

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, April 27.—Opinions differ, in and out of Congress as to the probable efficacy of President Roosevelt's new recovery program, as set forth in his message to Congress and his "fire-side chat" over the radio the same night. There is no material difference of opinion, however, on some related points. Much satisfaction is expressed here over the fact that the Administration now clearly recognizes that the nation is in a serious depression; and even the President's most bitter opponents are gratified at the temperate tone of his written message and of his radio talk.

The new program advocated by the President is threefold. It provides for the continuance of relief measures, the expansion of bank credits and means of providing new work in which a large variety of industries will share. Coupled with the recent authorization to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to lend up to a billion and a half more to business of all kinds, with fewer restrictive conditions than in the past, it is the conviction in Administration circles that the President's new plan will do the trick, stem the tide of depression and start the country off again toward the avowed goal of \$0 billion dollars of annual income.

Congress Is Caggy

The relief recommendations of the President include another billion and a quarter for the W.P.A., fifty million more for the C.C.C., seventy-five millions for the National Youth Administration and 175 millions additional for the Farm Security Administration. The inclination of Congress is to go along with the President on this part of his program, and on that part of it calling for great expenditures for public works, provided Congress can have a say as to how and where these expenditures are to be made. Grati-fied as Congress is that the President in this case did not attempt to issue a peremptory order for the legislation he desires, the boys on Capitol Hill are inclined to be very cagey about giving Mr. Roosevelt another blank check. Much of the recent rebellion in Congress against the Administration has been due to the discovery that when they have voted a lump sum to be used at the President's discretion they were putting a weapon into the hands of the Executive which could be used effectively to discipline the Legislative branch of government.

Nothing has been more bitterly resented by the general run of Congressmen and Senators than the spectacle of Governors and Mayors lining up at the White House to beg for allotments of public works funds, instead of coming to the Capitol to ask for favors. The traditional prerogative of Congress has been to control the "pork-barrel," and the most valuable political asset of a Congressman has been his ability to get a good-sized slice of Federal funds expended in his home district.

Fight for Prestige

That is why they are scrutinizing very closely the President's proposals that they appropriate another 450 millions for the Public Works Administration, 27 millions for flood control work, 25 millions for public buildings, Treasury loans of 300 millions to the Housing Administration and a billion in public works loans to states and their political subdivisions. They want to have the say as to what states and subdivisions, including Congressional districts, these huge sums are to be spent in, rather than to hand over lump sums which might, conceivably, be used to gain more credit for the Executive and to

discredit members of the Legislative branch who have opposed any part of the Executive's program. Therefore there is a strong chance that these new recovery appropriations will not be voted without being "ear-marked" for specific purposes in specific localities, thus re-asserting again the independence of Congress.

That is still the real issue. Congress having found that a strong body of public opinion is back of it in refusing any longer to take orders from the White House without protest, is inclined to maintain and strengthen its position of independence. It wants to go along with the President in every feasible plan for economic recovery and the general welfare, but it is more insistent than for years in forming its own judgments on whether a particular program will work or not.

Letter Stirs Trouble

The tax bill is a case in point. The Senate passed a bill which, in its judgment, removed some of the major obstacles in the way of business recovery, namely the undistributed surplus tax and the excessive capital gains tax. The House had modified those to some extent but had retained their principle in the tax bill which it passed. A conference committee was engaged in trying to reconcile the differences and agree upon a compromise, when Mr. Roosevelt took a hand with a letter requesting that the House provisions on those points be retained. The Senate conferees were insistent upon their position, and considerable resentment of Executive interference in a purely Legislative matter is being shown by members of both houses.

What may be done about the president's recommendation for a wage-and-hour bill remains to be seen. The House committee has reported a bill which aims toward the eventual establishment of a forty-hour week with a minimum wage of forty cents an hour by statute. Best opinion here is that it will not be passed at this session. On the rest of the President's new proposals, such as removing the exemptions from income taxes on State and Federal salaries, eliminating the tax-exemption provision from all future bond-issues, and considering monopolistic practices in business, there is equal doubt that anything will be done by this Congress.

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS TAKE PART IN BETTER HOMES WEEK

The week of April 24-30 has been set for a National observance of Better Homes in America. It is a National non-profit organization devoted to the development of a better appreciation at home and family life. The work is financed with a grant from Carnegie Corporation, New York, and organized through the Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

The purpose is to concentrate private and public attention on: Best standards of home buildings, furnishings and equipment; Encourage families to study their housing needs and meet them in the best way they can; Promote and encourage the building of single-family houses; Acquaint families with best methods of reconditioning old houses and improvement of more grounds; Supply knowledge on more convenient

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method of house-keeping and fundamentals of household management; Encourage good reading, music and recreation and family relations; To develop an appreciation of all arts.

The home demonstration club women study from month to month ways of accomplishing these goals. One has only to acquaint himself with the activities of the rural home workers to see the improvements in home life and in more convenient, comfortable and attractive homes. Every club woman is making a special effort to make some permanent improvement in her home to tie up with this movement.

Each home demonstration club planned a tour within their community. Several homes where interesting improvements, kitchen cabinets, refinishing floors, improved walkways, etc. were made were opened to visitors. Many new suggestions will be collected. Two clubs are cleaning up school or club house yards, one club is cleaning a vacant lot, which was an eye sore in their community. Pilot club entertains their husbands with a supper to help operate a more cooperation spirit and to show them what the club means to their community.

MARY FRANCES GUPTON

Mary Frances Gupton, better known as Miss Billy Gupton, born June 1st 1860, died April 14, 1938 at her home near Sandy Creek, Miss Billy was in the 78th year of her life. She leaves the following children: Mr. Bunny Gupton, Talmage Gupton and Early Buck Gupton. Four grandchildren, Morton, Johnnie, Margie and Clyde Boyd Gupton, all of Franklin County. Her going leaves a vacant spot. The pallbearers were Messrs. Ballard Range, Alfred Gupton, Percy and Robert Evans, Hampton and Ellis Joyner. Rev. Roach conducted the burial services and she was laid to rest in Sandy Creek Church Cemetery. A Friend.

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