

FDR TELLS CONGRESS U. S. IS THREATENED

State Legislature Opens; Gets Absentee Ballot Law

Murphy Taking Oath as Attorney General



President Roosevelt looks on in the White House as former Governor Frank Murphy (center), of Michigan, is sworn in as Attorney General of the United States. Associate Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed administers the oath. Murphy succeeds Homer S. Cummings, who resigned.

Ward Named Speaker Of Lower House

W. E. Smith Made President Protem of Senate; Rules Committees Announced in Both Houses, Which Hold Very Brief Organization Session

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—The General Assembly convened today and immediately received a bill from Representative Vogler, Mecklenburg, to amend the absentee ballot law.

Consideration of the absentee voting statutes, under attack most of the summer and fall, due to alleged primary and election irregularities, had been enlisted as one of the big matters for the Assembly.

The Senate elected W. E. Smith, of Stanly county, as its president protem, confirmed all other nominees of last night's Democratic caucus and quit after a 30-minute meeting.

It took the House nearly an hour to complete its organization, putting D. L. Ward, of New Bern, in as speaker, and confirming its caucus nominees.

Both divisions suspended their rules and adopted resolutions notifying the governor they were ready for work.

A resolution was adopted inviting Governor Hoey to address the Assembly at noon tomorrow, the House amending the Senate version and fixing the hour so the resolution must be considered by the senators again.

Lieutenant Governor Horton and Speaker Ward announced their rules committees. Both divisions adopted the 1937 rules until the new groups report.

The House committee quickly decided to suggest retention of the former rules for this session. The Senate group provided for 14 instead of 12 committee clerks, then adopted the 1937 rules.

The representatives refused to adopt a resolution calling for regular work on Saturdays and Mondays.

Man Seized Is Wanted In Many Places. Columbia, S. C., Jan. 4.—(AP)—City Detective Chief Robert W. Elcazer said today a man booked as H. M. Bew, of Norfolk, Va., was "the most wanted man we've had in months."

Patman Starts First Bill



Representative Wright Patman, of Texas, is shown with the first bill on the House calendar, ready to throw it into the hopper. It is the chain store bill, commonly called the community preservation, providing an excise tax on chain stores.

Peace Isn't Assured By Munich Pact

Only by Nation United Physically and Spiritually Can "Storms From Abroad" Be Kept from American Shores, President Asserts; Says Democracy Can and Will Solve Nation's Problems

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—President Roosevelt told Congress and the world today that peace has not been "assured" at Munich, and that "storms from abroad" directly challenge American democracy.

Addressing a joint session of the Senate and House, in a packed House chamber, the chief executive asserted that "undeclared wars," "deadly armaments," and "new aggression" threaten the three institutions indispensable to Americans — religion, democracy and international good faith.

"And," he added, "only through a nation united, both physically and spiritually can these storms be kept from American shores."

A war which threatened to envelope the world in flames has been averted; but it has become increasingly clear that peace is not assured.

Mr. Roosevelt said, without mentioning by name the Munich pact resulting in the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

Nor did he name any foreign nation. But the President referred to "events in Europe," where Czechoslovakia was dismembered at Germany's insistence, "in Africa," where Italy conquered Ethiopia; "in Asia," where Japan has invaded China.

"All about us rage undeclared wars, military and economic," Mr. Roosevelt said. "All about us grow more

(Continued on Page Four)

Supreme Court Says High Point Can Go On With Power Plan

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—The State Supreme Court held today that the City of High Point could go ahead with its "modified plan" for construction of a hydro-electric plant on the Yadkin river.

The opinion in the case affirmed a ruling in Guilford county by Superior Court Judge E. C. Bivens, who had decided in favor of High Point and against J. P. Williamson and the Duke Power Company.

Granville Negro Loses. The court granted a new trial to Robert Williams, alias Robert McNair, who was sentenced in Cumberland county to death by asphyxiation for rape, but upheld the death sentence pronounced in Granville county on King Solomon Stovall, who was convicted of first degree murder in the slaying of R. T. Moore.

Unless Governor Hoey intervenes, Stovall will be asphyxiated January 20.

The High Point opinion and the two opinions in the capital cases were written by Chief Justice Walter Stacy.

In another opinion the court held that the City of Wilmington could not issue certain bonds to finance a municipal auditorium; public parks and playgrounds; a public library and buildings for recreational and athletic purposes.

The list of 43 decisions includes:

Watkins vs. Raleigh, Wake, affirmed.

Ritter vs. Candier, Moore, affirmed.

State vs. Williams, Cumberland, new trial.

State vs. Alvenson and Brack, Robeson, new trial.

Crawford vs. Crawford, Robeson, reversed.

Gilmore vs. Insurance Company, Cumberland, appeal dismissed.

State vs. Stovall, Granville, judgment affirmed and appeal dismissed.

Fascist Groups In Japan Gain Control Of The Government

Konoye Cabinet Gives Way for Party Demanding Stronger Hand in East Asia; Konoye Followers in Personal Danger from Foes

Tokyo, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Emperor Hirohito tonight commanded Baron K. Hiranuma, fascist-inclined president of the privy council, to form a new cabinet in succession to that of Premier Prince Fumimara Konoye.

Hiranuma, outstanding nationalist, was summoned to the palace after the comparatively liberal Konoye had resigned with the declaration that the war in China had come to a stage where "new policies under a new cabinet" should be formulated.

The 19-month-old Konoye cabinet fell before strong militarist-fascist demand for reorganization at home and abroad, for renewed efforts to fasten Japan's will on east Asia.

It was an onslaught of fascist-minded elements, who want a single political party for Japan, more rigid control of economic life, and a new administrative policy in China. Feeling was so intense that in some quarters fear was expressed for the personal safety of some of the retiring ministers.

The baron headed a nationalist Ja-

(Continued on Page Two.)

Election Body To Fight For Its Proposals

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—At least two Democratic members of the State Elections Board will go "down the line" during this legislative session in an effort to have the board's recommendations made into the law of North Carolina.

This much has already been indicated by conferences of Chairman Will A. Lucas and associate George McNeill, of Fayetteville, with Lieutenant Governor Wilkins P. Horton, upon whom devolves the duty of appointing the chairman and committee which will consider all election law proposals introduced in the upper house.

Neither of the two gentlemen said

(Continued on Page Two.)

Legislators Will Not Be So Gullible

Not Going To Accept Readymade Bills from Washington Unless Agreeable, According to Word Gleaned from Early Arrivals in Raleigh

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—While members of the legislature arriving in Raleigh Monday night and Tuesday were more concerned about the knock-down-and-drag-out fight for the speakership, a few of them took time out from the whispering huddles to express some opinions about prospective legislation.

Every man interviewed prefaced his answer with the request "don't quote me," but it may be stated dogmatically that proposed legislation will be more closely scrutinized during the coming session than has been the case in recent legislatures.

This is particularly true in the case of ready-made bills sent down from Washington, or coming from any source outside the legislature itself.

Members of the 1939 General Assembly remember the hectic days of 1933, when certain bills written in Washington were sent down with instructions that they must be passed exactly as written. This was necessary because of the banking situation, and admittedly much of that legislation was good.

But legislators did not then and do not now, like to take that sort of dictation.

Again in the special session of 1935 when newly elected assemblymen were convened just a few days before Christmas, and instructed to pass the social security bills sent down from Washington, without discussion or chance of discussion, and without changing a comma, there was some resentment. It is generally agreed now that most of this legislation, cer-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Night Deer Hunt Costs Two Pender Men Over \$50 Each

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—(AP)—A fruitless nocturnal deer hunt cost two Pender county men \$50 apiece, and additional fines for other violations following their arrests and conviction recently, Commissioner John Chalk, of the game and inland fisheries division, said today.

He named the pair as Henry Chadwick and Clinton Bonds, and said they were convicted as the result of evidence obtained by undercover investigators for his division.

Defense Of Tunis Safe, Premier Says

Gabes, Tunisia, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Premier Daladier inspected Tunisia's "Magnet line of the desert" today, and called it strong enough to resist any attacks.

"Tunisia is safe," was his comment after a rapid tour of the Mareth defense works facing Italy's Libyan frontier. Accompanied by high military and naval officials who are visiting the North African colony with him, the premier saw thousands of soldiers pushing work on the defense. Deep in the desert, 25,000 crack troops paraded across the sands before the bare-headed premier as clouds of dust almost blotted out the brilliant sun.

The troops included Europeans, Senegalese and wild Tunisian cavalry irregulars, who rode past at a gallop, firing their rifles in the air.

The Mareth line, built of reinforced concrete on the same principle as the Magnet line on France's eastern

Pitt Offers Small Claims On Sheriff

Greenville, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Upon recommendations of County Attorney S. O. Worthington, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners will offer to settle civil actions against former Sheriff S. A. Whitehurst brought by the old board and county attorney, alleging approximately \$17,000 shortages in his accounts, for the sum of \$1,072.91.

The actions were brought by the board of commissioners which went out of office last month. The suits were filed by Harding & Lee, the then county attorneys, and Jesse A. Jones, of Kinston, who helped prosecute the ouster case against the sheriff last spring. Harding and Lee and Mr. Jones were retained by the old board.

frontier, facing Germany, lies 95 miles from the Libyan frontier, and cuts across the main road from Tunis to Libya just below the Mareth oasis.

Daladier began the inspection immediately upon his arrival from Tunis, where he visited the Tunisian plenipotentiary, Sidi Ahmed, yesterday.

Springlike Weather Over Many Areas

(By The Associated Press.) Springlike weather prevailed over some midwestern states today, setting new records for many cities, while freezing rains imperiled traffic in up-State New York, and the Pacific Northwest braced itself against a raging gale.

Balmy temperatures ranging from 50 to 71 permitted tennis, golf and even picnics in Missouri, and Cincinnati reported the warmest January 3 in 42 years yesterday, with the mercury at 68. Cleveland reported 55 degrees, Columbus 60.

Unseasonable warmth also favored Nebraska, with light showers at Omaha. Winds reaching gale force continued to lash the Oregon and Washington coasts in the wake of a four-day blow which spread destruction from British Columbia to southern Oregon. Heavy waves swept over sea-walls, smashed bridges and cottages and left miles of debris for clean-up crews.

Near Salem, Oregon, a cyclone lifted two cows forty feet in the air and deposited them unhurt in a mud-wallow.

In northern New York motorists drove over ice-covered roads after a light snow turned to freezing rain. Fog and mist added to the dangers of traffic, with one death and scores of accidents attributed to the weather. Farther north, a heavy snowfall was reported.

U. S. Holds To Religion, FDR Asserts

Nation Must Make Up Its Mind To Save That and Democracy, Congress Is Told

(By The Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 4.—(AP)—High spots of President Roosevelt's message to Congress today: A war which threatened to envelope the world in flames has been averted, but it has become increasingly clear that peace is not assured.

Storms from abroad directly challenge three institutions indispensable to Americans, now as always. The first is religion.

It is the source of the other two, democracy and international good faith.

An ordering of society which relegates religion, democracy and good faith among nations to the background can find no place within it for the ideals of the Prince of Peace. The United States rejects such an ordering and retains its ancient faith:

The defense of religion, of democracy, and of good faith among nations is all the same fight. To save one, we must now make up our minds to have all.

There are many methods short of war, but stronger and more effective than mere words of bringing home to aggressor governments in aggregate sentiments of our own people.

We have learned that we deliberately tried to legislate neutrality; our neutrality laws may operate unevenly and unfairly. They actually give aid to an aggressor nation and deny it to the victim.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA Cloudy, intermittent showers Thursday and in north central portion tonight; warmer tonight and on northeast coast Thursday.