

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Suggests Amendment of Constitution but Asks Stop-Gap Legislation to Permit Continuance of the New Deal Program.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has created a major issue for the campaign of 1936 and stirred up widespread debate and controversy over a question that the nation had thought was settled in its early days. Furthermore, it is likely he has started a complete re-alignment of political forces into what will be virtually two new parties. Briefly, he proposes that the Constitution be changed to take from the states and give to the federal government power over the chief social and economic questions so that the New Deal may be saved from the doom pronounced upon it by the Supreme court.

In the course of a two hour talk with the Washington correspondents the President sent up a trial balloon on the plan he had conceived for remodeling the government to fit his program, declaring that he favored curtailing the sovereignty of the states and giving the central government full control over agriculture, industry, commerce and all other occupations and enterprises. He said this question of amending or re-writing the Constitution must be settled by a vote of the people. In some ways, he said, the Supreme court decision was the best thing that could have happened to the country because it clarified the issue as he presented it. The issue must be met by moving one way or the other, he said, back to the 13 states or forward to the modern interpretation.

We are the only country in the world which has not solved this problem, Mr. Roosevelt said. We thought we were solving it, but now it is thrown right back in our faces. We are relegated to the "horse and buggy" interpretation of the interstate commerce clause.

That many prominent Democrats will be alienated from their support of Mr. Roosevelt by this pronouncement is certain. Already there has been launched a movement for those of the party who seek "a return to constitutional government" to unite with the Republicans who are of like mind. Its leaders are Bainbridge Colby, who was secretary of state in President Wilson's cabinet, and Chief Justice William B. Patterson of the Massachusetts Supreme court.

Mr. Colby has written to a number of Democratic leaders of national repute proposing they meet in a southern city, preferably Richmond, "to consider some form of political action that is for our country and above party."

In a letter to a friend in Washington it was revealed that Chief Justice Patterson had decided to resign in order to join with other Jeffersonian Democrats to bring about a coalition with Republicans and the restoration of "constitutional government" to replace the New Deal.

HAVING started the country by his proposition for changing the basic law, Mr. Roosevelt turned his attention to speedy legislation that might salvage part of the NRA, considering it was authoritatively said, that amendment of the Constitution was not a matter of the immediate future. He asked congress to pass the Clark resolution in modified form extending the NRA until April 1, 1936, with the understanding that it would be a skeleton organization to collect and classify data but without power to enforce wages, hours or fair trade practices upon industry, except in the case of work done for the government. This was agreeable to both the senate and the house majorities. The President said there would be no attempt to circumvent the Supreme court decision or to persuade business men to enter into voluntary code agreements.

Attorney General Cummings, Solicitor General Reed, Felix Frankfurter and others were studying numerous proposals for substitutes for the NRA, but Secretary Early of the White House staff said none of the suggestions had met the requirements. Secretary of Labor Perkins had a plan for using the government's taxing powers as a means toward interstate regulation. Senators Nye and King introduced in the senate a bill to expand the powers of the federal trade commission. And there were many other propositions, but none of them seemed adequate.

CONGRESS, it now appears, will be in session until September, for the President handed to the leaders a "must" program of legislation that will keep the law makers busy for a long time. Here is the list:

1. Social security bill.
2. Omnibus banking bill.
3. Holding company bill.
4. Wagner-labor relations bill, and Guffey coal regulations bill.
5. Tennessee valley bill.
6. Bankhead cotton act extension.
7. AAA amendments.
8. Tax extension bill.
9. Temporary NRA extension.
10. NRA government contract requirements.

11. Federal alcohol control legislation.
12. Federal oil control legislation.
13. Central statistical board set up.
14. Electrical farm and home authority set up.

The holding company measure has been resisted firmly in committee by two Democrats, Pettigill of Indiana and Huddleston of Alabama. In a senate debate it was vigorously attacked by Dieterich of Illinois, Democrat, and Hastings of Delaware, Republican, as an unconstitutional scheme to destroy the government's competitors in the power business. Mr. Dieterich said it was his honest conviction that the measure would destroy all private ownership of public utilities in the country, together with the millions upon millions of dollars invested in them by private citizens.

This measure was naturally the chief topic of discussion at the annual convention of the Edison Electric Institute at Atlantic City. President Thomas N. McCarter told the assembly that the privately owned power industry must fight for its life against the administration's "most devastating and destructive attack." He told of presenting "in person" to the President "a dignified memorial" setting forth "facts that seemed to the trustees to threaten the existence of this industry and appealed to the government for a get-together policy for the elimination of whatever abuses and wrongs might be found to exist," but said he got nowhere.

TEMPORARILY the work-relief program was halted when the officials found that the projects were too costly, and they set about hunting up projects that would provide maximum work at minimum cost, so that the promise to employ 3,500,000 persons can be carried out. Meanwhile approval of all applications was held up.

They have an average of \$1,100 per man to spend. Yet the \$1,000,000,000 in projects already planned will cost approximately \$2,000 for every person taken off relief rolls and kept on government pay rolls until July 1, 1936.

To reduce the average, Mr. Roosevelt instructed Progress Director Harry L. Hopkins to search the country for local, quick work where material costs will be low with almost all the money going for labor and wages.

The plan of enlarging the Civilian Conservation Corps from 900,000 to 1,000,000 was in process of revision because it was believed the additional men could not be enrolled if the present eighteen to twenty-five-year-old age limit were retained. The probability was the age limit would be raised to thirty years.

SOLELY on account of ill health, Ramsay MacDonald has retired as prime minister of Great Britain and gone to Lossiemouth, his home in Scotland, for a good rest.

His successor as head of the national cabinet is Stanley Baldwin, the veteran leader of Conservatives who has been serving as lord president of the council and in reality has been a deputy prime minister since the national government was formed seven years ago. Mr. MacDonald exchanges places with him, thus remaining in the cabinet but without departmental duties. The date of his last cabinet meeting as prime minister was the sixth anniversary of his assumption of the office for the second time. With the exception of H. H. Asquith he has held the office continuously for the longest period in modern times.

Of the other changes in the cabinet the most important was the transfer of Sir John Simon from the foreign office to the home office. He is succeeded in the former by Sir Samuel Hoare, who has been chief secretary for India. Mr. MacDonald's son Malcolm, only thirty-four years old, was made colonial secretary.

BOUISSON'S French cabinet having fallen almost immediately, President Lebrun had great difficulty finding another premier. Pierre Laval, former foreign minister, finally undertook to form a new government and to "save the franc." He kept the foreign ministry post himself, and put Marcel Regnier in as minister of finance.

WITHOUT any special ceremony the Supreme court, at the end of its spring session, for the last time walked out of the old senate chamber which it has occupied as a courtroom since 1859. When the court reconvenes next October after its summer recess it will be housed in the magnificent new \$10,000,000 marble building just east of the Capitol.

CHAIRMAN JESSE H. JONES announced that in the future the RFC will file with the Interstate commission, if necessary, its own reorganization plans for railroads in financial difficulties and in which it holds a financial interest.

At the same time Mr. Jones announced a plan whereby the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific railroad would be organized with the aid of a \$24,000,000 government loan. A four-point program was worked out in conferences between Mr. Jones and H. A. Scandrett, president of the road, and will be filed for court approval.

Notice of the intention of the RFC to force reorganization plans has been given in letters to the Denver & Rio Grande Western, and the Western Pacific.

WITHOUT discussion and without a record vote the house passed the Wilcox bill calling for the construction of seven powerful army air bases at a total cost of \$110,000,000. The measure specifies the locations as the Atlantic Northeast, the Atlantic Southeast and Caribbean areas, the southeastern states, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, the Rocky mountain area, and "intermediate stations necessary for transcontinental movements in the maneuvers of the general headquarters air force."

ONE of the most prominent figures in the World War passed from the scene with the death in Essex, England, of Viscount Byng of Vimy. As a young officer of cavalry Byng distinguished himself in campaigns in the Sudan, in South Africa and in India. In the great war he won undying fame by his desperate defense of Ypres when it was attacked by overwhelmingly superior German forces which for the first time used poison gas and flame throwers. He was given a baronetcy for this and other gallant work, and after serving as governor-general of Canada from 1921 to 1926 he was made a viscount and later a field marshal. He was called from retirement in 1928 to become commissioner of London's police force, but ill health forced him to resign this post in 1931.

Another war commander who died was Gen. Alexander von Linsingen, who was at the head of the German southern army after having fought through the earlier campaigns in northern France.

JAPAN'S army, which appears to rule Japan's foreign policy, has decided that Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, dictator of China, must retire. This was announced at Tientsin by Col. Takashi Sakai, chief of staff of the Japanese troops in North China. He said:

"Chiang Kai-shek, using his financial and military power under the pretense of uniting China, is actually corrupting and disintegrating North China, which Chiang regards as a colony. Hence the Japanese army now feels that it is the wisest policy to uproot Chiang Kai-shek's influence, especially in North China."

"It is not the communists but Chiang Kai-shek who will put an end to the existence of China. The Japanese army intends to take the necessary measures to compel the Chinese government to abolish the Tientsin garrison corps, the Kuomintang political branches, the Blue Shirt secret police and patriotic societies encouraging the consumption of native goods. These societies have been responsible for anti-Japanese sentiment as well as disturbance of peace and order within Manchukuo."

COL. CHARLES A. LINDBERGH'S active participation in the affairs of Transcontinental and Western Air has been terminated at least for the present. Henry B. Dupont, chairman of the board, in making the announcement, denied there had been any disagreement between the famous aviator and the company officials.

"Colonel Lindbergh never has devoted 100 per cent of his time to TWA activities," Mr. Dupont said. "As advisor he drew a retainer for his technical advice. Sometimes he worked several days in succession, sometimes only two or three days a month."

"He has devoted much time to the company, but now has decided to devote the next few months exclusively to his personal affairs, although he will continue to be available in emergencies for consultation. He still is TWA's technical adviser and he will be available if we need him. Probably when his personal affairs are straightened out he may be devoting a lot of time to our problems."

LITTLE George Weyerhaeuser, nine-year-old lumber fortune heir who was kidnaped from Tacoma, is safe at home, but the "snatchers" who held him captive for a week got away with \$200,000 ransom money paid by the lad's family. They fled in a fast automobile, and at this writing are still at large, though pursued closely by an army of government agents and other officers.

FLOODS and tornadoes wrought havoc in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Kansas—a region that only recently was afflicted by drought and dust storms. It was thought as many as 250 lives were lost, and great numbers of families were rendered homeless. The worst flood area was in southern Nebraska, where the Republican river was swollen into a raging torrent.

NEW USES FOR FARM PRODUCTS

Growing Crops for Industrial Purposes Is Possibility.

A conference between representatives of agriculture, industry and science held at Dearborn, Mich., was devoted to the possibility of producing crops for industrial purposes. The importance of chemistry in converting raw products into useful commodities was stressed.

Growing motor fuel on the farm was pictured as a \$5,000,000,000-a-year income builder for future farmers. The land requirement for the production of 25,000,000 gallons of alcohol a year was estimated at 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 acres. There seems to be no unsolved technical problem standing in the way of utilizing alcohol as a fuel, though there doubtless will be improvements and refinements developed.

Motor fuel is a competitive product. Users of automobiles will continue to utilize the type which furnishes power at lowest cost and greatest convenience. Present supplies of gasoline and those immediately in prospect, together with the efficiency developed in distribution, give it a decided advantage over other fuels. If production should decline and prices increase materially, substitutes will be given greater consideration. With corn selling at \$1 a bushel, discussion of its diversion into uses other than for feeding have largely subsided. Those who advocate its conversion into alcohol to be mixed with gasoline for fuel presuppose a decided reduction in prices.

Ethyl alcohol can be made from any farm crop. It is derived largely from carbohydrates. In Europe unmarketable potatoes are utilized largely for that purpose. Much of the molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry, is now converted into alcohol. There is, however, no indication that any crop is grown primarily for that purpose, but materials of low value, or in some instances waste products, are utilized. It probably will be many years before corn will be grown primarily as a fuel crop.

Soy bean oil is extensively used in paints and varnishes. Linseed oil has many industrial uses. Tung oil trees are grown in the South in a limited way with prospects of greater expansion. Levulose, a form of

sugar, can be made from artichokes or sunflowers. Cornstalks have been successfully converted into wall board, slash pine into paper pulp.

New uses for other farm products will be discovered, but the problems of getting production costs low enough, of factories located close to the source of supply to save labor and transportation costs, will have to be solved before commercial activity may be developed.

American agriculture has been conducted upon an export basis. As yet no workable plan of self-sufficiency has been developed. It is a whole-some thing for agriculture, industry and science to co-operate in an effort to develop the market for farm products as any success along this line will add to the standard of living in rural communities and make a wider market for industrial goods.

Meanwhile the farms need foreign markets.—Kansas City Times.

Conjugal Felicity Insured
Several firms in Paris, from all accounts, do a respectable business by providing newly-weds with apartments and furniture for their first experience in housekeeping. They scan the newspapers for announcements of engagements. Now one of these firms, according to the Sunday Times of London, includes an

insurance policy with its paraphernalia. This policy, on the payment of the premiums, insures conjugal happiness for different lengths of time—the longer the period the smaller the premium. In the policy "conjugal happiness" is defined in the biblical way, and the policy may only be redeemed on proof of divorce or legal separation.

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HEY, DIZZY, WHERE YOU GOING WITH YOUR GLOVE AND BALL-SHOES?

INTO TOWN TO PICK UP TEN BUCKS PITCHING A DOUBLE-HEADER FOR A SEMI-PRO TEAM

OH NO, YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE GOING INTO THE GUARDHOUSE, AND YOU'LL STAY THERE TILL IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PITCH FOR US TO-MORROW!

START MOVIN', DIZZY, AN DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET

I JUST DROPPED AROUND TO TELL YOU YOU'RE EVEN DIZZIER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WAS WHEN I NAMED YOU DIZZY. TRYIN' TO PITCH THREE GAMES IN TWO DAYS!

BUT, SARG, I COULD HAVE DONE IT—EASY. I'VE BEEN DOING IT EVERY WEEK, ONLY YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT

GEE, DIZZY, PITCHING THREE GAMES IN TWO DAYS MUST HAVE TAKEN A LOT OUT OF YOU!

NOT OUT OF OLD DIZ. 'CAUSE I HAD THE STRENGTH AND ENERGY TO BACK IT UP

HOW CAN I GET LOTS OF ENERGY, DIZZY?

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