

**THIS WEEK  
IN  
WASHINGTON**

Washington, December 6—Between the time when Congress broke up in a row last summer, practically shaking its fists at the White House, and the convening of the special session on November 15, two things happened which have knocked all the plans awry. Neither was anticipated.

First, the members who have been back home conferring with their constituents did not have their ears knocked down for being sassy to the President, as it had been predicted by Administration spokesmen would happen. And, second, a sudden slump occurred in business and industry, of such proportions as to send shudders of apprehension of its possible political results over every Senator and Representative who has to stand for re-election next Fall.

**RUNAWAY CONGRESS**  
The direct result of these two things is that the Congress is in a more independent mood than it has been at any time in the past five years, and is showing signs of going ahead under its own steam and charting its own course. How far and in what direction it will get in this short special session is still unpredictable, but it looks as if it will adjourn for the Christmas holidays with a good deal of the program which the President called it to consider still unenacted.

First on the President's program was the Farm Control bill. But when Congress met there wasn't any farm control bill ready for it to consider, and the Senate took up its own No. 1 item

the Anti-Lynching bill, setting off a filibuster which wasted a goodly part of the five-weeks session. The debate did, however, give many Senators a chance to express themselves on the subject nearest to the hearts of their constituents, the new business depression and what to do about it.

**SENATE MARKS TIME**  
Since the Senate cannot initiate tax legislation under the Constitution, all it can do is to talk until the House sends it a tax bill to consider. But the talk in the Senate, supplemented by expressions by members of the House of Representatives on and off the record, disclosed a surprisingly unanimity of opinion in favor of taking immediate steps to unshackle business and industry from the fetters of restrictive taxation, particularly the undistributed profits tax and the capital gains tax.

What made the situation more surprising was the agreement by the President that it was time to do something to encourage private capital to start the wheels of industry spinning at a faster rate and to invest in building new houses, factories and stores in order to stimulate production of building materials and put workers in the building and allied industries back to work. For once, it seemed, the President, the Congress and the business world were in harmony.

**NO TAX CHANGE NOW**  
That the special session will repeal or amend the taxes on industry which are generally conceded to have hamstrung business enterprise, seems doubtful. But if out of the debates and the public declarations come assurances which the business world accepts that it is going to get relief in the near future, a good start will have been made toward recovery from this latest depression.

The reason for probable delay in tax revision until the regular

session is the desire of the House Committee on Ways and Means not to do a piecemeal job but to present a complete scheme of tax revision in one comprehensive bill. To repeal any existing tax without providing for equal or greater revenue from other sources would throw the Federal budget still further out of balance.

One of the essentials to the restoration of business confidence is reliable assurances of honest efforts to balance the budget. Congress seems even more bent on that than does the Executive, and does not want to do anything which will reopen the fears that the budget will never be balanced. Therefore the actual revision of the tax system must wait until the regular session, by which time the House Committee hopes to be able to present a partial and completely new tax bill.

**HAIL NEW HOUSING PLAN**  
The wholehearted acceptance by the Administration of the demand for revision of the Federal Housing Administration Act to provide better cooperation between Government and capital in promoting a nation-wide housing drive meets with hearty approval on Capitol Hill. It will cost the Government nothing but small supervisory expenses, to authorize the formation of National mortgage banks with authority to rediscount mortgage loans under a Federal pooling system of guaranteeing lenders against loss.

With matters of such immediate importance uppermost in their minds, Senators and members of Congress are not so greatly concerned about the President's legislative program formulated last Summer. The four major items in that program are legislation, Government Reorganization and Regional Power Planning. The last two are hardly likely to be reached at all at this session. The other two are facing serious and perhaps bitter opposition, and certainly will not be

enacted in anything like the form in which they are presented.

**FARM LOBBY DIVIDED**  
While Congress believes, generally speaking, that the farmers of the country want crop control if it is accompanied by benefit payments, there is no general agreement on how it should be formulated or administered, or how to pay for it without additional burdens on the Treasury.

The Farm Lobby in Congress is still powerful, but it is also sectional and the sections are far apart in their ideas of what is needed by farmers. Any general crop control bill which will please one farm group will displease another. Members from the cotton and tobacco states want one thing, those from wheat, corn, livestock and potato sections want something else for their constituents. The only thing they all want is to be re-elected.

**QUICK ICE CUBES ARE BOON TO "EXCLUSIVE"**

An example of how fortune sometimes smiles upon movie producers when they happen to be caught in a difficult situation is graphically illustrated in one of the scenes of Paramount's new picture "Exclusive," to be seen at the Lyric Theatre here December 10, a highly dramatic story of newspaper life. Although containing plenty of thrills, the picture is well blessed with a number of comedy scenes, one of which takes Charlie Ruggles and Fred MacMurray to the kitchen for a supply of ice cubes.

In order not to "fake" the picture and leave too much to the imagination, it was desirable that the audience see the men obtain the cubes in order to carry out the comedy theme. This presented an unforeseen problem, however, since ice cubes normally are difficult to release from freezing trays, especially if frozen hard as

desirable ice cubes should be, and an embarrassing delay would be had "continuity" from a motion picture standpoint.

Whether the script writers overlooked this fact, or just had an "intuition" they have not revealed, but the fact remains that just about the time the producers were ready for rehearsal of this scene, the only kind of metal ice tray that would pop out ice cubes instantly was announced to the world by its manufacturer, which had no previous knowledge of the movie problem.

The unique device that saved the day, or at least saved the comedy of the scene, is known as the instant cube release, developed by Frigidaire Division of General Motors. The firm has since made it available to the general public by including it in all the 1937 models which carry the name plate "Frigidaire." These may be seen here at the showroom of Harris Electric Co.

**HOEY DOES NOT PLAN "CHRISTMAS CLEMENCY"**

Raleigh, Nov. 27—No paroles will be issued next month as purely "Christmas clemency," Governor Hoey said today.

However, the chief executive added, several "worthy" cases now under consideration may result in clemency action between now and Christmas.

Some former governors have issued paroles during December as "Christmas clemency," and on some occasions more than 100 prisoners have been released on the eve of the holiday.

Wife: "Do you realize that twenty five years ago today we were engaged?"

Absent-minded Professor: "Twenty-five years! You should have reminded me before. It's certainly time we got married."



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'Avoid the eleventh hour rush  
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'A brand new Kelvinator  
'Will be Mother's dearest treasure.  
'And a fine Electric Radio  
'Keeps Dad at home with pleasure.  
'A Curling Iron for Daughter  
'Gives her girlish heart a thrill.  
'An Electric Pad for Grandma  
'Keeps away the wintry chill.  
'As for Junior, young sophisticate,  
'Who longs to look so "slick,"  
'A new Electric Razor  
'Will be sure to turn the trick.  
'And don't forget the Kiddies,  
'Why, they love Electric Trains,  
'Or Electric Popcorn-Poppers  
'To amuse them when it rains.  
'There's such a great array of gifts  
'In "Reddy's" fine collection,  
'That you could never be far wrong  
'In making your selection.  
'So let old "Reddy" do the task  
'That Santa Claus should do,  
'And you'll be giving gifts  
'You'd like for folks to give to you!

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**The New Gasoline Law**

**An announcement by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey**

On December 1, 1937, the new North Carolina minimum quality gasoline law goes into effect to protect motorists of the state.

Esso and Essolene have always clearly exceeded even the strict requirements now established by law. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey wants its many customers to know that it spares neither effort nor expense to give them more for their money than they get in any other petroleum products. To meet the needs of tomorrow with still higher standards of quality, the Company is devoting all available resources and experience.



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