

Brewster Reviews Relations Between President, Congress

(Editor's Note: Due to the existing relations between President Truman and Congress, Collegian asked Dr. Brewster to review the situation, its causes and effects.)

By R. WALLACE BREWSTER
Associate Professor of Political Science

The chief political problem of the day is also our oldest one; that is, the relationship between the president and Congress. The framers of our Constitution intended that members of these two branches of the government should be independent of each other for their election and tenure as well as in the exercise of certain powers. The balance between them, however, was tipped heavily in favor of Congress because it was given final legislative and fiscal authority. The main powers granted to the president were to veto legislation, to call special sessions of Congress, and to submit messages to Congress on the state of the Union. Vetoes could be overridden and the effect of presidential messages at special and regular sessions would be whatever the Congress might be willing to accept.

In normal times this distribution of powers seems adequate and presidents during such periods are usually satisfied to sit back and allow the legislators such little initiative as circumstances require. However, when domestic and foreign crises develop, the arrangement falls down and the president assumes the initiative. We like to explain this by saying they are "strong" presidents who are aggressive by nature and enjoy the wielding of power.

Strong Executives Needed
Although qualities of personal leadership cannot be discounted, the fact remains that they are strong because they have to be. And they have to be because of the inability of Congress, as a large collection of individuals lacking effective internal leadership, to develop a program of action at a time when the people themselves demand that something be done. In our entire history the nearest approach to congressional program was enacted during the reconstruction period following the Civil War, and this with disastrous results.

Unfortunately, the periods of crisis are now longer than so-called normal times. In the past 30 years, we have had either a foreign or domestic emergency for at least 21 of them, and still have so many unsolved critical problems hanging over our heads that no one is even talking of "normalcy" within the foreseeable future.



R. WALLACE BREWSTER

As a result of the inability of Congress to develop an independent program, there has been a marked trend toward sustained executive leadership which will continue if the American public persists in its demand that the national government find solutions to our national and group problems.

Crises Bring Revisions
A prolonged continuation of these emergency situations will put our basic principle of separation of powers to a severe test; it is already showing signs of drastic revision. We cannot continue to demand certain ends without conceding the changes in our political institutions needed to provide the means of realizing them. Every sign points to the conclusion that ends and means are now badly out of balance. If they become too widely separated, a political crisis will result.

The difficulty is that a president's ability to get his program adopted rests primarily upon informal circumstances such as the pressure of events and the force of his personality. Except when times are extremely critical or when people have not become tired of emergencies, he is never sure that he can achieve his objectives even in part nor can he depend upon Congress to enact an independent program. When Congress finally balks after cajolery, or threats of reprisals have failed, the president has no procedural recourse; all he can do is

appeal to the people which at best is an admission of desperation fraught with dangers of congressional revenge.

Truman and Congress
President Truman's experience is illuminating. Despite his intimate and friendly relationship for many years with members of both houses and his determination to deal with his old acquaintances in a conciliatory and cooperative spirit, he has failed thus far to achieve more than a fragment of his domestic policy. It indicates that as things now stand, the opposition of Congress rests not upon personal animosities, as has so often been assumed in the past, but rather upon the inability of the president to force a course of action which the dominant congressional bloc opposes.

Proposed Changes
Many proposals have been made to bring the two branches of government into a better legal relationship which would place them in a position somewhat analogous to that of a board of directors and the general manager of a corporation. The most extreme of these would give the president power, in case of a deadlock, to dissolve Congress and call for an election, as is done under a parliamentary system. Some would give the cabinet heads non-voting seats in Congress while others would require that they be chosen from congressional membership.

Some of these reforms would help, but no drastic change can be expected for a long time. Over and above them all stands the immediate need, on the part of both the public and the government, to develop a more constructive attitude toward the relationship between the executive and legislative branches. We will have to accept the view that the time has come to expect the president to assume chief responsibility for formulating a program of action, presumably approved by the people when they elected him.

At the same time, great strides toward bridging the gap will be made if we take the attitude that the proper function of Congress is to see that no enactments are made which deviate from the pledged program and that the executive properly administers the laws. We cannot continue to castigate Congress for doing nothing when it fails to enact a presidential program and then criticize it as being a rubber stamp when it does.

Calendar

TODAY

- WRA Executive Board meeting, WRA Lounge, White Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- WSGA Senate meeting, WSGA Room, White Hall, 6:45 p.m.
- Treble Singers, 117 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- Campus and Key cliques meeting, 121 Sparks, 7 p.m.
- Glee Club, 204 Carnegie Hall, 7:15 p.m.
- Penn State Club meeting, 321 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
- Collegian candidates, first semester, 8 Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.
- Second semester Collegian candidates, 8 Carnegie Hall, 8:30 p.m.

TOMORROW

- Staff Assistants Corps of Red Cross, 3 White Hall, 6:45 p.m.
- Blue Band rehearsal, 117 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- Movie Forum, Dr. Coutti, speaker, Hillel Foundation, 7:30 p.m.
- Basketball game with the University of West Virginia, Recreation Hall, 8 p.m.
- IMA meeting, 401 Old Main, 7 o'clock.

THURSDAY

- Theta Sigma Phi meeting, Theta house, 6:30 p.m.
- Lakonides, WRA Lounge, White Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir, 117 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- Collegian Business Staff meeting, 8 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.
- PSCA Upperclass Club, film "Partners in Production," 304 Old Main, 7 p.m.
- Dairy Science Club meeting, elections, 117 Dairy, 7:30 p.m.
- Cosmopolitan Club meeting, Dr. Dengler's home, 210 S. Gill street, 8 p.m.
- Russian Club Choir practice, 200 Carnegie Hall, 8 p.m.
- Russian Club Choir practice, p.m.
- Outing Club meeting, 3 White Hall, 7:30 p.m.

'Ike' Gilbert

(Continued from page one)
their "E" bond quota. A total of 104 per cent in "E" bonds and 156 per cent in other types were sold during the last five campaigns. Mr. Gilbert said that steadily through the fourth to eighth bond drives, regardless of what the quota was, the State College district increased in each drive the amount subscribed from \$515,600 in the 4th to \$1,043,000 in the 8th drive.

Boalsburg, Lemont, Port Matilda, Pine Grove Mills, and State College constituted Mr. Gilbert's area. The county's quota was assigned by the State chairman, then divided into nine districts. State College was given one-fourth of the quota every drive. Approximately \$25,000,000 was subscribed in Centre County during all bond drives. \$7,000,000 was credited to the State College area.

"The Victory loan results really surprised us!" Mr. Gilbert continued. "The war was over, and a let down was expected. It was the first drive that we were over the top in the three divisions of bonds (E, corporation, individual) on the day the drive officially closed."

Noted For Organization

"This county is regarded as having one of the best organized groups in the state," said Mr. Gilbert. "Unique in the set up" he said "was the Agricultural Township Committee whose sole purpose was to contact farmers and those living in rural areas."

The various campaigns were run by the women's block leader system, a large organization under the auspices of the Civilian Defense Committee. They made a house-to-house campaign of the town during every drive. Mrs. E. M. Grove was captain of 14 division lieutenants and 125 other workers.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

WANTED—A ride to Pittsburgh, Altoona, or Tyrone Friday afternoon, January 18th. Call 4951. Ask for Shirley, Suite 3.

WANTED—Students interested in being tutored in chemistry 1, 2, 20, 21, 44. Apply to Alan Swotes 4953.

FOR SALE—Bonafide French perfume by multiple amounts of 1/8 oz. Includes Caron's "Xmas Nite," Schiaparelli's, Bicharay, and Lucien Lelong. Call at 306 New Physics Building, Wednesday or Saturday from 1-3 p.m., January 16 and 19th.

LOST—French text book Nouvelle Anthologie Française. Lost downtown probably in Corner Room. Please call Marty 436 Ath.

LOST—Black and silver Waterman's lady's pen. Reward. Call Room 16, 3993.

TWO STUDENTS to sell nationally known merchandise. Good income, spare time. Write Real Silk Hosiery Mills, Harrisburg, Pa.

LOST—Sheaffer's pen, maroon mottled in black. Please call 3446.

WANTED—A bass fiddle player, trombone player, sax player, trumpet player, piano player and drummer to fill in for dance engagements. Call 4394 beteen 5-8.

WANTED—Dependable girl. Good wages. House work several afternoons each week helping faculty member. Mrs. H. L. Krall. Telephone 891 after 5 p.m.

It's fun . . .

A WINTER PICNIC

- Hot Dogs
- Hamburgers
- Steaks

Everything In Meats

COOK'S MARKET



HEY!

WAKE UP BROTHER!

"Get On The Beam"

Order your corsage now. YOU may be the one to win a free dance ticket and orchid IF you make fast with the feet.

TO

BILL McMULLEN



SKATING . . . The Coliseum Skating-Rink

One Half Mile Out On The Bellefonte Road

Under New Management

Skating From 8 p. m. to 11 p. m. Admission 50c

Friday Special - - - 28c

Skating Every Night Except Monday and Thursday

Matinee Saturday Afternoons—2-4:30 - - - - - 39c

Private Parties Are Booked For Monday and Thursday Nights



Bonne Bell
Combination Offer

\$1 size Ten-O-Six Lotion

\$1 size Plus 30 Cream

BOTH for \$1 plus tax

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Rea & Derick

DANCE TO

Pat Patterson

and his Collegians

(FORMERLY THE K-G's)

NOW READY FOR BOOKING

CONTACT AL MOGULL—3922

T O P S