

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Congress Quits as Long's Filibuster Kills Deficiency Appropriation—Russia Rejects America's Protest Against Communist Subversive Activities.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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CONGRESS ended its session at midnight Monday—after the clock hands had been moved back three times—the house hilarious with



Senator Long

refreshment, song and rustic antics, the senate furled because Huey Long of Louisiana had conducted a lone filibuster for seven hours and talked to death the third deficiency appropriation bill. This measure carried \$33,000,000 tax to aged, retirement pay to railroad workers and money for crippled children.

The Kingfish defeated all efforts to silence him and was adamant to pleas that he was cutting off funds for humanitarian purposes. He was insisting that the house be forced to vote on the cotton and wheat loan amendments to the bill which the senate had inserted but which the lower chamber had rejected.

A compromise had been reached between the administration and the bloc of cotton state senators by which the cotton raisers were to get government loans of 10 cents a pound, and the wheat farmers were left out. Long would not stand for the elimination of the amendments thus arranged.

The Democratic leaders were afraid that if submitted to the house government loans not only on wheat and cotton but on other commodities would be voted at a cost of upward of \$2,000,000,000.

They determined to let the appropriation bill fall rather than submit to Long's terms, although Robinson stated that information from the controller general's office indicated there would be no available funds for the social security program unless the deficiency measure were passed.

The compromise cotton plan was accepted reluctantly by the AAA, and many of the southern senators were dissatisfied with it. The senators from the wheat states were disgruntled because the wheat loan policy was completely abandoned.

SOME of the congressional leaders lingered in Washington long enough to hold a conference with President Roosevelt and Comptroller General McCarl on ways of obtaining funds cut off by failure of the third deficiency bill. They came to the conclusion that the administrative agencies provided for in the social security act, as well as the other agencies scheduled to receive appropriations in the deficiency bill, could be set up with money either from the work relief or other unexpended funds.

However, Mr. McCarl advised, and the congressmen agreed, that grants in aid to states for old age assistance, the blind and dependent children, cannot be paid out of the work relief fund, because such activities would not create employment.

This restriction, it was concluded, would not apply to grants to states for the setting up of administrations for unemployment insurance and other activities contemplated by the social security bill, for this would provide jobs.

"It is apparent that the Long filibuster will work a great hardship, but a study is being made with a view to proceeding wherever it is possible with a preparation for the administration of the social security, the railroad retirement law and other measures provided for in the deficiency bill," said Senator Joseph T. Robinson, Democratic leader.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general protest by newspapers against the financing of paper mill construction by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, on the ground that government control of print paper supply threatens the freedom of the press, Chairman Jesse Jones of the RFC intimated that this practice may be extended and at the same time said this question was for congress to decide. He produced figures showing that 600,000 tons of paper pulp is imported annually.

"Every governmental loan to industry competes with private capital, and it is for congress to determine how long it wishes such loans made," Jones said, in a formal statement on RFC cash supplied to the Crossett Lumber company of Alabama to make paper.

Jones recalled that the house of representatives on January 29 rejected an amendment to the RFC extension bill which would have eliminated loans to paper mills. He inferred that this action gave the RFC a free hand to engage in financing of paper mills.

The application of the Crossett company is the only one received by the RFC thus far, Jones said, and added that the security behind the loan was worth \$12,000,000, whereas the loan itself was for only \$3,850,000. The

company's previous earning record, including the last few years, assures its payment, he argued.

RECONSTRUCTION Finance corporation announced that, in order to encourage the construction of new homes and to assist the housing administration, it will buy and sell insured mortgages. Chairman Jones said a \$10,000,000 revolving fund had been made available to the RFC mortgage company for this purpose. The mortgage company also was authorized to lend money to companies formed for the purpose of helping property owners pay taxes.

Jones also said that debt burdened school and reclamation districts have become eligible for loans. Advances to them will be on much the same principle as loans to aid drainage and levee districts in refinancing, he said. Both will be expected to compromise their debts with bondholders and then the corporation will refinance them on a lower level.

FRIENDLY diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia, established in November 1933, will not longer be maintained unless the Soviet government mends its ways and keeps its solemn pledges to prevent Communist infiltration on its soil or under its control for overthrowing the government of the United States.

This was the warning handed to N. N. Krestinsky, assistant foreign affairs commissar of the U. S. S. R. by Ambassador William C. Bullitt in Moscow, whose note was written by direction of the Department of State in Washington.

The language of the note was not quite so blunt as the above, but it did not mince words and its implications were not to be doubted. It said the United States "anticipates the most serious consequences if the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is unwilling, or unable, to take appropriate measures to prevent further acts in disregard of the solemn pledge given by it to the government of the United States."

Within two days the Soviet government replied, through Krestinsky, with a coldly worded note flatly "rejecting" the American protest. It was based on the old and more than dubious contention that the Moscow government is not and cannot be held responsible in any way for the doings of the Communist Internationale, and continued: "Thus the statement about a violation by the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of its obligations contained in the note of November 16, 1933, does not follow from the obligations assumed mutually by both parties, in view of which I cannot accept your protest and am compelled to reject it."

Krestinsky concluded by declaring the Soviet government is striving for "further development of friendly cooperation" between the Soviet union and the United States.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI, in an interview granted to the correspondent of the London Daily Mail, declared flatly: "It should be realized without the possibility of misunderstanding that whoever applies sanctions (penalties for treaty violations) against Italy will be met by the armed hostility of our country."

The duke added that if the League of Nations voted sanctions against Italy, his country would at once leave the league.

This was enough for France, which has been sitting on the fence, trying to retain the friendship of both Italy and Great Britain. Premier Laval called the cabinet together and was empowered by it to oppose the application of sanctions by the League of Nations against Italy. He expounded to the ministers his plan to persuade the council of the league to look upon Italy's projected attack on Ethiopia as a "colonial expedition" rather than a war. This would permit the league to slide out of a situation that gravely threatens its prestige. It was understood that Laval told the cabinet England was less determined to act drastically, having realized the danger in Mussolini's stand that sanctions would mean war. He also said that the duke's agreement to present the case at Geneva indicated his desire to avoid a quarrel with the great powers or break with the league.

So, at this writing, it appears poor Ethiopia is left to her own resources in opposing Mussolini's rapacity. His intentions were clearly stated in the interview quoted.

In reply to a direct question whether there is the slightest possibility of his changing his attitude, Mussolini replied in the negative, saying "none at all—unless Ethiopia gives in."

Opening up of the vast Ethiopian interior, he said would benefit "all civilized states." Colonization of Ethiopia by Italy would "completely fulfill all colonial aspirations of Italy."

JOHN N. WILLYS, long prominent in the automobile industry and ambassador to Poland for two years in the Hoover administration, died in New York at the age of sixty-one. He had been ill since last May when he suffered a heart attack. Mr. Willys, forced into business at eighteen by the death of his father, made his first fortune in selling bicycles. In 1908 he took over the Overland Automobile company, which was about to go into the hands of a receiver, and organized the Willys-Overland company at Indianapolis. Later he purchased the Pope-Toledo company at Toledo, Ohio, and moved the Willys-Overland plant there. He sold his automobile holdings to a syndicate in 1929, the deal involving several million dollars.

Thomas Alva Edison, Jr., eldest son of the famous inventor, died suddenly in Springfield, Mass. He was head of the research engineering department of the Edison plant at West Orange, N. J.

IN HIS radio address to the convention of Young Democrats clubs in Milwaukee President Roosevelt insisted that he was not speaking with any political motive but was saying "precisely—word for word—what I would say were I addressing a convention of the youth of the Republican party." He justified the New Deal as an intervention by government to protect and aid common men in the complex scheme of modern existence, and asserted its aim was not socialism, but regulated individualism.

Championing a philosophy of change, the President said that "rules are not necessarily sacred—principles are. The methods of the old order are not, as some would have you believe, above the challenge of youth."

"To the American youth of all parties I submit a message of confidence—unite and challenge." Under the auspices of the Republican national committee, Representative Bertrand H. Snell of New York spoke over the radio in direct reply to the President's appeal to youth—for both parties are making strenuous endeavors to capture the allegiance of the young men and women. Mr. Snell argued that a change in the Constitution abolishing rights of individual citizens would place "those who possess the power, the wealth and the cunning" in control of the government.

"Surely the youth of America," he said, "are not prepared to endorse any administration which is seeking to bring about such a condition."

JOHN G. WINANT, former governor of New Hampshire and a Republican, has been appointed chairman of the social security board, the body that will direct the part of the New Deal which the President is proud of and which he declares is one of the outstanding social reforms in the history of the government.



J. G. Winant

Mr. Winant's two associates on the board are to be Arthur J. Altmeyer of Wisconsin, who has been serving as an assistant secretary of labor, and Vincent Morgan Miles of Fort Smith, Ark., an attorney who has been associated with the Public Works administration. Each is to receive an annual salary of \$10,000.

In sending his nominations to the senate the President stipulated that Winant will serve six years, Altmeyer will serve four years and Miles one year. All appointments date from last August 13 when the social security bill reached the White House.

As chairman of the new national labor relations board, operating under the Wagner act, the President named Joseph Madden, a Pittsburgh attorney. The other members appointed are John M. Carmody of New York and Edwin S. Smith of Massachusetts. J. D. Ross was nominated as a member of the securities and exchange commission, a job that it had been thought would be given to Benjamin Cohen.

APPLICATIONS for money from the four billion dollar works relief fund must be in by September 12, according to an executive order issued by the President. In addition, he directed all agencies—federal, state or municipal—to be prepared either to ask for bids or begin works operations by October 22.

The President has set November 1 as the date for putting his works program into high gear and taking all the unemployed off the relief rolls. The new orders, issued to the heads of all departments and emergency agencies, were regarded as moves to realize that goal.

JAMES A. MOFFETT has resigned as federal housing commissioner, carrying out his long expressed desire to return to private business. It was presumed in Washington that he would be succeeded by Stewart McDonald.

In his letter of resignation Mr. Moffett told the President that, despite necessary delays in getting the housing program under way, the housing administration was insuring construction and repair loans at the rate of \$90,000,000 a month. He also quoted bureau of labor statistics to show that residential building permits through the country in July had increased 214 per cent in value as compared with July, 1934. Nonresidential permits were up 18.4 per cent, he said, while alteration and repair permits had jumped 85.9 per cent.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Politics being inseparable from governmental administration under our system, it becomes a **Build Campaign Battle Lines** pertinent at this time to examine what has happened in the late session of congress. In a nation where a two-party political structure obtains, politics cannot be segregated from the administration in the larger sense. It is not with a critical attitude, therefore, that the magnifying glass is held over the doings of President Roosevelt, his cabinet and brain trust advisers and the congress that has lately adjourned.

I believe it will be agreed that politics has predominated in the management of our national affairs during the last eight months especially. The fervor and appeal that was held for recovery by all of us during the earlier days of the Roosevelt administration seems to have been largely dissipated. That is not to say that no one wants to see recovery accomplished. It is to say, however, that this fervor and this appeal has been somewhat subordinated. Thus, it can be summarized in a brief sentence: The administration, looking to the elections of 1936, has been engaged in building campaign battle lines and forging campaign ammunition.

The 1934 congressional elections presented to the country an issue based on the performances and the future program of President Roosevelt. It was accorded a prop. sition where citizens were voting either to give the New Deal a future mandate and the President authority to proceed as he thought best or to vote a mandate that would call a halt on those same performances and policies. The country supported Mr. Roosevelt, some of his advisers since have told me, in a manner even more substantial than he had anticipated. He emerged from that campaign with a larger Democratic majority in the house than he had before. In addition he was accorded much more than a necessary two-thirds of the senate. The picture looked rosy.

Though the congress that has just ended its session gave the President many anxious hours, I think that on the whole it can be regarded as having provided him with a record of rather arduous and faithful response to his wishes. He did not obtain quite all that he wanted nor did he obtain that portion of his program exactly in the form he desired. But, again, politics in congress is almost a matter of general compromise anyway so that the President can be said to have come out very well. He can proceed now to any plans for that session of congress which convenes next January and which, in accordance with nearly all precedents, will adjourn ahead of the national political conventions next June.

Politics being the game that it is, one must look into the future to discover the ultimate goal. So, looking into the future, one discerns several objects or objectives of decided, as well as important, interest to the individual voters. In the first place, the consensus surely is that Mr. Roosevelt has built a legislative and administrative structure in our government that presents a concrete and unqualified issue to the American people, namely, to proceed along New Deal lines and make the necessary changes in the Constitution to permit execution of those policies or to throw the whole thing overboard. There can be no equivocation. As the structure stands at this time and as it will stand until the next session of congress is under way, many New Deal propositions are of doubtful constitutionality. If they are so held by the Supreme court of the United States then Mr. Roosevelt is believed certain to turn to the country and request Constitutional revision.

His latest and perhaps his most definite move in this direction was in connection with the so-called Guffey coal bill. It will be recalled that, in placing that piece of legislation on the "must" list of measures to be acted on before congress adjourned, Mr. Roosevelt advised house leaders that he wanted it passed and he did not care particularly whether some members of congress had "reasonable doubts" about its constitutionality. In effect, therefore, the President commanded passage of legislation that must place before the Supreme court a vital question for determination. It will be tested. Of that there is no doubt. If the law is held unconstitutional, it merely means that its provisions form another part of the campaign battleground observed to be shaping.

Mr. Roosevelt also succeeded in forcing through congress the legislation destroying the public utility holding companies. It was a tough fight but the President was victorious. Now, I hear from many sources that court examination of the legislation likewise will come because some folks are convinced it is confiscatory. If it is, it is unconstitutional.

And so it is in the case of several other pieces of legislation enacting New Deal ideas into statutes. One by one, it appears they will get before courts for review.

Thus, the line of cleavage is marked. While the President has remained silent, neither denying nor confirming the undercurrent of information that I have reported here, one cannot fail to reach the conclusion that if many of the New Deal measures are held invalid, the President and his New Deal supporters, of necessity, must go to the country in the next election seeking constitutional modification to permit the use of policies now inimical to our form of government. That is the issue which the voters will be called upon to decide.

Since we have examined the circumstances from the New Deal side, let us likewise see what the Republicans and other oppositionists are doing. Lately, I have talked with some of the recognized Republican wheel horses. Whether they speak the sentiment of the masses of Republican voters or whether they voiced only their own views is not important here. Political straws do show which way the political winds are blowing. So when these veterans of many political battles say that they welcome the creation by the New Dealers of an issue, they evidently see the situation worthwhile opportunities. When they say that they are willing to go to the country in defense of the Constitution as it stands and the traditions it represents, they evidently feel they are on firm ground.

Much water can go over the dam between now and November, 1936, and much sentiment can be changed in that time. But the Republicans thus far have done very little in the way of building up their case. While they appear to be enthusiastic about their chances against Mr. Roosevelt in 1936, they have thus far failed to develop even a nucleus of an organization.

It may be their strategy not to start their campaigning too early. Indeed, I have heard the thought expressed that it would be unwise to use ammunition too far in advance. At any rate, there have been only a scattered few direct attacks on what certainly must be the issue of 1936, the question of revision or retention of our Constitution. It is to be noted in this connection that those Republicans who have let go with a few shots have been of the ultraconservative type. I think it is generally agreed that the Republican set-up next year will be managed not by the old ultraconservatives but by those who have pulled away to some extent and who are willing to admit that times have changed conditions and a new model, perhaps not streamlined, is necessary.

One argument advanced why Republican leadership has not been more active is that if a start is made too early, the Roosevelt administration will have an opportunity to answer all of the criticism. Said one Republican leader: "We would be utterly foolish to permit the New Dealers to know all of our arguments too far in advance. I, for one, am content to let them proceed with their socialistic regimentation because I know that every time a calf is given too much rope, it chokes itself to death."

Then there is another factor which I understand is responsible for the delay in Republican attacks. A good many Republicans have a hope, at least, that a campaign based on a plea for maintenance of our Constitution and the traditions and modes of living which it represents will draw to the Republican candidate a certain segment of Democrats who are unsympathetic with the New Deal. There has been plenty of evidence in the session of congress just adjourned that at heart numerous Democrats lean to the conservative as distinguished from the New Deal method of government. The closing hours of the congressional session seemed to baffle this. But anyone who mingled among old time Democrats in the house could not fail to have observed existence of a doubt as to the wisdom of many New Deal policies. Those men were forced to line up behind the Presidential program not because they believed in it fully but for two other reasons. These reasons were: first, they still entertained some fear that if they broke with the President it might mean their political defeat for renomination and re-election, and second, they were harassed and physically and mentally tired and wanted to go home.

The late summer and fall months during which these representatives and senators naturally will be among their constituents is rather likely to provide them with a better knowledge of where they stand. They will come back next January either convinced that they must be fast to the New Deal or they will be more obstreperous than they have been in the recent session. If the strength appears to be on the Roosevelt side, the next session of congress will be simply a rubber stamp for the Chief Executive. If, on the other hand, they find that the enthusiasm for the New Deal has waned, I think it is fair to predict that the next session of congress will be one of the most troublesome with which any President has yet been confronted.

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