

Washington, Mar. 29 (AS)—There are three distinct groups, one almost might say three parties, into which the Congress of the United States is divided. They are the Republicans, the Conservative Democrats and the New Deal Democrats.

Of the three, the Republican group is the most efficiently organized, under the leadership of Representative "Joe" Martin, of Massachusetts. On every question involving political considerations, the Republicans have consistently voted as a unit.

The other two groups are divided and less sharply unified. One branch of the Democrats are thick-and-thin supporters of President Roosevelt, and if they do not actually take their orders from the White House they go along on any matter in which he is believed to be especially interested.

The third group, the old-time Conservative Democrats, is a fairly well-knit element, composed of Senators and Representatives who regard themselves as the "real" Democrats and reserve the right to take issue with the Administration on any question which does not conform to their ideas of the best interests of their Party and the Nation.

The real leader of this third group, which holds the balance of power and can by its votes decide the issue on any legislative question, is Vice-President Garner.

Difficult To Agree

All of the Democrats would like to go along with the President, but many of the middle party find it difficult to agree with many of his proposals. Therefore a committee of four Democratic Senators paid a personal call on Mr. Roosevelt a few days ago, to find out just what he really wants of Congress. They reported back to their colleagues that the President wants particularly the following items of legislation:

First, the restoration of the \$150,000,000 for WPA, which was cut out of the Relief appropriation bill against the Presidential wishes.

Then he wants new laws to aid distressed railroads; an expanded farm tenancy program and more aid for cotton, wheat and corn farmers; revision of taxes but not to reduce the Government's income; extension of the mortgage-insurance powers of FHA, and 800 millions more for slum-clearance work; no change in the Labor Relations law until the Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations have composed their differences; a system of additional credits for small business concerns and the appropriation of the additional \$550 millions for national defense for which he has already asked.

The reaction on Capitol Hill to the report made by the President's visitors was that if that was all he wanted he could have it, all but the \$150,000,000 for WPA.

On most of the rest of the President's desires there is substantially no opposition in principle in any of the three legislative groups. There may, and doubtless will be, a lot of partisan quarrelling over details, but if Congress felt assured that the program reported by the volunteer committee represents all that the President will ask of this session of Congress, the road ahead for the rest of the year would be clear.

More Defenses Wanted

Hitler's latest move in seizing what was left of Czechoslovakia after he had promised France and Britain that he would go no farther in that direction, has "thrown a scare" into official Washington, and definitely united all elements behind a national defense policy even more extensive than has been so far put forth.

Defense measures already voted or in process of passage through Congress provide for a modernized Navy at least equal in size to any other, an air force larger than that of any other nation, an increase of 40,000 officers and men in the regular Army, the mobilization of industry to turn out 12,000 planes a year and the necessary arms and munitions to equip a force of a million fighting men.

Estimates of the cost of these preparations for defensive war, if necessary, run to as high as four billion dollars over the next two fiscal years.

The very sharp note sent to Reichsfuehrer Hitler by our State Department, protesting against the seizure of Bohemia and Moravia, reflects an almost unanimous feeling in Washington that international events are drawing the United States more and more toward war; war for the preservation of American ideals of liberty and humane justice and war (turn to page five, please)

A billion-dollar farm bill was passed Tuesday

—in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., when House economy advocates emerged jubilantly victorious from two hectic affairs with that usually powerful group, the farm bloc.

By the skimpy margin of 13 votes they succeeded in stripping from the billion-dollar Agriculture Department appropriation bill a \$250,000,000 item for parity payments intended to raise the purchasing power represented in farm products to the 1909-1914 level.

And, with plenty of votes to spare, they turned back a \$60,000,000 appropriation closely related to a new plan advanced by President Roosevelt for disposing of the nation's huge cotton surplus.

Grinning at their success, they then, in concert with most members, voted for passage of the measure, and turned their thoughts and plans to the pending request of President Roosevelt for a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000,000 to finance work relief until July 1.

An important element in the rejection of the parity payment fund apparently was a combination of the votes of members from city districts, and the Republican membership generally, although in the latter there were some defections.

One faction of the urban representation had for several days been seeking to obtain assurances of farm-vote support for the \$150,000,000 relief appropriation requested by Mr. Roosevelt, in return for their votes for the parity item. Failing to obtain the pledges they sought, they voted against the farm group.

While the House was debating the parity payment question, President Roosevelt announced to a press conference a plan for subsidizing exports from the 11,300,000 bale stock of surplus cotton held by the government as security on loans to producers. The plan had been worked out in collaboration with congressional leaders, including Chairman Jones (D), Tex., of the House appropriations committee. Mr. Roosevelt asked an appropriation of \$15,000,000 to finance the program until August 1.

Roosevelt made it known Tuesday in Washington

—D. C., that his recommendation for construction of two 45,000-ton battleships in a bid for world naval leadership is a partial reply to Japan's refusal to reveal whether she is building war vessels larger than treaty limits.

His remarks were made at a press conference a few hours after it was learned that he had approved plans for the building of the super-dreadnaughts as part of the vast naval expansion program authorized last year. Funds for starting construction of the two vessels will be contained in the regular Navy Department budget being drafted by a house subcommittee.

In response to a question, the President said that the Japanese government's refusal to verify or deny reports that two or three Japanese warships are being built in violation of the 35,000-ton limit of the defunct Washington treaty, was one of several reasons for his action.

He declined, however, to state other reasons for supporting construction of the two vessels which would be the largest warships ever set afloat.

THE SENIOR PLAY, "HOBOGoblin House" will be given at Glade Valley High School on Saturday night, April 8, in the school auditorium.

THE HOUSE APPROVED A SUBSTITUTE TUESDAY —in Raleigh for the bill to forbid the sale of beer and wine in Watauga County, for which Representative Roby Grier had waged such a determined battle.

A series of revival meetings will begin here

—in the Methodist Church, on Sunday, April 2, at 11:00 a. m., with the pastor, Rev. L. F. Strader, in charge.

Services will be held through the following week at 11:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. each day.

Members of other churches are cordially invited to attend the meetings.

Meetings to obtain signers for electricity

—are to be held in Alleghany County during the next few days, according to G. F. Messick, project superintendent of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation, of Lenoir.

Mr. Messick pointed out that it is very important that everyone who possibly can sign do so, as there are a few weak sections, and practically everyone will have to sign in order to have the number that is required by the REA specification.

Mr. Messick requests all who are interested to meet at the following times and places: Blevins Crossroads School, Thursday, March 30, 7:00 p. m.; Whitehead School, Friday, March 31, 7:00 p. m.; Piney Creek High School, Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p. m., and New Hope School, Friday, April 14, 7:00 p. m.

The work of staking the REA line in this county is progressing rapidly, several miles having already been staked. Joe Powell, of Durham, is the engineer in charge of this part of the work. It is requested that the farmers do not move stakes which have already been set.

Colonial claims of Italy were outlined Sunday

—in Rome, by Premier Mussolini, in a militant speech, in which he stressed force as the key of fascist policy.

The Italian dictator affirmed that Italy's colonial problem with France was her claim on Tunisia, Djibouti and the Suez Canal.

Facing cheering blackshirt followers at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the first fascist combat squad, Il Duce for the first time put the official stamp on the clamor raised in the now-extinct chamber of deputies last November 30.

He rejected suggestions which he said had been made that Italy take the first step toward solution of the long-smouldering issue and put the next move up to France.

Mussolini proclaimed a five-point fascist policy in foreign affairs:

1. Although Italy considers long peace necessary for European civilization, she refuses "solicitation" to make the first step until her "sacred rights" are recognized.
2. Italy adheres to the axis with Germany, threatening attack if a democratic coalition is formed against the authoritarian states.
3. Italy has colonial problems with France in Tunisia, Djibouti and the Suez Canal of which Paris was informed in a note last December 17.
4. Italy considers her interests predominant in both the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas but does not exclude Slav interests.
5. Italy, believing that force governs international relations, must arm herself with more guns, ships and airplanes even at the cost of completely militarizing the country.

Four hours after Mussolini had spoken, the government divulged both a congratulatory telegram that Reichsfuehrer Hitler sent Saturday and Mussolini's answer. The first reaction in diplomatic circles to Il Duce's speech was divided between unpleasant surprise by some observers at Il Duce's acceptance of the policy that foreign relations are founded on force and relief, expressed by others, at what they considered a conciliatory gesture toward France.

Mules Discharged From Regular Army



CAMP DIX, N. J. . . Nine Army mules received discharge orders here recently. The age of the oldest is 33. Orders are awaited from President Roosevelt as to what shall be done with them.

National And World NEWS At A Glance

GERMANS OCCUPY MEMEL

Memel, March 22.—Motorized companies of German "shock forces" tonight rolled into Memel from East Prussia and occupied it in the name of Fuehrer Adolf Hitler.

WOULD BALANCE BUDGET

Washington, March 23.—One of the most paradoxical situations in recent years arose today when Marriner Eccles, a foremost advocate of government spending, virtually urged Congress to proceed at once to balance the budget.

DESPERADO KILLS SELF

Powell, Wyo., March 24.—Earl Durand, shaggy-haired mountain man who killed four peace officers in less than a week, put a bullet through his own head here today after a bloody bank robbery attempt in his home town.

SEES GARNER TREND

Pinehurst, March 25.—Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, tonight defended his "observation and report" of a trend toward Vice President John N. Garner as Democratic presidential candidate in 1940.

BIG PLANE CRASHES

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 26.—Eight persons were killed early today when a twin-motored Braniff Airways transport plane crashed and burned shortly after taking off from the municipal airport here.

TO ERECT NEW STATION

Washington, March 27.—The communications commission granted today an application by Harold M. Thoms, doing business as the Asheville Daily News, Asheville, N. C., to erect a new radio broadcast station.

SPANISH WAR ENDS

Madrid, March 28.—Nearly 1,000,000 half-famished survivors of the most terrible siege of modern times danced and embraced victorious nationalist troops in Madrid's streets tonight in celebration of the city's surrender and the end of the long Spanish civil war.

Boxing bouts are to be held at Sparta High School

—on Saturday night, April 1, beginning at eight o'clock, in the Gymnasium. The program will include six bouts, five by white men and one by colored men. In addition, there will be a battle royal by five colored fighters.

Three local men are to engage in this program of boxing events. The program is to be sponsored by the local Dean Parrish Post, American Legion.

The program will be followed by a dance.

REV. HOWARD J. FORD IS TO PREACH SUNDAY NIGHT —April 2, at 7:30 o'clock, in the Sparta Baptist Church, of which he is pastor.

Estel Moxley Was Freed In Justices' Court Here On Tuesday After Arraignment

—for a preliminary hearing before Justices of the Peace B. F. Wagoner and F. N. Roupe on a charge of rape and murder in connection with

the death of Elva Brannock in the Saddle Mountain section of Alleghany County in February, 1937. Moxley, a native of the Saddle Mountain section, was brought back

"The King's Sneezes" will be presented

—as an operetta in the Sparta High School auditorium, tomorrow (Friday) night, at 7:30 o'clock. The

cast will include a total of about seventy-five children.

Those in the cast will be from the third to the seventh grades in the local school.

Proceeds from the presentation of the operetta are to be used for the benefit of the grade libraries in the school here.

Approximately 800 forest fires burned during 1938

—in North Carolina as a result of brush burning, according to R. D. Gentry, Alleghany County Forest

Warden. These 800 forest fires cost the state thousands of dollars in damage to timber and wildlife, to say nothing of the effect the fires have on such as soil erosion and the aesthetic value of the woodland, it has been pointed out.

Every single one of those 800 fires represents a case where someone was careless with fire, it has been said. Therefore, County Warden Gentry reminds all who intend to burn brush, sedge or debris of any kind, in connection with Spring farming and clearing, to familiarize themselves fully with the North Carolina forest fire laws.

Before burning debris of any kind, County Warden Gentry urges everyone to obtain, either from him or his authorized representative, District Warden George Royal, Roaring Gap, a burning permit.

To regulate markers' activities— An amended election reform bill was passed Tuesday by the Senate

—in Raleigh, and the measure was sent to the House for concurrence. The measure, which would regulate activities of ballot markers in

primaries, passed the upper house after lengthy debate. The amendment, proposed Monday by Senator Folger, of Surry, stirred up one of the hottest battles of the 1939 session, and caused some of the original sponsors of the bill to disclaim it as a part of the reform program.

Originally, the bill would have prohibited any person from assisting more than one voter in marking a primary ballot. The Folger amendment added a proviso that election officials could assist any number of voters.

Senators opposing the amendment attempted two tactical moves to have it eliminated from the bill. First they forced a vote to reconsider the amendment, which was approved Monday, and their motion carried, 25 to 20.

Then Senator Lumpkin sent up a substitute amendment, interpreted as a compromise, which would allow any person to assist in marking six ballots. It was killed, 24 to 15.

Another vote next was held on Folger's proposal, and it was adopted, 22 to 21. The bill then passed third reading, 24 to 15, and went back to the house.

Another reform bill, requiring the revision of all poll books and the relisting of all voters before

from Maryland a few weeks ago as a suspect in connection with the case. He was arraigned for a hearing Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock, in the Alleghany County Court House.

Appearing for the defendant were Attorneys R. A. Doughton and Robert M. Gambill, Sparta, and Attorneys Bowie and Bowie, of West Jefferson.

Erle McMichael, of Winston-Salem, solicitor for the Eleventh Judicial District, together with R. F. Crouse, local attorney, appeared on the part of the state.

Every available seat and all the standing room in the Court House was taken by the crowd that gathered to hear the trial.

Upon the setting of the court and the arraignment of the defendant, for trial, Solicitor McMichael stated to the court that, as a representative of the state and in the interest of justice, he felt that, after having made a careful examination of the state's witnesses, they did not have evidence warranting contending for a verdict of guilty of the two charges, each of which carries the death penalty. The solicitor stated that, in his opinion, the state had sufficient evidence to justify the justices finding probable cause, which would bind the defendant to court, but that he did not want to ask for a man's life upon what evidence they had at the time.

After this statement to the court by the solicitor, the counsel for the defendant moved that the prisoner be discharged. This motion was granted, and the defendant was given his freedom.

Thus, the murder mystery, which has baffled officers since its commission of the crime two years ago, is still unsolved.

Dr. John W. Hoyle, of Statesville, will be in Sparta

—on Sunday, April 2, to hold the quarterly meeting for the Sparta Methodist church at the local church. Dr. Hoyle is presiding elder of the Statesville District. The quarterly meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a. m.

Picnic dinner will be served at the church, and everyone interested is requested to take a basket of lunch.

Miss Cleo Jones won second place in Argumentation

—in the Southeastern Tournament held this year in Salisbury. Miss Jones, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Jones, is a member of the debating team of Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, and is an honor student at the college.

The A. S. T. C. forensic squad also attended the South Atlantic Tournament held in Salisbury subsequent to the Southeastern. This tournament is held each year. Next year it will be held in the relisting of all voters before Raleigh.