

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

**Speaker Rainey's Death Starts Race for His Position—Prominent Men Organize Liberty League to Combat Radicalism.**

**By EDWARD W. PICKARD**  
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HENRY T. RAINEY, veteran congressman from Illinois and speaker of the house, died unexpectedly in a St. Louis hospital where he was believed to be recovering from an attack of bronchial pneumonia. The immediate cause of his death was angina pectoris. Mr. Rainey, who was with-in day of being seventy-four years old, was first elected to congress in 1902, and he served continuously with the exception of one term, being defeated in the Harding landslide of 1920. He was elected to the speakership when John Nance Garner became Vice President. His control over the house during the sessions of last year and this year, while the President's program was being put through, was gentle but so firm that the legislators were kept well in line.

Mr. Rainey devoted much of his service in Washington to efforts to improve the condition of the farmers, for he held that farm prosperity was essential in any program for national well being. He also was a student of tariff and fiscal subjects. As a Democrat he was always a "regular." He was the author of the tariff commission law and of much other important legislation.

Mrs. Rainey acted as her husband's secretary for years and is so well acquainted with congressional work that the Democrats may select her as the candidate to complete his term as representative from the Twentieth Illinois district.

Mr. Rainey was buried in his home town, Carrollton, after services which were attended by President Roosevelt and many other notable persons.

SPEAKER RAINEY'S death will result in a spirited contest among a number of men who are ambitious to succeed him. First in the line of succession, so to speak, is Representative Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee, who has been serving as majority floor leader and who is head of the Democratic national congressional committee. President Roosevelt is going to take no part in the race, but the more liberal of the New Dealers are known to favor Sam Rayburn of Texas. Well informed observers believe Byrns will be elected speaker and Rayburn floor leader. Other aspirants for the speakership are John E. Rankin of Mississippi, who has announced his candidacy; William B. Bankhead of Alabama, and John J. O'Connor of New York.

Mr. Byrns has been a member of the house continuously since his election to the Sixty-first congress. His work as floor leader, in conjunction with Rainey's rule as speaker, was not especially pleasing to the New Dealers for some months during the last session, but before adjournment most of the misunderstandings were cleared up. In any case, the administration seldom interferes in the selection of the leaders of congress, not wishing to incur the enmity of powerful members of the party.

RETURNING from his swift trip to attend the funeral of Mr. Rainey, the President went directly back to Washington instead of going to his Hyde Park home. This change in plan was due, it was said, to the development of a bitter dispute between Gen. Hugh S. Johnson on one side and Donald Richberg, Mr. Roosevelt's chief industrial adviser, and Secretary of Labor Perkins on the other, over the new structure to be given the NRA.

The issue, it was disclosed, is whether there shall be a board of control in authoritative management of the NRA or a board which shall be more advisory in power, leaving the real control still in the hands of the administrator and his deputies. It was expected Mr. Roosevelt would take command of the situation and determine definitely what shall be done with the recovery administration.

ORGANIZED labor scored a victory over Recovery Administrator Johnson when the national labor relations board ordered John Donovan, former president of the NRA union dismissed by Johnson for "inefficiency," reinstated to his position with the labor advisory board.

"The agencies which are administering the law should in their own dealings uphold its purposes," the board said in its decision, giving a veiled rebuff to Johnson for what it implied was a violation of section 7a of the NRA.

With rather bad grace the NRA accepted the rebuke and permitted Donovan to return to his job. Johnson himself had nothing to say about it, but Dr. Gustav Peck, Donovan's immediate superior, issued a statement in which he stilled at the board's decision and warned Donovan that he would have to "toe the mark."

Soon after this the NRA announced that it does not regard itself as obliged to withdraw the Blue Eagle in cases where the national labor relations board has found companies guilty of violation of section 7A of the national industrial recovery act and of subsequent failure to obey the instructions of the board.

The labor board has recommended withdrawal of the Blue Eagle to the NRA compliance board in all cases where companies have disobeyed its instructions to reinstate discharged employees. The decision by the NRA will remove teeth from decisions by the board, since it may now hear cases, make decisions, and find that no penalties are inflicted for disobeying its orders.

COTTON garment code amendments reducing the working hours and giving workers a wage increase have been signed by the President. The amendments, which affect plants in 42 states, are of far-reaching importance.

Sidney Hillman, labor advisory board member and Amalgamated Clothing union head, termed signing of the order "the most far-reaching move NRA has yet made to increase employment." It was hoped that this order would avert the threatened strike of the garment workers.

TWO prominent Democrats, two Republicans almost equally prominent, and one leading industrialist, all of them of conservative tendencies, have united to organize the American Liberty League dedicated to a war on radicalism in the United States.

The five founders of the league are: Alfred E. Smith, Democratic Presidential candidate in 1928; John W. Davis, Democratic Presidential candidate in 1924; Nathan L. Miller, Republican ex-governor of New York; James W. Wadsworth, Republican congressman from New York, former senator and Presidential possibility for 1936; Irene Du Pont, manufacturer, who supported Smith in 1928 and Roosevelt in 1932. They believe the league membership will grow into the millions and that it will become an important element in the national life.

For president of the organization the founders selected Jouett Shouse, former chairman of the Democratic national committee and president of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment until repeal was accomplished. In a statement Mr. Shouse set forth the purposes of the league as follows:

"It is a nonpartisan organization, formed, as stated in its charter, to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States and to gather and disseminate information that (1) will teach the necessity of respect for the rights of persons and property as fundamental to every successful form of government, and (2) will teach the duty of government to encourage and protect individual and group initiative and enterprise, to foster the right to work, earn, save, and acquire property, and to preserve the ownership and lawful use of property when acquired."

To interviewers Mr. Shouse declared the league was not anti-Roosevelt, but it seemed clear that it will be opposed to most of the major purposes of the New Deal and the radical professors of the brain trust. He said he had visited the President and informed him fully of the purposes of the league, but he would not tell what Mr. Roosevelt's reaction had been.

IN THE nature of a reply to the formation of the American Liberty League was a speech delivered in Washington by Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper. He denied that the "profit motive in American life has been or is to be abolished" by the New Deal, asserting that it seeks only to abolish "certain profit abuses," such as profits on watered stocks and disproportionate salaries.

"Private enterprise," said Mr. Roper, "is getting back upon its own feet, and more and more is exerting its initiative and is able to relieve the federal government of responsibilities, which under normal conditions belong to business."

"Pardon my repeating again that the Roosevelt administration is squarely behind this principle. It believes in profit for management and capital and an equitable return to labor for its rightful rewards in the economic processes."

"No thinking business man desires to have the old order restored. He does desire and is entitled to have the new order characterized by a better control against economic catostrophes and by the freedom to exercise his initiative in planning for the future of his business in the light of an equitable profit system."

THE strike of truck drivers in Minneapolis was ended when the men and their employers accepted a compromise agreement, and martial law in the city was discontinued, business thereafter speeding back to normal conditions. The peace plan, devised by federal representatives, provided that all employees on strike be returned to their jobs without discrimination and on basis of seniority. It included an agreement to hold an election within ten days in each of the 166 firms involved to determine whether their employees want the drivers' union or other representatives to act for them in collective bargaining, and a pledge of the 166 firms to pay for at least one year not less than 50 cents an hour to drivers and 40 cents to helpers, platform men and inside workers.

WILLIAM GREEN, president of the American Federation of Labor, says he hopes the general strike of textile industry workers will be averted; but he announces at the same time that the federation in dors the strike and will cooperate fully with the officers and members of the United Textile Workers' organization. He appointed federation committees to assist the textile workers and announced that he would draft trained organizers and strike specialists from other unions to assist the textile union.

George A. Sloan, president of the Cotton Textile Institute and chairman of the cotton textile code authority, said the threatened strike is not justified by the facts established by impartial government economists. Challenging the wage increase demand of the United Textile Workers of America, Mr. Sloan declared that "as a result of three basic wage provisions in the code the hourly wages paid in March, 1934, show an increase of 7 per cent as compared with March, 1933, when there was no code."

"All of this has meant a substantial increase in manufacturing costs," Mr. Sloan said, "and the research and planning division of the NRA found, after a comprehensive investigation last June, that under existing conditions there is no factual or statistical basis for any general increase in cotton textile code wage rates."

Mr. Sloan estimated the present number of workers at work in some 1,200 mills in the cotton industry at 400,000.

LIEUT.-COL. MARIO HERNANDEZ organized a plot to overthrow the government of President Mendicta of Cuba and establish a military dictatorship, but the authorities got wind of it and frustrated the conspiracy, in which a considerable part of the army was involved. Col. Fulgencio Batista, head of the army, said that Major Benitez and some soldiers were sent to arrest Hernandez and that eight men of the detachment were killed. Hernandez tried to shoot Benitez but was himself shot in the head and neck. The official report said Hernandez was being rushed toward Havana in an automobile and that the car upset, the prisoner being killed, though the others in the car were uninjured.

Maj. Angel Echevarria, commandant of Fourth Infantry at Camp Columbia, and Capt. Augustin Eric, chief of the signal corps, conspirators with Hernandez, were captured later and a summary court martial sentenced them to death.

Four thousand troops in Pinar del Rio are confined to barracks, under arrest, and a thorough reorganization of the entire high command of the Cuban army is in full swing. About 200 civilians have also been arrested as parties to the conspiracy, charged with carrying messages to military plotters.

EIGHTY-EIGHT Soviet citizens are now under arrest in Manchukuo, charged with plotting against Manchukuo and Japan and sabotaging Japanese military trains. The Russian government, through Acting Consul General Rayvid at Harbin, has presented to the foreign office of Manchukuo a demand for an explanation of the arrests and insists on prompt measures for the release of the prisoners.

"The arrests were made without documents, accompanied by searches of the apartments and offices of Soviet employees of the Chinese Eastern railway which have not been explained," Rayvid said.

The Japanese allege that some of the prisoners confessed to an attack on the Japanese military intelligence office at Suifenbo (Pogranichnaya), to sending Manchurian and Korean seamanists into the territory, to wrecking trains carrying Japanese troops and munitions toward the frontier, and to creating general disturbances along the eastern line.

Probably before long will come the news that the Japanese have seized the Chinese Eastern railway, and that may very well result in war between Japan and Russia.

BY A vote of about 10 to 1 the people of Germany decided that Chancellor Adolf Hitler's action in assuming the powers of president was all right. The result of the plebiscite was: "Yes," 88,302,709; "No," 4,204,634; "Invalid," 872,230. Though the "yes" votes were several million less than in the November plebiscite on the withdrawal from the League of Nations, the Nazis are satisfied and Hitler appears to be safely fixed as the country's ruler for the rest of his life. His power, as chancellor-leader, is greater than that of any other dictator.

## BRISBANE THIS WEEK

**Hostile to Christianity Hitler's Great Power Fourteen-Pound Baby Quite Easily Said**

In spite of a gigantic vote, about 88,000,000 to about 4,000,000, that gave Hitler absolute power in Germany, Hitler's ardent admirers are annoyed that even four million votes should read "No." The Jews of Germany could not well be blamed, since there are only 600,000 of them.

They could not well cast 4,070,000 votes. Herr Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda chief, suggests in his newspaper Angriff that the anti-Hitler votes were cast by German Catholics.

That "No" votes were Catholic votes seems probable. In view of the attitude of Hitler's government toward religion in general, Catholicism in particular, and emphatic complaints made by the Vatican.

It is feared by Protestants as well as Catholics that hostility to Christianity may develop and spread among Germans as it has done in Russia, Spain, Mexico and elsewhere.

Hitler now holds in his name all the powers once exercised by the kaiser, the reichstag, the various separate kingdoms and governments that make up the German empire.

Also, quite important, "Herr Hitler has the power to declare war and to make peace."

It might be easier to declare war than to make peace in these times. He is commander of the army, navy and air force, which indicates rapid progress for a gentleman who was not a citizen of the German nation four years ago.

Mrs. Ted Glover, of Moorefield, W. Va., weighs 120 pounds, her husband weighs 135 pounds. Not that his weight makes any difference. Their little boy, named, as you will guess, Franklin Delano Glover, just arrived weighs fourteen pounds. Franklin Delano Glover will not attract as much attention as do the five Dionne quintuplets. But the mother is proud of the fact that her Franklin Delano weighs at birth one pound and a half more than all five of the quintuplets. Franklin Delano Glover's father says, "I can't account for it." No accounting is necessary. Every baby, big or little, is a marvel, and weight at birth makes little difference. One sickly little baby called Voltaire started a work that overthrew a long line of fat French kings.

The big steel companies talk of abandoning the NRA code altogether, fearing the consequences of putting their industry absolutely in the control of organized labor.

"More easily said than done," they will be told. An old horse mired in a swamp might talk about "abandoning the leeches that cling to him," but the leeches would cling. American industry must go all the way through the process of being managed by those that never successfully managed anything else before. Maybe the experiment will lead to the millennium, maybe not. All must hope and cooperate, even the mired horse.

Lloyd George, in his memoirs, says that while England was borrowing American dollars so industriously, the "United States, shocked by the cost of war, was suspicious as the allies asked for credit." He does not add, as he might, that Americans would have been wise to refuse the credit, since all of "our gallant allies" have turned out to be gallant welters.

New York presents to your attention an interesting robbery in the borough of Brooklyn. A well-organized gang of highwaymen surrounded an armored car, with machine guns carefully planted in a peddler's cart and in parked cars, held up the armed guards, stole \$427,000.

The robbers escaped in three high-powered automobiles, the armored truck pursuing, one machine gun that the robbers had overlooked spitting futile bullets.

That appears to be the record for robbery in the public streets. The eleven bandits will regret to hear that, in addition to overlooking one machine gun, they overlooked \$20,000 in cash.

A big diamond is coming to the United States, fourth largest in the world, called the Jonker gem. The "pebble" was found in South Africa by a farmer, and sold to the diamond corporation for \$315,000. The corporation refused \$500,000 for the stone, now coming here to be cut to best advantage. Ladies will wear diamonds as big as pigeons' eggs, but hardly as big as a turkey's egg. That would be colossal.

Hoboken, N. J., is shocked. One gentleman, who liked the looks of another gentleman's wife, bought the wife for \$700, to be paid in installments, like an automobile, "with her romantic consent." The last installment paid recently.

That makes all that are absolutely well behaved shudder, although many millions of human beings on earth never get a wife except by purchase. Other millions may sell a wife if they choose, and so evil is thought of it. It is thinking that "makes it so."

## Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart

Washington.—Chester C. Davis, the agricultural adjustment administrator, in a conversation I had with him the other day, uttered an observation which seems to be decidedly worthwhile and one which, because of the assurance and contents, ought to be repeated here. My conversation with Mr. Davis had to do with questions concerning drouth relief and I want to quote his remarks because of the widespread destruction of the current period when rainfall has been nil in so many communities.

"It is as unsafe and unjust to measure the true potentialities of this country," Mr. Davis said, "by the extreme drouth conditions of this year as it was to measure them by the bumper crop years which happened to coincide with high prices so that everybody felt sudden riches were in sight. The one extreme is just as deceptive as the other."

Mr. Davis outlined what the government was attempting to do since its policy has been changed and since individuals no longer are required to fend for themselves. He declared the changes in policy that have been taken represent a frank recognition of responsibilities by the present leadership and it was his conviction that more has been done in the face of similar conditions than ever has been done before to relieve human distress. He added that it had been found difficult, of course, to meet and solve many of the problems and that there is not sufficient prowess even in our national government to counteract all of the effects of such a calamity. The administrator holds to the belief, however, that the steps taken by the administration constitute the beginnings of a national program from which apparently it is proposed eventually to develop national policies for dealing with all kinds of distress. Obviously, Mr. Davis did not touch on these phases because his job is to deal with agricultural situations and he has not gone beyond them.

Calling attention to the fact that the drouth relief program is the greatest ever undertaken in this or any other country, Mr. Davis summarized the joint activity of the several government agencies in the following language: The purchase of surplus cattle, with the processing of meat for relief distribution; encouragement of production of forage crops; co-ordination of seed purchase; human employment relief; purchase of adapted feed grain; forestation and other measures to conserve moisture, prevent wind erosion and minimize the effects of future drouth, and in addition such crop benefit payments as have been made and which now turn out to be in his opinion crop insurance.

Mr. Davis is optimistic concerning the future of the American farmer, despite the hardships of the current drouth. He suggested, however, that it was necessary to face the facts of the current drouth, but also, to resort to the language of the street, the administrator thinks the country must not allow the current problems to knock it down.

"If the doubts and fears lately expressed had been heeded," Mr. Davis added, "the great plains never would have been settled. The troubles of today are but repetition on a less fearful scale of the obstacles encountered by the early settlers. But instead of turning back in the face of hardships, those pioneers established their homes and did not let drouth, flood, hail, or Indians stop them."

"Instead, the pioneers and their sons searched the world for drouth-resistant wheat and grains which would mature in season. They bred up the drouth-resistant forage crops and planted them. They built a civilization on an expanse of the map which once was labeled the Great American desert. The drouths we have lived through in the past did not conquer the spirit nor stop the development of the West. The drouth of 1934 will not stop the men of the West in their forward march to conquer nature."

The thing about the remarks which Mr. Davis uttered that appealed to me and to numerous other Washington observers was the candor with which he treated the problems. He made no attempt in this conversation nor has he done so in several speeches he has made lately to use language that was hysterical. For an example of what I mean, dispatches coming from President Roosevelt's train on his homeward trip across the northern half of this country gave various figures as to the loss occasioned by the drouth. One of these dispatches credited an emergency relief official with the statement that the drouth had cost the farmers five billion dollars. Another dispatch placed the figure somewhat lower and gave no authority for the estimate. But the point is that while Mr. Davis recognizes the desperation of the farmers and the necessity for their relief, there was nothing sensational in his discussion. It is to be remembered that the total farm income of 1933 was only a little more than six billion dollars and it is hard for observers here to believe that the drouth has destroyed five-sixths of this country's agricultural in-

come this year. In the light of this fact, the tempered remarks by Mr. Davis take on added significance and weight.

It now seems certain that when the congress returns to Washington next January it will be called upon immediately by the administration to vote more funds for relief of the drouth victims. Until later, however, the extent to which the administration will seek to go in this direction cannot be foretold. It is evident that having seen the circumstances first hand, Mr. Roosevelt's entire sympathy will be behind whatever proposal he makes.

Observers here, however, foresee some dangers as a result of the present desperate conditions. They know that Mr. Roosevelt will, as he has frequently stated, go the limit with federal funds, but the danger foreseen by astute observers here is that some of the members of the house and senate will attempt to go beyond all reason in preparation of relief plans during next winter. It is not unusual, as the records show, that on every occasion when the federal treasury doors are opened senators or representatives will come forward with scores of plans under the guise of human relief to get their hands on government money for their constituents. It is fair to say that some of these will be sincere. It is equally fair to say that, as in the past, some of them will have been misguided. The conversations one hears around Washington therefore indicate that those charged with government responsibility must be on their guard if vast sums are not to be wasted under the guise of extending relief to needy victims of nature's pranks this year.

Some of the brain trusters already have developed far flung plans for the physical transfer of thousands of farm families from the drouth stricken districts into other areas where they can get started again. While generally speaking I believe sentiment in the government favors doing anything that will afford relief next winter, a good many of the higher authorities in the administration point out that the scheme of transportation of whole families and their belongings presents grave problems.

Without attempting to discuss the merit or demerit of the scheme, it seems to me that attention ought to be called to the fact that human beings just can't agree to such programs.

There was a cartoon in one of the eastern metropolitan newspapers the other day that depicted Uncle Sam begging a small boy labeled "Prices" to grow up so that he could reach his height of 1923. Beside it was another caricature which showed Uncle Sam warning the same boy to stop growing and announcing that if he, the prices of food, grows too much, "I will crack down." I refer to this cartoon because most Washington observers see the price situation in this country to be quite confusing. It is to be recalled that throughout last year and early in 1934 the administration predicted all of its actions on a desire to raise prices. Now, however, the effect of the prolonged drouth in the agricultural areas is being felt in the cities and President Roosevelt announced his fear that profiteering in food prices is likely to result and made known that the administration has definite plans to curb any undue rise in prices. Thus far it has not been made clear what is considered an undue price rise under present conditions but the President stated with emphasis in a press conference that he would not permit profiteering to take place in the coming fall and winter because, he indicated, he thought the price increases would be unjustified.

The President and Secretary Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture, are working hand in hand in the development of machinery which they intend to use to protect consumers from profiteering. Mr. Roosevelt asserted he had plenty of power with which to do this job. Mr. Wallace, speaking later, said the first check that would be placed on an undue rise in prices would be closer supervision of the grain markets. Any indications of manipulation in those markets will be dealt with summarily, according to Mr. Wallace.

The circumstances surrounding price questions, however, have caused many observers to ask for further exposition of the administration's policies in this regard. As far as I have been able to learn, none of the administration spokesmen are willing at this time to go beyond the threat to crack down if there is profiteering. It must be assumed, therefore, that moderate price increases will be tolerated, if they are not, it is made to appear that the policies upon which the agricultural adjustment administration have been operating and those that have served as the guideposts for NRA in its code making are no longer holding favor with the administration. In other words, there is profound confusion over the question of price increases at this time.

Price Situation

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