

WAR REFERENDUM PROPOSAL GIVEN SENATE

House Passes Absentee Ban For Primaries

Committee Is Told Wage-Hour Bill Is Threat to Grocers

Cotton Seed Crushers and Merchants Association Also Protest to Joint Legislative Committee; Labor to Have Hearing Next Week

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Representatives of the North Carolina Retail Food Dealers Association told a joint legislative committee today that pending wage-hour bills would "wreck the grocery industry."

Quickly also the North Carolina Cotton Seed Crushers Association and State Merchants Association added their opposition. Last week hotel and restaurant operators, retail furniture dealers, business men of Eastern Carolina, building operators and others spoke against the bills.

Senator Separk, of Gaston, chairman of the Senate committee, said he expected to complete all hearings at least by March 10. Labor organizations have been given time to speak for the proposals next week.

R. B. Roebuck, of Wilmington, a food dealer, told the committee that enactment of a wage-hour bill "means the total wreck of the grocery industry, particularly as regards the delivery service and unskilled helpers."

F. N. Bridgers, of Wilson, speaking for cotton seed crushers, said wage and hour laws as proposed would "work quite a hardship on oil mills if they have to subscribe to the hours of labor, because it would raise the cost of manufacture. That would mean less to the farmer who raises the cotton seed or paying higher price for the product."

Two wage-hour bills have been introduced. One closely follows the Federal law, but the other is less inclusive, and would fix a flat 48-hour week for mercantile and service employees, with the work week decreasing to 40 hours in other industries.

Chicago Has Primary For Mayor Battle

Chicago, Feb. 28.—(AP)—A youthful prosecutor challenged the entrenched Democratic organization in the mayoralty primary election today, while Republican candidates engaged in a contest bearing possible portents for 1940.

The principal Democratic candidates were Mayor Edward Kelly and State's Attorney Thomas Courtney, at 44 a veteran in city and state politics.

In the Republican ranks, the chief aspirants were Dwight H. Green, a former federal attorney making his first bid for elective office, and William H. (Big Bill) Thompson, 69-year-old contender, who thrice occupied the office of mayor.

Despite a comparatively listless campaign and predictions of unfavorable weather, a heavy vote was forecast. On the basis of a record registration of 1,827,362, the board of elections commissioners estimated 1,200,000 votes would be cast between 6 a. m. and 5 p. m., a total never before reached in any Chicago election.

Politics Seen In Raleigh's Newest Radio

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel. (BY LYNN NESBET) Raleigh, Feb. 28.—Radio stations are opening up all over the country without occasioning much comment, but peculiar conditions surrounding the broadcasting industry at Raleigh give added significance to the opening next week of local station WRAL.

Worst Snowstorm In Iowa's History

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 28.—(AP)—A paralyzing 17-inch snowstorm, which the Weather Bureau said was "unquestionably the heaviest February snowfall in Iowa's history," swept down over the state today tying up traffic and hampering communications.

Virtually the whole state felt its stalling blasts, although central and northern Iowa appeared the worst hit.

Street car traffic was at a standstill. Roads were blocked. Planes were grounded and buses tied up in many Iowa cities.

FDR Studies Results Of Fleet Tests

Miami, Fla., Feb. 28.—(AP)—America's unprecedented war games in the South Atlantic were a matter of history today, and President Roosevelt and the navy's leading admirals met off southeastern Puerto Rico to discuss whether they proved the fleet could withstand a foreign attack in the West Indies area.

The cruiser Houston, the President's flagship, reported to White House offices here late last night that the annual maneuvers testing the continental defense measures officially terminated at 1 p. m. yesterday after a general fleet "engagement," which began at daylight.

In the afternoon, approximately 140 surface and undersea craft steamed for the little American island of Culebra, between Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and anchored.

"TOBACCO ROAD'S" AUTHOR HAS BRIDE

Reno, Nev., Feb. 28.—(AP)—Ersine Caldwell, who wrote the stage success, "Tobacco Road," and her artist photographer bride, Margaret White, contemplated a honeymoon trip in a bus today. They were going by plane to San Francisco early today, but weather conditions forced the plane to fly over Reno without stopping. Caldwell said they probably would go in a motor bus.

Finance Body Deadlocked On New Revenue Measure

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—The joint finance committee spent the second anniversary of enrollment of the 1937 revenue bill wrestling with the problem of getting still more blood from a turnip which already contributes not less than one-half the revenue of North Carolina from all sources—the petroleum industry.

A public hearing and following discussion by committee members in executive session tended to confirm "off-the-record" statements that the group is in "open and complete rebellion" and still far from any real agreement on a revenue bill.

Presence in the hearing of Speaker Libby Ward and the two appropriations chairmen, Senator W. B. Rodman, Jr., and John Caffey, showed the impatience with which the leaders are waiting finance committee action.

Typical of the situation as regards the oil industry were two remarks of Representative Victor Bryant, who is sponsoring the effort to get more taxes out of the industry. At one stage he said gloomily, "the more I hear about it, the less I know about it"; and still later he complained, "I don't know enough about it to ask an intelligent question," this when Attorney General Harry McMullan said he would be glad to answer any questions about methods of taxing gasoline which

Exemptions Voted Down By Members

Senate Passes Bill To Allow Life Terms for Burglary and Arson; Bill for Graduate Courses for Negroes Becomes Law on Passage

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Representatives today passed and sent to the Senate a bill to abolish absentee voting in primaries and tighten regulations for general elections.

The House members refused to exempt Chowan and Rowan counties after a plea by Representative Cherry, of Gaston, State Democratic chair man, for a uniform statewide law. It was suggested that legislation could be introduced later to exempt areas.

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Election Laws was called for this afternoon.

Representatives waded into other election reform proposals. Senators passed and sent to the House the amended bill to give juries discretion in first degree convictions for burglary and arson between imposing life prison terms or death sentences. Governor Hoey had recommended discretion for all crimes now punishable by death, but on motion of Senator Poiger, of Surry, the Senate last night struck murder and rape from the bill.

The joint finance committee met this afternoon to try finally to wind up its work of providing a balanced budget.

The Senate also passed and ordered ratified into law a House bill to provide specialized and graduate collections last year. The general fund increase was about \$193,000 up 7.05 percent, while highway receipts increased about \$106,000 up 5.07 percent.

The general fund receipts for eight months reached \$19,166,158.29, a drop of 7.1 percent under the figure for the like period last year.

Proposal To Limit Legal Work Opposed

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel. BY G. LYNN NESBET. Raleigh, Feb. 28.—The bill now pending dealing with the unauthorized or illegal practice of law has brought forth a lot of protests from insurance adjusters, public accountants and magistrates. Lawyers in and out of the legislature say that these protests mean either that the protesters are pleading guilty as charged or else that they don't have any idea what the proposed law would do.

Introduced by Senators Price and Boyette, the former a member of the council of the State Bar, the bill simply confers upon the State Bar Council as an authorized agency under statute for regulating the legal profession, the responsibility now vested in private practitioners and

Charlottesville, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Henry R. Mullis, 46, proprietor of a food store, was found shot to death in a bed room at his home today. A police report by Officers Bowlin and Hall said a pistol was in Mullis' hand. The officers quoted relatives as saying he had apparently worried considerably in recent weeks.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Showers this afternoon and possibly near coast in extreme north portion early tonight; slightly warmer in north central and cooler in southwest portion tonight; Wednesday generally fair, except unsettled on coast; partly colder except in north portion.

Washington, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Representative Melvin J. Maas of Minnesota says Congress won't last three weeks next time the United States gets into a war—"we'll have a dictatorship. And the dictatorship will end with the war," Maas adds.

The Minnesota forecast of a dictatorship's establishment coincidentally with America's entrance into the next war looks probable enough. But what makes Mr. Maas so sure that the dictatorship will end when the war does? A dictator, once installed, generally has a tendency to hang on as long as he can maintain himself. I think, myself, that this country would be less inclined than Germany, Italy or some of our southern Latin so-called republics to submit to prolonged totalitarian rule. Nevertheless a dictator, actually entrenched in the White House, might be difficult

Represent A.F.L. in Labor Peace Parley



Accepting President Roosevelt's invitation to appoint committees to negotiate a "peace with honor" between the A.F.L. and C.I.O., William Green, federation president, named these three men to meet with the group designated by C.I.O. Leader John L. Lewis. Left to right: Matthew Woll, of the Photo-Engravers union; Daniel J. Tobin, of the Teamsters union; and Harry C. Bates, of the Bricklayers union. (Central Press)

Franco Says He Will Retain Friendship With Dictators

London, Feb. 28.—(AP)—British and French government leaders got little comfort today from the speech in which General Franco acknowledged recognition by the democracies of his nationalist Spanish government. The recognition cleared away the red tape of formality so Britain and France could carry on an intensive drive to weaken Germany and Italian influence in Spain, and, in sequence, maintain an equitable balance of power in the Mediterranean.

U. S. Dictator If War Comes Is Probable

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Steamship Aground On Frying Pan

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 28.—(AP)—The coast guard cutter Modoc attempted today to float the British freighter Cumberland which grounded on Frying Pan Shoals off the North Carolina coast in the early morning hours. The freighter, owned by the Federal Steam and Navigation Company, Ltd., left Hampton Roads Sunday with a cargo of coal. The crew numbered 26.

Southport, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The Oak Island coast guard lifeboat and the United States coast guard cutter Modoc from Wilmington, left Oak Island this morning at 8:10 o'clock to go to the aid of the British steamship Cumberland, aground on Frying Pan Shoals, southeast of Southport. Coast guardsmen at the Oak Island station said they did not know the exact location of the ship, though it had been ascertained it was on the shoals to the southeast of here. They said the vessel should not be in any great danger, as the weather was mild.

They were unable, they said, to account for the grounding of the vessel, which was enroute from the Panama Canal to London.

VESEL NOT IN DANGER IN PRESENT MILD SEAS

Manteo, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The vessel was suspended from an air hole in the roof of the market. An Arab strike was declared in Haifa in protest against yesterday's bombings. Most of the Haifa stores and offices were closed. Laborers failed to report for work.

REV. J. B. THOMPSON PASSES AT DURHAM

Durham, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Rev. J. B. Thompson, of Goldsboro, who served pastorates throughout the North Carolina Methodist Church Conference, died in a hospital here today. Mr. Thompson was pastor of the Goldsboro Methodist church. He was a graduate of old Trinity College in Randolph county, and was one of the oldest of Duke alumni. Funeral services will be held from Salem Methodist church at 10 a. m. Wednesday morning, near Goldsboro.

12 Senators Sponsors Of Peace Plan

Vote of People Would Be Necessary Except Where U. S. or Its Possessions Were Attacked or Threatened; Borah Says Arms Race Case of Jitters

Washington, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Twelve senators proposed today a constitutional amendment to give the people the sole right to declare an overseas war. The resolution would provide for a national referendum on whether such a war would be declared. The referendum would be held when Congress deemed "a national crisis to exist."

A referendum would not be necessary for a declaration of war, however, in case of attack or immediately threatened attack, upon the United States or its possessions. Neither would a referendum be held if any non-American nation attacked or threatened to attack any country in the western Hemisphere.

Senator LaFollette, Progressive, Wisconsin, one of the signers of the referendum proposal, said in a statement that it would be a "final check against secret diplomacy that may decoy us into a foreign war against our will."

Meanwhile, Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, said the administration's air corps and army expansion bill was "just a lot of bluff and jitters." Borah, ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters that the 3,700 additional planes which would be authorized under the program "are more than the army can use."

He said military experts had admitted this to him. Borah said he would make a Senate speech on the bill.

Lifelong Friend Of Bill Payne On Trial In So. Car.

Kingstree, S. C., Feb. 28.—(AP)—Worth Davis, ex-convict and self-asserted lifelong friend of the late Bill Payne, who was put to death in North Carolina last year for the slaying of a State highway patrolman, went on trial in general sessions court here today on charges of grand larceny in connection with the robbery of the Planters Bank of Heming way March 2, 1928.

The State charged Davis, Payne, Wash Turner, alias Jack Borden, also executed for the death of the North Carolina highway officer, and an unidentified companion robbed the bank of more than \$6,900, after forcing D. L. Taylor, cashier, to open the bank's vaults.

Davis, who took the stand to deny the charges shortly before the noon recess of the court, said he had been a lifelong friend of Payne.

Eastern U. S. Gets Rains Or Snowfall

Area East of Rockies Affected, With Some Sections Reporting Deep Snows

(By The Associated Press.) Snow or rain soaked most of the nation from the Rockies to the Atlantic coast today.

Iowa apparently was the hardest hit, with snowfall ranging up for 17 inches. It continued to fall. The weather bureau calculated it was the heaviest February snow in Iowa history.

Winona, Minn., reported 15 inches at mid-morning, "and it was still snowing."

Forecast H. A. Downs, of Chicago, said the storm area moved northeastward from the Texas panhandle, where it centered yesterday. It brought heavy snow to eastern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, Kansas, northwestern Missouri and Iowa; light snow in Nebraska and moderate snowfall to Wisconsin.

Downs said north central and east-