

Annual Tilt Between Policy Makers, Appropriation Bill Groups Opened In Congress

By CLARKE BEACH
WASHINGTON—Each year the foreign aid bills reopen the old war between the policy committees of Congress and the appropriations committees. Each year the hearings and debates on the authorization bill seem to be repeated when the appropriation bill comes up. It looks like a rerun of the same old feature, and the ordinary reader probably feels like saying "this is where I came in." Why does Congress have to cover the same ground twice?

The theory sounds pretty good. First the general merits of a measure are considered. The specialists on foreign affairs work the matter over thoroughly in committee. Then Congress passes an authorization bill. On April 4 of this year, for example, it decided to carry on ECA for another year and to provide almost \$6,000,000,000 for the work.

Next the appropriation bill for the same program comes up. The appropriations committees look into the matter and decide what the government can afford to spend, taking into consideration all the other demands on the U.S. Treasury. Under certain circumstances they can increase, reduce or withhold entirely the amount authorized in the original bill.

The trouble starts when the appropriations committees decide to review the merits of the measure. The rules of both houses say they cannot legislate but can only appropriate. But in the ECA bill last year and this year they th-

oroughly rehearsed the arguments on the substance of the ECA program. And in their proposed appropriations they made a variety of stipulations about how the money should be spent.

Most of the debate on the ECA appropriation bills hinged on the contentions of foreign policy specialists in the House and Senate that the appropriators were trying to be policy makers. Fundamental issues of ECA policy were involved in some of the stipulations of the appropriations committees. Typical was the proposal of Sen. McClellan (D-Ark.) that \$1,500,000,000 of this year's ECA funds be earmarked for the purchase of U.S. farm products classed as surplus.

Encroachment Resented
There is growing resentment in both the Senate and House against such alleged encroachment by the appropriations committees. Many senators and representatives feel that once Congress has decided that there shall be a program of a certain type there is no necessity for the legislative machine to cover the same ground again.

The same thing happened last year. The ECA authorization bill was passed on April 2, 1948, after about six months of work on the measure. But Rep. John Taber (R-N.Y.), then chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, expressed doubt of the wisdom of the measure. Largely through his efforts the entire matter was debated for the second time. The ECA appropriation bill was not passed until June 20, 1948—about two and one-half months later.

Foreign aid bills are not the only ones that have to pass a double array of legislative hurdles, although they have been the most conspicuous. The dual consideration of many controversial measures is becoming more and more common. The result is that the appropriations committees, and particularly their chairmen, acquire more and more power.

Once the House rose in its wrath and cut the appropriations committee down to size. In 1885 the committee chairman had acquired so much authority that he, rather than the speaker, was the man to be consulted if a member of his projects. Any time he chose he could thrust a privileged ap-
provision bill upon the floor and block action on any other measure.

In that year the House split the appropriations group into eight separate committees. They were not combined into one committee again until 1921, when the Budget and Accounting Act was passed. It was felt then that there was a need for one committee to deal with appropriations—taking a broad view of all fiscal re-



NEWSPAPER AD GETS WIFE—Charles Donaldson, 21, of St. Joseph, Mo., hugs his bride-to-be, Irene Krebs, 18, whom he selected from 253 women who answered his newspaper advertisement for a wife. Donaldson advertised for a wife when his friend and business partner, Orville Thompson, refused to wed his fiancée unless they made it a double ceremony.

Communists Spend Heavily To Gain Influence In U. S. Labor Circles, Inquiry Told

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—(AP)—A self-described former Communist party executive told the House un-American activities committee Tuesday that the Communist party has spent large sums trying to gain influence in the American labor movement.

The witness identified himself as Joseph Zack Kornfeder of Detroit. He said he was a graduate of the Lenin school of Moscow and, among other jobs, was at one time a member of the central committee of the Communist party of the United States.

He was a member of the Communist party from 1919 to 1934, he said.

He was called as the committee began hearings on alleged Communist infiltration of the CIO United Electrical Workers union in the Pittsburgh area. Louis J. Russell, senior investigator for the committee, said the investigation concerns Local 601 of the United Electrical Workers at the Westinghouse plant in Pittsburgh.

Russell said the first investigation of the union was made in 1936.

Russ Nixon, Washington representative of the union, contended in a statement to newsmen, however, that the hearing was hastily called and was aimed at influencing the elections of Aug. 14 when Local 601 will select delegates to next month's annual convention of the CIO Electrical Workers.

The statement added that "we members have nothing but contempt for the accusation that they and their union are spies, traitors and saboteurs."

Kornfeder, who said he also at one time was representative of the Communist International in Columbia and Venezuela, did not mention the electrical workers in his 24-page statement but gave a detailed description of what he said are the infiltration methods of the Communist party.

He said he knew from personal knowledge that the labor union activities department of the Communist party at Moscow "had charge of all the strike strategy to be followed by unions controlled by the Communist party."

"I was consulted on some of these subsidies on activities in the United States," he said, "and requirements of the government. Now, many members feel the balance of power is once again getting into the hands of the men who hold the purse strings."

Bean Harvest Ups July Employment In Douglas County

The employment picture in Douglas county brightened perceptibly during July as the bean harvest began. The hot weather ripened the beans a little faster than usual and provided employment for several hundred persons. It is expected that the harvest will not be complete for two or three weeks.

The Oregon State Employment service summarizes conditions as follows:

Weather conditions have had the same effect on the bean crop and picking is expected to start about the 10th of August. This season generally lasts from ten to fifteen days.

An estimate of total unemployment for the area indicated approximately 962 persons to be without work. This is an increase of 500 per cent over one year ago. The larger mills in the area

are accumulating good-sized cold decks of logs that will enable them to operate throughout the winter regardless of the weather conditions in the woods. It is believed that little logging will be done after the fall rains start.

The outlook for the balance of the year may be considered to be fair until October or November. Several sawmills have closed temporarily, but it is generally conceded that they will resume normal operations after the shut-down period. The unskilled workers are experiencing difficulty in securing work; but a few openings are available for men with experience in skilled classifications.

The American black bear has disappeared from most of the plains states.

Barricaded Man Dies In Battle With Officers

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky., Aug. 10.—(AP)—A man who barricaded himself in his home and shot it out with officers was found dead in the house here Tuesday.

Sheriff John W. Moss said the body of Inman Turner, about 35, was found on a stairway of the two-story frame house located at the edge of this Taylor county community.

The trouble started late Monday, Sheriff Moss said, when police Chief Marcus Antle and City Attorney George Bartram attempted to serve a warrant on Turner as a result of a fight at his home earlier in which one man was badly beaten. None of the officers, returning Turner's fire, was hit.



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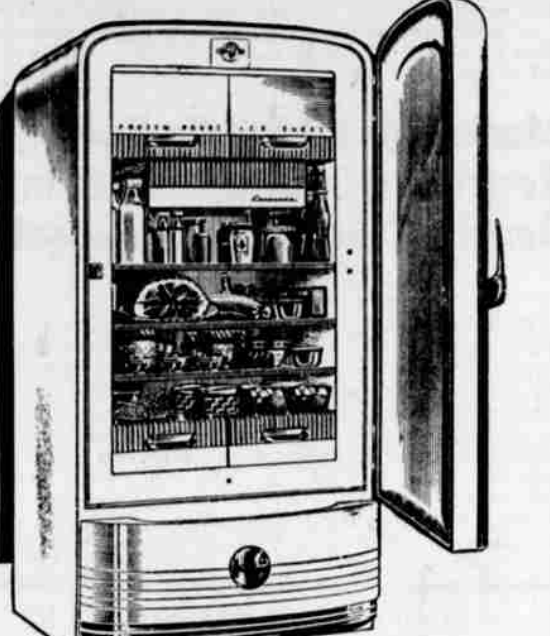
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