



The next four months may prove to be one of the most eventful periods in the Seventy-fifth Congress. The legislation passed and the issues raised will certainly have a sweeping effect on the whole functions of the Federal Government. Few can predict anywhere near accurately what that effect will be.

Will the President's Supreme Court plan pass through opposition which, to say the least, is formidable? Will reorganization of the executive branch of the Government, as recommended by the President, withstand objections raised, or will it survive? Will the new farm proposals solve agricultural ills in the way proponents claim? Will the President's ideas for relief funds prevail or will the bloc seeking larger amounts win out?

Let me hasten to say that I cannot answer those questions. Weeks of committee studies, hearings, public sentiment and many other factors enter into the situation and must be considered before the answers are found. However, it may be said that the individual members of Congress, perhaps as never before, appreciate the grave significance of the questions and "behind the scenes"—in the quiet of offices and committee rooms—are giving all facts studied attention.

At the moment the Supreme Court proposal is far and away ahead of all other issues from the standpoint of importance and public interest. Throughout our whole history any suggestion affecting the nation's highest tribunal has brought a barrage of public statements. Fortunately, the radio offers a new form of discussion and, with the press, gives our people ample means of hearing and reading both sides of the question.

Whatever may be said, for or against the President's court plan, there should be kept in mind the fact that the Chief Executive was given a tremendous vote of confidence last November. The majority of our people tendered this vote of confidence. Therefore, any recommendation made by the President deserves to be weighed on its merits and given the acid test of "value to the public good," rather than be affected by snap judgment. The people, with their views reflected in Congress, will be the final arbiter. It is an axiom in political economy that the masses will, in the final analysis, find the correct answer to any question.

For the moment, the proposal for reorganization of the executive branches of the Government is in the background. Directly, it may carry as much significance to our people as the Supreme Court plan,

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although it does not stand out near so high in public interest.

With regard to the agricultural problem, messages already sent to Congress by the President and reports of those yet to come indicate, that from the standpoint of agriculture generally the "ever-normal granary" idea—a plan for storage of surpluses in normal times to meet times of distress—and an effort to solve the far tenantry conditions will be the highlights. The latter plan may go so far as to include all rural citizens now suffering low standards of living.

In connection with these situations and problems, it seems unusually significant that the Congress should be considering grave constitutional questions in the same year we begin observance of the 150th anniversary of the constitution. It may be that the Seventy-fifth Congress may leave its footprints on the sands of time from the standpoint of constitutional action.

Therefore, these problems should be considered without hysteria, without swayed public opinion, and without political bias. What is best for our people? How can that best be attained? Those are the real questions as Congress comes from around the curves of organization and preliminaries and enters the the gruelling speedway stretch of the next four months.

Miss Doris Grey of Garysburg, N. C. spent the week-end with Miss Helen Messer.

New Hanover Squad Nabs Two Caledonia Fugitives

Mt. Airy Convict Hit By Buckshot; Fail To Use Guns; Take To Heels

Wilmington, Feb. 20.—City and county officers today hemmed in and captured Clark York of Mount Airy and A. W. Pettit of Charleston, S. C., two of seven long-term convicts who escaped from Caledonia Prison Farm last Monday, kidnapped three hostages, and sped on a wild dash through Eastern North Carolina in a commandeered automobile.

York was wounded in the back by a single buckshot, but Sheriff C. Davis Jones said the wound was not serious enough to necessitate hospital attention, and both men were lodged in the New Hanover County jail. Sheriff Jones and his deputies were assisted in the capture by E. L. Aiken, superintendent of the New Hanover prison camp.

Jones said his men fired into the air and into the ground when the fugitives ran after being surprised while standing beside an automobile on a side road near the Wilmington Country Club's golf course. It was a wild shot, he said, that struck York.

Both York and Pettit were armed with .38-calibre pistols, the officers

reported, but neither used his weapon.

Others Missing.

No trace was found of the other five convicts. The seven escaped by covering guards at the Caledonia prison farm with a pistol, supposedly smuggled to them, and forcing two camp officials to accompany them in a prison laundry truck. Before leaving the camp, however, they armed themselves with pistols from the prison arsenal.

A few miles away from the prison, they commandeered an automobile driven by Walter Willard, 19-year-old Raleigh youth, and compelled him to accompany them. The youth and the two camp officials were freed unhurt about 7 p.m. Monday night near Pinehurst.

Early Tuesday morning, Willard's automobile was found abandoned about two miles from High Point. Search for the fugitives centered in that vicinity but there was no definite report of their whereabouts until the capture of York and Pettit today.

York was sent up from Mount Airy under a 45-year-sentence for bank robbery and a 30-year sentence for murder. Pettit, originally from Charleston, S. C., had a 45-year sentence for bank robbery facing him.

The others who escaped were:

Robert S. Smith, Goldsboro, 15 yrs. for murder; Bill Payne, High Point, 40 years, robbery with firearms; Ralph Page, Drexel, life for murder; C. F. Yeager, Norfolk, Va., 10 years for larceny and safecracking; and J. W. Turner, Marion, 10 years for storebreaking.

Capt. I. D. Hinton, personnel officer of the Caledonia farm, and Steward W. L. Roberts, the two hostages besides Willard, returned to their duties after the convicts had put them out of Willard's automobile near Vass, in the Pinehurst-Southern Pine community.

PITTS SAYS CONVICTS NOW HAVE COME OUT OF HIDING

Oscar Pitts, acting director of the prison division, predicted capture of five Caledonia convicts remaining at large following the apprehension of two of their fellow prison-breakers Saturday near Wilmington.

"It looks like they're traveling in pairs," he said, "and since they're on the move, and apparently not in hiding any longer, we'll get 'em sooner or later." The seven criminals "broke" from Caledonia Prison Farm Monday, Feb. 15.

Pitts said the car the men were using when they were caught was from Lexington, according to his first information. He said it would be checked to determine whose it was. The men were Clark York and A. W. Pettit, the latter being a well-known desperado in the southeastern part of the State, the prison officials said.

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