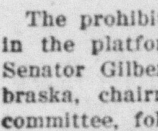


News Review of Current Events the World Over

Repeal With Beer at Once Is the Democratic Stand on Prohibition—Senate Passes Economy Bill to Save 150 Million.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

A DRIPPING wet, outright repeal and modification plank is the official stand of the Democratic party on the prohibition question. Not only does the party call for repeal of the Eighteenth amendment, but it demands immediate modification of the Volstead act. The decision was reached after five hours of heated debate in the national convention at Chicago, and about the wildest demonstrations ever witnessed in a political convention.



Gilbert M. Hitchcock

The prohibition plank as presented in the platform reported by former Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, chairman of the resolutions committee, follows:

"We favor the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment.
 "To effect such repeal we demand that the congress immediately propose a constitutional amendment to truly representative conventions in the states called to act solely on that proposal.
 "We urge the enactment of such measures by the several states as will actually promote temperance, effectively prevent the return of the saloon and bring the liquor traffic into the open under complete supervision and control by the states.
 "We demand that the federal government effectively exercise its power to enable the states to effectively protect themselves against importation of intoxicating liquors in violation of their laws.
 "Pending repeal, we favor immediate modification of the Volstead act to legalize the manufacture and sale of beer and other beverages of such alcoholic content as is permissible under the Constitution and to provide therefrom a proper and needed revenue."

The vote which placed this plank in the platform came on the question of substituting a minority report calling for a non-committal submission of a repeal amendment. The minority report was voted down by 934 to 213.

The platform is a model of brevity, containing exactly 1,396 words in contrast to Republican declaration of some 8,000 words. Some of the outstanding planks, briefly, are as follows:

Advocated—
 An immediate reduction of not less than 25 per cent in governmental expenditures.

Maintenance of the national credit by a budget annually balanced on the basis of accurate executive estimates within revenues, raised by a system of taxation levied on the principle of ability to pay.

A sound currency to be preserved at all hazards.

A competitive tariff for revenue.

Extension of federal credit to the states to provide unemployment relief wherever the diminishing resources of the states make it impossible for them to provide for the needy; advance planning of public works.

Unemployment and old age insurance under state laws.

Enactment of every constitutional measure that will aid the farmer to receive for basic farm commodities prices in excess of cost of production.

A navy and army adequate for national defense.

Strict and impartial enforcement of anti-trust laws.

Quicker methods of realizing on assets for the relief of depositors of suspended banks, and a more rigid supervision of national banks for the protection of depositors and the prevention of the use of their moneys in speculation to the detriment of local credits.

The fullest measure of justice and generosity for all war veterans.

A firm foreign policy, including peace with all the world and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration; cancellation of debts owing to the United States by foreign nations opposed; adherence to the World court with the pending reservations.

Condemned—

Improper and excessive use of money in political activities.

Paid lobbies and special interests to influence members of congress and other public servants by personal contact.

Action and utterances of high public officials designed to influence stock exchange prices.

The extravagance of the farm board, its disastrous action which made the government a speculator in farm products, and the unsound policy of restricting agricultural production to the demands of domestic markets.

The usurpation of power by the State department in assuming to pass upon foreign securities offered by international bankers, as a result of which billions of dollars in questionable bonds have been sold to the public upon the implied approval of the federal government.

The Hawley-Smoot tariff law, the prohibitive rates of which have re-

sulted in retaliatory action by more than forty countries, created international economic hostilities, destroyed international trade, driven our factories into foreign countries, robbed the American farmer of his foreign markets and increased his cost of production.

CONGRESSIONAL action on the national economy bill was completed by the house and senate Tuesday night. The senate agreed to the changes made by the house in the plan of payless furloughs for government employees.

The major house changes in the furlough plan were reduction of the exemption from \$1,200 to \$1,000 and establishing a graduated scale of pay cuts for those employees whose services were so needed they could not be given a month's leave without pay, as will the employees who can be spared.

The pay cuts begin at 10 per cent on salaries over \$10,000 and range to 20 per cent on salaries of \$20,000 and over. Those making less than \$10,000 who could not be furloughed would give up 8 1-3 per cent of their year's pay.

One reason for the senate's reluctance to approve the bill may have been that it cuts the salaries of congressmen 10 per cent. The Vice President and speaker of the house suffer 15 per cent slashes.

Even the President is invited to do his part, the measure providing that whatever portion of his salary he wishes to turn back is acceptable to the Treasury department. President Hoover had indicated his willingness to accept a smaller salary as part of the economy program.

The salary and wage cuts provide the great bulk of savings in the measure, but changes in bureaus to eliminate duplication will effect other reductions in government cost.

MOST observers agree that the opposition of France and Japan and the coolness of Great Britain are certain to result in the rejection of President Hoover's latest proposals for reduction of armament.

Senator J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, always a deep student of international affairs, is of this opinion, and in a speech in the senate he declared the replies of the countries named even embody the clear expectation of a war in which the United States might be embroiled.

Therefore, said the senator, it is time for this country to take stock of its national defense policy, and he offered three suggestions.

To Democratic senators he suggested that they applaud the President's effort to bring about world concord through the reduction of armaments.

To the Democratic convention at Chicago, he suggested that there be written into the platform "a full declaration as to the army and navy that will assure defense, and adequate preparations against these peoples who are refusing to join us in an effort for peace and are contemplating events which in their judgment will surely involve us in war."

To the President he suggested the withdrawal of a proposition that foreign nations had "flouted" in order that the future course of the nation as to its foreign relations and its defensive defense might be made an open campaign issue, with the people given opportunity to speak in November.

AT A meeting of the Republican senatorial campaign committee called by Senator Henry D. Hatfield (Rep., W. Va.), committee chairman, plans were made for an active senatorial campaign in the East, Middle West, and Far West. Senator Felix Hebert (Rep., R. I.) will be in charge of eastern headquarters at New York, Senator L. J. Dickinson (Rep., Iowa) will open midwestern headquarters at Chicago, and Senator Robert D. Carey (Rep., Wyo.), at Cheyenne, will have charge of the far western section.

In the Middle West the senatorial committee will assist in the campaigns of Senator Otis F. Glenn in Illinois and Senator James E. Watson in Indiana. In Iowa it will have the candidacy of Henry Field, victor in the primaries over Senator Smith Wildman Brookhart, radical Republican, to support.

ATWO MILLION DOLLAR curtailment of the coast guard's prohibition activities was voted by the senate with the passage of the treasury and post office appropriation bill. The saving was more than counterbalanced, however, by an increase of the appropriation for rural sanitation from \$300,000 to \$3,000,000 and the retention of customs surveyors and appraisers, which the house bill had thrown out.

As agreed to, the bill carried \$1,056,498,333.

REPRESENTATIVE LA GUARDIA and other congressional critics of the federal farm board think they have found another case of mismanagement by that body, and the New Yorker has sent to Chairman J. C. Stone a letter demanding a full explanation of the board's sale, last fall, of 15,000,000 bushels of wheat to China.

The chief question in the minds of congressional inquirers is why the farm board sold wheat to the Nanking government on long term credit when advices from China are that China has paid cash for Canadian and Australian grain and has been selling large amounts of wheat to Russia and getting payment in cash.

The farm board's transaction with China was fulfilled last fall and winter on the Nanking government's plea that its own granaries were empty, that it had no funds to make cash payments and that millions of Chinese faced starvation.

In approximately the last four months of 1931 and the first four months of this year, the United States sent to China 14,800,000 bushels of the farm board's stabilization wheat. It accepted China's notes, partially secured by customs receipts, calling for payment in 1933, 1934 and 1935. During this same period, China's wheat exports to Russia, Japan and Korea showed surprising upward fluctuations.

Whether or not the Nanking government's ability to buy American wheat on credit made it possible for Chinese shippers to increase their exports so suddenly was a question the critics wanted answered by Chairman Stone.

PRAJADHIPPOK, the good natured and progressive king of Siam, is no longer an absolute monarch. When he was in the United States some months ago he said he intended to grant his people a constitution "when they were ready for it," but they couldn't wait any longer because of the country's economic distress. Headed by the army and navy, they put on a revolt at Bangkok, arrested a number of princes and other government leaders, and announced that a constitutional monarchy must be established at once. They gave the king only one hour to accept their terms, declaring that if he refused they would put another prince on the throne. Prajadhipok and his queen returned immediately from their vacation and he agreed to the demands of the revolutionists, issuing a proclamation legalizing all the acts of the people's party under whose banner the government had been taken over. A draft of the constitution was submitted to him and after studying it with representatives of the revolt he signed it.

The only casualties in the coup d'etat were the death of a palace soldier and the wounding of Gen. Sena Songkram.

THE bill to abolish the oath of allegiance to the British crown for the Irish Free State entered in a new phase of its tempestuous career when the senate passed the bill with several strings attached to it.

As a condition of the senate action, the oath bill does not serve the purpose originally announced by President Eamon de Valera of giving the Free State "complete independence," but carries an amendment that would sterilize it.

This amendment provides that abolition of the oath could not occur until the British and Free State governments have reached an agreement on the point.

Minister Connolly of telegraphs, speaking for the government, said the measure would not be accepted in its present form.

A PEACE conference between Gen. Augusto Sandino, Nicaraguan insurgent, and powerful political leaders of his country has been arranged for the near future. This startling development came about through Gen. Manuel Balladares, prominent Sandinista, who recently talked with American officials from Nicaragua after a conference with Sandino.

The conference will be held at San Lorenzo, a Honduran port. The participants will probably be the four liberal candidates for the presidency and Gen. Horatio Portocarrero, Sandino's candidate.

The immediate object of the conference is the nomination of a single liberal candidate from among the contesting five. If a compromise is reached the next step would be a declaration of an armistice pending elections, and ultimately final peace.

WHEN the fiscal year 1932 ended on June 30 the public debt showed an increase from \$16,801,000,000 at the end of the last fiscal year to close to \$19,251,000,000. This was due to both diminishing revenues and increasing expenditures. In spite of the fact that the gross deficit, nearly \$2,900,000,000, is the largest in the nation's peace time history, treasury officials were inclined to see a ray of hope in the fact that the deficit is no larger than had been anticipated by the department's statisticians last February. It was said also that the total expenditures, not counting the extraordinary expenditures for the Reconstruction Finance corporation capital and the federal land banks, will run considerably below the estimated expenditures for the fiscal year.

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



DEMOCRATS PUT ON ROARING SHOW AT CONVENTION

Picked Roosevelt and Garner as Standard Bearers for National Race.

By WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

Chicago.—The democracy of America met in national convention in this city, and, at the end of six days and two nights of strenuous labor, had selected Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York as its candidate for President; Speaker John N. Garner of Texas as its candidate for vice president; adopted a platform, one plank of which provides for repeal of the Eighteenth amendment and the immediate modification of the Volstead act to permit the sale of beer and light wines; listened to the speech of acceptance by its candidate for President, and adjourned.

The above paragraph tells the news of the Democratic convention. It tells what was presumably done in the convention hall, but no news paragraph can give the reader a picture of a national political gathering, nor can that picture be painted with only the ingredients found in a convention hall.

Both national conventions of this year consisted of a gathering of 2,308 delegates and alternates; men and women from every state in the Union and from every outlying possession. Quite naturally they felt they were at Chicago representing the sovereign will of their party members in their respective districts, and sat in the convention, in the glare of the spotlights, for that purpose. But of that 2,308 men and women less than one-fourth actually had a voice in deciding what would be done, and the one-fourth diplomatically or sometimes brutally, told the other 1,500 what they would do. A goodly percentage of the 2,308 delegates and alternates did not know just what it was all about.

On the floor of the convention about 90 per cent of the activities was bunk and ballyhoo, noise and hysteria, a useless effort to create sentiment for or against this, that or the other policy, or this that or the other candidate. The other 10 per cent consisted of the ratification of what had been accomplished by the leaders behind closed doors in committee meetings held in hotel rooms. If it were not done in that way a convention would never end, and party government in America would be impossible.

Conventions Much Alike.

That, in brief, is a picture of any national political convention, and it was as true of the Democratic convention as of any other, with the exception that the committees were in no sense unanimous, and there were minority reports presented from practically every one of them on practically every question of policy. In the end, however, the wishes of the majority of each committee were ratified by the majority on the floor.

The ballyhoo of the convention was particularly noticeable, as it always has been, at the time of presenting the names of candidates to the convention. It began shortly before two o'clock Thursday afternoon, continued until the adjournment at six, began again at nine that night and continued without a break until four-thirty Friday morning.

For nominating speeches, of which there were nine—Roosevelt, Smith, Ritchie, Traylor, Garner, White, Byrd, Reed and Murray—20 minutes each was allowed. For seconding speeches, of which there were more than 30, five minutes each was allowed. Following each nominating speech came periods of carefully staged hilarity which was supposed to represent enthusiasm, but which in the majority of cases represented noise produced by the pipe

organist with the aid of all the loud pedals on the instrument.

Gallery Always in Evidence.

The exceptions were the demonstrations for Governor Smith and Governor Ritchie. In these demonstrations the unruly gallery gods took a hand and supplemented the noise made by the pipe organ. To the gallery gods these two candidates represented beer, and beer to the galleries was the most important subject before the convention. The demonstration for Roosevelt lasted 45 minutes. Then followed that for Speaker Garner, participated in by the "Gray Mare band" of Dallas and a godly number of Texans imported for the purpose. Then came the naming of Governor Smith, and pandemonium broke loose in the galleries, as well as with the Smith delegations. They kept it up for one hour and two minutes, the record for the convention. That ended the afternoon. Four hours gone and three of the nine names before the convention.

It began again at nine and through the long weary hours of an all-night session there was speech and ballyhoo, speech and ballyhoo, until four-thirty Friday morning when that part of the job was completed and the roll was called on the first ballot for the party's candidate for President. The result was: Roosevelt, 603 1/2; Smith, 201 1/2; Garner, 92 1/2; White, 52; Traylor, 42 1/2; Byrd, 25; Reed, 8 1/2; Murray, 23; Ritchie, 21; Baker, 8 1/2. Mr. Roosevelt lacked 103 1/2 of the needed two-thirds to secure a nomination. Two more ballots were taken without material change in the result, and then, at eight-thirty in the morning the weary crowd quit until eight-thirty Friday night.

Roosevelt Wins.

Trades were made during Friday. Speaker John Garner was assured of second place on the ticket if his delegates threw their votes to Roosevelt, and the nomination was made on the first ballot taken at the Friday night session, the fourth ballot of the convention, Roosevelt receiving 945 votes, Smith 190 1/2, with 12 1/2 votes scattered between Ritchie, Baker, White and Cox.

The Smith delegations stood loyally by their champion to the end, and there was no motion to make the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt unanimous.

At the Saturday session Speaker John N. Garner was chosen as the party's candidate for vice president. At that session Mr. Roosevelt, who had reached Chicago by plane, was present and was received with tumultuous enthusiasm. He was officially notified of his nomination and made his speech of acceptance.

The convention opened at 12:45—forty-five minutes late—on Monday. The stars of the first performance were National Chairman Raskob, making his last appearance; Commander Evangeline Booth, of the Salvation army, and Senator Barkley, temporary chairman. In his opening address the subtle wit of the national chairman was just a bit over the heads of his audience and did not produce the rip-snorting hilarity characteristic of a Democratic convention. Senator Barkley was more to the liking of the delegates and the audience, and his slaps at the Republicans brought down the house and created the noisy demonstrations that made it look and sound like a Democratic gathering.

The crowd on the opening day was not up to expectations. Chicago did not treat their Democratic guests any better than they had treated the Republicans, and a third of the seats in the Stadium were vacant. But Chicago knew the fireworks would not start the first day.

"Scraps" Not in Evidence.

With the opening of the Tuesday session at 12:50—fifty minutes late—Chicago was all set to witness a real Democratic shindig. There was the promise of a scrap over contested delegations from Louisiana and Minnesota; another over the permanent chairmanship, Walsh vs. Shouse; and a third promised over the two-thirds rule.

But the big Chicago audience that filled every available seat was disappointed. The session did not develop—on the surface—any fights but all the evidence of a Democratic love feast, except for Senator Huey Long's castigation of the "bunch of outlaws" that were contesting the seats of the senator's group of delegates.

To be sure it had not been possible for the committees on credentials and on permanent organization to arrive at unanimous opinions and there were minority reports from both committees brought to the floor of the convention, the vote of the various members of the committees indicating very clearly just where the strength or weakness of the leading candidate lay. In the committees with one vote from each state it was very evident that Governor Roosevelt could control the majority reports of these committees.

The first test came on the seating of the Long delegation from Louisiana, which was instructed by Roosevelt, the contesting delegation being unopposed.

Long won. The minority report, the adoption of which would have unseated his delegates, was defeated by a vote of 638 1/2 to 514 1/2.

At the suggestion of Senator Barkley the oratory had been confined to the Louisiana contest and he also suggested that the convention dispose of that case before the delegates had "perpetrated" upon them the oratory in the Minnesota contest. The speech making in the Minnesota case consisted largely in the orators, and there were several, telling of the virtues of all Minnesota Democrats, only some had more virtues than others, depending upon which delegation they belonged to. The contestants were quite willing to be satisfied with half the honors, and proposed that both delegations be seated, each delegate having half a vote. In the end the contestants were defeated by a vote of 658 1/2 to 492 1/2.

Walsh Wins Gavel.

The settling of these contests was followed by what the chairman referred to as the "controversy" over the selection of the permanent chairman.

The Roosevelt majority wanted Senator Walsh, the Smith, Ritchie, Reed, White, Murray, etc., etc., minority wanted Jettett Shouse, of Kansas. That "controversy" was productive of eulogistic oratory. Ralph C. O'Neill, of Kansas, eulogized Walsh while talking for Shouse, and J. F. Burns, of South Carolina, eulogized Shouse while talking for Walsh. Then came the former Democratic standard bearer, John W. Davis, who eulogized both Shouse and Walsh, though presumably talking for Shouse. On the roll call Walsh was elected by a vote of 636 to 528. To complete the love feast the elected and the defeated candidates had their pictures taken together on the speakers' platform.

The expected fight over the rules did not materialize. Governor Roosevelt had called a halt on the effort to change the century-old rule of a two-thirds vote to nominate.

Altogether it was a mild affair. No rip-snorting, roaring, Democratic demonstrations; no fistic arguments; no real entertainment for the Chicago audience that had purchased season tickets at prices up to \$50; nothing to indicate that it was a Democratic National convention in session.

Wet Chicago went to the convention Wednesday night to help the wet Democratic majority put over its wet plank. It was a roaring, howling, good-natured mob that crashed the gates of the Stadium to the extent of thousands and finally forced the closing of the doors to the exclusion of large numbers who held legitimate tickets of admission.

Genuine Ovation for "Al"

The one outstanding note of Wednesday night's tumultuous session was the reception accorded Governor Smith when he took the platform to speak for the majority liquor plank. He was the hero of the convention, and, regardless of the fact that he will not get their votes, the idol of nine-tenths of the delegates. Despite every effort of the chairman to restore order that the business of the convention might be expedited, the roaring, howling, marching demonstration for "Al" lasted fifteen minutes.

The dries had a hard time. The gallery gods did not want to hear them, and made that fact evident. Despite every possible effort on the part of Senator Walsh, and all of the biting sarcasm he could put into his denunciation of the behavior of the mob, nobody was permitted to hear the speakers supporting the plank presented by the minority. But all of the oratory, whether heard or not, did not change a single delegate vote, and the "dripping wet" plank was adopted by a vote of 934 1/2 to 213 1/2.

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