

News Review of Current Events

"REFORM" BILL PASSED

Measure Giving President Vast Powers Squeezes Through Senate . . . May Die in House



Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, chairman of the senate finance committee, is here seen telling members of the press what his committee had done and proposed to do to the revenue measure so that it would be less objectionable to business and to the country in general. It already had made radical changes in the bill as it was passed by the house.

Edward W. Pickard SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Wide Powers for President

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S reorganization bill squeezed through the senate by the close vote of 49 to 42, after a fierce fight. A motion to recommit, which would have virtually killed the measure, was defeated by a vote of 48 to 43.

Opponents of this bill are convinced that it paved the way for a dictatorship in the United States. The measure was sent on to the house, which already has passed bills covering some of its features.

There is no certainty, however, that the senate measure will ever be brought to a vote in the house. Chairman O'Connor of the rules committee said it should be allowed to slumber peacefully in some pigeon-hole.

The bill authorizes the President, by executive order, to transfer, regroup, co-ordinate, consolidate, segregate the whole or any part of or abolish any of the 135 bureaus, agencies, and divisions of government.

Excepted from this section, however, are the federal reserve board, the corps of engineers of the United States army and the independent establishments, such as the board of tax appeals, the communications commission, the federal trade commission, the interstate commerce commission, and the national labor relations board.

It abolishes the civil service commission as now constituted, and the general accounting office. It creates a new "department of welfare," and it authorizes six more \$10,000 a year assistants to the President.

Ten Men to Probe TVA FIVE senators and five representatives will do the investigating of the Tennessee Valley authority, for the resolution for a joint committee inquiry was adopted by the senate with dissenting vote, and appeared certain of passage by the house.

The resolution was introduced by Sen. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, majority leader. It calls for investigation of charges of malfeasance and dishonesty made by the ousted chairman, A. E. Morgan, and includes eight of the twenty-three charges originally made by Senators Bridges and King in their first resolution for a congressional inquiry.

It also calls for a "fishing expedition" into the activities of private utility companies and their injunction suits against the TVA.

Sen. H. Styles Bridges, the New Hampshire Republican, in a radio debate declared the administration was trying to obscure the charges of scandal within the TVA by forcing the inquiry to cover the private utility angle.

Utilities Must Register

IN A 6 to 1 decision, the United States Supreme court upheld the registration provisions of the Wheeler-Rayburn public utility act of 1935, but did not pass on the constitutionality of other parts of the law, including the death sentence for holding companies.

The court sustained an order of the New York Federal District court requiring the Electric Bond and Share company and 14 associated utility holding companies to register with the Securities and Exchange commission or else be denied the use of the mails and other facilities of interstate commerce.

Chief Justice Hughes delivered the court's opinion. Justice McReynolds, who wrote no opinion, was the only dissenter. Justice Cardozo, who is ill, and Justice Reed took no part in the consideration of the case.

Colonel House Dies

DEATH after a long illness ended the notable career of Col. Edward M. House, whose name, during the World War era, was familiar to millions. He passed away in New York at the age of seventy-nine years.

Shunning publicity and personal glory, House devoted himself untriflingly to what he considered the best interests of his country and for years his influence, especially in international relations, was great.

An early supporter of Woodrow Wilson's political fortune he became Wilson's trusted adviser after his election to the presidency and continued to help direct his course immediately before and during the war, making frequent trips to Europe.

He was Wilson's personal representative in the Versailles peace conference. Later he and Wilson disagreed and their close association came to an end.

Franco in Catalonia

GENERAL FRANCO'S insurgent army blasted its way through the loyalist lines and entered the province of Catalonia, moving far toward Barcelona, the third capital of the government forces. In this rapid advance about 100 towns were captured in a single day and many villages were demolished by bombardment by a fleet of 200 war planes said to have been contributed by Italy and Germany.

Italy warned France that any French intervention in Spain "might compromise peace on the European continent." The organ of the Italian foreign office, *Informazione Diplomatica*, published the statement, declaring Italy was "following with greatest attention the campaign of French leftists for intervention in Spain."

Silver Buying Halted

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU announced that the United States had discontinued the purchase of Mexican silver until further notice. This probably was a direct result of Mexico's expropriation of foreign oil properties, which Secretary of State Hull considers a hard blow to his "good neighbor" policies.

Price of silver was cut 1 cent an ounce. The United States Treasury has been buying 5,000,000 ounces of newly mined Mexican silver each month, paying around \$2,500,000 for it at the artificially maintained New York price, which gave Mexico sizable profits.

Japan's Regime in China

JAPAN announced officially the inauguration of the "reformed Government of the Republic of China" in Nanking. This puppet state is intended to replace the regime of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and is headed by Liang Hung-Tze as chairman of the new executive yuan, a position equivalent to premier.

The Chinese were still fighting the invaders desperately along the Peiping-Hankow railway and claimed the Japanese were suffering heavy losses.

A further means of stimulating business and investment the committee adopted a provision drastically modifying the capital gains and losses tax. The committee removed capital gains taxes held for more than 18 months from the income tax category and substituted instead a flat rate of 15 per cent, which was what business and industry wanted.

In an effort to clear the way for speedy enactment of the tax relief legislation, the committee rejected a system of processing taxes on wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, and rice, which the administration desires to finance proposed additional bounties to farmers amounting to \$200,000,000 a year.

Jews Must Quit Vienna

THERE are 300,000 Jews in Vienna, and all of them must leave that city within four years. This was announced in the Austrian capital by Field Marshal Goerring, Hitler's right hand man, who set forth a program for the economic reconstruction of Austria.

He said: "Vienna must again become a German city. No city with 300,000 Jews has a right to call itself a German city. Vienna has a right to fulfill economic and cultural tasks, and this is impossible with Jews. Therefore, they must leave."

Goerring said he had entrusted the task of removing the Jews to Seyss-Inquart and that it must be accomplished quietly and mercifully by legal means.

There was great rejoicing throughout Germany when Cardinal Innitzer, archbishop of Vienna, issued a solemn declaration urging the people of Austria, most of whom are Catholics, to vote for the union with Germany at the plebiscite on April 10.

The document was read in all Catholic churches. It warmly praised the Nazi rulers and pledged allegiance to Germany. This stand of the Catholic hierarchy made certain an overwhelming victory for Hitler in the plebiscite. It also led the Nazi chiefs to hope for a new accord with the Vatican.

Britain Ready to Fight

GREAT BRITAIN will not flinch, pledge herself to fight to save Czechoslovakia from German aggression. But she will use her armaments to fulfill her treaty obligations to France and Belgium, and is ready to go to war in their defense if they are unjustly attacked.

That was the warning to Hitler uttered by Prime Minister Chamberlain in the house of commons in an important statement of British foreign policy since the World War.

Declaring his belief that peace will be maintained, Chamberlain said: "I cannot imagine any events in Europe which would change the fundamental basis of British foreign policy, which is the maintenance and preservation of peace. However, that does not mean that nothing would make us fight."

Cheers greeted this declaration. Though he said central Europe was not an area where vital British interests are at stake, he gave plain warning that if German aggression should result in war there, Britain might be forced into it.

He flatly turned down the Soviet Russia's call for consultation against aggressor nations.

Wheat Crop Estimates

PREDICTION by the bureau of agricultural economics of the Department of Agriculture is that this year's wheat crop will be 830,000,000 bushels, or 160,000,000 bushels in excess of the 1932-36 average. The survey estimates that the wheat carry-over in 1937 will be around 300,000,000 bushels.

The record wheat crop is based on the following factors: If farmers seed the acreage indicated in the prospective-planting report, and if average yields are obtained, this year's spring wheat crop, including durum, will total about 200,000,000 bushels. This, together with the winter crop of about 630,000,000 bushels, indicates a prospective output of 830,000,000 bushels.

Chicago Cubs Pitcher Hits Stride



Robert D. Logan, who joined the Cubs the latter part of the 1937 season, as he gets ready to let one of his "hot" pitches go burning towards the home plate, under the watchful eye of Charlie Grimm, team manager, during the initial workout of the Cubs who are in spring training at Catalina island.

Women Not Funny, Humorist Avers

Nearly All Comic Stuff Is of Male Origin, He Says.

San Francisco.—Laszlo Schwartz, plump Hungarian humorist and author, said on his arrival here from Honolulu that "90 per cent of all humor is male humor."

"Women very seldom create humor," he said. "They content themselves with getting it from the men."

Schwartz is on the last lap of his fourth trip around the world in search of material for a "humor" book.

His last trip covered four years and took him to India, Burma, the Malay states, the Dutch East Indies, Manila, Indo-China, Madagascar, Africa, the Fiji islands and Hawaii.

"Tempo is one of the deciding factors in determining the quality and quantity of humor," Schwartz said. "The English think slowly, create their humor slowly and enjoy it slowly. French humor, on the other hand, is more a form of wit combined with finesse."

Americans Are Swift

"Americans," Schwartz continued, "have the swiftest tempo and therefore, because of the great demand for humor in this country, it has become commercialized and manufactured rather than deep-rooted."

The jovial little man explained that the only dependable critic of humor is "Father Time."

"A good humorist must also be a good humanist," Schwartz said. "Suffering and humor go hand in hand, as exemplified by the Irish, Chinese, Jews, Negroes and Bohemian gypsies."

Schwartz said he did not find much humor in the Dutch East Indies, Java, Sumatra or the Malay states. Burma and Bali are "full of humor," he said.

"India is fabulous for her lack of humor," he continued. "Her religion, which goes into fanaticism, unbalances the people and causes them to lose their sense of proportion. Without this humor is impossible."

He said the child marriages in India throw heavy burdens of responsibility on the children at an early age and make them too serious minded.

"Wherever you find childhood laughter and songs you will find humor," he said.

Hawaiians Not Funny

"In Hawaii there is no native humor," he said. "It is derived from rejuvenated, regenerated and remodeled hymns borrowed from missionaries."

In remote Fiji, Schwartz said, he met a missionary and a native who addressed each other as follows: "The missionary—"My good man, can you direct me to the post office?"

The native—"Who are you?" "A missionary." "What do you do?" "I guide people to Heaven," the missionary replied.

"You fake!" charged the native. "You try to tell people how to get to Heaven, when you not know the way to post office!"

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China has humor, too, he said. While visiting China he addressed a coolie and asked him whether his race had any mother-in-law jokes.

"No," explained the Chinese. "Well!" said Mr. Schwartz, expectantly. "Ask other man," said the coolie. "Don't you have any in your own family?" Schwartz asked.

"No," explained the Chinese. "Our family peaceful people."

Rules of Road Used to Be Severe for Bike Riders

Portland.—Bicycle riders in Oregon once were required to halt whenever they approached within 100 yards of a team of horses, dismount and remain standing until the horses had passed, according to a WPA survey of odd laws in the state.

At Astoria in the early 1880s, the city council ordained that no person should be allowed to ride or drive a beast of burden faster than six miles an hour within the city limits.

An economy-inspired ordinance at Oregon City read: "That it is hereby made the duty of the night watchman to keep in order and light up the street lamps, and keep the same burning from dark until daylight in the morning; provided that they are not to be lit or kept burning when it is moonlight."

A study of justice revealed that: In 1875 a ten-year-old boy from Multnomah county, who was convicted of stealing candy, was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary and he served his entire term. At the same time a man, sentenced to life for murder, was paroled after four months.

NEW GAME FOR CHAMP



Fred Perry, the former top ranking amateur tennis player of the world, now a member of the professional tennis troupe which includes Ellsworth Vines, photographed on the links of the Country club at Coral Gables, Fla.

Discovered the Zinnia A young professor of medicine left Gottingen, Germany, back in the Eighteenth century. There had been much unrest at the university and adventure called from the new world.

He left the narrow, crooked streets of the rampart surrounded town for the wilds of Mexico. Fame, enjoyment and much work resulted from his expedition. Fame, because his discovery of a plant was destined to perpetuate young Zinn's name far beyond the short thirty-two years of his life's span.

The pleasure gathered by those planting zinnias in their gardens constitute part of his eternal reward, as does the work that falls to the grower of zinnia seed. In its wild state the zinnia is a native of the country lying between southern Colorado and Chile. Mexico and Central America are its favorite stamping ground. There are twenty species.

Woman Gold Digger in Her Spare Time

Manhattan, Nev.—Mrs. George Eckman, camping with a construction crew in placer mining operations, turned out to be a gold digger in her spare time.

Using only a pancake turner and a toy garden rake, Mrs. Eckman recovered two yards of "pay dirt" while cleaning out the bottom of her backyard well. She netted \$94.65 in gold.

Baby Weighs 30 Pounds

Six Months After Birth Fitchville, Ohio.—Residents of this village have nominated six-month-old Ronald Burton as their candidate for a "giant" baby.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Burton weighs 30 pounds and has a 21½-inch waist. He wears four-year-old suits and five shoes, his parents said.

KENSINGTON TOWN ELECTION OFFICERS APPOINTED BY MAYOR MOORE

Pitcher Plant Is First Among Gangsters of Soil

Foremost among the gangsters of the plant world ranks the pitcher plant. More than two centuries ago this striking, odd and very beautiful plant attracted the attention of gardeners. A Dr. Sarracen, of Quebec, who was a naturalist as well as a physician, is responsible for its botanical name. However, the common name of "pitcher plant" is the one most familiar to our ears.

It is found in marsh lands in many parts of the United States and in many varieties. The large, handsome, often curiously mottled leaves of the leaf and is gradually absorbed in the digestive fluid which is accumulated there.

They sometimes have a wing of keel on one side and are from one to two feet long. These leaves are covered with honey glands, which attract flies, moths, ants and other insects. The leaves are also covered with fine hairs, pointing downward, which very effectually prevent the escape of any hapless intruder who ventures over the rim. The insect soon falls down into the bottom of the leaf and is gradually absorbed in the digestive fluid which is accumulated there.

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Laws of Oleron Governed Seamen of Earlier Days

One of the first codifications of maritime law was made at the island of Rhodes. This was incorporated into Roman law under the Caesars, and inspired the medieval "Consolato del Mare," the Consulate of the Sea, which prevailed in the Mediterranean. Elements of Rhodian law also were incorporated into the Laws of Oleron, collected in the Thirteenth century, from which most of the English, and consequently the American, sea laws were drawn.

These early codes have been stigmatized as exceedingly cruel, asserts a writer in the New York Herald Tribune. It is true that by the Laws of Oleron a pilot who wrecked or damaged a ship was forced to make good the loss under the penalty of having his head hacked off by captain and crew. But the authority of the captain was strictly limited. He was required to take the advice of a majority of the ship's company on all major decisions, or be held responsible for any accidents that occurred. Seamen were supposed to "bear with the first stroke, be it with the fist or open hand; but if the master strikes him more than one blow, the mariner may defend himself." And the laws of Wisby, which governed shipping in the North sea and the Baltic, and which were largely based on the Laws of Oleron, provided a fine for a captain insulting his men, and said: "If he strikes he ought to receive blow for blow."

The master's authority grew instead of diminishing with time. The Ordinances of Louis XIV of France, for example, permitted him to "duck" refractory seamen—meaning keel-hauling, a brutal punishment, in which the offender was dragged from side to side of the ship, under the keel, scraping the barnacled hull in transit. Whipping, too, became common and strenuous, since the courts tended to read permission for such "moderate corrections" into the quite definite Laws of Oleron.

Holland's Colonies

Though her population is approximately only the same as that of Greater London, Holland ranks as the world's third colonial power, taking precedence after Great Britain and France. The people of the Netherlands number 8,000,000, compared with the 65,000,000 of the Netherlands East Indies. Holland's area of 13,000 square miles is less than a quarter that of Britain. Her colonies have an area of 800,000 square miles.

Not What the Lips Say

When is a lie not a lie? A lascar on board the jute liner Nagpur at Dundee harbor has discovered an answer to that question which would delight the heart of any schoolboy. One of the lascars in the engine-room crew was found out telling a lie. When challenged by his superior white officer regarding it, says the Montreal Herald, the lascar replied, "It is not what the lips say, but what the heart says."

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