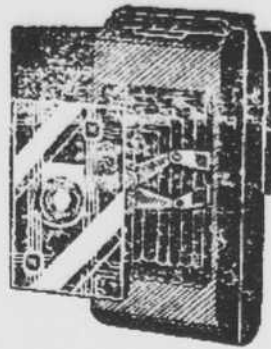


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Washington, Aug. 19.—Members of Congress, packing their bags and getting ready to start home, are giving more thought to the job ahead of them when they return for another session than to what they did in this sitting. Only a small fraction of the President's recommendations have been acted upon at all, the one on which he was most insistent negatively.

Before acting on the ones left over, the predominant feeling in Congress is that they ought to be studied and debated with great care, and when the members are not physically worn out, as so many of them actually are now.

Besides the last-minute laws enacted after the Supreme Court issue was settled, the record of the 75th Congress so far is not impressive. It adopted 55 resolutions and passed about 250 new laws, few of which are of any great public concern.

The most noteworthy laws and resolutions include the following:

Prohibiting the export of arms to Spain. Creating a commission on the reorganization of the government. Extending for two years the United States' guarantee of Federal Housing Administration debentures. Amending the excise tax levy on carriers and the income tax levy on their employees. Extending the President's tariff powers. Deferring the time-limit for filing certain kinds of income tax returns. Providing for a national gallery of art. Appropriating for the elimination of insect pests.

The new Neutrality, or War Policy, Act. Providing loans for old-age assistance. Creating the joint committee on tax evasion. The Relief Act appropriating 1,500 million. Extending the nuisance taxes. Providing funds for the New York World's Fair. And appropriating some more for insect pests.

Prolonging the President's monetary powers. Continuing the functions of the RFC. Arranging for crop and harvesting loans. Continuing direct obligations of the United States as collateral security for Federal Reserve notes. Providing for retirement of Supreme Court justices. Amending the Federal Housing Act. The Gulf of Columbia "red river" repeal. Repealing the AAA's marketing agreement. The Railroad Pensions Act. Extending the CCC. Passing the Farm Loan Interest Act over veto. The Farm Tenancy Act, and most of the appropriation bills.

Tax Revision Next Session
Hanging over, for consideration on and after January 3, 1938, are many highly important subjects upon which legislation has been recommended by the White House, or upon the necessity of which there is general agreement.

First in the minds of Senators and Representatives is a broad program of tax revision. Into this subject enter so many questions of public policy, as well as of politics, that its consideration may well take many weeks of Congressional time.

The Administration is pressing for the program of reorganization of Federal departments and bureaus. Congress does not like the President's plan, and will wait for the report of its own special Commission on the subject.

That further laws for the regulation of industry, under government supervision, coming as closely as possible to the NRA, will be presented upon Congress, is considered certain. A beginning toward the objective of Government regulation is the Wages-and-Hours Bill; creating a Federal commission to fix minimum wages of not less

than 40 cents an hour and maximum hours of not more than 40 a week in any industry under penalty of not permitting its products to be shipped in interstate commerce.

Budget Deficit Grows
One of the laws which the present session passed without attracting much attention is the Miller-Tydings Resale Maintenance Act. It was tacked on as a "rider" to the District of Columbia tax bill. The President had criticized it in principle, but his son and secretary James Roosevelt, persuaded enough members to get it enacted. The new law permits manufacturers to fix the retail price at which their product must be sold, and penalizes dealers who cut prices.

One of the things which this expiring session of Congress did not do was to reduce the budget deficit. The brave talk of economy, with which the session began, was entirely forgotten and the budget deficit was increased instead of diminished, making further borrowing by the Treasury inescapable.

The Labor situation began to take on new aspects in the closing days of Congress, with the rise of the American Federation of Labor into its old favor in Congressional circles and the decline of the Committee for Industrial Organization, its "one big union" rival.

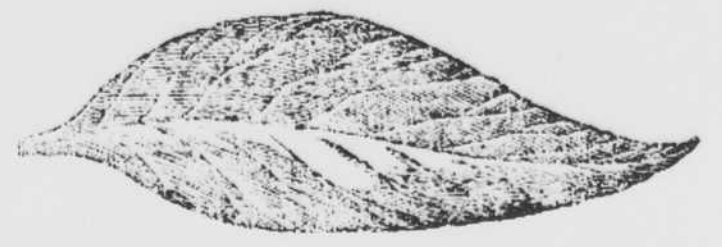
Both the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. are gaining in membership, but the reports received in Washington indicate that the old-style craft unions of the A. F. of L. are growing faster than are the whole-industry unions of the C. I. O.

China-Japan Situation Tense
The China-Japan affair is giving the Government plenty of worry. There has been no formal declaration of war between those two nations, but it looks like a real war, and the puzzle is how to remain neutral and not let the nation in which America is chiefly interested—China—get the worst of it.

The whole situation in which might extend to war between Japan and Russia, which in turn would give Germany its chance to start something and so precipitate the dreaded general European conflict, is so delicate that official discussions of it are strictly secret and confined to a dozen or so of the very top officials.

They would be glad to see Congress out of the way before things come to a showdown, fearing too much inquisitiveness which might result in publicity of a sort which would stir up warlike public opinion.

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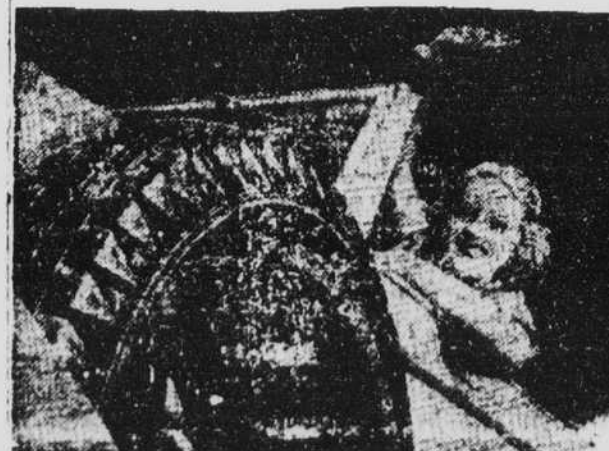
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