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News Review of Current Events

NEW SPENDING PLANS

Billion and a Half More to Be Asked for Public Works Program . . . Battle Over Reorganization Bill



Members of the house of representatives were swamped with telegrams from citizens all over the country urging that they vote against the administration's reorganization bill which, it was feared, would pave the way to an American dictatorship. Above is seen Congressman John J. O'Connor of New York, a leading foe of the bill, reading some of the messages he received.

Edward W. Pickard

SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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Billion and a Half Wanted
HARRY HOPKINS, chief of the WPA, and Aubrey Williams, his deputy, had a conference with the President, and immediately afterward the word went out unofficially that Mr. Roosevelt contemplated offering congress a public works program calling for the expenditure of \$1,500,000,000 to end the recession and revitalize business.

According to the plan this money would be raised by federal bond issues, and would be lent to states and cities without interest for periods as long as 50 years; and it would be repayable in small amounts annually. The President, it was understood, plans to push housing and slum clearance projects, his immediate desire being to stimulate heavy industries. Williams has said a much greater emergency relief fund than is available would soon be needed if the new thousands of unemployed were to be cared for by the government.

Jesse Jones, whose Reconstruction Finance corporation has been authorized by congress to lend a billion and a half to almost anyone as Jones pleases and pretty much on his own terms, advised business men he would consider their loan applications individually. "The main thing this act does for business men," said Jones, "is to permit them to get loans from us for longer terms."

Kill Reorganization Bill
AT SIX o'clock on the evening of April 8 the President lost his fight for the passage of his government reorganization bill. The house of representatives voted 204 to 196 to send the bill back to committee, thus shelving it for this session of congress at least.

One hundred and eight Democrats, 88 Republicans, 6 Progressives and 2 Farmer-Laborites joined to carry the motion, which sent the bill back to committee, thus killing the bill. Voting against recommitment were 191 Democrats, 2 Progressives, and 3 Farmer-Laborites. Not one Republican voted to save the bill.

The bill, among other things, would have authorized the President, by executive order, to transfer, regroup, co-ordinate, consolidate, or abolish any of the 135 bureaus, agencies, and divisions of government. Certain independent boards and commissions were exempted.

Closing pleas, delivered in dramatic fashion by Speaker William B. Bankhead and Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, failed to swing enough votes to save the measure. The two leaders placed the issue squarely on the President. A vote against the bill was a vote of lack of confidence in the occupant of the White House, they said.

In opposition to all this organized effort were Representative John J. O'Connor, New York Democrat,

chairman of the rules committee, a group of other Democratic leaders and the solid Republican minority. They argued that the nation was fearful of the bill's implications. At a period in history when dictators abroad were growing increasingly arrogant, the congress should refrain from passing a measure which seemed to pave the way for a dictatorship in the United States, they asserted.

The voting on the motion to recommit, offered by Representative John Taber (R., N. Y.), started shortly after 6 p. m. As it progressed the tension was great.

Railway "Court" Proposal

HOW to save the important railways from bankruptcy was the subject of conferences at the White House and of deep study by the President. He rejected the suggestion of an outright government subsidy, and then adopted and offered for legislative action the plan of creating a special unit with judicial or quasi-judicial powers to speed up voluntary reorganization of the carriers and solve other of their problems. The unit may take the form of a special court or a board within the interstate commerce commission.

"Help Business" Measure

WHAT Sen. Pat Harrison called the "help business" measure, being the revenue bill as rewritten by his senate finance committee, was submitted to the senate. Though Harrison said he expected its speedy passage, others believed at least a full week of debate would be necessary.

Sen. Charles McNary of Oregon, minority leader, promised to support the bill, saying, "I think it is a great improvement over the house version. I am in favor of speeding its passage to help business."

Plan to Defend Czechs

JOSEPH PAUL-BONCOUR, French foreign minister, has devised a plan for an alliance linking Soviet Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia with France for the specific purpose of protecting the Czechs from aggression on the part of the Nazi Germany. The French ambassadors to Moscow and Warsaw and the ministers to Prague and Bucharest, who had been summoned to Paris, were instructed by Paul-Boncour to sound out the governments to which they were accredited regarding the proposal.

Efforts to bring about agreement between the government of Czechoslovakia and Konrad Henlein's Sudeten German or Nazi party broke down when Premier Hodza rejected the Nazi demands for elections among the nation's 3,500,000 Germans to determine whether they should gain autonomy.

Further south the rebels were almost to Tortosa and their vanguard was actually within sight of the Mediterranean sea. All along the Catalan front the government troops fought desperately, but it seemed their struggle was hopeless and observers believed the war was nearing its end. In the battles in eastern Spain, it was reported, the American brigades in the loyalist army were almost wiped out.

Victory for C.I.O.

INLAND STEEL corporation was ordered by the national labor relations board to deal with the Steel Workers' Organizing committee, an affiliate of the C. I. O., and to sign a wage and hour contract if an agreement is reached. The company is expected to test the order in court, but if it complies the C. I. O. union will have won by labor board action what it lost in a long and bitterly fought strike last summer. The company at that time said it would deal with the Lewis union but would not sign a contract. It contended this was not required by the Wagner act and said it considered the S. W. O. C. and the C. I. O. "irresponsible."

"An employer is not privileged to deny collective bargaining to the representatives of his employees merely because he views the representatives as irresponsible," the board held. "And the alleged irresponsibility is likewise irrelevant in determining whether he must embody understandings in a written agreement."

New Wage-Hour Bill

REP. MARY NORTON of New Jersey, chairman of the house labor committee, promised some time ago to bring in a new wage-hour bill that she thought would get through congress and meet with the approval of the President. A subcommittee of her group formulated a measure and she called the full committee to consider it. Prolonged debate in the committee was predicted, and the bill then would require approval by a hostile rules committee where a small group of southerners killed the previous bill.

This new bill is a compromise. It ignores the demands of the South for wage differentials to offset lower living costs; and it is far from meeting the desires of the two great organized labor groups.

Outstanding features of the measure are:

1. Creation of an independent five-man agency, which would be appointed by the President, subject to senate confirmation, to fix and administer flexible wage-hour standards pointing toward the 40-40 goal as "soon as possible."

2. The board could fix wage rates on the average basic pay for each occupation in individual industries. It could not fix hourly rates more than five cents over the average during the first year nor go below it. It could, however, increase the hourly rate by five cents every year until the 40-cent level is attained.

3. The board could not set maximum hours at more than 48 per week at the beginning and would be instructed to reduce them gradually to the 40 goal.

Bigger Dreadnaughts

UNITED STATES and Great Britain advised each other that they would invoke the escalator clause of the London naval treaty and would build dreadnaughts larger than 35,000 tons. The British also notified Germany and Soviet Russia of their decision. Both nations based their action on Japan's refusal to disclose her naval construction plans.

France, third signatory to the treaty, announced she would continue to adhere to the 35,000-ton limitation "so long as no continental power departs from that standard."

Opponents of the administration's "big navy" program are rather numerous in congress, though probably in the minority. One of the most consistent of them is Senator Clark of Missouri. Commenting on the invoking of the escalator clause concerning battleships, he said: "It is just the preliminary announcement of a world-wide naval building race."

Loyalist Spain Split

SPANISH insurgents are, at this writing, near the accomplishment of Franco's great objective, the splitting of the territory held by the loyalists in the eastern part of the country. They captured the ancient city of Lerida, known as the key to Catalonia.

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THEY WON'T SAY DIE!

Their Friends May Weep But Courageous Cripples Overcome Handicaps and Carve Useful Careers in World of Business

By JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Next time you're down on your luck and your jaw sags like an overloaded clothesline, try swinging your legs and arms, or blinking your eyes. And be thankful you have arms, legs and eyes.

A lot of people haven't. But the disasters that robbed them of these faculties have usually inspired them to make the best of it. More often than not they've achieved outstanding success.

Nineteen-year-old Jessie Simpson is an example. A few months back she was acclaimed Miss New Jersey, a personable young lady whose beauty and talent won admiration everywhere. Then one day she ran for a train, missed, and woke up in a hospital a few days later to find both her legs gone.

Gone, too, were tennis, golf, dancing and other sports, but Jessie Simpson didn't weep about it like her friends. Disaster brought her a new life, and today she's receptionist at the New York city telephone office. Moreover, she's building a career as a commercial photographer's model, for Jessie's hands are remarkably beautiful.

Legless Swimmer

Speaking of legless people, there's also the case of Charles (Zimmy) Zibelman of New York who lost his legs years ago in a Chicago trolley accident. Since then he has become famous as a stunt swimmer. He was photographed drinking beer and smoking cigars while swimming "across the Atlantic ocean"—in the swimming pool of the Queen Mary. His most notable achievement is a 144-hour, 145-mile swim down the Hudson river from Albany to New York last autumn.

In Provo, Utah, a high school student named Wilkins Nuttall is a prize-winning lightweight wrestler even though he has but one leg! Nuttall used to stand on the sidelines until he said to himself one day, "What has any other wrestler got that I haven't got?" and proceeded to give more experienced matmen a run for their money.

Success on "Stilts."

In the village of Bellflower, Calif., lives Ralph Veady, a leading business man and bicycle rider who nevertheless has no legs. Seven years ago Ralph was working his way through Whittier college by driving a tractor. One day the tractor overturned and he regained consciousness to find his legs gone. Today, seven years later, Veady conducts his jewelry business, drives his car and even dances, with the aid of artificial legs. A star performer in many amateur races, Veady is also an expert swimmer and a clever skater with or without his legs.

Only a few miles from Bellflower, in Huntington Park, lives Miss Clover Kerr, who lost both legs and one arm in a traffic accident last year.



ABOVE: Jessie Simpson, Hoboken, N. J., beauty, whose legs were cut off by a railroad train, but who has carved herself a new career as commercial photographers' model. BELOW: Bobby Jones, the world's greatest golfer, who was weak and puny as a child.

speech returned, but then came deafness. Nor was this the end of her bad luck, for in 1883 Miss Timonds fell on her head and went blind . . . on Thanksgiving day.

Undaunted, she has become a successful farmer, aided by her trusty hired man, Perry Wilson. He will tell you that Miss Timonds is a crank about her peonies; she insists that the different varieties and colors be grouped and blended.

But Miss Timonds and Helen Keller both had to learn the hard way, before scientific research found means of aiding the physically disabled. Today instruments have been designed which provide mechanical eyes and ears to youngsters born without sight or hearing.

Science Takes a Hand.

In Evanston, Ill., five-year-old Joan Higgins cannot see or hear but is learning with the aid of a "phonotactor," devised by Dr. Robert H. Gault of Northwestern university. Whereas Helen Keller learned to "hear" by placing her fingers on the speaker's lips, Joan Higgins' phonotactor translates voices into vibrations. She places her fingers on sensitive reeds which vibrate from 64 to 8,000 times a second as the instructor speaks into a telephone.

Few joys can compare to that of the blind person who regains his sight through surgery. In Asbury Park, N. J., Mrs. Ella Reynolds was taken home from the hospital to see the three children whose faces she had often caressed, but whom she had never seen. After 15 years of total blindness she was again made happy by surgeons who removed cataracts from her eyes.

Infantile paralysis, one of mankind's most feared assailants, has left in its wake many a crippled victim but most of them have found new hope in the joy of living. The most publicized case is that of Frederick Snite, Jr., whose millionaire father willingly spends \$2,000 a day to keep his son alive in the "iron lung" which may be his home for the next 10 years.

From Cripple to Athlete.

It's an accomplishment for a cripple to regain average health and become normally active, but it's amazing when they become outstanding athletes! Glenn Cunningham, the world's "fastest human," was trapped in a fire when he was eight years old. What had once been a pair of legs were grim, blackened fragments. Few people thought he would ever walk again but Cunningham fooled them. Today if you see him running around the track a full hour before his race starts, don't think Cunningham is "strutting" for the public. He has to exercise those rebuilt legs, to work up circulation by sustained effort.

Bobby Jones, the world's greatest golfer, was so skinny as a youngster that a good sneeze would have toppled him in the dust. Modern society is taking a much more humane attitude toward the cripple than did our forefathers. Scientists and the public alike are realizing that physically handicapped people can become useful citizens.

Collie Is in Ninth

Year as Law Student

Iowa City, Iowa.—The University of Iowa's most faithful law student is attending classes for the ninth straight year.

He is Huckleberry Finn, chunky, red-gold collie belonging to Law Professor Percy Bordwell. He is well known about the campus for his faithful attendance at classes and because he is a figure in an Iowa song composed by Professor C. M. Updegraff.

He made history at a mock trial several years ago when he sat sedately near the justices of the Iowa Supreme court as they made their annual visit to the law college. He sat sedately, that is, until a blank cartridge pistol was fired as a part of the proceedings. Then Huck bolted for a window, upsetting dignified jurists as he went.

ROBOT RIVALS MAN AS PROBLEM SOLVER

Works Out Engineering Equations at Rapid Speed.

Sydney, Australia.—In the research laboratories of the University of Sydney a machine has been invented to solve engineering scientific and mathematical problems that almost rivals the human brain.

It is destined, the university believes, to become to the engineer and scientist what the adding machine is to the bookkeeper and accountant.

By tracing curves on a sheet of paper it reduces the weeks ordinarily required for complicated problems to a few hours.

It can be adapted for solving many problems in railway engineering; for establishing range tables for artillery fire; for preparing statistical investigations; for solving many problems in physics, bacteriology and electrical research.

For instance, it will work out in a few minutes the problem of how to safeguard any electrical system, either of wiring or machinery, against lightning flashes.

Other curious possibilities of calculation include the adding of the total of three quantities that are constantly varying. This ordinarily requires tedious labor.

The inventor is D. M. Myers, a young research physicist of the radio research board of Australia, working under a government grant.

American Methods Used by Bandits in France

Carcassone, France.—France now has its modern, American-type stickup gang.

Working on American lines, complete with submachine gun, five automobile bandits stuck up a French gold mining company's payroll truck and baffled French police are now searching for a clue.

Closely following time-honored bandit custom, the five men were standing around an apparently broken-down automobile when the payroll car drove up.

One man blackjacked the driver while another held the submachine gun on the two guards. When the gangsters drove off the guards opened fire. Police are convinced that one of the five is seriously wounded.

The Surete-Nationale, which is in charge of the case, claims that the gangsters must come from Marseille—home of France's "tough boys." They also believe that this same gang is responsible for several important hold-ups in the southern region.

The payroll amounted to slightly more than \$20,000.

Five Children Row Mile

Daily to Attend School

Lakeside, Ohio.—The grandfathers who relate hardships they endured to go daily to school have nothing on five youthful members of the Zelms family who each day are rowed across the treacherous mile-wide Sandusky bay channel to attend classes.

The children live on Johnson's island and must go to Marblehead peninsula. And after the risky journey across the channel, they must walk another quarter-of-a-mile to catch a school bus.

Fourteen-year-old Lloyd Zelms, a seventh-grade student, assumes the responsibility for rowing his younger brothers and sisters. On clear days his job is not so difficult but when the waters roll heavily the undertaking is precarious indeed.

The children leave their home shortly after 7 a. m. and return near 5 p. m. When the water freezes over they are forced to walk across the ice to reach their destination.



Theodore Geisler, a blind Chicago lawyer, finds no difficulty walking through the Windy City's crowded streets, guided by his highly intelligent "seeing eye" dog. These animals have brought new independence to sightless persons.