

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

A Resume of Government Happenings in the National Capital

THE INVESTIGATION of a joint congressional committee into the housing question, scheduled to get under way early in October, likely will be in the nature of a dress rehearsal for the bitter fight expected on the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill, a battle between private and public housing.

The opposing forces were evident in the organization of the committee in which the private real estate and housing lobbies won a victory through the election of Representative Ralph A. Gamble of New York, as chairman; and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin, as vice-chairman.

Senator McCarthy, brash young freshman, defied all precedent and senatorial seniority by opposing Senator Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, veteran chairman of the senate banking

and currency committee, in the fight for chairmanship of the joint housing committee. Senator Tobey came to the committee meeting armed with sufficient proxies to name him chairman since from time immemorial proxies have been voted in the organization of congressional committees. Senator McCarthy, however, with the help of house members, succeeded in forcing through a resolution prohibiting the holding of proxies and then forced through the election of Congressman Gamble as chairman and himself as vice-chairman.

This maneuver gave control of the housing investigation to the house of representatives and to Rep. Jesse A. Wolcott of Michigan, chairman of the house banking and currency committee, who sits as ex officio member of the joint committee. Congressman Wolcott is a bitter foe not only of public housing but also of all controls on housing and he was sponsor of the laws which threw overboard rent and building controls.

Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, powerful chairman of the GOP policy committee, is author of the

Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill and he was supported by Senator Tobey, Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, and most of the Democratic members of the senate.

Congressman Gamble, the compromise-committee chairman, is a little-known member of the house since he seldom takes the floor, but he is a son of a former Republican senator from South Dakota, Robert J. Gamble. It is likely that the joint committee hearings will open in Washington and then spread to various sections of the country.

In the meantime, grand jury probes are being made of alleged monopolistic practices of realtors in fixing prices in commissions throughout the country, and government statistics show that the home building boom has reached a 20-year high but that the new construction was confined largely to the smaller towns, suburbs and rural areas.

ALL SIGNS point to the fact that Clinton Anderson will remain in his job as secretary of agriculture. From various sources it has been predicted that Anderson would take over chairmanship of the Democratic national committee. It is likely, however, that Gael Sullivan, the aggressive executive director of the committee, will be named chairman to succeed Robert E. Hannegan.

IF CONGRESS APPROVES the Marshall plan for aid to Europe, and there is some indication that it will not, all signs point to an agricultural program of full production, that is production based on wartime demands for the next five years.

In the meantime the department is making one of the most careful studies ever made by government on what this country can do if required and the appraisal is based on the supposition:

1. Of continuing high employment.
2. Of slightly lower price average for farm products.
3. Of continued high export demands.

Patrolman Jones Injured in Crash

North Wilkesboro—State Highway Patrolman C. M. Jones, of North Wilkesboro, lost a tooth and received a scalp wound Tuesday morning in a terrific crash of his automobile and a car driven by John Kirby, of Lenoir. The accident occurred in the intersection of highways 18 and 18 at Moravian Falls. According to Patrolman Tom Roberts, who investigated the accident, Patrolman Jones was traveling on 18 toward Lenoir and Kirby was traveling toward North Wilkesboro from Lenoir. In the intersection Kirby applied his brakes and the left front wheel grabbed. The pavement was slightly wet and the front of Kirby's car swerved into the path of the car driven by Patrolman Jones. Kirby was not hurt but both cars were demolished. Jones was released following treatment at the Wilkes hospital.

TWO YEARS' BETTING NETS \$26

San Francisco—Victor W. Nielson, testifying in a divorce case, submitted records to reveal that, in two years, he had bought \$311,000 worth of parimutuel tickets on an original capital of \$4,500. His total profit? \$26.41.

Golden Period For State Seen By Broughton

Asheville—The North Carolina Society of Engineers ended its three-day summer convention here Saturday after hearing former Governor J. M. Broughton predict that "the next 15 years" may produce the state's golden era of industrial and agricultural progress.

Broughton, speaking before a banquet session, said North Carolina can increase its sources and distribution of wealth and expand its state-financed service by promoting the establishment of more processing plants for state-produced raw materials.

Col. G. W. Gillette, United States army division engineer, told the group his office will complete a project this fiscal year on two of the four dams in the Yadkin-Pee Dee rivers flood control project in north central North Carolina.

He said four dams are planned above North Wilkesboro with work on two on the Reddies river to begin first, as soon as congress appropriates funds. The army chief of engineers has allocated \$70,000 this fiscal year for advance planning of the dams, Gillette said.

CALIFORNIA GROWING

California, as a population center, is pressing Pennsylvania hard for the status of second state in the Union, according to census bureau statistics, based on a nation-wide population estimate. In the six years and three months between the 1940 count and the 1946 survey, California's population increased an estimated 2,643,240—or 1.2 per cent. On April 1, 1940, the date of the last actual count census, California was behind Pennsylvania by 2,992,793, while on July 1, 1946, California was trailing by only 473,623.

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended August 16 totaled 285 million pounds, according to USDA. This production was 1 percent above the 247 million pounds recorded for the corresponding week of last year.

1947 State Farm Income Shows Gain

Raleigh—During the first six months of 1947, North Carolina farmers received a total of \$1735,938,000 for their crops, livestock products, an increase of 32.5 per cent over the \$132,824,000 the farmers received in the same period of last year, the federal-state crop reporting service reported Saturday.

The 32.5 increase the North Carolina farmers received during the first six months of the year compared with a 21 per cent increase for the nation as a whole during the first eight months of the year, according to the crop reporting service.

During the January-June period North Carolina farmers received a total of \$108,142,000 for their crops compared with \$79,464,000 in the same period last year, and livestock and livestock products brought in a total of \$67,796,000 during the first six

months compared with \$53,360,000 last year.

Thanks to the multimillions from the tobacco crop, North Carolina last year ranked third behind California and Texas in the value of its crops. The state ranked 29th last year in cash income from livestock and livestock products, and in overall income from all farm products, including crops and livestock, the state ranked 13th, the crop reporting service said.

SLEEPING ON BEACH DANGEROUS

Gearhart, Ore.—Stanley Donald Hesgard, 8, of Cascade Locks, Ore., was killed and his parents injured when an automobile was driven across their bodies as they lay in a sleeping bag in front of their car which was parked on the beach. The mother suffered a fractured shoulder, but the father was only slightly hurt.

Although estimated a 11 percent off from last year's record, feed grain supply this year would not be below other recent years.

A historian said New Englanders have these dominant characteristics—frugality, individualism, hardness, eccentricity.

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