

WASHINGTON WEEK

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Many people must have been puzzled and disappointed when the House refused to vote to suspend the rules and pass some needed and desirable amendments to the social security act. Two things regarding that vote and that bill should be borne in mind. First, the good principles in the bill are not dead but can be voted upon again, and probably favorably, if the administration leadership will allow a bill to be brought to the floor without any tricks in it and under normal procedure; secondly, votes against the bill were not against the basic parts of the bill but were in opposition to enacting a small socializing section of it—language which was not needed as a part of the bill and which did not belong in it.

The very history of this bill contains all the earmarks of political skulduggery. The legislation was introduced May 12. It was reported favorably out of the committee four days later, on the 16th. Although it dealt with a complicated matter, no hearings were held on the bill. It was a rush job. No effort was made to bring the bill to the floor under normal procedure which provides for debate and amendment. Instead, on the 19th, three days after it was reported, the bill was laid before the house with a motion to suspend the rules and pass it. This procedure permits only 40 minutes of debate, 20 minutes on each side, and no amendments can be considered. This speed tactic has been attempted many times since I have been a member of Congress, sometimes successfully, and I have become very suspicious of it, generally with good reason—just as in this case.

The objectionable part of the bill was the section which would have given Oscar Ewing, social security administrator, powers which would practically have allowed him to set up a system of socialized medicine. This gimmick did not belong in the bill which was an insurance bill.

I understand that a new bill may be introduced soon. It will not have the socialized medicine features, will provide needed increases in old-age benefits, and will also raise the work clause to \$100 (the defeated bill increased that figure to only \$70.).

Just one more note on this subject: One unmentioned reason why the administration majority leadership is so anxious to bring social security amendments to the floor under gag rule procedure is to prevent overing of Townsend Plan Legislation—which would be geramine—as an amendment. So far as I am concerned, I wish that legislation would come to the floor and be voted one way or the other and get the issue settled. I have a hunch, however, that some members would not like to stand and be counted on that proposal.

I came across a paragraph the other day which so clearly and briefly sums up what has been happening to the people of our country that I want to quote it here for your own thoughtful consideration: "There has been a creeping paralysis of thought and a surrender of our responsibilities that has permitted a steady drift toward centralized bureaucratic government, and finally a president mistakenly assumes he not only can lay down the rules but that he can actually take over and operate an industry without authority of law."

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New Used Car Lot To Open June 15

This week the Brookings location of Pacific Motors was informally opened for inspection, a half mile north of Oregon State Bank, on Highway 101. The manager for the local area's newest used car business, Frank Roberts, announced that completion of the office building and landscaping is hoped for by June 15, at which time a formal grand opening will be held.

At this time Pacific Motors will deal only with used automobiles which will be shipped here from Portland and other inland cities. Residents of this area are being urged to plan attending the grand opening, to be announced later.

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