

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Supreme Court Bill Opposed by Senate Committee, 10 to 8—Mrs. Simpson Applies for Absolute Divorce—Fish Would End Our Gold Policy.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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ANNOUNCEMENT of their position on the President's Supreme court bill by three more Democratic members of the senate judiciary committee seemingly made it certain that body would report the measure adversely to the senate. The line-up at this writing is 10 to 8 against the bill. The three who openly joined the opposition were Senators J. C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Pat McCarran of Nevada and Carl Hatch of New Mexico. With them in opposition are King of Utah, Van Nuys of Indiana, Burke of Nebraska, Connally of Texas, Austin of Vermont, Borah of Idaho and Steiwer of Oregon. Those committed for the measure are Ashurst of Arizona, Neely of West Virginia, Logan of Kentucky, Dieterich of Illinois, Pittman of Nevada and Norris of Nebraska. McGill of Kansas and Hughes of Delaware, still noncommittal, were counted as being on the administration side.

Senator O'Mahoney, one of the enthusiastic New Dealers ordinarily, said: "The hearings have been completed. I have listened attentively to everything that has been said, and I have heard nothing to date which has convinced me that any increase of the court is either necessary or desirable."

Senator Hatch declared: "I do not think congress has the power to place men on the Supreme court to affect decisions in any way whatsoever. To do so would be an exercise of judicial power by the legislative branch of the government. If we place men on the court to change the trend of judicial opinions we thereby invade the province of the court and do that which many people have charged the court with doing."

Senator McCarran addressed the judiciary committee, in executive session, for an hour and a half and later said to the reporters: "In my judgment, the Supreme court should not be a department of government subject to the will of either of the other two branches of government. While the Supreme court and every other court that interprets the law should at all times keep abreast of the law and therefore be progressive, it is not for any other branch of the government to say it should reform its views to carry out the will of another branch. For that reason I am opposed to and will continue to oppose the President's bill."

The committee agreed to begin voting on the bill and on proposed amendments on May 18.

SENATORS, representatives, department heads, and almost everyone else in Washington officialdom were worrying themselves over expenditure reductions, taxes, rising prices and falling revenues, and Supreme court reformation. But President Roosevelt was gaily sailing the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, angling for tarpon. He was on the Presidential yacht Potomac, which he boarded at New Orleans; his vessel was escorted by three destroyers, the Moffett, the Schenk and the Decatur. At Galveston Secretary Marvin McIntyre set up a temporary White House, and Mr. Roosevelt planned to land at that city when he got through fishing.

SIX months having elapsed since Mrs. Wallis Simpson was granted a provisional decree of divorce, and the lady having behaved during that period in a way approved by the king's proctor, her solicitors petitioned the court to make the decree absolute. It was expected this would be done after the six days' interval required by legal procedure.

When Edward, duke of Windsor, and Mrs. Simpson will be married is not yet known to the public and probably not yet determined by the principals in this most famous of modern romances. The duke was so angered by reflections on his fiancée and himself in "Coronation Commentary," a book written by Geoffrey Dennis, that it was reported he might set the wedding date before coronation day; but later there were rumors that Mrs. Simpson, seeking to avert further criticism, had persuaded him to wait until after his brother had been crowned. Edward demanded that the book be withdrawn and that the author and publisher apologize. This demand was complied with, but nevertheless he had his solicitors in London start suit for damages on the ground of libel.

FROM all quarters of the earth men and women of much, little or no importance were flocking to London for the coronation; the diplo-

mat were trying on their new knee breeches; the peeresses were buying wigs to make their coronets fit more comfortably; the officials, troops and horses were being rehearsed in their parts; the proprietors of parade seats were desperately trying to dispose of them at cut prices; and hotel managers and tradesmen of all sorts were preparing to make lots of money out of this thoroughly commercialized affair. It was said by steamship officials in New York that hundreds of Americans booked for the coronation had cancelled their passages, but despite this it was a certain London would be thronged with visitors.

WHILE Democratic leaders in congress were disputing over various proposals for achieving the economy demanded by the President, the house without a quiver passed the second deficiency bill, carrying \$79,200,000. The Democrats called it an economy measure because the appropriations were 19 millions less than the amounts asked by the department heads. But 15 of those 19 millions represented merely a reduction in the 30 million appropriation asked by the bureau of internal revenue for the refunding of processing taxes collected under the agricultural adjustment act. The saving, it was pointed out, was more a deferred "economy" in that the 15 millions will be included in the next budget.

"THIS is the outstanding financial blunder of the New Deal" said Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, Republican, speaking of the administration's policy of accumulating gold at \$35 an ounce, or nearly twice the cost of production. Mr. Fish thereupon introduced a resolution forbidding the secretary of the treasury to purchase any more gold from foreign countries at more than \$25 an ounce.

"The American taxpayers" declared Mr. Fish, "under the ruinous gold policy of the President and the secretary of the treasury, have become the 'angels' of Europe, and are now engaged in helping to finance these countries in their mad armament race. All of the nations of the world including Soviet Russia, have naturally unloaded their gold upon us at exorbitant profits, which, if we tried to sell back, we probably could not get 50 cents on the dollar."

"This insane and costly gold policy is almost on a par with the high financing of John Law's Mississippi bubble. The American people have been turned into milch cows, to be milked by every foreign country."

THE C. I. O. steel workers' organizing committee now claims a majority of the \$40,000 wage earners in that industry.

Philip Murray, committee chairman, told the convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers in Pittsburgh that in the 10 months of the organization drive 325,000 members have been enrolled, equivalent to 60 per cent of the steel pay rolls.

"We have driven the company union out of American industry," Murray said. "No company union can hope to live from here on. Ten months ago the steel workers' organizing committee started from scratch. We had no members. Today we have built up 600 new lodges, enrolled 325,000 members, and signed wage contracts with 89 steel companies."

Seventy-nine women and forty-one men, arrested during the eviction of sitdown strikers from the Yale & Towne Manufacturing company plant in Detroit were held guilty of contempt of court by Circuit Judge Arthur Webster. They were convicted for violation of an injunction which the judges had issued, directing them to leave the plant.

Judge Webster imposed maximum penalties of thirty days in jail and \$250 fines on George Edwards, United Automobile Workers of America organizer, and Peter P. Sedler, who said he was an employee of the Kelsey Hayes Wheel company. Ten day jail sentences were given three other persons. Sentencing of the others was deferred to July 15.

WILLIAM GILLETTE, the veteran actor who became famous in the role of Sherlock Holmes and is remembered also for his good work in "Secret Service" and other plays, died in Hartford, Conn., at the age of eighty-one. He had been ill since last autumn.

John G. Pollard, chairman of the board of appeals of the Veterans' administration and former governor of Virginia, passed away in Washington of bronchial pneumonia. He was sixty-six years old.

TWO thousand members of the United States Chamber of Commerce, gathered in Washington for their 25th annual meeting, started a vigorous campaign for change in the industrial and economic structure of the nation. To begin with, they adopted resolutions calling for amendment of the Wagner labor relations act and the undistributed corporate surplus tax.

The policies of the administration were hotly attacked by several speakers. Virgil Jordan of New York city, president of the national industrial conference board, said the government "has become an instrument of forces alien to the enterprise principle of American life and work who desire to destroy it and replace it by the principle of absolute subjection to the state, which in nearly every other part of the world holds the impoverished and fear-ridden people in its paralyzing power."

Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady asked the business men to give the Wagner act a chance to "work out."

"Labor must move as a collectivism," he said, "and must bargain through its own chosen representatives—just as the employer does. Unless labor, grouped collectively, can have its expert representatives wholly independent of employer influence, speak for it with a powerful voice, there is no real bargaining at all."

SECURITIES controlling the \$3,000,000,000 railroad empire built up by the Van Sweringen brothers have been acquired from George A. Ball of Muncie, Ind., by Robert R. Young, Frank F. Kolbe and Allan P. Kirby, all of New York and comparatively unknown in high finance. The securities are those of the Mid-America corporation which Mr. Ball bought at auction two years ago for \$3,121,000. The price paid by the New Yorkers was \$6,375,000. The Muncie man, however, does not make a personal profit from the transaction for he had placed Mid-America with its holdings in a charitable fund.

Young said it was the plan of his group "to shrink the entire corporate structure" rather than expand it. He intimated that Mid-America corporation would be eliminated, and probably several other of the interlocking holding companies by which the Van Sweringens built up their intricate financial structure.

ANDREW MELLOF, frequently the target of administration attacks, is again called on to defend his business. Attorney General Cummings announced that the Department of Justice had filed in the Federal District court in New York a suit to compel dissolution of the Aluminum Company of America—which Mellon controls—for the purpose of breaking "its monopolistic control" of the aluminum industry. By this action the government revives the Sherman anti-trust act as a legal weapon in regulating business.

The suit named 36 officers, directors, and stockholders of the company, including Mellon. Twenty-five subsidiary and affiliated companies were named co-defendants. Other members of the Mellon family named with the former Treasury head are Paul Mellon, Richard K. Mellon, Jennie King Mellon, Sarah Mellon Scaife, David K. Bruce, son-in-law of Mellon, and Ailsa Mellon Bruce, his daughter.

The suit charges that the company is a monopoly in violation of the anti-trust laws and that it has power to fix arbitrary and discriminatory prices. It charges the defendants with conspiracies to restrain and monopolize, attempts to monopolize, and monopoly in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

IN A letter addressed to H. B. Mitchell, president of the civil service commission, President Roosevelt placed a ban on speculation in securities by government officials and employees. There was no official explanation of this act, but for some time there have been rumors that some persons high up in the New Deal have been making a lot of money by speculating in the stock markets after getting tips on probable White House moves.

SENATOR HARRY F. BYRD of Virginia, Democrat, prepared for introduction in the senate a bill providing for the consolidation of the Home Owners' Loan corporation and the Federal Housing administration. This merger, said Mr. Byrd, would result in a saving of more than \$24,000,000 a year without impairing the work of the units.

INTERVENTION by President Roosevelt averted, for the time being at least, a strike of 25,000 freight handlers on eight railroads that threatened the food supply of New York city. The President appointed an emergency board of three members to attempt a settlement. In his proclamation he said the dispute threatened "substantially to interrupt interstate commerce within the state of New York and other states in the eastern part of the country to a degree such as to deprive that section of the country of essential transportation service."

A dispute between rival workers' unions balked efforts of the national mediation board to effect a settlement. Under the railway labor act, the President forced a postponement for at least 30 days while mediators work.

what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

Touring Accommodations.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—For the sake of comparison two of us, out lately on a little trip, stayed one night at a wayside motor camp and the next night at the most expensive tourist hotel in three states, rates \$25 per day per sucker.

At the tourist camp, the company was mixed but neighborly and, for the most part, pleasant. The only really discordant note was a lady in the adjoining cabin who, at all hours, kept wailing her husband up, apparently for the purpose of telling him another thing about him that she didn't like.



Irvin S. Cobb

At the exclusive establishment were many guests who seemed to be suffering from severe attacks of nervous culture, being fearful, I'd say, that, if ever they behaved naturally, they'd give themselves away. Mainly they were dull. Waxworks, even when animated, usually are dull.

But stopping at a \$25 a day hotel has one advantage, I find. Afterward, you can go around bragging that once you stopped at a \$25-a-day hotel. This should be a great help socially.

Dealing With Snakes.

CONNECTICUT congressman is pushing an act to prohibit importation of venomous serpents from other countries for exhibition purposes. His fear is that an earthquake or something might shake the zoo apart and liberate a lot of deadly reptiles that would start multiplying and constitute a new menace to the lives of such of the populace as have thus far escaped being killed by automobiles.

Without presuming to assume that the gentleman is a bit of an alarmist, I'd like to point out that he can obtain millions of adherents for this measure among old-fashioned Americans by tacking in an amendment to his bill providing that the bars likewise shall be put up against foreign-born communists.

How Times Change.

I JUST read what I once knew for myself but had forgotten in the rush and bustle of these latter days. It related to the attitude which America, considerably less than half a century ago, held toward unescorted woman. For instance, as recently as 1890 not many respectable hotels would permit one of them to register.

Some time after 1900—in fact, as I remember, it was about 1910—a prominent lady was asked to leave one of the smartest hotels in New York city because she dared to light a cigarette in the public lounge. As for women drinking at a bar—well, not even the most forward-looking liberal could conceive of so incredible a sight as that.

And now just look at the darned things!

Hardships de Luxe.

WHEN our plutocratic classes decide to go simple, they go simple, regardless of what it costs 'em.

A rich couple have just completed a trip out here, following the ancient trails of the early pathfinders. Like true pioneer stock, they roughed it in specially built twin trailers, each about the size of a pullman but much more complete, and were towed by a couple of Rolls-Royces. The servants, only six in number, had to put up with two much cheaper cars.

During the entire trip there was no dressing for dinner and thus, with true democratic spirit, was a primitive plan of the expedition carried out. Every hardship encountered enroute—such as the champagne getting all jolted up and the caviar coming unglued in the can—was cheerfully endured. An armed guard was maintained at night to repel kidnapers and hostile Indian tribes.

I wonder how Jim Bridger and Kit Carson ever stood it with no butler along—in fact, not even a second man.

IRVIN S. COBB.
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Tweeds and Peats

The famous Harris tweeds came into being through an accident of nature. The freezing winds which swept across the barren islands of the Outer Hebrides, off the coast of Scotland, made it imperative that the natives have warm wind-proof, weather-proof garments. With nowhere else to turn, the women of the islands took advantage of the unusually thick fleece which was the winter coat of their sheep, and from it they wove for their men the first crude Harris tweeds. Because they had nothing but the natural dyes made from lichens and crotle, and nowhere to steep their wool except over peat fires, Harris tweed has always been characterized by a peaty outdoor odor. These tweeds had been worn in the Outer Hebrides for many years before the fashion centers of the world discovered them and elevated them to the front rank of sports fashions.

Talk About Smart Frocks



"AUNT ALMA, there's just one thing I don't like about my new dress—it's so attractive I'm afraid Sis over there will appropriate it when I'm not looking. Outside of that I'm crazy about it, and I think you're swell to make it for me. Why—"

"What's this, what's this? If that isn't a laugh. Aunt Alma! Imagine me wanting anybody's dress. Why since you've taught me to sew-my-own I never want anything. I just make it and that's that. This sport dress, for instance, took me only one afternoon."

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Praise From Auntie.

"I think you do wonderfully well with your sewing, my dear. You'll be making my clothes the first thing I know. I feel especially pleased with my new spring dress and I have both of you to thank for suggesting this style. It does right well by my hips, and it's so comfortable through the shoulders. I guess I should diet but in this dress I feel nice and slender. Don't you see, girls, how important it is to choose a style that's particularly becoming? It's abiding by this theory that gives some women such enviable chic."

The Patterns.

Pattern 1280 is designed in sizes 12-20 (30 to 40). Size 14 requires 3 1/2 yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1233 is designed in sizes 34-52. Size 36 requires 5 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. The collar in contrast requires five-eighths of a yard.

Pattern 1284 is designed in sizes 14-20 (32 to 44). Size 16 requires 3 1/2 yards of 35 inch material.

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