

# MESSAGE IN BRIEF

## Substance of the President's Recommendations

### TO THE PRESENT CONGRESS

#### The President Makes Many Recommendations to Congress Concerning the Country's Needs in the Way of Legislation.

The message of President Roosevelt to the second session of the sixtieth Congress as read in both houses was in substance as follows; To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The financial standing of the Nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the Nation's interests by the Government during the last seven years has shown the most satisfactory results. But our currency system is imperfect, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the Currency Commission will be able to propose a thoroughly good system which will do away with the existing defects.

During the period from July 1, 1901, to September 30, 1908, there was an increase in the amount of money in circulation of \$902,991,399. The increase in the per capita during this period was \$7.06. Within this time there were several occasions when it was necessary for the Treasury Department to come to the relief of the money market by purchase or redemptions of United States bonds; by increasing deposits in national banks; by stimulating additional issues of national bank notes, and by facilitating importations from abroad of gold. Our imperfect currency system has made these proceedings necessary, and they were effective until the monetary disturbances in the fall of 1907 immensely increased the difficulty of ordinary methods of relief. By the middle of November the available working balance in the Treasury had been reduced to approximately \$5,000,000. Clearing house associations throughout the country had been obliged to resort to the expedient of issuing clearing house certificates to be used as money. In this emergency it was determined to invite subscriptions for \$50,000,000 Panama Canal bonds, and \$100,000,000 three per cent certificates of indebtedness authorized by the act of June 13, 1898. It was proposed to re-deposit in the national banks the proceeds of these issues, and to permit their use as a basis for additional circulating notes of national banks. The moral effect of this procedure was so great that it was necessary to issue only \$24,631,980 of the Panama Canal bonds and \$15,436,500 of the certificates of indebtedness.

Continuing on the subject of finances, the hope is expressed that the Currency Commission may report a measure that will meet fully the needs of the country. In the matter of corporations, the President uses this significant language: "As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate business, and especially the railroads, I can only repeat what I have already said and again said in my messages to the Congress. I believe that under the interstate clause of the Constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce, and I believe that the National Government alone can exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness so as both to secure justice from, and to do justice to, the great corporations which are the most important factors in modern business. I believe that it is worse than folly to attempt to prohibit all combinations as is done by the Sherman anti-trust, because such a law can be enforced only imperfectly and unequally, and its enforcement works almost as much hardship as good. I strongly advocate that instead of an unwise effort to prohibit all combinations, there shall be substituted a law which shall expressly permit combinations which are in the interest of the public, but shall at the same time give to some agency of the National Government full power of control and supervision over them. One of the chief features of this control should be securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know, and furthermore, the power, not by judicial but by executive action, to prevent or put a stop to every form of improper favoritism or other wrongdoing.

It is very earnestly to be wished that our people, through their representatives, should act in this matter. It is hard to say whether most damage to the country at large would come from entire failure on the part of the public to supervise and control the actions of the great corporations,

or from the exercise of the necessary governmental power in a way which would do injustice and wrong to the corporations. Both the preachers of an unrestricted individualism, and the preachers of an oppression which would deny to able men of business the just reward of their initiative and business sagacity, are advocating policies that would be fraught with the gravest harm to the whole country. To permit every lawless capitalist, every law-defying corporation, to take any action, no matter how iniquitous, in the effort to secure an improper profit and to build up privilege, would be ruinous to the Republic and would mark the abandonment of the effort to secure in the industrial world the spirit of democratic fair-dealing. On the other hand, to attack these wrongs in that spirit of demagoguery which can see wrong only when committed by the man of wealth, and is dumb and blind in the presence of wrong committed against men of property or by men of no property, is exactly as evil as corruptly to defend the wrongdoing of men of wealth. The war we wage must be waged against misconduct, against wrongdoing wherever it is found; and we must stand heartily for the rights of every decent man, whether he be a man of great wealth or a man who earns his livelihood as a wage-worker or a tiller of the soil.

The railways of the country should be put completely under the Interstate Commerce Commission and removed from the domain of the anti-trust law. The power of the Commission should be thoroughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of securities, as well as over the raising and lowering of rates. As regards rates, at least, this power should be summary."

He continued by pointing out that great harm may result to the general public by too stringent attempt to suppress all corporate aggregations, regardless of whether or not they obey the law. In other words, he sets up the argument that under our modern business conditions some combinations of capital are necessary, but that the executive department of the government should hold these under the most rigid oversight.

On the question of labor the President says that some legislation looking to the protection of employes and the regulation of the hours of labor, as well as the complete suppression of child labor, is now imperative. He deprecates the stand taken by some labor leaders upon the legislation needed, saying that to attempt to enact such laws would be to bring about class legislation of the rankest kind. Also he deprecates the apparent attack upon the courts of the land by some leaders of labor. His message is particularly strong in urging the enactment of laws looking to the protection from injury of all laborers employed in hazardous work.

At the last election certain leaders of organized labor made a violent and sweeping attack upon the entire judiciary of the country, an attack couched in such terms as to include the most upright, honest and broad-minded judges, no less than those of narrower mind and more restricted outlook. It was the kind of attack admirably fitted to prevent any successful attempt to reform abuses of the judiciary, because it gave the champions of the unjust judge their eagerly desired opportunity to shift their ground into a championship of just judges who were unjustly assailed. Last year, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, these same labor leaders formulated their demands, specifying the bill that contained them, refusing all compromise, stating they wished the principle of that bill or nothing. They insisted on a provision that in a labor dispute no injunction should issue except to protect a property right, and specifically provided that the right to carry on business should not be construed as a property right; and in a second provision their bills made legal in a labor dispute any act or agreement by or between two or more persons that would not have been unlawful if done by a single person. In other words, this bill legalized blacklisting and boycotting in every form, legalized, for instance, those forms of the secondary boycott which the anthracite coal strike commission so unreservedly condemned; while the right to carry on a business was explicitly taken out from under that protection which the law throws over property. The demand was made that there should be trial by jury in contempt cases, thereby most seriously impairing the authority of the courts. All of this represented a course of policy which, if carried out, would mean the enthronement of class privilege in its crudest and most brutal form, and the destruction of one of the most essential functions of the judiciary in all civilized lands.

The protection of our forests and the conservation of our natural resources, as well as the most speedy and intelligent improvement of our rivers and harbors meets with the strongest approval of Mr. Roosevelt. Shortsighted persons, or persons

blinded to the future by desire to make money in every way out of the present, sometimes speak as if no great damage would be done by the reckless destruction of our forests. It is difficult to have patience with the arguments of these persons. Thanks to our own recklessness in the use of our splendid forests we have already crossed the verge of a timber famine in this country, and to measures that we now take can, at least for many years, undo the mischief that has already been done. But we can prevent further mischief being done; and it would be in the highest degree reprehensible to let any consideration of temporary convenience or temporary cost interfere with such action, especially as regards the National Forests which the nation can now, at this very moment control.

It is pointed out that our nation is doing practically nothing to foster education. This is deplored.

The Indian agencies are fast being abolished, and thus these wards of the government are being taken from the realm of active politicians and put under the management of competent administrators who come under the civil service.

The President declares that "Action should be begun forthwith, during the present session of the Congress for the improvement of our inland waterways—action which will result in giving us not only navigable but navigated rivers. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars upon these waterways, yet the traffic on nearly all of them is steadily declining. This condition is the direct result of the absence of any comprehensive and far-seeing plan of waterway improvement. Obviously we can not continue thus to expend the revenues of the Government without return. It is poor business to spend money for inland navigation unless we get it."

He also advocates the setting apart of the Appalachian and White Mountain National Parks, and the re-foresting of worn-out lands.

The establishment of both postal savings banks and the parcels post are advocated. It is suggested that these may be begun in a small way at first on trial, and their scope enlarged as they prove successful, or abolished if, after trial, they prove a failure.

The coming federal census should be under the management of civil service rules and should be taken by civil service employes.

It is urged that the government printing office be placed under the department of Commerce and Labor.

It is highly advisable that there should be intelligent action on the part of the Nation on the question of preserving the health of the country. To this end every encouragement and aid should be extended to the board of public health.

The President strongly urges the immediate admission into statehood of both New Mexico and Arizona.

In relation to foreign affairs the message says:

"This Nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last ten years we have in this matter proven our faith by our deeds. We have behaved, and are behaving, towards other nations, as in private life an honorable man would behave towards his fellows."

We have a good trade with the Latin-American republics, and should foster and enlarge it.

Regarding the Philippines, the progress of the natives under our government has been wonderful. In Porto Rico also our influence has been felt towards progress in every way. Regarding Hawaii the message says:

"I call particular attention to the Territory of Hawaii. The importance of those islands is apparent, and the need of improving their condition and developing their resources is urgent."

"The work on the Panama Canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty, which make it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation; and no task of the kind has ever been better performed. The men on the Isthmus, from Colonel Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employes who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people."

The army and the national guard should have the best of attention at the hands of Congress. Some changes are advised, in the light of recent experiences. The highest efficiency possible is the aim to be sought.

The navy should be strengthened by the immediate construction of four battleships of the largest and most powerful type. The cruise of the North Atlantic fleet around the world has been highly successful and has demonstrated to the whole world the efficiency of our naval equipment and the qualities of our naval officers and men.

# THE WORK OF CONGRESS

## SECOND SESSION OF 60TH CONGRESS.

Opens... December 7, noon  
Closes... March 4, noon

### SENATE.

Republicans... 61  
Democrats... 31

Total... 92

### HOUSE.

Republicans... 221  
Democrats... 168

Vacancies... 2

Total... 391

### Congressional Summary.

The business of both houses of Congress was confined largely to listening to the reading of the President's annual message but in addition a few bills were introduced both in the Senate and the House and in the House a number of bills were sent to conference, among them being one providing for a new immigration station in Boston.

In addition, the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Higgins, of Connecticut, to a place on the committee on the judiciary, in place of Mr. Littlefield and of Mr. Martin to a place on the committee on Indian affairs in place of Mr. Parker, deceased.

For the first time during the present Congress there was a call of the committees of the House but no measure was reported by any of them.

The miscellaneous work of the Senate consisted in the main of the reference in executive session of about 1,500 recess nominations, which were sent to the Senate by the President, and the adoption of resolutions of regret on account of the death of members of the House who have passed away since the adjournment last May. The Senate adjourned for the day at 2 o'clock and the House at 2:35.

### Census Bill Passed.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, and passed it without material change. From the very outset of the debate it became evident that the progress of the measure toward passage would be impeded.

### Pensions in Senate.

The session of the Senate was chiefly devoted to the formal presentation of departmental reports and the introduction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time and the bills numbering 352 were chiefly for the granting of pensions.

### American Railway Company Asks For a Charter.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Charter was applied for by a local attorney on behalf of interested parties for a charter for "The American Railway Company," which proposes building a line from Abbeville, Ga., to Winchester, in Macon county, Ga., via Hawkinsville and Grovania. The proposed road will traverse one of the richest farming sections of the State. It will tap the Seaboard at Abbeville and the Gulf line at Hawkinsville. Work will begin at once, it is stated.

### Pope Pius Blesses Mr. Taft and His Family.

Rome, By Cable.—Pope Pius blessed President-elect Taft and his family. The blessing was declared in the presence of Archbishop Glennin, of St. Louis, who told the Pope that he had received a letter from Taft in which the President-elect expressed cordial friendship for the Catholics. The Pope received the news with unfeigned delight and pronounced the blessing upon Taft and family.

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### The Evacuation of Cuba.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known. The movements of the troops will begin on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

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# FOREST RESERVES

## One of the Most Urgent Needs of the Nation

### THE DEMAND FULLY GONE OVER

#### Governors and Prominent Men From Every Section of the Country Appear Before the House Committee and Urge the Establishment of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Special.—A distinguished assembly of witnesses testified before the House committee on agriculture to the need of the Federal government, establishing forest reserves in the White mountains and in the Southern Appalachians. It marked the opening of the fight in this session of Congress for the creation of these reserves to protect the navigability of navigable streams, a purpose which the committee conceded is constitutional.

Besides Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, who was the spokesman until he was compelled to leave the city and turn his duties over to Col. William S. Harvey, of Philadelphia, Governors Chamberlain, of Oregon; Ansel, of South Carolina; Hoke Smith of Georgia, and Johnson, of Minnesota, former Governors George E. Pardee, of California, and Blanchard, of Louisiana, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, were among those who appeared. Chairman Scott, of the committee, said the committee appreciated the public sentiment in favor of the project but that the problem of obtaining the desired end was difficult.

Representative Scott explained that the House committee on the judiciary had questioned the constitutionality of action on the part of Congress looking toward the purchase of land for the conservation of forests, whatever it might do toward protecting the navigability of the streams of the country.

Governor Guild, in responding, laid emphasis upon the ability of the general government to undertake projects for the general welfare of the country, saying the appeal come from all quarters of the nation.

It is probably the first time in history that the Governor of South Carolina and the Governor of Massachusetts have joined hand in hand to appeal to Congress for the enactment of law for the general welfare of the United States," said Governor Guild, as he bowed to Governor Ansel, of the Southern State.

President Van Hise took the position that the peculiar rapidity of erosion in the Southern Appalachian mountains necessitated the establishment of a reserve there, for the preservation of the navigability of the streams and the protection of the harbors. He gave it as his opinion that the crucial area to be purchased was the lower slopes of the mountains where the inclines are so steep and erosion so rapid that their use for agriculture is less important than the preservation of the streams.

### Nine Injured by Bomb.

New York, Special.—Creeping over the roof to an airshaft in the five-story tenement at 330 Sixty-third street, a Black Hand agent dropped a bomb to the ground. The explosion that resulted was terrific. The walls of the building reeled and tottered, almost falling, and every window within a block or more was shattered. Nine people in the building and in the street were injured by the explosion of the bomb, some of them seriously, although it is not thought that any of them will die. It was a miracle that no one was killed outright. The police are investigating the case and they have come to the conclusion that the bomb dropping was the work of the same Black Hand agent who three years ago kidnapped the small son of an Italian banker, who owns and occupies a part of the building, and that the motive was revenge, the banker having refused to ransom his son. The bomb-thrower made good his escape, but the police believe that they have clues which may lead to his capture, or possibly to the breaking up of a Black Hand gang.

**Wood's Liver Medicine** in liquid form for malaria, chills, and fever, regulates the liver, kidneys and bladder, brings quick relief to biliousness, sick-headache, constipation. Pleasant to take. The \$1.00 bottle contains 2 1/2 times the quantity of the 50c size. First dose brings relief. Its tonic effects felt at once. Sold by Morris' Drug Store.

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