

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 9. -- Possible changes in the social security act is one of the principal subjects being discussed by administration officials and members of congress preliminary to the opening of the first session of the 75th congress, which will begin on January 5.

The feeling is quite general that the act is not sufficiently comprehensive, in that it does not take in agricultural workers, domestic servants and employees of educational, charitable and scientific institutions and of "instrumentalities of state and federal governments."

The treasury's ruling that all banks which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance corporation are instrumentalities of the government removes all bank employees from the provisions of the act as it now stands.

There is also some talk about the possibility of eliminating the individual tax on employees' pay envelopes and providing for old age retirement benefits out of general taxation. It is not considered probable that this will be done.

It is certain, however, that the whole subject of old age pensions, either by means of individual contributions or provisions for old age assistance to those in need will be one of the most actively debated questions to which the new congress will have to find a satisfactory answer.

S.S.B. To Baltimore

And in the meantime, nothing could provide a better demonstration of the way in which government offices have made Washington the most crowded city in America than the fact that the social security board had to go to Baltimore to find a suitable building to house its departments.

The board found that it was going to require, at the very beginning of its work in connection with the old age benefit insurance part of its work, at least 120,000 square feet of floor space. Not that much space could be found in the District of Columbia.

One hundred and twenty thousand square feet is as much as it included in a ten-story building, 100x120 feet in area. Moreover, besides needing floor space, the board found that it would have to fill that floor space with such a heavy load that nothing short of factory construction would carry it.

There will be more than 50,000,000 individual filing cards for ready reference. This includes the original registration cards filled out by workers, and the official copies of them which will constitute the working file. The cards alone will weigh about 250,000 pounds.

The board found a factory building in Baltimore with three acres of floor space; is moving into it and hopes to be ready on January 1 to begin keeping the records of the earnings of the estimated 25,000,000 workers who come under the old age benefits provisions of the social security act. Also, a record of the payment of the income tax of one per cent of each worker's wages and the additional payroll tax of one per cent paid by his employer.

The decision of the supreme court by a tie vote of four to four that the New York state unemployment compensation law is constitutional is held here to indicate that the unemployment insurance provisions of the social security act may also be held constitutional.

Trade Situation Improves

The international trade situation is reported by the state department to have been greatly improved since France joined with England and the United States on an agreement to maintain the parity of their respective currencies by a stabilization agreement. Last week the remaining nations which are still on the gold standard joined the international agreement. They are Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands, which is Holland.

One effect of this agreement in regard to currency is expected to be the working out of a means of checking excessive exports of gold from one country to another.

President Roosevelt not long ago expressed concern over what he called "hot money" coming into the United States from Europe. What he referred to was investments in American securities against gold credits in the United States, resulting in the holding by foreign investors of billions of dollars worth of stocks and bonds which they might suddenly take a notion to dump on the market and so depress prices abnormally.

There is, of course, no way of preventing anybody anywhere from buying shares in American corporations. But if the other nations in this currency agreement co-operate in checking shipments of gold to this country it will be much more difficult for foreign speculators to acquire such large holdings in the American security markets as to constitute a danger to the stability

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GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

Security Act to Be Voted On By North Carolina Solons; Ehringhaus Acts to Satisfy Federal Requirements

Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus called the newly elected North Carolina legislature Friday to meet at 11 a. m., on December 10, "to consider the enactment of an unemployment insurance act."

The council of state met in special session with the governor and adopted a resolution approving the call and advising an extra legislative session to deal "with the extraordinary matters suggested by the governor."

Governor Ehringhaus made it plain he thought the "Cherry" act would qualify North Carolina under the federal social security act but wished to remove any question.

The extra session will be North Carolina's first since 1924, when Governor Cameron Morrison convened the lawmakers to enact laws permitting the state to establish and operate port terminals.

The call lists only unemployment compensation insurance legislation for consideration but the legislators are not bound to consider only that subject. In North Carolina the governor has no veto, this being the only state where the executive does not have such power.

It has been variously estimated that employers in North Carolina stand to lose \$2,500,000 or more if the state cannot comply with the federal unemployment insurance act by December 31.

The next regular biennial session of the legislature is to start on January 6, and the next governor, Clyde R. Hoey of Shelby, will be inaugurated on January 7.

A proposed act, the governor said, is being drawn and will be ready for the legislature. He expressed hope that the session would end before Christmas.

In a statement accompanying the proclamation for the special session, the governor said in part:

"The governor made it plain that, in agreement with the attorney general of North Carolina, he still thought the Cherry act sufficient and pointed out that only by construing the word 'contributions' (which derivation is exactly the opposite of 'tribute') as satisfied only by a 'tax' could the contention of the insufficiency be sustained.

"The governor stated he did not wish to place any additional burden upon our senators and congressmen or leave the question of state compliance open to the slightest possibility of question.

"An act conforming to federal rulings has been practically completed and will be ready for presentation on the opening day of the session and can be quickly and fully considered either by special committee of the whole and enacted in time for Christmas adjournment."

The proclamation says the session shall "continue until the proper business of the session has been disposed of or until such session has been adjourned in accordance with the constitution and law of the state."

POWER CO. SPONSORS CHRISTMAS DECORATION

The New River Light and Power company today makes announcement of a list of valuable appliances which will be given to those who succeed most tastefully decorating a Christmas tree, either outside or inside the home.

In past years this contest has been extremely popular in the community, and has resulted in the placing of a carefully lighted tree in most every window along the streets, while some string the vari-colored lights on lawn shrubbery. The contest is one of the most valuable forces in instilling the Christmas spirit into the citizenship. All customers of the company are invited to enter.

Litten Resigns as Local Police Chief

Mr. F. E. Litten, who for the past seven months has been connected with the local police department and recently the chief of the organization, has resigned his position, and with his family will leave Sunday for Porterdale, Ga., where he has been tendered a lucrative position as cotton mill superintendent.

Mr. Litten has been a faithful, efficient and courteous officer, and has made a large number of friends in this community on account of his uniform and diligent endeavors. There are many regrets that he should have decided to sever his connection locally.

Obey That Impulse

by A. B. Chapin



SHERIFF SEIZES 74 DISTILLERIES

Administration of Outgoing Sheriff Marked by Strict Enforcement of Law

During the last week of the administration of Sheriff A. V. Howell, the capable law enforcement officer instituted a raid into Beaver Dam township, resulting in the seizure of a large copper still, two still worms, and the destruction of a hundred gallons of beer. An alleged operator of the illicit plant was taken into custody and was bound for his appearance at the April term of superior court.

Subsequently, it is revealed that the seizure brings to 74 the number of liquor manufactories which have been destroyed by the vigilant officer during the four years of his tenure. Forty men were taken in connection with their operation, and there is no gainsaying but that Sheriff Howell has taken more stills and more of the operators thereof, than has fallen into the hands of the law for a period of perhaps more than 15 years.

The record also shows that Mr. Howell has taken more than a hundred escaped convicts—robbers, murderers, etc., wanted by other states and counties. No capital crime of any kind has been committed in the county but that the perpetrator has been brought to the bar of justice.

The key to the county jail has been turned on 2,500 men since Sheriff Howell has been holding forth, and 5,000 arrests have been effected. Automobiles without number have been seized and the whiskey they carried destroyed by the hundreds of gallons.

LEAVE FOR RALEIGH

Mr. W. F. Miller, recently-elected member of the house of representatives from Watauga county, and Mr. Roby T. Greer, who sits in the senate at the behest of the citizens of Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany, will be in Raleigh today for the opening of the special session of the legislature called by Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus. They were notified of the gathering by telegraph Saturday afternoon.

LINNEY FELS BIG BUCK IN PISGAH FOREST

Attorney Baxter M. Linney, of LeNoir, was one of the successful hunters in the Pisgah Forest area last week, and returned to Boone with a 150-pound buck, one of the largest to be killed during the annual hunt.

Sunday evening, Mr. Linney, Kenneth Linney and Paul Coffey were hosts at a dinner held at the Daniel Boone hotel, and about forty residents of the city participated in the sumptuous repast at which the piece de resistance was venison. The hospitality of the gentlemen was greatly appreciated.

Mr. W. H. Proffit, of Zionville, was a business visitor in town last Saturday.

St. Nicholas Showers City With Thousands of Gifts

OUR ADVERTISERS

The Democrat today is filled with advertising of local merchants, each one a clear-cut and truthful message, giving in detail concrete reasons for making Boone the shopping center of this region. We list the names of those who have inaugurated an extensive publicity program, designed to make of this city the most progressive and prosperous of all towns of similar size. These gentlemen have asked for your patronage. Read their messages, and fill your gift list completely and economically:

Bell's, Hodges Tire Co., Bermar Jewelry Co., Bell Telephone Co., Boone Drug Co., Boone Motor Sales, Walker's Jewelry Store, New River Light & Power Co., Harrison Chevrolet Co., Watauga Building & Loan, Reins-Sturdivant, Watauga County Bank, Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., Town of Boone, Watauga Coal Co., Smithy's, Qualls Furniture Store, Highland Furniture Store, M. & M. Motors, Miller's Floral Shop, Spanhour's.

RED CROSS QUOTA HERE IS EXCEEDED

Local Chapter is Singled Out by National Headquarters for Excellent Work

The Watauga chapter of the American Red Cross, ably headed by Mrs. James H. Council, has been felicitated by national headquarters for having exceeded its quota during the Roll Call campaign by more than 25 per cent. Watauga was to have raised 200 dollar memberships, but the final tabulation revealed that 255 had enrolled from this section in the national humanitarian organization. Mrs. Council is being congratulated on having made this outstanding record of achievement.

Following are the names of a few members who have not been reported previously: Mary Lee Bingham, Marshal Ward, Don Hagaman, E. N. Hahn, Nell Trivette, John W. Hodges, Ralph G. Greene, Mrs. Baxter Linney, J. C. Canipe, Mrs. Cora Council, Mrs. Ruth B. Mast, and Miss Annie Mae Sherwood.

CAUDILL INFANT

Jessie Caudill, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. George Caudill, of Valle Crucis, died Friday and interment was in the neighborhood cemetery.

Messrs. Ab Mullins, Arthur Hamby and Pat McGuire left Sunday for Morehead City to engage in a deer hunt. They expect to return Friday.

Throngs of Buyers Expected to Converge on City as Shopping Period Gets Into Full Swing; Record Business Predicted

Jolly Saint Nicholas, the roly-poly personification of Christmas benevolence and the patron saint of childhood, recently passed through Boone and opening wide the drawstrings of his mammoth pack, filled the shops of the city to overflowing with the most gorgeous array of gift items ever to be displayed in the community.

From cigarettes to sedans, from radios to kiddie cars, the stores are crowded with gift items. The merchants are priding themselves on the quality and quantity of their offerings, and have inaugurated an intensive advertising campaign in an effort to convince the people of the mountain counties that Boone is the retailing hub of the northwest. A cordial welcome is being extended to the people roundabout to visit Boone frequently during the ensuing days, and the most skeptical will be convinced that this is the logical shopping center for a community of counties with a population of around forty thousand.

With economic prognosticators betting on the holiday business this year bettering the receipts of the boom days of 1929, the merchants of the town have doubled their previous orders, and believe that with the coming of Christmas day, an all-time record for holiday sales will have been established.

On behalf of the enterprising merchants, The Democrat would call attention to the wisdom of home buying. Money spent at home yields a high rate of interest in community betterment and social well-being. Give the home town folks the first chance. Thereafter, you will not think of going elsewhere.

JACK SMITH SUCCUMBS AT BANNER ELK TUES.

Mr. Jack Smith, prominent citizen of the Vilas community, died at the Banner Elk hospital Tuesday evening at the age of 54 years.

Funeral services are to be conducted from the Willowdale Baptist church Thursday afternoon and a burial will be in that locality. As this is written it was not known who would conduct the rites.

Surviving are the widow and five daughters: Mrs. Erin Billings, Sugar Grove; Misses Grace, Forrest, Alma and Jean, of Vilas, and one sister, Mrs. Jennie Jenkins, of Bristol.

Mr. Smith was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Smith, of Vilas, and was a substantial and popular citizen. More complete details will be published in the next issue.

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP ATTENDS HARVEST FESTIVAL MONDAY

Boone High School is Awarded Cup by Carolina Pharmacy for Best Play; Other Prizes Given to Schools

With approximately 300 high school students of Avery, Ashe and Watauga counties in attendance, the Appalachian Harvest Festival, featuring music and dramatics, sponsored by the Playcrafters organization and music departments of Appalachian State Teachers College, was held here Monday, beginning at 10 a. m. and running until 9 p. m. Over 18 contests were conducted, consisting of music, both vocal and instrumental, demonstrations and one-act plays.

As an award for the best presentation of one-act plays, the Carolina Pharmacy gave a silver loving cup to Boone high school, chosen by the judges as the best of the festival. The winning production, "Rooting for Ruth," has the following characters: Burl Storie, Fred Gragg, Rodney Adams, R. D. Hodges, Louise Cook, Lucille Dryman, Jenna Greene and Geraldine Fox. According to the judges it was the supreme manner in which these local students characterized their parts that enabled them to receive this high rating.

Fleetwood ruled second place in the one-act play contest with the production, "The First Dress Suit," characterized by Richard Phillips, Mable Owens, Rita Houck and Fields Baker.

Third on the list was Lansing high school. Three representatives from this school, Ramon Moore, Shirley Graybeal and Louis Childrey, did commendable acting in the play, "A Marriage Proposal."

In order to stimulate interest and musical development through friendly competition many contests were featured in the musical program along with the rest of the festivities. Every school of the six represented entered some phase of the activities, and many of these gained recognition through the talent of students.

Listed here are the results of the program and the names of the winners in the various contests conducted. In the trio number Lansing high school rated first, Cranberry second; duets, Cranberry first; vocal solos, Evelyn Brown, Blowing Rock, first; Luke Hartley, Newland, second; Shell Hartley, Newland, third; Piano solos, Sally Teague, Newland, first; Marie Clarke, Lansing, second; and Inogene Greene, Boone, third; Piano duets, Lansing first and second; Boone third.

In addition to the piano and vocal numbers participated in individually, there was conducted a large and small chorus contest in which Boone won first place, Cove Creek second, Cranberry third, and Lansing fourth in the large chorus, and Lansing first, Cranberry second in the small choruses.

The school winning most points in the scoring was Lansing, rating four firsts, three seconds, and one third position in the contests.

In connection with the regular exercises, judges were chosen to select the best individual participants, and the following were picked: Geraldine Fox, Boone high, best character; R. D. Hodges, Boone high, best costume; Shelton Dugger, Cove Creek high, best make-up. Honorable mention went to Richard Phillips, Fleetwood, character; Fred Gragg, Boone, Ramon Moore, Lansing, make-up; Jenna Greene, Boone, Mary Alice Moore, Cranberry, Ramon Moore, Lansing, best costumes.

Judges for the events were: Mr. and Mrs. Homer Compton, of Appalachian music department; Miss Nelle Trivette, Boone Demonstration school; Dr. Abrams, English department; Prof. Yoder, History department; Mr. Leonard Eury, librarian; Miss Katherine Harwell, art; and Mrs. Hugh Hancock, of Boone.

Plans are pending whereby these winners and others will participate in a state contest which will be held next year. Boone is to be made the district center for this type of work and similar festivals will be conducted on a wider scale by the college and state.

FORD SALES ROOMS ARE MOVED TO NEW LOCATION

The Boone Motor Sales, Inc., local dealers for Ford automobiles, have moved their showrooms from the building on Depot street to the Sebastian building, and propose to have a more modern appointed establishment than hitherto.

Incidentally, Messrs. Pugh and Cook announce that a new shipment of the 1937 V-8 automobiles is expected to arrive this week. The new car is being enthusiastically acclaimed in this section.