

News Review of Current Events

PRIMING MONEY FLOWS

First Grants and Loans Announced by PWA Covering Hundreds of Projects in Every State



John Roosevelt, youngest son of the President, and his bride, the former Anne Lindsay Clark, leaving the old church in Nahant, Mass., where they were married.

Edward W. Pickard SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Some for Every State

NO SOONER had President Roosevelt signed the pump priming measure than the flood of federal money was released. The Public Works administration of which Secretary Ickes is the head, made public two lists of grants and loans covering 590 projects in every state in the union with a total estimated cost of \$148,795,895.

Four more lists were ready, and these, PWA officials said, would complete the "first push" toward a \$2,000,000,000 construction program to provide work and stimulate industry. Officials further estimated that these initial groups of projects may run as high as 1,500 or 2,000 with a cost of \$600,000,000.

Federal grants under the PWA procedure cover 45 per cent of the cost and, when a PWA loan is made, 55 per cent. The difference between the estimated over-all cost of the projects and the sum of loans and grants made by PWA is supplied by the various applicants.

The 291 projects in the first group to cost \$92,520,374 will be financed by the PWA to the extent of \$41,632,715 in grants and \$9,021,000 in loans while the second list of 299 projects to cost \$56,275,521 will receive federal grants of \$5,260,413 and loans of \$1,900,500. Thus the amount of government assistance to 590 projects estimated to cost \$148,955,895 will amount to \$75,814,623.

The President, when he signed the act, told the press that business conditions were not as bad as popularly believed, and said he looked for a definite pickup in the near future.

Roper Is Optimistic

THAT there will be a business upturn, certainly by autumn and possibly earlier, is the prediction of Secretary of Commerce Roper. "Natural economic factors," he said in a prepared statement, "coupled with the influence of constructive legislation, point the way to an early favorable trend in the business cycle for which business should immediately make adequate preparation."

The railroad situation, Roper said, is the most disturbing factor in the present economic picture, and it may make necessary a special session of congress. He declared the condition of the roads is getting progressively worse and is very serious. He saw hope, however, in prospect of bumper crops in the Midwest which would increase the demand for transportation.

Group for Labor Survey

NINE men and women were appointed by the President as members of a special commission that will study the workings of the British labor disputes law and Swedish labor relations. Most of them already are in Europe ready to begin their work.

The group is composed of Lloyd K. Garrison, dean of the University of Wisconsin law school; Robert Watt, American Federation of Labor representative; Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric company; Henry I. Harriman, former president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; William H. Davis, chairman of the New York labor mediation board; Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of social security for New York; Charles R. Hook, president of the American Rolling Mills company; Miss Marion Dickerman,

principal of Todhunter school, New York, and William Ellison Chalmers, assistant American labor commissioner in Geneva.

Louis K.O.'s Schmeling

JOE LOUIS of Detroit, the "Brown Bomber," stands the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. His amazing victory over Max Schmeling of Germany in the Yankee stadium at New York gave him that status. In less than one round the challenger was hammered to the floor three times by the crashing blows of Louis, and his seconds threw the towel into the ring, for the German was quite helpless. The referee declared Louis the winner by a technical knockout.

The loser said his defeat was caused by a blow over the kidney. X-ray examination of the German after the battle showed a projection from a vertebra was broken. The blow was not a foul for it was not struck in a clinch. Eighty thousand persons witnessed this epochal battle, the shortest heavyweight championship bout in history. Louis got 40 per cent of the gate and 20 per cent went to Schmeling.

Ask Business to Help

FIVE of the officials who will have most to do with carrying out the President's spending-lending drive went on the air in a nation-wide broadcast and urged that business cooperate with the administration in restoring permanent recovery. These speakers were Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, acting PWA Administrator Howard A. Gray, United States Housing Administrator Nathan Straus and Brig. Gen. John J. Kingman, acting chief of United States army engineers.

Outlining his plans for use of federal funds allocated for WPA projects will give indirect, full-time private jobs to 250,000 workers, in addition to relief jobs for the unemployed. "And so the WPA money flows, like the blood in the human body, giving life and strength to the economic system all the way from its toes to the top of its head," he said. Secretary Wallace said that under the new agricultural legislation the farmer is in good shape to do his part in the recovery drive.

Gray, who has been administering PWA affairs in the absence of Interior Secretary Ickes, said that the spending of money set aside for public works under the recovery program should result in industry's receiving \$1,000,000,000 in orders in the next two years.

Straus outlined his agency's program of slum-clearance and low-cost housing and said that it will result in increased employment and the "creation of that finest and most needed of all commodities—better homes for Americans."

German Spies Indicted

AFTER five months of investigation by government agents, 18 persons were indicted as spies by a federal grand jury in New York. Moreover, no secret was made of the fact that they are charged with being spies for the German government, engaged in obtaining information concerning our national defense.

Four of the defendants are in this country and will be tried here. The others, including three German officers, are abroad.

Japanese Bomb Swatow

JAPANESE planes made three destructive raids on Swatow, a treaty port 220 miles northeast of Canton. Their bombs ruined the power plant and railroad station. The United States gunboat Asheville stood by to protect the 60 Americans in the consular district. It was believed this was the start of a great offensive designed to cut off Canton from the central battlefield.

Referring to Hankow reports of possible mediation by a third power, a Japanese spokesman in Shanghai said: "Japan will continue to fight until Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek is overthrown. If Chiang would only jump in the Yangtze river or otherwise dispose of himself, Japan would be highly satisfied."

Goebbels Assails Jews

THOUGH the attacks on Jews in Berlin and other German cities were officially deplored by the Nazi government, Paul Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda, further stirred the anti-semitic sentiment in a speech before a huge gathering in Berlin, demanding that all Jews be eliminated from business.

"The foreign press laments that Jewish stores are marked," Goebbels said, referring to the smearing of store fronts with the word "Jew" in red paint. "I do not approve of this either, but it is a good thing to know which are Jewish shops. We will take legal measures to curtail their businesses. They will soon disappear. The Jews incite us by their very presence."

'Keep Out of Politics'

SENATOR MORRIS SHEPPARD of Texas and the senate campaign expenditures investigating committee of which he is chairman has directed all government agencies to take no part in primary and election campaigns. And it has issued warning that persons suspected of improper political conduct will be exposed and cited for criminal prosecution.

The committee at its first meeting adopted a resolution pledging that its investigations will be conducted with "vigor and vigilance" without fear or favor and without partisanship. The warning against use of improper tactics was directed first to all candidates for senatorial offices, their friends and aids. It was then extended to all government agencies.

Wage Law Effects

STRAIN of the new wage and hour law on industry, say labor experts in Washington, will be eased by the existing unsettled economic conditions. They size up the situation thus:

At industry's present pace not more than 200,000 wage earners in manufacturing industries would get more pay.

The big high speed industrial machines, such as automobile plants, hardly will be touched by the law. It will affect certain garment factories and a very small number of textile mills.

It will affect the fertilizer industry of the South and southern sawmills. Even when business is as good as it was last summer, unofficial estimates indicate that only about 260,000 factory workers would be affected by the 25 cent wage minimum of the law, and somewhat more than 1,000,000 workers would find their hours shortened by a 44 hour weekly limit, effective next October.

At the outset the law's effect will be to improve "the worst conditions" in certain industries engaged in interstate commerce, the economists believe.

Child labor provisions will affect mainly scattered minors working at odd jobs in various mills and factories.

Senator Copeland Dead

EXHAUSTED by his labors and the heat in Washington, United States Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York died just before the adjournment of congress. He was in the sixteenth year of his service in the senate and had been an indefatigable worker. He was a consistent opponent of many of the administration's policies and was one of the leaders in the fight against the court packing and government reorganization measures.

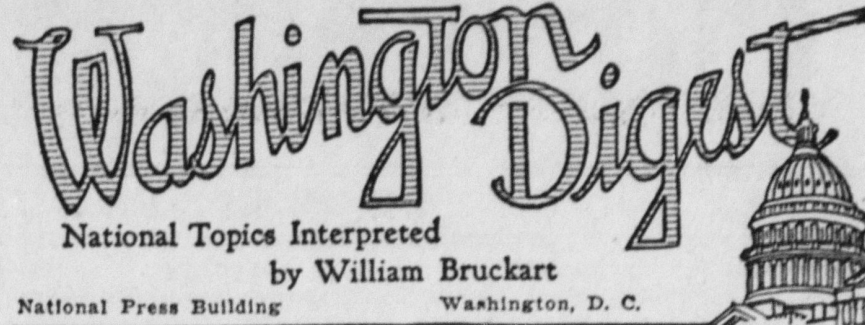
Gov. Herbert H. Lehman announced that he was willing to be a candidate for Copeland's seat if the Democratic party wished to nominate him.

Terrible Train Wreck

OLYMPIAN, crack passenger train of the Milwaukee road bound from Chicago to Tacoma, Wash., crashed through a flood-weakened trestle over Custer creek, near Saugus, Mont., and at least 40 persons perished, most of them being drowned in a submerged tour-ist sleeper. About 65 others were injured.

This was the worst railroad wreck in America in recent years, and it sadly marred the safety record of the Milwaukee road which had not lost a paying passenger in accidents in the previous 20 years.

The eleven-car train ran into a cloudburst near Saugus but the crew had no warning of the trestle's condition until the engine plunged through the span, dragging several cars after it.



National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart National Press Building Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON. — The record of the Seventy-fifth congress has been fully written and a backward look of a few weeks gives one the impression that probably there never was a congress like it. Certainly, I can say without equivocation that I have seen nothing like it in the 20 years that I have served as a Washington observer.

The Seventy-fifth has been almost constantly in session since January, 1937. There were two regular sessions—long ones—and there was that so-called extraordinary session of last November 15 which succeeded completely in one task only, the matter of the traveling expenses which are voted the members when they come to Washington. They got that money in a hurry even though the 20 days of actual meetings proved insufficient for any other legislative act.

But for a serious review of the Seventy-fifth, let us set down these facts: it spent more money than any other congress in peacetime history. That is, it voted more appropriations. It spent more time talking than nearly any other congress that I recall and there were fewer laws passed, I believe, than the record of any other congress shows. (For the latter condition, I suppose we might be thankful for there is now and always has been too many laws on our statute books.)

There has never been a congress, peacetime or otherwise, which indulged in so many political acrobatic stunts. The start of the first session was completely under President Roosevelt's domination. There came the fight over enlargement of the Supreme court and the senate went into full cry against the President. There was another stage when the house and senate both were using the rawhide on the executive branch. Then, the other day before adjournment they voted a gigantic pot of gold for presidential spending and followed that by over-riding a veto.

Consider this action if you want to find something that really represents perfection in backward somersaults: late last year, congress rejected the wage and hour bill and fought off the so-called anti-lynching bill with a fervor that was good to see. It rejected the President's plan for reorganization of the government and did it quite vigorously. But it found a new spring board and jumped off into passage of a wage and hour bill for the nation which the President wanted very much as a sop to labor. It had in the meantime passed a tax bill so contrary to the President's wishes and so objectionable to his theories of taxation that he refused to sign it. True, it became a law, but it was the first time Mr. Roosevelt had allowed an act of congress to go across his desk without either his signature or his veto.

These things might be considered to have represented a vast amount of independence except that, as the time approached for adjournment, the members took Mr. Roosevelt's proposal for appropriation of another \$5,000,000,000 for lending and spending and gave him a free hand in spending it. They had been doing that before, but the significant thing was that the members, faced with a wide open opportunity, refused to free themselves from presidential domination. It will be remembered how four amendments were offered to the spending-lending bill, each designed to prevent use of the relief funds in politics—and those amendments were defeated in the senate. They took those votes in the very midst of tirades about mixing relief and politics and attempts of the administration to lick unfriendly Democratic senators and representatives in the party primaries. Indeed, it seems to me that they actually voted the President powers with which to force New Deal opponents into line on his programs.

As a result of all of the flow of money authorized in the Seventy-fifth congress, it seems a fair guess to say that the national debt by the end of June, next year, will approximate \$47,000,000,000. That will represent an increase in the national debt of 27 billions in six years. It is an increase in the debt that exceeds the World war debt itself.

The deficit for the year which has just ended was disastrously large for a year in which there had been earlier announcements by Mr. Roosevelt and others that the budget would be balanced. In view of the appropriations made in the last session, I think that a \$5,000,000,000 deficit in the fiscal year that ends June 30, 1939, is a fair prediction.

Nor is the end in sight. Have you noted how little talk there was in the waning days of the last session of congress about any plan to balance the budget? Folks, congress never gave it a thought! It was intent upon getting money voted because business conditions were bad and there were too many votes that

could be had for a little relief job or a little relief check. That's something which congress can't very well deny, even though the members hide behind the President's ample frame by saying that Mr. Roosevelt asked for the money.

With respect to the nation's financial condition, it seems to me it is high time to be worried. Congress and the administration ought to be worried until there are deep creases in their collective brow. And, there are some who are worried, men like Sen. Carter Glass, the Virginia Democrat, who knows something about finances since he was once secretary of the treasury. Senator Glass appears to fear a collapse is approaching.

As an indication of how far into the depths the nation has fallen financially, attention may be directed at several minor circumstances which taken singly mean little but which taken collectively bulk large. The Seventy-fifth congress added something like 5,300 new names to the pension rolls. While these names were being added through passage of pension bills in a steady stream, new bureaus and the consequent bundle of new jobs were being created by congress at the request of the President, or sometimes just because a senator or a representative had the idea. Those jobs, of course, carry salary checks. They are jobs scattered throughout the country in many instances—field offices, they are designated. It goes without saying that each office had to be fully staffed, and so there were clerks hired here and there. Most of the new jobs were not placed under civil service by the laws which congress enacted, and so they constituted political plums to be picked when most needed in a campaign year.

And no review of the Seventy-fifth congress ought to omit an item that seldom has been noted in the history of earlier congresses. The representatives and senators met so many times and talked so much when in session that a month ago they had to increase the appropriation for publishing the Congressional Record, the official "newspaper" of proceedings in congress. The appropriation—a mere drop of water in the vast sea of expenditures, being only \$400,000—was necessary, the government printing office reported because the last session of the Seventy-fifth congress used up about 10,000 more pages than had been estimated as needed for the session. One really is not being facetious or humorous at all in saying that \$400,000 really has "gone with the wind."

So, we have seen a congress, in which the President in his 1936 election achieved a stupendous majority, look to that President for guidance in a most subservient fashion. We have watched it seek his innermost thoughts and strive to execute his ideas. None thought, I believe, that there was ever a possibility of a revolt. Yet, it did revolt. It fought back and won on a number of occasions, only to turn again to him in the final hours when an election is in the offing and where scores of members believed that only the President's personal popularity would carry them through. Unique is hardly the word to describe the Seventy-fifth. Personally, I think the Seventy-fifth probably passed out of existence with a record that is not equalled for slyness, cowardice and petty politics.

And, thus, the members go into their biennial dance to attract votes. They have started their circuses already in many contested areas; some primary battles already are behind us, and others lie only a few short weeks ahead. Political fences are awaiting new posts and new promises have to be made. It will be a funny story if and when it ever can be pieced together, which, of course, it never will.

We, here in Washington, have listened to the demagoguery almost two solid years. You folks out there can have them for awhile. I hope the office-seekers tell the truth about their jobs in Washington. I sometimes think it would be a vote-getting program for a candidate for the house or the senate to go out and tell exactly what has been done—how little worthwhile, I mean. And then to follow that with a declaration that he was going to go back, if re-elected, and see to it that a real service for the nation is performed. Wouldn't that be refreshing?

Position of Windows In planning a home the position of windows is something that deserves very serious consideration. The location of the aperture is as important as its size. The best light comes from the top of the window and is thrown farther back in the room and increases the reflected light of the room. In terms of ventilating value the window that is higher serves best, as the hot air rises and is therefore more readily carried off.

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HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS Washing White Silk.—Never use soap on white silk. The soap should be dissolved in water before laundering is begun.

Cooking Green Vegetables.—Let the water be boiling when the vegetables are put in. The kettle should be left uncovered and the cooking time reduced to a minimum.

Filling Worm Holes.—If furniture is attacked by wood worms, syringe the holes with paraffin, and afterwards fill them with paraffin wax.

Washing Stockings.—Socks and stockings sometimes become discolored at the feet from the lining of shoes. If about a tablespoon of ammonia is added to the water in which they are washed, most of the stain will be removed.

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