

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Hundreds Perish in Hurricane That Hits Florida—Liner Stranded on Reef—Italy Accuses Ethiopia Before League Council.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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FLORIDA was the victim of another terrific hurricane that swept up from the Caribbean across the keys and the southern end of the state, then along the west coast and into Georgia. The total of fatalities was uncertain but at this writing the number of dead is estimated at more than 500. Of these perhaps 300 were war veterans in labor camps on the keys where they were employed in construction work. All buildings on many of the keys were demolished and a relief train that had been sent to take the veterans away from the danger zone was smashed to pieces. The survivors on the islands were without shelter, food and medical supplies, but relief expeditions were quickly sent by the Red Cross and other agencies.

The towns along the west coast reported extensive property damage. Responding to assertions that the great loss of life in the veterans' labor camps was due to lack of preparation against such a disaster, President Roosevelt ordered a thorough investigation by Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, administrator of veterans' affairs. Harry Hopkins, head of the FERA which set up the camps, also started an inquiry, and so did the American Legion. The affair promised to attain the bad eminence of a national scandal.

Caught in the fury of the storm, the Morgan liner Dixie, from New Orleans for New York, was driven aground on French reef, about 60 miles south of Miami. Her passengers and crew, numbering 372, were in great peril for three days, but various steamers and coast guard cutters rushed to the rescue in response to her SOS call and as soon as wind and seas abated enough all were taken off the stranded vessel and conveyed to land, most of them to Miami. Passengers on the Dixie warmly praised the gallant work of the ship's officers and crew.

OFF the coast of Portugal the Cunard-White Star liner Doric was in collision with the French steamer Formigny and so badly disabled that she called for aid. The British steamers Orion and Viceroy of India went to the rescue and took off the Doric's passengers, numbering 736. The crew remained aboard. The Doric was returning from a cruise to the Mediterranean. Wireless reports said the Formigny was all right.

BARON POMPEI ALOISI, cold and sardonic, stood up before the League of Nations council in Geneva and presented Italy's case against Ethiopia, denouncing that empire as utterly unworthy to be classed with civilized countries. In addition to his speech, he laid before the council a long memorandum detailing the alleged conditions of slavery that still prevail in Ethiopia and the participation of its government in the slave trade. This memorandum was elaborately documented.



Baron Aloisi

Addressing the council, Aloisi said in part: "Ethiopia, taking advantage of her position as a member of the League of Nations, sheltered behind the treaty of friendship concluded with Italy in 1928, has since that date multiplied provocations, incursions of pillagers, acts of brigandage, and violence against the peaceful populations of our frontier. The Ethiopian government does nothing to make itself worthy of belonging to the community of civilized nations. Even today that country has to be represented by European advisers in order to make its voice heard in the League of Nations."

"The Italian government considers, in these circumstances, that a state such as Ethiopia cannot have either equality of right or equality of duties as compared with civilized states. To claim that members of the league are required to observe rules of the covenant in their relations with members who have always and constantly been outside those rules is contrary to all the principles of right and justice." To the press correspondents the baron was even more explicit. "You have heard the Italian thesis," he said. "That is final. Italy has asked nothing, not even the withdrawal of Ethiopia from the league. From now on Italy will play a passive role here. We are not going to discuss anything with Ethiopia, but we will discuss Ethiopia with the league."

"It is up to the members of the league council to decide whether they want to expel Ethiopia or expel Italy."

Jeze ended with a dramatic reminder that time is pressing and this is not the moment for dilatory measures. "The question is whether there is danger of war, and whether there is danger of an early opening of a war of extermination," he said. "That is the point to which the council ought to direct its most serious attention."

WHILE the European statesman were struggling with the Italian Ethiopian question, Secretary of State Cordell Hull quietly took a hand in the game. He did not in any way involve the United States in the wrangle, but he put an end to the deal, whereby Haile Selassie was giving a great development concession to Americans. Officials of the Standard-Vacuum Oil company went to Mr. Hull's office and admitted ownership of the grant. The secretary admonished them that the concession had been "the cause of great embarrassment not only to this government, but to other governments who are making strenuous and sincere efforts for the preservation of peace."

The oil men thereupon announced their intention of withdrawing from the deal with Ethiopia, and the big concession sensation was entirely deflated. The British government was especially pleased with this outcome and felt deeply grateful to Secretary Hull.

MONTHLY estimates of private forecasters are that, if there are no serious frosts in September, the corn crop of the country will be 2,231 million bushels. This is 54 million bushels larger than last season's harvest when the drought cut returns to 1,377 million bushels. When compared with "normal" production this season's indicated crop is moderately deficient. In Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio the crop is in excellent condition and the returns promise to be larger than appeared likely a month ago. The situation is reversed in Kansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska. In Iowa, the biggest producing state, the prospects are slightly less favorable than a month ago.

The spring wheat crop was estimated at 155 million bushels. Using the government's last estimate on the winter crop of 432 million bushels, total wheat production this year is placed at 587 million bushels.

GERALD B. THORNE, chief of the live stock and feed grains division of AAA, says that in order to rectify inequities in corn-hog production it has been decided to permit modification of the base production quotas. The tentative plan is: Each county now has an aggregate base production of corn and hogs which will be left untouched. Within the county bases, however, machinery will be set up, largely through county committees, by which the bases can be altered.

Thus the farmer who planted less than normal corn in 1932 and 1933 and has a low corn base can be given an increased base. In the same way the farmer who raised fewer hogs for one reason or another in those years than ordinary on a farm of that size may get a larger hog base. For these increases, however, there will have to be corresponding adjustments downward for other farmers.

EARLY court tests of the Wagner labor dispute: act may be obtained, for already complaints have been filed with the new labor relations board against two subsidiaries of General Motors and the Portsmouth, Ohio, plant of the Wheeling Steel corporation. The complainants are the United Automobile workers and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. They are represented by Charlton Ogburn, counsel for the A. F. of L., who says the unions charge that the companies violated the act's fair labor practice provisions.

UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, in annual session at Amarillo, Texas, having been assured that the stars and bars would not be banned, accepted the invitation to hold a joint reunion on Gettysburg battlefield with the Grand Army of the Republic in 1938. Paul Roy, who extended the invitation on behalf of Governor Earle of Pennsylvania, told the confederates they would be free to carry the flag of the south wherever and whenever they pleased.

NOTEWORTHY among recent deaths are those of Right Rev. Walter T. Sumner, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Oregon, who won fame long ago as a crusader against organized vice in Chicago; George C. Hanson, veteran American diplomat, who shot himself to death on a steamer when returning from Greece; and Charles J. Vopicka of Chicago, who was American minister to several Balkan countries during the "world war."

DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN, veteran leader of the Zionists, was elected president of their world organization at the nineteenth congress held in Lucerne. A resolution was adopted declaring against "systematic deprivation of the rights of Jews in Germany, which undermines their moral and material position." The German delegation to the congress unanimously voted against the resolution, declaring it did not constitute a "constructive plan" to meet the situation of Jews in the Reich.

SIR MALCOLM CAMPBELL, the English speed demon, satisfied his ambition to run his automobile, the Bluebird, at a rate of 300 miles an hour, on a salt track in Utah. As a matter of fact, he covered the thirteen mile course at an average speed of 301.337 an hour or more than five miles a minute. Over one measured mile he ran at the rate of 304.331.

RUSSIA'S reply in America's protest against the subversive plotting of the Communists in Soviet territory was a rejection and a coldly worded re-assertion of the old and more than dubious position that the Moscow government is not and cannot be held responsible for the doings of the Communist Internationale. This was considered for four days by official Washington and then it was decided to let the matter drop with another and rather milder warning. The new note sent to Moscow said: "If the Soviet government pursues a policy of permitting activities on its territory involving interference with the internal affairs of the United States, instead of 'preventing' such activities, as its written pledge provides, the friendly and official relations between the two countries cannot but be seriously impaired."

SENATOR HUEY LONG crowed a lot about the success of his one-man filibuster which killed the third deficiency appropriation bill, but he didn't add to his popularity among the people who looked forward for help from the agencies that are now hampered by the failure of the measure. Besides that, it is now admitted that his filibuster rescued the Democratic house leaders from a tight place in the matter of the cotton and wheat loans. Still further, it appears that Huey's domination of Louisiana is going to be investigated by a congressional committee. That committee probably will be headed by Representative William L. Granfield of Massachusetts, for he was the author of the elections investigation bill, which was found to contain a little "joker." This joker gives the committee such wide powers that it can probe into all the facts concerning Long's complete control of election affairs in his state and the methods by which he has attained to the position of a dictator there.



W.L. Granfield

MRS. ANNA WILMARTH ICKES, wife of Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, was killed when an automobile in which she and three friends were riding was overturned in a ditch at Velarde, N. M. Mrs. Genevieve Forbes Herrick, well-known newspaper writer; Ibrahim Seyfullah, secretary of the Turkish embassy in Washington, and Frank Allen of Gallup, N. M., the driver, were severely injured. Allen died later.

SENATOR GEORGE NORRIS of Nebraska and Arthur F. Mullen, former Democratic national committeeman for that state, are engaged in a warm dispute that may cause considerable embarrassment for President Roosevelt, friend of both men. Mullen carried to the White House a hot project against a \$20,000,000 power project which is sponsored by Norris. He is attorney for two \$7,000,000 power plants which already have been approved by the PWA, and he asserts there is no field for the enormous amount of electrical energy that would be developed by the three projects, and probably not enough water for all of them.

The first project approved by PWA was at Columbus, Neb., 80 miles west of Omaha, and situated on the Loupe river. The second was on the Platte river, 150 miles farther west, at Sutherland, Neb. Both were approved in the fall of 1933. BOWED down by deep grief, the Belgian people laid to rest their beloved queen, Astrid, who was killed near Lucerne, Switzerland, when the automobile driven by King Leopold swerved from the road and dashed against a tree. Astrid's skull was crushed and she died almost immediately in the arms of her husband, who was cut painfully by the smashed windshield. The queen's body, taken back to Brussels, was taken to the cathedral of St. Gudule for the funeral ceremony and then was interred in the royal crypt at Laeken, where lie the remains of the late King Albert. The services were simple, in accord with the characters of Astrid and Leopold.

BECAUSE of the possibility of a continued increase in the importation of live stock and its products, an appeal in the name of more than 300,000 farmers and ranchmen, members and patrons of the National Live Stock Marketing association, was sent to President Roosevelt urging that present tariffs and sanitary restrictions on animals, meats, tallow, and similar products be maintained.

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
By WILLIAM BRUCKART  
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington.—Through more years than most of us can remember, the U. S. senate has been the object of caustic criticism, jibe and jest because of its rule permitting unlimited debates. Time after time long senate speeches have been the object of editorial attack in one segment or another of American metropolitan newspapers. Its slow, tortoise-like methods have been held up to ridicule in spoken and written word innumerable times, and its procedure remains unchanged.

It was no occasion for surprise, therefore, when a new outburst of criticism of senate rules of procedure was launched upon us immediately after the last session of congress adjourned. Senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana, the self-styled kingfish, broke loose as he has so many times, broken loose and effectively tied senate plans in a knot. He did the very thing that has precipitated criticism of the senate through all of the years mentioned above and succeeded in a one-man filibuster in blocking passage of an appropriation bill. Indeed, he was so effective in his job that he brought down on his head the wrath of President Roosevelt and all of the New Dealers who were about to realize culmination of some of their most cherished dreams.

While the Long filibuster probably should be criticized because undoubtedly there was some unfairness about it, the reason it takes on more importance at this time is because it placed so many of the New Dealers in a state of high dudgeon mentally and because it again centered attention upon these same senate rules.

By way of preliminary explanation, I believe it ought to be said that no organized body can operate effectively or orderly without first binding itself to adhere to rules of procedure that will give each an opportunity. These rules, in the case of the senate, are very old. It may be said they are antiquated and obsolete; surely some will take that view of them. But nevertheless those are the rules and the senate has been able for a good many years to produce satisfactory legislative results under them. I do not propose here to say that they should be revised or that the present rules should be retained. But I do believe that before changes are made and before those who propose changes spread too much billyhoo, the country should understand some of the reasons which actuate the present urge.

The kingfish spoke for nearly six hours on the closing night of the session. He could not be prevented from speaking after he was once recognized by the presiding officer. He told the senate he was battling for a government loan rate on cotton of 12 cents per pound whereas the administration was proposing to make the rate either nine or ten cents per pound. The senate had placed an amendment on an appropriation bill to carry out the idea of twelve cents a pound and had put up the proposition to the house of representatives which showed no signs of agreeing at all until Mr. Roosevelt took a hand and suggested the compromise of ten cents a pound. All that remained was a formal vote of the senate to put the administration plan into effect. Senator Long decided it should not be and he proceeded to lick the administration single-handedly by continuing his filibuster until the midnight hour when the congress was to adjourn finally.

In blocking the administration compromise, Senator Long also defeated appropriation of something like \$100,000,000 which the administration was going to use in setting up machinery under its so-called security laws, the Guffey bill for regulation of the soft coal industry and the bond created theoretically to settle labor disputes. All of these bills were pressed hard by the administration, if one had not had its antagonists in congress. They were and are strictly New Deal measures. As a result of the Long filibuster none of them can be made fully operative until congress convenes again next January and appropriates the money. So, it can be seen how the pride of the New Deal professors was wounded. It can be seen likewise why they, along with the President, did so much squawking about the Long filibuster. Senator Long was an ideal goat for the situation.

It is not my privilege nor is it within my power to say whether the legislation which Senator Long virtually nullified is so important that five months of delay is the difference between life and death in this country. Indeed, I cannot see any reason for all of the shouts and the criticisms suddenly brought forth because of that filibuster. The bills which were brought to final passage only a few days before adjournment had been languishing in congress since last January.

The President had repeatedly urged their enactment but the congress saw fit to delay. Consequently in various quarters in Washington I heard the inquiry as to why so much damage can be done by delays of five months when there had been delays of seven months preceding enactment of the measures. Some of the more vitriolic among the New Deal critics even went so far as to inquire why all of the hullabaloo over a delay of five months when Mr. Roosevelt made no effort to obtain enactment of the social security bill—the keystone of the New Deal—in the first session of congress under his control. Without knowing all of the answers, it does appear to me that there is quite a bit of unnecessary barking going on about this one incident.

So, without defending a filibuster in any wise, it occurs to me that we ought to look back into history and see the benefits accruing from unlimited debate in the senate, a procedure which the New Dealers now want to change. Through all of the years that congress has existed the senate has moved in a deliberative way. It has been slow, to be sure; yet, records of the past make it appear that this slow procedure has resulted inevitably in better legislation. Many are the schemes that surged forward on the billyhoo of a minority in the house of representatives only to be blocked and properly examined in the senate. Many are the times as well when the deliberative character of senate debate gave time for expression of a majority sentiment in the country and saved it from being precipitated into policies of national legislation that would have worked untold harm. I cannot but believe that the privilege of unlimited debate in the senate has more good features than bad.

Time after time in years past, demands have been made for liberalization of rules in the house of representatives so that individual members might voice their views at length. The house never has yielded from the position it has taken that its numbers were too great to permit free-for-all discussion such as takes place in the senate. The house does its work in committees and those committees are generally under the guidance of the political party in control of the government. The house, therefore, invariably votes the will of the administration. In consequence of this, it is hard to believe that the senate ought to bind and gag its members and prevent their free expression. If there is a minority, that minority ought to be heard. The senate is the forum. As a personal expression, I do not see where any good at all can come from the proposed restrictions for senate debate and I do not believe it will eventually.

For the first time since the Civil war, a federal government bond issue failed the other day to attract enough subscribers to absorb the offering. It was a small offering at that. The amount was only \$100,000,000. The bonds were not, strictly speaking, United States government bonds. They were being issued by the Federal Farm Mortgage corporation but they bore the guarantee of the United States treasury that they would be paid both as to interest and principal and to all intents and purposes may not be distinguished from government bonds.

When the treasury received offers of only \$85,500,000, Secretary Morgenthau was both surprised and chagrined. He laid the failure of the issue to the fact that the bonds were to carry only 1 1/2 per cent interest, a very low rate. It was a part of the treasury policy to sell government securities at interest rates as low as possible to reduce the burden of the interest charge which the government must carry on its gigantic public debt. Nevertheless, "it ain't so good."

The national debt now outstanding is something like \$30,000,000,000. It is approximately \$9,000,000,000 higher than when Mr. Roosevelt took office. It is due to go still higher because additional money must be borrowed to carry out the work-relief plans of the New Deal. Some authorities predict that before Mr. Roosevelt's present term expires something like \$35,000,000,000, the highest in all history for our nation.

Long experience as a student of financial affairs prompts my conclusion that failure of the \$100,000,000 issue to be fully subscribed does not mean that government bonds are a bad investment. I am inclined to the opinion that the treasury tried to drive down the interest rate too low and that most investors figured they could obtain a better return than that which Mr. Morgenthau offered them. But, after all, there is something of a warning in this circumstance. I believe the warning is that if the Roosevelt administration continues to spend and spend and borrow and borrow, it must pay higher and higher interest rates for the money it borrows. Again, that "ain't so good."

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### Housewife's Idea Bkx



**A Paint Hint**  
Do you find it difficult properly to mix paint which has just been opened? The next time you are going to use a can of paint, turn the closed can upside down a couple of days before you intend to use it. You will find that you have no difficulty in mixing the paint.

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## alotabs

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