

# THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

## OUT IN THE OPEN

Washington, May 14.—The great game of politics, which is always going on behind the scenes in Washington, is being played more and more in the open now, as the lines begin to form for the election battle of 1936. There is a great deal more frankness on the part of the players, more open admission that they are concerned with their own reelection as much as they are with solving the perplexing problems of the nation in the most effective way.

This is especially notable in the Senate, one-third of whose members come up for reelection next year, and another third in 1938. It is not yet so marked among members of the House of Representatives, all of whose terms expire next year; but in the lower house, also, many members who have been counted as loyal supporters of the Administration are beginning to echo the remark of one eminent Senator, who expressed a growing feeling when he said: "Roosevelt is going to need us next year quite as much as we need him. We don't have to cling so tight to his coat-tails as in the past."

Every fellow for himself  
The reason for this state of affairs is that Senators and Representatives are hearing from back home, and the message they get is that there is a growing coolness among the people toward some of the New Deal measures. How extensive and how serious this is, none of them is quite sure. There are a good many Congress districts and several states in which a switch of only a few thousand votes from one side to the other would make a decided difference in the political complexion of the next Congress.

There is not much doubt in Washington, so far, that President Roosevelt will be reelected. All the odds are in his favor. But it would be entirely possible for the President to be reelected by the power of the electoral votes of the larger states, even though he carried each of them by a narrow margin, and still leave a large batch of Congressmen and Senators of his own party out on a limb.

That is what is worrying the boys on Capitol Hill. They want to save their own skins, and so they are showing their independence by balking at such parts of the President's program as they think might not set well with the folks back home. It is not quite fair to regard this as a cowardly and selfish attitude. Some of them have never relished taking orders from the White House, having independent ideas of their own and feeling that it is their function, rather than that of the Executive to draft and enact legislation. They went along with the President, not only for the sake of party harmony but because there didn't seem to be any other way to get started toward the goal of economic recovery. As long as there was a practically unanimous sentiment throughout the nation, that was the sound and politic thing for them to do. Now, however, they feel that public sentiment is not so one-sided.

The Chamber's Objections  
The attitude of some members of the President's own party in oppo-

sition to some parts of his program was strengthened by the representations made by the delegates to the annual convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This organization is composed of practically all of the chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the United States. It is, therefore, a representative cross-section of the average business men of the nation. Therefore, when its convention adopted resolutions asking for the postponement of the Social Security plan, the ending of NRA, opposing the President's plan for regulation of public utilities and suppression of holding companies, against the plan for Federal control of bank credit, the proposed strengthening of AAA and the Wagner industrial relations bill, the Chamber's utterances were taken seriously.

Administration supporters, publicly tried to "laugh them off." The President himself expressed disbelief that business men generally felt the way the convention did; but there is no denying that this first important organized expression of disagreement with the New Deal has had a serious effect, although naturally it does not represent unanimity on the part of business interests.

Another Meeting  
Almost at the same time that the Chamber of Commerce was meeting, there was another meeting of even greater significance being held in the White House. This was between the President and a group of Democratic Senators, who served notice on the Executive that they would not go along with him on all of the legislation which he has earmarked as "must." Those who profess to know what took place at this meeting report that the attitude of the recalcitrant Senators was a very definite.

Therefore, because of all that has just been set down, what may fairly be expected between now and the adjournment of Congress is a few

compromise measures, which will not suit anybody, much, and the shelving of several items which the Administration earnestly wants.

Congress is definitely much less interested in social reforms than is the White House. It is definitely much more inflation-minded than the President. Mr. Roosevelt is bent upon checking the movement toward currency inflation, but to avert it he will have to accept the verdict of Congress on some of his reform plans.

It's anybody's guess, this week, when Congress will adjourn.

## GROW MORE FEED ON TOBACCO ACRES

### New Ruling Permits Contract Signers to Grow More Food

A new ruling for the tobacco adjustment program will permit contract signers to grow more food and feed crops this year.

Modification of the contracts, as ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture, provides that the clauses which limit the total acreage planted to crops shall be inoperative in 1935. The new ruling also provides that

the clauses limiting the production of basic commodity crops and livestock shall apply only to cotton, wheat, tobacco, and peanuts.

The growers will be allowed to plant in food and feed crops all the land which they have retired from tobacco cultivation.

These rulings were adopted to help offset the effect of the mid-western drought in curtailing national production, says E. Y. Floyd, of State College, director of the tobacco program in this State, and to stimulate the production of more food and feed crops for home use.

As originally drafted, the tobacco contracts stipulated that the grower must not increase the production of any other basic crop grown on his farm, nor the total acreage of all crops. Only half of the acreage withdrawn from tobacco cultivation was to be put in food and feed crops.

The chief benefit to be gained by the lifting of these restrictions will be the increased plantings of corn permissible, Floyd said. In most tobacco growing areas, corn does not constitute a cash crop and the production of a reasonable amount of corn is necessary for a well-balanced farming system.

There is a family in San Pedro, California, in which the male tendency is so strong that for four generations no daughter has been born, although there have been 35 sons.

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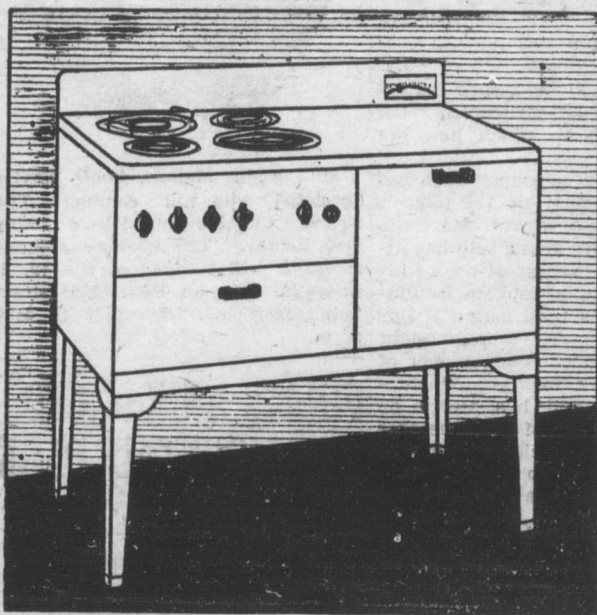
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