

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, January 25. — The atmosphere of Washington at this writing may best be described as a mixture of politics and war. To be sure, the atmosphere of Washington is always political, but the present combination of circumstances gives a political tinge to everything that is said and done, in and out of Congress. And there is very much concern about war, and the possibility of the United States being drawn into the situation in the Far East by officials who know about the real situation.

Politically, Washington is concerned immediately with the 1938 Congressional elections, as well as more remotely with the Presidential election of 1940. Many of the recent public utterances of men in high places have no other real purpose than to make it easier to re-elect present Administration supporters and fill some of the seats in both houses with sympathetic legislators.

Big Bad Business Blamed for Slump
The Administration and its supporters are sensitive to public reactions, and the present business and industrial depression has tended to shake the confidence of some voters in the Administra-

tion's policies. At first the idea was to deny that there was a depression. The tactics finally adopted were ancient and time-tried strategy. It is an axiom of both war and politics that the best defense is in vigorous attack. So the admission was made that there was a depression, but that it had been brought on by unsound business and financial policies which needed correction and adjustment. That would shift the newspaper headlines from the depression itself to the causes behind the slump.

Mr. Jackson's Political Prospects
A part of the political play in Washington is the evident effort of Mr. Roosevelt to promote Mr. Jackson into the Governorship of New York, at the 1938 election next November. Postmaster-General Farley has been induced to drop his suspected ambition for that high office, to clear the way for Mr. Jackson.

Many folk here believe that the President is quietly grooming Mr. Jackson for the Presidency in 1940. Possibly Mr. Jackson shares that belief. The "out" about that theory is that the next Governor of New York will be elected for a four-year term instead of two years, so that if he were to run for President in 1940 he would have to resign in the middle of his term, which would confuse the Presidential campaign.

Some shrewd Washington on-lookers see in this apparent advocacy of Jackson as his successor a move by the President to keep Secretary Henry Wallace from getting too far out in front. Every-

body here believes that the Secretary of Agriculture is definitely a candidate. But the President, these gossips say, does not want to be maneuvered into the position of backing Mr. Wallace. Hence his tacit approval of Jackson as Presidential timber.

War Preparations Go On
The defeat in Congress of the Ludlow resolution for a Constitutional amendment for a popular referendum before this country ever goes to war, was largely influenced by the President's opposition to it. And the President, in turn, was undoubtedly influenced by facts and conditions not generally known or fully understood in circles where they are known. Outwardly the Secretary of State must maintain a calm and peaceful attitude and tone. Insiders' gossip is that among discreet government men and his intimates he talks in a way to indicate that the time is nearing when the United States must come to grips with Japan and other aggressor nations.

Some say that Congressional pressure on the President and the State Department prevented a more aggressive reply to Japan's apology for the sinking of the U. S. gunboat "Panay." The President was told emphatically by his party leaders that Congress would not back him up in a reply to Japan as aggressive as that first drafted.

Diplomats who know are saying that the attitude of Congress is taken in Japan as proof that the United States is bluffing and will do nothing no matter how many of our warships are sunk by Japanese bombs.

Meantime, secret Army and Navy movements are under way in the Pacific, the Army and Navy budget has been increased, and there are many other indications that the Administration regards the Japanese situation as delicate, if not yet dangerous.

Richberg Plans Business Regulation

There is little belief here that there will be a spectacular anti-trust campaign by the Department of Justice, nor any Congressional investigation of trusts. Probably such an investigation will be authorized for next year.

More seriously regarded is the plan which the Administration is reputed to be considering for a new method of government regulation of business. It is believed to be the creation of Donald Richberg, former head of NRA. The new plan would establish a government agency with power or clothe the Federal Trade Commission with power to call persons engaged in any particular business or industry together and help them work out schedule of production and sales, codes of labor treatment and fair practices, on the basis of conditions within that industry. The Department of Commerce is said to be behind the plan and so are many who were strong for NRA. This new plan, however, is an effort to get down to earth and be practical.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR DR. LEAK

Funeral services were held Friday afternoon at East Bend for Dr. W. G. Leak, 63, who died at a Winston-Salem hospital Wednesday afternoon after an illness of short duration with blood poisoning. Dr. Leak accidentally struck his arm, which was already injured, against a hypodermic needle which was lying on a table, and inflicted a very tiny injury, so small he thought nothing of it. Last Sunday he waited on more than 50 patients and felt no ill effects until Monday morning. He was rushed to a hospital with a high temperature where he died Wednesday.

Funeral services were held at East Bend Methodist church, of which he was a member, at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, after the body had lain in state at the church for two hours. Rev. Ralph A. Herring and Bishop J. Kenneth Pfohl of Winston-Salem and Rev. C. H. Hutchens of East Bend, conducted the services.

Members of the Masonic lodge, of which he had long been a member, were in charge of the burial with active pallbearers as follows: C. B. Huff, Clyde Kirk, Bill Poindexter, Will North, J. T. Reece and J. W. Mathews. Honorary pallbearers were all doctors in Yadkin, Surry and Forsyth counties.

JUDGE RIDICULES PAROLE SYSTEM

Judge Hoyle Sink sentenced a defendant in Durham superior court last week to 18 months and then turned to the man's attorney and said:

"Let me know when he's served 90 days, and I'll write Edwin Gill, the parole commissioner, to parole him. He paroled everybody else; he might as well parole your client, too."

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N. C. RELIEF FUNDS TOTAL \$92,757,651

Washington — The National Emergency Council reported North

Carolina had been allocated \$92,737,651 from relief funds appropriated by congress in 1935, 1936 and 1937.

Of this amount, the report showed \$84,492,656 actually had

been spent in the state, with the remainder of \$8,264,995 unexpended as of December 31, 1937.

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