

### The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Washington, March 28—There are three distinct groups, one almost might say three parties, into which the congress of the United States is divided. They are the Republicans, the Conservative Democrats and the New Deal Democrats.

Of the three, the Republican group is the most efficiently organized, under the leadership of Representative Martin of Massachusetts. On every question involving political considerations, the Republicans have consistently voted as a unit.

The other two groups are divided

and less sharply unified. One branch of the Democrats are thick-and-thin supporters of President Roosevelt, and if they do not actually take their orders from the White House they go along on any matter in which he is believed to be especially interested.

The third group, the old-line Conservative Democrats, is a fairly well knit element, composed of senators and representatives who regard themselves as the "real" Democrats and reserve the right to take issue with the administration on any question which does not conform to their ideas of the best interests of their party and the nation.

The real leader of this third group, which holds the balance of power and can by its votes decide the issue on any legislative question, is Vice President Garner.

#### Difficult to Agree

All of the Democrats would like to go along with the President, but many of the middle party find it difficult to agree with many of his proposals.

Therefore, a committee of four Democratic senators paid a personal call on Mr. Roosevelt a few days ago, to find out just what he really wants of congress. They reported back to their colleagues that the President wants particularly the following items of legislation:

First, the restoration of the \$150,000,000 for WPA, which was cut out of the relief appropriation bill against the Presidential wishes.

Then he wants new laws to aid distressed railroads; an expanded farm tenancy program and more aid for cotton, wheat and corn farmers; revision of taxes but not to reduce the government's income; extension of the mortgage-insurance powers of FHA and 800 millions more for slum-clearance work; no change in the labor relations law until the Federation of Labor and the C. I. O. have composed their differences; a system of additional credits for small business concerns and the appropriation of the additional \$550 million for national defense for which he has already asked.

The reaction on Capitol Hill to the report made by the President's visitors was that if that was all he wanted he could have it, all but the \$150,000,000 for WPA.

On most of the rest of the President's desires there is substantially no opposition in principle in any of the three legislative groups. There may, and doubtless will be, a lot of partisan quarrelling over details, but if congress felt assured that the program reported by the volunteer committee represents all that the President will ask of this session of congress, the road ahead for the rest of the year would be clear.

#### More Defense Wanted

Hitler's latest move in seizing what was left of Czechoslovakia after he had promised France and Britain that he would go no farther in that direction, has "thrown a scare" into official Washington, and definitely united all elements behind a national defense policy even more extensive than has been so far put forth.

Defense measures already voted or in process of passage through congress provide for a modernized navy at least equal in size to any other, an air force larger than that of any other nation, an increase of 40,000 officers and men in the regular army, the mobilization of industry to turn out 15,000 planes a year and the

equip a force of a million fighting men.

Estimates of the cost of these preparations for defensive war, if necessary, run to as high as four billion dollars over the next two fiscal years.

The very sharp note sent to Hitler by our state department, protesting against the seizure of Bohemia and Moravia, reflects an almost unanimous feeling in Washington that international events are drawing the United States more and more toward war; war for the preservation of American ideals of liberty and human justice and war for the insurance of American rights throughout the world.

No stronger note of indignation and protest has ever been sent to a foreign nation than that which Under Secretary Sumner Welles sent to Hitler after consulting with the President.

It was followed up by an order from the state department increasing by 25 per cent the duties imposed on the importation of all merchandise from Germany. That and the note are among the "measures short of war" to which President Roosevelt recently referred as a means of bringing dictators to their senses.

#### Tax Shows Decline

The preparedness program is necessarily having a serious effect upon the economy program. The tax-shaping committees of both houses are getting under way, but they are facing a very difficult problem. The early estimates of income tax returns showed a decline of revenue from that source of about 250 million dollars.

There is an earnest desire to revise the tax laws so as to remove some of the handicaps to business enterprise which the present laws have created; but how to do that and at the same time bring enough revenue to keep the government machinery running is a tough problem.

#### LOWER

The farmer is paying a lower average interest rate on his farm mortgage today than at any time on record, according to the Farm Credit administration.

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### Charges Milk Monopoly



WASHINGTON... Willis J. Ballinger (left), economic adviser to the Federal Trade Commission, talking with Dr. Frederic C. Howe, former consumers' counsel of the AAA, who asserted before the Temporary National Economic Committee that the National Dairy Products Corporation and the Borden company, with their "allies," determine what 70,000,000 Americans should pay for their milk as well as what 3,000,000 milk producing farmers should receive for their product.

### BOONE HI LIFE

The girls' physical education club and the girls' basketball team are sponsoring a box supper Friday night in the high school gym at 7:30. Everyone is invited. If you want a good time come to this box supper.

#### Debate To Be Held

Friday, the 31st, the negative team of the debating club of Appalachian high will go to Beech Glen to debate Beech Glen. The affirmative will stay here and debate Newland. Baxter Howell and Tharon Young compose the negative and Perry Greene and Hope Eller compose the affirmative. The query is: "Resolved, that the United States should establish an alliance with Great Britain."

The debating club has made rapid progress under the splendid supervision of Mr. Hamrick. He has directed the club for several years and much improvement is shown by the members.

#### Hollars Captain

Johnny Hollars was elected captain of next season's Blue Devils Thursday night at a banquet given by the Lions Club for both girls' and boys' basketball teams. Hollars for the past season has taken an active part in showing that fighting spirit that the Blue Devils is noted for. For his splendid fighting spirit he was voted the most valuable player. Hollars will be a senior next year, but this is only his first year of basketball. Hollars was also elected captain of the baseball team this season.

About 300 people attended the old fiddlers convention at the Boone courthouse last Saturday night. Several string bands participated in the contests, sponsored by the Boone chapter of Young Tar Heel Farmers. Mr. George Farthing, assistant county agent, was master of ceremonies, and Messrs. Harry Heflin, S. J. Barnes and Laurence Moretz served as judges.

#### Blue Devils Banquet by Lions Club

To the Lions Club of Boone goes the honor of taking the first step toward showing the Blue Devils that they will have the support of the town folk in the future. This step was the giving of banquet in honor of the boys and girls who played on the Blue Devil teams during the last season. This was the first banquet ever given in honor of a Boone high school basketball team, and it will not be forgotten. Everyone present enjoyed both the delicious meal and the program of entertainment.

Miss Edith Rudisill, the girls' coach, and the following girls were honored: Ruth Wilson (c), Helen Lammon, Doris Walker, Mary Doris Wright, Louise Taylor, Daisy Lee Shores, Wretha Marsh and Thresa Brown.

Mr. Herbert Wey, the boys' coach and the following boys were honored: Troy Greene, J. F. Church, Johnny Hollars, Lester Miller, Blaine Miller, Pete Coffey, "Bang" Bingham, Arnold Brown, Tom Beach and "Cotton" Pennick.

Johnny Hollars was elected captain of next year's Blue Devils, taking the place so well handled by "Pete" Coffey during the past season.

#### SMALLER

This year's American corn acreage will be the smallest in 40 years, and the area sown to wheat will be 18 per cent less than last year, predicts the federal crop reporting board.

### Bethel High School and Community News

Mr. Dale Norris, one of the Bethel high school teachers, who was confined to his room for two days last week with flu, is able to be out again.

Rev. W. D. Ashley filled his regular appointment at Bethel Baptist church Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Jim Sherwood, who has been sick for the past two weeks, is improving, we are glad to say.

The junior class gave the play, "Here Comes the Black Prince," in the Bethel high school auditorium Saturday night. The play was a pronounced success. It is estimated that there were 500 people present. After deducting and paying the amount of \$6 for the transportation of uniforms the net proceeds was \$37.65.

The 519,230,000 pounds of tobacco produced in North Carolina in 1938 was 13 per cent less than the crop produced in 1937 and brought the North Carolina tobacco growers \$119,187,000, which was 16 per cent less than the 1937 crop was worth, reports the state department of agriculture.

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