

Holloway's Hits

By Jas. H. Holloway, Raleigh

NATIONAL

The coming session of Congress will probably go on a number of fishing expeditions as soon as it convenes in January. Investigations will be the order of the day and considerable time will be wasted in such maneuvering. Congressional investigations accomplish very little but it gives an outlet to the curiosity of certain prying members and they are never so happy as when they are consuming the time that should be devoted to more important matters. President Roosevelt will write the ticket for the coming session as he did for the last two. There will be some grumbling but his program will go through almost identically as it is written.

The payment of the soldier's bonus will probably be one of the most controversial subjects considered. The crime situation will also have an important place in the program. Crime has become nationwide and unless some concerted plan can be devised to check the rapidly growing carnival of lawlessness this nation will soon be unsafe to live in every one.

Currency inflation will be urged by a large number of senators and congressmen and unless big business goes to the bat and provides employment for the increasing millions of unemployed this measure will become a very live issue. The people are becoming alarmed over the continued issuance of interest bearing tax free bonds and think it is time for the government to print sufficient fiat money to meet the needs of the country even if it becomes necessary to increase income and other forms of taxation. The settlement of the speakership controversy is gratifying and means a more harmonious session will follow.

STATE

Governor Ehringhaus made a fine presentation of the financial state of North Carolina in his re-

cent speech before a New York audience. His speech was great advertising for this commonwealth and will give encouragement to outside capital to come here. The governor is about to meet the supreme test as a statesman. The second session of the General Assembly is always a trying time for a governor. He has to defend his previous two years record and plead with the lawmakers for further legislation. His patronage is then almost exhausted and he is in no position to trade juicy patronage plums for legislative support. This fact alone makes the solons more independent of gubernatorial dictation as most of them are hoping that patronage lightning will strike them and as long as there is a possibility of that happening they remain on friendly terms with the governor.

The re-enactment of the sales tax seems to be conceded by every one but unless the rate is doubled it will never provide the amount of tax necessary to run the government, raise salaries and balance the budget. It will be necessary to find new sources of taxation but no one seems to have any idea where it is coming from. If the General Assembly was composed of men with courage and honesty they would proceed without delay to tax the tobacco and utility interests to take care of the situation. Unfortunately a majority of the members are either directly or indirectly interested in some of their influential political friends are interested in these corporations and they come down here to Raleigh for the primary purpose of protecting big business. As long as the voters will continue to go to the polls on election day and support such men with their ballots conditions will continue to grow worse instead of better.

The North Carolina Utilities Commissioner under the constant prodding of Will Wynne has at last ordered a reduction in the telephone rates in a number of towns throughout the state. Will Wynne deserves all the credit for any reductions that will finally be made. The power and light com-

panies however seem to have completely captured the commissioner. After months of investigation and the threshing over of old straw, the commissioner has at last issued an order which is apparently entirely satisfactory to the power trust as it gives no relief to the small user of lights and power. With the national government straining every nerve to bring about an honest reduction of the unreasonable service charges the people have so long been burdened with, it is a sad commentary to see the commissioner elected by the people again allowing the power people to write their own rates. If the recent order had been issued before the November election he would have been defeated.

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