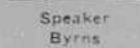


CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE— HITLER IS DEFIANT.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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WITHOUT benefit of gag rule but with perfect party discipline, the administration's social security bill was jammed through the house substantially as President Roosevelt wants it. The final vote was 372 to 23. It may be some weeks before it is passed by the senate, for the senate finance committee, to which it was referred, is busy just now with NRA extension and veterans' bonus payment.



Speaker Byrns

Leading features of the measure as passed by the house are:

Grants to states for old age assistance (pensions) on a 50-50 basis, but for no individual will the federal government's share exceed \$15 per month.

Compulsory old age benefits for persons over sixty-five on basis of salary earned during working lifetime, payments ranging from \$15 to \$85 a month. Income tax on pay rolls of employees starting with 1 per cent in 1937 and graduated upward to 3 per cent in 1949; excise tax on employers in same amounts. This will mean a total pay roll tax of 6 per cent by 1949.

Unemployment insurance. Tax on employer of 1 per cent on pay rolls in 1936, 2 per cent for 1937, and 3 per cent thereafter.

Social security board as new bureau of government in the executive branch with three members appointed by the President.

Federal grants to states for maternal and child health service, an appropriation of \$1,800,000.

Federal grants to states for public health services, an appropriation of \$8,000,000.

Speaker Byrns and other majority leaders were elated by the immense majority by which the bill carried because, as they asserted, it was put through without any pressure from the White House. Mr. Byrns said: "We got no orders from the President, so help me Almighty God."

GEN. HUGH JOHNSON'S earnest appeal for extension of the NRA, in the course of which he took all the blame for its failures, may have been effective, for it was reported that a considerable majority of the senate finance committee was in favor of continuing the life of the Blue Eagle organization. Three of the members, all Democrats, were listed as absolutely against prolongation of the recovery act, but most of the others favored such a course, provided various alterations are made. The committee had under consideration a bill introduced by Senator Pat Harrison, designed, he said, to stimulate discussion. The hottest battle will come on the floor of the senate.

GERMANY was thoroughly enraged by the action of the League of Nations council in adopting the tri-power resolution condemning the treaty of Versailles by rearmament, and it was expected Reichsfuehrer Hitler would make a defiant retort. As a first step he sent from his Bavarian retreat in instructions to Secretary of State Von Buelow to protest "England's defection at Stresa and Geneva."



Adolf Hitler

This Von Buelow did, delivering the message to Ambassador Sir Eric Phipps for transmission to London.

Then, on his forty-sixth birthday, came the reichsfuehrer's defiance of the league, in the form of what the German foreign office called a "short but determined note." Here it is, as made public in Rome:

"The German government contests to the governments which in the council of the League of Nations took, in the deliberation of April 17, the right of making themselves judges over Germany. The government sees in the deliberation of the council of the league an attempt at new discriminations against Germany and therefore rejects it in the most resolute manner. The government reserves the right to make known soon its position on different questions touched upon in the deliberation."

This note did not seem to impress greatly the statesmen in London, Paris and Rome, but it mightily pleased Hitler's followers. They celebrated their leader's natal day with gusto and presented to him a fleet of about sixty war planes bought with popular contribu-

tions, most of which came from storm troopers.

RUSSIA was disappointed and disgusted when the French chamber failed to approve the mutual assistance pact which Litvinov and Laval had concocted. The delay was called officially a "temporary halt" in negotiations, and the treaty may be signed later provided the Soviet government promises to shut off the Communist agitation in France. All the French radicals want the Russian alliance and so does one section of the conservatives; but another big group is opposed to any commitments, especially with Russia. Also, there are many who still cling to the hope that Briand's old dream of a full Franco-German reconciliation may come true, though they don't say much about it in public.

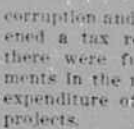
Russian and French papers revived the story that there was a secret military alliance between Germany and Poland, but this was vigorously denied by officials in both Berlin and Warsaw.

Communist parties of ten European countries united in an appeal to the working classes for a demonstration on May 1 against the German Nazis. The appeal, printed in the Communist party organ Pravda, charged that German imperialism and their Japanese and Polish allies are provoking war against Soviet Russia.

MORE than three thousand persons lost their lives in a series of earthquake shocks that occurred in the most thickly populated section of Formosa, the island off the Chinese coast which Japan acquired in 1895. It was the worst disaster of the kind in the Orient since the Tokyo-Yokohama quake of 1923. The number of injured was estimated at fully 12,000, and a quarter of a million were rendered homeless. Property damage was placed at \$25,000,000. Half a dozen sizable towns and many villages were completely destroyed, and fires and heavy rain added to the dangers and distress of the afflicted people. Water systems were ruined and there was fear of epidemics. The Red Cross and the Japanese army officials organized relief expeditions immediately but progress was slow because railway lines and roadways were destroyed, as were telegraph and telephone lines.

Formosa lies in the China-Japanese earthquake belt and has suffered severely from tremors in the past.

SENATOR HUEY LONG delivered his much advertised attack on the President and the administration before a crowd that jammed the senate chamber. He was limited to 40 minutes, but in that time he used a lot of language. After describing Ickes, Farley, Wallace and General Johnson in terms not very funny, the "Kingfish" assailed Mr. Roosevelt as personally responsible for what he called a plan to force the state of Louisiana to yield to corruption and debauchery. He threatened a tax rebellion in his realm if there were further federal encroachments in the matter of controlling the expenditure of federal loans for state projects.



Senator Long

Huey charged that the administration was concerned solely with controlling the expenditures in Louisiana in such manner as to insure winning the election in 1936.

"They could go down there and spend the whole five billion and they could not win that election," he said. "But they could load us with the five billion debt that we would have to pay as the result of carrying on their politics."

REPUBLICAN leaders who attended a luncheon in Washington given to William Allen White of Kansas turned the gathering into a real political meeting and in their speeches insisted that the Republican party must openly and vigorously attack the "fallacies of the New Deal."

Mr. White explained the conception of the regional meeting of eleven mid-western states to be held in Kansas next month and said that the amount of interest aroused among Republicans throughout the country was surprising. Such a regional meeting could do nothing more than write a creed and stir up the electorate to right thinking, he declared, adding:

"Confronted with new conditions, the Republican party must face this situation and write a platform that will be constructive and give promise of carrying out in a sane way the things needed to restore constitutional government."

DAUGHTERS of the American Revolution, in their convention in Washington, had their usual exciting and hotly contested election for president general. The candidates were Mrs. William A. Becker of New Jersey and Mrs. Flora Myers Gilentine of Tennessee, and the former won by a vote of 1,436 to 619. Mrs. Becker was attacked by her opponents because she had endorsed "The Red Network," a book in which Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Perkins and other members of the administration are listed as Reds.

Abyssinians Inhabited Present Home for Ages

The Abyssinians, the Ethiopians of the ancient world, have 'inhabited' their present mountainous tableland surrounding the headwaters of the blue Nile since before the dawn of history. In early times, says a correspondent in the New York Herald Tribune, they were more or less connected with the Egyptians of the upper Nile and afterward assimilated incursions of the Hebrews at the time of the Egyptian captivity; the Phoenicians, from whom they are said to have derived their alphabet, and the Greeks who had planned colonies along their seacoast. Christianity was introduced in the Fourth century and gradually spread throughout the land. This primitive faith, mixed with many customs of Judaism, is the principal religion there today.

In the Seventh century the Mohammedans conquered all of Egypt and the Abyssinian coastal possessions. The Abyssinians were driven into the interior mountain fastnesses, there to remain nearly a thousand years until their very existence was almost forgotten. About 1500 a Portuguese expedition seeking a mythical eastern Christian kingdom penetrated the country and entered into a relationship sufficiently friendly to permit the establishment of missions. To these Portuguese belong the credit for many churches, bridges and other public works constructed at the time and also to the fanatical zeal

of their priests must be attributed the destruction of the ancient literature the Abyssinians are said to have had. This domination of the missionaries lasted nearly a century and a half, when religious disputes arose and the Portuguese were driven out, the Abyssinians again retiring to remain in seclusion until about the middle of the last century.

Old Rocker Distinctly an American Invention

There is one style of chair that is thoroughly American—the rocker, asserts a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. For a long time furniture men credited Benjamin Franklin with having invented it, until some one dug up a bill for "rebooting a rocking chair" thirteen years prior to the existence of the Franklin chair.

The rocker was introduced in Europe from the United States in 1840.

Curiously enough rockers were quite the thing in theater boxes 75 years ago. Lincoln was seated in a rocker the night he was assassinated at Ford's theater. The style of rocker was therefore copied and known as the Lincoln rocker.

While the rocker has gone out of style more or less, the Colonial rocker is still being manufactured.

Birds Fly at Night

Small birds when migrating travel mostly at night, says one naturalist.

Chowchow, "One Man" Dog; May Be Native of China

Notably loyal and devoted to his master, the chowchow is often spoken of as a "one man" dog, says a writer in the Los Angeles Times. To strangers, the handsome face of this lion-headed, dignified and powerful creature, wears a scowl. It means "no nonsense" and is intended to deter one from undue familiarity. He will make up his own mind irrespective of any advances. To friends, however, his expression is kindness itself.

His plumed tail is held very tightly over the beautiful thick-coated back when the dog is happy, but lowered when he is frightened. His movement, a stiff and rolling gait, due to unusual straightness of his hind legs, which do not bend at the hock, is peculiar to the breed, as are also the characteristic blue tongues, almond-shaped eyes, cat-like feet, strong cobby bodies and an inscrutable oriental appearance.

Almond eyes may or may not be responsible for the claims of many authorities that China is his nativity. The breed, however, was foreign to China, being the outcome of Siberian sledge dogs and the Tibetan mastiff.

Gradually drifting southward from the colder regions, he became known in northern China as early as 800 B. C., when all dogs were divided into three classes, hunting dogs, watch dogs and edible dogs. It was in this last category that the fate of the chow was placed.

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