

# Weekly News Analysis Farley-Garner-Hull Alliance Arises to Plague White House

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of the newspaper.

## White House

As chief of the Works Progress administration Harry Hopkins has spent more money than any previous U. S. citizen, yet that was precisely what Franklin Roosevelt bared him to do. If this job as federal Santa Claus gave Harry Hopkins a bad name among conservative Democrats and Republicans, the bad name grew bigger during 1938's electioneering. But the campaign expenditures committee of Texas' Sen. Morris Shepard found Harry Hopkins generally blameless of using WPA funds for political purposes.

Considered a spendthrift scapegoat, Mr. Hopkins is to U. S. business what a public executioner is to a pious churchman. With this reputation it is therefore considered bad taste and bad political judgment for President Roosevelt to name Mr. Hopkins secretary of commerce. Regardless of Gen. "Ironpants" Hugh S. Johnson's opinion that Mr. Hopkins will be the



POLITICIAN FARLEY  
He watched for a weathervane.

best commerce secretary ever, political observers think the appointment foreshadows a serious, permanent rift between Rooseveltian Democrats (Hopkins, Solicitor General Jackson, Interior Secretary Ickes, Brain Trustee Corcoran) and middle-of-the-road Democrats (Vice President Garner, Postmaster General Farley, Secretary of State Hull).

A month ago, when Homer S. Cummings retired as attorney general, Chairman Farley warned that his potent political organization would be swung to one side or another, depending on who was named to succeed Mr. Cummings. By choosing Solicitor General Bob Jackson, President Roosevelt would show left-wing tendencies and thereby lose Farley support. As it happened, the commerce vacancy appeared and was filled before Mr. Roosevelt got around to the attorney generalship, so this post became the weathervane. Mr. Farley's current opinion: That President Roosevelt, by naming Mr. Hopkins, is boosting him for the presidency in 1940; that Bob Jackson, the alternative for 1940, will be named attorney general; that some New Dealer, like Michigan's ex-Gov. Frank Murphy, may get a Supreme court post. If this happens—and the wind is now blowing in that direction, Farley, Hull, Garner, et al will bolt from the New Deal.

Whether the President dares to thus bite the hand that feeds him is doubtful. Vice President Garner carries tremendous prestige in the South; Jim Farley runs the most tremendous powerhouse in U. S. history; Cordell Hull is the New Deal's most popular cabinet member, with Democrats and Republicans alike. If these men bolt, there is a possibility that either 69-year-old Mr. Garner or 67-year-old Mr. Hull will head a presidential ticket in 1940, with Farley as running mate.

## Transportation

Last autumn President Roosevelt's railroad fact-finding committee ruled against a wage cut to help sorely pressed carriers on the ground that its benefits would be only temporary. But this did not minimize the problem of high operating costs vs. low income, and the President agreed to ask congressional consideration for any readjustment program railway management and labor might offer.

Therefore, just as congress prepared to open, a six-man committee offered its plan, indirectly laying part of the responsibility at the President's own doorstep. The committee's explanation of rail troubles: (1) government's favoritism to competitors, such as barge lines; (2) lack of centralized transportation regulation.

The remedy: Regulation of all forms of transportation by (1) the interstate commerce commission, which would fix rates, regulate services, valuation and accounting; and (2) an independent transportation board which would handle all other

regulations. Also recommended is a federal transportation court to handle reorganization plans.

In addition, the committee offered four other complaints which could be remedied by legislation. It asked removal of restrictions on RFC loans to carriers, repeal of the long-and-short haul rate clauses (which prevents rails from charging a lower rate for a long haul than for a short haul over the same route in the same direction), elimination of low rates for government freight, and discontinuation of government-operated barge lines.

Briefly, carriers want less red tape and more efficient government regulation over their industry. Against President Roosevelt's probable approval of the general program, observers stack Montana's Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, chairman of the interstate commerce committee.

Chief comments to date come from President John J. Pelley of the Association of American Railroads, who calls the report "the most comprehensive and constructive ever made," and President Alexander F. Whitney of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. The Whitney opinion: "It's just another smoke screen to tickle the public chin."

## Defense

The satisfaction of U. S. speech-makers from denouncing Nazi Germany is equalled only by Nazi Germany's satisfaction in making reply. Yet each outburst and retort invites wider rupture of the already strained German-American diplomatic relations, started during November when each nation withdrew its ambassador over the Jewish persecution issue. Returning from Europe just as protests and replies were charging from Berlin to Washington and back, Illinois' Sen. J. Hamilton Lewis commented that the U. S. must stop its "hate wave" against European dictatorship, must instead substitute peace through conciliation and conference.

What prompted Mr. Lewis' statement was the remark a week earlier by Secretary of the Interior Harold S. Ickes, to the effect that Henry Ford and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh should be ashamed to "accept a decoration at the hand of a brutal dictator (Hitler), who with the same hand, is robbing and torturing thousands of human beings." Result was a German protest, followed by the state department's refusal to apologize. This latter action was contrasted with the hasty apology last spring when New York's Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia similarly cursed Nazism. Its significance: That the U. S. has decided to handle Adolf Hitler with boxing gloves, not kid gloves.

Such a revolutionary diplomatic stand requires military-naval back-



ADMIRAL BLOCH  
Purposes, announced and otherwise.

ing. Last fall, when the European threat first became imminent, President Roosevelt hinted at the desirability of a two-ocean navy to give our Eastern seacoast the protection now enjoyed at our back door. At the same time he suggested the U. S. might enlarge its defense program to encompass the entire Western hemisphere. As the new year started, the state department's stiffened attitude and Mr. Roosevelt's hints could be seen taking form in smoke clouds over the Panama canal.

Eastward from the Pacific came the entire fleet (except a small submarine and destroyer squadron at Honolulu), led from the battleship New Mexico by Admiral Claude O. Bloch. His intent: To stage the first Atlantic naval maneuvers since 1934, and the second largest in U. S. history. From January to May 140 combatant boats will play hide-and-seek from Brazil to Cuba.

The announced purpose: "To afford the maximum amount of fleet training, training of personnel and tests of material." Added, unannounced purposes: (1) To focus U. S. attention on naval requirements while congress is debating armament appropriations; (2) to stage a show for the benefit of any ambitious European dictator who might be watching; (3) to court Latin-American friendship by showing how Uncle Sam's battlewagons would protect South America as well as North America.

## Balkans

Obviously Italy has resented Germany's economic invasion of the Balkan states, for while the Rome-Berlin axis is her most important alliance, Italy nevertheless has long-standing ambitions in Yugoslavia, Albania and Hungary. Therefore correspondents have watched with tongue in cheek while Italy's Count Galeazzo Ciano, foreign minister and son-in-law of Premier Mussolini, stresses his diplomatic relations with Hungary. While apparently attempting to draw Hungary into the Rome-Berlin axis and the Italo-German-Japanese anti-communist pact (at expense of the League of Nations), Count Ciano is probably more interested in making his Balkan neighbors dependencies of Italy.

Likewise, Rome has watched with interest Yugo-Slavian Premier Milan Stoyadinovitch's victory in the December general election, which probably paves the way for a Yugo-Slavian Fascist state. While Count Ciano works on Stoyadinovitch, that gentleman has crawled into his shell to wait the outcome of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's January conference with Premier Mussolini. If Mussolini emerges victorious, Yugo-Slavia will probably lead the Balkans in a pro-Italian



ITALY'S COUNT CIANO  
For the cause, or for Italy?

movement; if he loses, the anxious Balkans will line up with Western democracies.

For Great Britain and France, who also covet Balkan friendship, a messiah has appeared in Grigore Gafencu, 47-year-old World War flier named as Rumanian foreign minister. Once an influential Bucharest newspaper man, Gafencu has long advocated closer co-operation among Yugo-Slavia, Hungary and Bulgaria, thereby averting dependency on either Germany or Italy.

## Germany

Since German policies began antagonizing world democracies, the obvious prediction has maintained that German foreign trade would suffer. It then follows that Germany must increase her domestic production to become independent of foreign imports. The difficulty of the task was first emphasized in late November when Col. von Schell was named "general plenipotentiary" of the automobile industry to speed production and standardization, and institute necessary economic measures. A few days later Dr. Karl Lange was given similar powers over Germany's machine industry. Next came Dr. Fritz Todt as "general plenipotentiary" in charge of all road building.

Such industrial "czarships" smell amazingly like communistic Russia's commissar system, and the idea was probably borrowed from that good neighbor. To give the entire system added impetus, Dr. Walther Funk, salesman-like economics minister, has been named czar of all German industry, with supervision over Herren von Schell, Lange and Todt.

Always closely supervised, German industry will now feel official domination even more severely. How an apparently communistic method of industrial overlordship will work in a nation which still supports private enterprise, remains to be seen.

Germany's foreign trade has suffered. In 1937 Germany built up a favorable balance of \$168,000,000. In 1938 this was wiped out and imports were \$159,200,000 more than exports.

## Great Britain

A solidified empire is the United Kingdom's goal since Nazi-Fascist states began threatening her position. Among the empire's weakest features is the string of miscellaneous possessions centering in the Caribbean sea, who individually and collectively have thus far received too little attention from London. One of them, Jamaica, recently heard agitation for annexation by the U. S. Still more recently it was suggested that Great Britain might pay its \$4,000,000,000 war debt by ceding her Caribbean islands to the U. S.

Belatedly recognizing some valuable property, London now proposes to group all the West Indies into a new dominion. Its composite parts: British Honduras, Bahamas, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, Kingston, centrally located capital of Jamaica, would be dominion headquarters.

The United Kingdom's new empire would include 2,000,000 people, mostly descendants of one-time Negro slaves, who depend chiefly on agriculture. Main trouble point the past year has been Kingston, where a royal investigating commission was recently welcomed by a strike of gas workers, throwing the entire city into darkness.

# WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—Reginald Denny, the one-time professional boxer who became a motion picture star, develops his toy airplane hobby into a business. He rings up a sale of six robot planes to Uncle Sam, to be used in army experiments next summer. They are expected to be curtain-callers for larger and more business-like robots, flying without pilots, guided by radio beams, dusting TNT on intruders.

Reginald Denny will be remembered as the actor extolled a decade or so ago as "the typical, wholesome young American." Then he turned out to be an Englishman, a flier and machine-gunner in the British royal air force in the war. A light comedian, he had two absorbing interests—his screen antics and what seemed at the time a juvenile absorption with miniature airplanes. From the latter, he developed some ideas about radio-controlled planes. He established the Reginald Denny Industries, with James Blackton, an experienced technician, as manager. He is making a small "flying torpedo," designed for flying in swarms, with no pilot, and with land-control of the bomb-dropping as well as guidance. When completed the United States will get it.

He ran away from school at the age of 16 to play for Charles Frohman at the Duke of York's theater. His first featured role was in the "Merry Widow." Then he became a professional boxer, later champion of the Second corps of the royal air force.

NELSON T. JOHNSON, ambassador to China, coming home by a side door as Japan slams the open door, probably will have in his hip pocket a copy of the "Analects" of Confucius, barring possibly "Alice in Wonderland," which he also packs around with him, it is his favorite reading.

Like Henry R. Curran, deputy mayor of New York, he believes that public activities and attitudes should be infused with humor. More than any other American, he has been successful in translating our best anthology of pullman car gags to the Chinese. Following the labyrinth of Confucius and Lao Tse, he finds a unique approach to the Chinese mind and has been one of our most successful ambassadors. But, back home, he is sharp, exact, statistical and thoroughly accidental, among which attributes is a line of up-and-coming Chamber of Commerce oratory. He lives in two worlds.

After his graduation from George Washington university, Mr. Johnson mixed with the Indians of the Southwest, picked up Indian dialects with remarkable facility, thereby discovering his linguistic gifts. That sent him to China as a student interpreter in 1906. In the Far East, he has occupied many important posts and is a former assistant secretary of state. He finds the Chinese have a lot more humor than the Japanese.

IT WAS about three years ago that the head of the German National Institute of Physics denounced the "debased Jewish atom," and promised to deliver to the Reich an untainted "Aryan" atom. Under the banner of "The Pragmatic and Dogmatic Spirit in Physics," this scientific revolution has been advanced by the Nazi savants, and at last American scientists mobilize against it. Dr. Franz Boas, 80-year-old German-born American anthropologist, heads a committee of eight distinguished scientists in publishing a manifesto, signed by 1,284 of their colleagues, leaders in all branches of science throughout America. They "defend the right of scientists to speak the truth as they understand it."

Dr. Boas spent about 55 years studying long heads and round heads, but was stymied by the square heads. "If the world goes crazy, what can we do?" he said, resigning from Columbia university two years ago.

He came to this country to attend the Chicago World's fair in 1893, after an Arctic expedition which had launched his career as an anthropologist. He remained to coach virtually all great American anthropologists and to become a world authority in linguistics, primitive mentality, folklore, ethnology and senility. The old Germany honored him. The new Germany made an extra special bonfire of his books.

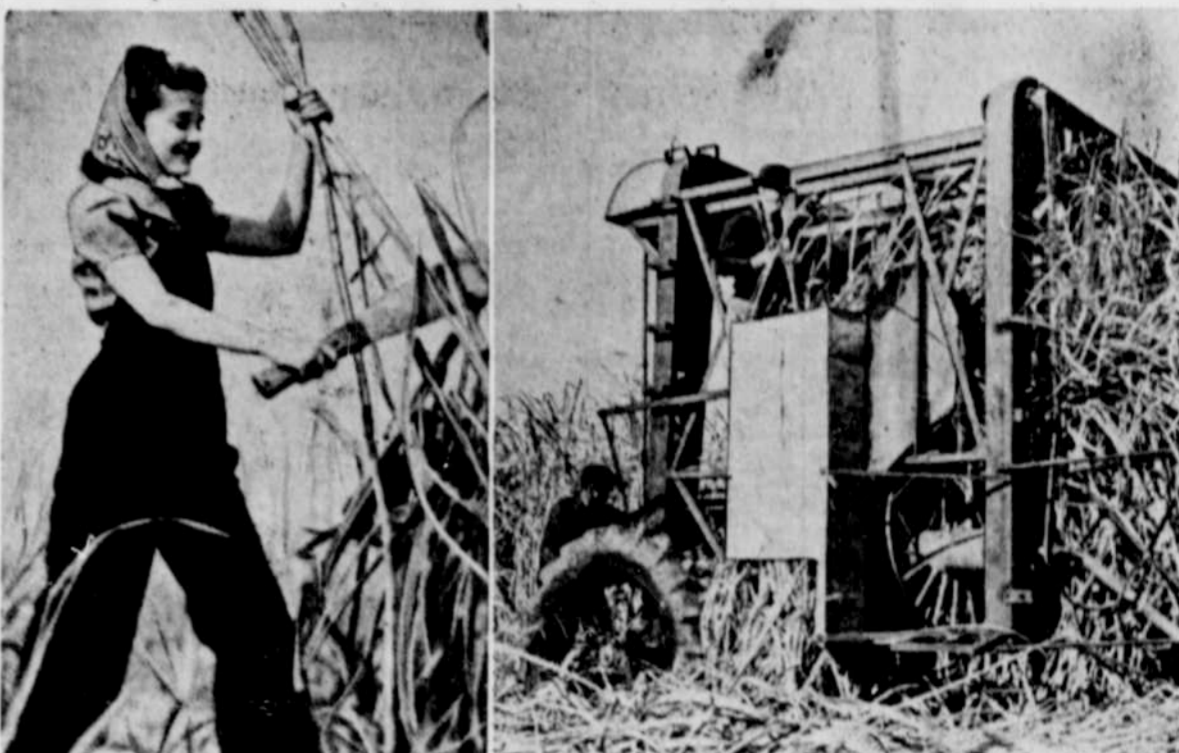
Group Aims to Keep Scientific Inquiry Free

INVENTOR

Professor Peter Kapitza, retained by the Soviet government, has perfected a new method of liquefying gases, only a few details of which are known. His discovery will have great scientific and industrial importance.

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# Sugar Cane Harvesting Is Modernized



Pretty Jeanette Peltier, Cajun miss of the Bayou Teche in the Evangeline country, Louisiana, helps her father get his sugar cane to the warehouse. In sharp contrast to the old manner of harvesting cane is the new Thomson machine. Screws straighten the cane so that rotating knives can lop off the tops. It then cuts the cane with a three-inch spaced blade saw at its bottom. The tops of the cane are sent through the chute. The harvester cuts about 20 tons per hour.

# Officials Find Victims of Careless Sportsmen



Harry Armstrong, left, member of the New Jersey board of fish and game commissioners, together with Deputy Game Warden M. M. Barrien of Trenton, are shown a number of does and deer shot in one day near Pasadena, N. J. All of these were killed illegally and abandoned in the woods by hunters.

## BR-R-R, IT'S COLD



A sudden midwest cold wave didn't catch this newsboy unprepared. He foiled the wintry blasts with a makeshift stove and a couple of gunny sacks. He also added a couple of sweaters to his ensemble.

## One Hit—No Runs—No Errors



Teammates on the baseball field and hunting companions in the field are Roy Johnson, left, veteran coach of the Chicago Cubs, and Larry French, one of the team's pitchers. They are untying a wild boar shot on Santa Catalina island, where the Cubs hold their pre-season training.

## French Family Wins 20,000 Francs



A prize of 20,000 francs was awarded Adrien-Jules Sandrin of Bourg La Reine, France, for their large family. The winners of the Cognac-Jay prize are seen here with 11 of their 12 children.