



THE CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

The Congress of the United States, elected in November, will meet on January 3rd, thus taking office some seventeen days before the President elected at the same time.

The inauguration of the newly-elected President will take place on January 20th. These dates, it should be noted, are the result of the amendment to the Constitution fathered by the late Senator George Norris of Nebraska.

Previously, the President elected in November took office on March 4th of the following year and, theoretically, the Congress did the same. However, the regularly-scheduled session of the new Congress did not begin until the following December, more than thirteen months after the election.

It should be noted, in connection with the schedule of events, that the old Congress will assemble in Washington on December 31st, under the terms of its adjournment resolution. It will be in session for a few days, marking the end of the "Eightieth Congress," but nobody expects that the legislators will attempt much legislation during that time.

UNITED NATIONS NOT A FAILURE

A day was set apart last week for world-wide observance of United Nations' Day, with the idea that the people of the world would take stock of the organization that has been functioning for some three years.

The value of the United Nations organization is undisputed and the weakness attributed to it by critics are due more to the contrariness of individual members of the organiza-

tion than to structural defects.

It was obvious, when the fledgling organization got under way at San Francisco, that the success of the United Nations and the peace of the world depended upon the cooperation of the big powers. Because of this fact, there was general agreement that the right to veto, given to the larger powers, would, in some future emergency, prevent a catastrophe by permitting an aggrieved big power to veto action by the organization.

It was clearly understood, at the beginning, that if a dispute arose between the large powers, the peace of the world would be in jeopardy and that the United Nations would not have the force to compel a recalcitrant big power to fall into line. The only force for such a job would be the combined strength of the other big powers. If this had to be used, the peace of the world was lost.

Because the Soviet Union has misused the right to veto, one should not conclude that the founders of the United Nations organization made a considerable mistake in providing the veto. Nor should one attribute to the United Nations the blame for all the failures to settle the perplexing problems of the world.

After all, if the United Nations settled one problem, it has scored a considerable success. One could not, with reason, have expected that the United Nations would make a perfect score and reform the world overnight.

The great benefit that the world gains from the United Nations is the mechanism by which the nations, if they wish, can cooperate in improving conditions in the world and in secur-

ing the peace of the world. It serves as a valuable forum for the discussion of international problems and offers an opportunity to mobilize the moral opinion of the world for whatever it may be worth.

Those who say that the United Nations has signally failed are usually those who have expected it to involve itself with functions best left alone. For example, the insistence of some advocates of human rights that the United Nations undertake to guarantee them to all peoples is absurd.

No resolution of the United Nations and no action by the world organization can create human beings, ready, willing or able to enjoy and extend human rights. To attempt to do this, by resolutions and an international assembly, is foolish.

Altogether, we think the nations of the world will do well to hang on to the United Nations a little bit longer. If the Russians and their satellite nations are adamant in their refusal to cooperate, then it may be necessary to form an exclusive organization of the free democratic nations of the earth and organize them defensively for their own good. This will, of course, organize the world into two camps but when we face such a contingency, we might as well realize that it is much better for the world to be organized into two camps than into one camp.

WHO EXPECTS AID FROM FRANCO SPAIN?

Strong European opposition seems to have squelched the movement to take Franco Spain into the fraternity of free nations, but the Spaniards are getting some comfort from the discussion and working to promote Spain as what General Franco calls the "bulwark of Western civilization."

The dictator has recently made several speeches, arousing considerable enthusiasm by vaunting the Spanish fighting spirit. At the same time, his foreign minister, Martin Artego, speaking in Buenos Aires, points out that if the nations which have isolated Spain wish to get a foothold in Spain later to block Communism, then "they must say that Spain was right and proclaim before the world that Spain was the first nation to deliver a battle against the Oriental avalanche."

The foreign minister asserts that if the defenses on the Rhine should be insufficient to resist the advance of Communism, then the Pyrenees would "be nothing less than civilization's barrier against barbarism." He insists that Spain "is the only, well-defended fortress facing the Communist avalanche."

The background of this talk is the hope of persuading the free nations of the world that, without Spain, they will be helpless before Communist aggression. This is an absurdity of the first degree, because it should be obvious that if the Russians sweep through Europe, they will not be stopped by the Spaniards, regardless of the Pyrenees, or anything else.

ARMING EUROPE FOR DEFENSE

Although Austria was forbidden to establish an army until a peace treaty is signed, the United States is ex-

pected to support the formation and equipping of an Austrian army of 53,000 men, which has been agreed to by the Big Four powers.

The background of the reported decision is the danger of a Communist push. John Foster Dulles, Mr. Dewey's adviser on foreign affairs, says that there is no tangible evidence to support the fear of such a move but that a well-equipped Austrian army would take care of the situation.

In addition, the Western nations of Europe are seeking support of their efforts to strengthen their military power. The United States, it is well known, bases its plans upon the Five-Power Western Union, with the hope that some other countries might come in. It should be recalled, in this connection, that the Vandenberg Resolution, adopted by the Senate with only three votes in opposition, calls for positive steps by this country to strengthen the Western democracies so that they can defend themselves.

It has now reached the point where the leading powers must decide whether to make the effort on a world-wide basis, including an association of free nations, banding themselves to make cause in resisting an armed attack upon anyone, or to base the assistance upon a series of mutual defense associations, one for Europe, one for Latin-America and one for the Pacific.

There are some difficulties in connection with including all of the free nations. Sweden, for example, continues to cling to its policy of neutrality. Denmark, it is assumed, could be overrun by the Russians in a few hours without the regional group being able to save her. The probability, in our opinion, is that the assistance will be buttressed by the Five-Power defense pact of Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, but that any other free nation which wishes to come in will be permitted to join and receive the benefits of the protection.

Agent Lists Steps To Stop Barn Fires

A four-point program to save barns from destruction by fire during November was suggested this week by I. C. Yagel, county agent for the State College Extension Service.

Mr. Yagel said records of the Fire Protection Institute show that approximately 1,500 barns in the United States were either damaged or destroyed by fire in November, 1947. Losses are unusually heavy during fall and winter months because so many harvest crops and so much valuable farm machinery are stored in barns at that season of the year.

"If farmers will take a few simple precautions and install approved fire extinguishers, barns in this county will be comparatively safe from fire during the winter months," the county agent declared.

He said barn losses from fire can be reduced 80 to 90 per cent through the following program:

1. Keep barns clean. Make sure rubbish is not allowed to accumulate

2. Check all electrical wiring. See that switches operate properly and no wiring has been stripped of its insulation.
3. Have adequate fire protection. Most fires start small. If approved fire extinguishers are handy, fires can be put out quickly, before they get out of control.
4. Store flammable liquids in safe areas. Make certain that flammable liquid is placed in sealed containers and out of reach of children and animals.

2. English cabinet-maker and furniture designer.
3. John Quincy Adams.
4. Knute Rockne, coach at Notre Dame.
5. October 24, 1861.
6. 266—a simple majority of the total, 531.
7. Lieutenant Governor Herbert H. Lehman.
8. Dead Sea, Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea.
9. 28,000,000 people.
10. Alcide de Gasperi.

UNIFORM DIVORCE LAWS NEEDED SAYS JUDGE

What America needs are uniform divorce laws, says a prominent New York judge. The jurist cites many examples of heartbreaks and immorality which are the result of conflicting statutes. Don't miss this revealing article in the November 21st issue of

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WHO KNOWS

1. When did the Metropolitan Opera open in New York City?
2. Identify Thomas Sheraton.
3. What ex-President served for 17 years in Congress?
4. What famous football coach was killed in a plane crash in 1931?
5. When was the first trans-continental telegraph line completed?
6. How many electoral votes does a Presidential candidate need to win?
7. Who succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt as Governor of New York?
8. What three seas touch the Negeb, southern desert area of Palestine?
9. What is the population of Korea?
10. Name the Prime Minister of Italy.

THE ANSWERS
1. October 22, 1883.

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We were delayed in receiving our tax books, but are now ready to receive payments. Your prompt attention to the matter will be appreciated.

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