

425 BODIES RECOVERED IN SCHOOL BLAST

IMPROVEMENTS BILL FOR \$2,344,000 SUM, BECOMES STATE LAW

Legislative Machinery Moves Slowly as Odds and Ends of Session Are Cleared

ADJOURNMENT MAY AWAIT NEXT WEEK

Solons Hope for Tomorrow Night, However; Compromise Auto License Cut Awaits House Approval; 'Ickes Bill' on PWA Housing Work Remains

Raleigh, March 19.—(AP)—The House accepted minor Senate changes in the \$2,344,000 permanent improvements bill for State institutions today and ordered it ratified into law. The legislative machinery moved slowly as odds and ends were cleared up. Many members still hope for sine die adjournment tomorrow night, but the enrolling office was more than a day behind in its work, which must be finished before the legislature can quit.

The "Ickes", or PWA bills, to facilitate cooperation in PWA housing and slum clearance projects and permit issuance of revenue bonds still reported in the Senate calendar committee, but Chairman Taylor said "we will report them and every other bill we have to the Senate before the legislature quits."

Federal officials told the State group ten million dollars in Federal funds for public works projects in North Carolina depended on the measure.

Senators accepted House changes in a bill to create a State bureau of investigation and ordered it ratified. The Senate also enacted measures to tighten restrictions on optometrists amend the 1933 fertilizer law, and tax scrap tobacco and scrap tobacco dealers.

A joint committee consisting of Senators Long, of Halifax, and Hill, of Durham, and Representatives Bryant, of Durham, Murphy, of Rowan, and

(Continued on Page Two.)

Earhart Is Poised For Second Hop

Honolulu, March 19 (AP)—A Supermarine test in navigation, finding a tiny sandbar 1,632 miles ahead in the vast Pacific, awaited Amelia Earhart and her crew, poised today for a take-off on the second leg of her 27,000-mile world flight. The aviatrrix who set a speed record on her flight here from Oakland, Cal., yesterday, said she probably would start for the distant speck of land, Howland island, late today. Army fliers pointed out a night flight would facilitate the perfect navigation required to hit the island, for navigators Captain Henry Manning and F. J. Noonan will have stars to guide them. The landing itself could be accomplished after dawn. "There is every possibility of a take-off late today," said Miss Earhart. She delayed an immediate start because of weather conditions and to permit a check of the plane's motors.

Guffey Coal Bill Pattern For Proposed NRA Revival

But Government Regulation Cannot Cure "Sick" Industries, Babson Declares; No Form of NRA Can Save Industry from This Technical Age

BY ROGER W. BABSON, Copyright 1937, Publishers Financial Bureau, Inc. Batson Park, Fla., March 19.—Can a new NRA or similar type of government regulation solve the problem of our "sick" industries? In view of all the talk about the new Guffey bill "to fix up" the coal business, this question is timely: Is public regulation more powerful than natural economic laws? The New Deal says, "Yes." The economists say, "No." Let us examine the coal industry. It is an excellent illustration, for it is not only one of our most basic industries, but it is also one of our "sickest."

American Winning \$4,327,317 in Races

New York, March 19 (AP)—Americans won a grand total of \$4,327,317 on today's Aintree grand national steeplechase. American ticket-holders gained \$1,200,000 on Royal Mail, which won the race, \$325,000 on Colleen, second winner, and \$200,000 on Pucka Belle, third. These race-winnings, together with \$2,102,317 awarded at the time of the Irish hospital sweepstakes drawing, brought the grand total to more than \$4,000,000.

2nd Durham Woman Wins \$150,000 Pot

Aintree, England, March 19.—(AP)—Royal Mail, one of the favorites owned by Lloyd Thomas, today won the 99th running of the grand national steeplechase before an estimated crowd of 500,000, including the king and queen. J. J. Ranks' Colleen, an outsider was second, and E. Bailey's Pucka Belle third in the field of 33, six of them American-owned, that started the four and a half mile journey. Golden Miller, the favorite, dropped out early in the race. Royal Mail, well up with the leaders from the start, finishes three lengths in front of Colleen, which held on to save runner-up honors by a head from Pucka Belle.

The winner was held at 100 to 6 in the betting, with Colleen quoted at 33 to 1 and Pucka Belle at 100 to 6.

ANOTHER DURHAM WOMAN IS WINNER OF \$150,000 SUM New York, March 19.—(AP)—Eight Americans held tickets on Royal Mail, winner of today's Aintree Grand National steeplechase. Each winning ticket is worth \$150,000 besides the \$3,070, which the lucky tickets were awarded when their coupons were first drawn.

The winning holders on Royal Mail include Mrs. F. W. Shields, 911 Holloway street, Durham, N. C.

(Continued on Page Two.)

Lindsay Warren Tells Solons Of Tar Heel's Shad

Washington, March 19.—(AP)—Congress had the word of Representative Lindsay Warren, Democrat, North Carolina today that North Carolina "shad is without a superior in the nation." "It sells for higher prices," Warren told a House sub-committee considering the annual Commerce Department appropriations bill. The record of the hearings was published today when the bill was reported to the House. Warren, appealing for a \$25,000 appropriation for improvements to the Federal fish hatchery at Edenonton, N. C., said the hatchery has been of little value to the State because of lack of pounds.

Rapids Man Robbed Of \$190 Cash Sums

Roanoke Rapids, March 19.—(AP)—Officers hunted today for three men who I. M. Clark, driver of a sandwich company truck, reported held him up last night and took \$190. (Continued on Page Four.)

British Mission Here for Debt Talks



Pictured in New York as they arrived on the Berengaria are the members of the British Imperial Policy Group, who, it is reported, will hold discussions in Washington on the war debt question. Left to right, they are Lord Phillimore, chairman; Kenneth de Courcy, deputy chairman; the Earl of Manfield, and Henry V. Alpin Mackinnon Raikes, M. P. (Central Press)

Chief Justice Hughes Might Testify At Court Hearings

Washington, March 19 (AP)—Some opponents of the President's court proposal expressed the hope today that Chief Justice Hughes might consent to lead off their witnesses at Senate hearings next week. If the chief justice comes before the judiciary committee, at least one other member of the court probably will testify, it was said. Committee members who tangled in heated disputes over the questioning of witnesses favorable to the President's program yesterday, met again today to hear further expressions of support from William Lewis, of the

American Law Institute, and Dr. Charles Hanes, of the University of California at Los Angeles. Another clash of legislators appeared likely over the neutrality bill. The House passed, 374 to 12 yesterday a measure giving the President discretion in applying a "cash and carry" policy to trade with warring nations. In doing so, it rejected a mandatory bill previously passed by the Senate. A \$522,847,808 appropriation for the United States Navy came before the Senate today. President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines, predicted Congress would

be asked next year to move the date of independence for the islands forward from 1946 to 1938 or 1939.

COMMITTEE TURNS TOWARD COURT FOR AID IN STUDY Washington, March 19 (AP)—The Senate Judiciary Committee turned today to the Supreme Court itself for aid in studying President Roosevelt's plan to revamp the tribunal. While speculation over whether one or more justices might appear to testify was intensified by talk among op-

(Continued on Page Two.)

Bailey Was Not Against Last Dinner Says Furthermore He Is Continually Inviting Officials to North Carolina

Daily Dispatch Bureau, in the Sir Walter Hotel, By J. C. BASKERVILLE Raleigh, March 19.—Senator Josiah W. Bailey maintains that he had "nothing" whatever to do with the plans for the second "Victory Dinner" held in Raleigh last week, that he had "no objection to the dinner" and infers that he thinks those who have been holding him responsible for inviting Senator Millard F. Tydings as the speaker for the first so-called Victory Dinner and for what Senator Tydings said, are doing him a great injustice, in a letter received by this bureau from Senator Bailey. The opening paragraph of Senator Bailey's letter says: "I am inclosing a clipping in which you have misrepresented me and I desire you to make a correction." The letter closes with a postscript which says: "I have misplaced the clipping." In connection with the second Victory Dinner held here last week, at which Secretary of the Interior Harold I. Ickes took as his subject—"Glad Tydings"—and who was not invited by Senator Bailey—in order to correct the record and erase the effects of the previous Victory Dinner at which Senator Tydings made an anti-Roosevelt and anti-New Deal speech, Senator Bailey said: "I did not go to Raleigh with the view of having anything to do with the proposed second Victory Dinner. I had not been home since January 3, and I went at the time mainly because my little daughter was sick. However, I wished to go. While there I had nothing whatever to do with plans for the second dinner. Certainly I had no objection to the dinner. I think Democrats might celebrate victory in as many ways and as often as possible. The more we celebrate, the happier we are and perhaps the

WAY CLEARED FOR SIMPSON DIVORCE

Last Barrier Removed To Final Decree So Wally Can Wed Edward

London, March 19.—(AP)—The last apparent barrier to Mrs. Wallis Simpson's divorce and her marriage to Edward of Windsor was cleared today when a charge of "collusion" was dismissed by the president of the British divorce court. Sir Boyd Merriam, president of the court, directed the charge stricken from the record after the king's proctor informed the court, treating the case "as any other," he had made a careful investigation, and failed to find any grounds to prevent the absolute divorce of Mrs. Simpson and Ernest Alrich Simpson. His action, following the proctor's surprise move in asking "for instructions" in the case, removed all legal obstacles except the technical granting of the final decree April 27.

Rebels Are Reported In Fast Flight

Madrid, March 19.—(AP)—Defeated soldiers of the Brihuega garrison fled northward through Guadalajara mountain passes to elude capture by victorious militiamen, government commanders reported today. The insurgent retreat, characterized as "completely disorganized," followed reported capture of the town yesterday by the forces of General Jose Miaja, Madrid general. Brihuega is 44 miles northeast of Madrid. Under cover of darkness and rain, the great mass of insurgents managed to slip from the wartorn town before government brigades began "mopping up operations."

OUR WEATHER MAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Increased cloudiness, possibly warmer tonight, followed by showers Saturday. (Continued on Page Three.)

Sitdowners Still Occupy Auto Plants

Moves at Detroit and Start of Textile Unionization In Strike Spotlight Charlotte, March 19 (AP)—A recapitulation of reports today showed wage increases have been announced affecting about 55,000 textile operatives in the Carolinas. In most cases the wage hikes amount to ten percent. (By The Associated Press.) The launching of a unionization drive among 1,250,000 textile workers shared attention today on the nation's industrial front with the impending crisis in Michigan's major automotive strikes. A meeting in New York today of the textile workers' organizing committee signaled the beginning of the campaign ordered by the C. I. O. Labor leaders said the decision of textile firms to raise wages for more than 47,000 workers in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia and 35,000 in New England would not deter them from organization activities. Among the objectives were a minimum wage of \$13 weekly and a 35-hour week. Writs of attachment calling for the

(Continued on Page Two.)

FISCAL RECORD OF ASSEMBLY 'DISMAL'

Lumpkin Pans Administration-Controlled Legislature for Its Work Daily Dispatch Bureau, in the Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, March 19.—The fiscal record established by the current General Assembly is "dismal," in the opinion of the anti-administration forces of the legislature. A general summary of the alleged faults and failings was given Thursday by Willie Lee Lumpkin, recognized spokesman of the "outs," during discussion of the Halstead bill proposing to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds for improvements of secondary roads. Four "cardinal sins" were laid against the assembly record by the

(Continued on Page Three.)

Believe Over 600 Children Perished In Big Explosion

Martial Law Prevails in Stricken Community of New London, Texas; Fear More Dead In Wreckage

New London, Texas, March 19.—(AP)—Laborers ceased digging into the ruins of the London consolidated school this afternoon and wearily said "the job is finished" after 425 bodies had been removed from the pile of debris. Workmen admitted it was under that pile they expected to find many more bodies. How many more no one could say. The recovered bodies, comprising virtually all of the country-side's younger generation and their teachers, were scattered among morgues. Estimates of these ranged from Highway Patrol Captain Walter Elliott's "more than 500" downward to the 388 figure of the troops enforcing martial law. It was a dismal drizzling scene, battered with frenzied re-dyed parents and determined investigators at the school house in a rainstorm. Major Gaston Howard, appalled at the nation's worst modern child tragedy, said an investigating board of six would start functioning this afternoon. Survivors and eye witnesses would be questioned in an open hearing, he said. First definite indication accumulated gas caused the blast that lifted hundreds of school children, heavy girders and bricks into the air came from Major Howard when he said Dr. E. P. Shoch, noted chemistry professor at the University of Texas, had been summoned to testify.

Horror of disaster is increased by diggings. New London, Texas, March 19 (AP)—Horror of the nation's worst school disaster mounted today as tangled wreckage of the New London consolidated school yielded scores more of crushed bodies. The known dead reached hundreds. Walter Elliott, Texas highway patrol captain, reported to his Austin headquarters 500 bodies, including those of 17 teachers, had been taken from the explosion-ground debris of the luxurious school built by oil wealth of the vast east Texas fields, and wrecked yesterday by a blast believed caused by seeping gas from those same fields. Some estimates of the ultimate death toll ranged above 600. Elliott added order was restored to the stricken community when Governor James Allred declared martial law last night after intruding sights seers and rescue workers, mingled with frenzied parents, brought about chaotic conditions. "Work on examining buildings for bodies should be completed today," Elliott's message said. Acetylene torches cutting the twisted steel beams of the massive building, tugging cranes and bare hands worked together in uncovering the bodies. Rain splashed at the workers this morning, slowing their beaver-like labor. Nurses in an emergency hospital set up immediately in the rear of the building revealed they were rushing preparations to care for about 75 more bodies expected to be exhumed. (Continued on Page Two.)

Disaster At A Glance

(By The Associated Press.) Texas school disaster at a glance: Scene: High school building, New London, Texas, consolidated district. Dead: Estimated from 450 to 700. Identified: 425 bodies. Injured: Estimated at 275. Cause: W. C. Shaw, superintendent, said the blast undoubtedly resulted from accumulated gas from nearby oil fields. Time: 3:50 p. m. Thursday, ten minutes before dismissal time. Construction: Two-story brick and hollow tile structure of a two-building plant. Geography: Located between London and New London, Rusk county in the midst of the gigantic east Texas oil fields. Estimated population of two communities, 2,900. Enrollment, from a 30 square mile area, around 1,200. Austin—Governor James Allred acted quickly and ordered martial law and sent troops into stricken communities. Washington—Headquarters of Red Cross ordered relief workers to the scene. Warm Springs—President Roosevelt, appalled, instructed government agencies to render all necessary aid. Magnitude: Greatest such tragedy of modern times.

Scrap Tobacco Measure Only Weed Bill Passed That Will Be Effective

Court, the justices held it was not in conformity with the Constitution of the State. At this session it has been sought to remedy the defects in the 1935 act as pointed out by the court; and W. W. Eagles, of Edgecombe, a legislator probably as conversant with tobacco laws as any man in the assembly, has expressed the opinion the new bill will meet the test of constitutionality. It defines "scrap" in clear, concise language and imposes the \$1,000 per county tax without discrimination, Mr. Eagles believes. The fertilizer bill imposes upon manufacturers the duty to show clearly the analysis of their fertilizers. Mr. Eagles pointed out that purchasers are often unable to understand whether the product they are buying is "acid" or "basic" and with a view to clearing up any doubt in the mind of a buyer, the bill specifically requires the manufacturer to display prominently the percentage of various important elements such as sulphur and calcium contained in the fertilizer. While no mention of tobacco is made in the fertilizer bill, Mr. Eagles said that it will be of considerable benefit to the tobacco farmer. The measure was sponsored and pushed. (Continued on Page Two.)