

## SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—Old human nature is working for an early adjournment of congress. It is not so much the heat, although despite the local boosters, Washington is no summer resort. But the senate and house chambers are both air-cooled, and so, for that matter, is the White House. As a matter of fact, the national lawmakers are probably more comfortable here than they would be at home. Not all of them, of course, but most of them.

The answer to the desire for early adjournment has nothing to do with temperature. It is the overpowering sense of futility, developed sharply since the Supreme court decision on NRA. Laws are being passed, which half the members believe will be held unconstitutional by the high court later on. Everything that is being done is frankly and openly admitted by the administration leaders to be of the stop-gap variety.

Hence there is no feeling that what they are doing is really constructive—that it is the kind of thing to which they can point with pride later on—telling their admiring constituents that they helped frame this or that.

Senators have told the writer in the last few days that they feel they are on Ickes' "work relief." Just going through motions on more or less fruitless errands. In short—time serving. But—senators and members of the house are not paid by the day. They are paid by the year. Staying in Washington a month or two longer than is absolutely necessary does not put a penny into their pockets.

### Like Home Publicity

All of which might not be important if there was really important work to be done here. Ofttimes senators and members of the house figure that it is much better politics for them to stay on the job in Washington than to go home. The publicity in their hometown papers is better. The folks back home think of the congressman as sweating in the sultry heat of Washington, working for their interests. Especially if his secretary is a good letter writer.

But there is very little percentage for that sort of thing in the present situation. The country isn't much interested in this stop-gap legislation. Huey Long managed to get headlines by talking all night to stop a bill, which passed early next morning anyhow. But the average senator doesn't want to do that, and the average representative would be prevented by the rules.

So there has developed a real yen on the part of the legislators to go home. Which may bring about adjournment earlier than most observers had figured—especially right after the NRA decision.

Prior to that the prospect never was for an early adjournment. These dispatches consistently held to the idea of an August adjournment, not on any detailed calculations as to how long the White House "must" list would take, but on the theory that something always turns up to consume time in the senate. And it is the senate, not the house, which determines time.

### Joint Selling

A wave of "joint selling companies" is in the offing as a result of the expiration of the codes, and the determination of the administration to prosecute anti-trust suits.

The original bargain of NRA, it will be recalled, was that industry was to agree to pay better wages, work its labor shorter hours, eliminate child labor, and stop chiseling, and in return the government would go lightly on anti-trust prosecutions, permitting all sorts of agreements as to prices, distributions of territory, etc.

Naturally industry liked the latter, whatever it thought about the price it had to pay, and right now it wants to confine the benefits, if any, from what has been regarded as combinations in restraint of trade.

Whereupon many eyes have been turned on the famous Appalachian Coals, Inc., case. This is a case in which a large number of coal producers joined in having one corporation sell their product. The avowed object was to cut selling costs—to abandon the ruinous cost of each coal operator maintaining an office and selling force in every important market.

The government did not like this setup at the time. The Department of Justice pointed out forcefully that actually the selling company in question maintained, in many cases, separate offices and selling organizations for every coal producer it represented.

But the Supreme court, after lengthy arguments and due consideration, held that this practice did not violate the anti-trust laws.

Now there are some who think that the high court took due cognizance of the fact that coal is a more or less distressed industry; that if the same case were presented to the high court affecting a prosperous industry the decision might be different.

As a matter of fact, looking into the situation for a number of industries, do not think so. They think the language of the court in deciding the NRA case shows conclusively that the court is not willing to temper the Constitution to the shorn lamb.

### Here's the Point

The whole point now is whether some industry which, if it attempted to get together and frame price scales for its products or divide up terri-

ories in which its various corporations would sell, would run afoul of the anti-trust laws, could avoid this danger by following the Appalachian Coals example.

Determined to enforce the Sherman and Clayton acts, the Department of Justice is concerned over the situation. It fears a number of industries will attempt this plan—far more effective, it believes, than ever were the famous Judge Gary dinners, at which the steel trade fixed prices by mutual consent, thus getting around the law.

All the government agencies, incidentally, are interested, notably that of Public Works Administrator Ickes, who lets out loud blasts every now and then attacking agreements by producers of this or that commodity sold to the government.

Just what Ickes would say if the cement industry had a common selling agency is not hard to imagine. One lawyer, studying the problem for an industry having nothing to do with cement, commented with a grin that his industry would take pains to have different bids submitted by the various units whenever the government wanted any of its products. Thus, he thought, it could avoid running afoul of Ickes and all the departments except that presided over by Homer S. Cummings.

Meanwhile industry generally takes no satisfaction whatever out of the Harrison amendment to NRA extension. As some of the business men here observed, it gives business the right to do everything it could do already without congressional approval, and denies it the right to violate any law.

### Question of Power

Not even in the hottest days of disension, between Gen. Hugh S. Johnson and Donald R. Richberg were the friends of the two men further apart than they are right now over the solution to the problem presented by the Supreme court's invalidating the Blue Eagle.

Richberg's followers are all demanding an amendment to the Constitution. That, they contend, is the only way to meet the situation.

Johnson's friends are insisting that there is a perfectly constitutional method of solving the whole problem.

The real difference between the two, which would appear to be a matter for constitutional lawyers to determine, is actually not that at all, but a difference in powers desired for the federal government, with the Richberg crowd being for absolute federal powers. And with the President, very vigorously, siding with the Richberg crowd, but giving the Johnson crowd a chance to show what it can do.

Hence the Shanley bill. This little publicized—so far—document, is threatening to attract a good deal of attention before congress adjourns. It imposes, under the taxing power of the Constitution, an excise tax of \$1 a year on every person, firm, corporation, or other form of business enterprise engaged in or whose business directly affects commerce among the states or with foreign nations.

It fixes a 40-hour week, for general practice, noting exceptions. It fixes a minimum wage of 50 cents an hour, saying that piece workers' pay shall be graduated so that the lowest will not fall below the 50-cent-an-hour minimum. It fixes an eight-hour day. It provides for time and a half for overtime in emergency work. It provides for collective bargaining.

### Richberg Idea

What is in the minds of the Richberg group is clearly shown by some quotations from the language of the bill. For example:

"Interstate commerce as hereinabove defined is hereby declared to be in the nature of a public utility; and every such enterprise engaged therein shall in respect thereto, and in connection with the payment of the excise tax hereinabove provided and appurtenant thereto, be subject to regulation and control in the manner and with respect to the matters hereinafter provided."

Also:

"The congress hereby finds as a fact and declares that the employment of children in the trades and industries within the jurisdiction of this act, and underpayment of employees and the working of employees for excessive hours and under conditions which are hazardous in nature or dangerous to health, the denial or obstruction to employees of the right to bargain collectively with respect to their wages, hours and other working conditions, and unfair practices or methods of competition affect directly the flow of interstate commerce; and that, to facilitate and promote the full utilization of the nation's productive capacity and the free flow of such commerce, it is necessary and vital that basic standards be laid down with respect thereto."

And:

"Commerce among the states has become so interwoven in the fabric of economic life that our congressional experience and knowledge dictates that finding that those agencies of industry which are directly and immediately linked to interstate commerce must be deemed objects of interstate commerce in the interests of national defense and otherwise for the public welfare."

Senator Borah was not consulted, it might be stated, perhaps unnecessarily. Best judgment is that the constitutional lawyers in the house and senate will relieve the Supreme court of any embarrassment in ever passing on it. But it shows how a good many minds rather important in the New Deal are working.

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## Japs Eat Rice, So Our Labor Starves



Top, Ten Hungry Mouths in New England Town as Result of Closing Textile Mill. Below, American Flag Tie Made in Japan. Right, Jap Women Making Celluloid Toys for American Trade.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

WAVING the old Stars and Stripes for all to see on the Fourth of July is great stuff. It feels mighty good to let loose once in a while with all the old patriotic pep and enthusiasm. It's a visible and appropriate tribute to those sturdy ancestors of ours who, on another Fourth of July, had nerve enough and sense enough to declare to the world that they were free men, determined and able to live by their own rule. And it's a heap safer than shooting off firecrackers. Unless...

Take that flag in your hands and examine it carefully. Do you find a stamped label on it that says "Made in Japan"? If you do, go back to the firecrackers. They'll do far less damage in the long run.

For that flag, with its millions of counterparts at large in this country, is putting American workers out of work, adding them to the relief rolls and throwing them and their families into virtual destitution. It is the most ironic symbol of an oriental industrialization and export trade, based on mass-production, slave wages and a race-and-tee standard of living, that is using the bait of lower prices to trick us into believing that we are "saving money" by buying its inferior products.

One particular adaptation of the American flag—a little silk bow that is fastened together with a pin—has definitely been the cause of a plant in Washington, D. C., which was making the same article, and whose product the Japanese ingeniously copied, shutting down and throwing its employees out of work. The Japanese article could be made to retail in American stores at 4 or 5 cents apiece. To make a profit, the capital firm had to sell its product for 10 cents.

In the field of novelties, the ever-alert Japanese manufacturer has learned to cash in on the patriotism of his neighbor half way around the world. He has even learned to play upon the patriotic hero-worship of the child in school. One of the most popular erasers in the American school-supply stores, for instance, is decorated with a picture of the White House and the heads of three of our greatest Presidents. It is "Made in Japan."

Wrecks Textile Industry.

So accustomed are we to seeing the label of Japanese manufacture on many kinds of novelties, we lose sight of the fact that Japanese price-cutting has opened the way for vast inroads of its products upon more than a score of American industries. Most important of these is the textile industry (chiefly cotton) and the hardest hit area is New England, where plant after plant has been forced by the combination of Japanese competition and the processing tax to cease operations.

Cotton growers have been heartened from time to time by the fact that Japanese importation of American cotton has held up better than that of other countries. On the other hand, this is what has happened after the Asiatic Islanders have manufactured the raw goods:

American imports of Japanese gloves are up 500 per cent over 1932; hosiery, 400 per cent; cotton handkerchiefs and mufflers, 1,200 per cent; bedspreads and quilts, 100 per cent, and other manufactured articles in like proportion. In January, 1935, we bought 3,341,000 square yards of Japanese cloth; in February, 5,744,000 square yards, and in March, 6,217,000. This was more in each month than the combined total for three preceding years, 1931, 1932 and 1933. The March import was more than one-fourth the total American output for the entire year 1934.

Meanwhile our own exports have been in a steady decline. In 1932 they were 375,000,000 square yards; in 1933, 302,000,000, and in 1934, 206,000,000. The chief reason for this slump is that Japan has won from us our import markets in the Philippines and Hawaii, and a good share of them in South America.

Gov. Louis J. Brann of Maine, in testifying before an investigating committee, said that every mill in Maine was operating at a loss. Thousands of employees have been forced to go on the relief rolls. And as Maine goes, so goes New England. Especially in Massachusetts and Rhode Island have the mills been severely crippled. In Manchester, N. H., since the Japanese competition has begun to take a foothold, the Amoskeag Manufacturing company, one of the largest textile mills in the world, has reported a 1934 loss of \$1,000,000.

Idle Plants Our Cost.

Figured in dollars and cents, the Japanese imports from the United States are twice our imports from Japan. But Japanese imports are mostly raw cotton which is manufactured and then sold back to us at prices that cost us many millions in idle plants and unemployed workers.

Japan's skilled laborers, working for wages that would hardly keep American bodies and souls together, have a genius for imitating American products. In appearance, the Japanese article looks quite like the American one, but almost invariably the materials used, and therefore the service to be obtained, leave much to be desired.

An American flashlight, made to sell for 59 cents, has to compete, often on the same shelves, with a Japanese flashlight identical in appearance, which costs 20 cents less. American pencils, sold for \$2.40 a gross, are reproduced in Japan to sell here for 94 cents a gross; a device to sharpen them, made here to sell for \$1, has a Japanese counterpart of inferior metal which sells for 37 cents.

Rubber manufacturing in the United States dropped from 100,000,000 pounds to 30,000,000 in three years. An American-made tennis shoe sells for 99 cents a pair, its Japanese counterpart for 39 cents. An American hot-water bottle costs 50 cents; one just like it but "Made in Japan" costs exactly half that.

And so it goes, all the way from microscopes (American, \$12.50—Japanese, \$1.95) to hinges (American, \$3.50—Japanese, \$1.25). Here is a partial list of articles, made in America, that have been reproduced for American sale by the Japanese, giving the retail price as it is in the United States today. In each case the Japanese article has exactly followed the American in appearance:

Article	American	Japanese
Baseball	\$08.15	\$04.10
Air Pistol	5.99	1.35
Comb	.29	.10
Toothbrush	.60	.10
Light Bulbs	.20	.06

(The Japanese article is identical in appearance, but consumes far more current, does not burn as long and gives much less illumination. Handled chiefly in stores which are notoriously "cut-rate.")

Article	American	Japanese
Perfume Bottle	\$09.75	\$03.20
Candlestick Holder	1.50	.20
Silver Mint Dish	4.00	.50
Dishes (18-piece set)	\$09.00	15.50
Salt Shaker Set	12.63	1.69
Candy Dish	5.00	.50
Cigarette Holder	3.75	1.25

Wholesale Invasion.

In the United States the fish-net business is a comparatively obscure one, if not in point of size at least in point of familiarity. Yet it did not take the thorough orientals very long to discover it. As an example, an American fish netting which once enjoyed a good sale at 75 cents is now giving way to the identical article of a Japanese competitor which sells for 32 cents.

Where were the beginnings and what is the cause of this wholesale invasion of American business by the Japanese? Most authorities attribute it to the lower standards of living and the cheap labor in Japan, and partly to the cotton processing tax (the New Hampshire mill which lost \$1,000,000 last year paid \$1,274,173 in processing tax).

That is only the situation as it exists today. The seed of the Japanese export business was planted in 1853. And the thing that started the whole trouble that confronts us today was

an American admiral's nose!

In that year Admiral Perry landed on the island empire and gave the sons of Nippon their first introduction to American practices and habits. The Mitsui, which was then as now the Japanese family which represents to their business Morgan, Rockefeller and Ford all rolled into one, sent an artist, who might be compared to the photographer of today, to sketch a portrait of Admiral Perry. The portrait is still on exhibition at the Mitsui museum in Tokyo.

An Admiral's Nose.

The artist accentuated the admiral's sharp features and gave him an extremely long and ridiculous nose. It looked much like one of our over-exaggerated caricatures of the present day, but it was not a caricature. The artist was simply so amazed at an ordinary accidental nose that he drew it all out of proportion.

Admiral Perry's nose immediately became the sensation of Japan. It provoked an insatiable curiosity regarding people who could have noses like that. The artist was hurried down to the ship to make a sketch of that, and of the tools and other belongings of the Americans. The imitative ability of the Japanese immediately began to make itself apparent, as the islanders began making things like those of the admiral and his companions for themselves.

These few American ideas became so popular that it was not long before wealthy Japanese were sending the young hopefuls of their families to the United States, clad at first in kimonos, to study at American universities. They brought home with them the American banking system and scores of revolutionary ideas from American industrial institutions. Today Japanese industry is a model of the "endless chain" system developed to so high a degree here by Henry Ford.

Employed in the now great Japanese industrial plants are workers, both men and women, who have learned to practice an economy that would put the Scots to shame. They live in flimsy houses to a standard that seems unbelievable.

### Workers Are Skilled.

It must not be supposed that because the average worker's income is about \$9 to \$50 a month he is a poor worker. He is more likely to be highly intelligent, very fast and well-skilled, with a hunger for education seldom matched on this earth. And his money has a vastly greater purchasing power than it would appear to have. His production is always up to the utmost because the entire Japanese industrial system works on a bonus basis that allows extra pay for high efficiency, economy, safety and production.

The food the Japanese worker's family eats would look sorry, indeed, to the red-blooded American appetite. But the lowly Japanese is not discontented, for his more well-to-do brothers and their families eat much the same menu as he does.

Japanese housewives feed a working-class family of five for only about 55 cents a day. For breakfast they have rice, bean soup and pickles; for lunch, rice, salt salmon and boiled vegetables, and for dinner, rice, vegetable soup, pork and cabbage, and other vegetables. Dairy products (the ordinary Japanese does not want and does not like. The very lowest class of course does not eat quite the menu outlined here, but subsists mainly on rice and tea.

For what you and I would pay for a hat, the Japanese man or woman can buy a complete outfit of summer clothing; for what we might pay for a pair of shoes, he can get a winter suit and overcoat; his monthly rent costs him about as much as our monthly bill for gas and electricity. That one-time American invention, the nickel movie, has become a Japanese institution—with the children admitted for half price.

Japanese exports climb. And so do our relief rolls.

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## Appeals to Those of Mature Figure

PATTERN 9342



Capes? Everybody loves them—they've descended upon fashion like April showers. All sorts of capes. In this charming dress the cape influence is minimized, but it is used to advantage. Joining in front like a raglan sleeve, and cut in one with the yoke in back, these cape sleevelets give grace and proper proportion to the mature figure. A small bow, adroitly placed, adds a winsome touch to the bodice. You'll find the cut of the skirt excellent, too. It's a grand dress to make up in a flower print or a solid sheer, or in voile or lawn for the heat waves to come. The capes may contrast.

Pattern 9342 may be ordered only in sizes 16, 18, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 42 and 44. Size 36 requires 3 1/2 yards 29 inch fabric.

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Complete, diagrammed sew chart included. Send your order to Sewing Circle Pattern Department, 232 West Eighteenth Street, New York.

## SMILES

### BETTER BE SURE

Percy—Miss Hopskip! Bessie! Will you be my wife?  
Bessie—Why, you asked me that last week and I said yes.  
Percy—But I thought it possible you might have changed your mind.

### Those Party Platforms

"A party platform is a mighty important consideration," said one statesman.  
"Yes," replied the other, "a party platform in politics is a good deal like a bunker in golf. The rules require it, but you show your skill in avoiding it."

### Oh, Oh

"Was this picture of your husband taken before you knew him?"  
"Yes. It was taken during the honeymoon."—Detroit News.

### Worse Than That

Son—Dad, is "politics" plural?  
Dad—No; there isn't anything in the world more singular than politics.

