

This Week IN WASHINGTON

Washington, May 10 — Before President Roosevelt left Washington for a vacation voyage on the new cruiser "Philadelphia" he took occasion to send a message to Congress asking for half a million dollars to be used for investigating private monopolies. Concentration of economic power in the hands of a few persons or groups, he said, tended toward a condition which he compared to Fascism. That Congress will vote the money is more than likely. That the investigation, to be made by the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission will produce any results that will be politically useful is doubted by many. And what Congress is most concerned about, now as always, is political results.

Congressional leaders do not look for any important political results from the expression by sixteen of the nation's financial and business leaders that they are ready to go along with government whenever government shows signs of being willing to play ball with them. The elder statesmen on the Conservative side have never had any doubt that business men were eager to continue in business and financiers to finance business, once the hobbles imposed by onerous taxation were removed and business was not kept in a state of suspense and apprehension.

Ease Up on Business
President Roosevelt's expression of approval of the evidence of co-operative spirit on the part of big business is taken in some quarters as indicating a change of front by the Administration in its attitude toward business. Whether that proves to be true or not, there is no question that the attitude of a majority in Congress has become definitely realistic, and that no new legislation which is calculated to have a deterrent effect upon business expansion and reemployment has a ghost of a chance of enactment at this session.

The response of the nation to the new tax bill as finally agreed on by the conference committee of the two houses has been to encourage the conservative Democrats in their attitude of independence. The new tax law practically abolishes the tax on corporation reserves, and so greatly modifies the capital gains tax as to eliminate that barrier to the investment of new capital, for all practical purposes. There is, to be sure, some trace left in the new bill of the Administration plan of taxing undistributed corporate earnings. That was retained in principle as a matter of "saving face" for the President. But in effect the tax plan agreed upon is another victory for the rebellious group in Congress, who have been heartened by success to take an even more defiant

stand in opposition to another of the pet measures of the White House.

Wage-Hour Bill Stymied
That is the bill to regulate wages and hours of labor by federal statute. The executive pressure upon Congress to enact such a law has been tremendous and persistent ever since the proposal was first broached. There have been a series of bitter fights in both houses, chiefly behind committee-room doors, over the plan sponsored in the House by Representative Mary Norton of New Jersey. The original measure has been revamped and modified in committee until it bears little resemblance to its original form. At last it took a form upon which the majority of the Labor committee could agree, but it instantly ran into a snag in the shape of the all-powerful rules committee.

Without the consent of the rules committee, under parliamentary procedure, no bill can be placed on the calendar for consideration by the entire House. And the Rules Committee refused to grant a rule placing the bill on the calendar. Five Southern Democrats, Cox of Georgia, Driver of Arkansas, Smith of Virginia, Clark of North Carolina and Dies of Texas, joined with three Republican members of the committee to refuse the rule. They were reflecting the general opposition in the South to any legislative attempt to put the wages of Negroes on a level with those of white workers.

Unless Chairman Norton can get 218 members to sign a petition discharging the Rules Committee from consideration of her bill, it has no chance of passage at this session. And in view of the time it would take to make action under a petition effective, and the almost unanimous desire of Congress to adjourn by June first at the latest, the outlook for a wage-and-hours law seems doubtful.

Garner Bucking F.D.R.?
It is no secret on Capitol Hill that there is antagonism between the President and the Vice-President. Both men are too good politicians to admit an open clash between them, but it is suspected by many insiders that Mr. Garner is the master-mind behind much of the political strategy which has resulted in the defeat of many of the President's pet measures.

The President still has many loyal supporters in both Houses, of course. There are nearly two hundred Representatives and more than forty Senators who can be counted upon to stand by Mr. Roosevelt and the New Deal through thick and thin. Not the least important of these is Senator Sherman Minton of Indiana, who is understood to be very closely in the President's confidence, and is often regarded as the President's spokesman.

Senator Minton succeeded Senator Black, upon the latter's elevation to the Supreme Court, as chairman of the Special Committee to investigate lobbying. His attitude in that capacity has been one of bitter hostility toward anyone who criticized or tried to block the passage of any measure favored by the President.

What You Can Do
Each of us can help to save a life or prevent a possible serious injury.

We can correct unsafe conditions in our homes. We can teach our children the proper way to do things, and safe playing habits. We can help in organized efforts to make everybody safety-conscious.

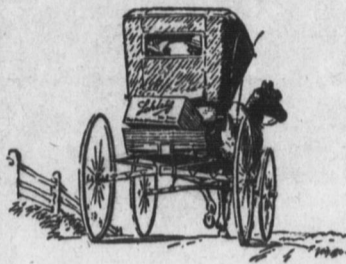
Do this, and you and your loved ones have a better chance of living a normal life span.

It Pays to Advertise
The editor received the following letter several days ago:
"Monday I lost a gold watch which I valued very highly. I immediately inserted an ad in your lost-and-found column and waited. Yesterday I went home and found the watch in the pocket of another suit. God bless your paper."

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Hitto—One that locks the stable before the horse is stolen.

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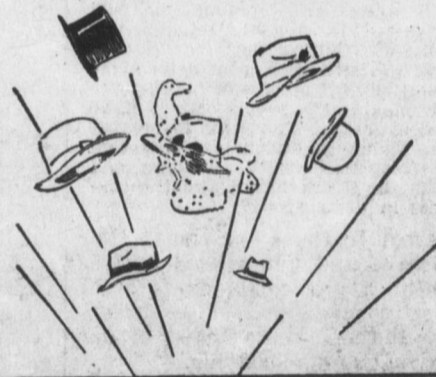


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