The Indianapolis Times

Second Section

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1936

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind.

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It Seems to Me
by
HEYWOOD BROUN

NEW YORK, July 20.—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin attacked President Roosevelt with a violence seldom heard outside the bar of the Union League Club, and it is well to note that this attack also came solely from the right. In the eyes of the vehement gentleman in vestments the President is a radical. But Mr. Roosevelt can not take the compliment too much to heart because the radio priest made the entrance requirements very low.

Mr. Broun

The platform of the Union Party says not a single word on civil liberties. In the eyes of Father Coughlin and his new associates advocacy of free speech is communistic. Nor need this be based on guess or theory. Gomer Smith, who undertook to express a mild dissent to some of the speeches in the Townsend convention, was chucked immediately out of the coalition. The platform of the Union Party makes no mention whatsoever of child labor, and any who urge that it be abolished or even restricted are undoubtedly aliens who wish to Europeanize our nation.

The right of labor to organize and to bargain collectively is not recognized in the platform of the Union Party. And it was significant that Father Coughlin in his speech to the Townsendites made not a single reference to labor, trades unionism or to workers. Seemingly in his excitement he forgot the plight of the toiling masses.

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Advocates States' Rights

IT is true that the platform of the Union Party does condescend to toss one crumb to those who work for wages, but it is of the vaguest sort. The platform merely stands for "a living annual wage for all laborers capable of working and willing to work." The unfit, apparently, are to be liquidated. To be sure, even this feeble hand wave conveys small comfort, since the platform declares for strict states' rights, and it is obvious enough that Federal legislation of that sort would be declared unconstitutional and that state action, if any, would by no means be uniform.

The Townsendites have considered the necessity of constitutional amendment in order to put their scheme into being, but with two such vigorous allies as the Rev. Smith and the Rev. Coughlin, the good old doctor is not likely to have much to say about the show from now on.

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Sympathizes With Delegates

GERALD SMITH comes into the ring with one distinct advantage. If he wins leadership, the third party will play upon both anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic prejudice. Father Coughlin is merely an anti-Semite. Nor am I overlooking the fact that Smith is also an expert in Negro baiting. Indeed, the Cleveland conclave has brought together the most unholy alliance the modern world has known since Hitler and his lieutenants first started their drive for power. And I may say that the spectacle of Father Coughlin strutting arm-in-arm with a leader of the Ku-Klux Klan is not a glorious one.

For the so-called "delegates" to the convention I have the greatest sympathy. They are Fascist fodder for whose votes adventurers strive, but how did they get that way? They have been so harshly used by crooked politics and crooked economics that they are ready to wear any rainbow collar provided there is some sort of shrill promise of a golden tie clasp.

It is not an accident that the two men who offer to boss them around for their own good are both wearers of the cloth. These men who come holding aloft the Bible or the crucifix seem to the deluded and the weary the very symbols of a divine Providence. They don't want to be bothered with facts and figures and, talk of constitutional amendments or even some non-immediate revolution. Their hope lies in being fed by the ravens, and these gentlemen in black seem to croak in tones not unlike those ministering birds.

My Day

BY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

HYDE PARK, N. Y., Sunday.—I read a most interesting report yesterday entitled, "The City of New York; the Story of the Municipal Committee for the Relief of Home Owners, 1934 to 1936."

To me the thing which seems most outstanding about it is the amount of work achieved by a combination of volunteers co-operating with the government. The original committee began its work on Lond Island, New York, and was the conception of Mr. James N. MacLean, a New York lawyer. It grew to cover the whole metropolitan area.

Any one who is familiar with the Home Owner's Loan work and the various unavoidable difficulties experienced by individuals dealing with the government, will at once recognize the value of this committee of able volunteers. I earnestly desire that such work as theirs could be extended throughout the country, not only in this field, but in many other fields in which the government is now concerned.

As I was walking down a street in Poughkeepsie yesterday, I saw some very nice cherries in a little shop and stopped to buy them. The young boy, who came out to serve me, rushed away without answering my question about the cherries, to return almost immediately with a ticket to Hollywood Bowl for a speech I made there last October. He held it out saying:

"That's where I saw you last, Mrs. Roosevelt, and ever since I've wanted to have you sign my ticket."

Of course, I signed it and inquired whether he lived in California.

"No," he said, "I live in Poughkeepsie, but I went out there for about a year. There were about 50 other people I met there from Poughkeepsie."

So we are getting away from our own country.

Last night we were going to take a picnic supper to the top of the hill back of our cottage, but toward late afternoon a tremendous thunder and wind storm came up. We needed the rain badly and were grateful for it, but the wind did a great deal of damage.

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New Books

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS—

FOR those interested in Mexico—and who isn't?—Anita Brenner's revised **YOUR MEXICAN HOLIDAY** (Putnam; $2.50) will be found to transcend the ordinary guide book in many ways. It is readable; not merely a compilation of data; and, best of all, it is written with conviction and familiarity that come only with residence in Mexico.

This book is especially valuable for those traveling in their own cars. Routes are efficiently laid out and road conditions presented from an unbiased viewpoint. Maps of the country from Cortes to Cardenas are helpful, as is a distance chart.

Of value in preparing your trip, the volume will also serve you well while touring; and when you return you will want to keep it handy as a reference work. And—it is good reading for those who want to go and can't.

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A DELIGHTFUL chronical of family life in the nineties is **PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY**, by Eleanor Farjeon (Stokes; $3). The author's mother was Margaret, daughter of Joseph Jefferson, and a lovely, shy, humorous, self-contained woman. She married B. L. Farjeon, an impetuous, generous, choleric, completely irresponsible Jew, who lived his childhood in poverty in the London streets, and his youth adventuring in Australia in search of gold; who was without any education save that gained from reading but who rose to a position of eminence as an English novelist.

The Farjeon's and their four gifted children are the subject of this tenderly sentimental, imaginative yet candid, biography which is particularly interesting to American readers for the glimpses given into the family life of Joseph Jefferson, the universally beloved actor.

THE INDIANAPOLIS GAS BATTLE

The Record and Pros and Cons of the Continuing Conflict

(The first of a series)

BY FREDERICK G. MATSON

TWELVE miles northwest of Indianapolis, natural gas today flows eastward through Marion County in a 20-inch pipeline at an average rate of 100 million cubic feet a month. By the time it reaches Marion County it has made quite a cross-country jaunt. It has traveled some 1200 miles from the vast Texas Panhandle and Kansas fields.

The situation, so far as Indianapolis is concerned, is not new, but it is novel. Natural gas from the same source has been running through the same pipeline for nearly five years, supplying fuel and heat for many Indiana cities and towns as it flows toward Ohio and the East.

To get a clear picture of the natural gas problem as it affects Indianapolis, let us trace the events chronologically.

Before 1931, little had been heard or done regarding the possibility of bringing natural gas to Indianapolis. Central Indiana had not become "natural gas conscious."

But a period of great expansion in the natural gas industry took place in 1929 and 1930. Early in 1931, natural gas from the Kentucky field was being piped into western Indiana by the Kentucky Natural Gas Co. The great artery from the Texas fields was under construction by the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. and about this time it had reached Indiana at Dana, near the Illinois state line.

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CONSTRUCTION of the pipeline proceeded eastward across Indiana from Dana in the spring and summer of 1931. It was to join the main pipeline at Muncie which had been built through Ohio from the West Virginia natural gas fields by Columbia Gas and Electric Corp. interests.

By this time little, if anything, had been said about obtaining natural gas for general or domestic users in Indianapolis. Some local industries, however, had become concerned about getting natural gas for manufacturing purposes.

They were concerned for two principal reasons. First, they said, natural gas could be furnished them at cheaper rates than the manufactured or artificial gas supplied by the Citizens Gas Co. Second, they said they preferred to use a gas with greater heating units than that offered by the local utility.

The outstanding characteristic of natural gas is that its heating value is approximately twice that of manufactured gas, according to engineers. The relative value of one type of gas as compared with another depends on the number of British Thermal Units evolved when the respective gases are burned.

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THE British Thermal Unit—of which local residents have heard so much lately in discussions of the gas situation—is merely a yardstick used in engineering work for measuring quantities of heat. One "B. T. U." is the amount of heat required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. Housewives speak of calories in the preparation of balanced meals. The calorie used in food problems equals 3.968 B. T. U.

The manufactured gas supplied by the Citizens Gas Co., now the municipally owned Citizens Gas and Coke Utility, has a standard rating of 570 B. T. U. Natural gas runs from 900 to 1050 B. T. U. It is usually consumed at a flat 1000 B. T. U. rating.

Talk of a supply of natural gas for Indianapolis became more general. Manufacturers envisioned cheaper operating costs and increased quality in their products. The possibility of a combination of natural and artificial—"mixed gas"—for domestic consumption was discussed.

General interest in the matter led to appointment of a special committee by Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan on May 1, 1931. This committee of 14 men named for the purpose of investigating the entire gas situation, included members of the Works Board, the City Legal Department, the City Council, the City Utilities District and the Citizens Gas Co.

Members, and the positions they held at that time, were as follows: Henry L. Dithmer, Utilities District chairman and chairman of this committee; G. A. Efroymson, Henry H. Hornbrook and Clarence L. Kirk, all members of the Citizens Gas Co. executive committee; James I. Dissette, director of Citizens Gas Co.; Almus Ruddell, Brodehurst Elsey, Edward A. Kahn, and Guy A. Wainwright, all directors of the City Utilities District; E. Kirk McKinney, Works Board president; Charles C. Britton, Works Board member; Ernest Ropkey, City Council member; Edward H. Knight, corporation counsel; James A. Deery, city attorney.

—Times Photo by Connaway.

The Citizens Gas and Coke Utility produced 3,444,187,000 cubic feet of manufactured gas during the 12-month period ended May 31. Of this amount, 2,884,748,000 cubic feet was produced in the coke ovens of the utility's Prospect-st plant, a general view of which is shown above. The remainder was made in water-gas machines at the company's Langsdale-st plant. The Citizens Gas and Coke Utility was formerly the Citizens Gas Co. The name was changed when the City of Indianapolis took over the plant and distribution system as a municipally owned utility Sept. 9, 1935.

LATER, in September, 1931, Mayor Sullivan appointed a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Dithmer, Efroymson, Elsey, Dissette and William J. Mooney, the latter a trustee of the Utilities District. This subcommittee was formed to make a more workable body for special study of the natural gas problem.

In the late spring of 1931 the pipeline had been extended from Dana to the northwestern tip of Marion County and was ready to enter the county in Pike Township.

On May 20, 1931, the Ohio Fuel Gas Co., a Columbia Gas and Electric subsidiary, filed a petition with the Marion County Commissioners for a franchise or permit to lay natural gas mains under the highways along the proposed route in this county.

At a hearing on this petition the following July 6, it developed that the City of Indianapolis was alarmed that the pipeline might be used to serve natural gas to consumers in the city or its suburbs, to the detriment of the Citizens Gas Co. and of the City's interest in the company.

The City's interest in the gas plant was based on the 25-year franchise granted in 1905, and under which the Citizens Gas Co. was incorporated a year later. The franchise provided that if the company should not be able to pay back the stockholders out of its earnings within the franchise period, then the City might pay off the stockholders with its own money and take over the plant and property of the company.

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THE City's right to acquire the gas plant was contested by the stockholders, but was upheld, after long litigation, by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago on Jan. 31, 1931.

Objections by the Mayor's Gas Committee caused action on the Ohio Fuel Gas Co.'s petition to be postponed. Negotiations ensued, with the result that the Ohio Fuel Gas Co., the Columbia Oil and Gasoline Corp. (another Columbia subsidiary) and the Columbia Gas and Electric Corp. addressed a joint letter to the county commissioners.

In this letter these firms agreed that none of them would sell or distribute gas to any one in Marion County without consent of the City of Indianapolis. Accordingly, on Nov. 5, 1931, permission to lay the pipeline in this county was granted the Ohio Fuel Gas Co. by the commissioners.

The Ohio Fuel Gas Co. then assigned its permit to the Indiana Gas Transmission Corp., which proceeded to lay the pipe across Pike Township. During the four months' delay every foot of the line from Dana to Muncie had been completed with the exception of the local section.

This section was quickly completed. On Nov. 17, 1931, natural gas began flowing through Marion County.

Next: Twenty-six manufacturers lead fight for natural gas.

LET'S EXPLORE YOUR MIND

BY DR. ALBERT EDWARD WIGGAM

1 ABOUT as true as the notion that all great men had bunions or bald heads. Indeed one man has tried to prove that tuberculosis and genius are closely related. Bosh! Many of the great Greeks and Romans were brunets. I have not looked up their personal characteristics but surely Confucius and Buddha were not blue-eyed. The color of your eyes has no more to do with your "greatness" than the length or size of your shin bones or your dislike of spinach.

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2 ALICE M'CULLOUGH HUNT, Denver University psychologist, secured the opinions on 76 different ideals of life and conduct from 62 married couples and also from 62 couples not married. The opinions of the married couples were much more nearly alike on practically all these 76 ideals than the unmarried—tending again to indicate that like tends to marry like. However, those couples who had been married many years were no more alike in their opinions than were the newly weds—indeed the older married couples were slightly more unlike than the younger ones. Doesn't look like years of marriage had caused "two minds to have but a single thought" or "two hearts to beat as one," if they did not on their wedding day.

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3 THAT IS a good deal like David Harum said, "A reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog—keeps him from thinkin' of the fact that he is a dog." But too many fleas make a dog think of nothing else but himself and his dogdom. So a moderate amount of talking to yourself may merely indicate you find yourself a more interesting audience than you do any one else—but too much of it and "the goblins 'll git you if you don't watch out." So will the psychiatrists, and rightly so.

Next—Can parole breakers and keepers be predicted by tests in advance?

SHOCKED BY COUGHLIN ATTACK

BY MARK SULLIVAN

WASHINGTON, July 20.—Every one must have been shocked when Father Coughlin, at the Townsend convention in Cleveland last week, applied the epithet "liar" to the President of the United States. The whole scene was disturbing — a clergyman literally throwing off his clerical coat and rabat and shouting words of gross opprobrium at the living symbol of the government of the United States. Many, even those who most disapprove Mr. Roosevelt, must have felt it would have been a tonic to the national morale had some one instantly rebuked the speaker who shouted "liar," "double-crosser" and "betrayer" at the man who, because of his office, is the titular first citizen of the country.

In the beginning, Mr. Roosevelt took Father Coughlin into his confidence. He encouraged the priest, deferred to him, accepted support from him. At the Democratic national convention of 1932 which nominated Mr. Roosevelt, Father Coughlin spoke from the stage, making a speech in which he spoke of the then President, Mr. Hoover, in a manner not all so violent as his recent reference to Mr. Roosevelt, yet with a lack of respect that was disquieting enough. After Mr. Roosevelt became President, he had Father Coughlin at the White House and at Hyde Park; he sent confidential messengers to the priest secretly asking him not to oppose certain measures.

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FATHER COUGHLIN, after a visit to the White House, said privately to important persons in Washington that—I quote from memory what dependable persons have reported the priest as saying—"I visited Mr. Roosevelt, I accepted his cigarets, but I walked up and down his carpet and I pointed my finger at him and I told him what he must do." That, assuming this incident happened in the way it has been retold in Washington gossip, was the time Mr. Roosevelt ought to have remembered his personal dignity and the dignity of the office he holds. Had he rebuked Father Coughlin then, he might have avoided the public insult that Father Coughlin put upon him last week.

We could condone Mr. Roosevelt if we could feel that this toleration of Father Coughlin were like Lincoln's toleration of McClellan, of whom Lincoln said he would endure any detraction in the interest of winning the war. Possibly some may condone Mr. Roosevelt upon a theory with which some of his friends have all along justified his relation, at various times, to Father Coughlin, Huey Long, Upton Sinclair and others, violent or radical. The theory is that Mr. Roosevelt fraternizes with the radicals in the interest of preventing them from going too far; that he keeps elbow-touch with them, "kisses them along," until the country shall have recovered sufficiently to make them less a danger.

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ONE trouble with that theory is that if it existed it has not worked—Mr. Roosevelt has lost touch with the more violent radicals, they are now attacking him with the vehemence illustrated by last week's incident. The second defect in that theory is that it does not exist. Mr. Roosevelt is not a conservative trying to placate the radicals and hold them in line for practicable compromise. The evidence is strong that Mr. Roosevelt is himself far on the radical side. His "punitive and terroristic attacks"—I quote a phrase of Mr. Walter Lippmann—on one class of the community come from a deeply held animus. His own incitements to class anger differ from those of Huey Long only as Harvard words differ from those of the Louisiana cane-brakes.

Of Mr. Roosevelt's address to Congress Jan. 7, this year, his own former aid, Hugh Johnson, said it "was a rabble rouser . . . deliberate appeal to passion . . . the joy of every advocate of class hatred here and in Russia . . . it makes him chief of the factions of discontent."

AS "he who takes the sword shall perish by the sword," so will he who hurls stones get back rocks. When Father Coughlin said "liar," that was merely a more compactly epithetic form of the same word which, as a verb instead of a noun, Mr. Roosevelt himself used on May 14, 1935, when, in an address to a delegation of AAA supporters, he declared from the White House veranda:

"As you know, a great many of the high and mighty, with special axes to grind, have been deliberately trying to mislead the people who know nothing of farming by misrepresenting—no, why use a pussyfoot word—by lying about the kind of farm program which this nation is operating today."

It is a fact that Mr. Roosevelt through some twist of his temperament or his thinking, rather frequently conveys impressions to which his subsequent actions do not conform. That partly accounts for the resentment felt by radicals who first embrace Mr. Roosevelt and later cry out bitterly against him. It accounts also for dismay felt by some who still remain close to the President and still work with him in spite of doubt felt by them about what they describe as Mr. Roosevelt's—this is an engaging euphemism—"lack of continuity of intention."

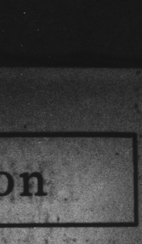
GRIN AND BEAR IT + + by Lichty

"No, that wasn't me hollering—that was just this sock calling for its mate."

Fair Enough
by
WESTBROOK PEGLER

NEW YORK, July 20.—Some of the foolishness which is being hollered at the citizens by impassioned patriots in this campaign plainly shows that the boys are overtrained and ought to knock off politics awhile and see a few ball games.

As a sample of what I mean I cite you the alarm sounded before Mahatma Townsend's recent convention of the old folks' party in Cleveland, wherein Mr. Gomer Smith of Oklahoma warned the old folks against the sinister machinations of Capt. George H. Mains. Mr. Smith said the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith of Louisiana, who ran off with a good-sized strip of the mantle of the late Huey P. Long, was boring from within with the backing of William Randolph Hearst. Then he said the Rev. Smith was attended by Capt. Mains, an undercover man for Hearst.



Mr. Pegler

But shucks, Mr. Smith, old George isn't sinister. George is just a press-agent, or a piece-man, doing the best he can for George Mains and doing none too well, at times. He is always hustling, however, and that is how come you find him around the old folks' convention these days. It doubtless looks to George as though the Reverend is on his way to make some money and he naturally wants a piece. That isn't sinister. That is just prospecting.

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Has Unconventional Leanings

OLD GEORGE has been bobbing in and out ever since the war. He is a very good press agent, but a little on the order of Mr. C. C. Pyle, the bunion derby man, in his selection of unconventional attractions. Once he came up with an amateur baseball league and put in a lot of time and effort on it. Of course there wasn't much money in the gate in amateur baseball, what with major league ball selling at $1.10 per customer, but then he sort of figured on selling amateurs to the major and minor leagues of the professional game. George was going to catch his ball players in the wild state, break them in uniform, teach them the way to first base and second and so forth and lead them down to the winter auction sales in New York. But somehow he never caught much.

Then there came a sudden blurt of publicity with pictures, of a couple of fat little girls—twins they were—swimming from Albany to New York whence they went on to Europe, by boat, of course, to swim the English Channel. Trudy Ederle had licked the old sleeve and Mr. Mains, who was behind the twins' publicity, thought he would land way up there in the box office and testimonial money if he could swim it double. But one twin got seasick, so the other quit, too. Maybe she could have finished, but one little fat girl ain't twins and she couldn't hope to compete with Trudy as a single.

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A Razor Is Stropped

OH, he has had lots of attachments. He handled Miss Tex Guinan's work and "Abie's Irish Rose" and Altrock and Schacht, the World Series clowns, but most promising of them all was Huey Long.

The Cap didn't know the Senator but he does know a show and he therefore decided that Huey was due for a long and prosperous run. Accordingly, he moved in and presently he was being seen with Huey in Washington, Baton Rouge and New York. People naturally thought George had cut himself a fairly thick slab of Huey Long but that was a mistake. It was George's mistake. Somehow the moment never seemed propitious to discuss practical matters with the Senators, and only a few months before Huey died the Cap admitted mournfully that he wasn't yet declared in.

I have just had the Cap on the phone in Cleveland and asked him if he has cut himself a slice of the Rev. Smith. He says no but I distinctly heard a sound as of some one stropping a razor.

Merry-Go-Round

BY DREW PEARSON AND ROBERT S. ALLEN

WASHINGTON, July 20.—New Dealers have learned a lot since the drought of 1934, and it looks as though the present drought sufferers are going to get the benefit of it. Three pipe-lines leading directly to the drought farmer's door already have started a flow of Treasury checks.

One comes from the Works Progress Administration, which has a tremendous reservoir of $1,425,000,000 to draw upon.

The second runs from Rex Tugwell's Rural Resettlement agency, which has $3,390,000 to spend and expects to be allotted $2,000,000 more.

The third taps the Department of Agriculture Drought Commission, which has $5,000,000 as a starter and will probably pump out about $30,000,000 more.

Harry Hopkins' WPA has been assigned human relief. He started out by hiring 75,000 farmers and townsmen in North and South Dakota at $52 a month to dig wells, build dams, construct lakes, will continue hiring in the West and South.

All red tape has been cut. Ordinarily, state engineers make surveys and recommendations for projects, but during the emergency no o. k. from Washington will be necessary. Men are being given jobs on projects which may not be officially authorized for months to come. WPA is paying labor, the states providing materials.

Tugwell's Resettlement Administration is taking care of direct grants—the dole, averaging $18 to $20 a month per family, and personal loans. He also has $2,000,000 to lend farmers to feed foundation herds through the winter, his agency interlocking with pump No. 3 here. He figures on $25 a head until next spring and will need 15 to 30 million dollars more, depending on rainfall, to carry out his plan.

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TUGWELL, like Hopkins, had a field organization built up—about 15,000 people, not counting volunteers, who, incidentally, are an important part of his organization. If a farmer needs a loan, he applies to an RA county supervisor. His case is investigated by a volunteer board consisting of one farmer, the county agent, a merchant, a banker, and a woman interested in welfare. This board has the final word. If it says yes, a Treasury check is mailed from Washington in from two to six weeks. The same procedure and time is needed to get on the dole.

The Drought Commission, headed by quiet, hard-working Jesse W. Tapp, is saving livestock. His group of five, named by Secretary Wallace, June 27, has been watching the drought since it first slipped into Texas in May. They saw the dry-rot creeping into the Southeast and Northwest and got their plans under way.

They sent requests to every meat packer and canner in the beef country for bids on buying, slaughtering, processing and storing cattle. By July 15 the bids were back and contracts being awarded. In 1934 government buyers went from farm to farm buying starving cattle. This year farmers must bring their stock to the nearest market, where buyers from the packing houses will take them at the market price, supervised by a government agent. The government will then buy from the packer. This year's plan means a big saving in personnel.

There will be no benefit checks for the farmer this year as in 1934—the Supreme Court killed that when it killed the AAA. He will receive only what his steer is worth on the hoof, direct from the slaughterhouse, in cash.

No feed-buying is contemplated. Tapp says that for the government to buy feed would raise prices and would have to be continued indefinately. His idea is to move surplus stock to green pastures or the slaughterhouse, leaving only enough behind for foundation herds.

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