

WASHINGTON WEEK

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

If present plans for the adjournment of this session of Congress are actually carried out we have only a lottle over two months to go. The Republican National Convention begins on July 7. The Democrat convention follows a couple of weeks later. It is anticipated Congress will either recess or adjourn about

July 1. If the session ends with what is called a "sine die" adjournment, that will mean the complete wind-up of the 82nd Congress. After that if Congress convenes again in the year 1952 it will be in a special session, called by the President. It may be remembered that is exactly what happened in 1948. The 80th congress adjourned sine die late in June but was called back to a special session by the president on July 6.

The congress can by resolution,

however, declare a recess to any date prior to January 3, 1953, and at that time formally adjourn after it reconvenes.

I am happy to report that a minor catastrophe, which very few people knew anything about, has been averted. Early this year I learned that the U. S. Coast Guard, which in November 1951, closed the coast guard station at Bandon, has plans to pick up the building and move it up to Willapa harbor. I protested against the plan on the basis that I considered the present inactive status of the station only temporary. This station will, I am sure, ultimately be re-activated. To move the present building away and then later build another would be a waste of money. I pointed out that population and traffic is growing so rapidly on the Pacific coast as to make the re-activation of the Bandon station almost a certainty.

I have just received a letter from viceadmiral Merlin O'Neill, commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard, in which he states: "I wish to advise you that the Coast Guard does not intend to move the Coquille river structures to Willapa Bay at this time, but intends to retain the installation in a boarded up status without significant cost to the government. This determination has been made in order to fulfill potential mobilization requirements of the coast guard. Such a course will also permit re-activation of the unit for life-saving purposes should a compelling requirement for re-activation of the station be determined within the next few years."

A few years ago when President Truman was angry at the Railroad Brotherhoods he demanded that the railway employees be drafted into the army and forced to work. But there was a difference in his action when as compared to his recent order taking over the steel plants. At that time he made his demand to Congress for authority to do what he proposed. Meanwhile we seem to have drifted a long way down the road toward one-man government. This time Truman did not ask Congress for legal authority.— he just assumed it. The heads of organized labor who applaud the President's steel seizure order should be thankful that he was angry at the companies and not the unions this time—but watch out, who knows when he might change his mind? That is the way things work out under our present "noera" government.

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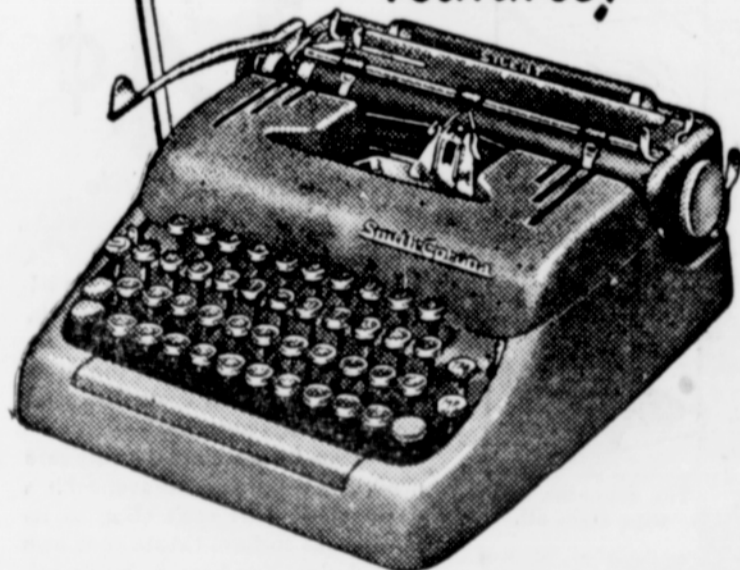
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