

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
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Washington.—It has been several months since the administration farm relief program, the agricultural adjustment act, was declared dead, but like the words of the song, "the memory lingers on." And it is quite apparent that mistakes as well as memories of the AAA will continue through the heat of the coming Presidential campaign and probably considerably longer, for it is only necessary to recall that the stepbrother of the AAA, the federal farm board of the Hoover administration, still is the butt of much criticism and many pointed paragraphs.

One of the main reasons why the memories linger on, where those memories involve AAA, is Michigan's Republican Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. Senator Vandenberg never did get enthusiastic about the merits of AAA as they were expounded by Secretary Wallace, Administrator Chester Davis and other New Deal spokesmen, and when the Supreme court of the United States threw out the processing taxes upon which the law was predicated, Senator Vandenberg was in a delightful spot from a political standpoint. He has not found it necessary to say "I told you so" and has had, I imagine, a great deal of personal fun in simply hinting to or reminding others of his previous stand.

But it was not until the Michigan senator began pulling figures out of his senatorial hat, showing how benefit payments from the AAA had gone to great and wealthy corporations in sums as high as a million dollars or more, that he held a key to the New Deal skeleton closet. They know now, however, exactly what he meant when he announced in the senate several weeks ago that no such plan as the AAA could be administered without vast sums being distributed in what he termed unwarranted payments—unwarranted from the standpoint of help for the smaller farmers.

Secretary Wallace stalled off Senator Vandenberg's demand in the senate for a complete list of beneficiaries who received checks from AAA in excess of one thousand dollars for quite a while, but there were too many senators who believed as Senator Vandenberg did, that the truth ought to be known. Of course, as the procedure usually goes in Washington, many things are done without actual force being used. It was thus in the case of the AAA payments. Democratic senators who foresaw their inability to prevent a senate vote demanding a list of AAA payments persuaded Mr. Wallace to make public the list voluntarily and it was done just in advance of senate action. So, we now have for the first time, at least, an indication of the grotesque results of the agricultural adjustment administration program that was hailed from the Atlantic to the Pacific as an ideal plan.

The dynamite in the situation lies in the fact that there were dozens, even hundreds, of corporations which received AAA checks

Dynamite in It

among the big bounties paid to induce curtailment of basic forage crops. This would not be so bad except for the fact that the brilliant planners of the AAA continuously stressed its value to the small, debt ridden farmers. Throughout the time the law was under consideration and through the two years of its operation, never did Mr. Wallace or Mr. Davis fail to point out in their numerous speeches how great sums of money, collected in process-

ing taxes, were being distributed to thousands of farmers and that these payments were in time going to put agriculture on its collective feet. Now, however, the truth of their statement has been proved, but when the whole truth has been exposed on the floor of the senate, it was found to go far beyond the small, debt ridden farmers.

The whole truth disclosed, in fact, that several million dollars had been paid even to corporations chartered by the British government and with home offices in England. Wall Street, that home of "entrenched greed," received its share, and its share was substantial. On top of all of this there lately has come a disclosure that a great wheat farmer in Montana received something like \$50,000 for agreeing not to plant wheat on land which he had rented from the Indians through the Federal Department of the Interior for the specific purpose of raising wheat.

The list of huge benefit payments is much too large to include in this letter, but the fact remains that it showed how even the best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray, even when those men are brilliant brain trusters who themselves claim to know all there is available for human understanding. Beyond that, the Vandenberg disclosures have set in motion discussion that will come pretty close to continuing into every farmhouse in the land. Unless I miss my guess, and I am no Doctor Tugwell, thousands of farmers are going to bitterly resent the fact that their payments were small, whereas gigantic corporations received sums ranging from ten to a thousand times as large.

In behalf of the AAA officials, it must be said that there will be as, indeed there has been already, considerable unfair criticism. The criticism to which I refer is of this type: that they should have discovered in advance of the payments that funds were going to these corporations. Assuming that they could have discovered that fact in advance, there was no alternative for them except to pay the checks authorized by law. Congress made the law, or rather, congress passed it under the lash of the administration, but it was on the statute books and administrative officials are not supposed to disregard such provisions.

If there is to be criticism it should be directed at the initial framing of the statute that brought about the condition. The results that have attracted so much attention since Senator Vandenberg's exposure constitute one of the curious coincidences and queer quirks of planned economy.

And a further word about the criticism. A great many people are likely to forget that while their check was in three figures and some corporation received one in six figures, the condition results wholly from the fact that one owned more land than the other. You may properly say this should have been foreseen and I believe you will be



making a correct statement. But surely this is a fact: the AAA officials cannot be blamed for sending out the checks when the law said they should do it regardless of the name or nature of the beneficiary. The fault lies solely and completely with those who, from their professional desks, conceived the whole scheme and gained President Roosevelt's approval of it.

The development of the vulnerable spots in the AAA crop curtailment program probably will prove beneficial to the country as a whole eventually. For one thing, these disclosures have forever choked off proposals of that kind. They may result as well in strengthening the new proposition for crop control through the medium of soil conservation. In other words, since the bulk of the congress thinks through legislation only in the terms of administration arguments, they will likely be less prone to enact legislation without knowing what results will be obtained.

It seems to me that the new farm-aid plan likely will be stronger and probably more workable and certainly less extravagant than was the AAA because the AAA weaknesses have been exposed. These exposures ought to have an effect also among thinking farmers who hereafter are unlikely to accept dogmatic statements and rainbow pictures painted for them by political demagogues and professional farm leaders without examining the practicability of the scheme. Personally, I am convinced that a great many farmers were led to believe that AAA was their only salvation and they gained this conviction solely because the other side never was told to them.

While we are talking about mistakes and about the results obtained by brilliant theorists, I hear more and more discussion of the latest move by Chairman Henry P. Fletcher and his Republican national committee. Mr. Fletcher has hired ten university professors to head up what he calls the committee's research staff and in announcing their appointment he stressed a declaration that "the division is not a brain trust." But "brain trust" it is going to be called notwithstanding Mr. Fletcher's assertion that they were practical men and women of experience. They are going to be a brain trust in exactly the same sense that Mr. Roosevelt's "brain trust" has been denominated. And how else could it be? There actually seems to be little choice between the type of men Mr. Fletcher has chosen and the Tugwells, Hopkinses and other doctors and professors who have constantly had the ear of the President. These men will have Mr. Fletcher's ear and undoubtedly will pour into it their own theories of government and their own ideas of approach to the problem that confronts the Republican national committee, namely, the defeat of Mr. Roosevelt.

I have observed political battles for a good many years and I have observed the management of governmental responsibilities through a parallel period. This conclusion is inescapable, as far as I am concerned, that practical men always have done a better job, always have been better administrators and better planners, than the men and women who have spent their lives lecturing from a university classroom rostrum. I once criticized Professor Tugwell by saying that his qualification for the post of under-secretary of agriculture consisted of tending flowers in a window box, and I am wondering now whether Mr. Fletcher's new brain trust is any better equipped for the job. However, we must not forget, the country now has one brain trust trying to find out what is wrong with another brain trust.

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Lights of New York

By L. L. STEVENSON

The past: On the night of June 4, 1929, 600 distinguished and well-known guests, each of whom had received an invitation and paid \$10, attended the opening of the Central Park Casino, which had been taken over by the Dieppe corporation. That corporation had on its governing board none other than Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr.; William Rhineland Stewart, Jr., and Adolph Zukor. James Walker, then mayor, was present and so many nights thereafter that the Casino in no time at all became known as "Jimmy Walker's night club." Society flocked there and the corporation prospered. An investigation conducted some time after that auspicious opening showed that in four years it had collected more than \$3,000,000. But as most of that great gross came from the pockets of the rich, there hadn't been much complaint. Still, there were those who thought the city should get more than \$8,500 a year as its share.

The present: Among those who cherished that thought was Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who was making a campaign for mayor. He charged that the Dieppe corporation was so greedy that it even took a percentage of the waiters' tips. Besides that the playground of the public Central park was no place for a swanky eating place. LaGuardia was not elected that time. He ran again and was. His choice for park commissioner was Robert H. Moses who held ideas similar to those of his boss. So he promptly ordered the Casino to close up. The matter got into the courts, the corporation holding that as the contract didn't expire until 1939, it intended to stay. It lost the first decision. Now it has lost an appeal and the Casino, the scene of so many brilliant affairs, is to be torn down to make a playground for youngsters.

No compromise: The principal complaint against the Casino concerned prices charged for food. As a sort of concession, Sidney Solomon, suave manager, offered price reductions. The cup of coffee that had cost 50 cents was reduced to 40 cents and the \$4 table d'hôte dinner to \$3. But Commissioner Moses couldn't see any bargain for the people at those rates and kept up his fight.

Age in a hurry: At the Pennsylvania terminal, your correspondent overheard an argument between a snappily dressed woman who looked to be well past seventy despite the work of an efficient beauty specialist, and two equally snappily dressed young women, who were apparently her granddaughters. At any rate, the older woman was all put out because her family had insisted that she go down to Florida by train instead of by plane!

Fooled chiselers: New York city policemen who take the examinations for sergeants now must pay a fee of \$5. Up until a short time ago, there was no charge. A check revealed that a lot of cops who took the examinations really had no hopes of passing but had discovered that fooling around with lead pencils and papers for a day or so was a lot easier than walking beats. Incidentally, policemen not only have to buy their own revolvers but the ammunition they shoot in practice and at crooks as well.

Factual matter: The reason the great seal of the city of New York bears two flour sacks is that once upon a time local millers had a monopoly on bolting all the flour exported from this country. The reason for the two beavers is that there was a time when New York city was the fur trading center of the New World.

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Uncle Phil Says:

It Gets Sour

If you have a sweet disposition, all right; but a cultivated "sweet disposition" sooner or later shows its artificiality.

Only time the lazy man leaves no stone unturned is when he is looking for worms for bait.

A bad reputation attracts the curious. They feel that they are lion tamers.

More people you know, the more conscience you need.

Don't be afraid to speak out loud. The world is too busy to listen to whispers.

Stop PAINFUL PRESSURE!

Apply New De Luxe Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads on any sensitive spots on your toes and feet, or on corns, callouses or bunions. In one minute discomfort will be gone! Numbing shoe pressure or friction is stopped. New or tight shoes won't hurt or cause sore toes or blisters. Get a box of these flesh color, velvety-soft, waterproof pads today at your drug, shoe or department store.

Dr. Scholl's Zino-pads

ASHAMED OF PIMPLY SKIN

Burned and Itched Until Cuticura Relieved!

Victims of external skin outbreaks use Cuticura for blessed, quick relief. Read this sincere tribute:

"I was ashamed to show myself anywhere with the ugly pimples I had. They were caused by some surface condition and were very large and red, and also hard. The itching and burning made me scratch so that they bled.

"I sent for a free sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment. A few pimples disappeared and I bought some of the Soap and Ointment. It only took Cuticura a month to relieve me fully." Miss R. Zebrowski, 18 Alder St., Bristol, Conn.

Prove Cuticura today—and keep it always near you. Use for rashes, ringworms, burning and itching of eczema and other externally caused skin irritations. Soap 25c. Ointment 25c. Samples FREE. Write to "Cuticura," Dept. 17, Malden, Mass.—Adv.

What SHE TOLD WORN-OUT HUSBAND

She could have reproached him for his fits of temper—his "all in" complaints. But wisely she saw in his frequent colds, his "fagged out," "on edge" condition the very trouble she herself had whipped. Constipation! The very morning after taking NR (Nature's Remedy), as she advised, he felt like himself again—keenly alert, peppy, cheerful. NR—the safe, dependable, all-vegetable laxative and corrective—works gently, thoroughly, naturally. It stimulates the eliminative tract to complete, regular functioning. Non-habit-forming. Try a box tonight. 25c.—at druggists.

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DO YOU NEED PEP?

Read what Mr. W. F. Lyon, Sr., of 15 S. 6th Ave., Yakima, Wash., said: "Being a railroad man I got into a weakened state from overwork and loss of sleep. I had no appetite and my head ached badly. I took Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Soon after I started using it I could eat better and gained in every way. It did wonders for me." Buy now! All druggists. New size, tablets 50c., liquid \$1.00 & \$1.35.