

The Story of the Constitution

By CALEB JOHNSON

WHAT CONGRESS MAY AND MAY NOT DO

The powers granted by the states to the congress under the constitution are strictly defined and limited. In brief, they include the following:

1. To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.
2. To pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.
3. To borrow money on the credit of the United States.
4. To regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states.
5. To coin money and fix standards of weights and measures.
6. To establish postoffices and post roads.
7. To grant patents to inventors and copyrights to authors.
8. To declare war, and to raise and support armies and a navy and make rules for the government of military forces.
9. To call out the militia in case of emergency.

In general, congress has authority to make all laws necessary to carry into execution the powers granted to the federal government by the constitution. But throughout the document the rights of the individual states are

carefully safeguarded. For example, each state has the sole right of appointing the officers and prescribing the training of its militia. Each state can determine for itself who constitutes its militia. In New York the militia consists of every able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 45, whether enrolled in the national guard or not. Congress has exclusive jurisdiction over military reservations, but has no power to establish them except by consent of the states in which they are located.

Congress was given power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, but that does not carry with it the right to say who may vote in any given state. Each state sets up its own qualifications for voters and can change them at will. At the time of the adoption of the constitution practically every state limited the franchise to taxpayers or property-holders.

Other important restrictions are placed upon the power of congress by the constitution. It cannot enact a law retroactive in its application—an "ex post facto" law. That is, it cannot make illegal any act committed before

the law prohibited it was passed. It cannot impose taxes or duties upon articles exported from any state. It cannot suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*. This does not sound so important today, but the framers of the constitution had a vivid recollection of the custom of their British rulers of putting people in jail and refusing to produce them in court.

The purpose of the constitution to vest supreme power in congress, except for the rights reserved to the states, is indicated in the provision for the passage of laws over the veto of the executive. An act of congress does not become effective until it has been signed by the president, with the exception that if the president refuses to sign it, congress may, by a two-thirds vote, repass the bill. If thereupon becomes a law regardless of the president's dissent.

It is also within the power of the congress to dismiss from office any member of executive or judicial branches of the government, including the president. This is done by the process of impeachment, in which the house of representatives has the sole power to indict and the senate the sole power to try any official indicted or impeached by the house. Numerous federal judges have thus been impeached and dismissed from the public service and one president, Andrew Johnson, was impeached by the house of representatives but was acquitted by the senate.

Summit News

SUMMIT, Aug. 19.—The judicial meeting at Yellow Hill is progressing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos James, of Gibsonville, Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard James, of Reidsville, spent a few days last week visiting friends and relatives at Summit.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Walsh and children, of Roanoke, Va., visited Mrs. Walsh's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beabears, of this community.

Mrs. Zenna Walsh and children, of Walsh, are now spending a few days with Mrs. Walsh's mother, Mrs. Liza Fleenor, of this community.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Keys and daughter, Mrs. Leah Church spent Sunday visiting Mr. and Mrs. Keys' son, Mr. Clarence Keys, of Cricket.

Mr. Charlie Wellborn, of Pattons Ridge, was a visitor in the home of H. C. Kight, of this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Church and son, Presley, motored to North Wilkesboro Monday on business.

Misses Nina and Helen Church and brother, Johnson, spent Friday night with their brother, Mr. Coy Church, of Pattons Ridge.

Mr. Glenn Collins, who is stationed at Purlear in the C. C. Camps, spent the week-end in this community.

Mr. Floyd Simons, of Ledgerwood, spent the week-end in this community, visiting friends.

Misses Fern, Merl and Della-mae Mikeal and Messrs. Boyce, Burl and James Mikeal spent Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Keys.

Housewives Tell Wallace Meat Prices Too High

Washington, Aug. 19.—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace tried politely to explain his cattle and hog reduction program to some Detroit housewives today but their only reply was that meat prices are too high. In the face of this feminine logic he grabbed his hat and departed as gracefully as possible.

"How about that investigation of meat prices?" Mrs. Mary Zuk, the leader, called after him.

Wallace closed the door behind him as if he had not heard.

There were five housewives in the delegation. The others were Mrs. Irene Thompson, Pearl Altermann, Katherine Murda and Elizabeth Moos.

They described themselves as the Detroit delegation of farm women of the central action committee against the high cost of living. They made a bee-line for the office of AAA Consumers' Counsel Calvin Hoover.

Seeks Plane Escaper

Burlington, Aug. 19.—Police were today searching for a young white man, salesman for Quality Furniture company, Haw River, who is alleged to have chartered a plane at the Huffman airport here Saturday afternoon and made an aerial escape with approximately \$150 of his company's money.

The man being sought, police reported, is Andrew Mercer, who resided on Webb avenue. He is said to have spent the day Saturday collecting for Arthur Neese, his employer. In the afternoon he drove the truck to the Huffman airport and obtained a pilot to carry him to Greensboro. Police investigation disclosed that he secured a ticket there for railway transportation to a distant city.

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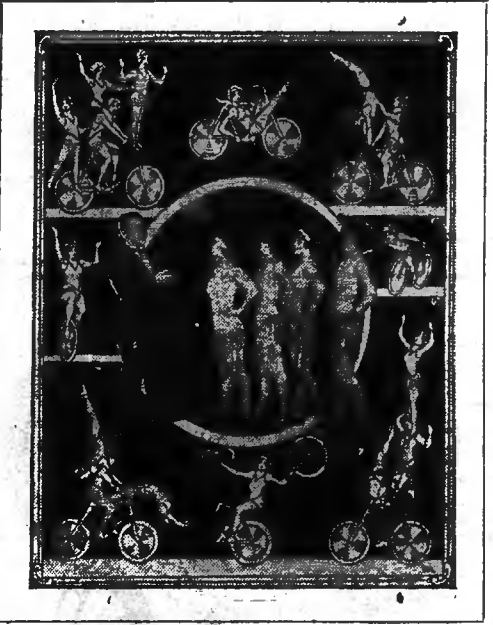
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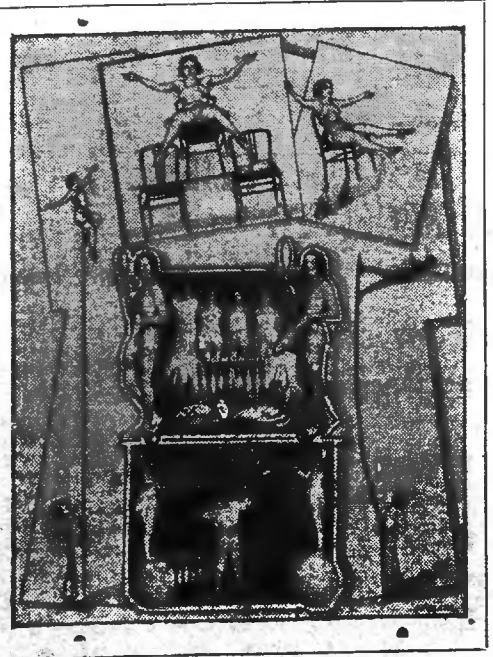
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J. C. WALLACE, Sec'y
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