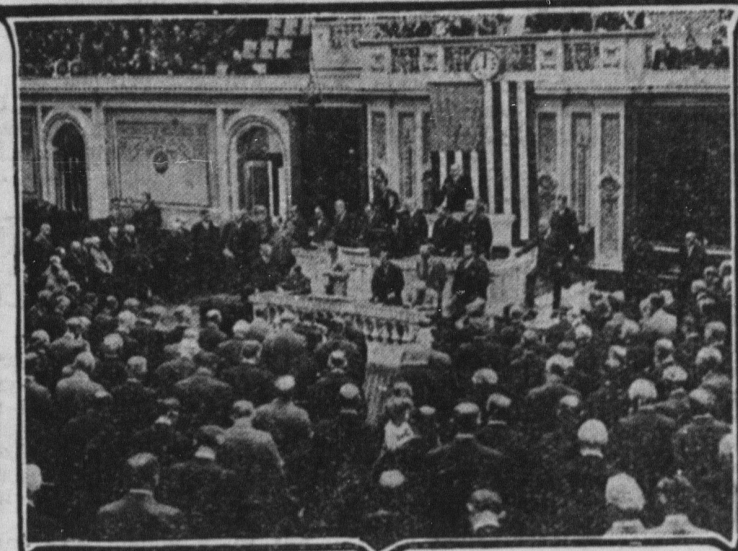


A New President is Elected



Speaker John N. Garner



A Joint Session of Congress



Vice President Charles Curtis

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



ON FEBRUARY 8, 1933, a new President and Vice President of the United States will be elected. "What!" you exclaim, as you read that statement, "Why, I thought we attended to that two months ago—on November 8, 1932, to be exact, when the American people voted Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York into office as President and John N. Garner of Texas as Vice President." As a matter of fact, they did nothing of the sort. They only voted for a group of men called Presidential electors and these men presumably have already voted for Roosevelt and Garner for those offices. But the actual election does not become official until the afternoon of February 8 when the two houses of congress meet in joint session and go through the ceremony of counting the electoral votes and the Vice President proclaims the fact that the Democratic candidates in the 1932 election had the largest number of electoral votes and therefore will be inducted into office on March 4.

Like so many other official ceremonies in government, the February 8 "election" is nothing but a make-believe and, under its 145-year-old load of tradition and custom, Vice President Charles Curtis and Speaker John N. Garner (he's speaker one minute and the next minute he's Vice President!) become companions in a hollow, but official, pretense. Side by side and in the presence of several hundred people, the two leading candidates for Vice President will act for 30 minutes as though the result of their contest had not already been known for four months and everybody else will help lend a solemn dignity to the empty ceremony.

The only new thing about the whole business will be two new boxes which a carpenter, an employee of the United States senate, has begun preparing soon after the November election. They are made of the finest mahogany and have brass handles. As soon as they are finished they are sent to the office of Vice President Curtis, where they will rest until it is time to receive 48 huge envelopes which have arrived in Washington some time during January. These envelopes contain the votes of members of the electoral college chosen on November 8 by citizens in the states from which the envelopes came.

The only person in the United States who has the authority to open those envelopes is the president of the senate (the Vice President of the United States) and even he is not allowed to learn their "secret" until the second Wednesday in February and then only in the presence of the members of the two houses of congress.

But the legislative mill must grind out a certain piece of legislation before even this can be accomplished. So the first step necessary to the election is taken when a minor senate committee labors and brings forth a resolution which provides for the joint session at which the ballots are to be counted. Then the senate adopts the resolution.

Soon thereafter, members of the senate line up, two abreast and in the order of seniority. Then, with dignity setting the pace, they start the march from their chamber to that of the house of representatives, located 500 feet in the distance.

Grim adherence to the letter of the rules would call for the Vice President to carry the two ballot boxes at the head of the parade, with the secretary of the senate and the sergeant-at-arms of the senate a step or so behind him. The theory is that the ballots must be in the custody of the Vice President, as president of the senate, and in his custody only, from the time they arrive at the Capitol. In practice, however, the vote-laden boxes are carried by two boys—chosen from among the senate pages—who march at the head of the double line of senators.

Four years ago the procession began to move at 54 minutes past noon, with arrival at the house chamber by 1 o'clock imperative. Since the affair has many years of guidance and experience behind it, the six-minute interval between the first shuffling of feet and arrival at the destination may be regarded as an established order.

The votes and their very consequential escort cause an initial stir at the entrance to the house chamber when a doorkeeper announces to the speaker that the senate awaits. The legislative equivalent of "Tell them to come in" brings the visiting contingent to occupancy of seats which are assigned under precisely-worded rules.

This stage of the proceedings will find Mr. Curtis mounting the dais at 1 o'clock on February 8, there to take his place at the right of the speaker. Thirty feet above, eyes of the press and the galleried public will gaze at the pair of men who went into November as opposing political candidates and came out of that month as victor and vanquished.

Election of the President and Vice President for the next term of four years should be completed within half an hour. In 1929, the job was completed and the senate was back in its



President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt

own hall 38 minutes after the joint session opened.

At the rate less than one minute will be devoted to consideration of the votes cast by the electors chosen in each state. Within that minute is to be included the time required to move the envelopes from the mahogany boxes and to place them in the hands of the Vice President, as well as the seconds which will pass while the presiding officer opens the envelopes and while official tellers scan the contents and tell what they see.

Under the venerable plan the tellers finally "discover" the identities of the men who next are to be President and Vice President. The names of those men are then announced by the president of the senate. Only when no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast does this procedure go awry.

But to return to the "official pretense" of electing a President February 8: Connected with its early history are two significant "ifs." If the roads between Georgia and Philadelphia back in 1787 hadn't been so rough and if a certain delegate to the constitutional convention from Georgia named William Houston hadn't suffered so much discomfort from the condition of the roads, the whole system might have been different.

The convention had almost decided to have electors chosen by the people of each state journey once every four years to the National Capital to meet for the purpose of voting among themselves to decide who should hold the two high positions.

But Mr. Houston rose to his feet during a session on a hot July afternoon and, with memories of the road still fresh in his mind, told the assembled delegates what he thought about the idea. He directed the convention's attention to the "expense and extreme inconvenience of drawing together men from all states for the single purpose of electing the chief executive." He said also it seemed improbable to him that capable men would undertake the service under the penalty of having to travel far from home, only to turn right around and go back to the journey's starting point.

A suggestion was made that called for electors of each state to travel only to their state capital to cast their votes. Mr. Houston approved of that. Development of the plan then progressed, producing the proposal that each state appoint a messenger to bring the votes of its electors to the seat of the national government. The delegates, worn out after many weeks of debate, welcomed the compromise.

These periodical trips were continued for more than 130 years. The messengers, usually relatives of the leading campaign contributors, state-house employees, political newswriters and such, received 25 cents a mile for their travels to Washington.

About four years ago, it was found that this quadrennial sending of messengers was costing the national government more than \$14,000. Economy demanded a change so a law was passed providing that the electoral votes, or "certificates" as they are formally called, be sent by mail instead of by messenger.

This act, approved May 29, 1928, reads as follows:

"The electors of President and Vice President of each state shall meet and give their votes on the first Wednesday in January next following their appointment at such place in each state as the legislature of such state shall direct.

"It shall be the duty of the executives of each state, as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the appointment of the electors in such state by the final ascertainment, under and in pursuance of the laws of such state providing for such ascertainment, to communicate by registered mail under the seal of the state to the secretary of state of the United States a certi-



The March of the Electors

ficate of such ascertainment of the electors appointed, setting forth the names of such electors and the canvass or other ascertainment under the laws of such state of the number of votes given or cast for each person for whose appointment any and all votes have been given or cast; and it shall also thereupon be the duty of the executive of each state to deliver to the electors of such state, on or before the day on which they are required by section 1 of this act to meet, six duplicates original of the same certificate under the seal of the state; and if there shall have been any final determination in a state in the manner provided for by law of a controversy or contest concerning the appointment of all or any of the electors of such state, it shall be the duty of the executive of such state, as soon as practicable after such determination, to communicate under the seal of the state to the secretary of state of the United States a certificate of such determination in form and manner as the same shall have been made; and the certificate or certificates so received by the secretary of state shall be preserved by him for one year and shall be a part of the public records of his office and shall be open to public inspection; and the secretary of state of the United States at the first meeting of congress thereafter shall transmit to the two houses of congress copies in full of each, and every such certificate so received at the State department.

"The electors shall make and sign six certificates of all the votes given by them, each of which certificates shall contain two distinct lists, one of the votes for President and the other of the votes for Vice President, and shall annex to each of the certificates one of the lists of the electors which shall have been furnished to them by direction of the executive of the state.

"The electors shall dispose of the certificates so made by them and the lists attached thereto in the following manner:

"First. They shall forthwith forward by registered mail one of the same to the President of the senate at the seat of government.

"Second. Two of the same shall be delivered to the secretary of state of the state, one of which shall be held subject to the order of the president of the senate, the other to be preserved by him for one year and shall be a part of the public records of his office and shall be open to public inspection.

"Third. On the day thereafter they shall forward by registered mail two of such certificates and lists to the secretary of state at the seat of government, one of which shall be held subject to the order of the president of the senate. The other shall be preserved by the secretary of state for one year and shall be a part of the public records of his office and shall be open to public inspection.

"Fourth. They shall forthwith cause the other of the certificates and lists to be delivered to the judge of the district in which the electors shall have assembled.

"When no certificate of vote and list mentioned in this act from any state shall have been received by the president of the senate or by the secretary of state by the third Wednesday in the month of January after the meeting of the electors shall have been held, the president of the senate or, if he be absent from the seat of government, the secretary of state shall request, by the most expeditious method available, the secretary of state of the state to send up the certificate and list lodged with him by the electors of such state; and it shall be his duty upon receipt of such request immediately to transmit same by registered mail to the president of the senate at the seat of government.

"When no certificates of votes from any state shall have been received at the seat of government on the fourth Wednesday of the month of January, after the meeting of the electors shall have been held, the president of the senate, or, if he be absent from the seat of government, the secretary of state shall send a special messenger to the district judge in whose custody a certificate of votes from that state has been lodged, and such judge shall forthwith transmit that list by the hand of such messenger to the seat of government."

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THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

It's hard for me to sit and knit Or sew up endless seams. I'd rather sit in idleness Just weaving little dreams.



"Utopia" as Planned by Men of Science

A colony or kind of Utopia entirely peopled and managed by scientists, engineers and economists has been proposed before the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Prof. Miles Walker of the Univer-

sity of Manchester, who has made a study of the subject.

This noble experiment would be tried with 100,000 persons who would endeavor to free themselves from the wastefulness and inefficiency now prevalent in a democracy where the level of general ability is that of the average human being; also from the selfishness, greed and tyranny which generally result in an aristocracy when human society as a whole is dominated by those of greater than average ability.

Here we would have a different world—an opportunity, it would seem, to demonstrate what kind of world our own could be if science were put in full untrammelled control of it.

If such a demonstration is worth anything it will show the advisability of subsequently reconstituting the world so that it is all of a piece with the small sample set up in the experiment. This could be done permanently only by disposing of the remainder of the human race.

In our belief such a colony would become a failure. Moreover it is doubtful whether the scientists involved in it would long tolerate the economists.—Scientific American.

HOW TO STOP A COLD QUICK AS YOU CAUGHT IT

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Drink Full Glass of Water.



If throat is sore, crush and dissolve 3 Bayer Aspirin Tablets in a half glass of warm water and gargle according to directions.

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and dissolved in a half glass of warm water, repeating every 2 or 3 hours as necessary. Sore throat eases this way in a few minutes, incredible as this may seem.

Ask your doctor about this. And when you buy, see that you get the real BAYER Aspirin Tablets. They dissolve almost instantly. And thus work almost instantly when you take them. And for a gargle, Genuine Bayer Aspirin Tablets dissolve with sufficient speed and completeness, leaving no irritating particles or grittiness. Get a box of 12 or bottle of 100 at any drug store.



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