TODAY'S THOUGHT
"Civilization is the history of surmounted difficulties."—Hoover.

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Looking at Washington

ABANDONS HOUSING CASE

The Administration has abandoned its appeal to the Supreme Court in the Louisville housing case and apparently accepts the decision of an Appellate Court holding that the Federal Government has no power to condemn propertly for low-cost housing purposes. The action of the Government resulted in considerable speculation, some contending that it was to avoid an adverse decision and others maintaining that no such power is now desired by the Administration, which plans to abandon direct Federal construction and leave the job to local authorities, financed through Federal loans and grants.

While twenty States have passed enabling acts, permitting counties and municipalities to set up housing authorities, only twenty-three communities have done so. The Department of Justice said the action was taken because the cases "had become moot" since no funds were available for the Louisville and Detroit project under fire. However, this is no explanation why, only two weeks before, the Government filed its brief and that more than a dozen State and local authorities had appeared as "friends of the Court" in the two cases.

SEIZING TELEGRAMS

Quite a stir has been raised by the discovery that the Black-Lobbying Committee had secured from the telegraph companies copies of "lobbying" telegrams and that in many cases the senders of the messages were unaware of the step taken by the Committee. The issue was raised by Silas H. Strown, Chicago lawyer and former President of the American Bar Association, and of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, who secured a restraining order to prevent the telegraph companies from delivering to the Committee copies of the messages to and from his law firm.

The right of the citizen to be free from unwarranted search and seizures is asserted by the contention that no government official should be permitted to go on a "fishing expedition." The admission is readily made that the governmental agencies have the right to seize specified messages and correspondence, but this, say the objectors, does not include any general examination of documents in order to ascertain whether or not valuable information is to be found in thtem.

BLACK DEFENDS COURT

Senator Black, of Alabama, head of the Lobby Investigating Committee, and defending the action taken, points to the revelation that many companies which opposed the Holding Company Bill, burned all telegrams and letters dealing with their campaign. In such cases, information as to messages sent and received can only be obtained from the telegraph companies' files. Moreover, the Alabamian insists that it is not possible for an investigating committee, seeking evidence of activity, to give accurate information as to telegrams which have been exchanged but destroyed and denied by those concerned.

BUSINESS MEN GATHER

Around a thousand business men recently gathered in Washington to influence Congress to take favorable action on the so-called "anti-chain" measure, known as the Robinson-Patman bill. As precedents they had the "farmers' march" last year to support the amendments to the AAA, and the "business men's march" for a revival of the NRA. The measure concerned is presumed to benefit and protect small retailers, but is also being backed by wholesalers who think it will help them to regain business lost to the chains and to buying pools which secure quantity discounts and lower prices through mass buying. The bill applies to a huge range of commodities, including groceries and drugs, and would apparently revive some of the price controls of NRA.

Impetus to such legislation has been given by revelations that certain chain store organizations have been receiving special prices, discounts, allowances and advertising funds from manufacturers who make no such concessions to small purchasers. In some instances, the amounts were sufficient to eanble them to undersell independent stores by an appreciable margin. While there is considerable sentiment in favor of the proposed legislation, opposition arises from the fact that some trade experts insist that restriction of the special discounts allowed for buying in large quan-

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Tax Bill Shatters Plans Of Congress To Adjourn May 1

Speaker Byrns Trying To Spur Up Legislators. June 1 Seen By Several As Date For Ending Work

HEARINGS TO BE HELD

Roosevelt Preparing Relief Recommendations Before Departing For South To Fish

Washington, Mar. 17.—Hopes for adjournment of Congress by May 1 have been virtually scuttled by the knotty problem of writing a $792,000,000 tax bill for President Roosevelt.

Word to this effect circulated on Capitol Hill today even as the administration's relief program for the next fiscal year—another potential source of delay—began to take form with the president preparing his recommendations for submission to Congress before heading for Southern fishing grounds Thursday.

Even Speaker Byrns conceded today that adjournment by May 1 looked less promising than it did before a House ways and means sub-committee ran into difficulties over the tax program. But he added that he was not yet reaky to revise the goal fixed earlier.

"I'm trying to spur them on," he said.

June 1 was the date which Representative Marton, of Massachusetts, assistant House minority leader, considered likely for winding up congressional business.

Both Democrats and Republicans on the ways and means committee privately expressed the thought that he might be right.

"The bill will probably require another ten days in subcommittee," remarked Representative Knutson (R.) Minn., "and open hearings by the full committee will take at least two weeks. Then it will take some time to draft a bill in final form and probably four days will be needed on the House floor. The Senate probably will want to take its time on taxes.

"So I can't see any adjournment before June 1. There are absolutely no grounds for saying we will get out of here by May 1."

Another committeeman, Representative Thompson (D.), Ill., added:

"It looks to me like late in May at the earliest."

Methodist Missionary Society Meets Fri. At The Doughton Home

The Women's Missionary society of the Methodist church held a meeting on Friday, March 13, at the home of Mrs. Marvin Doughton, with Mrs. J. M. Cheek, as leader.

Mrs. A. B. Bruton conducted the devotionals, after which a very interesting program was rendered with Mrs. T. J. Carson, Mrs. R. E. Black, Mrs. T. J. Inskeep, Mrs. Rex Mitchell and Mrs. Bruton taking part.

Three new members were added to the organization.

At the close of the meeting, delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Worth Smith, with Mrs. Roscoe Smith as joint hostess and Mrs. A. B. Bruton as leader.

Dr. G. A. Martin To Leave Work In Alleghany County

Dr. G. A. Martin, pastor of the Sparta Baptist church, plans to close his ministerial work in Alleghany soon to accept work in another section of the state.

Dr. Martin will be at Laurel Springs next Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, and at Scottsville in the afternoon of the same day at two-thirty o'clock, for his last services at these places. His final service at the Sparta church is to be held on Sunday morning, March 29, at eleven o'clock.

This service is to be in the form of a "farewell" service, to be participated in by some of Dr. Martin's friends.

Hale and Hearty at 90

WORTHVILLE, Ky. . . . All the discussion about "the most severe winter we ever had", rather amuses Dr. N. G. Perry (above), who has just celebrated his 90th birthday. Dr. Perry has an overcoat which he bought some forty years ago but has worn the garment less than a half-dozen times. Dr. Perry attributes his good health to regular habits, plenty of fresh air and exercise.

"Jafsie" Returns To New York But Nobody Wants Him

Bruno Hauptmann Seems Certain To Die In The Electric Chair During Week Of March 30

New York, Mar. 17.—After coming home today, Dr. John F. ("Jafsie") Condon discovered that nobody wanted him at all.

It was a changed man who walked down the gangplank of the liner Santa Inez—a strangely silent Jafsie, who was surrounded by a protective circle of friends and relatives.

"No comment,' was his answer to all questions concerning the impending execution of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the murder of the Lindbergh baby.

There were no New Jersey state troopers waiting to haul him to Trenton to be questioned by Gov. Harold G. Hoffman; no men waiting with summonses to serve in behalf of Hauptmann's counsel. But Jafsie didn't know that and he was suspicious of everybody, including the customs officer on the dock.

"Let's see your badge," demanded Condon when the officer halted him to examine clearance papers.

All the furore about Jafsie simmered down to the fact that Condon is not going to New Jersey, and Hoffman is not coming to the Bronx to see him. It means that Hauptmann seems certain to go to the electric chair in the week of March 30—probably two weeks from tonight.

Lightning Does Damage In Sparta Monday Night

During the unusually severe electric storm Monday night, the home of Rev. C. W. Ervin was slightly damaged by fire when lightning burned the insulation off the wires to a double socket and to the radio, setting fire to the curtains.

On the same night lightning ran in on an electric line to the building of the Castevens Motor company and burned out the motors to the water pump and air pressure pump, considerably damaging the wiring.

Tuesday morning when Mr. Castevens went to work, he found smoke boiling from the basement, all connections burned in two, and wires burned.

Senior Class Of Sparta "Hi" To Be Honored By Juniors

The Junior class of Sparta high school will hold a reception Friday night in the gymnasium in honor of the Senior class.

Worst Blizzard In Years Hits Western Part of State; Sparta And Alleghany Under Snow

Storm In Asheville Is Considered By Older Residents As The Most Severe In Their Memory

FLOODS CAUSE HEAVY DAMAGE IN NORTH

High Winds Tuesday Add To Discomfort Of Cold And Snow As They Pile Up Tremendous Drifts

Sparta and all of Alleghany county, as well as the entire mountain sections of North Carolina and Virginia, are buried uider the heaviest snowfall of the year and traffic has been badly hampered. Preceded by one of the heaviest rainfalls of the year, the snow, which began to fall early Tuesday morning, had piled up the record fall by night although snow continued to fall intermittently during Wednesday.

Press dispatches from various parts of Western North Carolina indicated that what was regarded as the worst storm in years had swept the entire western part of the state. Snow drifts eight to ten feet in depth were reported from many sections, train and bus schedules were disrupted, buses in many cases cancelling trips entirely.

Temperatures which had been above normal, and which were moderate during the rainfall, took nose dives Tuesday, thirty-degree drops being noted in a few hours. Thunder and lightning accompanied the heavy rain storm in many parts late Monday night.

High winds added to the discomfort of the cold and the snow on Tuesday and drifted the snow so that highways were impassable. Reports from Asheville indicated that the storm there was the worst blizzard in the memory of older residents. Streams went over their banks in many parts of the state.

Flood waters caused millions of dollars of damage in Maryland. Pennsylvania and other Northern states and some loss of life. Johnstown, Pa., known as "the flood city" because of the terrible flood which visited the city in 1889, when a dam on the Conemaugh river burst, causing the loss of more than 2,300 lives, was again the victim of raging waters, the business section and low parts of the residential part of the city being under from 8 to 18 feet of water.

Business people and shoppers were marooned on upper floors of buildings. One four-story department store was reported to have water above the second floor and sales persons had to take refuge on the upper floors.

Other parts of the state were feeling the terrible onslaught of the waters from swollen streams.

In Cumberland, Williamsport and Hagerstown, Maryland, the waters of the Potomac and smaller streams were causing untold damage, small houses were reported to have been seen floating down the streams, and in one case it was reported that the cries of the occupants of a house which was going down stream were heard.

Cumberland was probably the worst sufferer, the water in the streets of its business section and other low parts of the city being reported as from 6 to 15 feet in depth. The state armory was thrown open to those who were forced to flee from their homes.

Swirling waters were carrying with them through the business section, it was reported, merchandise of every description as well as store counters and other store fixtures. Plate-glass windows were being wrecked by this floating debris, adding more and more to the floating debris. Hundreds of persons marooned on upper floors of business blocks and houses were without heat and food. Rescues were attempted, and in many cases made, by the use of rowboats.

Various parts of the state of Maine were visited by floods, also, the ice in the rivers breaking up and causing them to overflow their banks.

Telegraph and telephone communication to the stricken areas has been so badly damaged or crippled that complete reports are impossible to obtain. The loss of life is believed to be small in most of the communities affected but the monetary loss will run into a figure that will be almost beyond comprehension. And on account of the flooded highways adjacent to many of the affected cities use of automobiles to get into them is out of the question. It will probably be several days before the complete stories of the loss of life and property damage can be told.

Drivers' License Check-Up Hampered By Bad Weather

Raleigh, Mar. 17.—Rain hampered the state highway patrol on the second day of its campaign to force all automobile drivers to secure licenses to operate machines, but applications continued to flood the patrol offices here and throughout the state.

While more than 500 requests for driver's licenses were received by the highway safety division today, the licenses of 26 drivers were revoked. All were charged with drunken driving.

Since November 1, revocations have totalled 1,905, and Arthur Fulk, director of the safety division, predicted 5,000 permits would be taken up to the first year of the license law. To date the division has issued 663,557 licenses.

Waymon Combs Is Wounded In Fight Near Laurel Springs

Waymon Combs was taken to Wilkes hospital to be treated for wounds received in a free-for-all fight which occurred Saturday night at the home of Glenn Osborne, near Laurel Springs.

It seems that a group of persons, apparently in an intoxicated condition went to the home of Mr. Osborne and, upon being ordered to leave, started an argument, which resulted in the stabbing of Combs.

According to the latest report, Combs is responding satisfactorily to treatment.

Lester Billings Killed in Grayson By H. O. Phipps

Lester Billings, about 35 years of age, was fatally wounded late Saturday afternoon at the home of H. O. Phipps, 40, near Baywood, Va., a neighbor of Billings, and Phipps was taken to Galax to await a preliminary hearing in connection with the case, which is to be held there Saturday.

Dr. Z. G. Phipps, of Galax, Va., Grayson county coroner, decided that Billings died from two bullet wounds in the chest, near the heart, but did not fix responsibility. Phipps was taken to Galax about nine o'clock Saturday night by Deputy Sheriff K. F. Roberts, of Baywood.

Ohio Expected To Furnish Voting Test

Columbus, Ohio, Mar. 17.—Industrial and agricultural Ohio, presenting a balanced cross-section of urban and rural voters, will supply the nation through its May 12 primary with both a test of new deal popularity and a victorious contest between Republican liberals and party regulars.

Oyster And Chicken Supper To Be Served Here Saturday Night

An oyster and chicken supper, sponsored by the Women's Missionary society of the Methodist church, will be given Saturday night, at 6:30 o'clock, at the home of Edd Williams.

10,000 Gallstones

PHILADELPHIA . . . Mrs. Dora Kurtzman (above), is feeling quite all right, now that a hospital operation here, removing over 10,000 gallstones, has proved successful. A report is to be made to medical associations.

Roosevelt To Ask Billion Dollars For Work Relief

Discusses Message In White House Conference Tuesday That Lasted More Than An Hour

Washington, Mar. 17.—President Roosevelt told congressional leaders tonight that he would request more than a billion dollars to continue the work relief program for a full year beyond next July. In a White House conference that lasted more than an hour, the president discussed the message he hopes to send to Congress by tomorrow.

It was indicated he would ask for a lump sum appropriation with few strings attached as to how it should be spent.

As the conferees emerged, Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, the majority leader, said:

"We discussed the President's prospective relief message to Congress. It probably will be sent to the Senate and House tomorrow. The program covers a full year."

While none would say definitely what the exact sum would be, it was learned that it would be more than a million, but considerably less than two billions.

Earlier the President disclosed at his press conference that the relief recommendations would be on a national scale, and would not specify individual projects for the care of the nation's needy.

This was taken as an obvious indication that Mr. Roosevelt would request a lump sum with the same broad powers that he was given last year when the current $3,880,000,000 appropriation was voted.

Earlier forecasts on how much would be asked had ranged from

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Electrification Of Rural Areas Is Discussed Here

D. E. Jones, Extension Specialist in Rural Electrification, was in Alleghany county on Wednesday of last week to explain the REA.

According to Mr. Jones, loans may be obtained from the government to extend lines in ruarl communities, but will not be made for less than 25 miles of line.

Since there is not more than ten to fifteen miles of prospective line extension in the county, the hope of getting Rural Electrification was given up.

Mr. Robbins, of the Northwest ing held here and stated that his ing held here and stated hat his company expects to make one or two extensions from Sparta.

The Piney Creek community is working on a plan to get power from Fields Manufacturing company, at Mouth of Wilson, Va. At present, the only hope for rural Alleghany to get power is for the farmers of the various parts of the county to organize and generate their own power from some of our small streams, according to R. E. Black, county agricultural agent.

Holt Seeks Probe Of Alleged WPA Political Playing

Youthful West Virginia Senator Returns From An Investigation In His Own State. Nation Needs One

REPORT NOT SATISFYING

Dissatisfied Solon Says He Has Received Complaints From Many States. To Oppose Neely

Washington, Mar. 17.—Senator Rush D. Holt (D), W. Va., upon returning from a new investigation in his own state, announced last night that he would demand a nation-wide senatorial inquiry into charges that politics has entered into the running of the WPA in many states.

At the same time, Senator Davis (R), Pa., predicted that his resolution calling for "full and complete" investigation of WPA would be approved by the Senate committee on expenditures in executive departments this week.

Holt said he would make his demand for a nation-wide investigation in a Senate floor speech tomorrow in which he planned to renew his attacks on Harry L. Hopkins, WPA chief, and the West Virginia WPA set-up, which he charges is ridden with politics.

"If Hopkins is honest," Holt told reporters," he will want an investigation."

Since he began his series of Senate speeches, the West Virginia senator said he had received complaints of politics in relief from New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas and Arkansas.

"Some of these complaints," he said, "come from WPA officials themselves, but 70 per cent. are from professional men, doctors, and lawyers, and the like, who are in a position to see how politics have crept in."

After Holt made his first attack on the West Virginia situation, Hopkins sent a force of investigators there to make a survey. Their report said not "a single" West Virginia relief worker had been chosen through politics.

The youthful senator characterized the report as a "whitewash" and said today the "whitewash" had made the people of the state "furious." He also announced he would not support his colleague, Senator Neely, for re-election.

The breach between the two senators was a result of differences over WPA in their home state. Neely supported F. Witcher McCullough, state administrator.

Speaker Byrns Uses Shillalleh In House

Washington, Mar. 17.—A shillalleh replaced Speaker Byrns' gavel today to keep the house in order on St. Patrick's day.

The speaker, himself a virtual symphony-in-green before the afternoon progressed very far, was presented the green ribbon-draped stick by Representative Hartley, (R., N. J.). He said the wood in the shillalleh came from Ireland.

ALMANAC

"Difficulties give way to diligence, the mother of all good fortune."

MARCH

19—"Lost in Africa" David Livingstone born, 1831.

20—England declares all of United States coast blockaded, 1813.

21—First baptism in United States, two Georgia Indians, 1540.

22—Indians disturb the Virginia Colony, 347 whites die, 1622.

23—Colorado prairie fire burns a million acres, 1930.

24—Telephone service between New York and Chicago starts, 1892.

25—Methodist Episcopal party formed in Baltimore, 1930.