

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

## Campaign Issues

Washington.—It has been exceedingly interesting to watch the progress of the Democratic and Republican campaign committees in their efforts to shape and join the issues upon which the electorate will choose the next occupant of the White House. There has been a tremendous amount of hauling and filling, each side coming forth with trial balloons in an effort to find out what it is that will attract the most interest among the voters and to determine what particular matters afford the best vehicle on which they can ride into office.

From the beginning of this year, President Roosevelt has been trying to shape his issue on the basis of a single question—whether the American people in dollars and cents are better off than they were when he took office. I think admittedly that if Mr. Roosevelt could force that question into the center of the stage and make it the real issue, he would have very little campaigning to do. But the trouble is Mr. Roosevelt has been unable to accomplish his purpose and no little credit for his threat to force a joinder of issues on this point is due to the Republican leadership. The Republican managers simply will not be let into that trap. Thus, we must look elsewhere to see what the real issues are, or are likely to be, in this campaign decision.

It has nearly always been true that the issues prominent early in the campaign have proved not to be the issues at all near the end of a political battle. This year promises to be no exception. Political leaders attempt to figure out the proposition upon which their opponents are most vulnerable and obviously this figuring takes place in advance. It has to happen that way in order that methods of attack can be arranged in advance.

The New Dealers thought they could smoke out the Republicans by shouting far and wide that the people as a whole are better off than they were when Mr. Roosevelt took office. But, again, it was a case where political strategy did not work. Even though many hundred thousands of people are better off, the fact remains that there are some twenty million persons receiving relief in one form or another and the further fact remains that there are somewhere between nine million and ten million workers without jobs. Consequently, Mr. Roosevelt's question whether people were better off in dollars and cents did not quite click.

In the meantime, the Republicans have found what they believe to be a very vulnerable spot in the New Deal armor and they are shooting at it with machine-gun rapidity. This question, this spot, centers around taxation. The Republicans apparently thought at the start of the fight that Democratic waste of federal money and the vast debt that was piled up would force a revulsion of feeling against New Deal policies. So they started out on that campaign horse. But they found that the question of taxation over-shadowed the other, even though the taxation about which the Republicans are talking has been an offspring of the alleged waste of the party in power.

I doubt that the taxation issue would have been as important as it is proving to be had not the New Dealers made a mistake in political strategy. This mistake, it may be said in passing, illustrates how very minor things influence the ultimate result in politics to a greater extent perhaps than in any other activity of American national life. The mistake which I refer to was made by Attorney General Cummings.

The story of the circumstance chronologically is something like this: The Republicans from their headquarters in Chicago began calling attention to increased tax burdens in connection with their exposure of the increase of more than thirteen billion dollars in the country's debt. They pointed out how, if the Roosevelt administration had not wasted money, preparations would not have to be made for raising the taxes and how, if this waste had not occurred, tax increases which we already have had would not have taken place.

As a part of the demonstration of increased taxation the Republicans issued campaign literature itemizing the amount of taxes each and every one of us pays on the common every-day necessities of life. They showed how each loaf of bread, each pair of shoes, each pork-chop, among other things, bears so much tax which all of us pay in buying those necessities of life.

Probably the distribution of this campaign literature by the Republicans would not have stirred up so much fuss in and of itself had it not been for the action of Attorney

General Cummings. The Attorney General made some public threats that he would seek to indict those who were responsible for distribution of this information, claiming that a federal law had been violated. Being attorney general of the United States, any statement from him got wide distribution.

But the Republicans, recognizing the potentialities of this situation, issued a challenge to Mr. Cummings to proceed with his threat of indictments. Their publicity statement on the point was just as virulent as that of any red-blooded American boy who says to his playmate, "I dare you to!"

Well, the rejoinder of the Republicans rather put Mr. Cummings on the spot. I presume probably the threat and the resulting challenge still would have amounted to nothing except that the method employed by the Republicans capitalized on that threat by accusing the attorney general of seeking to prevent free speech and to prohibit discussion of campaign issues. If there is one thing that the American people resent, it is any attempt by a governmental agency of whatever character it may be that seeks to stifle discussion. They look upon it as a sign of dictatorship. Somewhere in their veins still courses the virus that overthrew King George in the birth of this nation.

That is why the Cummings threat is so important. President Roosevelt announced the other day that he is preparing to start reorganization of the federal administrative agencies. He said he had arrived at the conclusion that such a course was necessary because there has been overlapping in function and jurisdiction among the many agencies created by the New Deal. It is the second time that the President has proposed reorganization of the governmental units and his new announcement promises to attract as much attention as did his original announcement which was made when he was a candidate during the 1932 presidential campaign.

For a long time, it has been plainly evident to observers in Washington that New Deal agencies were literally falling over one another and that many of them were constantly in conflict with others because the laws or executive orders, chiefly the executive orders, by which these agencies were created, did not clarify their jurisdiction or their function.

A good deal of this trouble obviously had its origin in the haste that characterized the early efforts of the Roosevelt administration to establish machinery by which problems of the depression could be solved or alleviated. It always happens that when governmental agencies are created in such haste, ridiculous situations result. It was the case during the World War and it has been the case during the New Deal's efforts to solve depression problems under the emergency powers granted by congress. The truth seems to be that there is more overlapping, more conflict, now than there was during the World War.

I have known of numerous instances where one agency, under authority given it by the President, has promulgated rules and regulations governing the force of law that did not conform to rules and regulations dealing with the same matters but coming from another unit of government. In addition, I have seen different interpretations placed on the same statute or the same regulation by two different agencies. In consequence, the citizen whose business practices or personal affairs were touched by government edict found himself prohibited from doing a particular thing on the one hand and ordered to do it on the other.

Thus, it would seem that it is high time for something to be done about re-organization. It would seem equally to be high time for elimination of some of the extra red tape of government which has been wound about the private lives of American citizens by the New Deal. Goodness knows, there was plenty of red tape before the New Deal; it certainly is worse now than it was before.

The thing that seemed to interest most of the writing fraternity in Washington, however, was not so much the alleviation of the conditions which I have mentioned, but the political aspects of the presidential announcement that new reorganization plans were under consideration. Some of these writers who are critical of the New Deal went back to the 1932 campaign records and dragged out to public view Mr. Roosevelt's promises respecting governmental complexities.

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## OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

**Eagle Creek**—A recent check revealed that the 800 foot tunnel here through Tooth Rock had reached the 230 foot mark.

**Astoria**—The restoration of the pictorial frieze on the Astoria column is nearly completed. The cost of restoration is \$5500.

**Salem**—Recent statistics show an increase of 10,000 farms in Oregon since 1930. There also has been a trend away from sheep toward cattle raising.

**Newport**—City officials announced that the dedication of the Yaquina Bay bridge, last of the five Oregon coast bridges, would be held October 3 and 4.

**Portland**—The cost of operating the city government in 1935 was 25 cents per capita lower than in 1934, with estimates that it will be lower still for 1936.

**Klamath Falls**—A \$150,000 wood treating plant will be established here by the American Lumber & Treating company. From 35 to 40 men will be employed.

**Crater Lake**—A new record for the number of visitors was reached this season when a check up showed that a total of 170,469 had visited the park this season.

**Astoria**—Jimmie Reed is the youngest mountain climber here or anywhere. The 4 1/2 year old youngster recently climbed Saddle mountain under his own power.

**Woodburn**—The Ray-Maling cannery is running full blast employing about 1500 on a daily payroll of about \$8000. Pears, prunes and late blackberries are being canned.

**Salem**—Governor Martin has appealed directly to President Roosevelt for allocation of federal funds for the purchase of forest tracts in Oregon for forest preservation.

**Baker**—Plans for the opening of the Stoddard Lumber company mill here have been announced. About 40 men in the mill and as many more in the woods will be employed.

**Albany**—Linn county farmers recently received a warning that winter was drawing nigh. Frost nipped tomatoes, sweet corn and other tender vegetation in the lowlands.

**Klamath Falls**—About ten cars of potatoes daily have been pouring from the Klamath basin. Yields are from 150 to 300 sacks to the acre, with prices averaging close to \$1.50.

**Salem**—One million cases of Marjion county prunes will be canned here it was estimated recently. Only the physical ability of the plants to put up the pack will limit the output during the season closes.

**Mosier**—Republican cherries heretofore regarded as a necessary evil, are increasing in value to local ranchers and may partly supplant other tree crops if their use as maraschinos continues.

**Dallas**—The new \$45,000 city hall is nearly completed. It occupies the same site as the seventy year old building that it replaces, and will house the city departments and the federal re-employment service.

**Condon**—A total of 588,700 bushels of wheat has been either shipped through or stored in 1 terminals here. It is estimated that about 700,000 bushels will be brought to this terminal before the season closes.

**Monmouth**—Two representatives of the Russian government recently interviewed sheep breeders here. They are in the west to buy 2000 head of Romney Marsh rams and are inspecting all Pacific Coast flocks.

**Salem**—Receipt of a check for \$279,679 from one of the major oil companies not only set a new mark for individual receipts but placed the August gasoline tax to a new high. The total tax for August was \$1,136,680 on nearly 23,000,000 millions of gasoline.

### FIRE HAZARD NOT OVER

**Bend**—Recent reports from Deschutes national forest lookouts of dense clouds of smoke rolling over the Santiam divide into central Oregon, reducing visibility to a few miles. Extra lookouts were posted and men put out to patrol the forest.

For the first time this year the Three Sisters were not visible from Bend, the humidity was dangerously low and a stiff wind was whipping through the woods. Much concern was felt over the hazardous conditions.

**Medford**—State Labor Commissioner Gram was asked to come to Medford recently to settle a dispute in which eight lumber mill workers claim more than \$7000 due for work in a local mill last summer.

**Eugene**—About 28,000 sheep that have been grazing in the Willamette national forest are being moved to market according to forest officials. Most of them have been contracted for delivery in Bend early in October prices ranging from 6% to 9 cents per pound.

## what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

The Passing of Thalberg.

**HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.**—Big an industry as the moving picture industry is, the death of one slender, shy, frail man has stunned it. The old guard of this business has lost its little corporal and the second generation of producing talent is left with a yawning gap where yesterday there loomed a leader who was both a pioneer and a progressive.

Irving Thalberg was an authentic genius of the films—a master showman, a deft interpreter of that tricky art which finds its medium through story and camera and screen.

It will be long before they breed another Thalberg out here. For men of his brain, his energy, his pathfinding instincts don't come in sets, don't often come singly.

The name Napoleon has been overworked to describe ability within some small body, but here, to the limits of his own craft, was not only a Napoleon but a Daniel Boone and a Balzac all rolled in one.



Irvin S. Cobb

### Payroll Patriots.

SOME low industrial royalist has been checking up on the sisters and the cousins and the aunts of New Dealers who are on the federal payroll. We call that nepotism when the opposition does it, or family love when one of our own crowd is guilty.

'Twould seem Dixieland leads in this display of domestic affection. The champion is Senator Smith of South Carolina. There were all sorts of delegates at the Democratic national convention, but he was the only walking delegate—walked out twice, and each time walked right back again. He has five relatives drawing salaries from Uncle Sam. Even Uncle Jack Garner, the sphinx of Texas, has three.

This looks like an improvement on the old southern system, when kinfolks dropped in for a week-end and stayed the rest of their lives.

### Summer Annoyances.

EVEN in sun-kicked California, summer is on its last legs. This one will go down in history as the summer which produced handies, knock-knocks; the dust storm and the campaign speech, these two being interchangeable terms in most cases; likewise the seventeen-year locust and the gentleman who was in active charge of our Olympic team's trip to Berlin. People were seriously annoyed in other ways, too.

### Political Geysers.

CAN it be we made a mistake by plowing under cotton instead of orators?

That famous phenomenon of nature in Yellowstone park, which spouts at such frequent intervals ought to be getting uneasy. Any moment it may lose its name of old faithful and become known as the Junior John Hamilton geyser.

And Secretary Ickes certainly is qualifying as the minute-man of the new revolution—or oftener than that, if there's an audience. Colonel Knox isn't doing so badly, either. In the modern version of "the spirit of '76," he's the one who's beating so hard on the eardrum. Still, it's a grand thing—but surprising—to find a newspaper editor who talks forcibly on his feet instead of writing feebly on his seat.

On the other hand, Uncle Jack Garner continues to be the ideal back-seat driver—the one who hasn't said a single word during the entire trip.

### Dictators and Shirt Tails.

LET'S see. Among others, we now have the blue shirts in Ireland, the brown shirts in Germany, the red shirts in Russia, and, of course, the black shirts in Italy, which seems the most practical of all because you don't need to wash a black shirt for months and months.

So maybe we're too quick. The alarmists among us are predicting an early dictatorship here. At the rate all the standard shares are being snapped up, we'll have to think up a new color in shirts, and, unless we hurry, there may not be any new colors to think up, and you can't have a dictatorship without a shirt to match—that's the rule. Lavender hasn't been taken yet by anybody, but lavender seems kind of sissy, and, while, a gray-colored shirt might suit the careless eater, it lacks zing, don't you think?

In any event, our shirt ought to have a good long tail to it, because, by that time, the American taxpayer probably will have lost his pants.

IRVIN S. COBB  
© Western Newspaper Union.

### "Length" Li Horse Racing

In horse racing the measure of a "length" is the distance from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. The average horse is over eight feet while running with neck outstretched.

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

### Lesson for October 4 THE MACEDONIAN CALL

LESSON TEXT—Acts 16:6-15; Romans 15:18-21.

GOLDEN TEXT—Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.—Matthew 28:19.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul's Wonderful Dream.

JUNIOR TOPIC—God's Call to a New Continent.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—A Cry for Help.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The World's Need of Christ.

The roots of American life, cultural and religious, reach back into the European soil on which our forefathers dwelt. The lesson before us is therefore of peculiar interest, for it relates the first step in the carrying of the gospel into Europe, and ultimately to America.

Paul, the missionary with a pastor's heart, felt constrained to go and visit the centers where he had ministered on his first journey. As he proceeded he was providentially hindered and led by the Holy Spirit to Troas. Here his next "step" seemed for a time to be a "stop," but soon God in a vision called him into Macedonia—and the gospel had come to Europe.

It is of interest to note that Paul, as he thus began his second missionary journey, was

**I. Obedient to the Spirit** (Acts 16:6-12).

He had certain plans in mind. He set out with a purpose, but he was willing to have his own itinerary changed as the Holy Spirit led. It is significant that the guidance was negative as well as positive. The stops as well as "the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" (Ps. 37:23). Christians will do well to remember that providential hindering circumstances may be as much the leading of God as the heavenly vision. We are to be obedient to any guidance He gives but we are not to be merely passive, but actively submissive to His will. Paul was about the Father's business, not idly waiting for the speaking of a voice from heaven. It is to such a man or woman that the Macedonian call comes even in our day, only now it comes from China, India, South America, or Africa.

**II. Faithful in Testimony** (vv. 13, 14).

Paul, with his companion Silas, Timothy who had joined them at Lystra, and Luke (note that the "they" of v. 8 becomes "we" in v. 10) came to Philippi in Macedonia, but they found no Macedonian man waiting for them. Had they been mistaken in their vision and call?

True missionaries are not thus easily discouraged. They had come to be fishers of men. The fisherman does not expect the fish to come to him. He goes after them. Paul soon discovered that there was a place of prayer at the river, evidently a gathering place of devout Jews for worship. There he met the man of Macedonia who turned out to be a woman. For some reason the men were absent from the place of prayer on that all-important Sabbath morning.

Lydia was a woman of distinction, business ability, and of high moral character. But Paul knew that even good people need to be saved. He spoke the truth of God. She accepted the message as God opened her heart, and at once she entered into

**III. Fellowship in Service** (v. 15).

Lydia proved herself to be one of that noble succession of women who have served Christ and the church. She and her household shared in the ministry of Paul by their Christian hospitality, thus helping forward the missionaries. Observe carefully that she was not saved by her works, but that her works followed naturally after her salvation.

Turning now to one of the epistles of Paul we look at his exposition of certain

**IV. Fundamental Missionary Principles** (Rom. 15:18-21).

Those things which Christ had wrought (Paul took no glory to himself) through him Paul had consistently directed into fields where no one else had preached the gospel.

The spirit of the missionary of the cross is that of the pioneer, pressing ever onward, taking new land, not duplicating the work of others, not jealous of their success, not seeking comfort or glory. Men need the gospel; they are lost without it. Let us press on into the yet unoccupied territory.

**Sorrow and Enjoyment**

We are sent here, in one sense, to bear and to suffer; but, in another, to do and to enjoy. The active day has its evening of repose; even patient suffering has its alleviations, when there is a consolatory sense of duty discharged.—Scott.

**Undermine the Character**

Fear and gain are great perverters of mankind, and where either prevail the judgment is violated.—William Penn, in "Some Fruits of Solitude."

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## Week's Supply of Postum Free

Read the offer made by the Postum Company in another part of this paper. They will send a full week's supply of health giving Postum free to anyone who writes for it.—Adv.

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"BLACK LEAF 40"  
Keeps Dogs Away from Evergreens, Shrubs etc.  
Get from your Dealer  
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## Simplicity

The further men wander from simplicity, the further they are from truth.—Dr. Bowring.

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"The gas on my stomach was so bad I could not eat or sleep. Even my heart seemed to hurt. A friend suggested Adierka. The first dose I took brought me relief. Now I eat as I wish, sleep fine and never feel better."  
—Mrs. J. J. Miller.  
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