

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Lobbying and Virgin Islands Investigations Develop Lively Scraps—House "Rebels" Are Tame Concerning TVA Amendments.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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FIFTY thousand dollars was appropriated by the house for investigation by the rules committee of lobbying for and against bills affecting utilities interests. Representative Rankin of Mississippi declared that Representative O'Connor of New York, chairman of the committee, was unfit to conduct the inquiry because he was antagonistic to the administration. O'Connor, rising to reply, was given an ovation by the house, and promised the investigation would be thorough and impartial.

Already the committee had begun its work, the first witness being Representative Brewster of Maine, who declared Thomas G. Corcoran, New Deal lawyer, had tried to force him to vote for the "death sentence" provision in the utilities bill by threats of stopping work on the Passamaquoddy project. Corcoran was then put on the stand and denied the main features of Brewster's story, whereupon the Maine congressman shouted, "You're a liar." Corcoran explained with facility his activities in behalf of the utilities measure. He said he was assigned to help with the original drafting of the bill "through a direct request from the President." Senators Wheeler and Rayburn, he said, asked him to help bring about passage of the bill.

The senate committee on audit and controls reported favorably on a resolution calling for a \$50,000 appropriation to investigate lobbying in connection with all legislation at this session, and the resolution was adopted by the senate.

PERHAPS it was the summer heat in Washington; perhaps there was a lot of pressure from the direction of the White House. Anyhow, the backbones of the house Democrats, recently so stiff against "dictation" by the administration, weakened most noticeably when the house took up the re-drafting of the Tennessee Valley authority act. Nearly all the recent "rebels" among the Democrats fell into line and the bill was shorn of every major provision that was objectionable to the President. These amendments were approved:

To delete a clause saying the TVA must sell power or chemicals at not less than cost after July 1, 1937.

To let the TVA operate without absolute control by the comptroller general over its expenditures.

To delete a section preventing the agency from constructing power lines paralleling existing private ones.

To let the authority decide whether private interests may build dams or appurtenant works on the Tennessee river or tributaries.

This victory greatly heartened the administration forces, and they pressed forward to try for another in the conference on the utilities bill. Also in the senate they carried on a determined fight for the amendments broadening the powers of the AAA. Senators Borah and Byrd were the chief opponents of the New Dealers in this latter battle.

ONE of the hottest scraps of the year developed between Secretary of the Interior Ickes and Senator Tydings of Maryland over the inquiry into the administration of Gov. Paul M. Pearson in the Virgin Islands. The secretary accused the senator of "white-washing" a witness before the Tydings committee; and the senator retorted by advising the secretary to "confine yourself to the duties for which you have been appointed." Both of them were thoroughly angry and Tydings in a letter accused Ickes of seeking "cheap publicity."

Federal Judge T. Webber Wilson of the Virgin Islands had given testimony that exasperated Ickes and the secretary demanded that the judge be removed from office for "official misconduct." Then Ickes wrote to Tydings a letter carrying his charge of "white-washing" and saying of the judge's testimony: "There was no cross-examination to test his truthfulness, and if any statement ever needed such a test, it was his."

Judge Wilson had told the committee that there had been "administrative interference" with his court and that Morris Ernst, counsel for the Civil Liberties union, while a guest of Governor Pearson, had threatened to put him "on the spot" in the press unless he granted a rehearing to a government employee accused of theft. Tydings accused Secretary Ickes of "gross deceit upon the American people" by stating in an Interior department press release that Paul G. Yates, administrative assistant of Pearson, had been discharged, when "you know and I know that Mr. Yates had re-

signed five days before your press release was issued."

TO PROVIDE quick employment and end the dole, the entire four-billion-dollar works-relief fund must be expended within the next twelve months. Such was the flat statement of President Roosevelt to the state PWA directors, who were gathered in Washington for a two day conference. After discussing the old PWA program, the President said: "You are now an important part of an even greater effort—one to be made during the next year which will provide quick employment, so that we can attain, if possible, the goal we have set within this year 1935. Before the year is ended we will end the dole we have been paying to employable persons during the last two years. In other words, we must give useful work to three and one-half million people and I believe we are going to do it."

"In order to do it, of course, we are faced by a problem of arithmetic which is comparatively simple. We have four billion dollars and three and one-half million people to put to work with it. That means we have to average things up. It means that we have on the average about \$1,140 per man year.

"That has to include the cost of the material, so that the four billion dollars includes not only the amount we pay the men but also the cost of the material. It is a perfectly simple arithmetical problem—we have to work out an average that will come within the sum of money divided by the number of people we have to put to work.

"You know, of course, that we have spent a great deal of money during the last two years, but we find now not only that there are additional funds at our disposal but also that the need of permanent work all over the United States is not yet ended. We find that the deeper we go into it the more opportunities we have to do constructive work in almost every community in the country."

STANDING atop a cannon, Benito Mussolini told 15,000 Black Shirt volunteers and the world as well that in the matter of Ethiopia "We have decided upon a struggle in which we as a government and a people will not turn back. The decision is irrevocable."

Unless Emperor Haile Selassie gets right down on his knees to Il Duce, the war in his dominion will begin in September when the rainy season ends. No one expects the "king of kings" to submit tamely, so other nations are advising their nationals in Ethiopia to get out of the country. William Perry George, the American charge d'affaires at Addis Ababa, was authorized by the State department to advise American citizens to leave, or take whatever other steps he deemed necessary to protect their safety.

Mr. George transmitted to the emperor the rather curt reply of the American government to his majesty's appeal for aid in stopping Italy. Secretary of State Hull, writing by authority of the President, told the emperor the United States was "loath to believe" the two countries actually will engage in warfare as they are both signatories of the Kellogg pact. The note also pointed out that the arbitration proceedings might arrive at a satisfactory decision.

The chances that war might be averted by the arbitrators seemed slight. Those gentlemen met again at Scheveningen and their session was disrupted by the Italian representatives when a spokesman for Ethiopia set forth the fact that Ualual, scene of the bloody clash last December, is well within the Ethiopian border.

Emperor Haile Selassie made another attempt to get international action by calling for a meeting of the League of Nations council to thresh out the dispute with Italy. At the same time the emperor appealed to the world for fair play and protested to five European powers against their refusal to permit the shipment of arms and munitions to Ethiopia. It was said in Geneva the league council probably would be called into session within a few weeks. The protest about arms shipments was not likely to do Ethiopia any good. Indeed, it was said Great Britain had provisionally joined the nations banning such transactions.

NIKOLA TESLA, famed scientist, celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday in New York city by giving out the news of three astonishing developments in the sciences. They are:

A new method and apparatus for transmitting mechanical energy over any terrestrial distance.

Passage of an induction current with a varying flux one way only through a circuit without use of a commutator. Proof, after observation of cosmic rays, that many of the propositions of relativity are false.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL MCARDL doesn't care where the chips fall when he starts hewing. He has just given an opinion that ruins the President's plan to require bidders on government contracts to bind themselves to abide by any future legislation providing for minimum wages and maximum hours of labor in employment on such contracts. A proviso to this effect was being exacted of bidders.

Mr. McCardl holds that the proviso may be viewed as a "request" only and a bid could not be rejected because the person making it refused to subscribe to this principle.

The plan was advanced from the procurement division of the treasury, which proposed that the government replace the requirement for code compliance on all government bidders, knocked out when the recovery act was voided by the Supreme court.

THOUGH the naval treaties of Washington and London have been abrogated by Japan, the American government still keeps its eye on the maximum permitted for our navy by 1942 and is making a determined effort to reach it, much to the delight of the "big navy" men and to citizens generally who believe in adequate preparedness.

Secretary of the Navy Claude Swanson has announced that a ship construction program has been decided upon which calls for the construction of 12 destroyers and six submarines. These are in addition to the 15 destroyers and six submarines for which bids have been advertised and will be opened next month.

The airplane building program calls for 555 new planes during the current fiscal year. Of these, 282 will be replacement planes for those now in service and 273 will be new craft. Two airplane carriers and six cruisers now under construction and scheduled for completion in 1937 are to house some of the new planes.

FLOODS in several eastern states, following torrential rains, took about three score lives and did vast property damage. The Finger lakes and Catskill mountain regions in New York suffered most severely. The deaths there numbered forty, and thousands were rendered homeless. Gov. Herbert H. Lehman announced an immediate allocation of \$300,000 for use in rehabilitation.

NOBODY who knew Ray Long well was surprised to hear that formerly famous magazine editor had committed suicide at his California home. In late years he had not been very successful in business, his most recent ventures being in the field of scenario writing. He was not one to put up with adversity very long, and it was characteristic of him to take the easy way out, of suicide.

CRITICS of the President's program have made up their minds that he is deliberately building up a "crisis" which will provide excuse for a demand for constitutional amendments in the campaign of 1938. Their conviction was strengthened by Mr. Roosevelt's letter to Congressman Samuel B. Hill, chairman of the interstate commerce subcommittee, urging the passage of the Guffey coal bill regardless of doubts as to its constitutionality.

President Roosevelt followed the suggestion of Attorney General Cummings that the legislation should be put through congress because "the situation is so urgent," and that the question of constitutionality should be left up to the courts.

The President, admitting that coal mining is in itself an intrastate transaction, nevertheless wrote that the final test of the validity of the Guffey bill would depend upon whether production conditions directly affect, promote, or obstruct interstate commerce. The Supreme court, in the Schechter NRA case, quoted a previous opinion that mining, manufacturing, and other forms of production were as local in their character as the production of crops, and hence beyond the reach of congress.

THE secretary of the treasury appeared before the house ways and means committee which was trying to formulate the new tax bill wanted by the administration, and declared that, depending on the rates of taxation adopted, the measure might bring in as much as \$1,000,000,000 a year or as little as \$118,000,000 annually. As the representative of the administration, the young secretary declined to advise as to the rates, though the Republican members of the committee tried to pin him down to details. The legislation outlined by the President includes taxation of inheritances and gifts, higher surtaxes on million dollar incomes and graduated income taxes on corporations.

Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon, Republican leader, predicted that congress either would recess and reconvene in the fall or would put off enactment of the tax bill until the session beginning January 3 next.

OUR army lost an able and distinguished officer in the death of Maj. Gen. Stuart Heintzelman at the army and navy hospital in Hot Springs, Ark. The grandson and son of army officers, General Heintzelman was graduated from West Point in 1890. After service in the Philippines and China he was sent to France as an observer, and when America entered the war he held high staff assignments. He won the D. S. M. and was decorated by France and Italy. From the inception of the OCG General Heintzelman was in charge of federal reclamation projects in Missouri until last February, when he was given command of the Seventh corps area.

Common Duty to Wage Warfare on House Fly

Effort to change the name of the common house fly to typhoid fly is the motive behind a movement started by Dr. L. O. Howard, government entomologist.

The name, house fly, is too tame. The fly is accepted as a nuisance, but not considered as the dangerous insect it is. Government health authorities have proved that the common flies that buzz about homes and kitchens carry bacteria which can infect human beings with at least a dozen diseases in addition to typhoid.

Doctor Howard states, "Even if the fly were a creature difficult to destroy, the failure on the part of people to make any effort to reduce its number could properly be termed criminal neglect. As it is now an easy matter to do away with flies, this neglect becomes an evidence of ignorance. . . . It is the duty of every individual to guard against the occurrence of flies upon his premises."

As Doctor Howard says, it is no longer difficult to rid a house of flies. A reliable fly killer when sprayed in a fine mist is the most effective method of ridding the house of flies and other insects.

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There's a faster way of producing hams and bacon than feeding pigs all the corn they will eat. "Give them some bananas," says Hawaii producers.

As in other parts of the United States, the agricultural experiment station is an important feature in the territory of Hawaii. Prof. L. A. Henke, animal husbandman of the University of Hawaii, has just announced the results of a banana diet for pigs. A 25 per cent ration of the fruit puts on weight more rapidly than a full grain ration.

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