossibility of achieving the particular cuts mentioned—the dire political consequences if these particular items are eliminated, or even reduced.

However, the actual merit of the particular cuts that Senator Taft suggested are not so important as the stirring up at all of the discussion. Best opinion here is that Taft did not help his own candidacy by voicing them. To advocate any particular cut, in the nature of things, is to antagonize a certain group in the electorate.

The trouble, from the New Deal standpoint, is that Taft has set an example. Not an example that will be followed by other candidates for the Republican nomination.

Seeks to Divert Fear of Bankruptcy and Inflation

It must be borne in mind that the essence of the Roosevelt strategy to divert the fear of bankruptcy and inflation from this campaign, and hence to remove fear that the budget will not be balanced shortly, is the new tax bill. It is not big, in proportion, but it must be had if fear is to be removed.

Well, congress doesn't want to vote new taxes. It is not inclined to make an issue of it, but it just doesn't intend to do it. Hence all the talk about budget studies by a special congressional committee—a committee that would report in 60 days, true. But what will it report? And even if it did advocate specific taxes, does anyone believe there would not be a minority report?

No, the whole thing is a scheme to defer the evil day. Which is all right from the standpoint of the individual members of congress who must face election this fall, and most of them renomination before that, but is distinctly not all right from the standpoint of a New Deal wishing to avoid alarming the country about the national debt and inflation until after next November.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

'BEST FRIEND' Seeing Eye Dogs Bring Light To America's Legion of Blind



Throughout the United States, more than 450 blind men and women go to school, hold jobs and manage households because educated dogs from the Seeing Eye school at Morristown, N. J., walk by their sides constantly to guide them. Here's how they work:



Seeing Eye dogs take three months to learn their new job. A typical problem is shown here: Although given the command "Forward," the dog (above) sees danger, stops, turns his master around, takes him into the street to avoid the manhole and then (right), back on the sidewalk. It takes weeks of patient training to teach the dogs such tricks, but they learn their lessons well.



Each class of ten blind students spends four weeks at the school in Morristown, being instructed by sighted tutors under actual traffic conditions. The instructor (left) is showing the girl how to obey her dog's warning "check" upon reaching the curb. If there is any sign of danger, the dog will wait until a clear path is open, then proceed across the street.



Shown with Buddy II (inset) is Morris S. Frank, vice president of the school and the first person to have a guide dog in this country. His first dog, Buddy I, who died recently, was trained in Switzerland in 1928 by Mrs. Harrison Eustis, founder of the Seeing Eye. Each graduate is protected from "going blind again" by a special fund to provide replacements.

Imperial Roman Army Had Own 'Magnet Line'

ROME.—Imperial Rome once held back the menace of savage German tribesmen with a predecessor of the Magnet line. The ancient fortified line was on what is now German soil, however, and was located considerably to the east of the present French defenses.

The Roman line, known then and since as the Limes Romanus, started at the village of Rheinbrohl on the Rhine, about 20 miles below Coblenz and on the opposite bank of the river. It ran 200 miles over hills and through valleys, with its other end at Eining on the Danube. Thus it protected the R-man territory on the interlacing headwaters.

Bloodstained Van Indicates Murder; Can't Find a Body

Scotland Yard Detectives Stunned by Unusual Discovery.

LONDON.—Murder of a person unknown by a person unknown.

That, in brief, was Scotland Yard's summing up of a mystery which, from insignificant beginnings, appears to Englishmen to have developed into a major crime.

The detectives now engaged in the investigation are working entirely in the dark.

Their job is to discover first the whereabouts and identity of some individual—man, woman, boy or girl—beaten to death in a stolen delivery van, and then to find the guilty party.

Very Little Is Known.

The established facts are few and simple.

One day a small blue delivery van, mounted on a seven horse power Austin chassis, was missed from a garage at Hampton Wick.

Two days later the truck was found abandoned miles away in the country. It was restored, apparently intact, to its owner.

Before the truck went into daily use again it was given a casual examination.

Then for the first time it was discovered that the floor boards and sides were smeared and bespattered with blood. Analysis proved it to be human blood. Further investigation disclosed a quantity of human brains on the driver's seat.

Yard Has Theory.

From the facts at hand this tentative theory was deduced:

The victim, either driver or companion, was first struck a shattering blow or blows on the head so that the skull was crushed.

Then he (or she) was dragged to the back of the truck to be dumped at some spot safe from immediate discovery.

The murderer hesitated, probably because he detected some drying movement in his victim.

He struck again.

That seemed plain from another big patch of blood near the tailboard and more reddish brown splashes at the edges of the sides.

That must have been the end, for the body then appears to have been dragged over the back of the truck and lodged for a moment against the spare wheel, because that also bears unmistakable traces of blood.

There, for the moment, the detectives are up against a dead end.

They must indulge in much speculation and deduction before they pick up the trail again.

16-Year-Old Boy Breaks 10 Laws—No, Make It 11

NEWARK, N. J.—Vincent Rispoli, 16 years old, of Newton, N. J., was arrested on charges of driving without a license, passing 12 traffic lights, driving on the wrong side of the street, endangering human life, reckless driving, speeding, driving on the sidewalk, leaving the scene of an accident, operating a stolen car, and not heeding the commands of an officer.

Then it was discovered that Rispoli escaped from the Jamesburg reformatory on Saturday. He was serving an indeterminate sentence for stealing an automobile. So the charge of being a fugitive was added to the list.

Working Wife Is Ordered To Support Invalid Mate

MONTREAL.—If a wife has money and her husband has none, she must support him, Judge Forest ruled in superior court, as he ordered Mrs. Gustave Valdemar Stridh to pay her husband \$10 a month.

Stridh had sought an allowance of \$50 a month, stating that since February, 1935, he had been suffering from heart trouble. In 1936 the wife left the common domicile and secured employment as a masseuse. In this capacity, evidence showed, she earned \$50 a month and tips.

Two Brothers United by News of Train Mishap

SEATTLE, WASH.—A train mishap ended a 30-year-separation of Fred W. Devaney, 56, Seattle, and his brother, Philip Devaney, of near-by Bremerton.

Fred fell under the wheel of a train and was taken to a hospital. His brother read an account of the mishap.

Although Bremerton is only a few miles from Seattle, they had not seen each other since 1909.

Plots to Wreck Train To See What Happens

GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.—District Attorney William F. Haywood said a 16-year-old youth attempted to wreck a passenger train 25 miles west of here. "I just wanted to see what would happen," Haywood quoted the boy as saying after his arrest.

Suicide Helplessly Watched

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.—Mrs. Mae Moody, helpless to interfere because of infirmities, was forced to sit in her room and watch her neighbor, Elmer H. Rogers, commit suicide by shooting himself through the heart.

FARM TOPICS

LAYING FLOCKS REQUIRE WATER

Warm Supply Is Necessary During Colder Months.

By C. F. PARRISH

Farmers and other interested persons—prepare for somewhat of a shock: About 66 per cent of an egg is water! That doesn't mean that eggs are not one of the best foods, but it does mean that the kind and amount of water a hen drinks is highly important.

For this reason the extension division of the North Carolina State college recommends the warming of drinking water for the laying flock during the winter and early spring months. It is well to remember that egg production will be greatly reduced and Old Man Winter will dip heavily into your egg profits if you permit drinking fountains to freeze over, or the water to become so cold the birds refuse to drink liberally.

There are a number of heated fountains on the market that will operate for about a week on a quart of kerosene. However, he said that a homemade device may be utilized if care is taken to make it fireproof. The only materials needed to make it are an old tin tub, sand, a few rough boards, and a kerosene lamp.

The tub is inverted on a bed of sand spread one inch deep over the area to be occupied by the device. Holes are made in the side of the tub to permit the escape of fumes and the entrance of oxygen. A platform is built over the tub and the container of water placed on the platform. The lighted lamp is put under the tub.

Flock owners are urged to protect the hens against cold, wind and snow by covering the cracks in the ends and sides of the laying house with strips of wood or heavy paper. A six-inch dry-litter on the floor makes the house more comfortable for the layers. Workable curtains on frames that move up and down in a track over the front of the laying house is also to be commended. These curtains should be held out about two inches from the wire front by the track so that they will not interfere with the ventilation.

'Strip Cropping' Rotation Keeps Moisture in Soil

Strip cropping combined with crop rotation adds up to "strip rotation," a method of saving soil and saving moisture that works well in many farming areas. The soil conservation service gives actual comparisons as worked out on experimental plots at the Pennsylvania State college farm in an area where erosion and gullying are not nearly so serious as in many farm regions.

In corn plots cultivated up and down hill for three years there was an annual soil loss averaging 43 tons to the acre yearly. By running the corn rows across the slope the loss was cut in half. In both cases three crops of corn in succession reduced fertility.

By strip rotation in the plots—planting corn rows across the slope and further breaking the slope with cross strips of close-growing hay crops to catch and strain out the soil that starts from the cultivated strips—the soil loss was cut to one twenty-fifth, a ton and a half a year instead of 43 tons. The water loss was only about one-fourth that from the all-corn plots. When the strips were plowed in as a part of the rotation, the roots and tops helped to restore organic matter and maintain fertility.

Clipping Dairy Cows

Probably the most important factor in keeping cows clean is clipping the hair short. Manure and other sources of bacteria naturally cling to long hair. A clipped cow is obviously much more easily and quickly cleaned. Clip the long hairs from the udders, flanks and tail in order that dirt may not cling to them. One hair, if it falls into the milk, may add as many as 30,000 bacteria. Because much of this dirt is soluble and dissolves in the milk, it cannot be strained out.

Rural Briefs

Insects caused \$187,500,000 damage to crops in India last year.

An old tire casing makes a good guard cover for a buzz saw.

Loss from soil erosion in the United States is put at \$400,000,000 a year.

Powdered limestone is used by some cattle feeders to cut down trouble with bloat.

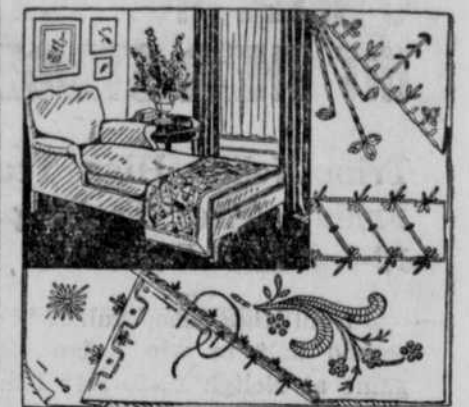
One farmer in three has an income from non-farm sources, according to a special United States census bureau report.

Old hens with bright yellow beaks and shanks should go into the cooking pot instead of the laying house. Layers draw on the color in their beaks and shanks to produce the yellow of egg yolk.

Make an Heirloom Crazypatch Quilt

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS

THE oldest of quilt designs is the crazypatch, yet there is something amazingly modern in its angular lines. A variety of embroidery stitches join the pieces, of plain and figured silks. Several colors of silk embroidery thread are generally used. When a number of patches have been basted in place, sew them down to the foundation with the embroid-



ery stitches and then remove the bastings. The backing is tied to the front with silk embroidery thread as comforters are tied. Little or no padding may be used.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears has prepared patterns and directions for making three of her favorite Early American Quilt Blocks which she will mail upon receipt of name and address and 10 cents coin to cover cost. Her Sewing Booklet No. 2 contains illustrations for 42 embroidery stitches suitable for patch work quilts; also pattern with directions for making the framed picture embroidery sketched on the wall in illustration above. Also numerous gift items: mittens, neck ties; bags; table decorations; and 5 ways to repair fabrics. To get this book, send 10 cents in coin to Mrs. Spears, Drawer 10, Bedford Hills, New York.

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS

Frozen Meat.—Meat thawed quickly is likely to be tough. Keep frozen meat in warm place before cooking.

Two coats of thin shellac give a hardwood floor a much better finish than one thick coat. First coat must be thoroughly dried before second is applied.

Easy to Remove Stopper.—Dip the stopper of a mullage bottle in paraffin before putting it into the bottle and it will not stick.

Delicious Salad Dressing.—One teaspoon of chopped maraschino cherries and one tablespoon of orange juice, added to boiled salad dressing, makes a delicious dressing for fruit salads.

A porous pot allows water to evaporate and this is a bad feature in warm dry houses. Plants in clay pots tend to develop a root system between the soil and the pot with very few roots in the soil itself.

Save Christmas Cards.—Little folks can spend many a happy hour cutting out figures from Christmas cards. Instruct them to leave a small flap on the bottom of each figure, flap to be folded over, permitting figure to stand up.

Sift the Flour.—Flour has a tendency to pack down, especially fine wheat flour. One may easily put as much as an extra cup of flour in a recipe if it is not sifted before measuring.

HOW ARE YOUR NERVES?

Cranky? Restless? Can't sleep? Tired easily? Worried due to female functional disorders? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound famous for over 60 years in helping such weak, rundown, nervous women. Start today!

Virtue's Resources

Virtue has resources buried in itself which we know not of till the invading hour calls them from their retreats.—Bulwer.

HEADACHE?

Here is Amazing Relief of Conditions Due to Sluggish Bowels

Nature's Remedy If you think all laxatives act alike, just try this all vegetable laxative. So mild, thorough, refreshing, invigorating. Dependable relief from sick headaches, bilious spells, tired feeling when associated with constipation.

Without Risk get a 25c box of NR from your druggist. Make the test—then if not delighted, return the box to us. We will refund the purchase price. That's fair. Get NR Tablets today.

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