

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Still Insists on Supreme Court Bill, Which Raymond Moley Scores—Disturbing Developments in the Field of Organized Labor.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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VALIDATION of the social security act by the Supreme court was most pleasing to President Roosevelt, but he did not agree with the general opinion that this would put a stop to his program for enlargement of the highest tribunal. He more than intimated in a press conference that the fight for his court bill would be fought to a finish and that he was not satisfied with the apparently slender "liberal" majority in the court, since a number of important administration policies are still to be passed upon by the Supreme court. He cited four issues raised by the new wages and hours bill, namely, child labor, minimum wages, maximum hours, and the question whether goods produced under unfair practices can be regulated by the government. He also mentioned TVA, the problems of flood control on the Ohio watershed, the right of municipalities to borrow federal funds to construct electric light plants, and whether the government can condemn property for a housing program.

One of those who believe the President's court plan is doomed to defeat is Raymond Moley, former head of the "brain trust." Addressing the Illinois Bankers' convention in Chicago, Dr. Moley scathingly attacked the scheme. "The President," he said, "has spoken of the dangers of a government of men. Well, there is something worse than a government of men; it is a government by a man. Most law and all constitutional government down the ages are really halters and check-reins upon this unlovely tendency in rulers to lose their heads in the intoxication of power. . . .

"There are incidental factors that have contributed to the defeat of the President's proposal to violate in this way the spirit of the constitution. The change in the philosophy dominating the majority opinion of the court has helped. The scattering of the attorney general's insincere, insubstantial statistics by the chief justice is another. The retirement of Justice Van Devanter has helped, too. "But behind all this has been a slow and powerful surge of public opinion. The people prefer the stability of constitutional institutions as against the unpredictable will of leaders, even very popular leaders."

FINAL passage of the \$1,500,000,000 work relief bill by the house was delayed by rebellion against the practice of "writing blank checks" which give the President and Harry Hopkins power to spend relief funds as they deem fit. The opponents of this policy found in the revolt a chance to obtain a lot of "pork" by the earmarking of more than half a billion from the total appropriation for projects that would get votes. In a day of wild debate these major changes in the bill were voted:

- \$55,000,000 to be set aside for flood control and water conservation work.
- \$300,000,000 to be "earmarked" for PWA projects.
- \$150,000,000 to be spent on highway and grade crossing elimination projects.
- Authority to use work-relief money for construction of power lines into rural sections for non-profit and co-operative utility groups.
- Unskilled and agricultural workers who refuse private jobs will be ineligible for work-relief as long as a private job is available.

CONTINUING its vigorous campaign to organize the steel industry, the C. I. O. called out on strike the employees of the independent companies that refused to sign contracts for collective bargaining. These companies were Inland Steel, Republic Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube. More than 20 plants employing about 85,000 men were involved. Philip Murray, chairman of the organizing committee, said it was the purpose of the committee to conduct the strike peacefully. In the Chicago district police arrested a number of men for violating the rule against mass picketing and for other offenses, and there was some trouble in Buffalo.

Employees of the Sharon Steel corporation followed the example of those of the Jones & Laughlin concern and voted in favor of the S. W. O. C. by a large majority, so the C. I. O. gets contracts from those companies. Operations in the huge Pittsburgh plant of the H. J. Heinz company were interrupted by a strike of the Canning and Pickle Workers' union. The strikers demanded a 10 per cent wage increase and recognition of

the union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, as sole bargaining agency.

FORD employees at the Rouge plant, Detroit, took matters into their own hands and severely pummeled a number of U. A. W. A. men who undertook to distribute at the plant gates handbills designed to offset the "Fordisms" card that had been given Henry's workers. Among the union men beaten up were Walter Reuther, R. T. Frankenstein, J. J. Kennedy and Robert Canter. Frankenstein telegraphed John Brophy, director of the Committee for Industrial Organization, at Washington, asking:

"Will the C. I. O. co-operate in simultaneous nationwide demonstration before Ford salesrooms to protest brutality at Ford's today and establish the right to organize?"

At the same time a strike of C. I. O. men closed the Ford assembly plant at Richmond, Calif., forcing 1,800 workers into idleness. The local union head there predicted strikes might spread rapidly from that beginning, possibly to all the Ford plants.

HEADS of unions affiliated with the A. F. of L., meeting in Cincinnati with President William Green and the executive council, went ahead with the plans to combat Lewis and the C. I. O. One of their first steps, it was indicated, is to be an invasion of Lewis' own union, the United Mine Workers of America, through the granting of a charter to its rival, the Progressive Miners' union in Illinois. Drives are expected in the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania and the soft coal fields of Virginia, where there is considerable opposition to Lewis.

The United Garment Workers also declared war on the Amalgamated Clothing Workers whose chief is Sidney Hillman, first lieutenant of Lewis in the C. I. O.

In the Cincinnati conference John P. Frey, veteran president of the federation's metal trades department, accused the C. I. O. and the communist party of "sleeping in the same bed and under the same tent." Communists had obtained such a grip on the Lewis movement that C. I. O. leaders could not shake them off if they wanted to, Frey said. He contended the C. I. O. had sixty Communist organizers on its pay roll and that C. I. O. tactics were discussed in Moscow long before they were discussed in Lewis' office.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT in a special message asked congress to enact a new law for the benefit of workers in interstate industries, regulating the hours of work, the wages and the employment of children. Immediately after it was read, Chairman Hugo L. Black of the senate labor committee and Chairman William R. Connery of the house labor committee introduced identical bills designed to carry out the proposals of the President. The measure had been agreed upon in conferences at the White House and was promptly referred to committees with prospect of quick action. It had been approved by John L. Lewis, head of the C. I. O., but since laws setting minimum wages for men have always been opposed by leaders of the American Federation of Labor, it was considered probable that organization would not like the bill.

The twin bills originally had proposed a forty hour maximum week and a 40 cents an hour minimum wage. But, at the last moment, these limits were eliminated and spaces in the measures left blank for congress to fill.

STANLEY BALDWIN, prime minister of Great Britain, entertained the king and queen at dinner and then retired from his high office. He is succeeded as head of the government by Neville Chamberlain, who has been chancellor of the exchequer, and a few other changes in the cabinet were made.

If another war comes, the British empire will not be caught unprepared. The imperial conference in London turned its attention to this matter and a special committee was formed to organize all the empire's resources for an instant shift to war footing if that becomes necessary.

A subcommittee studied the problem of American competition with British shipping in the Pacific. British ship owners charge that the Americans are driving them out of business there because the latter are heavily subsidized.

SAN FRANCISCO put on a wonderfully brilliant festival to celebrate the opening of the Golden Gate bridge, the fulfillment of the city's dream of half a century. The battle fleet of the United States navy was there, and so were representatives of the states, of numerous cities and of many foreign nations. Automobile cavalcades from Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Mexico and Canada, as well as from parts of California, joined in the great parade, with bands, floats and fiestas units. John Thomas, noted baritone, and a cast of 3,000 presented a pageant depicting the history of California and the West, and a week-long program of sports events was begun.

The Golden Gate bridge is a single deck suspension bridge, the longest single clear span in the world. It is 6,450 feet in length from end to end, and 4,200 feet center to center of piers. It crosses over San Francisco bay at a height of 250 feet and connects San Francisco by highway directly with the redwood empire of Northern California.

THE social security act, which President Roosevelt considers the soul of the New Deal, is constitutional, in the opinion of a majority of the Supreme court. The unemployment insurance provisions of the law were upheld by five of the justices, Van Devanter, Butler, McReynolds and Sutherland dissenting. The old age pension provisions were declared constitutional by all the justices except Sutherland and Van Devanter.

Justice Cardozo wrote the two majority opinions, and, as it chanced, delivered them on his sixty-seventh birthday. Administration leaders declared they completely justified the President's broad interpretation of the general welfare clause of the Constitution and his policy of extending federal power, and it would seem that this is true.

In another 5 to 4 decision the court upheld the Alabama state unemployment insurance act, declaring the relief of unemployment a valid state function. Yet another opinion was handed down by five of the justices, upholding Wisconsin's law prohibiting injunctions against peaceful picketing in labor disputes.

IN ORDER to determine the performance of co-operating farmers in the soil conservation program, the Agricultural Adjustment administration has employed thirteen aviation firms to make aerial maps of 377 agricultural counties in 22 states, the cost to be \$753,909. From a study of the photographs agricultural experts will be able to tell how much of his acreage each farmer retired from production and put into soil-building legumes. Their reports will be the final test of claims for farm subsidies under the new AAA. Department of Agriculture officials estimate there may be from 200,000 to 300,000 overpayments to farmers.

"I AM very tired," said John D. Rockefeller, Sr., to his secretary as he sat in the garden of his Florida winter home at Ormond Beach. Then he went to bed, soon fell into a coma, and a few hours later passed away, peacefully and painlessly. His wish to live to be one hundred years old was not fulfilled, but he would have been ninety-eight on July 8 next.

Thus died the man who, starting with a \$4.50 a week job, fought his way to the very top of the financial world, created the vast Standard Oil trust and built up one of the biggest private fortunes ever recorded.

Disturbed by ill health, John D. retired from active business in 1911. Some time before that he had switched from accumulating wealth to giving it away. The giving was done systematically, and representative of the family interests estimate that his own benefactions between the years 1885 and 1934, both inclusive, totaled \$530,853,632.

Mr. Rockefeller's body was taken from Ormond Beach to his estate at Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, N. Y., and there the funeral rites were conducted by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick of New York city. Next day the oil king was laid to rest in Lake View cemetery, Cleveland, beside his wife who died 22 years ago.

Only two of Mr. Rockefeller's children survive him. They are John D. Rockefeller, Jr., head of the business since the father retired, and Alta, wife of E. Parmalee Prentice. There are eight grandsons and five granddaughters.

SOVIET Russia is planning to establish regular airplane connection with the United States by way of the Arctic ocean, and in pursuance of the plan is building an air base on the ice within a few miles of the North pole. Four scientists have been landed there from a plane which first flew over the pole, and they will remain on the floe for a year, keeping in connection with the world by a powerful radio. They have named the floating ice field "Comrade Stalin's Land." The contemplated air route will be from Moscow to San Francisco.

Washington Digest

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

Washington.—I have frequently mentioned in these columns the business problems that have confronted and continue to confront the commerce and industry of the United States. However one may regard the ethics of the business interests of the nation, I think everyone must admit that business has its problems that are just as serious as the job of earning a living is to you or me. This has been especially true during the period of the depression and it is equally true at this stage of economic recovery.

Business, moreover, is affected to a greater extent than you or me by any governmental policy that is pursued or any legislation that is enacted by congress or by state legislative bodies. In consequence, it seems to be a fair statement to say that business lives by the will and the whim of the elected representatives whether those representatives be local, state or national.

Those observations should demonstrate fully the importance of one piece of legislation now pending in congress. I refer to the so called permanent sugar bill. Seldom in history, I believe, has a single unit of industry found itself in a position where it is so utterly dependent upon federal policy for its existence as is the case now with those eighteen or twenty plants that refine about seventy-five per cent of all the sugar we use on our tables and otherwise in this nation.

The situation, succinctly, is that President Roosevelt has recommended to congress that it adopt legislation of a permanent character "to protect the interest of each group concerned," and assure meanwhile that the interest of the consumer shall have due consideration. Pursuant to the President's proposal of March 1, last, the house committee on agriculture is working out a piece of legislation which seeks to reconcile the differences of all the various interests and make thereby a permanent policy which this country may follow as regards sugar.

It must be remembered that the United States imports something like seventy-eight per cent of all the sugar it consumes. The other twenty-two per cent is produced by our sugar beet and sugar cane farmers—a consequential industry worthy of protection from its government but still quite unable to satisfy demands for the commodity. Some of the sugar we import comes from Puerto Rico; some comes from Hawaii; some from the Philippines, but the bulk comes from Cuba.

Since Puerto Rico and Hawaii are insular territories of our nation, they must receive consideration as an integral part of our nation. The Philippines are no longer a possession and yet there is something of a fatherly interest, or should be, on our part. With reference to Cuba, the United States long has attempted to help the islands economically and politically in order to insure the independence which our nation helped them to establish.

So it is seen that we have in the sugar problem questions involving (1) a home industry; (2) an industry in an insular possession; (3) an industry in a nation newly born and which we are trying to lead into a position of complete independence and solvency, and (4) the maintenance of our chief source of sugar supply in a nation for which our government yet feels somewhat responsible.

That summary indicates the complexity of the general problem to be dealt with in the current legislation but the picture omits a most important unit in the industry. I refer again to those plants who must refine the sugar and must make it ready for home use or other consumption.

To make the picture complete, it ought to be recalled that for several years we have had a temporary law which fixed the amount of sugar that could be imported. It was managed through what is called a quota system; that is, the law provided authority for the secretary of agriculture to prescribe how much sugar could come in from each of the regions that I have described. This had the effect of stabilizing sugar prices and guaranteeing to the cane and beet growers of the United States a dependable market. But it had another effect which was shown by the operation of the law, an effect not so painfully evident when the law was enacted. This effect was to encourage the refining of sugar in the areas outside of the United States where the bulk of it was grown. In consequence of that, our own sugar refiners began to suffer and they continued to suffer because refiners operating in Cuba or Hawaii, to mention two examples, were able to employ labor that cost about one-fourth as much as the standard of wages paid in this country. The

natural result was that our own workers were thrown out of jobs and the refining industry was running at barely two-thirds of its capacity.

To show by figures what has happened: Imports of sugar, ready for table use came from Cuba to the amount of about one thousand tons in 1925. In 1933, more than five hundred thousand tons of refined sugar was imported. It has grown some since and for every ton imported, naturally the refining plants of this country have had their volume reduced.

The President wants legislation that is fair to all interests but it seems that some of those interests are desirous of using cheap foreign labor in preference to American labor and they are fighting the President's bill. It is too early to forecast what is going to happen but there is every evidence that American owned sugar companies in some of these foreign areas are doing their utmost to kill the legislation which would substantially reduce the importations of this refined sugar.

Now there is a question of foreign policy that is involved and that part of the situation in congress concerns the State department. The home industry, of course, concerns the Department of Agriculture but there is the Department of the Interior also to be considered because of the insular territories over which it has supervision. On the surface, it is made to appear that the secretaries of these three executive departments are at loggerheads over what shall be done and as far as I can see none of the three is paying much attention to protection of the refining people who have been caught between the upper and nether millstones. My conversations with members of the house committee who have studied the problem backward and forward convinces me that congress had better for once do its own reasoning and pay less attention to the three cabinet members, each of whom is seeking to push forward the interests of his own department.

The whole situation can be summed up in one statement; if congress wants to preserve the sugar refining industry in this country (an industry that is more than two hundred years old) it can do so by providing a low limitation on the amount of refined sugar that can be imported and it can protect the cane and beet growers of the United States by establishing a quota of imports of both raw and refined sugar small enough to permit the home market to absorb the complete output of the American cane and beet growers.

I reach that conclusion because I am an American who believes in a self-sufficiency of American industry as far as it is possible to go. I take the position further because no other leading country in the world fails to protect its home industry in the handling of sugar.

Nearly everyone has realized lately that prices are climbing at an alarming rate. This has gone on over a period of about two years and there is nothing on the horizon to indicate that the top has been reached or that prices are becoming stabilized. You and I feel it, of course, directly in what we pay for the things we buy—shoes or clothing, food, furniture, and essentials for the household.

The situation is a bit disturbing for several reasons. For one thing, if prices continue to skyrocket, sooner or later we are going to be confronted with another condition like that of 1929 and no one can doubt that if prices get too high, a tailspin will follow. If there is another tailspin like that of 1929, I am afraid that this nation as such is likely to go to pieces.

Numerous factors are at work to cause the price increases. New Deal policies were formulated, first of all, with the idea of raising prices to bring us out of the depression. President Roosevelt contended it had to be that way.

His program to force prices higher has been eminently successful. In fact, it has been too successful and in that lies one of the grave dangers. Effective means of control are lacking and there is every possibility that the upward movement may reach the stage where it will fall of its own weight.

Another cause of the price inflation has been the labor movement. Throughout the nation, organized labor has been demanding higher and higher wages. I think there can be no doubt but that labor is entitled to higher wages than obtained during the depression. But in many cases, according to government records, the demands of organized labor have been so great as to constitute a burden on industry which it cannot carry.

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Raymond Moley



Justice Cardozo



William Green



John D. Rockefeller, Sr.



Senator Black

Household Questions

Season Lightly — Be careful when doubling a recipe not to double the seasoning. Use it sparingly at first, then add more if needed.

Glazing Liquid for Cookies—A mixture of two tablespoons of sugar and one-fourth cup of milk makes a good glazing liquid for cookies. Apply on the surface of the dough with a pastry brush before baking the cookies.

Keeps Cauliflower White—A tablespoon of sugar in the water in which cauliflower is cooked will keep it white.

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