

This Week IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Oct. 10—President Roosevelt, in his address at the opening of the special session of Congress which is considering his proposal to repeal the embargo against the sale of weapons and ammunition to any nation at war, appealed to the Senators and Representatives, and inferentially to the people of the nation, to approach the subject in a non-partisan spirit. The nation must stand as a unit, he said, in its efforts to keep the United States out of the European war.

On that last part of his appeal, that the country should be of a single mind about keeping out of war, his message struck a responsive chord. And there is no doubt in the mind of any experienced observer in Washington that if there were general agreement that the President's program would keep the country out of war, Congress would go a long way, almost unanimously, to back him up. But there is no such agreement, either in Congress or outside of it.

There is no way of checking up on the partisan affiliations of nearly a million voters who have written letters to their representatives in Congress urging action one way or the other on the Neutrality Act, in the past few weeks. The vast majority of the letters oppose the President's plan. But how many of them are Republicans and how many Democrats nobody knows, and whether they are motivated by sincere belief in the matter, or by a partisan desire to block anything which Mr.

Roosevelt advocates, none can tell.

In Washington, however, it is easier to draw conclusions. Senators and Representatives, with few exceptions, are paying slight heed to the President's appeal for "the adjournment of partisanship" so long as the present European crisis lasts.

Party Line-up

The battle against the repeal of the arms embargo is so definitely a battle of Republicans against Democrats that it has had the effect, among other things, of bringing back into support of the Administration many Democrats who have been opponents of the President in most of his recent programs, including Alfred E. Smith. Even venerable Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, whose feud with Mr. Roosevelt has been of more than six years' duration, is back again in the same fold with such New Dealers as Senators Pepper of Florida and Bilbo of Mississippi. Senators Pat Harrison, Harry Byrd and "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina also are back. The fight therefore, is distinctly a party battle, each side believing that its victory will strengthen its party's chances of success in the 1940 Presidential election.

That, and not neutrality in any real sense, is the actual issue. The wheel-horses of the battle on the Republican side are Senators Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, Hiram Johnson of California, Borah of Idaho and Nye of North Dakota.

That the Republicans intend to take the fullest political advantage of the neutrality debates is undisputed. The belief here is that the member of that party who will gain the greatest personal political advantage is Senator Vandenberg. Mr. Vandenberg is an avowed candidate for the Presidency, as he was in 1936. He has been sounding the slogan: "Keep America out of War" for many months, and has gained a much larger popular following than he had a year ago.

by his repetition of that warning. Vandenberg's chances for the Republican nomination seem to Washington politicians to be better than ever. Polls of public opinion still show District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York in first place, but with Vandenberg gaining, and far ahead of Senator Taft.

Third Term Sentiment

On the other hand, the same polls show a surprising increase in public sentiment for a third term for Mr. Roosevelt. That is accounted for here by the President's oft-repeated declaration that he intends to keep America out of war. On that point he has practically the whole people with him, or would if all literally believed in his program.

The belief in important political circles in both parties that we are not going to war, whether or no, would appear to be back of the efforts of both parties to be in a position to claim credit for keeping the United States out of war.

The most complete confirmation of the attitude of the Republican leaders to reject Mr. Roosevelt's request for the ad-

journalment of partisanship was the address of Chairman John D. M. Hamilton of the Republican National Committee, in which he declared that the President was asking Congress to become another rubber-stamp to give him a blanket indorsement. Members of both parties went along with the President in 1933, when the national emergency was apparent to everybody, but no such emergency now exists, Mr. Hamilton said.

Pros and Cons

What will be the final action of Congress, it is difficult to forecast. The bill reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commonly known as the Pittman Bill, is not entirely satisfactory to either side, and especially to Senator Johnson, author of the Johnson Act forbidding the United States to give credit to any nation in default on its debts to our government. The "cash and carry" provisions of the Pittman bill, as first drafted, give ninety days credit on the sale of munitions.

That is the picture of coming events in Washington as the curtain rises on what may well

prove to be the most heated, long-drawn-out and momentous discussion since those which led to the declaration of war in 1917.

MAKE FISH HAPPY

Ruth—No wonder you like to fish. It makes the little dears so happy.

Jack—How do you know?
Ruth—They're always wagging their tails when you pull them out of the water.

IT'S THE TROMBONE

Neighbor—What's the matter, Your playing sounds like the bel-lowing of a sick bull.
Young Trombonist — I don't know what's the matter with my instrument. I blow in sweet but it comes out rotten.

MOTHER TONGUE

Willie—Say, Dad, who do they call English the "mother tongue"?

Dad—Just observe who uses it the most around this house, son; then you'll know.

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Latest News - Swinguet — Adm. 10c-25c

Friday-Saturday, Matinee and Night—

THREE MESQUITEERS

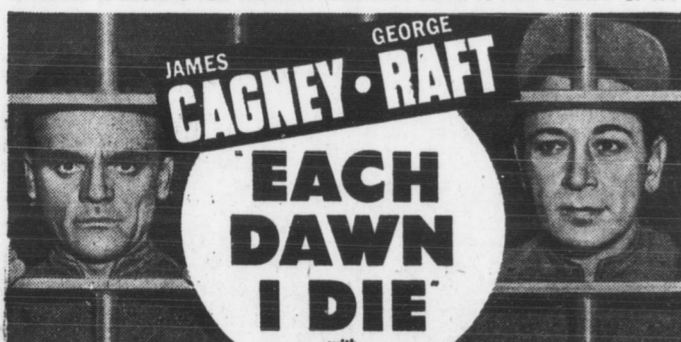
In "WYOMING OUTLAW"

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Admission 10c-25c

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With Bert Wheeler - Marie Wilson

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RITZ SHIRT	1.95
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4 SOX	1.00
2 UNDERWEAR	1.00

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SALES TAX 1.25

TOTAL \$42.80

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