

News Review of Current Events

WAGE BILL IS PASSED

Southern Democrats Lose Hot Fight in the House
... Secretary Ickes Is Married in Dublin



Here is an armored car detachment of Czechoslovakia's up-to-date army which was sent to the frontier to meet the threats of aggression by Fuehrer Hitler's troops that were massed on their side of the border.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

House Passes Wage-Hour Bill

REPRESENTATIVE MARY NORTON'S wage-hour bill finally got through the house by a vote of 314 to 97, despite fierce opposition of the southern Democrats. It was sent on to the senate, which has passed a widely differing measure and where opposition blocs were reported forming to carry on a filibuster. The Southerners fought for differentials favoring their industries, and were aided by a few Republicans who called the bill a "vote catcher" that would "throw millions out of work."

The measure establishes rigid wage-hour standards for certain classes of workers in all industries operating in interstate commerce, regardless of prevailing sectional scales. It fixes an initial wage of 25 cents an hour which steps up to 40 cents an hour in three years, and a 44-hour week graduating to 40 in two years.

A coalition of farm state representatives and the southern Democrats put over a drastic amendment offered by Mrs. Norton, exempting thousands of employees engaged in the processing of agricultural commodities from the provisions of the measure.

Other amendments exempt retail establishments in intrastate commerce; the entire fishing industry; and employees of rural weekly and semi-weekly newspapers with less than 3,000 circulation.

The shipment in commerce of goods produced with the aid of child labor is prohibited, but child actors are exempt from this provision.

When the fight ended, Mrs. Norton, chairman of the labor committee, was cheered and hugged by the victorious administration Democrats.

Morgan Charges Deceit

DR. ARTHUR E. MORGAN, ousted chief of TVA, was the first witness heard by the congressional committee inquiring into the affairs of the authority. In straightforward fashion he told his side of the story, charging his fellow directors with dishonest management. He explained he did not mean David Lilienthal and Harcourt Morgan took bribes or stole money, but that they deceived the President, congress, and the public; that they covered up important facts tending to throw doubt on the advisability of the government's huge social experiment; reported a false electric power yardstick, and were subservient to political and other special interests.

He accused Lilienthal flatly of deceit in leading the public to believe that the financial accounts of the communities buying power from the TVA include all the costs of the service they render to the public.

Dr. Morgan discussed in great detail the celebrated "Berry marble case," involving Sen. George L. Berry, Tennessee Democrat.

Boss Hines Arrested

JAMES J. HINES, most powerful leader of Tammany Hall and chief dispenser of federal patronage in New York, was arrested on charges arising from the 100-million-dollar-a-year policy game racket in that city. He surrendered in the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, hard hitting young prosecutor of Manhattan's multitudinous rackets, and was released in bonds of \$20,000.

Lewis Backs Barkley

JOHN L. LEWIS, C. I. O. chieftain, has asked labor to support Sen. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky in the primaries August 6. In his capacity as chairman of Labor's Non-partisan league, Lewis said of Barkley:

"He is recognized as one of the

nation's leading statesmen, liberal in his viewpoint and co-operative in his attitude toward legislation in the interests of labor and the common people."

Harry Hopkins, WPA administrator, found occasion to say a good word in favor of Rep. Otha Wearin of Iowa, who is seeking to take the Democratic senatorial nomination away from Senator Gillette.

For this Hopkins was denounced by senators who were demanding that the relief appropriations be earmarked so they cannot be used for political purposes.

Ickes Weds in Dublin

HAROLD L. ICKES, secretary of the interior and PWA administrator, put one over on all but his closest friends. He sailed secretly from New York to Ireland and in Dublin was quietly married to Miss Jane Dahlman of Milwaukee, twenty-five years old and a clerk in his department. Mr. Ickes, who is sixty-four years old, lost his first wife nearly three years ago in an automobile accident in the Southwest.

The new Mrs. Ickes, red haired and pretty, is a niece of John Cudahy, American minister to Ireland, and sister of Mrs. Wilmarth Ickes of Winnetka, Ill., widow of Mr. Ickes' step-son.

Minister Cudahy did not attend the wedding, but was represented by S. J. Shattuck, an attaché of the legation. The couple left Dublin by automobile for a brief honeymoon trip. Mr. Ickes cabled friends in Washington that he would return there in a week and would be at home on his estate near Olney, Md.

Plane Crash Kills Ten

TEN persons died when a twin-motored plane of the United Air Lines, bound from New York for Chicago, crashed and burned south of Cleveland, Ohio. The victims included seven passengers, two pilots and the stewardess.

Officials of the air line said their information indicated the pilot was forced to make a landing because of engine trouble and that the ship did not catch fire until it struck.

Japan Demands Apology

NOW it is the turn of Japan to demand an apology — from Great Britain. The Tokyo government felt it was gravely insulted by a statement, attributed to R. A. Butler, parliamentary of the British foreign office, that Japanese marines had shot many Chinese war prisoners and civilians when they captured the port of Amoy. Tokyo demanded that the British government "speedily give satisfaction" for this slur on Japan's honor.

The Japanese announced in Shanghai that they had at last gained complete control of the 800-mile Tientsin-Pukow railway, and expected to resume operations linking Peiping and Shanghai early in July.

Two Taxation Decisions

IN TWO far-reaching decisions the United States Supreme court further narrowed the field of reciprocal intergovernmental tax immunity. The rulings continued the trend in the direction of President Roosevelt's theory that the federal and state governments can tax the salaries of each other's employees and the income of each other's securities without a constitutional amendment.

In a decision delivered by Justice Stone, the court upheld levying of federal income taxes on employees of the Port of New York authority. In a decision delivered by Justice Roberts, the court upheld federal admission taxes on tickets to football games conducted by the university system of Georgia.

Must Re-Hire Sit Strikers

THE National Labor Relations board ordered the Kuehne Manufacturing company, Flora, Ill., to reinstate with back pay 164 American Federation of Labor sit-down strikers.

It was the NLRB's third major sit-down decision, but the first involving an A. F. of L. union.

The labor board refused to answer 74 questions put to it by the Ford Motor company in United States circuit court at Covington, Ky. The board particularly resented being asked whether Thomas Corcoran, Benjamin V. Cohen, John L. Lewis or Homer Martin were consulted in arriving at an order charging the Ford company with violating the Wagner labor act.

Too Late for Wheat Quotas

SECRETARY WALLACE said that under the new crop control law it is too late to invoke marketing quotas on this year's indicated bumper wheat crop. He explained that the law authorized quotas this year only in the event congress appropriated funds by May 15 for "parity payments" provided in the new legislation.

Martin Loses in Oregon

GOV. CHARLES H. MARTIN of Oregon, the veteran soldier who has been fighting against the C. I. O. and other radicals, was beaten for renomination in the Democratic primary by Henry Hess who had the backing of labor unions and of Secretary of the Interior Ickes. Charles A. Sprague was nominated for governor by the Republicans and they believe they have a good chance to win in the fall elections, for the Democrats, there as in Pennsylvania, were badly split.

War Narrowly Averted

GERMAN and Czech troops by the thousands were massed on the frontier between the two countries. President Benes of Czechoslovakia and his cabinet decided to call 70,000 reserves to the colors. Poland assembled armed forces close to the Slovakia border.

Hungary was reported to be taking "certain military measures." France was ready to defend her ally, Czechoslovakia, against Nazi aggression, and there was assurance that Great Britain and Russia would come to the aid of France if she were attacked without provocation.

No wonder the governments of Europe were desperately worried by such a critical condition. Hitler must have realized that the time was not ripe for aggressive action against the Czechs, for German authorities in Berlin solemnly assured Dr. Vojtech Mastny, Czech minister to Berlin, and the Czech military attaché that Germany planned no military expedition against Czechoslovakia. This eased the situation somewhat, but the British cabinet continued to urge Benes and his government to make all possible concessions to Hitler concerning the demands of the Sudeten German minority. It was believed the Fuehrer would ultimately get about everything he wants from the Czechs without a fight.

Dr. Milan Hodza, premier of Czechoslovakia, and Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten German party, were brought together in peace talks in Prague. Henlein was reported to have said he didn't believe much progress in that line could be made until the government had recalled the reservists who had been mobilized.

The Czechs informed the French and British governments they are willing to become a central European Switzerland in which all races of the polyglot republic will have equal rights. However, they insist on further guarantees against German aggression to compensate for weakening their defense.

In Paris it was reported that the French government asked that the United States associate itself with France and Britain in their efforts to keep Hitler from attacking Czechoslovakia, and that Washington's reply, through Ambassador Bullitt, was a refusal to mix in the row. This was denied by Mr. Bullitt.

Italy Warns France

ITALY intimated it would keep out of the Nazi-Czech quarrel, but Mussolini broke off the friendship talks with France and warned that continued French acquiescence in the shipment of arms to government Spain would not be tolerated.

The Duce declared that unless France ceases aiding transmission of Soviet and Czech arms to Barcelona, Italy and Germany may be forced to increase their assistance to the insurgents. This naturally would endanger the new Anglo-Italian agreement.

Predestination Is Out

GENERAL Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States, in session at Meriden, Miss., voted 151 to 130 to omit from the confession of faith these two important sections:

"By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life and others fore-ordained to everlasting death."

"And their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished."

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

Washington.—It is curious how trade winds blow in politics. We here in Washington, have just witnessed what can well be called a phenomenon in politics

It grows out of the primaries in two widely separated states, Florida and Pennsylvania. The fact that it was a Democratic primary in each instance, however, makes possible this analysis and discussion of details.

Taking up the primaries in their order, there was the primary in Florida where Sen. Claude Pepper, 100 per cent New Dealer, indorser of Townsend old-age pensions, and himself indorser by James Roosevelt, son and secretary of the President, licked the pants off of his challengers. He polled more votes than Rep. J. Mark Wilcox and former Gov. Dave Sholtz combined. It was, without doubt, a New Deal victory for which the President can claim justifiable credit.

The second primary was that in Pennsylvania where there were three candidates for the United States senatorial nomination among the Democrats and three for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. There were two candidates for the Republican nomination for each of these offices, as well, but that fact will be treated later.

Few party primaries in modern times developed the bitterness that flamed in the Democratic test in Pennsylvania. It was the first time that organized labor, as such, had come out into the open with avowed candidates and it was the first time Democratic National Chairman Farley has taken a hand in attempting to tell the voters of a state what to do. In addition, there was a state party committee which insisted upon selecting a slate of candidates in regulation boss fashion. So there were all of the elements of a rough fight, and it happened according to forecast.

Mr. Farley made an eleventh-hour public appeal to the Democrats of Pennsylvania "for harmony." He asked them to nominate Governor Earle for the United States senate. Governor Earle was the choice of the state committee faction. Mr. Farley also asked that the Pennsylvanians nominate Lieut. Gov. Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, for the governorship. Mr. Kennedy was thrown overboard by the state committee but he had the open indorsement of John L. Lewis, head of the C. I. O. labor union. He also had the backing of Sen. Joseph Guffey, who has constantly served as President Roosevelt's voice in the United States senate. The Farley recommendation thus cast out Charles Alvin Jones of Pittsburgh, state committee selection for the governorship, and it threw Mayor S. Davis Wilson of Philadelphia into the discard as far as the Democratic senatorial nomination was concerned. Mayor Wilson was a Lewis-C. I. O.-Guffey candidate.

The Farley announcement, made on the day before the primary, built up resentment even from the men he indorsed. Governor Earle barked loud and long; so did Lieutenant Governor Kennedy.

Mr. Earle won. Mr. Kennedy lost. Mr. Jones won, and shouted about it. Mayor Wilson lost and bellowed about the interference. And after the smoke cleared away, Mr. Farley said promptly, in effect, "Let's all get together and elect our Democratic candidates."

John D. M. Hamilton, Republican national chairman, wrote a statement while the sun was coming up on the day following the primary. He bounced biting words right off of Mr. Farley's head. In substance, he said the Pennsylvania primary showed: 1. The voters of any state resent interference from the national headquarters as regards their party nominees. 2. The voters of Pennsylvania showed they will have nothing to do with John L. Lewis, despite the fact that probably that state is the most tightly organized for the C. I. O. of any state in the country. 3. The Democrats of Pennsylvania are tiring of the "crack-pot brains" of the Roosevelt administration.

Mr. Hamilton, further, called attention to the fact that two present Democratic members of the house of representatives were defeated for renomination. Representative Stack, an admirer of Father Coughlin, radical radio priest, and Representative Crosby, author of Townsend plan bills in the house, were supplanted. The Republican chairman sought to connect their defeat with a trend away from radicalism which he says is inherent in the New Deal, because Mr. Stack sometimes went beyond New Deal ground.

"Now, as to the Republican battle: James J. Davis, present senator, was renominated over G. Mason Owlett, backed by the Republican state committee, and Judge Arthur H. James was nominated for the governorship over former Gov. Gifford Pinchot, who, like Mr. Kennedy, was approved by John L. Lewis and his C. I. O. as acceptable. So again, the voters took things into their own hands and their state committee selections were taken on where the voters liked the man.

But, to get back to the premise upon which I started, it has been most interesting to note the veering of the political winds. Shortly after the Florida primary, there was a hurrying for cover by dozens of Democrats in the house of representatives. They thought they saw in those results a swing again to the New Deal, a restoration of the President's popularity. New Deal spokesmen around Washington did not let any grass grow under their feet. They used the Florida results to advantage. In good political fashion, they whispered and hinted and sometimes said out loud that the boys who went against the New Deal would get their spanking.

And to their credit, it must be said they did a good job. For example, I am convinced the vicious wages and hours bill that was locked so securely in a house committee would never have been brought out except for the reaction from the Florida primary. Seldom, if ever, has there been so much haste in signing a petition for report of a bill as was observed in the case of that legislation. Generally speaking, I believe it is a fact that New Deal backbones were stiffened all along the line by Senator Pepper's renomination—which assures election in Florida.

Came then the Pennsylvania primary, a vote that was preceded by charges of graft, bribery, bossism, etc., and the Farley "harmony attempt" in the day before the polls were taken. And came then a sudden revival of the fight that anti-New Deal Democrats were making prior to Florida's vote. Maybe the Florida vote did not involve clear-cut New Deal issues; maybe it was Pepper's machine, maybe it was this and maybe it was that—anyway, their thoughts were running: Maybe Pennsylvania is a better barometer. And each one is analyzing that vote in an effort to apply the result to his own district.

Whatever their conclusions are, there is one thing definitely established. Organized labor's most ambitious political effort flopped. It was washed out of the road. The Pennsylvania rout of organized labor of the John Lewis brand is made the more significant because of the link with the White House disclosed through Mr. Farley's indorsement of Mr. Kennedy. It may be, of course, that President Roosevelt did keep hands off, but it is quite another matter to convince the average person that the White House was not involved. For one thing, the Pennsylvania results seem to show that the John Lewis claims of political strength can be discarded as so much hooey.

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Another thing to remember about the Democratic primary results in Pennsylvania projects itself into the future—to 1940, to be exact. The victory by Mr. Jones in the fight for the gubernatorial nomination destroys the control of Pennsylvania Democrats so long exercised by Senator Guffey. He cannot be called the boss again under any stretch of the imagination. And when it is time for election of a successor to Mr. Guffey, the best political judgment available predicts Mr. Guffey's disappearance as an entrant. As to the 1940 projection, attention ought to be directed to the fact that probably Mr. Jones, and not Mr. Guffey, will determine what Democratic presidential aspirant shall have the great block of 72 votes in the national convention. This seems certain whether Mr. Jones wins or loses the race for governor. He is established as head of the party. All of the indications now perceptible promise an alignment of the Jones faction, now controlling, with the more conservative group nationally, including Sen. Pat Harrison, Vice President Garner and men of that type. So, it is seen that the Pennsylvania primary can, and is almost certain to, have an important reaction on national Democratic strategy.

In addition to these circumstances, there is talk going around now that the anti-New Deal faction in Kentucky is determined to do business. In that state, of course, Senator Barkley, the Roosevelt majority leader in the senate whose selection to the job was made in the famous "Dear Alben" letter, has a tremendous bulge. Cold analysis of the situation does not afford much comfort for the forces of A. B. "Happy" Chandler, who seeks the Barkley scalp. The point is, however, that anti-New Dealers among the Democrats think the Pennsylvania situation may possibly be reproduced in Kentucky.

Talk About Kentucky

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