

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

A Resume of Government Happenings in the National Capital

Politics is at the boiling point. You can take your pick of points of view and go in most any direction. More and more Republicans are breaking away from the Taft leadership on the methods of combatting inflation. . . . Flanders of Vermont, Aiken of Vermont, Revercomb of West Virginia, Morse of Oregon, Langer of North Dakota, Baldwin of Connecticut, Ives of New York, Lodge of Massachusetts and Watkins of Utah are now openly demanding that something be done about either rationing or control of certain prices or both. . . . And of course debate on the Marshall plan, which got under way in both the house and senate foreign relations committees the first week of the session, still goes on.

Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Democrat of Wyoming, and Ralph Flanders, Republican of Vermont, are making a fight for responsibility of congress to heed the Full Employment Act of 1946 and pay some attention to the joint committee on the economic report created under the law. The committee, composed of seven members of the senate and a like number from the house, was created to consider the semi-annual economic reports of the President, also called for under the law. The President made an economic report on the outlooks in the nation in January last year and a similar report in July. He is making another this January 1948. To date, however, the joint committee has paid little attention to these reports although they are bound under the law to make recommendations to the congress within 15 days after receiving the President's report. If he had been paid to the President's recommendations, these senators say, a year ago last January or even last July, perhaps, something would have been done to head off the present inflationary cost of living.

"Insofar as congress is concerned, compliance with the employment act during its first year of operation was largely lacking," Senator Flanders said. He declared that the President's mid-year economic report in July "received only cursory attention."

Senator Flanders urges more frequent meetings of the committee, a meeting of the committee with the council of economic advisors to the President, also created by the act, and a closer working relationship between the staffs of the two bodies.

Senator O'Mahoney declared that instead of the congress assuming its own responsibility and working out its own anti-inflation bill on the basis of the President's two economic reports, the anti-inflation bill it did pass turned over the initiative, "and vested in the managers of private industry . . . the economic welfare of the American people. The issue has been presented whether the economic welfare of all shall be safeguarded by the government or whether the managers of private corporate industry now enjoying from current high prices the greatest profits ever recorded shall be in a position to prepare their own plans for the distribution of the commodities the people need and present them to the President on a take-it-or-leave-it basis," Senator O'Mahoney said.

"Because we have shirked our responsibility," he continued, "the government, under this bill (the Taft bill), may control the prices to be paid for products by the people of foreign countries but

it has no power to hold down prices for ourselves." It will be remembered that the Full Employment Act of 1946 was passed in an effort "to promote maximum production and employment" and it established a statutory mechanism for the formulation of economic policies. At least these two senators declare congress has refused or failed to use the statutory mechanism established for the very purpose of preventing inflation and depressions.

Let no one forget that this is an election year. While the scores of probes thus far have not turned up any political pay dirt for use in the election and have affected few save Andrew May of Kentucky, Gen. Benny Meyers and possibly Ed Pauley, the probes will go on. Hoping to uncover something which may be used in the campaign, probes are to continue on war profiteering, sale of surplus property, dealings of the RFC, bookkeeping of the general accounting office and the TVA, the veterans administration and operations of the civil service commission.

FISHERMAN GETS BUCK

Superior, Wis.—Alex Kotter and his party went fishing recently and, beside an excellent catch of 24 Northern pike, came home with a ten-point buck. Kotter discovered the frozen carcass under the thin ice of Pokegama River and game wardens said it was his for the eating.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently estimated that 1,040,000 long tons of United States grain and grain products were exported in November, 1947.

COVE CREEK HI SCHOOL NEWS

School reopened December 29, after a weeks vacation. Attendance was exceedingly good and various classes turned attention toward review in preparation for mid-term examinations which will be held this week.

A number of former students visited school last week. Among those visiting were Jimmy and Billy Billings of Appalachian; Fuller Horton, State; Catherine Stokes, Radford; Shirley Max Swift, Womens College; Nannie Helen Greene, Lees McRae; Robert Love and Fred Winebarger of Berea College and Harvey Trivette, U. S. N.

Miss Floy Cannon did substitute teaching here last week in the absence of Mrs. Norman Wilson who was out on account of the illness and death of her father, Mr. O. J. Harmon.

Moving pictures will be shown each Wednesday for the next few weeks. A special schedule has been arranged. In order to give the greatest possible time for classroom work the assembly period will be given to the time for the movie. The Red Raiders journeyed to Blowing Rock for a New Years game of basketball and were able to come back victorious by a score of 25 to 21. The game was a rough and tumble affair all the way. First one team and then the other lead in points scored. In the last part of the second half Cove Creek was able to get a permanent lead until the final whistle blew. Len Stokes was high scorer for the Red Raiders as he sank 12 points.

Governor Race Given Thought By Scott

Raleigh—Agriculture Commissioner Kerr Scott said tonight that he had "no comment" to make on reports that he would run for governor in the next primary.

Scott, in a surprise move, announced Friday night that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself in the agriculture post, which he has held since 1937. Contacted at his home in Alamance county, he said tonight that "I did not resign with the intention of running for Governor." He added, however, that "So many of my friends have

been stirring it up over the last two days that I may give it some consideration."

When Scott announced that he would not seek re-election next year, he said he wanted to retire to his farm in Alamance.

Only 24 hours after his surprise announcement, Lieutenant Governor L. Y. Ballentine of Varina came forth with a statement that he would seek Scott's post, Ballentine had been rumored a possible candidate for Governor.

Meanwhile, D. S. Coltrane, assistant commissioner of agriculture, said he would announce tomorrow whether he would seek the post.

JILTED, GIRL KILLS SELF

El Centro, Calif.—When the intended bridegroom couldn't make up his mind whether he should be married or not, Marion Keron Hall, 19, the bride-to-be took a pistol from the glove compartment of the car while they were at a service station near here and shot herself in the head.

RUDE AWAKENING

Reno, Nev. — Seven persons were riding on a jeep which turned over after careening from side to side of the highway. Six of the passengers said they were asleep when the accident happened and the seventh, a hitchhiker, was driving. Nobody was injured beyond minor bruises.

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Inflation is very much like the weather in that everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it. But now the Farmers Hardware Store is joining with Hotpoint, builder of America's finest electric appliances, in doing something about it—namely, reducing prices on electric ranges, refrigerators, disposals and water heaters.

Price reductions at a time like this when appliances like these are scarce, is news within itself. But all the more noteworthy is the fact that these price reductions—which run as high as \$20 on some models—are made in the face of the biggest demand for Hotpoint products in the company's history.

Certainly, this is proof that this move is made purely in the public's interest. We consider it an outstanding example of the kind of business statesmanship that has made America the country that it is today and the kind that will continue to lead the way to future greatness.

The Farmers Hardware Co. heartily subscribes to this courageous move of Hotpoint's—and is glad to be the first in Boone in this crusade to cut the cost of living.

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