

**THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON**

With only a short time to go before the set adjournment date of June 19, GOP leaders are asking themselves with some misgivings, "upon what record of accomplishment can they go to the people in the coming campaign."

The Republicans, in control of the Congress for the first time since the Hoover era made great promises of economy, of reduced taxes, or reducing employment in the government, and of ending labor unrest. They made other promises in the congressional campaigns during 1946 . . . including housing, long-range farm program and many other domestic issues.

The first session of the 80th Congress enacted the Taft-Hartley act and hailed it as the Magna Carta of Labor. To date it has not cured labor trouble—whether it will or not remains to be seen. The first session pledged itself to slash from four to six billions of dollars from the national budget, but when deficiency and supplemental appropriations had been completed, you could take any of a half-dozen sets of figures and the cut, if any, was woefully small.

The second session, just ending has enacted a tax reduction measure which will last until the congress reconvenes in January when all responsible leaders admit a new and higher tax law will be enacted. Whether this one year's tax reduction can be regarded as carrying out the pledge of lower taxes is a question much debated.

On economy, and with only a few major appropriation bills yet to be enacted as this is written, congress has appropriated something over a billion dollars more than President Truman asked in his budget of \$39.7 billion dollars, a net increase to be exact of \$1,218,000,000. As for a reduction in the public payroll of a million employees as promised by Rep. John Taber, of New York, only a dent has been made. As a matter of fact, public employment is on the increase instead of a decrease. Of course a few thousand employees were automatically discharged with the demobilization of war agencies after peace came, but the discharge of these

employees was in no wise the result of congressional action. Early in the session the GOP steering committee had looked over the President's budget and decided that a 2.5 billion dollar cut could be made. So the house got busy on the regular departmental appropriation bills and slashed some \$575,000,000 of the Truman budget. At the same time when it had completed action on supplemental and deficiency appropriation bills it brought about an increase of \$1,200,000,000 more than the Truman budget. Some of this was tax refund money which congress failed to provide in the 1947 appropriations. The biggest increase was \$322,000,000 added over opposition of the White House and the defense administrator for national defense. These and other increases in the "extra" appropriations wipe out more than three billions from remaining bills, including funds for army-air force, navy, veterans and foreign assistance, all hard to cut from a political standpoint. Some say the task is impossible.

Generally speaking deficiency appropriations are for immediate use in the current fiscal year and usually result from earlier reductions by congress which they have to put back—such as the \$800,000,000 for tax refunds. Supplemental appropriations generally are for the next fiscal year and are more often a revision of the original budget, also sometimes resulting from congressional action in deferring consideration of budget estimates.

There are two other congressional practices which mislead the uninitiated in budget calculations: One is the practice of "contract authorizations" which permits an agency to contract for expenditures without setting up any definite budget and which means deficiency or supplemental appropriations in the following session. The other practice is "lending authorization," which is an appropriation for an agency to lend and which is returned to the treasury at some future date.

Such an authorization would be the amount appropriated to the rural electrification administration to lend to coops, or to reclamation projects and which

are paid back to the treasury over a period of years. These appropriations are not truly government expenditures since they are paid back with interest, but

when a cut is made, they are counted as "savings" by congress. Small grains in the State are doing nicely and stands are better than average.

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