

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Economy in Government Gets a Boost—Senate Ousts Sergeant at Arms Barry for Trudging It—Roosevelt Invites Governors to Parley.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ECONOMY was given a real boost by the senate when it passed the treasury-post office bill, for it inserted into the measure provisions giving the incoming President almost dictatorial power in reorganizing the structure of the federal government, coordinating, consolidating or reducing the number of agencies and eliminating overlapping and duplication of duties, "in order to further reduce expenditures and increase efficiency in government." The measure withholds authority to abolish or transfer an executive department in its entirety, though Senator Norris urged that this privilege also be given the chief Executive. His proposal was rejected because senators feared it might lead to the combining of the army and navy into one department of national defense, as has often been suggested. The bill as approved by the senate grants the new President much greater latitude than was asked by President Hoover for the same purpose. The executive orders will not become effective until sixty days after being submitted to congress unless congress itself provides by law for an earlier effective date.



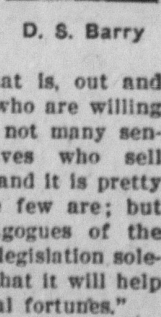
Sen. Bratton

Besides this grant of power to reorganize the federal establishment the senate moved toward further economies by adopting an amendment offered by Senator Sam G. Bratton of New Mexico, one of the leading Democrats in the matter of savings. It requires all department heads to cut their expenditures for 1934 by 5 per cent, though this must be done without cutting wages—this being insisted upon by Senator Costigan of Colorado. Mr. Bratton estimated that his plan would result in the saving of about \$140,000,000 in the cost of operating the government during the next fiscal year. Other economy measures attached to the bill, it was said, would realize some 20 millions of additional savings. One of these includes the enlisted personnel of the army, navy and marine corps in the present 8 1/2 per cent salary cut affecting all other federal employees.

In the house all kinds of attempts to economize were beaten during consideration of supply bills. The representatives even declined, by an overwhelming vote, to reduce their own salaries to \$7,500 or \$5,000, opponents of the proposal arguing that they could not afford the cut and that lowering the pay would make the house a "rich man's club" and make it impossible for a poor man to enter congress. The proponents of the reduction were denounced as demagogues.

WITH grave formality the senate and house met together in the house chamber and watched their official tellers extract from a mahogany chest the reports of state elections on last fall's election. The reading clerk loudly announced the state totals, and when these had been set down on big tally sheets and added up, the congress was solemnly informed that Franklin D. Roosevelt and John N. Garner had been elected President and Vice President of the United States, by a vote of 472 against 59 for Hoover and Curtis.

SENATORS, despite their rules, can find ways to say some mighty mean things about one another; but an outsider mustn't cast aspersions on their integrity. David S. Barry, who has been sergeant at arms of the senate for 14 years, has found this out and has lost his job. The seventy-three-year-old official wrote an article for *Smith's New Outlook*, the opening paragraph of which was:



D. S. Barry

"Contrary, perhaps, to the popular belief, there are not many crooks in congress—that is, out and out grafters, or those who are willing to be such; there are not many senators or representatives who sell their votes for money, and it is pretty well known who those few are; but there are many demagogues of the kind that will vote for legislation solely because they think that it will help their political and social fortunes."

Indignant senators were swift to call Barry to account. Sitting as a trial court, they heard him admit he was unable to prove that there were bribe takers and grafters in congress; and they refused to consider his pleas that Senator Glass had said about as much concerning the fight against the McFadden banking bill, and that in reality his article was meant to defend the reputation of congress despite its inept wording. By a vote of 52 to 17 the senate deprived Barry of his post on the ground that he had traduced that body and could not prove his charge.

In the words of Senator David Reed of Pennsylvania, the senate "made a holy show of itself." Barry did not lack defenders, the warmest of these being Senator Otis Glenn of Illinois and Senator M. M. Logan of Kentucky. Mr. Glenn, being a lame duck, was not afraid to say what he thought, and he had a lot of hot thoughts on the matter. He pointed out that what Barry had written was but one small voice in a chorus of criticism of the senate, and continued:

"I cannot distinguish very materially between attacking a body of this kind, as has been done in the present instance, and the privilege which is exercised nearly every day in committee rooms of the senate of browbeating a witness, accusing him, attacking him as he sits there, called in response to a summons."

"I do not distinguish between the attacks made upon this body and the attacks made in this body day after day by distinguished members of this body, attacking, abusing, condemning, blackening people's names and reputations, knowing that the next morning upon the front pages of the responsible newspapers of this country those charges, unsubstantiated, will be broadcast to the world."

The debate was lively and rather vituperative, and was immensely enjoyed by the occupants of the galleries. One of these was heard to quote: "The lady doth protest too much, methinks."

WHILE the President-Elect was cruising about the Caribbean trying to catch fish the amateur cabinet builders kept right on working. Late gossip was that William H. Woodin of New York would be secretary of commerce; Henry L. Stevens of North Carolina, former commander of the American Legion, secretary of war, and Archibald McNeil of Connecticut or O. Max Gardner of North Carolina secretary of the navy. Jesse I. Straus, New York merchant, also was put in the running for the commerce portfolio. More definite than these rumors was the report that Jesse H. Jones, eminent Democrat and business man of Houston, Texas, would be made head of the Reconstruction Finance corporation. He would succeed Atlee Pomerene, whose appointment as chairman by President Hoover was blocked, with all other nominations, in the senate. Mr. Roosevelt will rely greatly on the Reconstruction Finance corporation and its vast credit in carrying out his plans in the "new deal" and would receive strong and able support from Mr. Jones as his chairman.



Jesse H. Jones

PLENTY of expert advice on ways of pulling the nation out of the slough of despond is to be offered soon. First the senate finance committee invited more than half a hundred of the nation's leading men in all lines to present their views on the causes of the economic depression and the needed legislative remedies, and those views presumably are now being formulated. Then President-Elect Roosevelt sent to the governors of the 48 states invitations to meet him in the White House on March 6 to discuss means of solving national problems in which the governments of the states and the nation have a common vital interest.

In his letter Mr. Roosevelt said: "It is my thought that we should discuss for our mutual benefit certain subjects, such as: (a) Conflicting taxation by federal and state governments; (b) Federal aid for unemployment relief; (c) Mortgage foreclosures, especially on farm lands, and (d) Better land use by afforestation, elimination of marginal agricultural land, flood prevention, etc.; (e) Reorganization and consolidation of local government to decrease tax costs."

It is believed all or nearly all of the governors will accept Mr. Roosevelt's invitation gladly. All but ten of them are Democrats and might be expected to be in Washington for the inaugural ceremonies.

WITH considerable Democratic support, the government's program for aid to the unemployed was greatly broadened. It provides, among other things, for an additional \$300,000,000 direct relief loans to states, and in Washington there was a belief that it had a good chance of passage during the present session. The bill as drafted also would liberalize the law under which the R. F. C. makes loans for self-liquidating construction projects; and it makes provision for loans to private corporations for the development of community farming and ocean air transportation if such projects are self-liquidating.

RECENT deaths of note were those of Dr. Lawrence F. Abbott, former president and publisher of the *Outlook* and close friend of Theodore Roosevelt; and Count Albert Apponyi of Hungary, the oldest statesman of the League of Nations and a powerful political figure in his country.

THAT flurry over the activities of William C. Bullitt, who was reported in Europe as being a secret representative of Mr. Roosevelt sent over to deal with the governments of nations that owe war debts to the United States, probably has blown over for good. Bullitt, who was a State department representative under Woodrow Wilson, also was thought by some French officials to be an emissary of Col. Edward M. House. He visited London, Paris and other capitals and conferred with various high personages, and our State department called on Ambassador Edge for information. The ambassador replied that Bullitt was acting on his own responsibility as a writer interested in foreign affairs and was representing no one in the United States.



W. C. Bullitt

Mr. Edge, it is understood, reported that this is only one of many similar incidents. Ever since Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, the embassy has had reports of a long succession of such "emissaries."

VARIOUS plans for the regeneration of the Republican party have been discussed, and one already has been started. This is the organization of the National Republican league, with Vice President Charles Curtis at its head and headquarters in Washington. Three vice chairmen have been named—Senators Felix Hebert of Rhode Island and Daniel O. Hastings of Delaware and former Representative John Q. Tilson of Connecticut. The make-up of the league appears to be strictly regular Republican.

The new organization announced by John A. Campbell of White Plains, N. Y., who will be its director, is designed to carry on a vigorous campaign for a comeback not only in the 1936 Presidential election but in next year's congressional races also. It is professedly neither for nor against the interests of any one candidate.

The senate Republican organization seems determined to continue in good standing in the party caucus the insurgents who supported Roosevelt last fall. Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon, the probable new Republican leader of the senate, declared that a proposal to read out of the party Senators George W. Norris of Nebraska, Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, Hiram Johnson of California, and Bronson Cutting of New Mexico, had "not a chance in the world" to succeed.

Suggestions were heard recently that Secretary of the Treasury Mills would be made chairman of the Republican national committee, but he said he would not accept the place. "I've had a lot of politics in the last 25 years and I don't intend to step out of here into the chairmanship of any political committee," Mills said.

GREAT BRITAIN'S cabinet in three sessions gave final approval to the British policy for negotiations with Mr. Roosevelt in the debt conference to be held in Washington. Of course the cabinet's conclusions were not made public, but it was understood Ambassador Sir Ronald Lindsay would bring back a plan providing for a lump sum payment of between \$1,250,000,000 and \$2,000,000,000 as settlement for the entire debt of about \$11,000,000,000 which the European nations owe the United States. This, the debtor nations think, would be in accord with their own Lausanne agreement on German reparations.

Representative Rainey of Illinois declared: "The United States will not accept any such slash," and opinion in congressional circles upheld this view. Moreover, Mr. Roosevelt's plan of dealing with each nation separately will give the British small opportunity to put forward a proposal for all of them.

GERMANY'S new government under Chancellor Hitler is not to have smooth sailing by any means and may be upset at the coming elections. The Socialists and Communists were trying strenuously to lay aside their differences and join in the fight against the Nazis, and it seemed likely they would succeed in this.

Vice Chancellor Von Papen, armed with a decree signed by President Von Hindenberg, assumed the premiership of Prussia, dissolved the diet of that state and ordered new elections on March 5. Premier Braun and the other old Prussian ministers were summarily ousted. The government also issued a new set of severe laws curtailing the right of assembly and of free speech and gagging the press.

PREMIER DALADIER postponed the downfall of his new French government for a time by temporarily abandoning the attempt to balance the budget. The cabinet rejected a proposal to reduce the pay of employees of the state, and approved measures which would slightly increase the taxes on gasoline and bank checks. All told, it approved measures designed to provide \$222,000,000, half of which would be in new taxes and half resulting from economies in civil expenditures. This measure will be operative until another budget project can be drafted.

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Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—The second session of the Seventy-Second congress, now passing into history as the last "lame duck" sessions is crowning itself with a new-found glory. Short sessions of congress, in advance of a change in administration, are never expected to accomplish much, but the current edition is by all odds the winner when the race is run towards the zero.

Indeed, those of us who are required—not privileged—by our duties to sit in the press galleries of the senate and the house day after day have indulged in a little game of attempting to locate some legislation which might have been killed but was allowed to pass. It "just ain't."

And to make the thing more ridiculous, senate and house committees were excitedly holding hearings on this bill or that right up to the finish line, taking testimony (on account of which there is always a tremendous stenographic bill in addition to the printing charges of thousands of dollars) and inviting witnesses from here, there and everywhere. There was not a chance for those bills to be enacted into law and the bulk of the committee members admitted the fact privately. But for the sake of the "record," they joined with others of their particular committee and went right ahead on their grand errand of futility.

The proponents of the hearings justify their course with the statement that they now have the data upon which to fashion legislation later. They argue that the bulk of the legislation had something or other to do with the whole program of lifting the country out of the mire of the depression, and a survey shows this to be true in all respects. It could be said, therefore, that the orgy of hearings in the short session was in preparation for greater things, except that the records reveal new hearings always have been held, regardless of what has transpired before, when the same legislation is introduced in a new session of congress.

Whenever a congress ends, all bills on the house and senate calendars of business die. So the expiration of the second session is also the expiration of the Seventy-Second congress, and every bill that was before either house or in the hands of any committee of either house became null and void.

No one seems to know why there was so much activity among the committees of the senate and house in the session. It was apparent at the start, and became more so as December and January passed and February rolled in, that it would be a do-nothing session. Senators recognized the situation. From the Republican side came threats and jibes and jests that the Democrats were blocking anything and everything. From the Democratic side of the senate chamber came the same tune with just a slight variation in the chorus. It was to the effect that the Republicans had control, which they did if one counted as Republicans those who had deserted the Republican candidate in the 1932 election for the support of Mr. Roosevelt. And so it was.

In the house, there was a clear Democratic majority. But something else was wrong in that body. The plans of the leadership did not always carry, and if they did, the legislation was passed only to run into the log jam in the senate. Some of the house Democrats even went so far as to say their majority would not have held to pass some of the legislation put through except for the knowledge that the bills would get snowballed in the senate.

A Washington correspondent for one of the great London dailies cabled his newspaper that "the American congress seems to be going in all directions at the same time." I quote him because there has been no more fitting description of the situation come to my attention.

After all, it seems to me the circumstance ought not to be so surprising that the short session has done nothing. I have inquired among a very great number of senators and representatives, from leaders down to the newest and latest additions to the membership. Their answers to my question concerning the lack of accomplishment varied so widely that I concluded they must reflect minutely the feeling throughout the country.

Every one, or nearly every one, has had worries through the last three years and these worries have been accentuated in the last year. The owners of these worries, whether they are important worries or just individual worries, looked around for some one to solve their problems. Suddenly, they thought: "Why, there is our congressman," or Senator So-and-So. His mail from home has increased as the troubles have grown. Not that he can do anything about most of the cases, yet he is one point upon which the spotlight focuses.

Consequently, it is made to appear that senators and representatives hear so much about the sad state of affairs, the suffering, the foreclosures, the closed banks, the bankrupt corpo-

rations, the low price of wheat, of cotton, of cattle and hogs and dairy products, that they are actually "going in all directions at the same time." I do not know whether that excuses them for their failure to get things done, but assuredly it is one of the factors in the situation which has been overlooked to a considerable extent.

But as President Hoover passes from the picture of national control, it is worth while to look back for a moment. Washington observers of all shades of opinion are coming around to the conclusion that whatever may have been his faults, he has had one of the toughest jobs on his hands that ever was faced by a President. Especially was this true during the last two years of his administration. During that time, he had a congress made up of a Democratic house and a senate in which there never was a majority on either side on any question; I mean, a majority that could be counted in advance, and he was forced, therefore, to do a lot of trading. That Mr. Hoover was able to get his reconstruction program as far under way as he did was due absolutely to the condition of the country and not through any control which he was able to exert.

HOOPER'S TOUGH JOB

As a matter of fact, the congress for the last ten years has been an "unbroken coil." The senate during all of that time has been so close as regards the party division that a group of so-called progressives have constantly wielded the balance of power. Being independent, those 19 or 12 men on the Republican side and a few less on the Democratic side skated back and forth as their ideas dictated. The result was a terrific casuality of well-laid plans.

While the senate was in this condition, the house was having its troubles and would have had more except for the extraordinary personality of the late Nicholas Longworth.

So it becomes rather obvious that whatever Mr. Hoover may have lacked in political ability or acumen; whatever were his shortcomings in statecraft, or however many mistakes he made by refusing concessions, the fact still remains that he held the job as President in a period when few men would have succeeded. For, coupled with all of these factors, there was and is no measure within the power of the federal government to satisfy all of the diverse elements of these times. The depression has made experience of bygone years as useless as the proverbial fifth wheel of the farm wagon.

In view of these facts, therefore, it ought to be a cheering prospect for Mr. Roosevelt to see not just a NICE PROSPECT FOR ROOSEVELT working majority but a big majority of his own party in the congressional membership when they get together.

The American government always has been a party government. It thus has had to have a satisfactory majority of each house of congress of the same party as the President in order to work well. Mr. Roosevelt's first two years in the White House are assured of such a working control if all who are labelled as Democrats turn out to be Democrats.

On the face of things, it appears that Mr. Roosevelt ought to be able to get whatever he wants from the extra session and the succeeding sessions. It is a situation ideal for action. There will be so few Republicans that observers here fall to see how they can start any trouble, even with the aid of progressives.

There have been suggestions floating around to the effect that quite a number of "trial balloons" have been sent up in the congressional atmosphere by Mr. Roosevelt. While there is no method of confirmation available, there has been one condition existing during the last three months that seems to confirm the opinion that the incoming President was testing out sentiment. The condition is this: Mr. Roosevelt has kept hands off insofar as telling leaders of his party in congress what he wanted to have done in the short session.

He could have made his own pathway easier to travel after becoming President had he confided some of his views to the Democratic leaders of the house and senate.

With reference to the suggestions of "trial balloons," however, it is possible Mr. Roosevelt did tell a few of his friends some of his ideas. It has been observed here, for example, that possibly his suggestions were responsible for the consistently busy committees. By introducing various and sundry pieces of legislation and holding hearings on them in committee, it would be possible obviously to gain a perspective of the public attitude. Indeed, such a period of experimentation would provide the new President with a most definite outline of what he could expect in the way of a reception for his plans when they are formally offered to his own congress.

Everyone admires children who are respectful to parents. . . . And it may be added that parents to whom such respect is shown have much to do with it; children are always impatient with weak parents. . . . People have so many natural troubles they cannot possibly get rid of that the greatest crime is a congress imposing troubles on them totally unnecessary.

Howe About:

The Conservative Side
Waterloo
Idealism

By ED HOWE

I KNOW a widow who has long been poor, and very bitter and unfair in denunciations of the wrongs of the poor. At the last election a farmer candidate for a little office (but still big enough to provide a dishonest salary and appropriation for an assistant) promised her the deputyship. She at once plunged into the campaign and did her best to rob the poor because she expected to share in the robbery.

That is the trouble; even the poor, the women, the farmers, the working men, are willing to engage in the special robbery of the people against which we have most cause of complaint, if given a chance to share in it. The farmer candidate was elected. The last time I saw the widow she said he had promised nine other people the deputyship, and that she would bring suit against him if he did not keep his word to her.

John D. Rockefeller should write and publish his own biography; no ghost writer can equal him in the truth and candor of this kind of record.

Jean Jacques Rousseau gave such apology as there is for the radical; I should like to hear, with equal candor displayed, from the world's greatest business man and conservative.

The conservative side of the argument has never been adequately presented. It should be; we specially need such a book now, not only for our own use, but for the use of future generations.

The great Napoleon suffered intensely at Waterloo; ruin was never more humiliating or complete. But millions of less noted suffer the anguish of a Waterloo; I rarely pick up a newspaper without reading of a Waterloo for some poor devil.

Waterloo is a good word to remember; perhaps it is fortunate we so frequently see it in print.

I beg you to remember its significance—which is to avoid such a fate when you have lived only half your life and have equipment to win.

Everyone who believes in a Cause supports it fanatically; no one is exactly just in his advocacy of, or opposition to, the great controversies which make up life. . . . I am a fanatic, too, but on the side of conservatism, of safety, of caution; of looking longer before we leap.

Writers are doing unusually bold things now; I note that one makes fun of that old sob about what a boy learns at his mother's knee. That is one of the sob stories I have always respected.

Most men, and all women, say Idealism is the first standard by which men may judge their action and enterprise. This is pleasant sounding, but actually foolish. Idealism means visionary; the opposite of realism. The worst mistakes of men have been due to neglecting the good that may be accomplished in attempting good far beyond their powers. Our first standard of endeavor should be intelligent realism; selection of the best of two evils, and training and harnessing it to do God's work.

I have lately had occasion to visit two neighboring towns. In both of them are being built school houses palatial and unnecessary. Both include theaters, restaurants, athletic fields, music departments, etc., that would be an outrage on common sense in good times, but are specially outrageous in the midst of the greatest depression in history. . . . Have you not noted that lately indignation includes extravagant and unnecessary waste in education? England has never been half as wasteful in this respect as we are, but has called a halt.

People usually tell lies not because they are mistaken, but because they are overpraising an old watch, house, automobile or doctrine they are trying to trade or raffle. . . . What we need is not more belief in Christ, but more appreciation of the simple truth, attested by long experience, that we should be more truthful, honorable, polite, economical and industrious for our own sakes. It happens every day that a man can go out and get a thing he needs and is entitled to while praying for it, or arguing he is entitled to it.

Some say that one who would acquire the art of writing should read Addison. . . . I think Macaulay a better teacher. Addison wrote of trifling things too much, whereas Macaulay wrote of the French revolution; of events of first importance. In reading one should get education as well as entertainment out of it.

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