

This Week IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Oct. 3.—The final answer of Congress to President Roosevelt's plea to repeal the embargo on arms and ammunitions to belligerent nations hinges, in the long run, on public sentiment; and Senators and Representatives began, as soon as they had convened in special session, to get expressions of public sentiment which were quite the opposite of what the President and most of the members of Congress had believed was the way the people of the United States felt. The President's clearly stated desire to keep the United States out of war met with an overwhelming response of approval. Almost as unanimous are the expressions of sympathy with the Allied cause as against Hitler, which are included in the record-breaking volume of mail and telegrams addressed to the White House and the Capitol. No such voluminous and widespread public interest has been shown in any question with which Congress has had to deal at any time in the past.

Literally hundreds of thousands of letters have poured in. On the first day after the historic special session opened, one Senator alone received more than

28,000 letters from the people of his state.

Favor Embargo

But while the President's mail and telegrams were almost unanimous in their praise of his speech to the Congress, with its repeated declaration that the purpose of the American people is to keep out of war, and his assertion that the way to be truly neutral is to repeal the arms embargo provisions, at least, of the present neutrality law, the tenor of the letters which came to Capitol Hill is a stout denial that the President's program will keep us out of war, and an appeal to retain the arms embargo as a safeguard of peace.

From some sections of the country the ratio of letters favoring the retention of the present law is as high as a hundred against repeal to one in favor of it. In no section of the nation is the majority against repeal, as expressed in letters from constituents, less than ten to one.

Some of the letters indicate clearly that they have been inspired by different "peace blocs," but a surprisingly large proportion are spontaneous, individual communications from people who earnestly believe that the Neutrality Act as it stands insures American neutrality in the European conflict and so will keep us out of war.

Polls Differ

The latest nation-wide polls of public opinion by the agencies engaged in checking up on what people think tell a somewhat different story, with as high as 53 per cent. of voters in favor of amending the Neutrality Act, or repealing it entirely.

All of these expressions and reports of public opinion are being carefully studied by both the Executive and the Legislative branches of the Government. They will be reflected in the debate in the Senate, where the battle will be waged most bitterly, and will influence the final vote of Congress. Those debates will be influenced, as doubtless many of the expressions by voters are influenced, by partisan political considerations.

In his address to Congress the President took pains to disclaim any partisan point of view. He took the unprecedented step of calling into conference at the White House, before he prepared his speech not only the leaders of the Opposition in Congress but the titular heads of the Republican Party, Gov. Alf M. Landon and Col. Frank Knox, the candidates for President and Vice-President in 1936. He called on the American people to act as a unit without regard to political affiliations.

Landon's Statement

Governor Landon, in a public statement, declared that the grave national issue of keeping out of war is clouded by the shadow of the widespread belief that the President desires a third term in his high office. There is no doubt that some of the opposition in the public mind and among Senators and Representatives to adoption of the President's program is based upon the belief that, in one way or another, it might be used to further his candidacy for a third term in the White House.

The dominant belief here is

that when it comes to a showdown in Congress the President will get what he asked for. In that case a rush of war orders from Europe is expected and there will be something of a business boom, for which the Administration will get the credit from wage-earners and other beneficiaries of increased employment and higher wages and profits.

Red Cross Busy

The American Red Cross is preparing to render every service possible to all the belligerents who will accept its aid, as it did in the beginning of the last great war.

It is understood that Norman

Davis, head of the Red Cross, has asked former President Herbert Hoover to take charge of relief work in Europe. Mr. Hoover's work in organizing the Belgian Relief, to which he gave a great part of his personal fortune as well as his time and energy, as well as his later activities in the Far East Relief and Russian Relief campaigns, point to him as the best qualified man to head up the Red Cross work in Europe.

That would, however, remove Mr. Hoover from the field of political activity, in which his influence in shaping policies of the anti-Administration forces is believed to be great and growing.

MACHINERY

That American farmers are using more machinery is indicated by figures showing that farm machinery sales were 350 per cent. higher in 1938 than at the bottom of the depression.

Went for Lunch

Patient—Is the doctor in?
Nurse—No, he's gone out for lunch.
Patient—Will he be in after lunch?
Nurse—No, that's what he went out after.

Seven hazelnuts on one stem was found by an Oregon girl.

A dogwood tree taken from the grounds of Woodrow Wilson's birthplace was taken to the New York World's Fair and planted there.

NOTICE

State of North Carolina, Surry County.

In the Superior Court.
Lillian G. Slawter, Plaintiff, vs. N. C. Slawter, Defendant.

The defendant above named N. C. Slawter, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Surry County to obtain a divorce from the defendant on the grounds of two years separation between the plaintiff and

defendant; and the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of Superior Court of Surry County, at his office in Dobson, N. C., at the Court House, within twenty days after the completion of service of this summons by publication, which will be complete, thirty days from the date of this notice, and answer or demur to the complaint filed in this action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 18th day of September, 1939.
F. T. LEWELLYN,
Clerk Superior Court.

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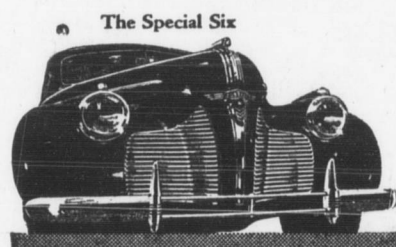
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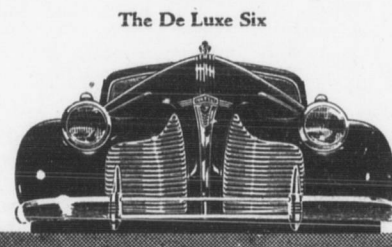
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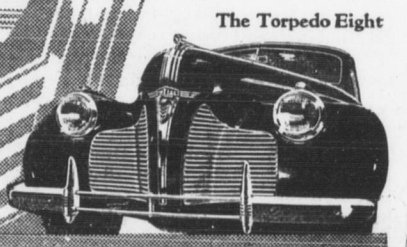
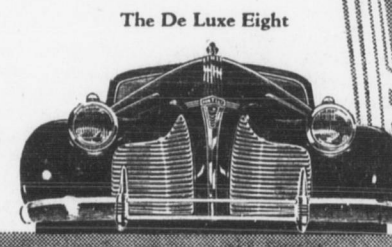
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