

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Hauptmann Reprieved by Governor Hoffman—Plan Devised to Avoid New AAA Legislation— Bonus Bill Favored in Senate.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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LESS than thirty hours from the time when he was to die in the electric chair, Bruno Richard Hauptmann, convicted kidnaper and slayer of the Lindbergh baby, was given a thirty-day reprieve by Governor Hoffman of New Jersey. This means he will have at least six more days to live, because he will have to be re-sentenced. The governor did not give specific reasons for his action. He did say: "A reprieve is an act of executive clemency rather than judicial clemency. I am not required to give a reason, but I might say that there are grave doubts in this case, not only in my mind, but in the minds also of our citizens."

There will be only the one reprieve, "unless the evidence should warrant" another, the governor said. If Hauptmann is to be finally saved it must be through the presentation of sufficient new evidence to warrant Justice Trenchard granting a request for a new trial, or for a new plea for clemency to the state pardons court.

The stay came after the United States Supreme court at Washington refused to admit attorneys to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for Hauptmann. That closed the door to all further legal action designed to delay the execution.

Various stories about the crime, some new and others old, are going the rounds and are being investigated by authorities and by the forces of the defense. They are too complicated for summary here.

LITERARY DIGEST'S Presidential straw vote has been concluded, and the final returns indicate a growing opposition to the New Deal. A total of 1,907,681 ballots was received, and of these 62.66 per cent were cast against the President's policies and acts, and 37.34 per cent were for the administration.

Thirty-six states gave majorities against to eleven still in favor of the President and his policies. Among the pro-Roosevelt states was Utah. The others were classified in the release as "southern and border" states.

Of the different sections of the country, New England cast the heaviest "No" vote, going 77.98 per cent against the administration. The Middle Atlantic states from New York to West showed 68.89 per cent of the voters against Mr. Roosevelt and his recovery schemes, while the Middle Western states in the farm belt and the Rocky Mountain states indicated a ratio approximately the same as the nation at large—3 to 2 against. The three Pacific coast states totaled 58.04 against the New Deal.

THERE will be no new legislation to continue the aims of the AAA, if the plans of the administration are adopted, for it has been found by officials that the soil conservation act of 1935 will permit the undertaking of about everything in the bill that the house and senate agriculture committees were drawing up.

In a White House conference the new program was agreed upon by President Roosevelt, Senator J. T. Robinson, majority leader; Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, Attorney General Cummings, Chairman Ellison D. Smith of the senate agriculture committee, Chairman Marvin Jones of the house agriculture committee, Speaker Joseph W. Byrnes, Senator John H. Bankhead (Dem., Ala.), AAA Administrator Davis, and M. G. White of the AAA.

The administration will work out a system of granting farm subsidies to farmers restricting acreage under authority of the soil conservation act of 1935. In connection with the program the administration will make provision for obligations incurred under the AAA.

In a radio address Herbert Hoover offered the country his own plan for bringing recovery to the farmer. Asserting that a new road must be built by which agriculture can "get back onto the solid ground from the quicksand of the New Deal," Mr. Hoover outlined three general or group proposals for farm recovery.

They were:
1. The restoration of the home market to American farmers.
2. The retirement of "thin" and sub-marginal acres, along with a slowing up of reclamation of projects.
3. Encouragement of co-operative marketing and the further improvement of farm credit machinery.

SEVENTEEN persons met a tragic fate in the worst airplane accident that the United States has had. A big transport plane of the American Airlines, en route from New York to Los Angeles, crashed in a swamp near the village of Goodwin, Ark., and its 14 passengers, two pilots and

stewardesses were killed. With great difficulty the bodies of the victims were brought out of the marsh where their bodies were found scattered among fragments of the shattered plane. Officials of the government and of the airline company immediately started an investigation, but the cause of the disaster could not easily be determined.

ALL the air lines of the country have united in the formation of the Air Transport Association of America, whose president and "czar" is Col. Edgar S. Gorrell, chief of staff of the army air service during the World War. Fowler W. Barker, war pilot and former secretary of the transport branch of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, was elected secretary and treasurer.

Co-ordination of schedules, credits, advertising, engineering data, and purchasing power among the various operators prompted the organization of the new association which is intended to be an "ideal trade association." Its functions will be similar to those of the North Atlantic steamship conference and Colonel Gorrell will have powers approximating those of Will Hays of the movies and Judge Landis of baseball.

SENATOR PAT HARRISON'S compromise bonus measure, providing for payment in baby bonds redeemable on demand, was given the right of way in the senate and its passage seemed certain after a brief and lively debate. The veterans' organizations whose bill had been passed by the house accepted the compromise, so it evidently was on its way to the White House for action by the President.

What Mr. Roosevelt would do was not known, reports that he would veto the bill being offset by rumors that he would approve it despite the disapproval of treasury officials.

On the eve of action by the senate every member of that body received from the Economy League a letter written by its president, Henry H. Curran, warning that the bonus legislation would "destroy any chance for confidence in the finances of our government that is necessary if we are ever to regain national prosperity."

The letter said that the national budget is unbalanced, national credit slipping, taxes increasing, purchasing power of the dollar declining and inflation drawing near.

"But that is not all," Curran declared; "the veterans' organizations, as soon as the prepayment of the bonus is authorized by you—if it is—are going after you for service pensions, that is to say, for money pensions to veterans just because they are veterans, even though they were never touched by the war."

"And this means more billions handed out to a special class at the unjust expense of all the rest of our people who are trying, in the face of heavy taxes and financial uncertainty, to struggle up out of five years of hard times."

HAPPY days are nearing for the indigent, for the Social Security bill is beginning to operate. It has announced the appointment of five persons who will administer the social security act.

Murray W. Eätimer of Mississippi was appointed director of the bureau of federal old age benefits. R. Gordon Wagenet of Berkeley, Calif., was appointed director of the bureau of unemployment compensation. Miss Jane M. Hoy of New York was made director of the public assistance bureau of the social security board. Louis Resnick of New York was named director of the informational service bureau.

The board also announced the appointment of Robert E. Huse of Cambridge, Mass., as assistant.

HAVING spent about \$22,000,000 in connection with the steamship Leviathan, the government will now spend approximately \$9,000,000 more on the building of a new vessel to take the place of the great ship that was taken from Germany in wartime. Secretary of Commerce Roper announced the acceptance of a contract submitted by the United States Lines for construction of a sister ship to the Washington and Manhattan.

The contract was executed by the shipping line with the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock corporation for \$11,900,000 for the new ship. Under the new agreement the government may lend up to 75 per cent of \$9,000,000 of the cost of the vessel.

MRS. THOMAS D. SCHALL has filed nomination papers as candidate for the senate seat made vacant by the death of her husband, the late senator from Minnesota. Mrs. Schall says if elected she will carry on "the same vigorous fight" against the New Deal as was waged by her husband.

Rains in Ethiopia Stop the Italian Operations

ETHIOPIA'S "little" rainy season has come, and the advances of the invading Italians are therefore stopped effectively for several weeks at least. The downpours are heavy and continuous, roads are being destroyed, especially in the northern part of the country, and landslides in the mountains are frequent. Foreign observers were of the opinion that all fighting must cease, even in the south where the rains are not so heavy. The "big" rainy season is due to begin in May.

Dispatches received in Rome said 50,000 native troops under General Graziani and 60,000 Ethiopians commanded by Ras Desta Demtu, son-in-law of Emperor Haile Selassie, engaged in a desperate battle along the entire southern front, and that the Ethiopians, who had been converging on the Italian army at Dolo, were in "full retreat."

The Ethiopian government announced that a Red Cross unit headed by Maj. Gerald Burgoyne of England had been bombed and destroyed by Italian planes at Walidia, 90 miles north of Dessye, the commune said seven women and seven old men were killed and half the town burned, and added that the unit was plainly marked with the Red Cross insignia.

Mussolini continued the dispatch of fresh troops to Ethiopia, despite unfavorable conditions. He postponed the meeting of the Fascist grand council from January 18 to February 1, by which time the League of Nations council, it is presumed, will have decided whether to impose an oil embargo on Italy. The league council would very much like to have the United States congress pass its neutrality legislation before the oil embargo question is settled.

Dr. Marcel Junod, International Red Cross delegate, announced at Addis Ababa that he would recommend withdrawal of all Red Cross units from Ethiopia unless Italy definitely promised not to bomb them.

FAILING in their demand for the right of full equality of naval strength for Japan with Great Britain and the United States, the Japanese delegates withdrew from the conference in London and prepared to go home. The American, British, French and Italian delegates, however, refused to let the parley collapse and constituted themselves a four-power conference. Their hope is that they may arrive at some agreement on the size of warships and on limitation of gun calibers; but any real building limitation agreement is admittedly impossible without Japan. It is the intention to invite Germany and Russia to take part in the deliberations, and later the Balkan nations may be invited to participate.

The Japanese, in withdrawing, emphasized their desire to avoid a building race. Their demand is for equality with other powers, on the ground that if the big navies were equal, none could attack another in the defender's home waters. The American argument is that equality does not mean real security, because the United States is so situated geographically, and has such possessions to defend, that it needs a navy superior to Japan's to feel secure.

SOVIET RUSSIA expects to be attacked on both flanks, and is making ready for the conflict, feeling that it can count for defense only on its own forces. The government's newspaper, Journal de Moscou, asserts that Germany and Japan have completed a military coalition or are about to do so, and that it appears Italy wishes to join that alliance.

The Soviet Union already has delivered its answer to alleged war threats with the announcement that its army—the greatest in the world—has been increased during the last year to 1,300,000 men. The bolsheviks estimate they also have a trained reserve as large as that under the czars, when 10,000,000 were called to arms.

If this expected war comes in the east it will start because of the attacks by Manchukuo on the Mongolian frontier, where there have been repeated clashes. In the west it may begin with an attempt of Germany and Poland to conquer the Ukraine.

Maj. Gen. Hayao Tada, commander of the Japanese in North China, predicts that a Russo-Japanese war will begin with a Russian offensive when the soviet's second five year plan is completed, possibly this year.

HARRY L. HOPKINS, WPA administrator, has sent to state administrators a set of regulations intended to protect WPA workers from "chiseling" employers and to keep up wage standards. In his letter to the state officials Mr. Hopkins said:

"I want to make perfectly clear the policy of the works progress administration relative to private employment or employment on contract jobs under the direction of other federal departments which may be offered the WPA workers. It is expected that WPA workers will accept available jobs in private employment, whether of a permanent or temporary nature, provided:

- (1) That the temporary or permanent work shall be a full-time job.
- (2) That such work shall be at a standard or going rate of wages.
- (3) That such work shall not be in conflict with established union relationships.
- (4) That workers shall be offered an opportunity to return to the WPA upon completion of temporary jobs."

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field
FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington. — Disappointment of many Democrats at the Jackson day dinner speech of President Roosevelt was natural enough, but the fact is that the President was very much on the spot, and best political opinion here is that he acted wisely in refusing to be rushed into any statements which, however much enthusiasm they might have aroused among his following at the time, he would regret later. And, more important to those enthusiastic Democrats who applauded and cheered, but were disappointed, the party might regret very bitterly next November!

For the plain truth is that Mr. Roosevelt was not prepared to go to bat on the point that his huge radio audience wanted to hear. What they wanted was a definite program following on the Supreme court's invalidation of the Agricultural Adjustment act.

The chief difficulty lay in the fact that the President, Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, and AAA Administrator Chester C. Davis, one and all, and all their lieutenants and advisers, never dreamed that the Supreme court would invalidate the benefit payments to farmers. As to the processing taxes, they were all a little dubious. And as a matter of fact, they had their program all worked out. Farm payments would go right ahead. Money for them would be found by additional taxes. Even the variety of taxes was pretty well agreed upon. They were to be largely additional sales taxes, chiefly on luxury products.

But along came the court and upset the very fundamentals of the whole AAA system, not only of farm benefit payments but of the plan for restricting crops with a view to maintaining fair prices.

Plenty of schemes had been suggested, and seriously considered by the President and his advisers before AAA was born. Some of them were hurriedly revived in the 48 hours after the Supreme court handed down its decision at noon on January 6 before the President started, after lunch on Wednesday, to write the speech he was to deliver that night.

Needs Careful Study

But the President has a constitutional objection to approving a whole program without careful study, advice from a number of different sources, and criticism from widely varying angles. This explains his love for appointing two or three sets of committees to study, independently, any given proposal—a practice sometimes very annoying and hardly flattering to those involved, but rather beneficial, at times, to the President himself.

And there was no time for any such functioning before the time set for the big speech—bearing in mind that the whole groundwork had already been laid for the entire campaign, but that this groundwork was totally destroyed by the Supreme court decision. Not only had the court knocked the AAA higher than Haman is said to have been hanged, but from the decision the inference was clear that a number of other New Deal fundamentals were scheduled for the same fate.

One plan that has been under consideration for some fifteen years, the so-called McNary-Haugen equalization fee system, is believed by shrewd constitutional lawyers to be sure of running the Supreme court gauntlet successfully. But there are several objections to it, some political, some economic.

In the first place, it bears the name, branded in so to speak, of two Republicans, one of them, Senator Charles L. McNary, actually the minority leader at the present moment.

In the second place, the fundamental idea of the scheme would be to solve the farm surplus problem, but to make the farmer pay for it. Whereas the Roosevelt idea has been to solve the farm surplus problem and make the rest of the country pay for it, on the theory that the farmer for some years now has been ground down way below "parity." Hence the necessity to raise him up.

Townsend Plan

The Townsend plan is unconstitutional, in the light of the Supreme court decision on the Agricultural Adjustment act, according to some of the best constitutional lawyers in Washington.

The part of the decision that sustains this view is the majority holding that it is unconstitutional to tax part of the people for the benefit of the others. This holding, it is contended, would effectively bar the taxing of all the people for the benefit of those more than sixty years old.

Incidentally this will not be the first time Doctor Townsend has heard the point. It was made to him rather effectively last year by Senator William E. Borah, himself rather highly regarded as a constitutional lawyer. Senator Borah wrote Doctor Townsend setting forth his argument, and suggesting that it would be wise for the doctor to have a thorough study of this question made.

It is known that Doctor Townsend did have a lawyer go into the subject, and forwarded to Senator Borah this lawyer's opinion that the Townsend plan was constitutional. It is also

known that Senator Borah did not find this opinion very convincing. Not only that, but he let Doctor Townsend know of his skepticism.

After this there were no developments, so far as Senator Borah's colleagues know. Asked about the matter, he merely said he would want to study the majority and minority opinions of the Supreme court in the AAA case thoroughly before making any comment.

But most lawyers to whom the point has been put since the Supreme court decision have no doubt at all about the point made so long ago by Borah. They think the language of the majority opinion is unescapable—that the general welfare clause of the Constitution, in the opinion of six justices of the Supreme court, is not nearly broad enough to permit the federal government to embark on the Townsend plan.

Provides an Excuse

All of which is apt to change entirely one of the biggest possibilities for headaches to legislatures in the present session of congress. Also to change the entire line of the Presidential campaign.

Thus many senators and representatives will be able to use the excuse that under the Constitution as it now stands it would be sheer folly to pass the Townsend plan. Many of them will be delighted to find some such excuse, for at present they feel—some of them at least—that it is little short of political suicide to commit themselves either for or against the doctor's proposal to grant \$200 a month to the aged.

But the rabid Townsendites, if they become convinced that the Supreme court would knock out their plan even if they win a majority of the house and senate and the President, will naturally turn to the constitutional amending method.

In the event that President Roosevelt decides to make his fight this year on amending the Constitution—or curbing the powers of the Supreme court—the Townsendites will be behind him, and the fight will be more than ever a battle of the conservative versus the radicals.

How Farmers Stand?

The thing President Roosevelt most wants to know right now is whether the farmers, deprived of their farm benefit payments, will place the blame on the Supreme court or on the President. Whether they will think a Constitution which outlaws such a system as Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace set up under AAA should be changed, or whether Roosevelt and Wallace should be criticized for having sought what has proved an illegal way of raising the farmer out of his slough of despond.

If the White House and Farley scouts report back in the next few weeks that the farm belt is ripe for amending the Constitution, the President will resume his abandoned drive in that direction. It will be recalled that after the high court's NRA decision the administration was all set to rewrite the historic charter.

But that time there was no mistaking the popular reaction. The folks rallied round the old document. People who approved everything done by the NRA suddenly did not want the Constitution changed so as to permit the continuance of those very things. Which would seem to prove that it is not always possible to predict accurately what the reaction of the American people will be.

No one was more surprised than Mr. Roosevelt himself that the Supreme court AAA decision went so far. Actually the President had anticipated that the high court would outlaw the processing taxes. He had a program all ready for that. He intended to ask congress to substitute luxury and other specific sales taxes for the processing taxes outlawed by the court, in all amounting to something approaching \$600,000,000 a year.

But he never dreamed that the court would upset the farm benefit payments.

Decision Settled It

Had he anticipated that the high court was going so far he would not have laid so much stress in his regular message to congress, delivered before the joint session and over the radio to the country, on whether opponents of his measures would vote to repeal them. The Supreme court decision, coming so quickly after it, settled that question.

A more immediate problem even than whether the country wants the Constitution amended is how to pay the farmers to whom the government is now under obligation. The court has held that the obligation has no justification in law, which would seem to throw it out the window. But the administration is not anxious to risk so much displeasure in the farm belt, even on the chance that such resentment may lie against the court and the Constitution rather than against Roosevelt and Wallace.

Also there must be worked out some new farm plan. Even those inside the administration who have been least enthusiastic about the AAA system have agreed that something had to be done for the farmers.

Progress Made in Berlin

Preparatory to Olympics
The Olympic games will take place in the 300-acre Reichsportfeld situated in the west end of Berlin. The huge stadium, which is 85 per cent completed, has seats for 100,000 spectators. The stadium arena contains a running track 400 meters long. The swimming stadium contains a 65-105-foot pool, a large restaurant overlooking the pool.

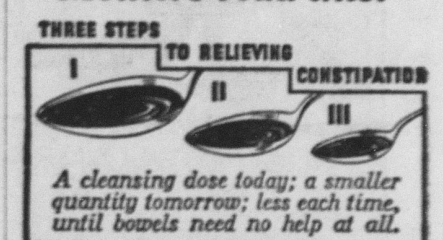
The Dietrich-Eckert open-air theater in the form of a Greek bowl will be used for dramatic productions and assemblies. The Olympic bell which will open the games is of steel and weighs 16 tons. It was removed from its casting last August. The altar on the stadium tower will be lighted on August 1, of this year, by the Olympic fire, the flame of which will be brought from the site of the original Olympic games by 3,000 runners who will travel in relays.—Washington Star.

Stern Nature

There is no trifling with nature; it is always true, grave, and severe; it is always in the right, and the faults and errors fall to our share. It defies incompetency, but reveals its secrets to the competent, the truthful, and the pure.

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