

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Administration's Billion Dollar Housing Bill Introduced—Epidemic of Sit-Down Strikes—Townsend Convicted of Contempt of House.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
© Western Newspaper Union.

SENATOR ROBERT F. WAGNER of New York and Representative Henry B. Steagall of Alabama introduced simultaneously in the senate and house the administration bill setting up a program for the construction of homes for "families of low income." Under the measure the government may lend to state or local housing authorities \$1,000,000,000, from July 1, 1937, to July 1, 1941, the money for this purpose to be raised by bond issues and the loans to be supervised by a new department, the United States Housing authority. To supplement the loans congress is asked to appropriate \$50,000,000 to be paid in outright grants. The loans are to bear interest at not less than the going federal rate and are to be payable over such a period, not to exceed 60 years, as the authority may determine.

Competition with private industry is guarded against, according to the authors, "by insuring that housing projects shall be at all times available only to families who are in the low income groups."

The four year program calls for the construction of 375,000 family dwelling units at an average cost of \$4,000 a unit. Wagner and Steagall insisted that the bill called for "decentralization."

"All the direction, planning, and management in connection with publicly assisted housing projects are to be vested in local authorities, springing from the initiative of the people in the communities concerned," they stated. "The federal government will merely extend its financial aid through the medium of these agencies. The only exception to the strictly decentralized administration is that the federal government may set up a few demonstration projects in order that local areas without adequate instrumentalities of their own may benefit by an experience in low rent housing."

HAVING virtually countenanced the sit-down strike in the case of the General Motors controversy, the administration found itself embarrassed by that favorite maneuver of John Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization.

Out in Monica, Calif., about 200 employees of the Douglas Aircraft corporation went on strike and "sat down" in the big plant, completely stopping work on \$24,000,000 worth of airplanes the company is building for the government. The men defied a trespass warning and an order to evacuate the plant sent them by the police, and Mr. Douglas refused to negotiate with the union until the strikers got out of the buildings. The situation was complicated by a quarrel over worker representation between the Automobile Workers' union, a C. I. O. group, and the Machinists' union, allied with the A. F. of L.

Finally the strikers were indicted for conspiring to violate two old California laws against forcible entry and trespassing, and when 300 armed deputies appeared at the plant, they surrendered and were taken to Los Angeles for arraignment.

Another big government job was halted for a time by a sit-down strike of employees of the Electric Boat company at Groton, Conn., which is building submarines for the navy. There, however, the local and state police soon evicted the trespassers and arrested them, and the rest of the employees, a large majority, resumed work.

Speaking "not as an officer of the administration," Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper said that any sit-down strike "that undertakes to take over private property is a very serious and fundamental thing and in my opinion will not be long endured by the courts."

There was almost an epidemic of strikes throughout the country, many of them of the sit-down variety. Some were settled in short order but others are still on at this writing. Among these was the strike at the Fansteel Metallurgical corporation in North Chicago, where the disgruntled workers refused to leave the plant. Gov. Henry Horner was striving earnestly to bring about a settlement.

John L. Lewis' threat, during the General Motors strike, that "Ford and Chrysler are next," is being carried out. The United Automobile Workers union sent to Walter P. Chrysler demands that the U. A. W. be recognized by his corporation as the sole collective bargaining agency.

OPEN warfare by the government on private power interests will be started soon if the recommendations of President Roosevelt to congressional leaders are acted upon favorably. In letters to Vice President Garner and Speaker Bankhead, the President

urged that prompt action be taken to provide for the sale of electric power from the \$51,000,000 Bonneville project on the Columbia river in Oregon; and he intimated this might be taken as the forerunner of a national power policy. The recommendations were in accord with a report from the committee on national power policy and also with the position Mr. Roosevelt took in the controversy with Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, TVA chairman, who favored co-operation with existing power companies and consideration for their investment.

Here is what the President proposed:

- 1.—That not less than 50 per cent of the power generated at Bonneville be reserved for sale to public authorities, such as states, districts, counties, municipalities and other sub-divisions and to co-operative associations of citizens.
- 2.—That the government construct its own transmission lines, substations and other facilities for transporting power so as to make the government project independent of existing utility companies.
- 3.—That the federal government control the re-sale rates to consumers through regulation by the federal power commission.
- 4.—That the power be sold at rates low enough to promote the widest use of electrical energy, particularly to domestic and rural consumers. These rates, the President insisted, should be fixed with relation to only that part of the total \$51,000,000 Bonneville investment that the government saw fit to charge to power generation.
- 5.—That the federal agency administering the project be authorized to acquire by eminent domain if need be, land, franchises, existing transmission lines.

DR. FRANCIS E. TOWNSEND, the elderly Californian who devised the old age pension plan bearing his name, was found guilty of contempt of house of representatives because he refused to testify before a house committee that was investigating his scheme last spring and "took a walk" out of the committee room. The verdict, rendered by a jury in the District of Columbia court, made the doctor liable to a sentence of one to twelve years in jail or a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000, or both. Judge Peyton Gordon deferred sentence until he could pass on a motion for a new trial.

Townsend seemed rather to welcome the verdict, saying he had expected it. "Lord bless you, I'll be all the more active," he said when asked what effect a conviction would have on his movement. "I think it will be the general opinion that I have been the victim of an injustice. Our organization will be spurred to greater efforts."

FOLLOWING the example set by the five operating railway brotherhoods—engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and switchmen—the sixteen non-operating brotherhoods, with a membership of 800,000, have voted to demand wage increases averaging 30 cents an hour. This action was taken at a meeting in Chicago of the general chairmen of the brotherhoods. Besides the pay increase, the men ask the guarantee of full time employment for all regularly assigned workers and two-thirds time for "standby" employees.

The non-operating brotherhoods embrace the clerks, telegraphers, carmen, shop laborers, machinists, blacksmiths, dispatchers, boiler-makers, drop forgers, sheet metal workers, electrical workers, freight handlers, express and station employees, maintenance of way men, signal men and sleeping car conductors.

PLANS for the complete blockade of Spain by the other European powers, in order to starve out the civil war, met with difficulties owing to the bringing up of points involving the national honor of France and Russia. The French made certain objections to the land patrol and the Russians to the sea patrol.

The Spanish loyalists were making a desperate effort to capture Oviedo, where the insurgent garrison was attacked by dynamite throwing Basques. The defenders, numbering about 12,000 men, were hard pressed and it seemed impossible that relief forces could reach the city in time to save them. In the Madrid sector, too, the rebels were getting the worst of it, for the government forces were about ready to make a mass assault on Pinzaron hill from which the Franco artillery has been shelling the Madrid-Valencia road.

IN ORDER to curb "unwarranted speculation" by members, all securities exchanges are asked to adopt certain regulations suggested by the securities and exchange commission. The proposed rules would put exchange members on the same trading basis as the general public. They would have to put up the 55 per cent margin required of other securities purchasers, and would be required to do this by 5 p. m. of the day of purchases.

In announcing the commission's step, Chairman James M. Landis told reporters:

"This procedure is in accordance with a plan of the commission to give the exchanges the opportunity to regulate the trading activities of their own members. This course, which has been adopted by the commission on previous occasions, will allow greater flexibility in the administration of the rules and will permit minor adaptations to the various exigencies of individual exchanges. While the responsibility for the enforcement of these rules will thus lie with the exchanges, the commission will observe both their enforcement and their effectiveness."

CHAIRMAN HENRY F. ASHURST of Arizona gathered together the members of his judiciary committee and began formal consideration of President Roosevelt's proposition for federal judiciary reform, including the packing of the Supreme court. It was understood the committee would arrange for public hearings at which opponents and proponents of the plan would be privileged to speak their minds. Not long before, Mr. Ashurst and several other senators were called to the White House to discuss the strategy of the fight the administration faces. The Arizona senator and Majority Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas, who was among the conferees, only recently were vociferous in declaring a constitutional amendment was the only proper way to accomplish the President's purpose. But now they are obediently supporting the administration measure.

Senators Frazier of North Dakota, Bone of Washington and Nye of North Dakota also were summoned to the White House, but what they heard there did not change their stand against the President's plan. Mr. Nye, indeed, soon after delivered a radio address against it. He did not especially defend the Supreme court, but said he thought there are better ways of attaining the objective in conformity to the Constitution than the way of packing the court proposed by Mr. Roosevelt.

Ex-President Herbert Hoover in an address before the Union League club of Chicago uttered solemn warning that the President's plan was a serious threat against the ultimate safeguard of liberty, and condemned any such "quick and revolutionary change in the Constitution."

At this writing 42 senators have declared against the bill; 32 are on record for it, and the rest have not committed themselves. The administration leaders expected to pick up at least 12 from the non-committal group, and claimed more.

JOHN G. WINANT, who as chairman of the social security board had a lot of trouble with certain senators over patronage and whose reappointment to membership on the board had not been confirmed by the senate, sent his resignation to the President. Mr. Roosevelt said Mr. Winant was retiring to attend to pressing private business and would be back in the federal service before very long. The former governor of New Hampshire has been considered a logical candidate for the post of secretary of social welfare if that department is created by congress.

Succeeding Mr. Winant as chairman is Arthur J. Altmeyer, already a member of the board. To fill the vacancy in the membership the President nominated Murray W. Latimer of New York.

OFFERING to make peace with the Chinese communists against whom it has waged war for ten years, the National government at Nanking announced the terms on which those Reds would be allowed participation in national affairs. The Kuomintang's demands are: Abolition of the communist army and its incorporation in the National government forces; dissolution of the Chinese communist state and its unification with the central government; cessation of red propaganda opposed to Kuomintang principles, and stoppage of the class struggle which divides society into antagonistic classes and invites mutual destruction.

That the Nanking government is steadily growing stronger is made evident in the more conciliatory attitude adopted lately by Japan. A spokesman for Hayashi's new cabinet in Tokyo indicated Japan was willing to abate its demands for simultaneous settlement of all pending Sino-Japanese incidents and negotiate separate settlements for each.

What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Streamlined Grandmothers.
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—All along I've been wondering what has vanished from the city landscape.

I'd grown reconciled to service stations where blacksmith shops used to be and a beauty parlor where once the livery stable spread its fascinating perfumes. So it couldn't be that.

All of a sudden it dawned on me. Since coming here I've seen mighty few 1912 - model grandmothers baring in the movies, and then, with the exception of dear May Robson, they had to wear makeup.

We don't so much mind the young girl who has gone prematurely old—we're accustomed to her—but the old woman who has gone prematurely young, so young that she seems to be advertising the approach of second childhood by dressing to match it—well, that's different.

So now I know what I miss. It's the old-fashioned lady who was neither streamlined nor a four-color process.

Penalties of Old Age.

IF MENTALLY or physically, or both, a man of seventy has so slowed down he no longer can function usefully, what are we going to do about Secretary of State Huli and Secretary Roper, and Senator Glass and Senator Norris, and both California's senators, and a sizable proportion of the outstanding membership of either branch of congress? And, to avoid cluttering up the words, so to speak, what disposition should have been made, at seventy, of Thomas A. Edison and John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and Henry Ford and Queen Victoria and Cardinal Gibbons and Von Hindenburg and Clemenceau and Professor Eliot and Carrie Chapman Catt and Mark Twain and Elihu Root and Melville W. Fuller, just to mention a few names that come to mind?

Going still further back, one gets to thinking, among others of Henry Clay and Ben Franklin and Gladstone and Bismarck and Victor Hugo and Alexander Humboldt.

Open Season on Bears.

NEW BRUNSWICK is granting free licenses for sportsmen to kill bears this spring. I regard this as an error. It reduces bears, which are picturesque features of forest life, and increases amateur gunners barging through the wilderness plugging away at every living object they see, including guides. A greenhorn might miss a sitting union depot—probably would—but he garners him a guide nearly every time. On all counts, the black bear should have game protection. For every shot he steals, he eats thrice his weight in grubs and ants and bugs; and he's a fine scavenger, for he likes his dead meat high. If he were a veteran member of a Maryland Duck club, he couldn't like it any higher.

Even so, he has been preyed on until, in parts of our north woods, he's practically extinct. Yet, next to a Vermont Democrat, he's probably the most inoffensive mammal found in New England.

Tyranny of the Soviets.

SEEPING through the Soviet embargo on free speech and free press and even free thought, stories came out that the five-year plan shows signs of utter collapse and also that, in their striving for absolute despotism, Stalin and his followers are preparing to "liquidate" by execution or remove by a wholesale campaign of exile all such of their recent ruthless associates as might, through private ambitions, stand in the way of this latest desperate tyranny.

Of course, we hear all sorts of tales about the real inside of the Russian situation, some inspired by hostile prejudice and some by sympathetic partisans.

Women's New Freedom.

EVEN in olden days, before they broke loose, women envied us every masculine perk we had, except the moustache cup and possibly chewing tobacco. Since emancipation, seems like they've taken over practically everything we ever had.

The bars are crowded with women, and the smoking rooms and the barber shops and the gambling clubs and the prize-fights and the wrestling matches and the political caucuses. If it weren't for them, the race-tracks and the night spots would languish and the cocktail mixers might get an occasional rest. Maybe, as a distinguished scientist now arises to proclaim, they could have excelled us in our then exclusive fields, only before this they didn't get a chance to prove it.

IRVIN S. COBB
© Western Newspaper Union.

First Stirrings of Spring



THE chic young miss above, center, says, "I make my own clothes. I learned sewing from Mother first, got a touch of it in school, and a real exposure in 4-H activities. I choose this dress for Spring because it looks like Spring, and because it takes the minimum of time and money. Puff sleeves and princess lines give a formal note if I wish to impress the folks (which I often do) and the peplum jacket is added for frivolous reasons—when I want to feel a bit sophisticated, and it makes a sweet all-occasion dress."

A Practical Choice.
The Lady on the Left says, "I'm practical. I choose patterns that I can cut twice; then I have a gingham gown to set me off in my kitchen and an afternoon dress in which to entertain the Maggie-Jiggs club. The all-of-a-piece yoke and sleeves make me look years younger, the shirred pockets give the decorative note every dress needs, and I can run it up in an afternoon."

Three-Purpose Pattern.
The Girl in the Oval has a far-away look in her eyes. She says it's because she wears glamorous blouses like this one. She cuts her pattern three times—no less—and evolves a blouse in eggshell for her velvet skirt; one in velveteen for her tweeds, and the third in metallic cloth for after-five activities. "The skirt with its simple well directed lines is equally well suited to tweeds for sport, velvet for dress and wool for business," says Madam.

The Patterns.
Pattern 1832 (above left) comes in sizes 32 to 44. Size 34 requires 4 1/4 yards of 39 inch material.
Pattern 1263 (above center) is designed in sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 40 bust). Size 14 requires 4 1/4 yards of 39 inch material for the dress and 2 1/4 yards for the jacket—to line it requires 2 1/4 yards of 35 inch material.
Pattern 1958 (above right) is available in sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 46 bust). Size 16 requires 2 1/2 yards

for the blouse in 39 inch material and 2 yards of 34 inch material for the skirt.

New Pattern Book.
Send for the Barbara Bell Spring and Summer Pattern Book. Make yourself attractive, practical and becoming clothes, selecting designs from the Barbara Bell well-planned, easy-to-make patterns. Interesting and exclusive fashions for little children and the difficult junior age; slenderizing, well-cut patterns for the mature figure; afternoon dresses for the most particular young women and matrons and other patterns for special occasions are all to be found in the Barbara Bell Pattern Book. Send 15 cents today for your copy.
Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.
© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

ONLY LUDEN'S MENTHOL COUGH DRUGS will do these 3 things... and all for . . . 5¢

- 1 Clear your head
- 2 Soothe your throat
- 3 Help build up your ALKALINE RESERVE WHEN A COLD STRIKES!

Honesty Is Best Judgment
Mere honesty in a man doesn't insure that he has good judgment in all things.

When You Feel Sluggish (Constipated)
Take a dose of two of Black-Draught. Feel fresh for a good day's work.
Work seems easier, life pleasanter, when you are really well—free from the bad feelings and dullness often attending constipation.
For nearly a century, Black-Draught has helped to bring prompt, refreshing relief from constipation. Thousands of men and women rely on it.

BLACK-DRAUGHT
A GOOD LAXATIVE

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

AGENTS
Wanted—Monument salesmen, direct from quarry to consumer. Proposition money maker. Elberta Blue Granite memorials give satisfaction. Write today. Elberton Granite Memorial Co., Dept. 2, Elberton, Ga.

FLOWERS
100 GLADIOLUS BULBS \$1.00
10 named varieties prepaid anywhere in U.S.
BEAWE & SONS
Box 476 - - - - Grants Pass, Ore.

Crossroads of the WORLD TIMES SQUARE-NEW YORK
A pleasant, quiet, refined hotel home, spacious rooms, good food

ROOM AND PRIVATE BATH \$2.50 SINGLE \$3.50 DOUBLE

Hotel WOODSTOCK
43rd St. East of Times Square
Under Knott Management

Scraps of Humor

Ambrosia
Ethelberta—She treats her husband like a Greek god.
Hughberta—How so?
Ethelberta—Why she places a burnt offering before him at every meal.

Use for the Pedals
"My darter is goin' to play Beethoven tonight."
"I hope she wins."

If a woman eggs a man on to matrimony, she can't complain when he groans under the yoke.

Sightless Love
Pete—Have you ever loved before?
Silly Sally—No, dear. I have often admired men for their strength, courage, good looks, or intelligence, but with you Pete, it is all love—nothing else.